

## 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 National Parks 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 by the relevant Park management agencies.

The MoU was drafted in a spirit of collaboration and shared stewardship of the mountains. 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 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 PURPOSE

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 and cultural landscapes.
- (b) protection of the natural and cultural values and caring for Country 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 and connectivity.
- (e) amelioration of the effects of climate change.

## 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 purpose of the program. Each new strategic plan is developed in consultation with partner agencies so that it reflects current on ground priorities.

## Our FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Australian Alps national park Co-operative Management Program identifies three key challenges facing the program and its partners:

- 1) Ensuring the Program's relevancy and outcome-based value to its partner agencies needs and objectives.
- 2) Securing ongoing funding and resourcing to manage, implement and champion the Program; and
- 3) Program continuity in a dynamic operating environment (post bushfire and COVID pandemic).

The program can meet and address these challenges by leveraging off four key opportunities:

- 1) its reputation of delivering tangible outcomes and benefits to its partner agency staff and stakeholders with minimal resourcing levels and ability to attract external funding opportunities.
- 2) a level of operating independence of the Program whilst representing as a unified voice on issues of common concern to the Australian Alps reserves and bioregion.
- 3) the agility of the program due to its relatively small scale to respond to changing local priorities.
- 4) increased visitation and community interest in the management and protection of the Australian Alps reserves and bioregion.

For more information and resources: [The Australian Alps national parks webpage](#)





2023-26  
THEME

Reference Group/Core Values

Outcomes and Priorities

Actions

**Environment  
Resilient Natural Landscapes**

Through collaboration, innovation, and support, **reduce the impact of invasive species on natural systems, flora, and fauna.**

- Promote a shared approach to invasive species management.
- Facilitate the cooperation of partner agency efforts on emerging and known invasive species threats in particular ungulates.
- Support bio-security projects and initiatives.
- Promote and share knowledge and assist agencies in building capacity regarding new and emerging technologies in the control of invasive species.

In recognising the degree of connectivity across Australian Alps national parks and reserves within a highly fragmented and developed landscape, **facilitate and promote 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, catchment health and connectivity.
- Encourage adaptive management by partner agencies by sharing knowledge and experiences including Aboriginal perspectives.
- The Alps Program connects people and represents a connected bioregion.

Through understanding and recognizing the growing impacts of climate change on the natural and social values of the Alps, **promote and foster projects that increase our understanding and respond 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.
- Assist to build capacity and resilience in partner agency staff and program stakeholders through knowledge sharing and collaboration to manage and respond to increases in the occurrence and intensity of extreme weather events including drought, bushfire and storm events and their impacts on the Australian Alps reserves and bioregion.

**Cultural Heritage  
Living Cultural Landscapes**

In respect of and acknowledging Aboriginal Peoples culture and strong connection to country, **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 have distinct models 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 Caring for Country including spiritual, cultural, and economic purposes.

In recognising the Australian Alps post settlement heritage values, **conserve 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 focused volunteer organisations.

**Connecting People  
to the Australian Alps  
national parks**

Through understanding the roles of governments and the community and the importance of maintaining productive relationships, **continue 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.

Through acknowledging the value of visitors in promoting conservation, **collaborate, create, and support unique and sustainable visitor experiences in the Australian Alps.**

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

**Program Management**

**Delivering the Vision**

Through collaboration, commitment, and effective planning:

- Develop and deliver the annual works programs inline 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.

