

From: SLOPES slopes.au@gmail.com
Subject: SLOPES - Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct (SMSAP)
Date: 18 February 2020 at 16:18
To: undisclosed-recipients:

Dear SLOPES Members and Associates

Our email last Friday included an update from NPWS which referred to the new Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct (SMSAP).

Set out below is a summary with background on the SMSAP, the role of SLOPES on behalf of our Members and Associates and the way in which you can input into the process.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions please email us on: slopes.au@gmail.com.

Regards

Frank Zipfinger
President
SLOPES

SNOWY MOUNTAINS SPECIAL ACTIVATION PRECINCT (SMSAP)

In January 2020 the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Employment (DPIE), initiated the "Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct" project (the SMSAP). The project has the potential to lead to substantial investment in public infrastructure in Jindabyne and the resorts, following a master planning process to be undertaken during 2020. The Department has established a Community Advisory Group to provide stakeholder input to the process, SLOPES is represented on the Community Advisory Group.

The SLOPES focus will be to:

- a) observe, monitor and comment on the process given the various governmental authorities involved and the potential importance of the outcomes to the SMSAP
- b) assess any likely impacts of development proposals on our Member and Associates, and
- c) ensure that the interests of our Members and Associates are represented in the master planning process.

To this end this email is being circulated to seek views of our Members and Associates on the SMSAP.

A response from you with any thoughts, concerns or suggestions that you may have would be appreciated by the end of April.

To assist in your consideration of this matter please refer to the notes below:

1. What is a Special Activation Precinct (SAP)?

Special Activation Precincts are a new way of planning and delivering infrastructure projects in certain regional locations in NSW, to attract and grow businesses, stimulate the local economy and provide more local employment opportunities. SAPs are unique to regional NSW, and bring together planning and investment to focus on growing jobs and economic activity in an area. Precincts will support industries in line with the competitive advantages and economic strengths of each area. SAPs are unique to regional NSW.

2. Where is a SAP?

So far there is one at Parkes and one at Wagga Wagga. The Snowy Mountains SAP is the third. There may be one or two more.

3. Funding

Importantly SAPs will be delivered as part of the \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund (acquired by NSW from the sale of their share of the Snowy Scheme to the Commonwealth).

4. What area is covered by the Snowy Mountains SAP?

The boundary for the SAP is currently defined as Jindabyne and "high visitation areas in Kosciuszko National Park including Thredbo, Perisher and Charlottes Pass" (the reference to Perisher includes Smiggins and Guthega). This boundary may change as the master planning process proceeds.

5. What is the main goal?

The goal of the Special Activation Precinct is "to increase year-round tourism and make the region an unmissable place to visit any season, any time".

6. What are the key elements?

- Once a SAP is in place, changes to the planning provisions (by way of a State Environment Planning Policy, a SEPP) will apparently allow fast track approvals for development proposals complying with the SAP master plan. These will be by the Department of Planning, rather than the current responsible authority (Council or Department of Planning)
- A master planning and economic analysis process will identify infrastructure investment that can be funded from the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund. A development corporation is being established to manage this. The focus will be on infrastructure that will facilitate private investment.
- The Government will lead a series of studies:
 - site master planning to ensure land is being used in the most effective and valuable way
 - identifying infrastructure needs
 - market analysis and economic forecasts that will uncover opportunities for industry specialisation
 - tailored planning instruments.
- Government may invest in development, e.g to activate land
- A “business concierge” service will be provided by the Government to facilitate business development and investment in the SAP.

7. Process and timing:

The intent is to have a master plan complete by early 2021 and the SAP, including legislation and funding, in place later that year. Accordingly, this process will take some years to have an impact on aspects like visitor numbers to the region.

8. The “Go Jindy” project

A master planning process for Jindabyne (later extended to include the resorts) titled "Go Jindy" commenced about a year ago. This has been overtaken by the SAP proposal. Work done on the Go Jindy project provides good background and a running start. It will be absorbed into the SAP process.

9. SLOPES role

- SLOPES is one of a number of stakeholders (about 30) who are being engaged with the SAP process.
- This process is likely to lead to the expenditure of possibly hundreds of millions of dollars. SLOPES, on behalf of it's Members and Associates, has an opportunity to participate on their behalf in decision making on this expenditure.

10. Further information

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/regional-nsw/snowy-hydro-legacy-fund/activation-precincts/>

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Jindabyne>
