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Industry Update - Summerday Valley access in Grampians National Park

1 message

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Industry Update

Access to Summerday Valley in Grampians National Park

Six month extension for licensed tour operators confirmed

Parks Victoria, in consultation with Traditional Owner groups, has confirmed a six-month licence extension will be issued for current licensed tour operators operating at Summerday Valley in the Grampians National Park.

The extension provides continuity across the busy spring and summer seasons, while a review of the national park's management plan continues.

Strict conditions will remain in place at Summerday Valley including a limit on operating locations; compulsory completion of an Aboriginal cultural heritage induction program; ongoing education for operators and their tour groups; clear identification for tour guides and their customers; use of a booking system to manage and monitor access; and reporting of visitor data to help with planning and review.

The current booking sites at Summerday Valley (which were emailed out on 26 July) remain the same and only licensed tour operators will continue to have access to these sites. Bookings can continue to be made by calling 13 1963 or emailing info@parks.vic.gov.au

How to extend your licence

Current licences are still valid until 30 September 2019. Parks Victoria will contact licensed tour operators directly with more detail about the six-month licence extensions within the next two weeks.

Cultural Heritage Inductions

Work to develop cultural heritage inductions with Traditional Owners is progressing well. It is anticipated that induction sessions for licensed tour operators will be scheduled to begin in September. More details will be provided once they are confirmed.

Grampians Landscape Management Plan

Since announcing the existing restrictions on recreation activities in Special Protection Areas, which make up around 30 per cent of the Grampians National Park, Parks Victoria has been undertaking park assessments and progressing the development of a new Grampians Landscape Management Plan. Once complete, the Grampians Landscape Management Plan will provide longer-term direction on how the park is accessed and used for

recreation, as well as a framework for environmental conservation; cultural heritage and protection of Aboriginal rock art; tourism opportunities; visitor safety and experience; and management of fire and water catchments.

Community workshops on the new management plan will be held throughout September, along with opportunities for people to get involved online through the Engage Victoria website.

Getting the message out

A media release will be issued by Parks Victoria announcing the licence extension, industry stakeholders will be informed, and our website will be updated.

Parks Victoria will continue to communicate that rock climbing is permitted in the Grampians outside of Special Protection Areas, and in Summerday Valley with licensed tour operators. We encourage you to continue reflecting this in your communications, and refer customers to our website so they understand where climbing is permitted: https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/grampians-national-park/things-to-do/abseiling-and-rock-climbing

For further information please contact 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

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