

Falls Creek Resort Management
ABN 21 789 770 569
1 Slalom Street, Falls Creek VIC 3699
PO Box 50, Falls Creek VIC 3699

Telephone 03 5758 1200
Facsimile 03 5758 3415
fcrm@fallscreek.com.au
www.fallscreek.com.au



Our Ref:
Your Ref:

20 March, 2017.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
ffg-act.review@delwp.vic.gov.au
East Melbourne, Victoria

Dear Sir/Madam,

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988- consultation paper review

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Consultation Paper- Review of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Act)*. The Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board (**FCARMB**) is supportive of the fundamental objectives and proposed directions outlined in the consultation paper.

FCARMB welcomes greater clarity and direction for public land managers on their duty to have regard for the Act, and additional guidance on decision making and managing threatened species and communities. FCARMB is governed by the *Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997* which identifies alpine recreation and tourism as its primary use and provides provisions for the development, promotion, management and use of the resorts on a sustainable basis and in a manner that is compatible with the alpine environment. In this regard guidance material will be most beneficial where it considers the unique context of different public land managers.

The shift in logic from focussing on the protection of threatened species to focussing on the protection of habitat critical for their survival is a positive direction. FCARMB recognises the importance of Falls Creek in providing habitat for a range of rare and threatened species, and its potential significance as a climate refuge. The additional regulation expected to occur through the identification of critical habitats is supported where it provides better biodiversity outcomes and FCARMB believes this can be assisted by identifying critical habitat at the appropriate scale. FCARMB is happy to provide Ecological Vegetation Class data and other information to support this process.

FCARMB is supportive of activities that reduce regulatory burden without impacting biodiversity objectives, such as streamlining approvals under the Act with those required by the native vegetation clearing regulations. In particular, FCARMB is currently required to seek a permit under the Act to slash protected (but not rare or threatened) flora such as *Grevillea* that are being controlled in a way that is consistent with the bushfire protection exemptions under the Alpine Resorts Planning Scheme. A risk based approach that only requires a permit to take flora protected for commercial use reasons if it is being taken for commercial use purposes is supported.

Currently FCARMB works cooperatively with other land management agencies, in particular Parks Victoria, on conservation and threat management projects and is supportive of further opportunities for coordination of strategic objectives and integrated program delivery.

Please contact the Falls Creek Resort Management office if you require further information or clarification on any of the topics outlined in this response.

Yours Sincerely,



Chief Executive Officer
Falls Creek Resort Management