



# Namadgi National Park Huts

## REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

The community was invited to review and provide feedback on the ACT Government's proposal to address the loss of two Stockmen's huts, Demanding Hut and Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut, during the 2020 Orroral Valley Bushfire.

The 2020 Orroral Valley bushfire burnt more than 80 per cent of Namadgi National Park, causing significant damage to natural, cultural and social values throughout the park. This included two heritage listed stockman's huts, Demanding Hut and Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut. Following consultation with the ACT Heritage Council and other key stakeholders, the ACT Government is proposing to:

1. Construct two new hut structures that will respect the original values of Demanding Hut and Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut, while preserving each hut's remains within the park.
2. Undertake a research, conservation and interpretation project that will bring local and specialist knowledge together to communicate the extent, construction and use of each original hut place.
3. Develop a new Conservation Management Plan for the series of Stockmen's Hut Sites in Namadgi National Park that form a serial listing on the ACT Heritage Register.

The proposal was founded on conservation of heritage values, professional advice received by the ACT Government, the listed heritage values of the two huts and the policies contained in the Namadgi National Park Plan of Management 2010 in relation to the protection of cultural heritage values.

## THE CONVERSATION

### ONLINE

An online YourSay conversation was open from 21 November 2022 through to 13 February 2023 enabling the community to express their views on the proposal. Feedback was accepted through the feedback form at [Namadgi National Park Huts Proposal | YourSay ACT](#).

### LETTER OF SUBMISSION

The ACT Government received two letters of submissions outside of the online YourSay conversation period. This feedback was accepted by the ACT Government.



## WHO WE ENGAGED

### Key Stakeholders

Outside of the online YourSay survey, engagement with key stakeholders included discussions with interest groups such as the Kosciuszko Huts Association (KHA) and National Parks Association of the ACT. In addition, a site visit occurred with KHA members to discuss pathways forward following advice from the ACT Heritage Council.

### Online YourSay survey

Of the 806 online YourSay survey respondents,

- 38% were aged 25-44 years old, 34% were aged 45-64, 26% were aged under 25 or over 64,
- 50% live outside of the ACT,
- Of the respondents living in the ACT, 105 identified as living in Belconnen and Gungahlin, 159 in the inner north and inner south, 81 in Tuggeranong, and the remaining 61 in the Molonglo Valley and Weston Creek area.

## Key insights from the community

### Rebuilding Demanding Hut

1. Of the 806 responses, 722 people agreed to rebuilding Demanding Hut.
2. There was strong support for the new structure to resemble the original hut.
3. Feedback showed support for the location of the new structure to be built within 30 metres of the original site.
4. 21 respondents opposed the proposal for Demanding with some further suggesting the ruins be preserved and interpreted instead of building new structures.

### Rebuilding Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut

5. Of the 806 responses, 732 people agreed to rebuilding Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut.
6. Most written feedback supported an open structure built approximately 35 metres south of the original site.
7. 39 opposed the proposal for Max and Berts with some further suggesting the ruins be preserved and interpreted instead of building new structures.

### Conduct a Historic Place Project

8. 768 people supported the proposal to conduct a Historic Place Project.
9. Feedback identified that this project would capture valuable historic information on Demanding Hut and Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut for future conservation needs.
10. Additional feedback included capturing important information on First Nations occupation in the area.



## Key insights from the community

### Develop a Conservation Management Plan (CMP)

11. 739 people agreed to developing a CMP for the series of Stockmen's Hut Sites in Namadgi National Park.
12. Most feedback agreed that a CMP would improve the future management of the Stockman's Huts.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback received will be used to assist the ACT Government in refining the proposal and to determine the final construction and commemoration plans for Demanding Hut and Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut.

To find out more about Namadgi National Park Huts Proposal and other initiatives, policies and projects in Canberra visit [www.yoursay.act.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au) or [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au).

## Key Timings

**February 2020:** Release of the ACT Government's Rapid Risk Assessment Team Report (RRAT Report) which detailed recovery priorities including those to Demanding and Max and Bert's Huts.

**March 2020 – May 2021:** the ACT Government commissioned heritage architects to undertake assessments of Demanding and Max and Bert's Huts and provide a report containing recommendations for longer term management actions. This report was then provided to the ACT Heritage Council for consideration and advice.

**June 2021 – September 2022:** Consultation occurred with key stakeholders on the outcome of the ACT Heritage Council's advice and to determine the next steps for both Demanding and Max and Bert's Huts. This included site visits with key stakeholders.

**October 2022:** A project proposal was drafted to engage the community in finalising options for Demanding and Max and Bert's Huts.

**November 2022 – February 2023:** Online YourSay conversation was open during the formal consultation period, from 21 November 2022 through to 13 February 2023. This allowed community to provide feedback on the proposal for Demanding and Max and Bert's Huts

**April 2023:** Listening report released ([we are here](#)).

**May 2023:** Final decision on proposal made and commencement of key components

Thank you for your feedback



**YOUR SAY**



**32,000**

We reached a social media audience of almost 32,000

**227**

We received 227 items of written feedback

**91%**

people engaged were supportive of the engagement process

**806**

people provided an online YourSay response

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