WILDLIFE APPROVAL

THIS AUTHORITY is made this [Date] day of [Month] 2026

PARTIES:

The Director-General of Conservation and the Minister of Conservation (the **Director-General**)
NZSki Limited (the **Wildlife Approval Holder**)

BACKGROUND

A. The Director-General of Conservation and the Minister of Conservation are empowered to issue authorisations or consents for specified acts under the Wildlife Act 1953.

B. The Wildlife Approval Holder proposes to undertake upgrades to the existing Remarkables Ski Area and expand the ski field into the adjacent Doolans Basin. The Project includes all construction, operation and maintenance activities associated with the construction, upgrade, operation and maintenance of the existing and expanded ski areas, and all associated remediation works.

C. The Wildlife Approval Holder has applied for a wildlife approval under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 in relation to the Project.

D. A wildlife approval granted under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 has force and effect for its duration, and according to its terms and conditions, as a lawful authority for the purposes of Part 5 of the Wildlife Act 1953 for the act or omission for which the approval was granted and is treated as if it were granted under that Act.

E. This wildlife approval under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 in relation to the Project was granted by an expert panel on [add date].

OPERATIVE PARTS

The Wildlife Approval Holder has been authorised by an expert panel under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 to undertake the activities specified in this approval, subject to the terms and conditions contained in this approval and its schedules.

SCHEDULE 1: AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

1.	**Authorised activity** (Schedule 2, clause 2)	The activities authorised are: a) To capture and remove New Zealand Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*) nests and eggs from within the Project's vegetation clearance and earthworks disturbance footprint and, where avoidance is not practicable, destroy eggs to encourage renesting outside the disturbance footprint. Methodology: a) As set out in Table 18, Section 7 and Section 8 Recommendation 23 of the Terrestrial Ecology Assessment (prepared by e3 Scientific dated April 2026).
2.	**The Land** (Schedule 2, clause 2)	As shown on the map in Schedule 5.
3.	**Personnel authorised to undertake the Authorised Activity** (Schedule 2, clause 3)	Any suitably qualified and experienced practitioner (SQEP) approved by the Department of Conservation with expertise relevant to the protected wildlife species concerned and other persons under the direct supervision of the SQEP.
4.	**Term** (Schedule 2, clause 4)	[insert date of approval] to [insert date 15 years from date of approval].
5.	**Wildlife Approval Holder's address for notices** (Schedule 2, clause 8)	The Wildlife Approval Holder's address for notices is: NZSki Limited PO Box 359 Queenstown 9300 New Zealand Phone: 0800 697 547 Email: Paul.Anderson@nzski.com
6.	**Director-General's address for notices**	The Director-General's address for all correspondence is: Permissions Team Level 4 73 Rostrevor Street Hamilton 3204 Email: askpermissions@doc.govt.nz

Commented [MD1]: DOC amendment accepted.

SCHEDULE 2: STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE APPROVAL

1. Interpretation

1.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder must provide a copy of these conditions to its employees, contractors or agents carrying out the Authorised Activity and explain the obligations under the conditions.

1.2 Where obligations bind more than one person, those obligations bind those persons jointly and separately.

2. What is being authorised?

2.1 The Authorised Activity may only be carried out on the Land described in Schedule 1, Item 2.

2.2 Any arrangements necessary for access over private land or leased land are the responsibility of the Wildlife Approval Holder.

2.3 The Wildlife Approval Holder must advise the Department of Conservation's local Operations Manager(s)(queenstown@doc.govt.nz) prior to carrying out the Authorised Activity in the District (where possible, one week prior), when the Wildlife Approval Holder intends to carry out the Authorised Activity.

2.4 A copy of this Approval must be available on site at all times while carrying out the Authorised Activity.

2.5 The Wildlife Approval Holder must immediately notify the Director-General of any taxa found which are new to science. In addition, the Wildlife Approval Holder must lodge holotype specimens and a voucher specimen of any new taxa with a recognised national collection.

3. Who is authorised?

3.1 Only the Authorised Personnel described in Schedule 1, Item 3 are authorised to carry out the Authorised Activity, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Director-General.

4. How long is the approval for – the Term?

4.1 This approval commences and ends on the dates set out in Schedule 1, Item 4.

5. What are the liabilities?

5.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder agrees to exercise the approval at its own risk and releases, to the full extent permitted by law, the Director-General and the Director-General's employees and agents from all claims and demands of any kind and from all liability which may arise in respect of any accident, damage, or injury occurring to any person or property arising from the Wildlife Approval Holder's exercise of the Approval.

5.2 This indemnity is to continue after the expiry or termination of this approval in respect of any acts or omissions occurring or arising before its expiry or termination.

6. What about compliance with legislation and Director-General's notices and directions?

6.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder must comply with all statutes, bylaws and regulations, and other statutory instruments associated with the Land. Without limitation, this includes the Conservation Act 1987 and the Acts listed in the First Schedule of that Act and all applicable health and safety legislation and regulation.

7. Can the Authority be revoked?

7.1 The Director-General may revoke this Authority at any time in respect of the whole or any part of the Authorised Activity (pursuant to clause 7(4) of Schedule 7 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024) if the Wildlife Approval Holder breaches any of the conditions of this Authority.

7.2 If the Director-General intends to revoke this Authority in whole or in part, the Director-General must give the Wildlife Approval Holder such prior notice as is reasonable and necessary in the circumstances.

8. How are notices sent and when are they received?

8.1 Any notice to be given under this approval by the Director-General is to be in writing and made by personal delivery, by pre-paid post or email to the Wildlife Approval Holder at the address, or email address specified in Schedule 1, Item 5. Any such notice is to be deemed to have been received:

(a) in the case of personal delivery, on the date of delivery;

(b) in the case of post, on the 3rd working day after posting;

(c) in the case of email, on the date the email is sent provided the email is sent before 5 pm, otherwise it is deemed to have been received at 9 am on the next working day.

8.2 If the Wildlife Approval Holder's details specified in Schedule 1, Item 5 change then the Wildlife Approval Holder must notify the Director-General within 5 working days of such change.

9. What about the payment of costs?

9.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder must pay the standard Department of Conservation charge-out rates for any staff time and mileage required to monitor compliance with this approval and to investigate any alleged breaches of the terms and conditions of it.

10. Are there any Special Conditions?

10.1 Special conditions are specified in Schedule 3. In the event of inconsistency or conflict, the Special Conditions will prevail over this Schedule 2.

11. Can the approval be varied?

11.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder may apply to the Director-General for variations to this approval in accordance with clauses 7(2) and (3) of Schedule 7 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

SCHEDULE 3: SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. General

1.1 The Authorised Activity must be carried out in accordance with the documents listed in Schedule 1, Item 1 and in the application to the extent it relates to the Wildlife Approval.

2. Nest Management

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2.1 Where vegetation clearance or earthworks take place within the breeding season for New Zealand Pipit (August-February), the following actions must be undertaken:

(a) Prior to vegetation clearance / disturbance works a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist / ornithologist must undertake a survey to identify any pihoihoi nests within the disturbance footprint and an area of 50m around the disturbance footprint. This survey must be undertaken within five days (including non-working days) of vegetation clearance / disturbance works commencing.

(b) If no nests are identified during the survey required by Clause 2.1(a), vegetation clearance / disturbance works may proceed, provided the vegetation clearance / disturbance works occur within five days of the survey.

(c) If the survey required by Clause 2.1(a) identifies suitable pihoihoi habitat below 1,700m above sea level but no nests are present and vegetation clearance / disturbance works are scheduled to occur more than five days following the nest survey, the following actions must be undertaken to remove suitable nesting habitats within the disturbance footprint:

(i) Vegetation must be reduced within the disturbance footprint to a height of 20 cm in locations, identified by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist / ornithologist, where there is suitable pihoihoi nesting habitat;

(ii) The vegetation reduction required by Clause 2.1(c)(i) must be undertaken within five days of the survey required by Clause 2.1(a) occurring;

(iii) The area where the vegetation reduction is required (Clause 2.1 (c)(i)) must be clearly marked;

(iv) Following the completion of the vegetation reduction required by Clause 2.1(c)(i) to (iii), disturbance works may occur within the footprint where vegetation reduction has occurred for the remainder of the construction season unless pihoihoi nests are identified within the area after the vegetation reduction has occurred. If, during the construction season, there is extensive regrowth of tussock that would result in the re-establishment of viable pihoihoi nesting habitat (characterised as natural tussock form and density, greater than 40 cm in height), the requirements of Clause 2.1(c)(i) to (iv) apply.

(d) If the survey required by Condition Clause 2.1(a) identifies a pihoihoi nest or nests within the disturbance footprint, the following actions must be undertaken:

(i) Where chicks are present within a nest, works within the immediate vicinity of the nest must cease until a suitably qualified ornithologist confirms that the chicks have fledged.

(ii) If nests containing eggs are located, these must be avoided where practicable.

(iii) Where a nest containing eggs is present within the disturbance footprint and avoidance in accordance with Condition Clause 2.1(d)(ii) is not practicable, the nest must be removed

and the eggs destroyed to encourage renesting outside the disturbance footprint. If nests and/or eggs are to be destroyed, the following methodology must be followed

- The eggs must be collected, recorded (including date, time, location and number of eggs), transported in a protective and insulated casing and candled to ascertain each of the eggs relative development;
- If the embryo is considered, by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist / ornithologist, to be less than 80% developed, the egg must be placed in a standard freezer (-180°C) for 24 hours;
- If the embryo is observed to be more than 80% developed, the egg will be destroyed via controlled and instantaneous crushing; and
- All destroyed eggs must be provided to the Department of Conservation.

(e) If the survey required by Condition Clause 2.1(a) identifies a pihoihoi nest or nests outside of the disturbance footprint but within the 50m buffer:

(i) Monitoring of the identified nest(s) must be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist / ornithologist;

(ii) If the nest(s) is observed to be abandoned (more than six hours of inactivity), a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist / ornithologist must record the date, time, location, number of eggs and distance from the nest to the nearest point of disturbance. The eggs must be destroyed in accordance with the methodology set out in Clause 2.1(d)(ii);

(iii) If works within the disturbance footprint do not cease for more than five days (including working days) and works have not increased in extent and a pihoihoi then establishes a nest within 50m of the disturbance footprint, no further action is required to be undertaken.

(iv) All losses of eggs must be recorded and be compensated for. The Terrestrial Ecology Management Plan must set out the process for determining the quantum of compensation for any loss of eggs.

2.2 All survey work and nest destruction authorized under this permit will be undertaken and managed by the suitably qualified and experienced practitioner approved under Schedule 2, Clause 3 and undertaken in accordance with best practice capture, handling and release measures set out in the Department of Conservation's New Zealand National Bird Banding Scheme bird bander's manual.

3. Salvage

3.1 If required in writing by the Director-General, the Wildlife Approval Holder must make improvements to techniques (including catching, handling, releasing, preserving and storing), and take such other steps as directed by the Director-General.

4. Death of wildlife associated with Authorised Activities

4.1 If any New Zealand Pipit should die during the approved activities, the Wildlife Approval Holder must:

Commented [MD3]: DOC amendment accepted.

Commented [MD4]: DOC amendment accepted.

(a) inform the Whakatipu DOC Operations Manager (queenstown@doc.govt.nz) within 48 hours, chill the body if it can be delivered within 72 hours, or freeze the body if delivery will take longer than 72 hours; and

(b) send the body to Massey University Wildlife Postmortem Service for necropsy OR as otherwise advised by the Whakatipu DOC Operations Manager, along with details of the animal's history; and

(c) pay for any costs incurred in investigation of the death of any New Zealand Pipit; and

(d) if required by the Whakatipu DOC Operations Manager, cease the Approved Activity for a period determined by the DOC Operations Manager.

Note: Condition 4.1 is intended to ensure activities occur according to best practice in the unforeseen event of an accidental death. This permit does not seek to authorize injury or killing of avifauna.

5. Euthanasia

5.1 If any New Zealand Pipit are found injured as part of the Authorised Activity, advice must be sought from the Authorised Person on management of the bird. Injured New Zealand Pipits may be euthanised on the recommendation of the Authorised Person or a veterinarian.

6. Incidental Discovery

6.1 The DOC Operations Manager for Whakatipu (queenstown@doc.govt.nz) is to be contacted immediately for further advice if protected wildlife other than those listed in Schedule 4 are located within the Site or within the release site. A separate application to catch alive, liberate or kill non-authorised species will be required.

7. Reporting

7.1 An annual report must be submitted in writing to the DOC Operations Manager for Whakatipu (queenstown@doc.govt.nz) and askpermissions@doc.govt.nz by 30 June each year. The report must summarise implementation of this Wildlife Approval and the outcomes of nest management activities undertaken in accordance with Clause 2. ~~.~~ All reporting must include:

(a) the project name;

(b) the dates and results of all avifauna surveys undertaken under this approval;

(c) the number and location of New Zealand pipit nests identified;

(d) the outcome of each nest identified, including whether the nest was:

i. avoided;

ii. monitored;

iii. removed; or

~~i.~~iv. otherwise managed under this approval;

~~(d)~~(e) the number of eggs destroyed under this approval and the reason destruction was

Commented [MD5]: DOC amendment accepted.

required;

(f) a summary of monitoring undertaken and its results;

(f) A description of how the relevant wildlife approval conditions were implemented, including;

(i) Implementation of vegetation reduction measures;

(ii) Implementation of nest monitoring requirements

(iii) any difficulties encountered in implementing the approval conditions; and

(iv) any contingency actions required;

(f) details of any compensation provided in accordance with this approval; and

(f) the number and species of any protected wildlife incidentally injured, euthanised or killed as part of the Authorised Activity.

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8. Ownership of protected wildlife

8.1 All wildlife remains the property of the Crown. This includes any dead wildlife, live wildlife, any parts thereof, any eggs or progeny of the wildlife, genetic material and any replicated genetic material.

8.2 Unless expressly authorised by the Director-General in writing, the Wildlife Approval Holder must not donate, sell or otherwise transfer to any third party any wildlife collected or otherwise obtained under this approval.

9. Compensation

9.1 The Wildlife Approval Holder must undertake avoidance, remediation, mitigation, offsetting and compensation measures for avifauna in accordance with the resource consent conditions for the Remarkables Ski Area Upgrade and Doolans Expansion Project.

Commented [MD7]: NZSki has accepted DOCs suggestion to include a compensation condition and drafted a proposed condition that is consistent with other FTA approvals including the Southland Wind Farm Project. NZSki accepts the suggestion to include a compensation condition as long as compensation conditions are consistent with, and refer back to, the proposed compensation resource consent conditions (as proposed).

SCHEDULE 4: AVIFAUNA THAT THE WILDLIFE APPROVAL HOLDER IS AUTHORISED TO CAPTURE, RELOCATE AND AS A LAST RESORT DESTROY THE NEST OF

Common name	Scientific name	NZ threat classification[1]
New Zealand pipit	*Anthus novaeseelandiae* subsp. *novaeseelandiae*	At Risk -Declining

[1] Based on "Conservation status of reptiles in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2025".

SCHEDULE 5: MAP OF THE LAND COVERED BY THE APPROVAL

