

Southern Tasmanian Ski Association
GPO Box 1197
Hobart
TAS 7001

23 September 2015

Mr Brendan Moodie
Ranger in Charge
Mt Field National Park
66 Lake Dobson Road
National Park
TAS 7140

Dear Brendan,

Re: Mt Mawson Public Shelter

I write in response to Mark Pharaoh's letter of 22 August 2015, seeking responses to the Concept Design produced by Green Design.

Firstly I would like to acknowledge the work that has been put into the concept design, and thank the Parks and Wildlife Service for the opportunity to comment. As you are aware the STSA has already provided a detailed design brief, and associated architect concept designs in our submission dated 28 June 2014. It is pleasing to see that many of the points we made have been picked up in the latest design response, and so I do not propose to cover the same ground again. I understand that the Mt Mawson Ski Patrol (which operates under the auspices of the STSA) will be providing a more detailed response covering some key issues pertinent to our provision of first aid services on the mountain.

There are, however, a few high level points which I wish to comment on.

General form and location

The two round buildings are a very attractive solution, and would represent a major improvement in facilities that are long overdue at Mt Mawson. The outdoor bench seating facing the ski slopes is particularly useful. Some concerns have been expressed, however, that a two building solution is less efficient from a space heating and space utilization perspective, and there is the risk of wind-tunnel effect occurring between the two buildings. STSA currently has a training room / storage room within the belt issue hut which is extensively used by our volunteers. This space is missing from the proposed design. In the single building design proposed by STSA members of the public, ski patrol and volunteers would not be segregated into separate spaces.

Whilst our earlier submission proposed that the new visitor centre be located on the disturbed site where Sitzmark was located, it has been suggested by Ski Patrol that a better site for observation of the ski slopes would be in the

general area of the existing toilet building. If acceptable, this suggestion seems to have considerable merit, in that it provides better views in both directions for visitors year-round, reduces the “crowding” of buildings and also moves away from the noise of the Mawson motor hut when the ski tows are operating. It allows more space for the establishment of improved beginner facilities and a toboggan run on the site previously blocked by Sitzmark.

Heating

Whilst the Green Design proposal suggests passive heating, our experience is that this will be insufficient for the cold alpine area. Providing a warm place of shelter is a critical function, and is particularly important for the First Aid facility where it may be necessary to keep a patient safe and warm for some time following an injury. We reiterate our recommendation for a fuel based thermal heating solution – preferably diesel. It is noted that a disadvantage of the dual building solution is duplication of heating.

It is also highly recommended that an airlock and snow grate are provided at the entrance(s) to the building(s) to enhance thermal performance, and to minimize the ingress of moisture and dirt inside.

Storage

The design needs to provide storage locker spaces for visitors and volunteers, as well as under-deck storage for large items of equipment and spare timber etc.

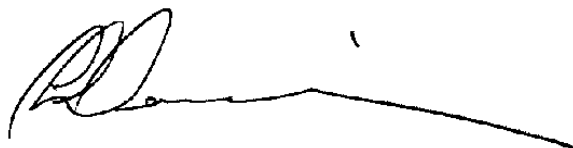
Electricity

As outlined in our previous submission it is essential that the building(s) be provided with both 12V and 240V power. This can be readily provided from photovoltaic panels with a small battery and inverter set-up.

Summary

STSA welcomes the design concepts that have been provided, and looks forward to being able to work closely with PWS in finalizing key design details for this important facility.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Davis', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Peter L Davis
President
Southern Tasmanian Ski Association