



To:
Chair - Environment and Planning Committee
Legislative Council
Victorian Parliament

6 June 2025

Dear Chair and committee members

Inquiry into Community Consultation Practices - Climbing Victoria Submission

We would like to thank the Environment and Planning Committee of the Victorian Legislative Council for the opportunity to make a submission in response to the inquiry into community consultation practices by the Victorian government and its agencies.

Climbing Victoria is the representative body for recreational climbing organisations and individuals across Victoria, and includes member organisations: Outdoors Victoria, Victorian Climbing Club, Western Victoria Climbing Club, RMIT Outdoors Club and ClimbingQTs. As a peak body, we are built on a diverse and experienced community of over 2000 climbers, working together to support, advocate for, and grow the sport. Please refer to our website for further information (climbingvictoria.com).

Since 2019, the climbing community has been faced with an often dysfunctional and divisive relationship with Parks Victoria as it has developed contemporary management strategies and plans for public lands under its stewardship. The result of these processes has resulted in extensive restrictions and bans being imposed on access for both climbers and the general public, often without clear justification, transparency or accountability.

Through these challenges, the climbing community has continually sought to engage with Parks Victoria to establish and maintain respectful relationships, and yet time and again we have been excluded, misled, vilified and subject to prejudice and bias; as evidenced through the climbing community's detailed catalogue of events (savegrampiansclimbing.org).

Most recently, we have been engaging with Parks Victoria regarding the proposed amendment to the management plan for Dyurritte / Mount Arapiles, which has further evidenced Parks Victoria's fundamental failings in their obligations under the relevant acts, codes, and the charter of human rights. As a result, the climbing community has sought the intervention of the Minister for Environment and Outdoor Recreation. Please refer to attachments A, B and C.

We note that the Minister for the Environment and Outdoor Recreation announced a review of Parks Victoria on 28 November 2024 as it was not meeting community expectations, and that with the appointment of a new CEO - Lee Miezi there is the opportunity to significantly improve Parks Victoria's approach towards engagement with stakeholders and genuine partnerships in the stewardship and management of public lands.

Climbing Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Victoria and their deep, ongoing connections with their Country. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.



Notwithstanding the above, Climbing Victoria, indeed the wider climbing community, would welcome the opportunity to participate in public hearings to share our experiences of fundamentally flawed community consultation and engagement practices by Parks Victoria.

Best Regards

Board of Climbing Victoria

Contacts:

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Attachment A - Call to Action full page advert

Attachment B - CV Formal Response G&T letter

Attachment C - CV Solutions Letter

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