

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 12

24 October 2025

Question No. 708

Fiona Carrick MLA: To ask the Minister for City and Government Services

Will the Government consider allowing the Kosciuszko Huts Association to rebuild (and maintain) Demanding Hut as a reconciliation opportunity.

TARA CHEYNE MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

While the collaborative intent of the offer is appreciated, the ACT Government does not support building new shelters near Demanding Hut and Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut. This reflects a strategic shift in focus toward conserving the remaining historic huts and ruins across the Namadgi National Park. Many of these huts are under increasing threat from climate change (more frequent and intense fires) and natural deterioration.

This decision not to build new shelters aligns with advice from the ACT Heritage Council that recommended the huts be managed in situ as ruins with on-site heritage interpretation to express the significant association of both places with ACT high country pastoralism. Replica hut constructions at each site were not supported, as new construction could damage remaining significant fabric, could damage the surrounding archaeological features and deposits, and could confuse the historical understanding and heritage significance of each place.

The Government is now investing in:

- Research, conservation and interpretation of Demanding and Max and Bert's hut ruins.
- Updating Conservation Management Plans for the Stockman's Huts heritage sites, to guide conservation efforts and ensure that heritage values are protected in a strategic and informed manner.
- Undertake maintenance and repairs on the remaining huts.

The Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) engaged closely with Kosciuszko Huts Association (KHA) to explain the decision process and the planned ongoing work. This will be implemented under an annual works plan established under a memorandum of understanding as the formal mechanism for the collaborative work undertaken by PCS and KHA. In the last 12 months this has included maintenance to Frank and Jacks Hut as well as extensive repairs to Bushfold Flats Hut. Joint work parties between PCS and Kosciuszko Huts Association will include maintaining other huts and homesteads into the future.

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Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for City and Government Services

Date: 15/12/25

This response required 50mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$91.82.