

Submission Text: I am incredibly passionate about giving back to the community, uplifting the people that make this place special and bringing people together to share and connect.

To put it simply, I love my community and this is my way of giving back. I moved to Natimuk roughly 4 years ago for rock climbing but it quickly became a place for so much more than that. Dyurrite/Mount Arapiles attracts people of all walks of life and many of them have stayed, like me, to make the Wimmera their home. There is a wealth of interests, expertise and skills and passions brewing here because of the diversity in people the mountain attracts. This is why I am also advocating for access, and a better management plan than the one that has been drafted by Parks Victoria and better community consultation - especially in this case where it is completely lacking.

My community is one of the reasons why I started Shared not Shut:
<https://sharednotshut.au/>

In addition to this, I also sit on the board of Climbing Victoria, the peak body for rock climbing in Victoria. I am heavily involved in the process that is currently happening with Minister Steve Dimopoulos, Parks Victoria and First People State Relations. Unfortunately Barengi Gadjin Land Council have not come to the table to be a part of these discussions.

My position on the board is as a representative of ClimbingQTs. One of Australia's biggest and by far most active climbing organisations with active programs in every state and territory. We also have a satellite program in Singapore and the UK. I founded ClimbingQTs in 2018 and was in the role of President up until November last year, at which point I stepped down from the role to free up capacity to advocate for Natimuk. I have worked incredibly hard to support access and inclusion in the outdoors for the most vulnerable members of our community and the way Parks Victoria and Labor has dealt with this process is not only far from best practice but completely fails to meet the obligations of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010, the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and demonstrates a complete disregard for rural communities, people with disabilities

and many other marginalised identities.

Parks Victoria is attempting to avoid public consultation and Labor is not doing enough to hold them accountable. There has still been no community consultation in this process. In addition to parks users and the local community, PV has also failed to consult with any Department or public authority including Horsham Rural City Council, Tourism Victoria and Regional Development Victoria.

I fully uphold the principles of supporting Aboriginal self-determination, but this does not mean blindly accepting the draft plan. To me, it means First Nations people have the power, right and resources to make decisions about their own lives, communities and future. However when this comes into conflict with non-Aboriginal people like myself, it does not have to be like this - it does not have to be a clash, rather there is a beautiful opportunity to build a stronger and fairer society and for the intersections to lead to celebration.

A lack of community consultation has multiple ramifications:

- It ignores the wealth of experience and depth of knowledge that climbers hold about climbing practices and climbers ability to abide by specific and granular restrictions, thereby resulting in a plan that is misinformed about how to best manage the activity.
- It ignores the impacts on major user groups, stakeholders, and on the social and economic well-being of local communities.
- It fosters division and frustration in communities, as well as a lack of faith in the process.
- By failing to provide the opportunity for a shared vision for management of the park for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders and user groups, the actions taken by PV are not conducive to reconciliation and treaty.

To date, Climbing Victoria and the Arapiles District Community Group representatives have brought significant and meaningful input to the Working Group with Parks Victoria, engaged in constructive dialogue and fully respected the confidentiality of the process. In return we have had minimal feedback on progress, including being completely uninformed of the Ministers involvement; we have been refused requests for further information that would help our understanding; we have been gagged on communicating anything meaningful to people we represent.

This is not genuine consultation, but simply a tick box exercise and the public have valid reasons to believe the input of the Working Group and the Submissions will be ignored.

See attached my PV submissions, outlining the issues that have arisen from Parks Victoria's failure to consult with community, and the Minister's failure to course correct.