

# Mount Hotham Resort Management Board Environmental Management Guidelines

## Introduction

The Mount Hotham Resort Management Board (RMB) is the land manager for the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort under the *Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997*. The RMB works with other key agencies including the Department of Infrastructure (DOI) who is the responsible planning authority, and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) who is a referral authority for land disturbance and revegetation issues.

The RMB has been proactive in monitoring land disturbance related to developments and works closely with land holders, builders and developers to ensure that the site, spoil, drainage and revegetation are managed in accordance with best practice environmental management principles.

These guidelines are a major initiative of the RMB and aim to promote a preventive rather than reactive approach to project planning and implementation. The guidelines are intended to provide an outline of the **key factors** that need to be considered to ensure successful site management and rehabilitation.

## Objective

***To understand and work with the alpine environment so that soil disturbance is minimal and site rehabilitation is both achievable and sustainable.***

## Potential issues

The following issues will require careful management during construction:

- direct and indirect damage to indigenous flora and fauna habitats;
- vehicle and construction crew access;
- storage of construction materials, equipment and machinery;
- run-off and sedimentation;
- proliferation of existing weeds and pest animals and potential introduction of additional weed species; and
- waste management.

## Recommended Guidelines

### *Pre-construction*

- incorporate environmental management into project planning and design to avoid areas of high sensitivity;
  - hold a preliminary meeting on-site with representatives from the RMB to discuss the following:
    - site characteristics;
    - environmental constraints;
    - site specific management issues;
    - construction timing and sequence;
    - construction access and storage requirements;
  - develop a rehabilitation and revegetation plan (with advice from the RMB) detailing:
    - indigenous species to be used;
    - seed collection or plant purchase arrangements;
    - sod management techniques (if applicable);
    - site preparation works required (e.g. earthworks);
    - top soil management techniques;
    - resources and skills required for planting;
- The specific requirements for site rehabilitation and revegetation will vary depending on the site characteristics. A significant commitment is required to ensure a successful outcome and revegetation works must be an integral part of the construction schedule;
- assign responsibility for maintaining environmental management and liaison with authorities such as the RMB and the DNRE.



## *Construction*

- minimise construction disturbance footprints to avoid and minimise vegetation/habitat/fauna loss;
- limit snow gum removal and disturbance to undisturbed vegetation;
- fence off/peg the construction area and clearly mark no-go areas;
- designate specific areas for access and storage of construction materials in consultation with the RMB. Utilise existing disturbed and unvegetated areas;
- ensure all construction vehicles and equipment are cleaned of soil and organic matter to remove seeds prior to arriving on site to prevent the introduction and/or spread of weeds and pathogens;
- keep construction areas free of litter at all times. Ensure adequate waste bins are provided (locations to be determined in consultation with the RMB);
- establish sediment run-off controls (e.g. silt fencing) and drainage around all construction areas;
- conserve and contain topsoil and spoil which is vital for stabilisation and revegetation works;
- minimise the exposure of excavations at any given time to prevent erosion, sediment runoff and protect water resources; and
- maintain contact with authorities such as the RMB and the DNRE and obtain advice on specific issues as necessary.



## *Post-construction*

- monitor all construction areas following construction to identify and eradicate any introduced or environmental weed species;
- remove all equipment, construction materials and waste as part of site clean up works;
- transport waste to the appropriate off-site landfill (determined in consultation with the RMB);
- assess and confirm rehabilitation and revegetation requirements in consultation with the RMB and DNRE
  - replace top soil and hand rake to restore soil surface and make ready for planting;
  - replant any sods that may have been recovered;
  - stabilise bare soil using seed-free straw mulch or fibre matting;
  - plant tubestock;
  - irrigate plantings; and
  - monitor plant growth and conduct maintenance activities such as weed control and supplementary planting, mulching etc as necessary for at least 3 years after construction.

## **Further information**

It is not expected that all land owners, operators and developers will be experts in environmental management and site rehabilitation. For this reason we encourage you to contact the RMB to seek assistance and ask questions relating to your specific site during both the planning and implementation stages of your development. Contact:

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Mount Hotham Resort Management Board  
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In addition, specific advice on rehabilitation and revegetation (species selection and plant supply) can be obtained from:

### **Liz MacPhee**

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*Ovens Research Station*  
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