

**From:** Sandra Paul, President XCSAV president@xcsav.org.au  
**Subject:** A loss at VCAT, but we fight on!  
**Date:** 12 January 2025 at 12:45 pm  
**To:** paullhuillier@bigpond.com

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# XCSAV

## CROSS COUNTRY SKIING ASSOCIATION VICTORIA

As you are probably aware, we recently received the decision from VCAT regarding our objections. VCAT granted a permit, subject to conditions which did not address our concerns, including in relation to road clearing.

While I must admit that I am incredibly disappointed with the outcome, I believe we presented our case as effectively as possible, supported by our highly experienced barristers. Having attended the entire VCAT process, I felt that the members gave due consideration to our objections, even those that were outside the direct scope of the planning scheme.

Ultimately, VCAT accepted ARV's interpretation of the planning scheme, determining that ARV had established a net community benefit from the proposal because it will be used in summer and extra visitors will access the site in winter by car. This was despite provisions of the planning scheme which in our view were designed to protect skiing at Falls Creek - the thing that only Falls Creek and a select number of other places can offer.

In addition, many of our concerns were dismissed by ARV saying that it is the public land manager and can be trusted to address those concerns. VCAT did not share our distrust of ARV.

Although the result is not what we hoped for, it's clear that we had a fair hearing, and our concerns were heard. VCAT directly considered the impact on XC skiing. This is something we can take solace in. We must now

accept the decision and shift our focus toward moving forward with renewed determination.

On a positive note, I'm pleased to share that Dean de Santis has been appointed as the new General Manager at Falls Creek Alpine Resort. I've had the opportunity to engage with him during his tenure at Lake Mountain Resort, and our discussions have been both constructive and encouraging. I am confident that both the Falls Creek management and the ARV Board fully understand the immense value that cross-country skiing, along with the Kangaroo Hoppet, brings to the resort and the broader community.

Personally, my focus now is to ensure that cross-country skiing at Falls Creek remains internationally recognised, and that the Kangaroo Hoppet continues to evolve into the best race it can be. I look forward to collaborating closely with the Falls Creek team to ensure that cross-country skiing remains a key pillar of Falls Creek's offerings, while also advocating for the continued growth of both the sport and the event.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment. Let's stay focused on the path ahead, united in our purpose to showcase the unique and vital role of cross-country skiing at Falls Creek. More broadly, there are a number of other issues affecting our sport which need the advocacy of our community.

The decision can be viewed and downloaded here: <https://austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/cases/vic/VCAT/2025/10.html>

Regards,

Sandra Paul | President XCSAV | Cross Country Skiing Association Victoria Incorporated (XCSAV)

[www.xcsav.org.au](http://www.xcsav.org.au)

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