

BIRKEBEINER NORDIC SKI CLUB



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16th July 2022

Stuart Smythe
CEO Falls Creek Alpine Resort
PO Box 50
Falls Creek, VIC 3699

Dear Stuart,

RE: PROPOSED LAKESIDE-ANARE DEVELOPMENT (WINTER ACTIVATION)

On behalf of the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club (BNSC), I am providing feedback to FCRM regarding the proposed Lakeside – ANARE development, and specifically how it will affect our club and the sport of cross-country (XC) skiing. My comments here (and those in the attached Position Statement) refer specifically to the winter activation of Lakeside – ANARE; BNSC has no position on the summer usage of this site.

As you will see, BNSC is not supportive of the proposed winter activation of the Lakeside precinct. In its current form the proposed development will adversely impact on the XC trail network and significantly affect the utility of the BNSC day lodge. There appear to be very few benefits to XC, and very little scope to compensate for the negative impacts on the trail network. The view of the club is that the current proposal, and in particular the proposed clearing of the Bogong High Plains Road in winter, will not lead to a good outcome for XC skiing at Falls Creek and will likely impact on the reputation of Falls Creek as an XC destination.

From our perspective, the plans for winter activation of Lakeside – ANARE are poorly-formed and were developed without any real consideration of the impacts on XC Skiing; rather, BNSC was asked by FCRM to provide feedback on how XC skiing can work around the proposed winter usage and road clearing. In retrospect, it would have better to involve the broader XC community and other stake holders much earlier in the process with a view to promoting and building XC at Falls Creek. It is a pity that this did not occur in this instance.

It seems that the only productive way forward is to re-establish a constructive working relationship between FCRM and the XC community. BNSC has a long history of promoting and developing cross country skiing as a sport and recreation at Falls Creek. We are prepared to continue to work with FCRM in the future, with the understanding that XC is seen to be a valued member of the snow sports family. As a starting point we believe that a (well-funded) strategic plan for XC skiing is urgently required (akin to that developed for MTB) and should be embarked upon without delay.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ewen Silvester". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Ewen Silvester

President Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club — Mobile: 0403 396 036 — Email <e.silvester@latrobe.edu.au>