

GRAMPIANS LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Stakeholder Reference Group

Frequently Asked Questions

In partnership with Traditional Owner groups, Parks Victoria is preparing a new management plan for the Grampians landscape, an area that covers the Grampians National Park and adjacent parks and reserves.

The existing Grampians National Park Management Plan released in 2003 is over 15 years old. In that time bushfires and floods have impacted the landscape, as well as changes in visitor numbers and park use. Approaches to environmental and cultural heritage management have also evolved over this time.

The new management plan (the plan) will underpin strategic planning for the Grampians landscape over the next 15 years to ensure that precious environmental and cultural values of this iconic landscape are preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Parks Victoria is seeking input on the plan from a range of stakeholders and community members during 2019-20, including a Stakeholder Reference Group. This document provides background information about the Stakeholder Reference Group and its role in the development of the plan.

What is a stakeholder reference group (SRG)?

A Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) is a group of people brought together to represent the range of interests in a project or issue. They are typically established to provide feedback and advice to a decision-making body such as a government department or local council.

The benefits of having an SRG on a project is they:

- enhance communications between the affected stakeholders and decision makers
- encourage sharing of knowledge between stakeholders and decision makers
- provide opportunities to test ideas and topics with stakeholders.

Why is a SRG being established for the Grampians Landscape Management Plan development?

The Grampians Landscape is an important place for many Victorians. It is home to the most important botanical reserve in Victoria, diverse wildlife and the majority of surviving Aboriginal rock art sites in south-east Australia. It is also an important location for a range of recreational activities including bushwalking, rock-climbing, 4W driving and nature observation.

All of these values and interests will be affected by future planning and management of the Grampians landscape therefore, it is important they are represented in the development of the plan.

A SRG is being established to provide a forum for Parks Victoria and key stakeholders who represent these interests to discuss and test the plan through its development.

What is the role of the SRG?

While Parks Victoria is responsible for final decisions relating to the plan, the SRG will be a key source of stakeholder input and provides a regular forum for open and transparent discussion with key stakeholder groups and community representatives.

The group will:

- represent the views and aspirations of key stakeholder interests in the development of the plan
- obtain and share local input and knowledge from the communities and groups they represent
- help identify emerging issues and opportunities associated with the development of the plan
- participate in discussions around options, issues and opportunities
- foster stakeholder awareness and understanding of the project.

Who are the SRG members?

There are up to 15 members of the SRG. They represent the following areas of interest:

- Environment and conservation
- Cultural heritage
- Recreational use (including bush walking, rock-climbing, 4W driving)
- Tourism
- Education
- Neighbouring community
- Community and civic participation

The SRG will have an independent chair.

How were SRG members chosen?

Parks Victoria identified the organisations or groups that best represent each interest area above, typically established peak bodies. Where there was no recognised peak body for an interest group Parks Victoria worked with stakeholders to identify who would best represents their collective views.

Once approached to be a part of the SRG, each organisation selected the individual person who would take part in the SRG on their behalf.

How often will the SRG meet?

The SRG will meet five times over the development of the plan, on a quarterly basis. All meetings are held at Halls Gap.

Can the public contact SRG members?

To respect the privacy of SRG members, Parks Victoria will not share their personal contact details. However, questions for the SRG can be sent through to parkplan@parks.vic.gov.au. Parks Victoria will then share the questions with the SRG at their next meeting.

It is important to note that the SRG is an advisory group, not a decision-making body.

How can the public have their say in the Grampians Landscape Management Plan development?

We will be seeking input from local communities, recreational groups, tourism bodies, and other stakeholders through a variety of engagement opportunities during the review.

Register to receive project updates and information about engagement events at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/grampians-management-plan>