

ROCK CLIMBING IN THE GRAMPIANS (GARIWERD) ROUNDTABLE

The Grampians National Park is one of Australia's finest national parks. It is a place of great cultural significance containing irreplaceable Aboriginal artefacts and Aboriginal sites.

Parks Victoria is committed to the protection of this Aboriginal heritage and the environmental values of the Grampians. It works in partnership with Traditional Owners and a wide range of park user groups to achieve this.

Rock climbers are an important visitor group. Climbers enjoy the great challenges of climbing in the Grampians, and have done so for many years.

Parks Victoria is committed to building an ongoing strong working relationship, based on trust and understanding with the rock climbing community. The establishment of this roundtable process is a key part of this commitment.

We welcome participant suggestions for additional representatives at this roundtable and look forward to discussing this today, noting that it is important to keep the group to a workable size.

We will not be dealing with individual groups or representatives on matters that should be before the roundtable, so that everyone can have confidence that all key matters will be worked through together.

Proposals and ideas received from individual clubs and groups will be shared with all for discussion, and we will distribute to all participants these ideas and proposals; and proposals from Parks Victoria. Your proposals and ideas should be submitted via engage@parks.vic.gov.au so that they can be considered by the Independent Chair, and distributed to you all for review and discussion at a roundtable meeting.

Grampians Gariwerd Traditional Owners are our partners in caring for this landscape, and are deeply involved in the development of the management plan. Our conversations with them are continuing, including on matters relating to rock climbing.

Traditional Owners have indicated a desire to meet with representatives of the climbing community in the future, for an important discussion they want to have. At their request, we will be more than willing to facilitate that discussion at the time of their choosing.

Parks Victoria will continue to consult widely and listen to all views to ensure that the right balance is struck for the future of the Grampians Gariwerd and I thank you for your ongoing commitment.

Jeff Floyd

Chair