

First Nations and Stakeholder Engagement Subcommittee Charter

1. Role

The First Nations and Stakeholder Engagement Subcommittee (Subcommittee) is a committee of the Alpine Resorts Victoria (ARV) board established pursuant to section 34 of the Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997 (the Act), to provide advice and make recommendations to the Board on First Nations and stakeholder engagement and meeting accountability requirements as prescribed in the Act and other relevant legislation and prescribed requirements.

This charter articulates the Subcommittee's role and responsibilities, composition, structure, membership requirements and authority as approved by the Board.

The Board has authorised the Subcommittee, within the scope of their duties and responsibilities set out in this charter, to:

- make decisions and perform the activities required to address its delegated responsibilities;
- make recommendations to the Board on matters that sit outside of the scope of authority of the committee;
- require attendance by specified personnel at meetings as appropriate; and
- have access to management, employees and information it considers relevant to its responsibilities under this charter.

2. Context

The Victorian Parliament in 2022 passed amendments to the Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997 that, amongst other matters, recognised Traditional Owners as the original custodians of land in the alpine resorts, and required ARV to respect, protect and promote Aboriginal self-determination, cultural values, practices, heritage and knowledge in the alpine resorts; and partner with Traditional Owners in policy development, planning, and decision-making in the alpine resorts.

The Victorian Parliament also reflected the importance of stakeholder engagement by legislating a requirement that ARV must appoint a stakeholder consultative committee for each alpine resort.

ARV is committed to providing a sector-wide focus and strategic leadership to the management of Victoria's six alpine resorts, through one organisation, building the economic resilience of the sector, streamlining operations across the resorts where possible and coordinating their response to challenges.

Alpine Resorts Victoria is committed to supporting the self-determination of the Traditional Owners of alpine country and recognises Traditional Owners as the original custodians of the land in alpine resorts.

The alpine country within Victoria is part of an Aboriginal cultural landscape. This includes the traditional Country of three Registered Aboriginal Parties:

- Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation within lands of the Mount Baw Baw and Mount Hotham resorts.
- Taungurung Land and Waters Council within lands of the Lake Mountain, Mount Buller, Mount Stirling and Mount Hotham resorts
- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation within lands of the Lake Mountain resort.

Alpine Resorts Victoria acknowledges that other Traditional Owners assert interest and rights in the alpine country and will also engage with these groups as appropriate in relation to areas outside of those already designated as belonging to existing Registered Aboriginal Parties.

3. Objectives and scope

The Subcommittee is responsible for:

(a) First Nations engagement including but not limited to:

- advising the Board on strategic matters related to partnering with Traditional Owners, particularly the Registered Aboriginal Parties for alpine resorts and those Traditional Owner and First Nations groups without formal recognition who assert rights and interests in the affected Country
- reviewing, monitoring and making recommendations to the Board on the organisational settings required for effective implementation of First Nations matters and engagement and the Victorian Government's self-determination agenda and on the progress of key partnerships with Traditional Owners
- identifying key issues and opportunities affecting Traditional Owners and resort stakeholders for escalation to the Board
- reviewing and developing the strategy for ARV to build the cultural competence of all board members and staff to engage with Traditional Owner groups for alpine resorts
- ensuring that ARV provides meaningful and tangible opportunities for Traditional Owners to implement their Country Plans and to heal country in accordance with the *Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Act 2018*
- supporting and promoting mutually beneficial collaboration and partnership arrangements between Traditional Owner owned social and commercial business enterprises in Victoria
- promoting understanding, knowledge and recognition of Traditional Owner relationships by ARV board members and staff

(b) Stakeholder engagement including but not limited to:

- reviewing and developing stakeholder engagement plans and strategies for ARV to strengthen and support consistent stakeholder engagement across resorts
- monitoring the effective operation of the Stakeholder Consultative Committees (SCC) and reviewing their terms of reference every two years or otherwise as required
- supporting and promoting mutually beneficial collaboration and partnership arrangements with sector wide advisory groups
- reviewing, monitoring and making recommendations to the Board on the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement by ARV
- reviewing and approving ARV policies relevant to its resort partner and stakeholder engagement functions

4. Membership

Members of the Subcommittee will be appointed by the Board, with membership to be reviewed at least every three years.

The Chair of the Subcommittee will be appointed by the Board.

The Subcommittee shall comprise a minimum three Board members, one of whom will be the Chair. Subcommittee members must be identified in the Board's annual report.

All members must have and maintain:

- i. respect for cultural knowledge and authority of Traditional Owners of land and alpine resorts
- ii. integrity, objectivity, accountability, honesty and openness
- iii. a commitment to attending Subcommittee meetings and undertaking associated tasks
- iv. stakeholder engagement experience in the public or private sector

New members will receive relevant information and briefings on their appointment to assist them to meet their Subcommittee responsibilities.

ARV Board directors who are not a member of the Subcommittee may attend and observe the subcommittee meeting in a non-voting capacity.

5. Quorum

A quorum for meetings shall be a majority of members, which is over 50% of Committee representatives.

6. Reporting

Minutes of each Subcommittee meeting shall be circulated to Board Members with the next Board papers. These will be accompanied by a report from the Subcommittee Chair, thereby ensuring appropriate Board oversight of the activities and decisions of the Subcommittee.

7. Meetings and minutes

The Subcommittee should meet every two months or as required to meet the Subcommittee's objectives and to discharge its role and responsibilities effectively.

In accordance with the endorsed calendar of Board meetings, each of the Board Subcommittee meetings will be staggered with two occurring one month, and two on the alternate month.

Subcommittee meetings will be scheduled at least several weeks prior to Board meetings to enable Subcommittee content and recommendations to be considered for Board endorsement.

ARV will provide appropriate administrative support to the Subcommittee including the recording of the minutes.

Subject to this Charter and any directions by the Board, the Subcommittee may regulate its meetings and proceedings as the Subcommittee Members see fit.

Where possible, Subcommittee meetings will be held online via Teams or through other approved means such as teleconferencing or video conferencing.

The Subcommittee may elect to hold in camera meetings as required (without management present).

The Subcommittee may undertake its work out of session by email.

8. Governance

The Subcommittee will regularly review its performance and undertake an annual self-assessment to be reported to the Board.

9. Authority

Pursuant to section 34 of the Act, the Subcommittee is an advisory subcommittee and makes recommendation to the Board.

Pursuant to section 35(1)(a) and 35(2)(b) of the Act, ARV, by instrument, may delegate any of its functions or powers to a committee appointed under section 34. If delegations applying to this Committee are in place, the nature and limits of the delegation will be expressly communicated to the Committee.

In discussion with the Chairperson of the ARV Board, the Subcommittee has the authority to request information it requires from the Board or any ARV employee.

The Subcommittee is authorised to seek independent, professional advice as it considers necessary.

Subcommittee members are responsible for ensuring the efficient and effective operation of the Subcommittee and with support from the Board, for taking appropriate steps to ensure they have the requisite knowledge and training to undertake their role.

The Subcommittee will encourage the development of the highest standards of probity and ethical behaviour in everything Alpine Resorts Victoria does.

10. Conflicts of interest

Subcommittee members will disclose conflicts of interest at the commencement of each meeting. Where members or invitees are deemed to have an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest, they will be excused from Subcommittee in a manner consistent with ARV's Conflict of Interest policy.

11. Key related policies and other documents

- Delegations Policy – BP.G. 7
- Conflict of interest Policy - BP.G. 2
- Risk Management Framework and Policy
- Gifts Benefits and Hospitality Policy - BP.G. 5
- Fraud and Corruption Control Policy - BP.G. 8

- Stakeholder Engagement policy

12. Contact for further info

Individuals who are unsure about the Subcommittee Charter, should ask the Chairperson of ARV for advice.

13. Regular review of this Charter

The Board will review this charter every two years or earlier, if required, to ensure that its work remains consistent with the Board's strategic objectives and responsibilities, keeps up to date with changes to laws, government policy and guidelines.

14. Authorisation and documents parameters

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Comments:	This policy replaces all First Nations and Stakeholder Engagement Sub Committee Charters within all Victorian Alpine Resorts from the date of approval.		