



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **First Gondola in Alpine Australia makes its way to Thredbo Here's your chance to be featured...**

Visitors to Thredbo this spring can step inside and sample the new Merritts Gondola with a display cabin now on show at Friday Flat. The first cabin has arrived, ahead of alpine Australia's first Gondola being constructed ready for next winter.

The Gondola, that will replace the Merritts Double Chairlift, will transport skiers, snowboarders and sightseers from the village to the intermediate and beginner terrain of the Cruiser area in just six minutes with a convenient mid-station.

Here are some quick facts and stats about the new Merritts Gondola:

- The new Doppelmayr Merritts Gondola will become alpine Australia's first Gondola;
- The Merritts Gondola is a high speed, eight person Gondola that will quadruple the capacity of the current Merritts Chairlift, lifting approximately 2,000 people per hour;
- The new Gondola will transport skiers, snowboarders and sightseers from the village to the intermediate and beginner terrain of the Cruiser area. The Cruiser area also has access to some of the resort's advanced trails like Dream Run;
- There'll be a mid-station close to the base of the High Noon trail, allowing guests to access Friday Flat or alternatively load to get to the Cruiser area or to the village;
- Travel time from the Village to the Cruiser area is approximately six minutes, saving 15 minutes on current times;
- Construction will commence in October 2019.

To celebrate the new Gondola, Thredbo has launched an exciting Instagram promotion that is so easy to enter! Visitors just need to snap a photo of their favourite Thredbo moment, whether it is scoring fresh tracks on a powder day, kicking back at après in the village or capturing the kids first turns.

Just snap, post to Instagram, hashtag #MyGondola plus @thredboresort and have the chance to feature inside the new Merritts Gondola. Plus, the winner will score a holiday to Thredbo for the Opening Weekend of winter 2020. How cool!

**Other development news:**

- Snowmaking will be added to the popular 'Dream Run' for the 2020 winter, allowing more reliable access to Friday Flat and the mid-station of the Gondola;
- Planning is well under way for the construction of additional car parking spaces this summer as Thredbo recognises that the increasing popularity of the resort means parking is at a premium during our peak periods;
- A number of other major development applications have been submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. These will see substantial investment over the next few years to develop and enhance some of the most popular areas of the resort, including:
  - the development of a new Friday Flat retail and rental facility;
  - the redevelopment and expansion of 'Thredboland', Thredbo's children program centre for snow sports; and
  - additional car parking at Friday Flat.

These multi-million dollar developments, when completed, will provide guests with some of the best facilities in the Australian snow industry, further enhancing Thredbo's award-winning reputation as Australia's premier snow resort.

To view the full development applications please visit the [NSW Department of Planning and Environment](#).

**-ENDS-**

**ABOUT THREDBO**

Thredbo is Australia's premier alpine resort. Located at the heart of the Australian Alps and nestled in the foothills of Australia highest mountain, Mt Kosciuszko, operating 365 days a year, it boasts some of the best alpine terrain in the country and plays host to close to around 750,000 visitors each year.

With a bustling village full of cafes, restaurants and stores, Australia's longest snow runs and a vertical drop close to double that of any other Australian resort, it's no surprise that Thredbo has been voted 'Australia's Best Snow Resort' in both the 2018 World Ski Awards and the 2018 Snowsports Industries of Australia Awards.

Owned by Event Hospitality and Entertainment (EVENT), Australia's premier entertainment, hospitality, tourism and leisure company, Thredbo is proud to be part of a company that has historic origins dating back to 1910 and is at the forefront of the experience economy and delivers over 40 million customer experiences annually.

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