



## MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In reply please quote: MOF20950

Mr Janusz Rygielski  
Polish Community Council of Australia and New Zealand Inc  
PO Box 10595  
Adelaide Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

23 JAN 2006

Dear Mr Rygielski

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the possible dual naming of Kosciuszko National Park.

Let me say at the outset that 'Mount Kosciuszko' will remain the name of the highest mountain in Australia. No one from the NSW Government has suggested that it be changed. What has been suggested in a *draft* Plan of Management is that a dual name for Kosciuszko National Park, or portions of it, be considered.

The NSW Government is committed to recognising the state's Aboriginal cultural heritage. One way this can be achieved is by using the original place names given by Aboriginal people, so they sit alongside European names.

The practice of dual naming of geographical features is not unique to NSW and can be found in other parts of Australia and around the world. Milford Sound in New Zealand, for example, is also known as Piopiotahi, while Mount Egmont is known as Mount Taranaki. Ayers Rock is also known as Uluru and the Olgas are known as Kata Tjuta.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has a state-wide park names policy that supports the use of appropriate Aboriginal names for the dual naming of parks, and places within parks. I stress again that these names do not replace European names, but rather they sit alongside them.

I can assure you that the NSW Government recognises the high regard in which Tadeusz Kościuszko is held by both the Polish and wider communities. There is a strong Polish community in the Cooma area as a legacy of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme, and the Government recognises members of this community have a real attachment and sense of pride related to Kosciuszko.

The public exhibition period for the draft plan of management for Kosciuszko National Park took place in 2004, and all submissions and comments are being carefully considered.

If the proposal to further explore the dual naming of Kosciuszko National Park is adopted in the final plan of management, then DEC will embark on a comprehensive community consultation process to consider the most appropriate name or names.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Debus".

**Bob Debus**