

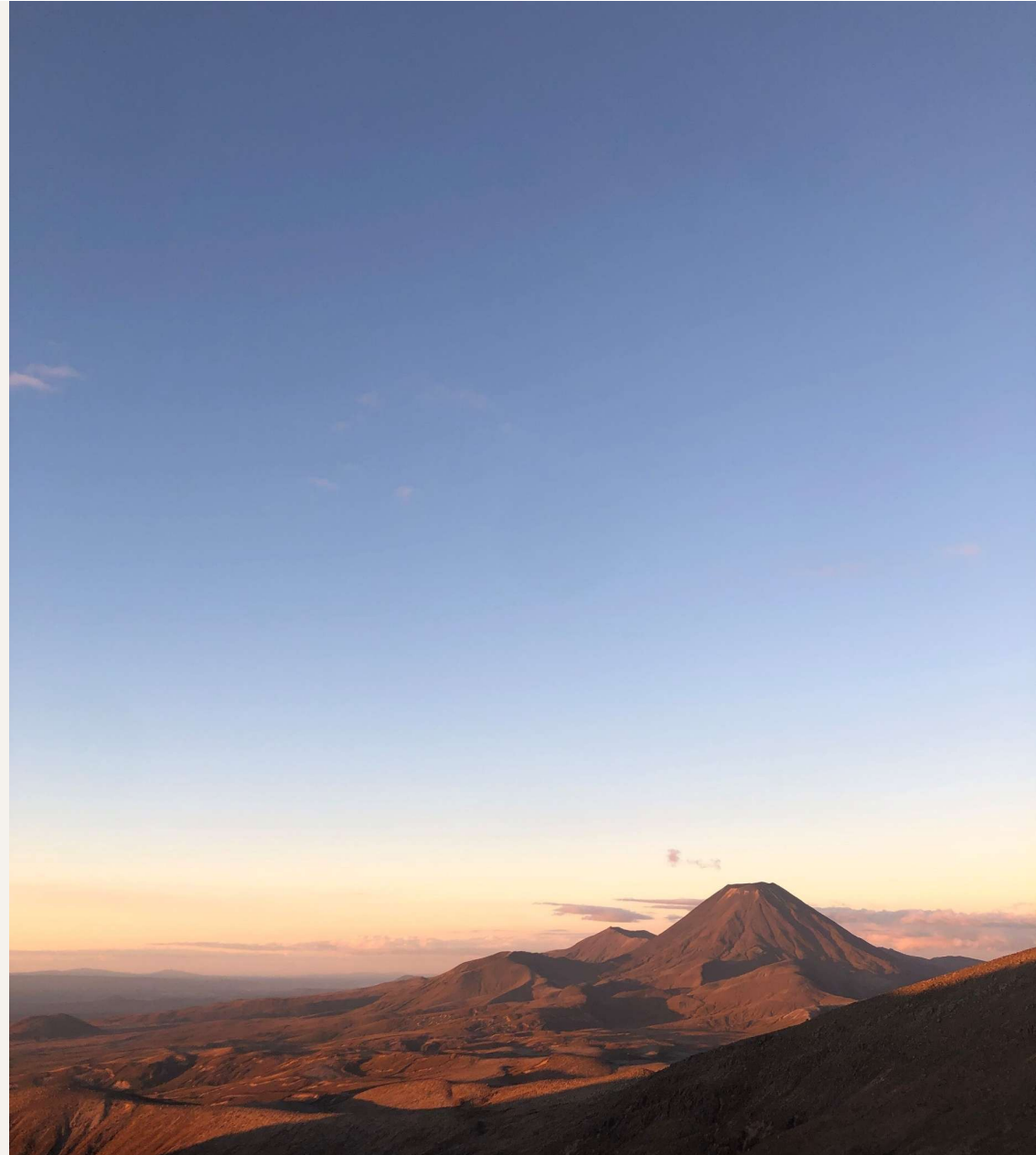
# Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association

24 May 2025



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

**Te Kāwanatanga  
o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government



# Introductions

## **Libby O'Brien**

Tongariro District Operations Manager

Skier, mountain biker, can't really drink coffee (but does)

## **Mere Mokeraka**

Senior Ranger, Local Bodies.

Knower of all things Whakapapa Village

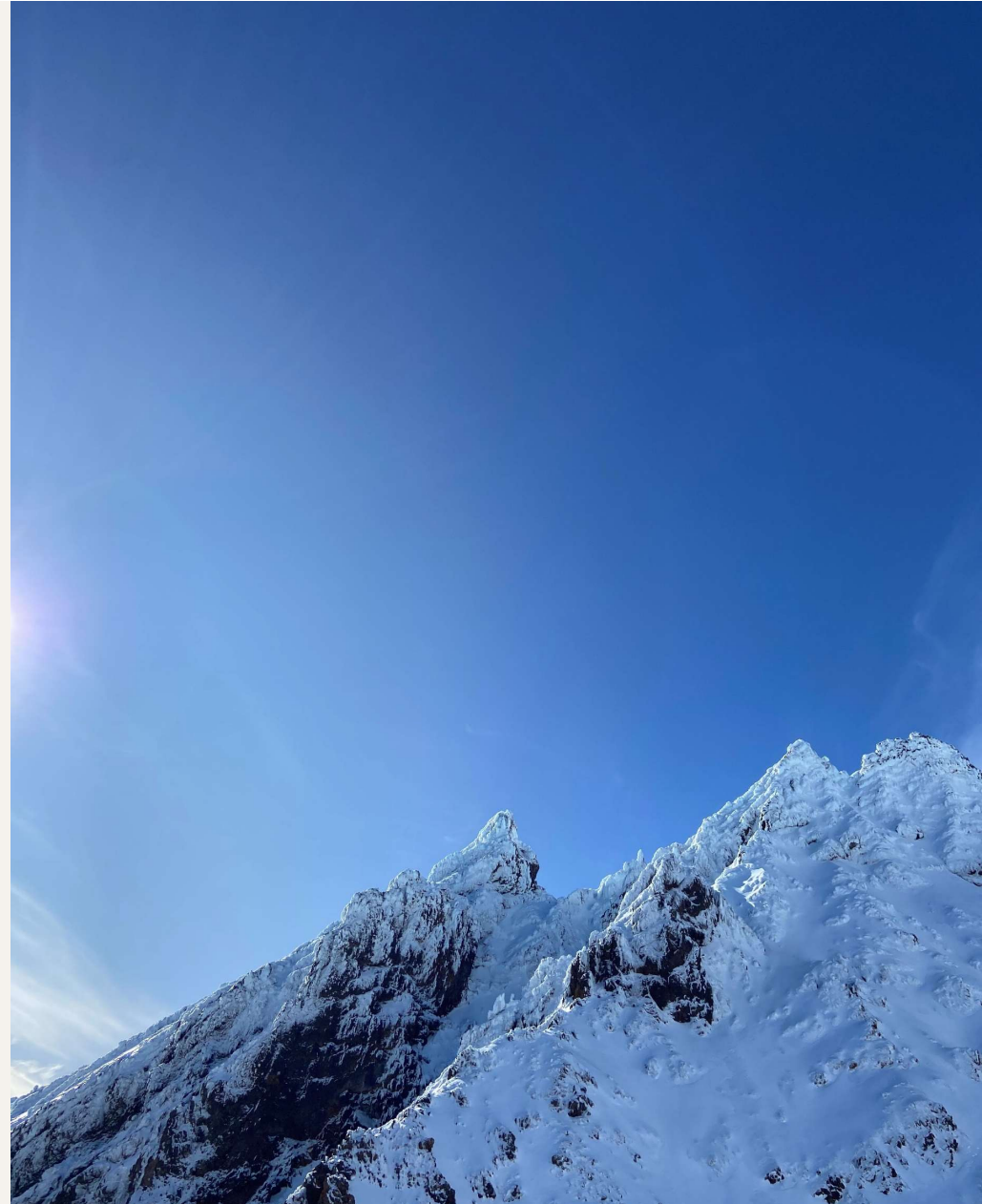
Department of Conservation legend.

[mmokeraka@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mmokeraka@doc.govt.nz) | 027 344 0467

## **George Taylor**

Ruapehu Projects Operations Manager

DOC stalwart, loves to go fast (not in DOC utes.)



# Context

## **Tongariro National Park**

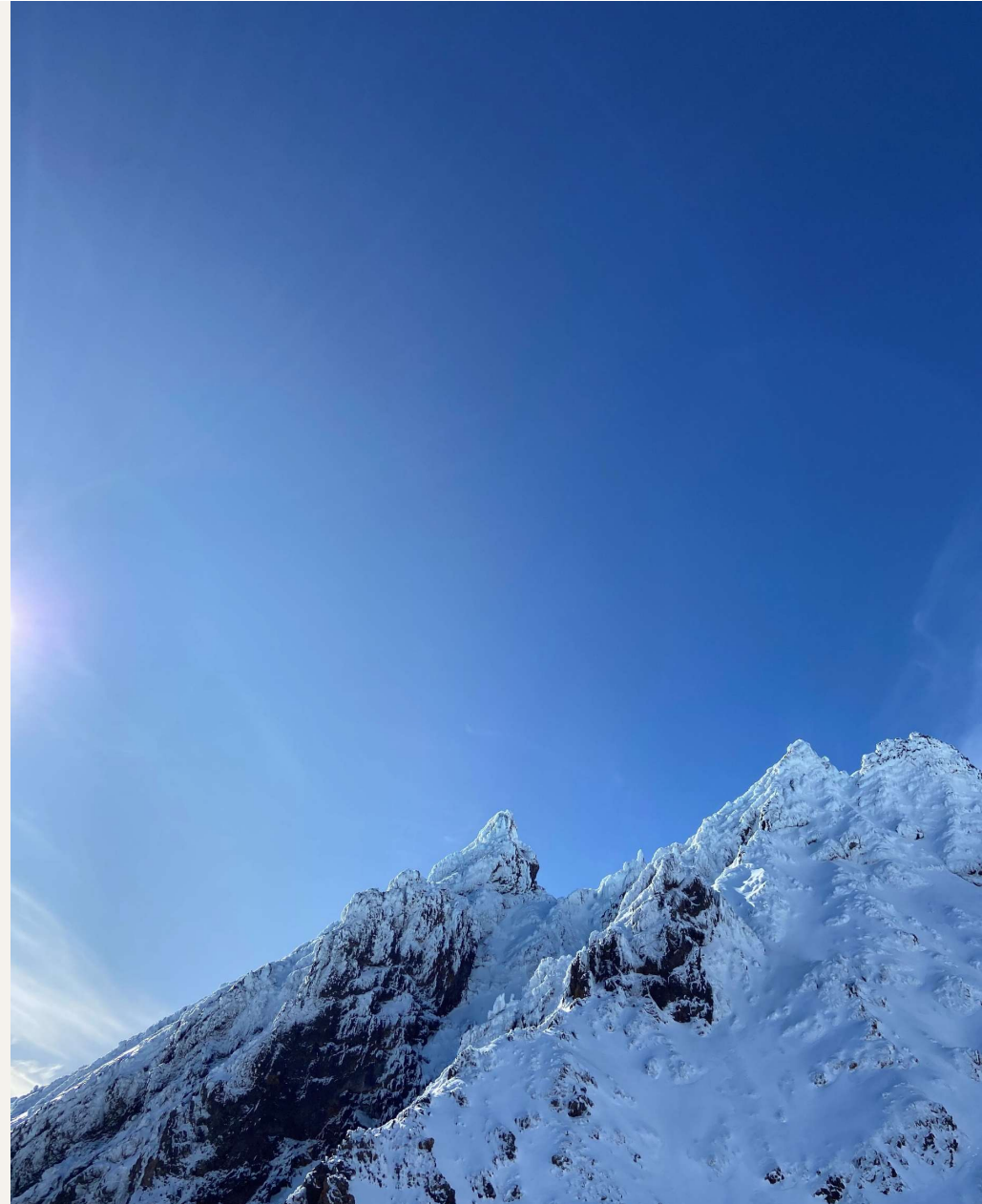
Why we care about this special place.

UNESCO World Heritage status

- Outstanding natural and cultural landscape.
- The park is one of only 29 sites in the world with dual World Heritage status.

Significance to iwi

Significance to Aotearoa



## The DOC Tongariro approach... from 2025 and beyond

- Working together
- Raising mana
- Partnerships
- Making decisions that are befitting of a dual World Heritage National Park.
- Whakapapa Village





# Ruapehu Projects team

Redundant infrastructure

Pure Turoa Ltd

Whakapapa Holdings Ltd

Chateau Tongariro

Tongariro District Operations Team does everything else!



# Whakapapa infrastructure

We have been working on a programme of eight significant upgrade projects at the Whakapapa WWTP since 2019.

Ongoing projects:

## **Decommissioning the existing emergency overflow pond (EOP).**

This work started in April 2025 and involves dewatering and sludge removal from the EOP, removing contaminant materials offsite and backfilling / reshaping the pond with existing soil materials at the site.

## **Redesigning the RAS and WAS pump system to align with the new upgrades**

Costings for this work is currently being investigated.

## **Lining of the wastewater pipe reticulation network in Whakapapa Village was completed in 2023-2024.**

Smoke testing of the wastewater (sewer) and stormwater network in Whakapapa Village was completed in April 2025. Initial observations have confirmed significant I&I points in the Village.

Findings from the testing will be used to support targeted remediation, improve network resilience and reduce peak loading on the WWTP.



## Basic maintenance 'like for like' notification

Basic maintenance of ski clubs does now not require a works approval application. Instead, a notification form must be completed for each undertaking of basic maintenance at least 5 days before the planned work.

Basic maintenance includes like-for-like repair or replacement of:

Painting, Cladding, Roofing, Deck repair, Wall repair, Guttering, Window repair or replacement, Door repair or replacement, Heating system repair (that does not require additional outdoor units).





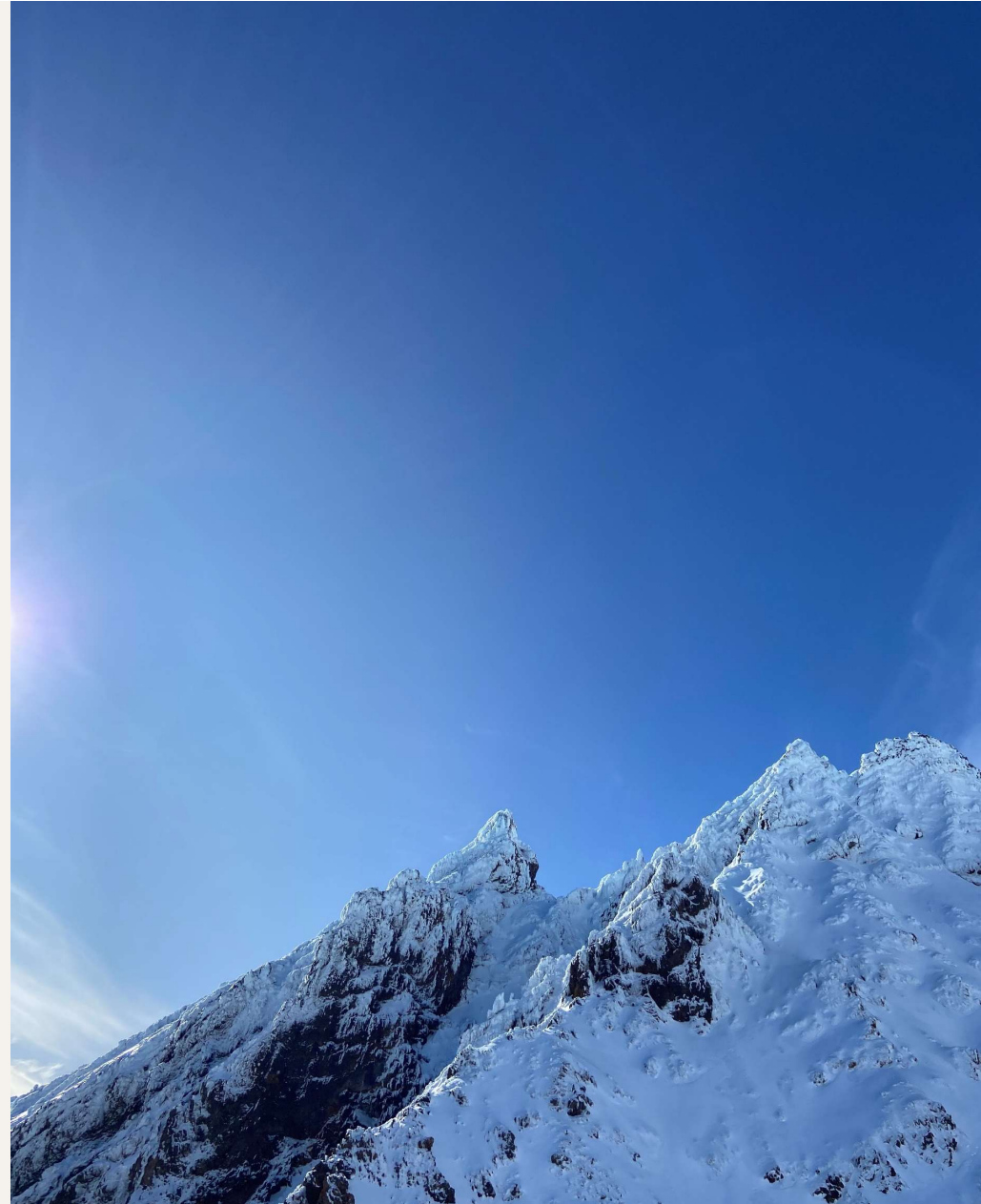
# Works approval applications

For any work beyond basic maintenance 'like for like', ski clubs still need to apply for a works approval. To ensure your application process goes smoothly, you can contact us for advice.

The application should be received at least 25 working days before the planned work.

Any work undertaken in Tongariro National Park requires consultation with our local iwi partners.

We allow iwi at least 20 working days to give feedback on any works occurring in Tongariro National Park and then require 5 working days to process the application after receiving feedback from iwi.





# Community Procedures Hub

Basic maintenance 'Like for Like' notification forms, Works approval application and other notification /permits can be accessed in the following link.

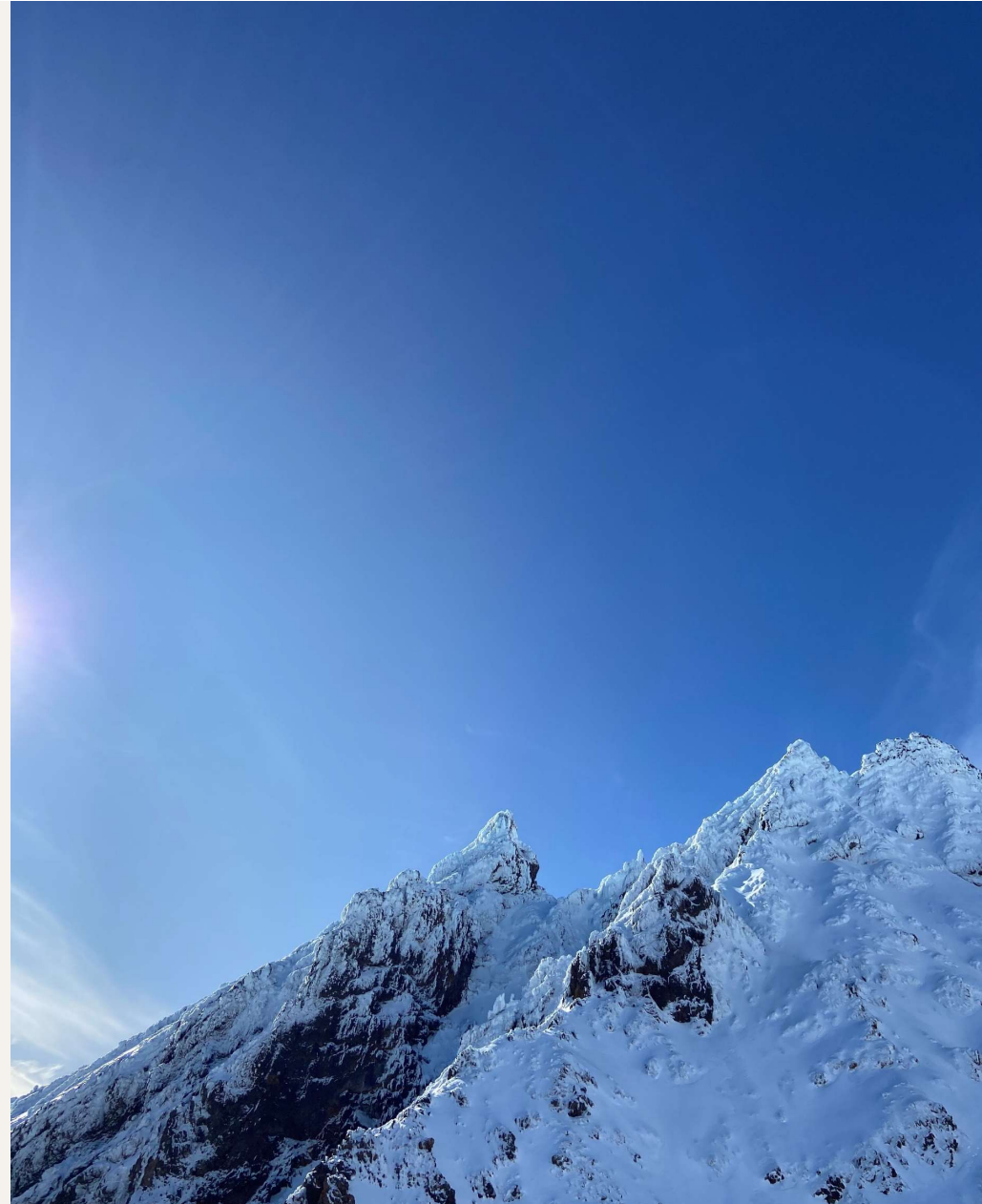
[Tongariro National Park Community Procedures: Our procedures and SOPs \(doc.govt.nz\)](#)



# Club insurance

Alternate arrangements on Ski Club insurance can be discussed with DOC's National Transaction Centre team. Clubs can send alternate insurance proposals directly to: [Transactioncentre@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Transactioncentre@doc.govt.nz)

Self-Insurance is assessed on a case-by-case basis, through the transaction centre.



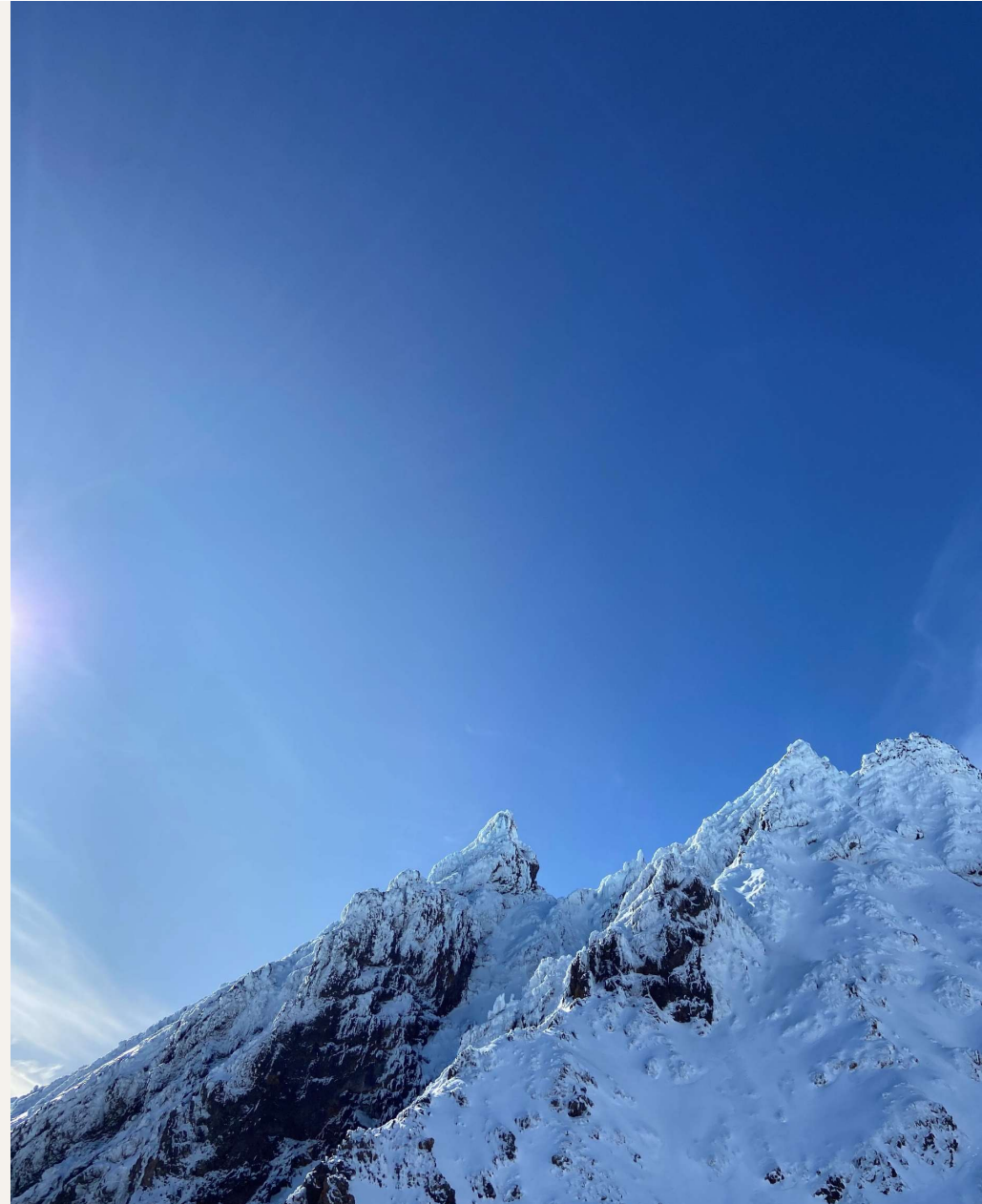
# Salt Ridge Track

We know this is a topic that is really important to clubbies as an access point to some huts.

The track was inspected by our team at the end of 2024 and the 'cutting' section had a rock pinnacle in the centre and the sewer pipe had been exposed due to vehicles.

We completed some minor work to protect the sewer pipe using gravel from the existing site and we will continue to monitor the track.

The track is unsuitable for 2WD or low profile 4WD or AWD vehicles, and we would love to see this route protected as much as possible.

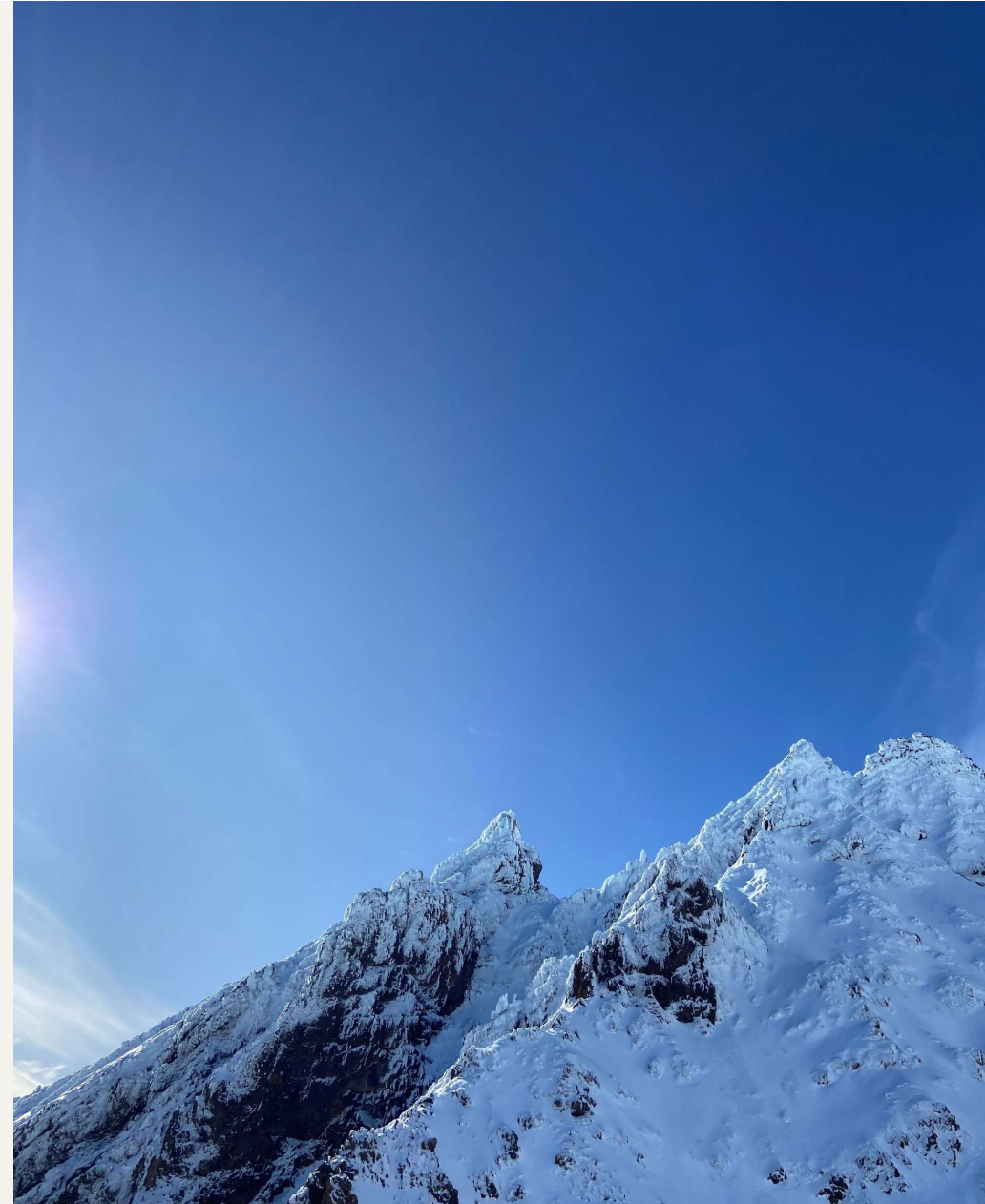


# Ski club grease trap cleaning

Grease trap cleaning was completed over summer.

Mere is working with some clubs to investigate repairs/maintenance or replacement of their traps which were not considered to require upgrading in the 2004 WWTP upgrade. However, some will require remediation or replacement works.

Site visits are planned for early June 2025 and we'll get some advice on what we need to do.





# Whakapapa Village winter 2025

We expect visitor numbers to be high again!

TPP will manage the Bruce Road for 2025.

Overnight road closures of the Bruce Road will be notified on the NZTA Waka Kotahi website as per previous years.

The software on the Variable Message Signs (VMS) at the golf course and Bruce Road barrier are being upgraded.

Key point of contact for any issues or concerns this coming winter is our wonderful Mere – email: [mmokoraka@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mmokoraka@doc.govt.nz).



# We're here to help

The maunga is our happy place and we all love being here.

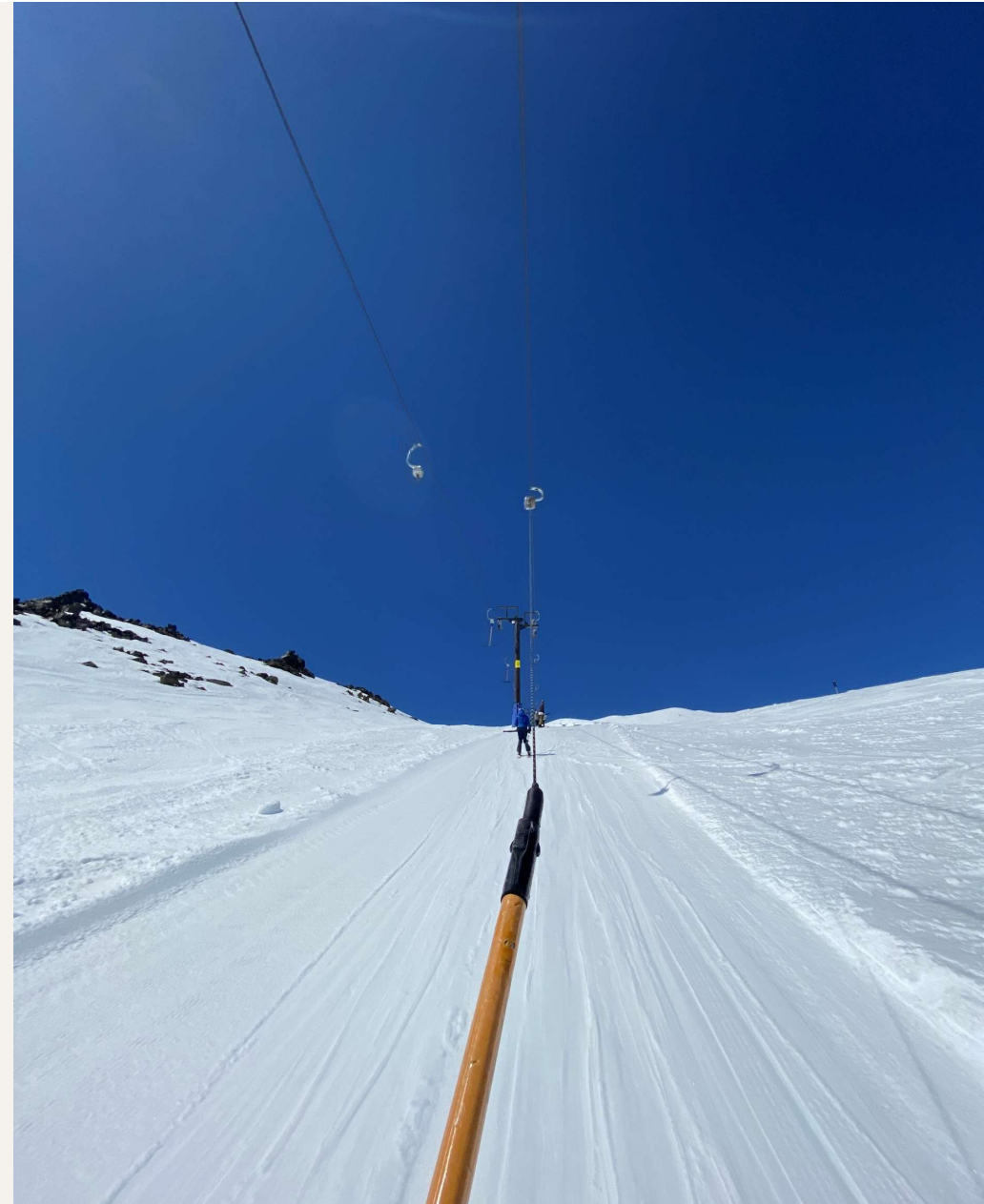
We genuinely want everyone who comes into Tongariro National Park to have a fun and safe time, while caring for our special environment.

We are always here to help – contact Mere or myself any time.

We are looking forward to continuing our relationship with RMCA and all clubbies.

**Bring on winter 2025!**

**We will see you on the slopes!**



## Q&A

1. Can the ski club rebuild their lodge, if destroyed by any event such as a fire. Yes, the lodge can be rebuilt on the existing lodge site or an alternative site agreed with the Department. Any construction work is subject to written approval of the Department. Refer to clauses 7(c)(i) – (viii) of your concession document for further details.
2. Who is responsible for removal of the copper wires, once the copper phone services are withdrawn by Chorus in June 2025? The ski club for which the copper wire services is responsible for removal.
3. Can we have an update on the potential water ingress into the sewer main from Aorangi Ski Club? Smoke testing and visual inspections of the sewer main were carried out approximately 18 months ago. Unable to locate any ingress issues from the ski club.
4. Does DOC have guidelines e.g. working at heights, use of scaffolding etc? The most up-to-date guidelines are available on Worksafe's website at [www.worksafe.govt.nz](http://www.worksafe.govt.nz)
5. Will there be any changes to responsibilities for Ski Clubs as a result of the eruption at White Island in 2019? Unknown at this stage. As at May 2025, the coroner's final report for the 2019 White Island (Whakaari) eruption has not yet been publicly released, which will include findings and recommendations.
6. Can an APP be developed for Communications, Road closures etc? The Department is unable to develop an APP for external use due to IT security protocols.