

TRANSCRIPT

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Inquiry into Climate Resilience

Wangaratta – Wednesday 4 December 2024

MEMBERS

Ryan Batchelor – Chair

David Ettershank – Deputy Chair

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Gaelle Broad

Jacinta Ermacora

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John Berger

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Rachel Payne

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WITNESSES

Annie Volkering, General Manager, Assets, Land Management and Strategic Development, and
Louise Perrin, Head, Environmental Sustainability, Alpine Resorts Victoria.

The CHAIR: Welcome back to the Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee's Inquiry into Climate Resilience in Victoria, coming to you today from Wangaratta. We have got representatives from Alpine Resorts Victoria joining us. Welcome.

All evidence we take is protected by parliamentary privilege, which is provided by the *Constitution Act 1975* and the provisions of the Legislative Council standing orders. So the information you provide during the hearing is protected by law. You are protected against any action for what you say during the hearing, but if you go elsewhere and repeat those same comments, those comments may not be protected by this privilege. Any deliberately false evidence or misleading of the committee may be considered a contempt of Parliament.

All evidence is being recorded, and you will be provided with a transcript of evidence following today's hearing for review. Those transcripts will be made public and published on the committee's website.

My name is Ryan Batchelor. Welcome to the hearing. I am the Chair of this committee and a Member for Southern Metropolitan Region. I will ask members to introduce themselves.

Rikkie-Lee TYRRELL: Hello. I am Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell, Member for Northern Victoria Region.

Sarah MANSFIELD: Sarah Mansfield, Member for Western Victoria Region.

Gaelle BROAD: Hi. I am Gaelle Broad, Member for Northern Victoria.

The CHAIR: And online we have –

Jacinta ERMACORA: Jacinta Ermacora, Member for Western Victoria, coming to you from Warrnambool today.

David ETTERS HANK: David Ettershank, Western Metropolitan Region.

The CHAIR: And this is Wendy.

Wendy LOVELL: Northern Victoria Region.

The CHAIR: I might invite you now to make an opening statement, and then we will get into questions.

Annie VOLKERING: Fantastic. Thank you very much. I am Annie Volkering. I am the General Manager of Assets, Land Management and Strategic Development with ARV. Louise Perrin is joining me. Louise is the Head of Environmental Sustainability. Thanks for this opportunity.

All alpine resorts in Victoria are Crown land. ARV is a Crown land manager under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act*. Reporting to the Minister for Environment, we are subject to the general direction and control of the minister. The *Alpine Resorts (Management) Act* describes our services, functions and governance. Key services include waste disposal, water supply, gas, drainage, sewerage, electricity, roads, fire protection, snow-making, ski patrols and transport. Our role also includes promoting and driving tourism and recreation usage in support of positive economic outcomes in the resorts. The Minister for Planning is the responsible authority for statutory planning in alpine resorts.

Victoria's alpine resorts currently contribute \$2.14 billion in economic output annually, with \$1.3 billion generated directly by visitor expenditure. That is about 8 per cent of the state's tourism. We see 1.4 million visitors come through our gates each year and provide over 12,000 jobs, all in regional Victoria. Annual visitation to resorts is equal to visitation to the penguin parade, Sovereign Hill and Puffing Billy combined. Moreover, ARV is custodian of significant locations that hold sensitive and unique environmental and cultural value. The resorts produce \$133 million in annual benefits, consisting of \$121 million in business profits and \$12 million in benefits for workers.

ARV's main sources of income are from gate entry fees in winter, site rent and service charges, and every \$1 ARV invests in resort assets leverages \$4 of private sector investment. This reflects the operating model for alpine resorts where for the three larger resorts, Hotham, Buller and Falls Creek, the private sector runs all the commercial tourism services and ARV manages the essential services.

The increasing volatility of the alpine environment presents risks to alpine resorts' infrastructure, with flow-on impacts to Victorians. The alpine resorts have been affected by increasing fire frequency and magnitude, and major storms, ice events and local flooding are more prevalent. Temperatures have increased, and natural snow depths fluctuate dramatically. The impacts of these events include environmental damage, loss and failure of infrastructure, interruptions to services and functions, loss and damage to consumer confidence and safety, and economic and social impact to local communities and regions.

ARV continue to build on the work that came before us to prepare for and mitigate impacts to the built environment within the resorts. Strategic planning and operational advancements over many years are continuing with increasing effort. Currently, ARV is developing a climate change adaptation strategy, our emergency management planning is contemporary and a critical infrastructure resilience project is underway. Our asset management strategy fundamentally considers climate risks and resilience. Continued safe delivery of essential services will be guided by integrated water management plans and energy efficiency projects due for completion in 2025.

ARV experiences barriers to upgrading infrastructure for climate resilience. Upgrading infrastructure in alpine resorts is expensive. Extreme climatic conditions, remoteness, engineering needs and seasonal access limitations add to the cost. Adequate, available and affordable resources are challenging. ARV lacks access to grant funding offered to LGAs for similar needs, which is a disadvantage for us. Insurance is difficult to obtain and is cost-prohibitive. ARV is constantly working to address these barriers as best we can, but there is no doubt additional support is needed.

The planning system as it relates to adaptation, preparation and mitigation for alpine resorts provides opportunities. Much of the alpine resorts planning scheme content is outdated. A review of the scheme is underway by the responsible authority – however, it has been hampered by the strong competition for available funding and resources. Currently, the alpine resorts planning scheme does not adequately reflect contemporary climate change risks, adaptation, resilience and mitigation needs. An update to encourage and facilitate climate-ready developments, asset renewals and upgrades is needed.

ARV is a small but critical land manager of one of Australia's most rare environments and one that is most at risk from climate change. The key to long-term climate resilience in alpine resorts is sustainable energy and water supplies to support snow-making, which plays a critical role in supplementing natural snow, together with commercial investment in new year-round tourism products.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to share our insights with you today and are happy to take any questions.

The CHAIR: Thanks so much for coming in. You said our alpine environments are unique and most at risk. That is probably a fair assessment from the things that we have heard. Just how viable do we think the future of our alpine resorts is if temperatures keep rising and snowfall keeps dropping?

Annie VOLKERING: We believe and strongly stand behind that there is a long-term viability of alpine resorts in Victoria, particularly those at the higher altitudes, and I will ask Lou to contribute to this point as well. Natural snowfalls do fluctuate from year to year, and over time we have seen a gradual decline, but they are supplemented, really importantly, by snow-making. Over recent decades the private sector has really invested in new technologies, and we are now known in some sectors across the world as being world leaders in snow-making technologies and low snow management to the point where the people on Mount Buller – we do not do the snow-making; the commercial sector does the snow-making – are looked upon and being drawn on from North American resorts, who say, 'Wow, can you come and show us how to do it?' So snow-making no doubt is really important to not only supplementing the natural snow but also extending and maintaining the length of the season. We are confident that with new technologies and with the right investment, particularly in securing water and sustainable energy, we have got a viable industry going ahead.

Lou, do you want to add anything that I have missed there?

Louise PERRIN: It was a great answer – comprehensive. I would also just add that the climate science shows those natural snowfalls are often on a smooth trend downwards, but we see over our long-term data that there are these fluctuations.

The CHAIR: So it is peaks and troughs?

Louise PERRIN: Absolutely, yes. And whilst over a very long time period they might be dropping – so it might be 1 centimetre over a long period of time – we still have snow. We have had in the recent past what we are calling snowmageddons, because you get these amazing storms that are still cold. So in terms of viability, we –

The CHAIR: Just on that point, you are experiencing clearly more fluctuation season to season. But within seasons are you getting periods that have got more intense snow dumps?

Louise PERRIN: Yes.

The CHAIR: And are they coming at the same time, or is it sort of varying from month to month?

Louise PERRIN: It is highly, highly variable. That is what we are picking up, this variability. Even this last winter it was interesting because we had a slow start. Then there was an amazing dump, but then it actually disappeared almost to nothing, and then a little came back. The year before that was slightly different again, because we actually had really consistent snow in a traditional kind of season. We see the fluctuations. The great thing about the advancements in snow-making technology is they are going really fast so we can fill those peaks and troughs. We have done some of our own modelling work, which shows that at about 68 centimetres that is where it all just sits sweetly across the board and maintains visitation. Visitations over these past 20 years, 30 years are still increasing. We had a 6 per cent increase on overall visitation on the 10-year average this year.

The other thing just to note, I think, which is important because it is not just about artificial snow and snow-making, is there have also been tremendous advancements in snow farming and snow harvesting: actually retaining the snow through different techniques, using fences to capture the snow and then reuse it. There is a whole suite of things, and as Australians we are so proud to see them. It is like farms: farmers have to innovate because they are responding to these conditions all the time. The same thing has happened in the alps for snow.

The CHAIR: Ms Lovell.

Wendy LOVELL: Thanks very much for coming along today. We did a tourism inquiry back in the last Parliament, and when we were in Bright we heard from the alpine resorts that they were having significant problems getting building permits and building in the alpine resorts. I just wonder if you could expand on whether that problem has resolved itself or whether you are continuing to have problems in building and what impact climate change is having on your ability to build in the resorts.

Annie VOLKERING: Yes, sure. I cannot speak to the before, really, but since ARV was created – and Alpine Resorts Victoria was created by merging the four former resort management boards – it has enabled us to do a few things that have really helped in terms of the time it takes to get planning permits. There are still challenges with that, but the things that have helped are we are now a single organisation, so that relationship between us and the planning part of government – the planning department, indeed DTP – has really improved. We have now got a better understanding of the requirements and we are able to support developers, and I think just having that single point of entry has seen us actually see some improvements in the time that it takes to get planning approvals through.

The other thing that we have been doing is trying to drive consistency so that if a developer is proposing something at Mount Buller versus something at Hotham, the standards and expectations are the same in terms of what our board needs to consider versus before, when it was four different resort management boards, all of whom had different expectations in terms of what the developers had to put forward. So there have been some improvements, but as I said in my opening statement, we still see that there would be further improvements to be garnered from further updating of the planning scheme.

Wendy LOVELL: And what about the impacts of things like BAL standards and that in the alpine resorts?

Annie VOLKERING: That is another thing that previously has not been standard across the resorts. Now that we are one organisation and trying to make sure that there is consistency across all of the resorts, we are working with the CFA. Obviously, they are the ones that inform us about the BAL standards, and it is unique to the different resorts and different areas within the resorts. So to say that everybody needs to reach a BAL standard of, say, 40 when they have been previously assessed as needing a BAL rating of 12 or 29 – you know, we are guided and informed by the experts in the CFA, but it is certainly something that we are very mindful of. It also comes back and is linked to things like insurance and how that plays out and interplays with things like the cost of insurance and the availability of insurance. So we are working on all of those things.

Wendy LOVELL: If there were two things that the state government had control over that you would want them to improve or change, what would they be?

Annie VOLKERING: In terms of planning or –

Wendy LOVELL: Anything that relates to you and your preparedness for climate resilience.

Annie VOLKERING: Oh, gee – always an open chequebook would be lovely, but that is not realistic. One of the things that we have certainly discussed within ARV is our role in planning decisions and whether there would be some advantage particularly from our local knowledge and applying our local knowledge and helping with faster, I suppose, approvals. But with that come other expectations and complexities. We are not like a local government in that the planning decisions do not sit with us; they sit with the responsible authority, being the minister. The minister has other very big competing statewide demands like housing and transport. We are a small fish in that ocean. So that is something that we would be open to working through with the department of planning.

Other controls – do you want to talk about the environmental aspects, Lou? I think for us recognition of the role that we play in and the contributions that we make around the economy – those figures that I was quoting before are recent figures. We did an economic impact analysis study, which is available on our website, last year, and it is a really important industry in the Victorian context. We represent 8 per cent of tourism in the state, but more importantly, we are making a really significant contribution to state GDP, and I think people forget about that. It is not just a place for the privileged few. We are seeing a real change in our demographics of visitors. We have a lot of new Australians who are visiting our resorts to do snow play. You know, it is the whole gamut of people; that visit Resorts, really a cross-section of society, and I think that is really important to recognise. I suppose in a dream scenario we would love to see alpine resorts being promoted just like we promote Melbourne or the Yarra Valley as tourism destinations. Environmentally, Lou – do you want to –

Louise PERRIN: Yes, I can add some more things on the environment, and the environment feeds into this. There was a mention in our statement about accessibility to those funding streams that are normally provided to LGAs for essential services, because that is environment too. There are a host of things, but ARV – we are little; we are kind of unknown. But we do provide those services – the roads, rates, rubbish stuff – and with our neighbouring shires we see the opportunities that come. They are competitive and that is fine, but we could advance quite a few things if we had access to some of those. Perhaps a good example to provide is that we are doing a transition to the four-bin system – you know, the waste management transition. It is fantastic and we have been really proud to lead in that space, having done the Living Bin organics program since 2010. That has been great. It was voluntary but is now, through state direction, mandatory – awesome. It was really good for us because of course we were telling all of our stakeholders and visitors to take that food out of the waste stream because it contributes to emissions and then potentially melts the snow, so it was a really direct message.

When the funding came out, we were very grateful to receive some for transition, but it was not to be used for infrastructure upgrades because the infrastructure money was a separate stream that was offered to the LGAs but not to alpine resorts. Unfortunately for us, we have maximised what we could and continue to work through the projects to meet the milestones, but we are kind of hampered and have limitations because in the resorts we are all on tiny little blocks with not a lot of room. Using Buller as an example, we have an in-vessel composter there to deal with the organics onsite. To have that waste dealt with in a mandatory fashion we would gather a lot more, so we just needed a small extension to the shed to allow another in-vessel composter to sit there. We would get two in-vessel composters, because one would manage the summer load and two would then manage the winter load, so we could turn one on and off. But the guidelines would not permit that, so we will not be

able to fully maximise the opportunity from that. At the moment probably we will be transporting some off the hill, which actually then contributes to emissions because we are remote and all that kind of stuff.

Annie VOLKERING: Just building on what Lou said, I think Alpine Resorts Victoria is considered a local government area for some things, like emergency management, but not a lot of other things, so that means we do not have the access to both Commonwealth and state funding that the LGAs have. But we play that role in many regards.

The CHAIR: Mrs Tyrrell.

Rikkie-Lee TYRRELL: Thank you. Earlier on you mentioned the need for water supplies. Can we discuss that a bit further? What is needed to address ARV's requirements to ensure resilience?

Annie VOLKERING: It is different in different resorts. In Falls Creek it is not an issue. There is a big lake there and the water supply is – water is never guaranteed, because it all depends on what comes out of the sky, but it is not as high a risk for us (Falls Creek). At places like Mount Buller the village and the resort runs are right at the top of the hill and water is a really scarce thing. We are in constant conversations with government and particularly in that case with Goulburn–Murray Water around our licensing. So for us in a place like Mount Buller having year-round drawing rights and having the ability to draw that water when it is available is really important. That is an example of how we need to work cooperatively with the water authorities, drawing on the unique circumstances of each resort. The other thing that we are doing about that is we are preparing right now integrated water management plans. So we think that there is more that we can do ourselves around conserving water, reusing water and making more efficient use of the water. For example, in most of the resorts we do not meter water, and we have learned in the big cities that once you meter water and you put a value on it, people will use it a bit more efficiently. So things like that are probably ideas that will come forward in our integrated water management plans.

Rikkie-Lee TYRRELL: Okay, wonderful. Thank you. I kept it short.

The CHAIR: Thank you. Ms Ermacora.

Jacinta ERMACORA: Thank you. I do have some questions here, and I really appreciate what you are doing. The first one is just – whenever I see snow-making, I just imagine the electricity involved. Am I right?

Annie VOLKERING: There is certainly electricity involved, yes. I cannot tell you how much electricity is involved, but I can tell you that with new technologies, like what you would have ski'd past maybe 10 years ago, and things like the new snow factories, one of the things that we are aware of is that there is less draw on electricity; there is less demand from some of the new technologies.

Jacinta ERMACORA: Okay. Very good. Now, my other main question is a little bit like Ryan's. It is taking it a bit further. Having had a look at the alpine resort futures vulnerability assessment and the lower down resorts like Mount Baw Baw and Lake Mountain, which are very susceptible to no snow, how do you strike a balance between investing in prolonging the survival of snow tourism and choosing the investments to enhance the alternative ones – hiking and mountain biking? I have ridden at Thredbo. I have attached my bike to a lift, and it works. They are very expensive, bikes, so people do not want them attached incorrectly. It was awesome. I think people do not realise how much hard work it is to ride downhill. It is not cheating, I can tell you. So I think there is enormous potential at every resort for mountain bike riding. But how do you balance that investment? Where is your trigger point? Is that a discussion at your board table?

Annie VOLKERING: Absolutely. Yes. It is the \$64 million question, really, you know. It is a continuous conversation at our board table and at our executive table and at each one of those resorts that are at those lower altitudes. One of the things that I mentioned in our statement is that we are developing a climate change adaptation strategy, and that will be hopefully available to the public early in the new year. One of the things that we are developing in that strategy is a decision-making framework, which is going to be helping our board and helping us to make those decisions. Our intent is to draw from the *Climate Change Act* and the criteria in there that talk about the different things that you need to take into consideration when making those decisions.

Jacinta ERMACORA: Thank you. I think that is very exciting, really. It is sad, but it is exciting from a governance perspective. I presume you will be looking at where, as snow reduces, the profit point or loss point becomes intolerable, and also safety and the environmental issues associated with less snow.

Annie VOLKERING: Exactly, and those broader social and community issues as well.

Jacinta ERMACORA: Yes.

Annie VOLKERING: I think the other point to add, if I may, is that ARV are not, and probably should not be, always the ones to be investing in those tourism offers. As I said, the model in the northern resorts – so Buller, Falls and Hotham, the larger resorts – is that it is the private sector that is best placed to make those investments in the commercial tourism services. Other than at Mount Baw Baw, we do not operate the lifts. So in terms of turning up and putting your bike on the back of the chairlift during summer, that is really a commercial decision that the lift companies make and is how they can, obviously, make a return out of those things. It is a balance, and there is complexity around what government can do and what we can do but also how we support the private sector.

Jacinta ERMACORA: The way they have got mountain bike riding set up at Thredbo, it is just like skiing. You can book in for a riding lesson. You can be in a group or one or one. They take you up the mountain, you do your classes, improve your technique, just like skiing, and then you can spend the afternoon riding or whatever. There is utilisation of very similar infrastructure, including the ambulance services and medical facilities as well. Thanks.

The CHAIR: All right. Thank you. Dr Mansfield.

Sarah MANSFIELD: Thank you. Thank you for appearing today. I am interested in some comments you made. You said ideally you would like a blank cheque – more funding would be useful. Just looking at that part of it, is there some funding that would be particularly useful, and are there ways that that could be set up that would better support what you are trying to achieve – for example, some sort of dedicated fund or that type of thing?

Annie VOLKERING: Yes, sure. There are a couple of points. Our income is derived from gate entry fees in winter, from site rental and service charges. Service charges are a bit like rates but slightly different. There is a complexity there. If you increase entry charges or if you increase site rental or if you increase service charges, where is that tipping point where people will no longer come or businesses will no longer be able to afford to undertake business in the resorts? So there is a complexity there.

Alpine resorts were disproportionately impacted by COVID, and we are still recovering from that. Due to that the resorts all had to use their very small financial surpluses, their cash surpluses, and we are still recovering from that. We are very grateful for the support that the state government has given us in underwriting us with a letter of comfort until we can recover. But because of that we do have challenges with investing in our essential infrastructure, so making sure that, for example, our water systems or our wastewater treatment plants and things like that are kept up to date but also are being built and updated to support projected increases in visitation.

We have access, along with every other part of government, to making budget bids and things like that, and there is the work that we have been doing this year around our asset management strategy and really understanding exactly the status of our assets and what the projected investment is that is going to be required. But also we have been doing an analysis of capacity in each of the resorts and understanding what the trends are in terms of snow and visitation and things like that, pulling that all together to make our case. But that is a business case that we make along with every other part of government, whether it be schools or police or emergency services, competing against them.

Sarah MANSFIELD: Yes.

Annie VOLKERING: Sorry, I will just add: people suggest also, ‘Well, why don’t you just put an entry fee on the resorts in summer?’ That is an idea and we have the ability to do that in our legislation, but then we are also competing with a free product out there. Our small part of the public land estate is a fraction of the 8 million hectares of public land that is available for free. So if we put an entry fee on the gate during summer

for the people that are coming in there to do their mountain bike riding or hiking, then will that actually be a deterrent? What are they going to get for their money, and how do we work with the private sector on that as well?

Sarah MANSFIELD: You mentioned that you are doing an asset management plan, and you were talking about expected increased use of infrastructure and facilities. But have you looked at it with that climate lens as well?

Annie VOLKERING: Absolutely.

Sarah MANSFIELD: So what infrastructure do you have that is particularly at risk of the impacts of climate change other than declining snowfalls? Like actual risk to the infrastructure.

Annie VOLKERING: Yes. That is fundamental to our asset planning, looking at its resilience to climate change and the things that I was talking about before in terms of increased frequency of floods and ice events. Something I have had to learn about in the last two years is these bizarre things called ice events, where it is essentially dry but the ice comes through and freezes everything. So yes, we absolutely are embedding that. The other thing that we are working on with part of our climate change adaptation strategy is making sure that we embed climate change and climate resilience in all of our decisions.

The CHAIR: Thank you. Ms Broad.

Gaëlle BROAD: Thank you. It was interesting to hear how your tourism has gone up, because I was just looking at this to remind myself. But I wanted to talk to you just about roads and the importance of road access, because I remembered about the landslip. It was October 2022, Bogong High Plains Road between Mount Beauty and Falls Creek. My understanding is the department of transport helped initially, but it did take some time until the Big Build roads team came up, and then that really ramped up some of the efforts. But it was not till May 2024 that you got access to the two lanes. Then I just saw just on the news in the last week a sinkhole, which was interesting, on the Great Alpine Road near Mount Hotham. How vulnerable are you with that road access being so important, and are you well supported to be up and running quickly if those events occur?

Annie VOLKERING: Sure. The Department of Transport and Planning, or VicRoads, the road authority – over winter we have an authority around managing the roads. But we are really well supported and work really well with DTP. The Falls Creek landslide was extraordinary. I do not have the figures off the top of my head, but I think it was something like a hundred metres by something –

Louise PERRIN: Seventy metres high and 100 metres wide – 320,000 tonnes.

Annie VOLKERING: Lou has got the facts and figures in front of her. But yes, there is no doubt that the resorts are vulnerable to that. We do live and work in really fragile environments. We had a great breath of relief when last week's sinkhole on the Hotham road was just that; it was not a major landslide and it was able to be fixed very quickly by Transport.

We work closely with them. They are really responsive. I think the Falls Creek disaster – and it was a disaster – helped us all understand just how vulnerable those communities are when road access is impacted. We have residents that permanently live in Falls Creek. There are kids that go to school and people that commute. They are vulnerable communities. But I feel that – and I think everyone in our organisation would say so – we have a really great partnership with the department of transport. We continually work together, whether it be potholes or clearing after storms and things like that, and it is responsive.

Gaëlle BROAD: Reading a bit more about it, you are trying to get the year-round events up and running. I was one of many that were kind of surprised at the state government's move with Mount Arapiles to close rock climbing routes, and we have seen in other parts horseriding restricted. I guess I just wondered: are there any barriers in your work to try and expand some of those other tourist activities?

Annie VOLKERING: Not really, I do not think. We work really closely and we are certainly improving and maturing our relationships with the traditional owners relevant to the resorts. We have a bit of complexity. We have got recognised Aboriginal parties associated with all of the resorts except for Falls Creek – the parties around Falls Creek – which is essentially contested land. We have started to build better relationships with

those parties, so there is a complexity there. We are in the throes of developing a traditional owner engagement and self-determination strategy. The *Traditional Owner Settlement Act* excludes alpine resorts currently from land use activity agreements, but we feel that through good partnerships and good relationships we can work with the local traditional owners to progress self-determination and progress their aspirations, even within the current legislative construct. Some of what we are hearing through our engagement with the traditional owners is that they are interested in new tourism and commercial opportunities for themselves, and we are very open to that.

We are probably learning to be more open for business in terms of, if somebody wants to come and have an event in a resort, talking to them almost like a venue manager now, rather than us having to put the event on. For some time under the previous governance arrangements there was investment made in trying to activate the resorts during summer, but there was only so long that we could do that for and fund loss leaders, essentially, before we had to say, 'Is it right? We've given it a go. It's not really taking off. Maybe someone else is better placed.' But I know that we have had a number of recent events down at Mount Baw Baw where organisations have come to us and said, 'Hey, we want to run different events,' and we have said, 'Yes, but if that's involving us having to do anything, we will charge you for that, just like Parks Victoria and other public land managers do.' So we are trying to make a shift in that way a little bit.

The CHAIR: Thank you. Mr Ettershank.

David ETTERS HANK: Thank you, Chair. The issues I was interested in have been covered, so I have no questions.

The CHAIR: Thank you. Annie and Louise, thanks so much for coming across today and for the evidence you have given. We really appreciate the conversation you have been engaged in. We will provide a copy of the transcript for you to review.

With that the committee will take a break for lunch.

Witnesses withdrew.