

## 8.0 CONCLUSION

Optus propose to deploy a telecommunications facility at the Cat Shed maintenance workshop, Mid Ski Slope, Thredbo. This Statement of Environmental Effects provides the necessary information to support the development application.

The facility forms part of the Optus 3G and 4G mobile phone network and will meet the increasing demand for mobile and wireless communication services by enhancing the quality and depth of coverage, particularly during the peak ski season and Thredbo Alpine Resort.

The proposed telecommunications facility is considered appropriate for the following reasons:

- Relevant Commonwealth and NSW government planning policies; the proposal is consistent with the applicable regulatory instruments as detailed in Section 5 and Section 6 and attachments, including the Plan of Management at Appendix E;
- While co-locating on existing telecommunications facilities is Optus' preferred option, there are no feasible options for co-location at this location. Optus have taken the opportunity to co-site the proposed facility with existing infrastructure (Cat Shed maintenance workshop and ski lift structure);

The proposed height, structure, and building footprint allows for other telecommunications carriers to co-locate once the facility is established;

- A 25m monopole is the minimum height required to provide improved coverage and network performance to Thredbo Alpine Resort. As detailed in this Statement of Environmental Effects, the provision of improved telecommunications coverage and services within the area is essential, particularly with regards to emergency communication, commercial operations and NPWS management;
- The deployment of a telecommunications facility will assist in limiting the need for multiple sites in Thredbo Alpine Resort in the future, as carriers may co-locate on the facility once it is established. The cumulative impacts of multiple facilities is considered to be greater than a single facility accommodating multiple operators;
- The area surrounding the Cat Shed maintenance workshop has been previously disturbed and cleared of vegetation when the original development occurred;

- A precautionary approach has been adopted for the siting and design of the facility. There is minimal visual impact associated with the facility and impact on the solar access of surrounding properties is minimal;
- The proposed facility will improve telecommunications services to users in the area, including the NPWS, emergency services, commercial operators and visitors. The facility will have no adverse impact on existing utilities;
- The proposed telecommunications facility enhances the radio frequency coverage objectives of the area, providing network coverage to Thredbo Alpine Report; and
- The Head Lessor (KT Pty Limited) is agreeable to the proposal and will provide Optus with a sub-lease over the site.

Through the assessment undertaken in this Statement of Environmental Effects it is considered that the use and development is in accordance with the relevant statutory controls of the Commonwealth, National Parks and Wildlife Service, and DPE.

As such we request that the DPE grant development consent for the proposal, subject to reasonable and relevant conditions.

## 9.0 REFERENCES

1. Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) 2002 *Radiation Protection Series Publication No.3 ARPANSA ("RPS 3")*
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