

Managing Country Together

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Contingency Plan for Licenced Tour Operators in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and Mount Arapiles – Tooan State Park.

The Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and Mount Arapiles – Tooan State Park are internationally renowned recreation destinations. In particular, world class rock climbing and bush walking opportunities attract a significant number of visitors who engage Licensed Tour Operators (LTOs) to undertake these activities.

To protect significant Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and values in the two parks LTOs authorised to undertake recreation activities must adhere to the following Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Contingency Plan outlined below.

The following steps are to be followed if suspected Aboriginal Ancestral remains are found.

1. Discovery:

- If suspected Ancestral human remains are discovered, **STOP ACTIVITIES IMMEDIATELY.**
- Leave the suspected remains in place, and protected from any harm or damage. It is of great importance that Aboriginal Ancestral remains are not disturbed from their burial place.
- **DO NOT** take any photography or video of the remains, unless instructed to do so by Parks Victoria's Managing Country Together staff, the Ancestral Remains Unit at the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council or the Coroner's Office.
- **DO NOT** contact the media.

2. Notification:

- You must **IMMEDIATELY** notify the relevant the Area Chief Ranger who will contact the appropriate Aboriginal Cultural Protection Heritage specialists.
- If the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Protection Specialist believe there is a chance that they are Ancestral Remains, they will immediately contact the **Ancestral Remains Unit (ARU), Victoria Police on 000 or the State Coroner's office (Via the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine - 1300 309 519)**. It is a legal requirement that the Coroner is responsible for the identification of human remains and determines if the remains are Aboriginal Ancestral remains.

3. Protection:

- The person in charge of the activity (LTO) must ensure that activities at the location of the discovery are suspended and an appropriate buffer established around the Aboriginal heritage place or site and/or object. If necessary isolate by safety webbing, flagging tape or another suitable barrier, usually with a 10-meter radius around the extent.
- All workers (climbing guides and group members) must be made aware of the discovery to avoid accidental disturbance.

4. Recommencement of Activities

- The ARU, in consultation with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party or Traditional Owner group, will determine the appropriate course of action as required by S.18(2)(b) of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. Activities are not to recommence until these requirements have been met.

To be followed if any other Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is uncovered during activities.

1. Discovery:

- If suspected Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is discovered, **STOP ACTIVITIES**, leave the heritage in place, and protected from any harm or damage.

2. Notification:

- Immediately notify the person in charge of the activity (LTO), the relevant Area Chief Ranger and Regional Aboriginal Heritage Coordinator or Aboriginal Heritage Operations Coordinator (who will notify Aboriginal Victoria).

3. Protection:

- The person in charge of the activity must ensure that activities at the location of the discovery are suspended and an appropriate buffer established around the Aboriginal heritage place or site and/or object. If necessary isolate by safety webbing, flagging tape or another suitable barrier, usually with a 10-meter radius around the extent.
- All workers (climbing guides and group members) must be made aware of the buffer zone.
- No activities are to continue within the buffer area at this point.
- Activities outside the area of exclusion may recommence if permission is given to do so by Parks Victoria.

4. Recommencement of Works

The Area Chief Ranger, Aboriginal Heritage Coordinator, and Registered Aboriginal Party or Traditional Owner organisations will collaborate and agree on the appropriate actions, including:

- Approvals and/or authorisations (Cultural Heritage Management Plan/ Cultural Heritage Permit).
- Update/ and or completion of relevant Aboriginal cultural heritage records for submission to Aboriginal Victoria.

Contacts

LTOs to carry this contact list with them when undertaking activities on site.

Role	Name	Organisation	Contact Number
Area Chief Ranger	Rhonda McNeil (Grampians)	Parks Victoria	T: 03 8427 3612 M: 0498 441 433
	Zoe Wilkinson (Wimmera)		T: 03 8427 2129 M: 0400 894 717
Victorian Police	Halls Gap Police	Victorian Police	000 (03) 5356 4411
	Natimuk		000 (03) 5387 1280
State Coroner's Office	Coronial Admissions and Enquiries line	State Coroner's Office	T: 1300 309 519
Manager Ancestral Remains Unit		Aboriginal Heritage Council Secretariat	T: 03 9651 2643
Regional Aboriginal Heritage Project Officer	David Flagg	Parks Victoria	T: 03 8427 3489 M: 0418 562 435
Registered Aboriginal Party or Traditional Owner group	Michael Stewart	BGLC	T: 03 5381 0977
	Stu Harradine		E: admin@bglc.com.au stuart.harradine@bglc.com.au
	John Clarke	Eastern Maar	T: 0474 890 009 E: john.clarke@easternmaar.com.au
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