Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ref: 74167-SKI

24 June 2019

Paul Anderson
Chief Executive
NZSki Limited

email: paul@nzski.com

Dear Paul

CONCESSION APPLICATION: 74167-SKI: REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: CORONET PEAK SKI FIELD

I refer to my letter dated 17 May 2019 requesting further information relating to the Department assessing your Part 3B concession application for NZSki Limited's existing and proposed activities at Coronet Peak ski field within Coronet Peak Recreation Reserve.

A check-in meeting was held on Friday, 21 June 2019 to assess the further information provided by you on 18 June 2019.

It has been determined by the Decision Maker that the majority of information received from you is sufficient to enable a decision to be made however, it has been determined that the Patch Landscape Assessment of the proposed gondola activities still does not sufficiently describe this activity.

Accordingly, further additional information is sought pursuant to Section 17SD of the Conservation Act 1987, to enable a decision to be made.

The information requested in my letter dated 17 May 2019 in relation to the landscape assessment is reproduced below in italics.

1. ***Landscape Assessment***

   The Patch landscape assessment dated October 2018 is for already approved infrastructure - Coronet Peak express chairlift replacement. The assessment does not sufficiently cover the proposed new activities at the Coronet Peak ski field. This assessment needs to be redone to:

   (a) describe in more detail the landscape effects (not just visual but include natural character) of gondolas on the replacement express chairlift, not the chairlift itself. The recently approved replacement express chairlift should be put in the preamble context in the landscape report for the gondola;

   (b) for consideration of the effects of the gondola cabins operating on the chairlift, require a visual simulation of the gondola cabins from both on and off conservation lands and waters;

   (c) include an assessment of landscape effects (visual and natural character) of proposed summer snow operation. No assessment of this activity was provided in application;

(d) include landscape effect of night-skiing and visual and natural character of proposal to increase this to 7 days per week.

It has been determined by the Decision Maker that the information requested under items 1(a) to 1(c) above as contained in the "Patch Assessment of Landscape and Visual Effects, Coronet Peak – Coronet Express Chairlift – Gondola Cabins – June 2019" is not to a standard to enable a decision to be made, in fact the visual simulation for the express chair replacement dated October 2018 was to a higher standard. Information subsequently received from Trish Gill confirms that you intend only to operate night skiing at the current frequency, and not seven days per week as in your application.

It is requested that the Patch Landscape Assessment for the proposed gondola activities is updated and resubmitted taking into account the following:

1. Only two vantage points from off the ski area were supplied. These are from the Skippers Saddle turnoff and directly beneath the bulk of Coronet Peak. More views, such as looking north-west across the skyline that this proposal would interrupt in it's upper reach, from the vicinity of semi- rural Arrowtown, would be helpful;
2. the visual simulations on pages 14-15 are dominated by powerlines, the photos are dark and distorted, and the views of the chairlift and gondola cabins are obscured by cloud cover;
3. better visual simulation showing the impact of gondola cabins during summer i.e. without snow in the background. These could presumably use stock photos;
4. The gondola cabins are described as being mostly glass. No consideration is given as to the reflective nature of this and how that might be avoided, such as from early/late sunstrike.

This information is required, firstly to enable the Department to start assessing the application in more detail and secondly, will be required to better inform the public during public notification. The details will enable the Department to understand the full scope of existing and proposed activities at Coronet Peak ski field within the Coronet Peak Recreation Reserve.

All requested information must be provided by 22 July 2019, or sooner if practicable.

Please provide the requested information to Kelvin Brown, Permissions Advisor, at email kibrown@doc.govt.nz.

Please also contact Kelvin at the above email or by phone, 027 5593523 if you require additional time to provide this information, or if you have any questions about the ongoing concession application process.

If you require any clarification on the information requested in items 1-4 above then, in the first instance, contact Lisa Nilsen, Ranger Community at email lnilsen@doc.govt.nz or phone 027 276 9322.

Yours sincerely,

David Griffin
Acting Permissions and Land Manager

Cc: Trish Gill trish@trishgill.org