

Our HISTORY

In 1986, Environment Ministers from New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth Government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) which created the Australian Alps Co-operative Management Program. In doing so, they recognised that the Australia Alps are a single bioregion of national significance that would benefit from cross border cooperation. The MoU was drafted in a spirit of collaboration and shared stewardship of the mountains. The MoU has been re-signed on number of occasions since then to reflect changes in park names, boundaries and to add new areas. It was most recently signed in 2016, when the Lake Mountain area of Yarra Ranges National Park was added. The current MoU includes twelve national parks and protected areas covering 1.6 million hectares and is available [here](#). The Alps Program has a long history of delivering high quality projects and plays a unique role in connecting people.

Our PROGRAM

The MoU includes an overview of the program governance and reporting framework. It mandates the preparation of a strategic plan which establishes priority issues and identifies desired outcomes to give effect to the vision and mission of the program. Each new strategic plan is developed in consultation with partner agencies so that it reflects current on ground priorities. The annual works program is developed in line with these priorities and is delivered by the program manager with the assistance of reference groups. Reference groups are generally made up of representatives from each partner agency, although expert external members may be invited to contribute. Reference groups meet on a regular basis and a summary of their duties and responsibilities is available [here](#).

Delivery of the program is overseen by the Australian Alps Liaison Committee (AALC) which comprises a senior officer from each partner agency. A detailed annual report is provided to the Heads of each partner agency and made available to the public [here](#).

Our VISION

Agencies working in partnership to achieve excellence in conservation management of the Australian Alps national parks natural and cultural values and sustainable use through an active program of cross-border cooperation.

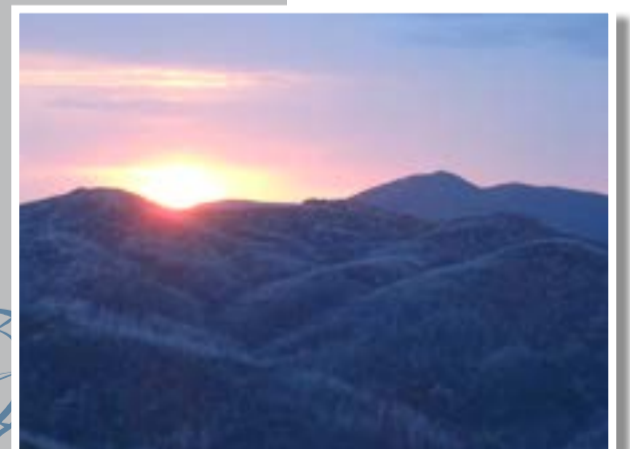
Our MISSION

To pursue the growth and enhancement of inter-governmental cooperative management to protect the important natural, cultural and community values of the Australian Alps national parks.

To cooperate in the determination and implementation of best-practice management of the areas listed in Schedule 1 of the Memorandum of Understanding to achieve the:

- (a) protection of the unique mountain landscapes;
- (b) protection of the natural and cultural values of the Australian Alps;
- (c) provision of an appropriate range of education, recreation and tourism experiences that encourage the enjoyment, appreciation, understanding and conservation of the natural and cultural values;
- (d) protection and restoration of mountain catchments;
- (e) amelioration of the effects of climate change.

For more information and resources: <https://theaustralialps.wordpress.com/>





2019-22
THEME

Reference Group/Core Values

Priorities

Outcomes/Actions

People Working Together

Environment
Resilient Natural Landscapes

Invasive Species

Diminishing the impact of invasive species on natural systems, including consideration of the influence of climate change.

- Promote a shared approach to invasive species management.
- Facilitate the cooperation of partner agency efforts on emerging and known invasive species.
- Support bio-security projects and initiatives.

Landscape-wide Catchment and Ecological Issues

Contributing to the development of landscape-wide initiatives that enhance ecological resilience and catchment health.

- Enhanced networking with partner agencies and others responsible for catchment management.
- Support research and projects that increase awareness of and lead to improvements in alpine ecological processes and catchment health.
- Encourage adaptive management by partner agencies by sharing knowledge and experiences (including Aboriginal perspectives).

Climate Change and Adaptation

Recognise the growing impacts of climate change on the natural and social values of the Alps and align projects that accept, understand and adapt to these changes.

- Support applied science projects that value-add to operations in a timely manner.
- Facilitate partnership activities and research that support adaptive management to climate change.
- Foster links between research institutions and partner agencies through the Science-Management forum and other means.

Cultural Heritage
Living Cultural Landscapes

Aboriginal Peoples Heritage and Contemporary Culture.

Collaborate with Traditional Owners to integrate their interests, aspirations and cultural knowledge into all facets of the program.

- Integrate Aboriginal knowledge into projects and programs.
- Facilitate connection between annual projects, the agencies and the Alps Traditional Owner groups.
- Acknowledge that within the Alps national parks, each state and territory has a distinct model of management, ownership and engagement with Traditional Owners and that these arrangements are managed locally.
- Work with partner agencies to promote and support access for Traditional Owners to Australian Alps parks for spiritual, cultural and economic purposes.

Post-Settlement Heritage

Conserving the physical heritage, pioneering skills and stories of the Australian Alps.

- Promote the conservation and interpretation of post-settlement heritage.
- Support activities where pioneering skills are maintained and shared.
- Collaborate with and support heritage focussed volunteer organisations.

Connecting People to the Australian Alps national parks

Communications & Community Building

Maintaining and enhancing partner agency relationships and those with the broader community, recognising the need to build trust and social licence.

- Develop and promote communication products and experiences that recognise a range of community priorities and values.
- Ensure Alps Program communications are consistent with those of partner agencies.
- Increase partner agency understanding of broader stakeholder values and how they align with their own.
- Promote and support volunteers and citizen scientists.
- Make resources, products and project outcomes available in a variety of accessible formats and media.

Visitor Experience

Collaborating to support the unique visitor experiences available in the Australian Alps that align with long term environmental stewardship

- Recognise and engage with the changing cultural demographic visiting alpine regions.
- Support projects that enable and promote sustainable enjoyment of the Alps as an all year round destination.
- Maintain the Australian Alps Walking Track Strategic Plan and run the biennial stakeholder workshop.

Program Management
Delivering the Vision

Annual Works Program

Developing and delivering annual works programs in accordance with the Strategic Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding

- Develop and deliver the annual works programs in line with priorities identified in the Strategic Plan.
- Report to, advise and consult with the AALC on a regular basis.
- Work closely with expert reference groups.
- Facilitate Alps-wide networking and community building.
- Undertake a variety of workshops and forums with partners and stakeholders to share knowledge and build capacity on specific priority areas.
- Develop and distribute marketing collateral.
- Leverage opportunities for additional sources of funding.

