



Snowy 2.0 Recreation Management Plan (Stage 1)



Revision: A version 6 DRAFT

Date: 26 September 2024

Approval

Title: Snowy 2.0 Recreation Management Plan (Stage 1)

Version: Rev A version 6 DRAFT

Date of issue: 26 September 2024

Approval Record

	Name	Title
Prepared By:	Emily Martin	Snowy 2.0 Senior Environment Advisor Snowy Hydro Limited
Reviewed By:	Chris Buscall	Snowy 2.0 Environment Manager Snowy Hydro Limited

Document Revision Table

Rev.	Date	Description of modifications
		N/A

Document revision table for drafts for information- to be deleted when final rev A is approved by DPHI:

Rev.	Date	Description of modifications
A.1	5 October 2021	Initial version provided to NPWS
A.2	1 December 2021	Updated based on NPWS comments and submitted to DPHI
A.3	17 January 2024	Updated based on DPHI comments and several workshops with NPWS
A.4	26 July 2024	Updated based on NSW DPIRD, TfNSW and NPWS comments
A.5	19 September 2024	Updated based on NSW DPIRD and NPWS comments
A.6	26 September 2024	Updated based on NSW DPIRD comment

Emily Martin
Senior Environmental Advisor
Snowy Hydro Limited
via email

24/10/2024

Subject: Snowy 2.0 Main Works – Recreation Management Plan

Dear Ms Martin

I refer to your submission requesting review and approval of the Recreation Management Plan for the Snowy 2.0 Main Works (SSI-9687).

I note the Recreation Management Plan:

- has been prepared in consultation with NSW DPIRD, TfNSW and NPWS; and
- contains the information required by the conditions of approval.

Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I approve the Recreation Management Plan (Rev A.6, dated 26 September 2024) in accordance with Schedule 3 Condition 39 of the Infrastructure Approval.

Please ensure you make the document publicly available on the project website at the earliest convenience.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Wayne Jones on (02) 6575 3406.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary

Acronyms and Definitions

Approval	Infrastructure Approval for Snowy 2.0 Main Works issued under Section 5.19 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> (Dated: 20th May 2020) (SSI 9687)
CoA	Conditions of Approval
CSSI	Critical State Significant Infrastructure
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
DPHI	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EIS	SHL's Environmental Impact Statement for Snowy 2.0 Main Works
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
EPBA Act	<i>Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
FSL	Full Supply Level
GL	Gigalitres
GWh	Gigawatt hours
KNP	Kosciusko National Park
NEM	National Energy Market
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSW	New South Wales
m	Meters
MOL	Minimum Operating Level
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt hours
POM	Plan of Management
RECOMP	Recreation Management Plan
REMM	Revised environmental mitigation measure
RMP	Rehabilitation Management Plan

Contents

- Approval i**
- Approval Record i
- Document Revision Table i
- Acronyms and Definitions ii**
- Contents..... iii**
- Tables iv**
- Figures iv**
- 1. Introduction..... 1**
- 1.1. Scope 2
- 1.2. Snowy 2.0 Project overview 2
- 1.3. Snowy 2.0 Project approval 2
- 1.4. Staging 3
- 1.5. Co-ordination with rehabilitation management plan 3
- 1.6. Preparation and consultation 3
- 2. Recreation Strategy 5**
- 2.1. Snowy 2.0 Project background 5
- 2.2. Existing Environment 6
- 2.3. Environmental requirements 9
- 3. Recreation and Facilities Management 15**
- 3.1. Overview of Recreation Precincts..... 15
- 3.2. Access 15
- 3.3. Information and updates 15
- 3.4. Responsibilities 16
- 3.5. Measures to comply with condition 38 16
- 3.6. Management 17
- 3.7. Communication 22
- 4. Agency Consultation 23**
- 5. Plan Review 26**
- 6. References 27**
- Appendix A – Recreation Precinct 1 – Talbingo, Lobs Hole and Ravine Road..... 28**
- 1. Current state..... 28**
- 2. Concept plans 28**
- 3. Detailed plans..... 31**
- 3.1. Day use and camping area at Lobs Ravine..... 31

- 3.2. Tunnel lookout 35
- 3.3. Wallace Creek lookout 37
- 3.4. Fossil Corner lookout 39
- Appendix B – Talbingo Reservoir risk assessment 41**

Tables

- Table 1-1: Condition of approval relevant to the RECMP 1
- Table 1-2: Additional conditions related to the RECMP 1
- Table 1-3: Recreation stakeholders and associated roles with respect to the RECMP 3
- Table 2-1: REMM relevant to recreation 10
- Table 3-1: Measures to comply with condition 38 16
- Table 3-2: Risk assessment matrix..... 17
- Table 3-3: Risk assessment for recreation 18
- Table 4-1: Summary of agency consultation 23

Figures

- Figure 2-1: Schematic of Main Works 6
- Figure 3-1: Talbingo Reservoir indicative exclusion zone 21
- Figure A-1-1: Lobs Hole December 2023 taken from above Lobs Hole North Rd and the Talbingo Adit, towards the east with MAT and ECVT in the distance 28
- Figure A-2-1: Recreation Precinct 1 Conceptual Figure – Talbingo and Lobs Hole 29
- Figure A-2-2: Recreation Precinct 1 Conceptual Figure - Ravine Road 30
- Figure A-3-1: Future visualisation of the Lobs Hole camp area 32
- Figure A-3-2: Recreation Precinct 1 Detailed Design - Day Use and Camping Area at Lobs Ravine 33
- Figure A-3-3: Future visualisation of Lobs Hole Main Yard area. Roads will be finalised in the LTRS 34
- Figure A-3-4: Recreation Precinct 1 Detailed Design - Tunnel Lookout 36
- Figure A-3-5: Recreation Precinct 1 Detailed Design - Wallace Creek Lookout 38
- Figure A-3-6: Recreation Precinct 1 Detailed Design – Fossil Corner Lookout 40

1. Introduction

This Recreation Management Plan (RECMP) has been prepared to meet the requirements of Schedule 3 Condition 39 of the Critical State Significant Infrastructure Approval for the Snowy 2.0 Main Works (CSSI 9687). The conditions of approval (CoA) relevant to the LTRS are located in Table 1-1. **Error! Reference source not found.**

This RECMP has been split into two stages, with this version being Stage 1 and covering only the areas of Talbingo, Lobs Hole and Ravine Road. This plan will be updated for Stage 2 which will cover Tantangara (further detail provided in section 1.4).

Table 1-1: Condition of approval relevant to the RECMP

Condition	Requirement	Where addressed
Schedule 3 Condition 39	Within 12 months of the commencement of construction, the Proponent must prepare a Recreation Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This plan must	This plan
	(a) be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person in consultation with the NPWS, NSW DPIRD and TfNSW	
	(b) include a conceptual recreation strategy for the site, identifying the recreational facilities that would be provided during the rehabilitation of the site	Section 1
	(c) describe how the implementation of this strategy would be co-ordinated with the implementation of the Rehabilitation Management Plan	Section 1.5
	(d) include detailed plans for the provision of recreational facilities at, and future recreational use of, the following sites	Section 1 and Appendix A, Section 3
	• Talbingo Reservoir	Section 3.1.1 and Appendix A
	• Lobs Hole	Section 3.1.1 and Appendix A
	• Tantangara Reservoir	Section 3.1.2
	(e) describe the measures that would be implemented to comply with the recreation mitigation requirements in condition 38	Section 3.5
(f) monitor and publicly report on the implementation of these plans and measures	Section 3.6.4	
Schedule 3 Condition 40	The Proponent must implement the approved Recreation Management Plan for the development	

Additional conditions related to the development of the RECMP are included in Table 1-2:.

Table 1-2: Additional conditions related to the RECMP

Condition	Requirement	Where addressed
Schedule 3 Condition 38	The proponent must: (a) keep Tantangara Road open to the public once it has been upgraded for the development, and have suitable procedures in place to ensure it is safe for unrestricted use and to respond promptly to any temporary public safety risks	Section 3.2

Condition	Requirement	Where addressed
	(b) minimise the impacts of the development on users of the Kosciuszko National Park both within and in the vicinity of the construction envelope	Section 3.2, 3.5
	(c) minimise any disruption to the use of the Talbingo Boat Ramp	Section 3.5
	(d) minimise the dust and noise impacts of the development on the Wares Yards campground	Section 3.2
	(e) control the recreational activities of the workers staying in the accommodation camp to minimise the impacts of the development outside the approved disturbance area	Section 3.2
	(f) progressively reopen those areas of the Kosciuszko National Park that are closed to the public during construction as soon as possible following the completion of construction	Section 3.2
	(g) keep the community informed about the temporary closure of areas or any recreational facilities within the Kosciuszko National Park	Section 3.2

1.1. Scope

The objective of the RECMP is to ensure that Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) remains accessible to recreational users and stakeholders during the lifecycle of Snowy 2.0 and for future generations. Sustainable future management of KNP, including responsible conservation, stewardship and access to high quality recreational experiences, is a priority area for Snowy Hydro Limited (Snowy Hydro) and NPWS.

The purpose of the RECMP is to outline future recreational uses of the Lobs Hole and Tantangara precincts, to address the relevant CoA associated with recreational users as detailed in Table 1-1 and to address the environmental management requirements detailed in the Snowy 2.0 Main Works Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The structure of the RECMP reflects the CoA requirements.

1.2. Snowy 2.0 Project overview

Snowy Hydro owns, manages, and maintains the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme (the Scheme). The Scheme currently includes 16 major dams, nine power stations, one pumped power station, 145km of interconnected tunnels and pipelines, and 80km of aqueducts. The Scheme, principally located within the KNP, is one of the largest and most complex hydro-electric schemes in the world.

The pumped hydro-electric expansion of the Scheme (Snowy 2.0) will link the existing Tantangara and Talbingo reservoirs via a new underground tunnel and a pumped hydro-electric power station. Snowy 2.0 will provide an additional 2,000 megawatt (MW) of dispatchable generating capacity, along with approximately 350,000 Megawatt hours (MWh) of large-scale energy storage that will be available on demand as quick-start electricity generation at critical times of peak demand. This is the largest committed renewable energy project in Australia and will underpin the nation’s secure and stable transition to a low carbon emissions future at the lowest cost for consumers.

1.3. Snowy 2.0 Project approval

Snowy 2.0 was designated Critical State significant infrastructure (CSSI 9687) and assessed under Part 5 sections 5.23 and 5.24 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*. The project was approved by the New South Wales (NSW) Minister for Planning and Public Spaces under Section 5.19 of the EP&A Act on 20 May 2020.

A referral was also prepared and lodged with the commonwealth minister for the Environment under the *Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* and the project was subsequently determined to be a controlled action under that Act. The project was approved by the commonwealth minister for the Environment under sections 130(1) and 133(1) of the EPBC Act on 29 June 2020.

Conditions that relate to recreation were included within the Main Works Infrastructure Approval in Schedule 3, from condition 37 to 39 (SSI 9687). Full details of the CoA and supporting information can be found at:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/12891>. It should be noted that condition 37 is not within the scope of this RECMP.

1.4. Staging

The RECMP has been staged based on recreation precincts:

- Stage 1: Recreation Precinct 1 – Talbingo, Lobs Hole and Ravine Road
- Stage 2: Recreation Precinct 2 - Tantangara

The key constraint that does not allow the plan to be developed as a whole, and therefore the requirement to stage the plan, relates to condition 39(d), that requires detailed plans to be included that describe fully the provision of recreational facilities at each site.

Snowy Hydro is having ongoing and extensive consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to provide adequate time to review recreation designs and provide input. However, for the Tantangara site NPWS have requested that additional consultation be undertaken with user groups including fishing groups, horse riding groups and commercial operators. This will require an extended consultation period. Hence, Stage 1 of the RECMP has been prepared for the Lobs Hole, Talbingo and Ravine Road and Stage 2 of the RECMP will cover the Tantangara site.

NSW DPIRD supported additional consultation being done and requested that this occur for all the sites to ensure that the new facilities are adequate for fishing groups. Stage 2 of this plan will include any relevant updates following this consultation.

Staging has been developed in consultation with NPWS and approved by NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) on 22 December 2023.

This plan will be regularly reviewed and updated if required. NPWS may propose changes to this plan, in particular the detailed plans for each of the sites, at any point over the Snowy 2.0 construction period and until individual sites are completed and handed back to NPWS. Snowy Hydro will then consult with all agencies and submit the updated plan to DPHI for approval.

1.5. Co-ordination with rehabilitation management plan

As required by Schedule 3 Condition 39(c) of CSSI – 9687, the implementation of this RECMP is to be co-ordinated with the implementation of the Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP).

The key objective of the rehabilitation plan is to describe the management measures that are to be implemented to ensure that progressive and preparatory rehabilitation is undertaken in addition to long-term rehabilitation works. This plan will be staged and be dynamic in response to project changes.

Some areas and aspects identified in this RECMP will need to be co-ordinated with ongoing rehabilitation management (i.e. the use of excavated materials and final landforms). In accordance with the RMP, all areas not retained for permanent infrastructure will be revegetated and rehabilitated to be suitable for land uses, including recreation.

Recreational areas will be restored and landscaped as agreed with in consultation with NPWS and as detailed within the RMP. The primary aim of the rehabilitation works undertaken will be to integrate the project into the KNP, enabling ecosystem functionality and continuity in alignment with the CoA.

Following the approval of stage 1 of the RECMP, the site-specific plans of the stage 1 RMP will be updated if required.

1.6. Preparation and consultation

This RECMP was prepared with technical guidance from suitably qualified and experienced persons in consultation with DPHI, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), NPWS, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and relevant recreation stakeholders. A list of all stakeholders involved in the development of the RECMP are provided in Table 1-3.

Table 1-3: Recreation stakeholders and associated roles with respect to the RECMP

Stakeholder	Role
Snowy Hydro	Responsible for developing and implementing this RCMP
Inspiring Place	Landscape design
Royal Haskoning	Exclusion zone risk assessment
EMM Consulting	Support drafting of management plan
NPWS	Input for detailed plans for recreation precincts and consultation for plan and responsible for future stewardship of proposed precincts.
Horse riding groups, commercial groups, etc.	Pending - user parties requiring additional consultation for Stage 2 of this plan (Tantangara Recreation Precinct)
NSW DPIRD	Consultation for plan
TfNSW	Consultation for plan
DPHI	Approval authority

This plan has been issued to stakeholder agencies for review and comment, with comments incorporated, where relevant.

Further detail on the consultation that was undertaken to develop the RCMP is provided in Section 4.

2. Recreation Strategy

2.1. Snowy 2.0 Project background

2.1.1. History of operation

The Scheme was designed to collect and store water, divert it through trans-mountain tunnels and power stations and then release it west of the Snowy Mountains into the catchments of the Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers. While the diversion of water for irrigation was the original vision for the Snowy Scheme, the development plays a critical role in the National Electricity Market (NEM) today and has been modernised and well maintained over the decades since its construction. The Snowy Scheme has 4,100 MW of existing hydro-electric generating capacity and produces 4,000 gigawatt hours (GWh) on average each year for households and businesses across the NEM. It provides energy security and reliability across the NEM in times of high energy demand. As the economy continues to decarbonise, the demand for the energy products that Snowy Hydro produce today (such as energy storage, capacity, firming and ancillary services) will increase.

The Snowy Scheme consists of:

- sixteen major reservoirs with a total storage capacity of 7,000 gigalitres (GL);
- nine power stations;
- one pumping station and one pump storage capability at Tumut 3 power station; and
- 145 km of tunnels and pipelines and 80 km of aqueducts.

The existing Snowy Scheme operates within the KNP in accordance with the *NSW Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997 (SHC Act)*. *Part 6, Section 37(2) of the SHC Act* entitles Snowy Hydro to the grant of a lease, licence, easement or right of way over KNP, for the purposes of the existing Snowy Scheme development. The Snowy Park Lease was granted to Snowy Hydro by the NSW Minister for Environment in 2002 and has a term of 75 years. Snowy Hydro operates the Snowy Scheme under a stringent water licence administered by the NSW Department of Industry - Lands & Water that allows for water collection, storage, diversion and release in order to generate electricity.

The Snowy Scheme comprises two major developments: the northern Snowy-Tumut Development and the southern Snowy-Murray Development. Tantangara and Talbingo reservoirs are water storages within the northern Snowy-Tumut Development of the Snowy Scheme. Snowy Hydro controls the water levels within these reservoirs. The maximum and minimum water levels for reservoirs within the Snowy Scheme are stated in the Snowy Water Licence and referred to as Full Supply Level (FSL) and Minimum Operating Level (MOL), respectively.

2.1.2. Snowy 2.0

Snowy 2.0 is a pumped hydro-electric project that will link the existing Tantangara and Talbingo reservoirs through a series of new underground tunnels and a hydro-electric power station (Figure 2-1:). Most of the project's facilities will be built underground, with approximately 27 kilometres of concrete-lined tunnels constructed to link the two reservoirs and a further 20 kilometres of tunnels required to support the facility. Intake and outlet structures will be built at both Tantangara and Talbingo Reservoirs.

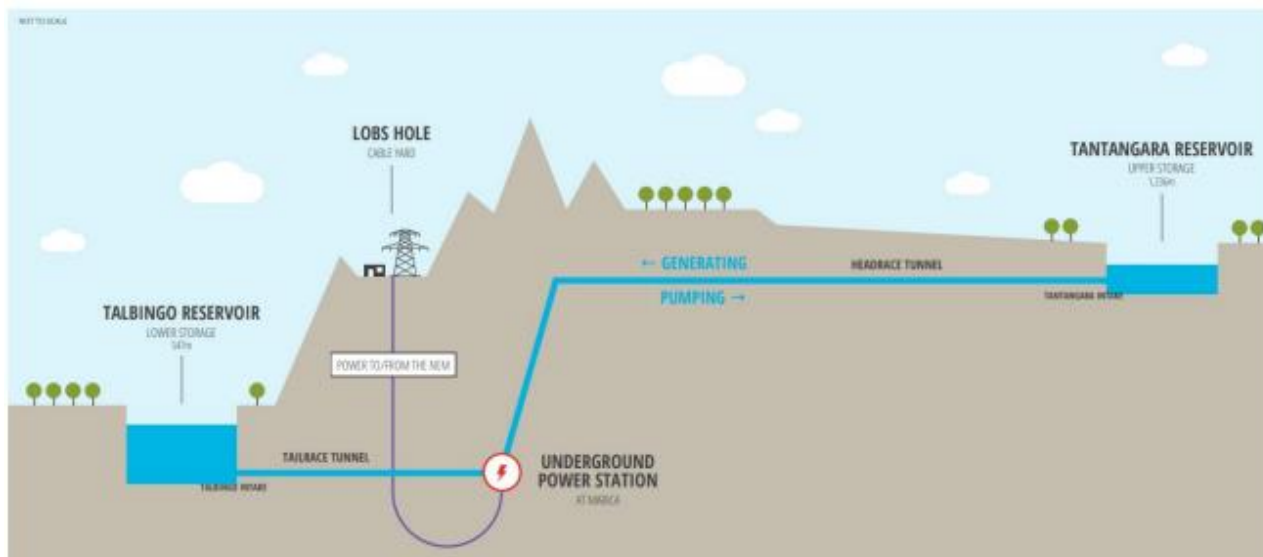


Figure 2-1: Schematic of Main Works

Snowy 2.0 will increase the generation capacity of the Snowy Scheme by an additional 2,000 MW, and at full capacity will provide approximately 350,000 MWh of large-scale energy storage to the NEM. This will be enough to ensure the stability and reliability of the NEM, even during prolonged periods of adverse weather conditions.

Most of the proposed pumped hydro-electric and temporary construction elements and most of the supporting infrastructure for Snowy 2.0 Main Works are located within the boundaries of KNP. The maximum disturbance footprint for the project during construction is about 1,680 ha which is approximately 0.25% of the total KNP area. Supporting infrastructure will include establishing or upgrading access tracks and roads and electricity connections to construction sites and water bore monitoring sites. Some of the supporting infrastructure and construction sites and activities (including sections of road upgrade, power and communications infrastructure) extends beyond the national park boundaries. While most of the work will be underground, the following key previously existing recreational sites will be impacted by the project construction and future operation at the surface:

- Tantangara Reservoir - at an FSL of about 1,229 metres (m) to Australian Height Datum (AHD), Tantangara Reservoir will be the upper reservoir for Snowy 2.0 and includes the headrace tunnel and intake structure. The site will also be used for a temporary construction compound, accommodation camp and other temporary ancillary activities as well as an emplacement area for excavated rock and surplus cut materials;
- Lobs Hole - this site will be used primarily for construction but will also become the main entrance to the power station during operation. Lobs Hole will provide access to the Exploratory Works tunnel, which will be refitted to become the main access tunnel (MAT), as well as the location of the emergency egress, cable and ventilation tunnel (ECVT), portal, associated services and accommodation camp; and
- Talbingo Reservoir - at an FSL of about 546 m AHD, Talbingo Reservoir will be the lower reservoir for Snowy 2.0 and will include the tailrace tunnel and water intake structure. The site will also be used for temporary construction compounds and other temporary ancillary activities as well as an emplacement area for excavated rock and surplus cut materials.

2.2. Existing Environment

2.2.1. Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management

Recreation in KNP is managed under the 2006 Kosciuszko Plan of Management (POM) (as variously amended). The POM recognises that the park is nationally significant. Few other places in Australia offer the opportunity for activities and sport associated with snow conditions, extensive and diverse natural and cultural features and landscapes, and cultural heritage including evidence of Aboriginal and European phases of historic land use.

The POM's management objectives for recreation prioritise managing conflicting uses; providing a spectrum of recreational opportunities across different activities in a mix of different physical, biological, social and managerial settings; and minimising adverse impacts from visitors on the other values of the park. The zoning/recreational activity

schedule of the POM divides the park into management units and prescribes the recreational activities that are permitted, managed and promoted within each management unit.

The project area is located within the northern area of KNP and includes Lobs Hole mining area and the Ravine campground (referred to in this report as Lobs Hole Ravine) and the area around Tantangara and Talbingo Reservoirs. The northern area of KNP includes areas that are zoned in the POM as:

- Wilderness – wilderness areas declared under the NSW Wilderness Act 1987;
- Back Country – parts of KNP without public road access and not within declared wilderness areas;
- Minor Road Corridors – corridors along minor public roads and associated visitor developments;
- Major Road Corridors – corridors along major sealed and unsealed public roads and associated visitor developments; and
- Visitor Services Zone – alpine resorts, development nodes and operational centres.

Most of the camping and visitor use areas in the northern part of KNP are within the “Minor Road Corridors” zone that allows for car-based camping, sightseeing and picnicking, none of which are allowed in the Wilderness and Back Country zones. A key aim of the Minor Road Corridors zone is the provision of opportunities for soft adventures in which visitors can experience a sense of isolation, and appreciate the values of the park, in the presence of relatively small numbers of people and in settings with low to moderate levels of on-site management presence.

The Lobs Hole Ravine Road is included in the “Minor Road Corridor” zone and was one of only a few in KNP that offers a more challenging vehicle touring experience. The relatively difficult access enhanced the sense of isolation and remoteness of the campground that has a low level of on-site management presence and no facilities provided. Lobs Hole Ravine Road has been upgraded as part of the project and therefore the use of this area is expected to change slightly. This has been considered throughout the development of this plan.

2.2.2. Recreational user study

A Recreational Users Study was undertaken by TRC Tourism as part of the Snowy 2.0 Main Works EIS and prior to the commencement of construction. The study indicated that activities generally undertaken in the northern area of KNP include drive touring, picnicking, camping, walking, horse-riding, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, snowboarding, snow play, cycling, climbing, caving, canoeing and rafting, boating, and fishing.

The results of the Recreational Users Study indicated that Talbingo Reservoir, Lobs Hole Ravine, Tantangara Reservoir and their surrounding areas would be directly affected by the project. Camping occurs around Tantangara Reservoir and there are no facilities (i.e. toilet, water supply) available. Many of the Tantangara recreational users were repeat visitors who had been using the area for many years, primarily for camping, swimming, fishing and relaxing. Similarly, Lobs Hole Ravine offered remote camping without the provision of facilities. Camping occurred along the Yarrangobilly River and provided similar recreational activities as Tantangara Reservoir but also bushwalking, swimming and canoe/kayaking.

The study indicated that the impact of the Main Works on recreation users is acceptable given that:

- the closure of Tantangara Road would be limited to a maximum period of nine months, which does not fall during the busiest period of January to April, therefore most residual impacts would be low (note this closure did not end up being required);
- most impacts, once mitigation strategies are implemented, will be low;
- positive impacts such as improved access and facilities at Lobs Hole and improved access along Tantangara Road would be long-term;
- there are other sites within KNP that are available for recreational users for the periods of restricted access; and
- displacement, both temporary and long term, is not expected to occur at high levels and will be to sites that generally have the capacity to absorb some extra visitation. It has been noted that nearby campground O’Hare’s Campground (Sue City) has recently been seeing increased visitation by vehicles and vessels and this is expected to continue long term.

2.2.3. Social impact assessment

The Snowy 2.0 Main Works EIS acknowledged that the Project would be built and operated within KNP and that recreational users would experience short term impacts and disruptions to regular activities. The social impact assessment (SIA) concluded that the Project will create many social and economic benefits for people living and working in the regions of between Canberra across to Wagga Wagga, including numerous townships such as Cooma, Adaminaby, Tumut, Jindabyne, Tumbarumba and more. while also creating some short-term inconvenience and disruptions. The SIA

listed changes to aesthetic values and amenity at recreational sites as both a positive and negative impact. Other negative impacts include disrupted access to recreation activities during construction and depreciating recreational user wellbeing.

The health and wellbeing concern identified for recreational users includes potential levels of stress experienced due to:

- Changed ability to access some recreational areas (both temporary and permanent closure)
- Changed character of some recreational areas; and
- Broader environmental concerns (e.g. worry about ecological impacts)

Social issues were raised in the submissions and additional details provided in the response to submission report. Key issues identified directly relating to recreation in the submissions were:

- The closure of Tantangara Road, including uncertainty on the duration and timing of closure, and the flow on impacts this will have on recreation sites, campgrounds and businesses during the closure and any timeframe beyond the nine-month closure period. Submissions also noted the lack of alternative all vehicle access to Currango via Port Phillip Trial and that there was a lack of communication and discussion with recreational groups impacted by the road closure.
- Impacts to campgrounds, as well as amenity impacts that would impact desirability of recreational activities and facilities within the area
- Long term access restrictions in KMP and its flow on affect to maintenance requirements for the heritage mountain huts in the immediate area
- Impacts on recreational fishing.

Potential opportunities to offset residual recreational impacts were identified and presented in the response to submissions report. These included improving access to Lobs Hole Ravine and Tantangara Reservoir for day users, campers, fishers, horse riders, bikers and other recreational users as part of the construction of the project.

Access to areas within the project footprint will be improved significantly because of the improvements to and continuous maintenance of road networks. As committed by revised environmental mitigation measure (REMM) REC01, a recreation plan will be prepared for the sites impacted by the project. The plan will detail recreational offsets to be provided by the project, such as a permanent boat launch in Tantangara and an upgraded campground and trail network in Lobs Hole.

2.2.4. January 2020 bushfire

On January 4th, 2020, the Snowy 2.0 project site and overall northern section of KNP was impacted by a significant bushfire. The project site at Lobs Hole was severely impacted with much of the groundcover and trees burned, leaving the catchment area with bare soil and no ground protection. Other parts of the Snowy 2.0 Main Works project area including Tantangara were also impacted by the bushfire to varying degrees. The post-bushfire recovery of the surrounding areas is of key concern to KNP stakeholders.

2.2.5. Interim Recreation Management Plan

An interim RCMP was prepared by Inspiring Place in 2021 and forms the basis for this RCMP. The interim plan was developed in consultation with NPWS and included an initial draft and final version, dated October 2021 and December 2021 respectfully. The plan was drafted at an early stage of the project when not all detail could be confirmed and therefore was put forward as an interim plan. DPHI confirmed that the interim plan did not meet the conditions of approval and it was determined that a different staged approach was required to meet all conditions. This RCMP has been prepared in accordance with the staging strategy developed in consultation with NPWS and approved by DPHI.

Further detail pertaining to the development of this interim plan is in Section 4.

2.3. Environmental requirements

2.3.1. Legislation

Legislation relevant to recreation management includes:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 (EP&A Regulation)*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW) (NPW Act)*
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*

Relevant provisions of the above legislation are explained in the register of legal and other requirements included in Appendix A1 of the Environmental Management Strategy (EMS).

The NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994 (FM Act) is relevant for the activity of transferring water between Talbingo Reservoir and Tantangara Reservoir, with more detail on this covered in the Recreational Fishing Management Plan, Threatened Fish Management Plan and Biosecurity Risk Management Plan.

2.3.2. Conditions of approval

The CoAs from the Main Works Infrastructure Approval associated with recreation are listed in Table 1-1 **Error! Reference source not found.**, along with where they are addressed in this RECMP.

2.3.3. Management measures

The Snowy 2.0 Main Works EIS indicated the recreational user impacts would be greatest during the construction phase of the project, as several sites within KNP will be closed or restricted in access for an extended period. The EIS also indicated there will be permanent exclusion zones needed around water intakes in both Talbingo and Tantangara Reservoirs for public safety. These exclusion zones will be to restrict boating and other maritime access, however shore based fishing will still be permitted in these areas. Following a risk assessment carried out by Royal Haskoning HDV (2023), it was determined that Level 1 physical barriers (refer to section 3.6.3) should be located at 1300m and 400m from the intake structure at Talbingo and Tantangara Reservoirs, respectively. Environmental mitigation and management measures to minimise or eliminate recreation impacts were included in the EIS in Section 6.13.4.

The environmental management measures relevant to this RECMP are listed in Table 2-1: below.

Table 2-1: REMM relevant to recreation

Impact/Risk	ID	Revised Measure	Site Impacted	Where addressed
Recreational user impacts	REC01	<p>A recreational plan is to be prepared for recreation sites and their access impacted by the project and should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be prepared in consultation with NPWS - detail recreational offsets to be provided by the project such as a permanent boat launch areas in Talbingo and Tantangara Reservoirs, and Lobs Hole campground - describe measures to be implemented to minimise impacts during construction, including a process for advance communication to stakeholders and visitors when closures are expected 	<p>Talbingo Reservoir Lobs Hole Tantangara Reservoir</p>	<p>Section 4 for consultation. Section 3.1, Appendix A and Appendix B (pending) for recreational offsets. Section 3.7 for communication during construction.</p>
Visual and landscape impacts resulting from permanent placement of excavated material	LCV01	<p>The placement of excavated material in Talbingo, Lobs Hole and Tantangara Reservoir will be rehabilitated as guided by the Rehabilitation Strategy and in consultation with NPWS</p>	<p>Talbingo Reservoir Lobs Hole Tantangara Reservoir</p>	<p>Visual Impact Plan Rehabilitation Management Plan</p>
Visual and landscape impacts resulting from permanent infrastructure	LCV02	<p>Detailed design is to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - materials and finishes that complement or where possible recede into the surrounding landscape; - the use of vegetation to screen project elements and re-vegetation of disturbed areas in line with the Rehabilitation Strategy; and 	<p>Talbingo Reservoir Lobs Hole Tantangara Reservoir</p>	<p>Visual Impact Plan</p>

Impact/Risk	ID	Revised Measure	Site Impacted	Where addressed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lighting to avoid spill that might affect sensitive areas or receivers 		
Impacts specific to the construction phase				
Temporary closure of Tantangara Road – for duration of construction or for period of road upgrade works only	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain access along Tantangara Road with measures in place (car escort, traffic lights) other than during periods of high-risk activities - Advance communication to stakeholders and visitors - Offset strategy developed in consultation with NPWS 	Tantangara Reservoir Wares Yard Currango Homestead	Section 3.5 Error! Reference source not found.
Facilitated access along Tantangara Road	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advance communication to stakeholders and visitors - Periods of public access to Wares Yard to be developed in consultation with NPWS as part of recreational management plan, and/or development of alternative horse campgrounds in collaboration with NPWS 	Tantangara Reservoir Wares Yard	Section 3.5, 3.7
Exclusion zones on Talbingo and Tantangara Reservoir and restriction of access to these sites	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate recreational offset will be detailed in recreational management plans and will include measures such as: advance communication to stakeholders and visitors when closures are expected, construction of temporary or permanent boat ramps in collaboration with NPWS 	Tantangara Reservoir Talbingo Reservoir	Section 1, Appendix A and Appendix B (pending)

Impact/Risk	ID	Revised Measure	Site Impacted	Where addressed
Impacts on the quality of fishing in Tantangara Reservoir	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mitigation measures to manage transfer to fish species are provided in Section 6.4, based on the aquatic ecology assessment for the project (Appendix M.2) 	Tantangara Reservoir	Recreational Fishing Management Plan
Noise and air quality	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction Noise and Vibration management Plan to address noise and vibration management and mitigation options where required - Mitigation measures to impact on horse campground are accounted for in the offset strategy 	Tantangara Reservoir Wares Yard 3 Mile Dam Other campgrounds along the road haulage route	Noise & Vibration Management Plan
Extended closure of Lobs Hole Ravine Campground and Middle Bay boat ramp, including access from Lobs Hole Ravine Road and Talbingo Reservoir	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consistent with commitments made during Exploratory Works, a recreation master plan for camping and day use across KNP to consider alternative sites to develop to consider access to and camping alternative locations elsewhere in the park that offer a similar experience to Lobs Hole - Ensure visitors are aware of alternative options, including alternative locations for camping with access to water - Boat launch to Talbingo Reservoir used during construction to be retained and available for public use at completion of works 	Lobs Hole	This plan
Impacts specific to the operational phase				

Impact/Risk	ID	Revised Measure	Site Impacted	Where addressed
Exclusion zones on Talbingo and Tantangara Reservoir and restriction of access to these sites	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate recreational offset will be detailed in recreational management plan and will include measures such as: advance communication to stakeholders and visitors when closures are expected, construction of temporary or permanent boat ramps in collaboration with NPWS 	Tantangara Reservoir Talbingo Reservoir	Section 3.1, Appendix A and Appendix B (pending) for recreational offsets. Section 3.7 for communication during construction
Visual impacts	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rehabilitation plan to include vegetation to better enable integration with the landscape 	Talbingo Reservoir Lobs Hole Tantangara Reservoir	Visual Management Plan Rehabilitation Management Plan

2.3.4. Standards and guidelines

The main guidelines, specifications and policy documents relevant to this Plan include:

- *NPWS Park Facilities Manual*
- *Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management (NPWS, 2006)*

Other reference documents:

- *Snowy 2.0 Environmental Impact Statement (September, 2019)*
- *Interim Recreation Management Plan (December, 2021)*
- *Environmental Management Strategy (May 2020)*
- *Snowy 2.0 Rehabilitation Management Plan*
- *Snowy 2.0 Long Term Road Strategy*
- *Snowy 2.0 Spoil Management Plan*

3. Recreation and Facilities Management

3.1. Overview of Recreation Precincts

3.1.1. Recreation Precinct 1 – Talbingo, Lobs Hole and Ravine Road

As per conditions of approval, detailed plans for the provision of recreational facilities at, and future use of, Talbingo Reservoir and Lobs Hole are required. Due to the cross over between the upper reaches of Talbingo Reservoir and Lobs Hole, these have been combined as a Recreation Precinct for the purpose of this plan. Ravine Road is the key access to these sites and therefore has also been included in Recreation Precinct 1.

As noted in section 2, these sites were originally considered remote, with 4WD access on Ravine Road and no facilities at Lobs Hole. As envisaged during the EIS, the construction of Snowy 2.0 has resulted in a change to the types of vehicles able to access the area (Ravine Road has been upgraded to a road suitable for all vehicle types). Considering these factors, Snowy Hydro anticipates that the profile of day and overnight visitors will change and has therefore developed this plan for long-term sustainable recreation accordingly.

Due to the impact of the future exclusion zone that will be placed around the Talbingo Intake, the upper reaches of Talbingo will not be accessible for swimming or canoeing and visitors will not be able to use the informal boat launch location at Lobs Hole. This was expected during the EIS. Access to other areas of Talbingo such as Talbingo Dam and Sue City will not change. Further, access is still available to visitors for shore based fishing and there will be significant improvements to facilities in Lobs Hole for visitors to enjoy activities such as swimming in the Yarrangobilly River adjacent to the proposed campground and upstream of this point.

The plan for recreation at the sites of Talbingo, Lobs Hole and Ravine Road are covered in detail in Appendix A of this plan.

3.1.2. Recreation Precinct 2 - Tantangara

As per conditions of approval, a detailed plan for the provision of recreational facilities at, and future use of Tantangara Reservoir is required.

As noted in section 2, this site was originally used for a variety of recreational activities such as horse riding and fishing. Users will have access to an improved road network and Snowy Hydro will design and construct a new camping area to support this. Once the permanent spoil emplacement design is confirmed and further consultation has been completed with user groups, the design of recreational areas will be finalised. This consultation will also include location of the permanent boat ramp.

The plan for recreation at Tantangara will be detailed in an appendix of Stage 2 of this plan, in accordance with the approved staging strategy.

3.2. Access

It is not proposed to open any recreation areas within the project's development footprint to the public during construction or initial rehabilitation works. The recreation areas will be commenced and completed as soon as possible after the completion of Snowy 2.0 construction works and initial rehabilitation works.

Following the completion of initial rehabilitation works and construction of the recreation areas, the sites will be formally handed over to NPWS who would become responsible for and control public access and use of these sites. Note that Snowy Hydro will remain responsible for ongoing rehabilitation of all sites as per the conditions of approval requirements.

3.3. Information and updates

Information about closures of recreational areas will be provided on the NPWS website.

Signage for recreational areas will be prepared by Snowy Hydro with detail on content refined through the development of an Interpretation Plan. All signage will be in accordance with the Parks Signage Manual. The interpretation plan will include detail on:

- Informative signage surrounding exclusion zones and closures etc;
- Alternative naming for Snowy 2.0 roads and tracks, including in relation to Aboriginal and potentially European heritage;
- Interpretive signage that will be placed through the areas to educate park users.

The Interpretation Plan will be prepared to the satisfaction of NPWS within 12 months of approval of Stage 2 of this RECMP.

3.4. Responsibilities

Snowy Hydro is responsible to consult with NPWS on all design aspects of recreational areas, and is responsible for the rehabilitation of recreational areas and the construction of the agreed upon recreational areas. Snowy Hydro is responsible in ensuring all management measures are undertaken to comply with condition 38 (refer section 3.5).

Park facilities are to be designed in accordance with the design principles set out in the NPWS Park Facilities manual, certified by suitably qualified engineers and architects, and are to comply with the Building Code of Australia (BCT) and Australian standards. Other significant infrastructure (roads and bridges) must be certified with the relevant authority and deemed fit for purpose.

Once handover is agreed upon, NPWS will maintain recreational areas and provide access to the public for use. NPWS will provide information and updates for these areas on their website.

3.5. Measures to comply with condition 38

Table 3-1: provides a detailed explanation of the actions that will be taken to comply with condition 38 of the CoA. The actions provide further detail on recreation management within KNP.

Table 3-1: Measures to comply with condition 38

Item	Description	Action
Tantangara Road	Measures to keep Tantangara road open to the public once it has been upgraded for the development and have suitable procedures in place to ensure it is safe for unrestricted use and to respond promptly to any temporary public safety risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tantangara road is upgraded for construction of the project and remains open to the public. Upgrades have consisted of widening, culvert extensions, road realignment and clearing of trees on blind corners. • Continued regular consultation with NPWS regarding any further upgrades required to meet approval conditions and ensure ongoing public safety. • The road is monitored and maintained regularly and signage in place as per Traffic Control Plans to improve public safety.
Development risks	Minimise the impacts of the development on users of Kosciuszko National Park both within and in the vicinity of the construction envelope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational users of KNP will not be permitted to enter the construction zones of the Snowy 2.0 project. Entry gates have been established outside of the construction envelope to permit entry to employees and contractors. These gates will remain during the construction phase of the recreational areas. • The Transport Management Plan is in place to ensure traffic related impacts of the development are managed.
Talbingo Boat Ramp	Minimize any disruption to the use of the Talbingo Boat Ramp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access to the Talbingo Boat Ramp will be available throughout the duration of the Project.
Dust and noise at Wares Yard Campground	Minimise the dust and noise impacts of the development on the Wares Yards Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust suppression is undertaken along Tantangara Road including the turn off section to Wares Yard. • No construction activities are carried out along this section of Tantangara Road, only road maintenance as required, therefore noise impacts are minimal.

Item	Description	Action
Recreational activities for workers	Control the recreational activities of the workers staying in the accommodation camp to minimise the impacts of the development outside the approved disturbance area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational facilities for workers have been developed within the disturbance boundary such as indoor exercise facilities, mess areas, games room and a walking track.
Reopen progressively	Progressively reopen those areas of the Kosciuszko National Park that are closed to the public during construction as soon as possible following the completion of construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational areas will be opened as soon as reasonability possible following completion of construction and initial rehabilitation.
Temporary closures	Keep the community informed about the temporary closure of areas or any recreational facilities within the Kosciuszko National Park	Temporary closures updates will be available via the following methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPWS website Google maps Road signage

3.6. Management

3.6.1. Risk assessment

The RCMP utilizes the risk assessment methodology within Appendix A3 of the EMS and presented in Table 3-2:. The risk assessment is based on (1) the likelihood of an impact occurring as a result of the aspect; and (2) the consequences of the impact if the event occurred.

Risks of construction and rehabilitation associated with recreation areas have been identified, assessed and controlled through the risk assessment process (Table 3-3:).

Table 3-2: Risk assessment matrix

	Catastrophic	Critical	Moderate	Marginal
Frequent	High	High	High	Medium
Probable	High	High	Serious	Medium
Occasional	High	Serious	Medium	Low
Remote	Serious	Medium	Medium	Low
Improbable	Medium	Low	Low	Low

Table 3-3: Risk assessment for recreation

Item	Description	Probability	Severity	Risk-level	Mitigation
Visitation to KNP is impacted negatively	People may avoid KNP or boycott the Park as a way to demonstrate their opposition to the Snowy 2.0 project.	Improbable	Moderate	Low	Ensure all communications on Snowy 2.0 point to NSW NPWS assets to demonstrate partnership and collaboration.
Winter weather may prohibit the access to recreational sites	Winter weather conditions impact the use of roads, campsites, and day use areas.	Remote	Marginal	Low	Closures (including road closures) due to weather are posted by NPWS on their website. No change from pre Snowy 2.0.
Permanent infrastructure of Snowy 2.0 Main Works disrupts the visual amenity of KNP	Permanent infrastructure and landscape altered by the project permanently impacts users of KNP	Remote	Moderate	Medium	<p>Colouring infrastructure to blend in, landform design to ensure a natural landscape following construction and rehabilitation of the project as per NPWS Parks Facility manual.</p> <p>Rehabilitation practices in line with the existing environmental eco-systems and enhance plant and animal biodiversity, and apply implementation principles outlined in the Rehabilitation Management Plan</p>
Public perception of spoil emplacement	Public may have opposition to recreating on spoil emplacement areas	Remote	Moderate	Medium	Ensure landform design is completed to provide a natural landscape that matches other features of KNP and enables recreation as provided for in the site specific

Item	Description	Probability	Severity	Risk-level	Mitigation
					Spoil Management Plans and this Rec MP.
Visitors are impacted by final stages of Project Rehabilitation	Ongoing rehabilitation and maintenance work nearby visitors could pose a safety risk if heavy vehicles are involved.	Remote	Critical	Medium	Communication through website, signage, exclusions zones. Onsite safety protocols are actioned.
Waste and other impacts to KNP from recreational users	Recreation users are disrespectful to the park and to other users of the park	Occasional	Moderate	Medium	To be managed by NPWS as in other visitor areas of KNP. Angler code of conduct to be adhered to.
NPWS is unable to support proposed recreational area due to funding and resources	Once constructed, recreational areas are rendered inaccessible due to a lack of resources within NPWS to manage the upgraded recreation areas.	Occasional	Moderate	Medium	Design and construct recreation areas in accordance with comments from NPWS to ensure adequate resources are available for management.
Nautical exclusion zones are not respected	Public may attempt to gain access to restricted area, leading to emergency situations.	Remote	Critical	Serious	Ensure key messages around restrictions and safety are clearly displayed on appropriate signage.

3.6.2. Risk Assessment – Roads

Ravine Road is the key access into Lobs Hole and is currently suitable for caravans and will remain so at the time of handover of Ravine Road to NPWS, therefore future recreation at Lobs Hole considers that caravans will be accessing the site.

While Ravine Road was not designed specifically for a caravan trailer, the design vehicles used to check road geometry and sight distance for Snowy 2.0 construction of Ravine Road were much larger vehicles including 19m semi-trailers and Self-propelled Modular Trailers with up to 250t payload, as such it is considered that the road will be fit for use by recreational caravan users. In addition, Ravine Road has been built with minimum 2 x 3m lanes and 0.5m shoulders, i.e. wider than many roads in KNP and wider than Link Road in some instances.

Notwithstanding the road being designed and built to the above standards, Ravine Road will be subject to a Road Safety Audit before it is converted from a private construction road to a public road. A key aspect of this safety audit will be to assess the suitability of the road for caravan access and identify mitigation measures for any specific concerns with caravan access. Snowy Hydro will commission an independent road safety audit and action the recommendations resulting from this following discussion with NPWS. The audit will also check safe access for vehicles and pedestrians surrounding the proposed day use areas.

If findings of the audit result in any changes to the proposed recreational areas, this plan will be updated and provided to agencies for review and DPHI for approval.

3.6.3. Risk Assessment - Reservoirs

A risk assessment for the exclusion zone was undertaken by Royal Haskoning (2023). The risk assessment determined that Snowy 2.0 is a Category A structure and provided mitigation measures in accordance with the Guide for Managing Potential Hazards on Water Storages in NSW (Transport NSW 2023), which include:

- Level 1 – physical barrier
- Level 2 – buoys near the hazard, to provide an additional layer of mitigation
- Level 4 – signage on the shoreline
- Level 5 - signage at access points

Category A includes built structures that relate to the primary function of the water storage. Level 3 includes buoys marking a hazard where signs may not be required or practical, and is only applicable to Category B hazards that relate indirectly to water storage (i.e. cables).

Expected flows for Talbingo at minimum operating level are indicated in figure 3-1. The physical barrier (level 1 control) is also indicated in figure 3-1. It was determined that Level 1 physical barriers (a floating line of bouys connected by a continuous cable) should be located at 1300m from the intake structure at Talbingo and that this section of the reservoir should not be passed through due to this risk. A surface current of 0.3m/s is expected to occur at these distances from the intakes. In this current it is considered reasonable for a person, whether swimming or in a vessel, to hold onto the floating barrier and pull themselves along the barrier to the shoreline.

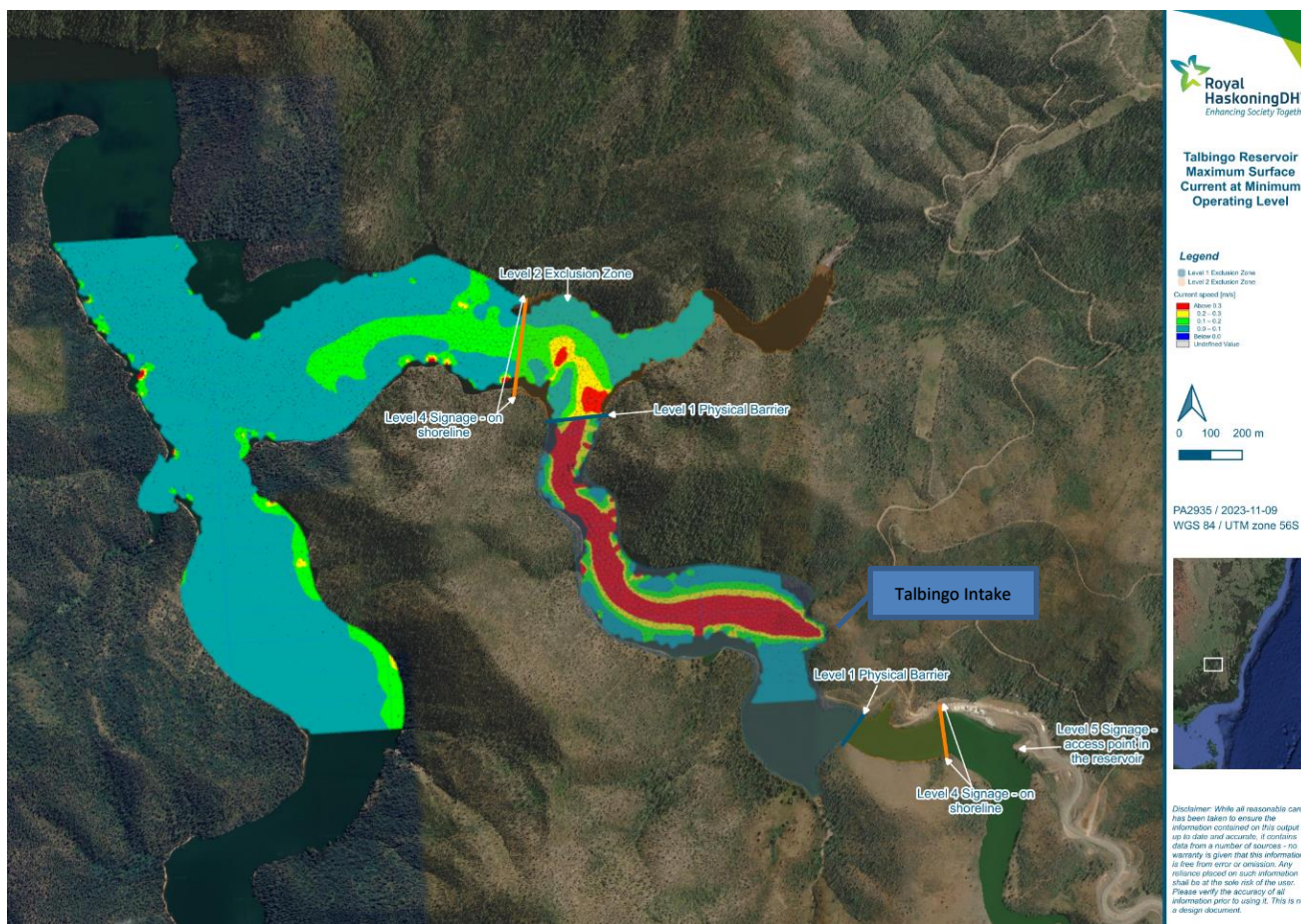


Figure 3-1: Talbingo Reservoir indicative exclusion zone

The proposed formal exclusion zone is based on the location of the level 2 control. The risk assessment indicates locations of both sides that can be seen in figure 3-1. However due to the risk of members of the public getting swept downstream towards the intake with limited ability to leave the waterway, Snowy Hydro will extend the exclusion zone further to the east as indicated in figure A-2-1 of Appendix A. This will mean that the informal boat launch area at Lobs Hole will be in the exclusion zone.

The location of level 4 and 5 mitigation measures may be amended in consultation with DPIRD and NPWS.

The risk assessment process and proposed outcome from Snowy Hydro informed the concept design and detailed designs provided in Section 1.1 and Appendix A. For example the use of a popular swimming hole adjacent to the proposed Lobs Hole campground (in addition to access further upstream) is proposed to continue and access from the campground has been facilitated. However downstream of this swimming spot is in the exclusion zone due to risk of Talbingo Intake. In this section, no swimming or boat access can occur, however shore based fishing is allowable. The full risk assessment for Talbingo Intake is provided in Appendix B.

This section will be updated in Stage 2 with further detail on the Tantangara Intake exclusion zone.

3.6.4. Monitoring and review

The implementation of this plan and the measures within this plan will be monitored and publicly reported on via the Snowy Hydro website on an annual basis. Monitoring by Snowy Hydro will be limited to the construction and rehabilitation phases of the recreation areas before handover to NPWS for continued monitoring, maintenance and public access. During the construction and rehabilitation phases of the recreation areas, Snowy Hydro will continue to report to NPWS via existing forums, particularly on commencement of construction and completion of recreation areas.

The ownership and responsibility for managing recreational areas will be handed over to NPWS once recreational sites have been constructed by Snowy Hydro and assessed by NPWS as achieving the agreed conditions outlined in the conditions of approval and this management plan.

3.6.5. Inspections and auditing

Independent environmental audits are undertaken for the project, which will include the implementation of the measures within the RECOMP. These audits will be limited to the construction phase and will no longer be completed once the recreation areas are handed over to NPWS.

3.7. Communication

Both the Snowy Hydro website and NPWS website will provide details on recreation sites, including access and availability.

Details regarding both safety and interpretive signage will be prepared in consultation with NPWS and TfNSW and detailed in the Interpretation Plan. Exclusion zones and gates for Snowy Hydro operation areas will be prepared and posted to ensure public awareness of prohibited access and associated risks.

4. Agency Consultation

Table 4-1 provides a summary of the consultation that was undertaken with agencies and the outcomes.

Table 4-1: Summary of agency consultation

Date	Description of Consultation	Outcome
2017-2022	Initial consultation and an interim RCMP, including a scoping session and workshops with NPWS, preparation of an initial draft, and an updated interim RCMP incorporating NPWS comments	An Interim RCMP was prepared and submitted through the major projects portal. It was determined that this plan did not comply with all conditions of approval and an alternative staged approach would be necessary
4 July 2023	Snowy Hydro met with DPHI to discuss staging plan	DPHI stated that the entire plan must be compliant with all conditions and that staging must be completed by location: Stage 1 – Talbingo and Lobs Hole Stage 2 - Tantangara
5 July 2023	Consultation with NPWS that included high level discussions about recreational precincts.	Operational requirements, such as full supply level and exclusion zones require investigation. Location of Snowy Hydro gates and the risks in the transition from construction to recreation require further consideration and inclusion into the plan. Discussion held on the public perception of spoil area and the potential for the recreation management plan to consider recreation activities outside the construction envelope.
19 July 2023	Recreation Management Plan workshop with NPWS. SHL provided a presentation on the proposed conceptual plan for the recreational areas and the proposed detailed design items for Stage 1 – Talbingo and Lobs Hole.	<p>During the presentation of the conceptual plan for Tantangara it was noted that three additional groups require consultation, namely the fishing, horse-riding and commercial outdoor groups. Consultation will be completed as a joint SHL and NPWS session with these groups, NPWS will provide contact details and SHL will organize sessions.</p> <p>A proposed concept for detailed design of the Talbingo and Lobs Hole was reviewed, and the following queries were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A clear definition of the activities allowed and not allowed within the exclusion zone is required - Vision for the area must consider a demographic shift - Verify if Ravine Road can support Caravan travel - Consideration to Lobs Hole day use, including day use/camp sites together across from Washington Hotel <p>Actions required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visualization of the area post construction, SHL to provide to NPWS - Updates to figures required – Wallace Creek duplication, Ravine Road

Date	Description of Consultation	Outcome
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SHL to provide an example of a detailed plan to DPHI to ensure it is an acceptable level of detail
<p>24 July 2023</p> <p>28 August 2023</p> <p>31 August 2023</p>	<p>Example of Detailed site plan figure provided to NPWS</p> <p>Visualisations provided to NPWS</p> <p>PowerPoint of proposed recreational sites sent to NPWS by Snowy Hydro</p>	<p>Comments provided by NPWS on 15 and 18 September 2023 were passed onto Inspiring Place to update detailed designs</p>
<p>13 October 2023</p>	<p>Detailed designs prepared by Inspiring Place provided to NPWS for comments</p>	<p>Comments provided by NPWS on 25 October 2023 were passed onto Inspiring Place to update detailed designs</p>
<p>10 November 2023</p>	<p>Staging proposal submitted to DPHI</p>	<p>DPHI approved staging strategy allowing the plan to be submitted with the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overarching recreational facilities strategy - Recreational Facilities Plan for Talbingo, Lobs Hole and Ravine Road
<p>17 January 2024</p>	<p>Draft RCMP provided to NPWS, TfNSW and NSW DPIRD for review and comment.</p>	<p>TfNSW provided a no objection to the plan on 19 February 2024 however had several minor comments and questions which included clarification on the exclusion zone barrier 1 type; whether the Lobs Hole informal boat launch would be reopened; and whether reservoir fluctuations had been considered. Minor updates were made to the plan and responses provided to TfNSW with this revision.</p> <p>Comments provided by NSW DPIRD on 6 March 2024 resulted in the following key updates to the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated section on exclusion zones which noted that shore based fishing was still permitted in exclusion zones - Updated wording throughout to explain that proposed recreational facilities at Lobs Hole were similar to what was envisaged in the EIS and that offsets balance. - Added wording around why the Lobs Hole informal boat launch would not be used going forward due to being in the exclusion zone and that this was considered as a possibility during the EIS - <p>Comments provided by NPWS on 12 April 2024 resulted in the following key updates to the plan:</p>

5. Plan Review

As required by Condition 4 of Schedule 4, within 3 months of the following, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, the Proponent must review and (if necessary) update the approved strategies, plans and programs for the development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary:

- a) the submission of an incident report under condition 6 below;
- b) the submission of an independent environmental audit report under condition 10 below; and
- c) any modification to the conditions of this approval; or
- d) a direction of the Planning Secretary under condition 4 of schedule 2.

NPWS may propose changes to this plan, in particular the detailed plans for each of the sites, at any point over the Snowy 2.0 construction period and until individual sites are completed and handed back to NPWS.

If the plan is updated for any reason, Snowy Hydro will consult with all agencies on the plan and submit to DPHI for approval.

6. References

DPIE (2006) Plan of Management Kosciuszko National Park

Elton Consulting (2019). Social Impact Assessment, prepared for EMM Consulting on Behalf of Snowy Hydro Limited, 13 September 2019

EMM (2019) Snowy 2.0 Main Works Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), prepared for Snowy Hydro Limited, EMM Consulting Pty Limited, September 2019

Future Generation Join Venture (FGJV) (2020). Environmental Management Strategy, Prepared by FGJV on behalf of Snowy Hydro Limited, 31 May 2020

Inspiring Place (2022) Snowy 2.0 Interim Recreation Management Plan, Prepared for Snowy Hydro Limited, January 2022

Royal Haskoning HDV (2023). Snowy 2.0 Navigation Impact Assessment Memorandum, 14 November 2023

Transport NSW (2023). Guideline for Managing Potential Hazards on Water Shortages in NSW, March 2023

TRC Tourism Pty Limited (2019) Snowy 2.0 Main Works Recreational Users Study, prepared for EMM Consulting Pty Limited, 13 September 2019

Appendix A – Recreation Precinct 1 – Talbingo, Lobs Hole and Ravine Road

1. Current state

These areas are within the development footprint of the project and are currently not accessible to the public. Construction activities are currently taking place within these areas (see

Figure A-1-1:). Areas will need to be reformed (i.e. spoil emplacement areas), constructed and then rehabilitated before recreation can occur.



Figure A-1-1: Lobs Hole December 2023 taken from above Lobs Hole North Rd and the Talbingo Adit, towards the east with MAT and ECVT in the distance

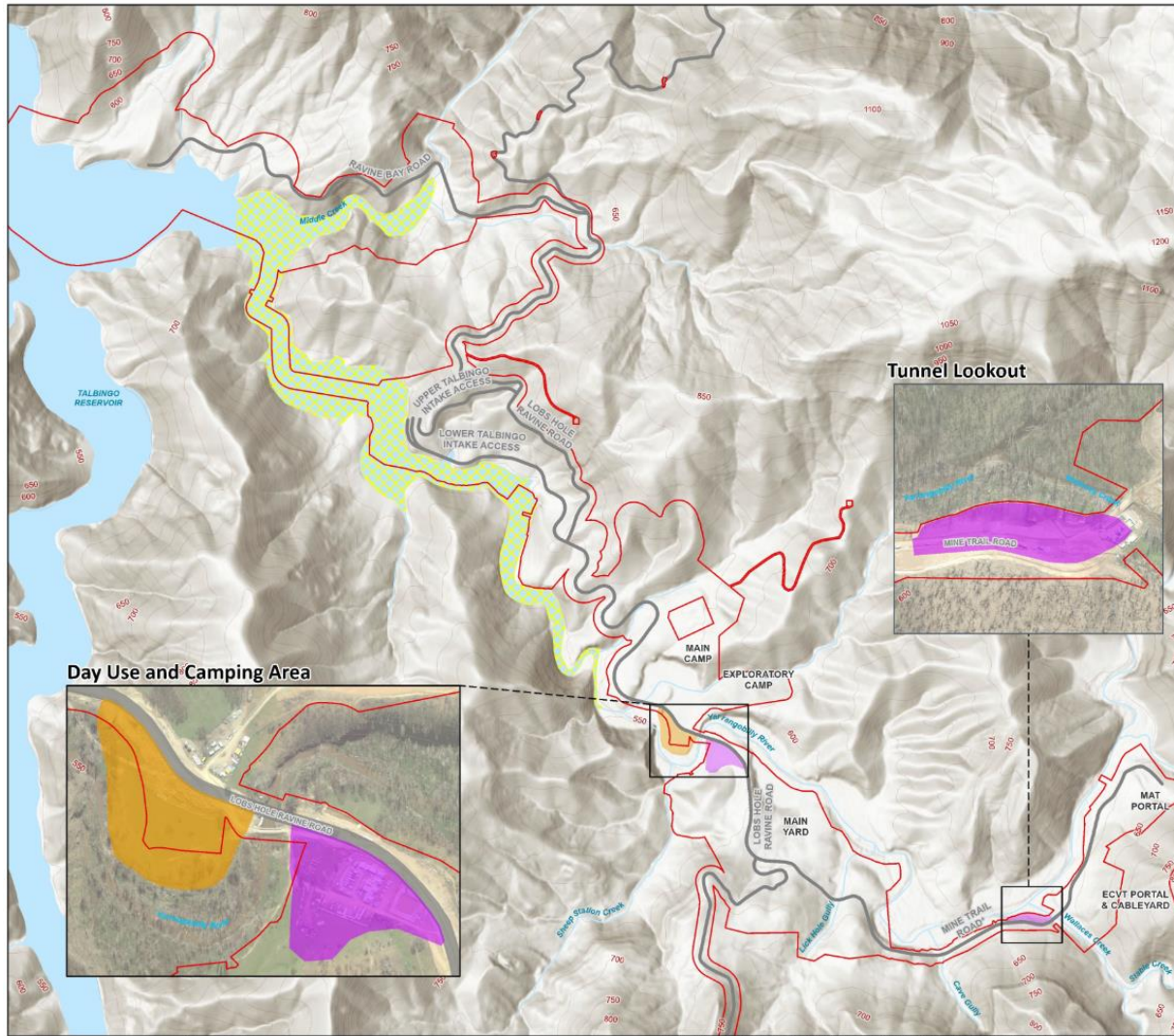
2. Concept plans

Recreation Precinct 1 has been designed to include a series of lookouts and day use areas to allow visitors to learn about the rich cultural history as well as key geological and biodiversity features of the area. An overnight camping ground has also been incorporated. This campground will present as a minimal impact recreational area which is designed to offer visitors a remote yet connected experience. Figure A-2-1 and Figure A-2-2 are conceptual figures for Recreation Precinct 1. The conceptual figures roughly identify the locations of the recreational areas proposed to be upgraded and is further detailed in Section 3.



**Snowy 2.0 Recreational Precinct
Lobs Hole**

- Construction Envelope (Dec 2021)
- Day Use Area
- Overnight Camping
- Maritime Exclusion Zone
- Road
- Major Contour (50m)
- Drainage



Prepared by: RG14442
Date: 29/05/2024
Spatial Reference: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Disclaimer: Map created by Snowy Hydro Limited. While the map has been created with all due care, Snowy Hydro does not guarantee or represent the map to be free of errors or omissions. Each user of this map is responsible for determining its suitability for their intended use or purpose. Snowy Hydro and its employees, officers, agents or representatives gives no warranty in relation to the data (including accuracy, reliability, completeness, currency or suitability) and accepts no liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for any loss, damage or costs (including consequential damage) relating to any use. © Snowy Hydro Limited, 2024.

Credits: Data used is owned by Snowy Hydro Limited except as follows:
Esri, CGIM, Esri, GeoScience Australia, NASA, NGA, USGS
Scale is at A3 paper size where shown

Figure A-2-1: Recreation Precinct 1 Conceptual Figure – Talbingo and Lobs Hole

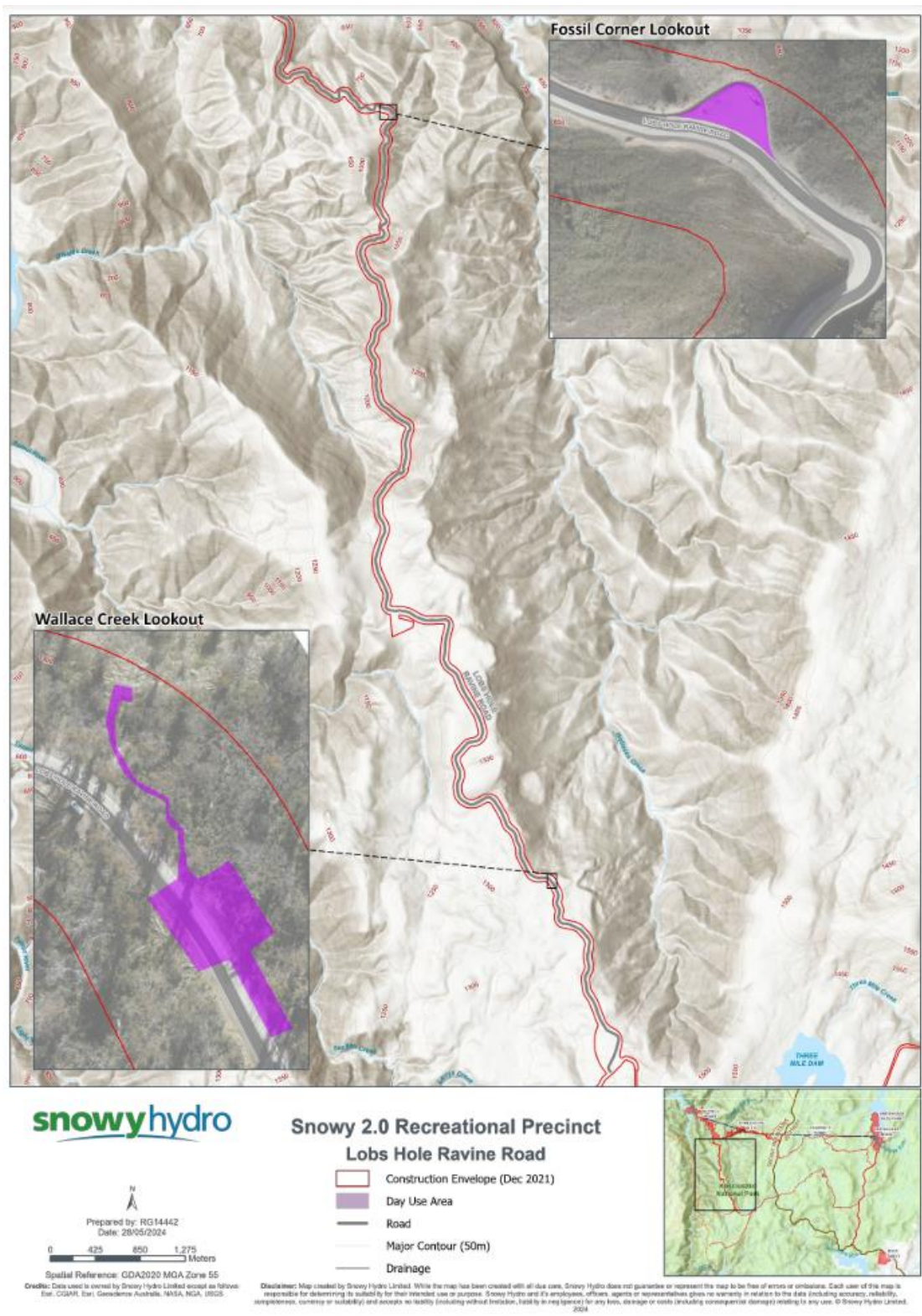


Figure A-2-2: Recreation Precinct 1 Conceptual Figure - Ravine Road

3. Detailed plans

The detailed designs provided in the following sections are proposed and agreed upon by NPWS at the drafting of the RECOMP, however they are subject to change if requested by NPWS over the Snowy 2.0 construction period and until any individual site is handed back to NPWS. Additionally, detailed designs are subject to change following a precinct and Ravine Road safety check. Further discussion on appropriate naming of sites and roads will take place before completion of construction with outcomes to be detailed in the Interpretation Plan. All infrastructure will be designed in accordance with the NPWS Facilities Manual. This will ensure that all facilities and new infrastructure have visual amenity/impact and maintenance requirements, which are consistent with existing KNP visitor infrastructure. Walking tracks will be intended to be Grade 1 as classified under the Australian walking track standards, however topography may impact this and final design will be agreed upon in consultation with NPWS.

Further detailed plans will be developed closer to the time of implementation, using multiple “user points of view” visualisations to assist with planting, campsite orientation, track placement etc.

3.1. Day use and camping area at Lobs Ravine

Figure A-3-1 provides a visualisation of what the area including and surrounding the proposed camping area at Lobs Hole will look like once the site has been rehabilitated. The location of the current Exploratory and Main Works camp site at Lobs Hole are shown in the top half of the figure (above the main road). The proposed camping area will be situated in the grassy area in the Yarrangobilly River bend at the bottom of the figure and the proposed day use area will be across the Yarrangobilly River on the bottom right side of the figure.

The illustrative detailed design for the day use and camping area at Lobs Ravine is provided in figure A-3-2 and described below.

A gravel entry road into the proposed camping area will allow for two-way vehicle movement, and access to grass base camping sites (50-200m²) including a small number of sites for caravans, camper vans and recreational vehicles. Some tent-based camping with vehicle parking off the entry road on a grass base will be available near the suspension bridge across Yarrangobilly River. All gravel roads within the campground will be agreed with NPWS.

The camping area will have toilets (2 x double pump-out toilet blocks) and shelter (design and construction as per NPWS Parks Manual specifications) in a non-vehicle zone that features a small open space area adjacent to the Yarrangobilly River to cater for informal play. A waste tank for caravan waste is to be provided.

A new entry road off the upgraded Lobs Hole Ravine Road will provide access to a day use visitor area with parking, toilet (1x double or 2x single pump out toilet blocks), shelter, picnic area and tables, with a barbeque (designed and constructed as per Parks Manual specifications). The day use area is located near an interpretative short walk around Washington Hotel historic remains that hosts signage (detail to be refined in the Interpretation Plan). The day use site is to be at a similar grade as the historic site.

An access track providing access to a popular swimming area on Yarrangobilly River and a shared track from the day use area area towards the East along the Yarrangobilly River will offer passive recreation opportunities in addition to a physical connection to the lookout positioned close to the tunnel portal (refer to section 3.2). The areas surrounding all tracks and trails will be rehabilitated and revegetated. Additional minor access tracks for shore based fishing may be established if this need arises and if endorsed by both DPIRD and NPWS.

An opportunity for camping was identified at Snowy 2.0 Main Yard due to its proximity to the Yarrangobilly River. Details will be agreed upon in consultation with NPWS in the future. Although a formal campground has not been designed here, Snowy Hydro will ensure that the area will be land-formed and rehabilitated in a way that supports future public access and quiet enjoyment of the area. If required in consultation with NPWS, Snowy Hydro will ensure appropriate mitigations are implemented where historic mine tailing material still exists. A visualisation of what this area may look like is provided in figure A-3-3, noting roads are visualisations only and will be confirmed through the Long Term Road Strategy.



Figure A-3-1: Future visualisation of the Lobs Hole camp area



Figure A-3-2: Recreation Precinct 1 Detailed Design - Day Use and Camping Area at Lobbs Ravine



Figure A-3-3: Future visualisation of Lobs Hole Main Yard area. Roads will be finalised in the LTRS.

3.2. Tunnel lookout

The day use area shown in figure A-3-4 will provide a view of the Emergency Cable and Ventilation Tunnel portal and associated infrastructure. It will allow park users to learn about Snowy 2.0. The final name of this lookout will be decided during the development of the Interpretation Plan.

The lookout will host a viewing platform and interpretative signage with messaging to be developed and agreed with NPWS through the Interpretation Plan. The area will also have a linking road to the lookout location, with parking for standard and long vehicles with trailers or caravans. The road will feature a turnaround circle just before a Snowy Hydro exclusion gate. The area surrounding will be revegetated.

A shared track will connect back to the day use area at the Washington Hotel site. This shared track will start some distance back from the car park along the edge of the road due to the steep bank. It will then follow a weaving path allowing viewing of the Yarrangobilly River.

Key:

- ① Link road to lookout location
- ② Parking for long vehicles with trailers or caravans
- ③ Parking for standard vehicles
- ④ Viewing platform and Snowy Hydro interpretation site with accessible pathway link from parking area. Class 1 "all access" track as per Aus Standards and NPWS Parks Facility Manual.
- ⑤ Turning circle
- ⑥ Vehicle barrier gate with no public vehicle access beyond the gate. Exact location of gate to be confirmed through Long Term Roads Strategy process.
- ⑦ Areas to be revegetated
- ⑧ Shared track to connect with visitor day use area along Yarrangobilly River (given the steep bank this may have to start some distance back from the car park and along the edge of the road) Final location of track TBC following ground truthing. Class 1 "all access" track as per Aus Standards and NPWS Parks Facility Manual.
- ⑨ Proposed transmission lines

* Proposed parking and traffic turning to be reviewed and assessed by a qualified road traffic engineer.



SITE PLAN B

Tunnel Lookout



Date 16 / 05 / 2024
Scale 1:750 @ A3

Figure A-3-4: Recreation Precinct 1 Detailed Design - Tunnel Lookout

3.3. Wallace Creek lookout

There is an existing lookout off the Ravine Road that allows users to see the valley that contains Lobs Hole. Snowy Hydro plans to reconstruct this lookout and include interpretive signage with messaging to be added in the Interpretation Plan. A new walking path between a new car parking area and the lookout will be constructed and the former path revegetated.

The parking area will feature a gathering point with directional signage to the lookout. Parking for standard vehicles will be limited to one side, whereas long vehicles coming either direction can park on either side. There will be a safe crossing area for visitors traveling northwards to Lobs Ravine. Signs will be installed to inform drivers of reduced vehicle speed and crossing point for pedestrians.

The detailed design for Wallace Creek Lookout is in Figure A-3-5:



Figure A-3-5: Recreation Precinct 1 Detailed Design - Wallace Creek Lookout

3.4. Fossil Corner lookout

Snowy Hydro have designed a lookout situated on the Fossil Corner, a key geodiversity feature of the project. This location is also a great vantage point to see the full extent of the Lobs Hole site.

There will be interpretive signage to explain the view that the visitor is looking at, within the context of the history of the area. The exposed bed of fossils is on the other side of the road, therefore due to safety concerns, Snowy Hydro will display an already excavated piece of rock that shows the fossils, as well as interpretative signage explaining the geological feature. As noted in section 3.6.2 this plan, the road safety audit that Snowy Hydro will commission will assess the safety of vehicles and pedestrians at this lookout and may result in safe pedestrian access being allowable.

Detailed design of the Fossil Corner Lookout is provided in Figure A-3-6. There is a one-way entry and exit for vehicles traveling south and both standard and long vehicle parking. Vehicles travelling north can also turn into the lookout given the adequate sight distance available at this turn-in location. Speed reduction signage will be located on both the northern and southern parts of the road to inform drivers.

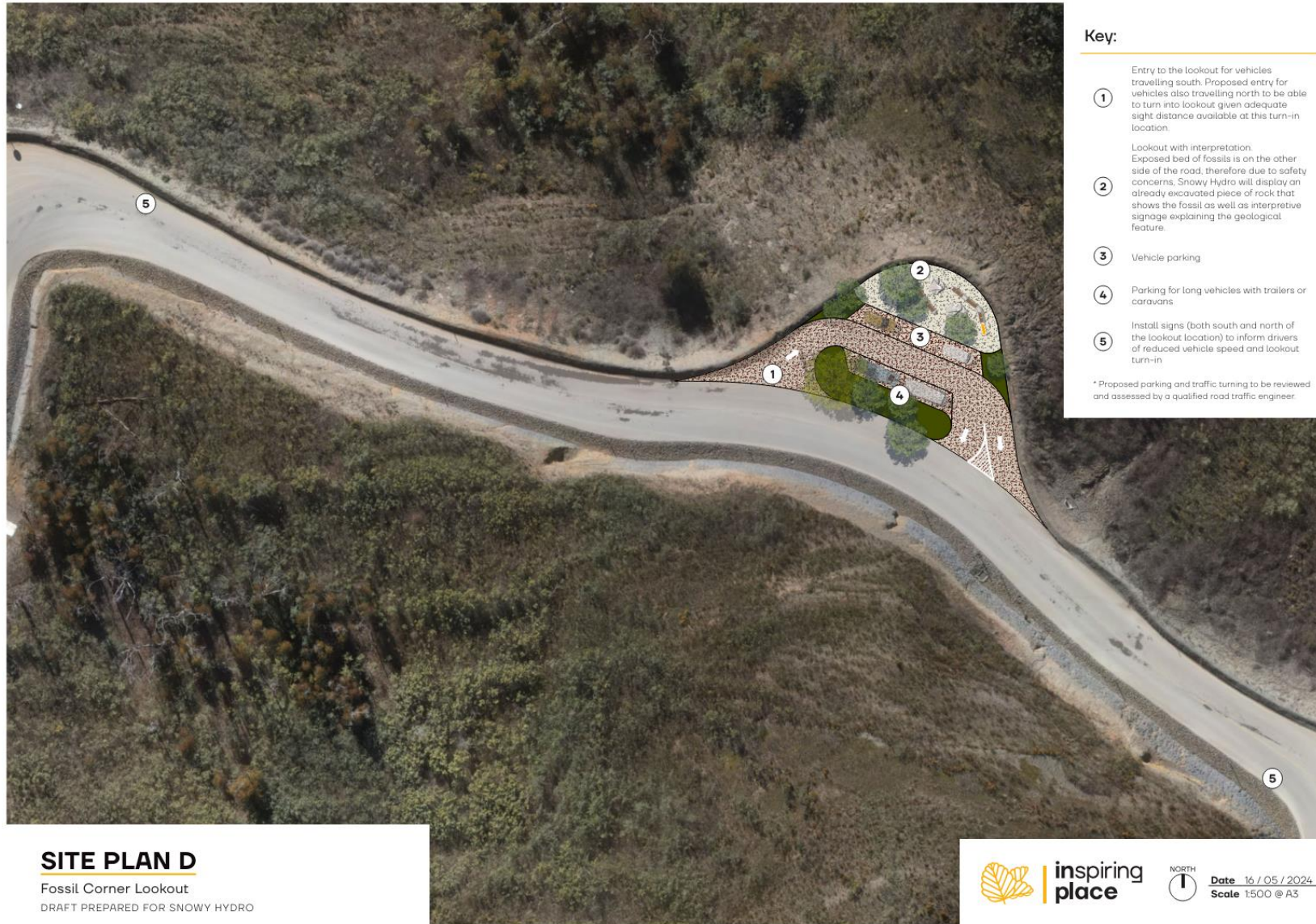


Figure A-3-6: Recreation Precinct 1 Detailed Design – Fossil Corner Lookout

Appendix B – Talbingo Reservoir risk assessment

This page has intentionally been left blank