

## COVID-19 risk assessment DOC Accommodation – October 2021

### 1. Context

This risk assessment has been undertaken to determine the risks of transmission of COVID-19 at DOC's visitor accommodation, to meet DOC's obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015. This Act requires DOC to take all reasonable, practicable steps to eliminate or otherwise minimise the risk of infection and transmission of COVID-19 to our workers; and to make sure that the health and safety of other people at the Department's huts and campsites are not put at risk from anything else at the workplace (so far as is reasonably practicable).

### 2. Key COVID-19 Risk Factors

Exposure to airborne transmission of the COVID-19 virus, other body fluids or surfaces where the virus may reside, that staff and visitors may come with. Other factors considered include likely numbers of visitors in a setting, traffic light setting for the region and whether contact with others will be indoors or outdoors.

### 3. Summary Of Assessment

|   | COVID-19 Hazard                          | Likelihood of risk of infection occurring | Level of risk – Consequence for the unvaccinated | Level of risk – Consequence for the vaccinated |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Visitors at huts                                  | Direct exposure or through close contact | Almost certain/likely                     | Major/severe                                     | Moderate                                       |
| Rangers/wardens at huts                           | Direct exposure or through close contact | Almost certain/likely                     | Major/severe                                     | Moderate                                       |
| Staff servicing huts                              | Direct exposure or through close contact | Moderate                                  | Major/severe                                     | Moderate                                       |
| External contractors at huts                      | Direct exposure or through close contact | Moderate                                  | Major/severe                                     | Moderate                                       |
| Visitors at campsites                             | Direct exposure or through close contact | Moderate                                  | Major/severe                                     | Moderate                                       |
| Rangers/wardens/staff at campsites                | Direct exposure or through close contact | Unlikely                                  | Major/severe                                     | Moderate                                       |
| External contractors at campsites                 | Direct exposure or through close contact | Unlikely/rare                             | Major/severe                                     | Moderate                                       |
| Visitors at bookable sole occupancy accommodation | Direct exposure or through close contact | Unlikely/rare                             | Low  | Low  |

#### 4. Detailed Description

**Huts** - It is **almost certain/likely** that visitors and hut rangers staying in one or more huts over summer will have COVID and pass it on to others in the hut (visitors and/or hut rangers). This is because visitors are sleeping and eating in close proximity indoors, hut rangers are working in common areas directly with visitors, and opportunities for mask wearing and physical distancing are limited. The consequences would be **major/severe** for any eligible unvaccinated people, but **moderate** for the vaccinated.

There is a **moderate likelihood** of DOC operations staff and external contractors servicing huts contracting COVID at a hut; the level of risk consequences of this is also **moderate**. They are likely to spend less time at the hut, do not need to be in close proximity to visitors and have access to PPE.

**Campsites** - At campsites, including those on the Great Walks there is a **moderate likelihood** that visitors will have COVID and pass it on to other visitors at the campsite. This is because most of the contact people have with others in a campsite is outside and sleeping and eating is confined to the camping party. The risk of closer contact is highest in toilet or ablution facilities with no or limited airflow. The consequences of this would be **major/severe** for any eligible unvaccinated people, but **moderate** for the vaccinated.

It is **unlikely** that campsite staff (campsite managers and staff servicing campsites) and external contractors would contract COVID. Camp managers sleep and eat in their own accommodation and can control their interaction with visitors. Contractors are working outside, or cleaning facilities and the latter can be carried out in a controlled way.

**Bookable sole occupancy accommodation** – The likelihood of a visitor staying in bookable sole occupancy accommodation passing on COVID to people outside their party would be **unlikely or rare**.

**END**