Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council  
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In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Management Act 1994, this report covers the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

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In April 2007 Members of the Council completed a three year term. It is timely to reflect on some of the major achievements of the Council over that period.

In 2004 the Government expanded Council’s legislative responsibilities to give greater emphasis to strategic planning and research. 2004 was also the year that the Government released its Alpine Resorts 2020 Strategy which sets out its vision for the Resorts, as well as giving Council a key implementation and monitoring role.

I am pleased to report that Council immediately took up the challenge offered. As an independent body, Council has been able to develop a range of public-private partnerships and advocate for the resort sector to all levels of Government, whilst attracting support and resources that otherwise may not have been available.

It has spread the Government’s message of sustainability, as well as its all-season vision, in a manner that has gained industry buy-in.

The Council’s annual Alpine Sustainability Forum has become a ‘must attend’ event and has led the way in inspiring attitudinal change by alpine operators not only within Victoria, but around Australia. This is one of a number of industry forums and workshops now being led by Council.

The Council is proud of its advocacy program, ‘Keep Winter Cool’. This climate change community awareness initiative is the product of a Council-brokered cross-state private-public partnership and is a demonstration of the commitment of the alpine industry to address the serious issue of climate change. It is now attracting interest from overseas.

Council was also successful in drawing together, for the first time in the history of Australian resorts, a joint Victorian-New South Wales partnership of private sector operators and public sector land managers to conduct a landmark Economic Significance study. Such comprehensive research has demonstrated the regional benefits of Alpine Resorts and been used by industry to develop business cases for funding. Working closely with the Boards, Council has been able to publish an authoritative end-of-season report, one of the few available anywhere in the world – and one of an increasing number of publications being released by the Council each year.

Shifting attitudes within the alpine industry from solely winter to all-season is crucial to the future of Alpine Resorts. Council has been assisting the Alpine Resorts develop themselves as multi-season destinations. It was particularly pleasing to see, for the first time, all Resorts open for business in the 2006-07 summer, albeit that they were then adversely affected by bushfires.

The 2006 snow season was disappointing. Despite this, nearly 1 million visitor days were recorded. This is a testament to the investment in snowmaking and staff training by lift companies and Alpine Resort Management Boards. The bushfires that followed the 2006 snow season directly threatened some Resorts. That the resort villages were saved is due to the tireless efforts of CFA volunteers, Board, DSE, and PV staff. I would like to record Council’s appreciation to all who fought the fires with such commitment.

The 2006-07 has been a busy year for Council. It was able to make significant progress on the projects and tasks outlined in its business plan, as endorsed by the Minister, while undertaking other tasks requested by Government. A number of significant initiatives, activities and programs were completed, all of which contribute to the achievement of the all-season, viable, and sustainable resorts’ vision central to the Government’s Alpine Resorts 2020 Strategy.

Council relies on the collective contribution of its Members and is fortunate to have a wide range of skills and experience to draw upon. I offer my thanks to our retiring Member, David Pullar, for his contributions and wish him well as he pursues other ventures. I welcome Lincoln Kern to Council and welcome back our re-appointed Members.

Finally I would like to express my appreciation to the Council’s staff for their great commitment and effort throughout the year.

Andrew Fairley
Chairperson

Summary of Achievements in 2006-2007

Key Activities and Programs

2006-07 has been a busy year for Council. It was able to make significant progress on the projects and tasks outlined in its business plan, as endorsed by the Minister, while undertaking other tasks requested by Government. A number of significant initiatives, activities and programs were completed, all of which contribute to the achievement of the all-season, viable, and sustainable resorts’ vision central to the Government’s Alpine Resorts 2020 Strategy.

In undertaking its work, Council has again put emphasis on building cooperative relationships and developing strategic alpine industry alliances with private and public bodies. This approach has enhanced the value and standing of the Council’s work.

The Council’s achievements are grouped in accordance with the Alpine Resorts 2020 Strategy’s strategic directions.

Chairperson’s Report
Keep Winter Cool

Climate change continues to be at the forefront of issues facing government and the industry, including the Alpine Resorts. Last year Council launched a climate change awareness initiative – Keep Winter Cool (KWC). Targeted at those who are involved in snow sports, the KWC initiative encourages skiers, snowboarders, visitors and their families – as well as Alpine area managers and the snow industry – to reduce their production of the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. During the 2006 snow season, the Council rolled out the campaign.

Promotional material, including stickers, ‘what to do’ cards, posters, outdoor signage and banners, and cards for accommodation houses, was distributed to all Victorian Alpine Resorts, as well as at Dinner Plain, all NSW resorts and most ski shops in Melbourne and regional Victoria. The KWC message was further spread by the launch of a dedicated website, community service announcements on radio stations in Melbourne and regional areas, and print ads and articles in alpine newspapers. A large banner was placed above the Great Alpine Road in Bright. By the end of the year, over 30 businesses had signed the KWC charter.

The second year of the initiative is currently underway with the focus on further raising the profile of KWC. Additional distribution of educational and promotional material, including new eye-catching tear drop banners, has been undertaken. The Council further developed the initiative through a strategy of building partnerships with others in the alpine community – to increase the exposure of the ‘Keep Winter Cool’ message and encourage buy-in and shared ownership. To this end partnerships were developed with the School Snowsports Development Foundation (SSDF), SKIimag and Bus Association Victoria.

Council worked with the SSDF to introduce the concept of a carbon neutral 2007 Subaru Victorian Interschool Snowsports Championships. Aligned with the KWC campaign, one of the main objectives was to educate the competitors, families and their schools on ways they can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Council developed an ‘Interschools Going Carbon Neutral’ form to guide student competitors in calculating and reducing their energy use at the event. This should prompt competitors to make smarter choices about energy and resource consumption.

SKIimag is a new high quality ski magazine whose readership profile targets the 16 to 25 year old sector, a sector of great interest to the KWC initiative. A KWC competition was developed with the publishers which will encourage readers to send in stories of how they have done their bit to ‘Keep Winter Cool’ by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and go in the running for a prize obtained from a ski gear business.

Bus Association Victoria members are developing a range of potential KWC initiatives with Council, the first of which is installation of large KWC decals on the back of buses doing snow runs as well as metropolitan runs. They encourage the reduction of greenhouse gases by catching the bus to the snow rather than by using individual cars. It is envisaged that these will be rolled out during the 2007 winter season.
Council has continued to work with the Board for Alpine Resorts Tourism (BART), Tourism Victoria, and the Alpine Resort Management Boards (the "Boards") on a range of surveys of visitors. In addition, Council has worked with Parks Victoria staff to include Resort visitor use in an ongoing survey of visitors to the Alpine National Park.

Visitor Counting Surveys
The Council continued to improve its visitor counting project, implementing in 2006 a season permit holder survey at all resorts and standardised procedures to assist in the counting of all visitors. Consistent information is important for a wide range of planning purposes. Council worked closely with the Boards to publish weekly visitor statistics, that were provided to a cross-section of the alpine industry. The results are used by skilift companies, accommodation providers, retailers, suppliers, Boards as well as various service providers and government agencies.

Guidelines were prepared and circulated with a view to commencing the first survey over the summer of 2006/07. Unfortunately, the closure of much of the high country to tourism due to bushfires, meant that the survey had to be deferred.

All Resorts Entry Pass Proposal
In response to calls for the introduction of better resort entry arrangements for people wishing to visit multiple resorts during the same season, Council developed a proposal to provide for access to all Victorian Alpine Resorts on a single pass. Following receipt of comments from Boards, comments will be sought from key user groups, prior to preparing recommendations to the Minister in the coming year. Council also made a submission to the Review of the Alpine Resorts (Management) Regulations being undertaken by the Department of Sustainability and Environment ("the Department"), seeking changes to assist with the implementation of an all-resorts entry pass.

Non-winter Products
Council updated a listing of non-winter products as an internal research tool to further develop all-season strategies. Summer events material was not published, however, the Council encouraged Boards to work cooperatively with North East Victoria Tourism Inc in the promotion of summer visitation. Council’s website was linked to the summer events pages of Board websites.

Prior to much of Victoria’s high country being closed due to bushfires, all Resorts were open over the summer, offering a wide range of summer activities and events. This highlights the significant progression of the Resorts and alpine community towards all seasons operation, an outcome that the Council has continued to pursue. Unfortunately the bushfires prevented the Resorts maximising the benefits of their efforts.

Short Walks to Great Views
Another initiative of the Council was the production of a summer walks brochure – Short Walks to Great Views – developed to promote summertime use of the Alpine Resorts. The brochure provides information on a selection of short walks, that are easily accessible from each of the Resorts, with clear descriptions and maps. It also provides general information about accommodation and other activities that are available. The brochure was ready for release by Christmas 2006 but was postponed due to the bushfires. It has now been rescheduled for release this coming spring.

Visitor Satisfaction and Activity Surveys
Visitor and Visitation
Another initiative of the Council was the production of a summer walks brochure – Short Walks to Great Views – developed to promote summertime use of the Alpine Resorts. The brochure provides information on a selection of short walks, that are easily accessible from each of the Resorts, with clear descriptions and maps. It also provides general information about accommodation and other activities that are available. The brochure was ready for release by Christmas 2006 but was postponed due to the bushfires. It has now been rescheduled for release this coming spring.

Development of the Resorts

Infrastructure Improvement
Council continued to facilitate access to geotechnical risk mitigation funding and prepared consolidated infrastructure proposals encompassing all Resorts which were used in discussions with some of the relevant Ministers and funding agencies. Little progress was made on assisting with the clarification of road management responsibilities, but this will be a priority in the coming year.

Snow Safety
In recognition of the importance that the SnowSafe program plays, Council again offered its support. Limited progress was made as the management arrangements for SnowSafe remain fluid. The dangers of wooden toboggans were highlighted during the year, and Council, following consultation with the Boards, made a submission to the Review of the Alpine Resorts (Management) Regulations seeking clear control mechanisms for toboggans use.

Vibrant Resorts

Economic Significance of the Australian Alpine Resorts
Within the last year, the Council released the full report of its landmark economic significance study: The Economic Significance of the Australian Alpine Resorts, July 2006. This study provided detailed information on the economic benefits and importance of the resorts to the National, State, and local economy. It demonstrated that the total combined benefit for the three Australian states with Alpine Resorts in 2005 was $1.3 billion with 17,000 annual equivalent employment opportunities. The Council and Boards have since used the report to support advocacy for infrastructure funding from the Federal Government and to quantify the importance of resorts to all levels of government.

Accommodation Supply and Demand
The report of a research project investigating the perceived mismatch of accommodation supply and demand, undertaken by LaTrobe University Honours student, Sunny Oliver-Bennetts, with Council assistance, was released. The report is entitled Accommodation Supply and Demand during the Peak Winter Season on Mount Buller. It has improved the understanding of accommodation usage in the resorts, and will be of assistance in developing future policy. The study results were also reported to a whole-of-industry conference held in April 2007.

Promotion of Alpine Resorts
The Board for Alpine Resorts Tourism (BART) provides a convenient and effective means of bringing the needs and expertise of the Alpine Resort Boards and Tourism Victoria together to promote the Victorian Alpine Resorts. The Council put considerable effort into revisiting BART. Council’s representatives have been major drivers for placing greater emphasis on all-season tourism and worked with other BART members to revisit BART’s strategy plan and work program. It will continue to advocate the development by BART in this area. Council alsotook the lead role in improving BART’s governance arrangements. Council representatives worked with other BART members to grow the snow market through the further development of the Alpine Junior Rangers Program, developing measures to attract international visitors, and undertaking a range of targeted marketing campaigns to increase market share in target markets. Research was undertaken into markets and into the success of marketing campaigns.

Snow Reporting Project
Council again collected and collated the daily snow reports produced by the Victorian Snow Reporting Service. Council also maintains the historical records. The daily snow depth statistics are a vital tool for promoting visitation and long-term development planning of the Resorts.

Winter End of Season Report
Using both historical and current information collected by the Council on winter visitation and snow depth, the Council published the Victorian Alpine Resorts Winter 2006 End of Season Report in April 2007. It was the first of what Council intends to be an annual series of reports. The report consolidates into a readily accessible single document a wealth of detailed information that will assist those involved in the planning, use and development of resorts – as well as being of great interest to snow sports enthusiasts. It provides graphical representation of the 2006 season as well as 10-year trends at individual Resorts, with consolidated visitation statistics for Victoria and commentary also included.
Sustainable Energy Use
Council undertook some preliminary work on developing a funding proposal to assist Boards promote energy efficiency in their Resorts. It is proposed to undertake further work in the coming year with a view to making a submission to 2007/08 funding rounds.

Sustainability Forum
On 27 April 2007, Council held its third, and a most successful, Alpine Resorts Sustainability Forum – Making a Difference at the MCG. The Forum was attended by over 130 delegates from all sectors of the industry in Victoria and NSW.

The Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change, the Hon. John Thwaites MP, opened the Forum outlining the Government’s recent initiatives to tackle climate change. Council again arranged an international keynote speaker to present at the Forum – Luke Cartin. Luke, the Environmental and Operations Manager from Vail, spoke about the recent environment projects and issues at the Vail Resorts in Colorado including its initiatives to reduce and monitor greenhouse gas emissions and its use of alternative energies. He also updated delegates on the North American Keep Winter Cool program.

Eminent scientist Dr Ken Green spoke of the implications of climate change for Alpine biodiversity and Ross Honeywell, an acclaimed consumer behaviourist, stressed that the “new consumers” demand sustainability.

A number of leading practitioners led workshops dealing with the Al Gore message, going carbon neutral, all season activity and the importance of forging partnerships. A panel session provided stimulating debate on how Alpine resorts can be economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. A special highlight was a post Forum reception at Government House as guests of the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser, AC.

Feedback from the Forum was overwhelmingly positive, as there seemed to be something of interest for everyone. The Forum was also a financial success, assisted by the contributions of a number of sponsors that Council was successful in attracting.

Environment Key Performance Indicators
Another major achievement of the year in review was the development of draft Alpine Resort environmental performance indicators. The development of such Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) was consistent with the Government’s 2003 reform of the Victorian Alpine Resorts and complements the financial KPIs already in place. The project involved reviews of released literature, Government priorities on environmental themes and historical environmental reporting by the Alpine Resorts, and the development of a conceptual framework from which draft indicators, objectives and goals were derived. It was undertaken using in-house expertise, with Project Officer Jacqui Hickey leading the research. A detailed research report was published, with conclusions included in a separate report titled: “Summary Report: Measuring Sustainability in Victoria’s Alpine Resorts, Identification of Potential Environmental and Social Key Performance Indicators” for public comment. Again recommendations will be prepared in the coming year for submission to the Minister.

Social Key Performance Indicators
Council was able to obtain the services of a visiting North American researcher, Ms Kirsten Helme, whose expertise was utilised in the preparation of draft social KPIs. Following a similar process to that undertaken by the development of the Environment KPIs project, a detailed research report was prepared. It was a major piece of research that is ground breaking in many ways and deals with a very complex issue in a structured and meaningful manner. Its findings were also included in the Summary Report: Measuring Sustainability in Victoria’s Alpine Resorts, Identification of Potential Environmental and Social Key Performance Indicators for public comment. Again recommendations will be prepared in the coming year for submission to the Minister.
Governance, Support and Advocacy

Much of the Council’s work was again undertaken through its committees and special purpose project groups. Council staff continued to work closely with Council Members to service day to day requirements. A corporate plan was developed to guide the Council’s work, and following Ministerial endorsement, made publicly available. An annual report was prepared and published.

Council’s two key websites were maintained and kept up to date. The Council’s main website is www.arcc.vic.gov.au. It provides ready access to a range of publications and information on the Council’s activities and projects. In addition it has taken the lead role in developing the Keep Winter Cool website www.keepwintercool.com.au.

On occasion Council makes submissions to various inquiries led by others. In the year of review a submission was made to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee of Parliament’s ‘Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria’. Council stressed the importance of ongoing resourcing for Resort brigades and the importance of taking into account the range of alpine values when preparing fire management responses.

Indigenous Engagement

Council worked on opportunities for enhancing Indigenous heritage and developing opportunities for Indigenous tourism. Council sought to facilitate the development of relationships between traditional owners and the Alpine Resorts, particularly through discussions with Aboriginal Tourism Australia to investigate possible Indigenous engagement programs, such as ‘stepping stones’.

Registration of Alpine Resort Leases

Council maintained liaison with the Department and Boards over the development of guidelines to assist the implementation of the Minister’s response to the Council’s previous Recommendations Report.

Inter-resort Cooperation

Inter-resort cooperation remained a focus for Council, and it provided forums for promoting capacity building and knowledge sharing between the Resorts. Council, in supporting inter-resort cooperation, has consciously sought to engage in projects which are seen as beneficial to all Resorts, highlighting issues of common interest.

Board Strategic Management Plans

Council continued to assist the Boards as they developed their inaugural Alpine Resort Strategic Management Plans. Council worked with the Department to engage an independent consultant and managed the consultant’s review of the Board’s draft Plans. The consultant’s review was provided to the Department and to the Boards to assist them in finalising the Plans prior to submission to the Minister.

New-Member Induction Program

On behalf of the Minister and the Department, the Council developed and conducted an Induction Program for Council and Board Members, following their appointment by the Minister in April 2007. The program provided a wealth of information to Members, practical workshop sessions and opportunities to network with other Council and Board Members, Board Chief Executive Officers and senior Departmental staff. The Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, Mr Steve Herbert MP, addressed members on Government policy and expectations. Participants appreciated the opportunity to meet as a group and address the wider issues facing the Council and Boards.

During the reporting period the Council undertook preparatory work to enable the Alpine Resorts 2020 Strategy to be endorsed in accordance with legislative provisions. The Strategy was given formal statutory effect on 20 October 2006. The Council has also continued to coordinate the implementation of the Alpine Resorts 2020 Strategy and development of reporting mechanisms. In early 2007, the Council commenced work on the mid-cycle reporting of the implementation of the Strategy. Survey forms were sent to all agencies with responsibility for implementation. A report is now being prepared and will be forwarded to the Minister. In the coming year, the Council will also commence planning for the 5 year review of the Strategy.
Reports, Products and Events

- Keep Winter Cool poster
- Keep Winter Cool banner
- The Economic Significance of the Australian Alpine Resorts
- Victorian Alpine Resorts Winter 2006 End of Season Report
- Summary Report: Measuring Sustainability in Victoria’s Alpine Resorts
- Accommodation Supply and Demand during the Peak Winter season on Mount Buller
- ARCC website
- Season Permit Holders Survey 2007
- Alpine Resorts Sustainability Forum 2007
The Council receives its funding mainly by way of contributions from the Boards. Its major expense items arise from the cost of Secretariat Support, Members Expenses and Projects.

The Council is not aware of any issues that would impact on its future performance.

In the financial year ending June 2007, the Council’s result from ordinary activities was mainly affected by:

- Revenues and expenses in 2006-07 for the Economic Significance Study being significantly less as this study was undertaken in the previous financial year.
- Assets increasing due to the level of debtors outstanding at the 30 June.
- Five Year Financial Summary

### Five Year Financial Summary

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<th>Operating Expenses</th>
<th>Net Operating Result</th>
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<td>2006-07</td>
<td>307,781</td>
<td>229,004</td>
<td>78,777</td>
<td>129,540</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In summary the Council’s functions are to:

- Plan for and facilitate the establishment, development, promotion, management and use of alpine resorts, including liaison with other parties;
- Undertake research;
- Review and coordinate implementation of the Alpine Resorts Strategic Plan;
- Monitor the development and implementation of Strategic Management Plans for each alpine resort;
- Assist in the improvement of alpine resorts;
- Coordinate and promote alpine resorts in conjunction with Tourism Victoria;
- Make recommendations to the Minister on matters relating to the provisions of services within the alpine resorts; and,
- Make recommendations to the Minister on matters as may be requested by the Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council.

The purpose of the Council is to undertake the functions as set out in the Act. It provides a source of independent advice to the Government, whilst working closely with relevant Government departments and agencies. The Council undertakes its functions in a manner that supports the Alpine Resort Management Boards in achieving the Victorian Ministry of Tourism’s vision of a sustainable, vibrant, sustainable resorts’.

Establishment and Role

The Council was established in accordance with the provisions of the Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997 (the Act) and is a statutory body corporate. During the reporting period the responsible Minister for the Council was the Hon. John Thwaites MP, Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change (formerly the Minister for Environment).

The statutory functions of the Council are set out in Section 18 of the Act. The functions were significantly expanded as a result of legislative changes that came into effect in May 2004.

In summary the Council’s functions are to:

- Plan for and facilitate the establishment, development, promotion, management and use of alpine resorts, including liaison with other parties;
- Undertake research;
- Review and coordinate implementation of the Alpine Resorts Strategic Plan;
- Monitor the development and implementation of Strategic Management Plans for each alpine resort;
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- Make recommendations to the Minister on matters relating to the provisions of services within the alpine resorts; and,
- Make recommendations to the Minister on matters as may be requested by the Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council.

Councl’s Vision

To inspire generations of Australians, and international visitors, to experience and value the excitement, energy, splendour, tranquility and heritage of the Victorian Alps.

Councl’s Mission

To drive responsible use of Victoria’s Alpine Resorts by:

- building knowledge of their unique values, assets and opportunities;
- developing strong stakeholder partnerships, through programs and projects;
- promoting positive environmental and cultural stewardship;
- working closely with individual Boards and other land managers including Parks Victoria and, being an advocate for Alpine Resorts and the broader alpine industry.

Services Provided

The Council provides a focus for co-ordinated discussion and consultation on issues of broad concern to Alpine Resort stakeholders, an avenue through which coordinated action can occur and a mechanism for consultation with the Minister and through which the Minister may seek advice and refer matters for consideration.

It has an important strategic planning role across Alpine Resorts and a monitoring responsibility for the strategic planning of individual Resorts. The Council also has a role in undertaking promotion, research and the seeking of investment.

Council undertakes strategic research projects, conducts forums and workshops, develops policy, runs awareness initiatives (Keep Winter Cool) and engages in achieving the Government’s vision of ‘all season, all year’, that supports the Alpine Resort Management Boards awareness programs and fosters co-operation between the Boards. The Council does not provide any services of an operational nature in Alpine Resorts.
Organisational Structure and Corporate Governance Arrangements

Organisational Structure
The Council reports to the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change. The annual budget is determined and approved by a Chairperson appointed by the Governor in Council. The Council operates by holding regular meetings and undertaking work through a committee structure. It is supported by a small secretariat managed by an Executive Officer.

Council Membership
Section 17 of the Act provides that the Council consists of the Chairperson and four members appointed by the Governor in Council and the Chairpersons of each of the Chairperson and four members appointed by the Governor in Council and the Chairpersons of each of the Management Boards. All Council members are appointed for a term of three years. In the year of review the Council elected into another Lincoln Kern and succeeded David Puller. All other members were reappointed. The Council members bring together considerable knowledge in relation to business management, legal issues, the alpine tourism industry, estate management and land management.

Executive Officer

Organisational Structure and Corporate Governance Arrangements

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Executive Officer
Council Meetings
The Council meets on a bi-monthly basis and held six Council meetings during the reporting period. In addition members met on an as required, informal basis to progress specific issues, such as Corporate Planning. During the reporting period, members attended meetings as follows:

Meetings Attended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Members attended</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finance in June 2003</td>
<td>Mr. John Dyson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Andrew Fairley</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Ralph Booth</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Lincoln Kern</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. John Stanley</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Judy Ward</td>
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</tbody>
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Human Resource Management and Public Administration Values
The Council does not directly employ any on-going staff. Secretariat support is provided by officers of the Public Land Use and Development Branch of the Department attached to the Council. The salary and on-cost of these officers is reimbursed to the Department for the Council.

Brad Miles was the Executive Officer of the Council for the whole of the reporting period. The Council has no executive employed as a public service body. Head or other executive under Part 5, Division 3 of the Public Administration Act 1995.

At 30 June 2007 the Council secretariat consisted of four staff: Mr. Bill Miles – Principal Project Officer, Ms. Judy Ward – Executive Officer, Mr. Ross Passalaqua – Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Leona Turra – CEO, Mount Baw Baw Board.

Other Information

Compliance with the Privacy Act 1988
In accordance with the obligations of the Directions of the Minister for Finance, the annual report must include a statement of compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the Building Act 1993, for publicly owned buildings under Council’s control.

The Council makes use of Departmental buildings and facilities to perform its functions and does not own or control any government buildings.

There were no consultancies undertaken by the Council during the reporting period that were in excess of $100,000. One consultancy, to review Alpine Resort Management Board Strategic Management Plans, was undertaken by Tony Charters and Associates, with total fees payable to the consultants being $16,860 including GST.

Public Administration Act 2004
In accordance with the requirements of the Directions of the Minister for Finance, the Council must report on compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the Building Act 1993, as outlined under FRD 22B.

The details of the Council’s obligations under the Public Administration Act 2004 and the Building Act 1993 are available on request to the relevant Ministers, Members of Parliament and the public, subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1982, as outlined under FRD 22B.

Human Resource Management and Public Administration Values

The Council is committed to policies, programs and strategies that are consistent with Departmental procedures and guidelines for an organisationally appropriate service to Victorians. The Council is also committed to involving Victoria’s community, including women, youth and Indigenous Victorians in the management and enjoyment of Victoria’s Alpine Resorts.

The Alpine Resorts’ Values document identifies in an organisational context their implementation of Indigenous values and outcomes. The Council will report on the implementation of these outcomes, part of its commitment to reporting on the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Council held its annual inspection at the Koorie Heritage Centre, where it had the benefit of a presentation by Ms Lois Peeler, the Chairperson of the Koorie Heritage Centre, where it had the benefit of a presentation by Ms Lois Peeler, the Chairperson of the Koorie Heritage Centre, who acted as the Council’s Alpine Sustainability Forum. Council also enjoyed the services of Peter Sizeland, an officer of the Department, who acted as the Council’s Sustainability and Benchmarking Officer.

The Council undertook a guided tour of the Centre and investigated possible engagement via the ‘Stepping Stones’ program, an initiative of the Centre that seeks to develop Indigenous tourism. The Council produced a research report ‘Defining Alpine Resorts: Identification of Potential Social Key Performance Indicators’ addressing social inclusion and diversity, women, youth and Indigenous affairs.

Consultancies

The Council is required to provide an overview of its consultancies which are reported on the Statement of Availability of Other Information.

Other Information

Details of Major Public Relations and Promotional Activities Undertaken to Develop Community Awareness of the Peak and its Resources.

There were no major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the entity to develop community awareness of the Council and its services undertaken during the reporting period.

Other promotional and marketing activity undertaken by the Council included working with Tourism Victoria and the Bureaux on the conduct of a marketing program for Victoria’s alpine resorts. This program was coordinated through BURT. The Council contributed $13,725 to this program.

The Council continues to maintain its own website – www.arcc.vic.gov.au. The website provides direct access to the public in information about the activities of the Council. It was updated during the reporting period.

The Council has been proactive in obtaining media coverage for its activities. Media releases only) are available to the public in hard copy form from the Council's website. All of these publications (except for the internal report only) are available electronically through the Council's website.

Details of Publications Produced
Publications produced by the Council during the reporting period were:

- Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council Corporate Plan 2006-07 – 2009/10
- The Economic Significance of the Australian Alpine Resorts (July 2006)
- Accommodation Supply and Demand during the Peak Winter Seasons on Mount Buller (February 2007)
- Victorian Alpine Resorts Winter 2006 Season Pass Walker Survey Results (March 2007) – internal report only

All of these publications (except for the internal report only) are available to the public in hard copy form from the Council at its contact address. They are also all available electronically through the Council's website.

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- Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council Corporate Plan 2006-07 – 2009/10
- The Economic Significance of the Australian Alpine Resorts (July 2006)
- Accommodation Supply and Demand during the Peak Winter Seasons on Mount Buller (February 2007)
- Victorian Alpine Resorts Winter 2006 Season Pass Walker Survey Results (March 2007) – internal report only

All of these publications (except for the internal report only) are available to the public in hard copy form from the Council at its contact address. They are also all available electronically through the Council's website.

Details of Major Business

Get the most out of life in Australia. For more information about visa categories, visit www.immi.gov.au

The Government’s aim of improved environmental management continues to support a requirement that the Council engages in programs that lead to the reduction of pollution and the enhancement of the environment in which public and private sector organisations may operate.

Information Privacy

The Information Privacy Act 2003 deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information collected from individuals.

No complaints were handled by the Privacy Committee during the reporting period.

No major contracts were entered into by Council during the reporting period.

In 1995, all Australian Governments (Federal, State and Territory) agreed to a “National Competition Policy”. The Council adheres to the principles of the National Competition Policy to ensure that any competitive advantages.

Office-based Environmental Impacts

The Government’s aim of improved environmental management continues to support a requirement that the Council engages in programs that lead to the reduction of pollution and the enhancement of the environment in which public and private sector organisations may operate.

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In 1995, all Australian Governments (Federal, State and Territory) agreed to a “National Competition Policy”. The Council adheres to the principles of the National Competition Policy to ensure that any competitive advantages.
Statement by the Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council Chairperson and Accountable Officer

We hereby certify that the financial statements of the Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council, comprising an Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity and Notes to the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Directions of the Minister for Finance under the Financial Management Act 1994 and applicable Accounting Standards.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2007 and the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2007 and of its operations and its cash flows for the year.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

Andrew Fairley  
Chairperson  Acting Accountable Officer

6 August 2007
Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies

(a) General

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report and have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Management Act 1994 and the Directions issued by the Minister for Finance under the Act, the Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997 and applicable Australian accounting standards and other mandatory reporting requirements.

The financial report has been prepared to meet the requirements of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards.

The financial report is compiled on an accrual basis and a going concern basis adopting the principles of historical cost accounting, except where otherwise stated.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of section 38 (af) of the Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997 to ensure that the Council is able to meet its obligations as and when they are due.

(b) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes short term deposits at call which are readily convertible to cash on demand and are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value, net of any outstanding bank overdraft.

(c) Receivables

Debtors are carried at amounts due. There is no interest levied on overdue debts. The Council's stated terms in respect of amounts receivable are payment in full within 30 days.

(d) Payables

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not billed to the Council. The carrying amount of accounts payable approximates net fair value. Creditors are payable within 30 days.

(e) Employee Costs and Entitlements

The Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council does not directly employ staff. Council Members are paid an annual fee in accordance with Government policy. Council members who are employees of the Victorian Public Service are not eligible to receive an annual fee for being a member of the Council.

(f) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the Balance Sheet. The GST component of a receipt or payment is recognised on a gross basis in the Cash Flow Statement.

(g) Going Concern Basis

The Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council is totally dependent on the support of the Mt. Buller and Mt Stirling, Mt. Hotham and Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Boards under the provisions of section 38 (af) of the Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997 to ensure that the Council is able to meet its obligations as and when they are due. Accordingly, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

(h) Rounding

All dollar amounts have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

(i) Comparatives

Where practicable, comparative amounts are presented and classified on a basis consistent with the current year.

Note 2: Revenue from Operating Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>265,186</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>266,906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 3: Expenses from Operating Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount 2007</th>
<th>Amount 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council Members Fees</td>
<td>46,930</td>
<td>46,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Sustainability Forum</td>
<td>53,448</td>
<td>44,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Significance Study Contribution</td>
<td>45,181</td>
<td>132,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>22,664</td>
<td>9,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>16,846</td>
<td>14,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues from Operating Activities</td>
<td>605,809</td>
<td>666,906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 4: Cash and Cash Equivalents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Cash at end of year, as shown in the Cash Flow Statement, is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cash at Bank and on hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alpine Sustainability Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cash at Bank and on hand</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 5: Receivables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<th>Amount 2006</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note 6: Payables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount 2007</th>
<th>Amount 2006</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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Note 7: Expenses from Operating Activities

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</table>

Note 8: Cash and Cash Equivalents

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cash at Bank and on hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alpine Sustainability Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 9: Receivables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount 2007</th>
<th>Amount 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>44,952</td>
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<td>666,906</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note 10: Payables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount 2007</th>
<th>Amount 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>666,906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note 7: Equity and Movements in Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$(a) Accumulated Surplus</td>
<td>$(a) Accumulated Surplus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Surplus at the beginning of the Financial Year</td>
<td>169,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Result</td>
<td>48,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Surplus at the end of the Financial Year</td>
<td>217,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total equity at end of Financial Year</td>
<td>217,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 8: Reconciliation of Net Result from Operating Activities to Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$(a) Change in operating assets and liabilities</td>
<td>$(a) Change in operating assets and liabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Increase) Decrease in Receivables</td>
<td>(56,539)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (Decrease) in Payables</td>
<td>(13,821)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities</td>
<td>(21,907)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 9: Lease Commitments

As at 30 June 2007 there were no operating or financial lease commitments (2006: $Nil).

Note 10: Capital Commitments

As at 30 June 2007 there were no capital commitments (2006: $Nil).

Note 11: Other Commitments

As at 30 June 2007 there were no other commitments (2006: $Nil).

Note 12: Contingent Liabilities And Assets

The Council is not aware of any outstanding contingent liabilities. The Council is not aware of any outstanding contingent assets.

Note 13: Superannuation

The Council contributes in respect of the Council members to the following superannuation schemes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Scheme</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vic Super</td>
<td>Accumulation</td>
<td>2,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal industry Superannuation Scheme</td>
<td>Accumulation</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Superannuation Fund</td>
<td>Accumulation</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectrum Plan</td>
<td>Accumulation</td>
<td>525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARE Super</td>
<td>Accumulation</td>
<td>1,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Retirement Fund</td>
<td>Accumulation</td>
<td>735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Contribution to all funds</td>
<td>5,490</td>
<td>5,806</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are no unclaimed liabilities associated with the above schemes as they are accumulation schemes. The employer contribution rate to these schemes is 9% of salary.

There are no loans from any of the above funds to the Council as at 30 June 2007 (2006: $Nil).

At 30 June 2007 there were no outstanding amounts owed to the Superannuation Funds (2006: $Nil).

Note 14: Responsible Persons and Related Disclosures

(i) Responsible Persons

The names of the persons who were responsible persons at any time during the financial year were:

- Responsible Minister
  - The Hon John Thwaites MP
  - (1 July 2006 to 30 November 2006)
  - The Hon John Thwaites MP
  - (1 December 2006 to 30 June 2007)
  - Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change

- Council Members
  - Mr A Fairley, Chairperson
    - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)
  - Mr R Booth
    - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)
  - Mr J Dyson
    - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)
  - Mr L Kern
    - (28 April 2007 to 30 June 2007)
  - Mr D Patterson
    - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)
  - Mr G Provis
    - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)
  - Mr D Pullar
    - (1 July 2006 to 27 April 2007)
  - Mr C Rose
    - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)
  - Mr J Stanley
    - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)
  - Ms J Ward
    - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)
  - Mr G Provis
    - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)

- Accountable Officer
  - Mr B Miles
    - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)

(ii) Remuneration

The remuneration received or due and received by the Responsible Persons in connection with the management of the Council during the reporting period was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$66,491</td>
<td>$70,506</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of Responsible Persons whose remuneration from the Council was within the specified bands are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr C Rose is an employee of Parks Victoria and is not eligible to receive remuneration as a member of the Council.

The amounts paid to the accountable officer are included in the Financial Statements of the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

(iii) Other Transactions

The Contribution Payments in Note 1 (d) are related party transactions. Other than those transactions, there are no matters to disclose.

(iv) Executive Remuneration

No executive officer received remuneration in excess of $100,000 (2006 – Nil).

Note 15: Responsible Persons and Related Disclosures

(i) Responsible Persons

The names of the persons who were responsible persons at any time during the financial year were:

- Responsible Minister
  - The Hon John Thwaites MP
  - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)
  - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)
- Council Members
  - Mr A Fairley, Chairperson
    - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)
  - Mr R Booth
    - (1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007)
  - Mr J Dyson
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<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0 – $9,999</td>
<td>$0 – $9,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 – $19,999</td>
<td>$0 – $9,999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr C Rose is an employee of Parks Victoria and is not eligible to receive remuneration as a member of the Council.

The amounts paid to the accountable officer are included in the Financial Statements of the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

(iii) Other Transactions

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(iv) Executive Remuneration

No executive officer received remuneration in excess of $100,000 (2006 – Nil).
Note 15: Financial Instruments

Fixed Interest Maturing in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Floating Interest Rate</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>1 year or less</th>
<th>Over 1 to 5 years</th>
<th>More than 5 years</th>
<th>Non-Interest bearing</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30 June 2007

Cash and cash equivalents 4 89,458 - - - - 89,458
Receivables 5 - - - - 137,054 137,054
Total 89,458 137,054 226,512

Weighted Average Interest Rate 7.62%

Financial Liabilities
Payables 6 - - - - 8,562 8,562
Total - - - - 8,562 8,562

30 June 2006

Cash and cash equivalents 4 111,365 - - - - 111,365
Receivables 5 - - - - 80,516 80,516
Total 111,365 - - - 80,516 191,881

Weighted Average Interest Rate 5.77%

Financial Liabilities
Payables 6 - - - - 22,384 22,384
Total 22,384 22,384

(e) Interest Rate Risk
The Council’s exposure to interest rate risk and the effective weighted average interest rate for each class of financial assets and liabilities is set out in the table.

(b) Credit Risk Exposure
Credit risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counter parties fail to perform as contracted. The risk on financial assets of the Council, which have been recognised on the Balance Sheet, is the carrying amount.

(c) Net Fair value of Financial Assets and Liabilities
The net fair value of the Balance Sheet, financial assets and financial liabilities are not materially different to the carrying value of the financial assets and financial liabilities.
Disclosure Index

The Annual Report of the Council is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. The following index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Council’s compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

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