Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ref: 69588-SKI

28 September 2018

Louise McQuillan
General Manager Technical Operations
NZSki Limited

By email to: Louise.McQuillan@nzski.com

Dear Louise

Re: CONCESSION APPLICATION: 69588-SKI: REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The Department is currently assessing your concession application for a proposal to replace the existing Sugar Basin passenger lift system, associated earthworks, clearance of indigenous vegetation and establishment of snow making infrastructure at the Remarkables Ski Area within the Rastus Burn Recreation Reserve.

It has been determined that additional information is necessary pursuant to Section 17SD of the Conservation Act 1987, to enable a decision to be made.

The information you need to supply is listed below:

1. A detailed site plan which shows the location of all elements involved in the project including all new structures/facilities, including the location of the new chair lift towers, base station and top station; all current and proposed trails; snow making infrastructure and other activity. Also, to denote any structures/developments which will become redundant and need to be removed/restored.
2. A comprehensive summary of the project: This is to accompany the detailed site plan. This summary is to include the full list of activities and infrastructure involved in the project, and the extent of effects for each (e.g. amount of cut and fill and area of disturbance). This includes any infrastructure/facilities to be removed.
3. Clarity on the ecological effects of the individual elements of works proposed. The ecological assessment fails to include any assessment of the effects of proposed new chairlift construction or proposed snow making facilities, including fragmentation of existing vegetation.

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai
PO Box 5244, Moray Place, Ōtepoti/Dunedin 9058, New Zealand
Telephone 03-477 0677, email: permissionssupport@doc.govt.nz

4. Details on mitigation works and restoration proposed. Additional information on:
    i) revegetation plans for the ski trails and associated cut and fill areas i.e. what re-vegetation is proposed on the new ski trails; confirmation if all the new cut and fill areas will be re-vegetated and if the coverage of replanted vegetation will be similar to the current cover density.
    ii) restoration work proposed associated with each chairlift tower.
    iii) the proposed restoration of fellfield and cushionfields vegetation, including the extent of this revegetation (Note: revegetation of fellfield and cushionfields vegetation is considered more difficult than for snow tussockland).
    iv) restoration and revegetation associated with any facilities that are to become redundant. Consideration of any additional mitigation or offsetting proposed.
    v) assessment of the net loss of vegetation i.e. the balance between the area to be disturbed and that to be restored into native vegetation.
5. Wetlands: Discussion on measures to mitigate the loss of any wetland area. Also, discussion on measures to be taken to avoid any impact from sedimentation, hydrological change or other impact, upon wetlands adjacent to the new ski trails. (Note: the application states that the proposal avoids some larger more important wetlands).

This information is required, firstly to enable the Department to start assessing the application in more detail and secondly, will be used to inform the Affected Party Approval request submitted by you for Queenstown Lakes District Council and Otago Regional Council. The details will enable the Department to understand the full scope of works and mitigation measures involved in the project.

All requested information must be provided by 15 October 2018, or sooner if practicable.

Please provide the requested information to Kelvin Brown, Permissions Advisor, at email kibrown@doc.govt.nz.

If you require additional time to provide this information, please contact Kelvin Brown, Permissions Advisor immediately.

If you require any clarification on the information requested in items 1-5 above then, in the first instance, contact Susie Geh, Senior Ranger/Supervisor Community at email sgeh@doc.govt.nz or phone 03 442 8508.

Please contact Kelvin Brown (at email kibrown@doc.govt.nz or phone 03 474 6915), if you have any questions about the on-going concession application process.

Yours sincerely,

David Griffin
Acting Permissions/SLM Manager

Cc: Sean Dent, Southern Planning Group, email: sean@southernplanning.co.nz