

Submission to NSW Planning re Snowy 2.0

To begin, I fully support the NSW National Parks Association's (NSW NPA) report titled, 'Snowy 2.0 doesn't stack up'.

Regarding sufficient Snowy Hydro dam capacities to supply existing power stations (and the proposed Snowy 2.0) with water, the Bureau of Meteorology reports there has been, '...a decline of around 11% in April-October rainfall in the southeast of Australia since the late 1990s'. Also, 'Australia is projected to experience decreases in rainfall across southern Australia with more time in drought, but an increase in intense heavy rainfall throughout Australia' (www.bom.gov.au/state-of-the-climate/).

I am concerned that the integrity of Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) is continually being whittled away by various damaging processes (including the proposed Snowy 2.0). For example,

1. in late November 2018 the NSW Scientific Committee listed 'Degradation and loss by feral horses (brumbies, wild horses) as a key threatening process under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act' (<http://reclaimkosci.org.au/the-campaign/kosciuszko-threatened-species/>). The committee found that feral horses adversely affect threatened species or ecological communities, and that they could cause species or ecological communities that are not threatened to become threatened. Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) is home to many threatened native species likely to suffer from feral horse disturbance. At risk are:
23 threatened native plant species.
11 native animal species
5 ecological communities.
Please see their website for details of wildlife communities affected;
2. in its report, the NSW National Parks Association is concerned that KNP is being turned into an 'industrial park' by the state and federal governments. In addition to that, I am concerned that KNP is being turned into a 'theme park', For example, protecting wild (feral) horses in KNP by the NSW government. I have noticed tourists admiring and photographing these horses at Dead Horse Gap, believing they're part of the natural environment.
Also, \$6 million was spent on establishing a 'shared walking/mountain bike track', inside KNP, from Thredbo to Bullocks Flat. In reality, this is a mountain bike track only, mainly used by commercial operators. When required, they send quad bikes with trailers along the track to clear wind-fall. This project was an appalling waste of money, when it should have been spent on protecting threatened native wildlife and removing invasive species, such as feral horses, deer and pigs; and
3. reduced funding and staffing of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has restricted their ability to carry out essential conservation work and effectively manage increasing visitor impact on lands for which they are responsible.

Precedents have been established, and with the approval of Snowy 2.0, have the potential to affect other national parks and conservation areas in NSW and Australia. Our wonderful wildlife deserves better. The WORLD is watching.

Whatever happened to discussion about and management of the 'out of control' human population on the planet?

Thank you
Glen Kraemer