

Media Release

The Hon Lisa Neville MP

Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Water



Tuesday, 9 December, 2015

REFORMING OUR ALPINE RESORTS

The Andrews Labor Government is responding to the community's request for a clear direction on the future for two of the state's much-loved Alpine Resorts: Mt Baw Baw and Lake Mountain.

Changes are required to enable the Lake Mountain and Mt Baw Baw alpine resorts to adapt to climate change and ensure the economic and social benefits that flow from the alpine resorts to the surrounding regional communities are maximised.

Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Lisa Neville announced today that the Lake Mountain and Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort Management Boards (ARMBs) will lead the process of working with stakeholders to determine the preferred future of the small alpine resorts. This future must be environmentally and economically sustainable taking into consideration the likely impacts of climate change.

Stakeholders involved in the process will include lodge owners, business operators, members of the surrounding community, resort staff, visitors, regional tourism boards, local government, Regional Development Victoria and DELWP.

The ARMBs will present their recommendations to the Government by September 2016.

The boards responsible for managing Lake Mountain and Mount Baw Baw will be merged to improve governance at the resorts, and operations at Lake Mountain and Baw Baw will return to direct board control from April 2016. This will address the concerns expressed in the Victoria Auditor General's Office (VAGO) report that the boards at Lake Mountain and Mount Baw Baw have not maintained adequate oversight, internal control and legislative compliance of their financial operations.

VAGO raised concerns similar concerns regarding the Falls Creek's financial management. This is being addressed by the Falls Creek ARMB.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, Lisa Neville

"I take the issues raised by the Auditor General seriously and I've advised the three alpine boards that governance and risk management must be improved."

"The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is working closely with the alpine boards to address issues raised in the audit report."

"The three alpine boards have provided assurances to me that they are implementing actions to improve future reporting and compliance."

"These alpine resorts are significant to some of our regional economies and I want to make sure they remain viable and sustainable into the future."

"The outsourcing arrangement with Belgravia Leisure will be concluded and replaced by the new board."