



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN SKI RESORTS CAN MANAGE CLIMATE CHANGE

Recent media articles have reported on the adverse impacts on snow cover in Switzerland and Australia, as a result of climate change.

Mr Andrew Fairley, Chairperson of the Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council, said today "The alpine industry is well aware of the potential impacts of climate change on ski resorts. In fact, it has been on the front foot over this matter for many years."

Mr Fairley stated that in 2003, Government and private organisations involved in the management and operation of Australia's ski resorts commissioned a major CSIRO report on this topic. "As has been reported previously, CSIRO found that the total alpine area with snow cover would decrease under both low impact and high impact scenarios." said Mr Fairley.

"Importantly for the alpine industry, the CSIRO study also found that '*...with sufficient investment in snow-guns, the Australian ski industry will be able to manage the impact of projected climate change on snow cover until at least 2020...*' Mr Fairley said.

"Australian ski resorts are making substantial investments in snow-making to ensure that they can continue to provide a quality skiing experience" said Mr Fairley. "That investment includes installation of more snow-making equipment and additional areas covered by snow-making, as well as supplementing water supplies through innovative water recycling schemes at Mt Hotham and Mt Buller."

"The benefits of the investments were well demonstrated during the 2007 snow season" Andrew Fairley said. "As a result of a combination of superb early snow conditions, snow making and the dedication of hard-working staff, visitation was 15% above the 10 year average."

Authorised by: Andrew Fairley, Chairperson, ARCC, 29 May 2008

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Pdf copies of the CSIRO study can be downloaded from www.arcc.vic.gov.au.