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13 January 2021

Sharnie Connell Senior Campaigns Officer National Parks Association of NSW Inc.

By email: sharniec@npansw.org.au

Dear Sharnie,

Snowy 2.0 transmission must be underground

Thank you for your correspondence in relation to the Open Letter you are proposing to write in relation to impending Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) proposing high-voltage overhead transmission lines through Kosciuszko National Park for the Snowy 2.0 pumped hydro station.

The National Trust would be pleased to strongly support your initiative in calling for a comprehensive analysis of alternatives and for a preference for underground cables to minimise environmental and heritage impacts upon this most precious place.

As you are aware, the National Trust (NSW) listed the Kosciusko Alpine Landscape Conservation Area on the National Trust Register in September, 1977.

The Listing Report's Reasons for Listing noted the "outstanding scenic grandeur of vast alpine mountains and high plain, for the most part above the tree line, containing Australia's highest peaks, glacial lakes and most extensive snowfields. Impressive views of vast distances and snowfields from vantage points contrast with fascinating displays of alpine wildflowers that form a veritable carpet across the valleys in summer."

The Reasons for Listing also noted the geomorphology, geology and ecology of the alpine environment. The Listing Report recommended "that strict control of use of the area should be aimed at conserving this important biological resource."

We will place this issue on the agenda for the next meetings of the Trust's Conservation Policies Task Force and Landscape Conservation Committee.

I will arrange for copies of our submissions to be forwarded to you.

Yours sincerely,

Debbie Mills Chief Executive Officer