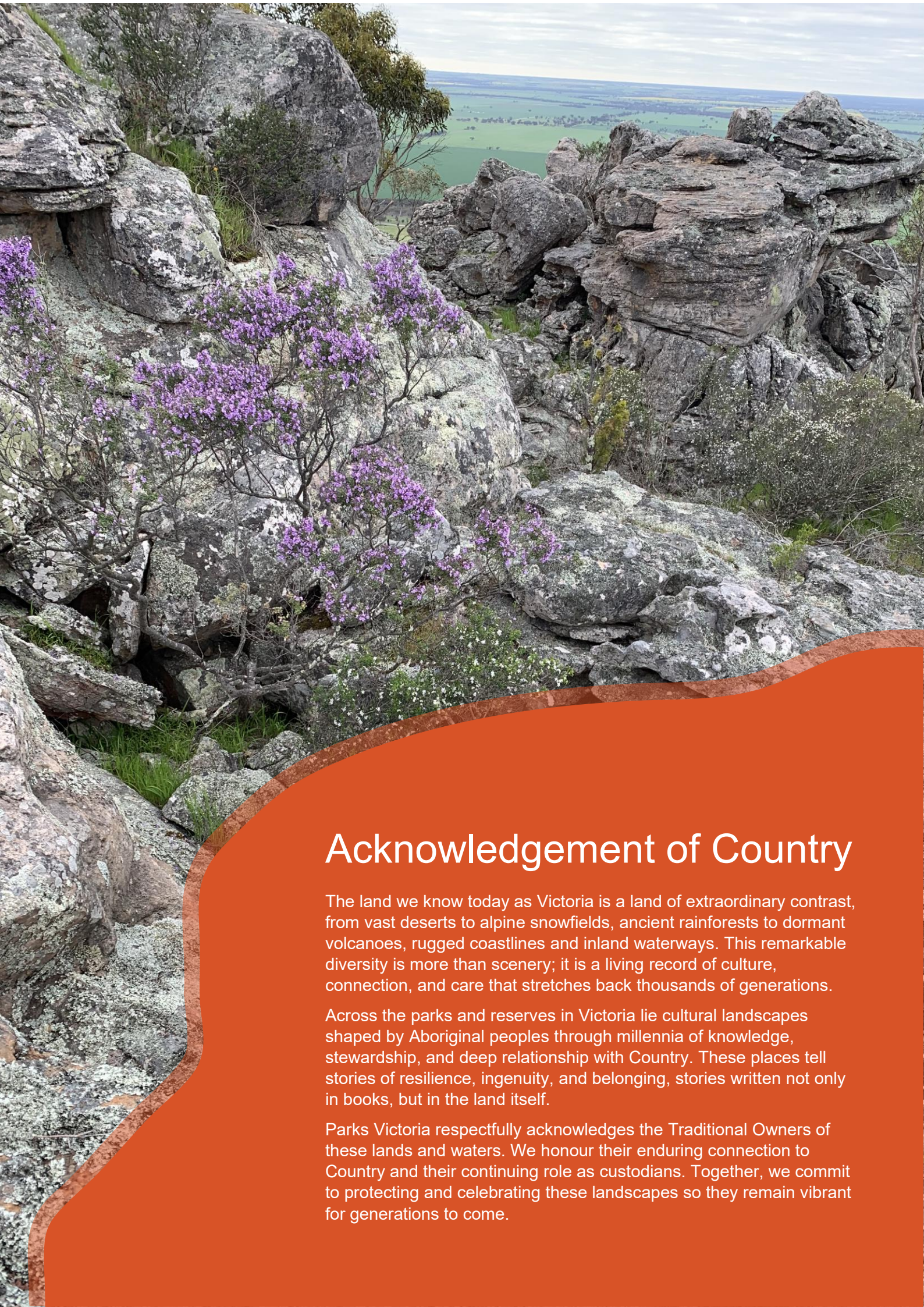


Mount Arapiles-Toooan State Park (Dyurrite Cultural Landscape)

Draft Management Plan Addendum

July 2026





Acknowledgement of Country

The land we know today as Victoria is a land of extraordinary contrast, from vast deserts to alpine snowfields, ancient rainforests to dormant volcanoes, rugged coastlines and inland waterways. This remarkable diversity is more than scenery; it is a living record of culture, connection, and care that stretches back thousands of generations.

Across the parks and reserves in Victoria lie cultural landscapes shaped by Aboriginal peoples through millennia of knowledge, stewardship, and deep relationship with Country. These places tell stories of resilience, ingenuity, and belonging, stories written not only in books, but in the land itself.

Parks Victoria respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of these lands and waters. We honour their enduring connection to Country and their continuing role as custodians. Together, we commit to protecting and celebrating these landscapes so they remain vibrant for generations to come.

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Acknowledgement of Country: Clare Johnston

Contents page: Clare Johnston

1 Addendum

1.1 Purpose

This document is to be read as an addendum to the *Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park Management Plan 1991* and takes precedence so far as there are any inconsistencies.

This addendum has been prepared by Parks Victoria to provide the public with details of the proposed change of conditions for the Mt Arapiles-Tooan State Park (Dyurrite Cultural Landscape) Management Plan. The addendum will provide clearer guidance on where recreational activities (including rock climbing) can take place helping provide certainty for Traditional Owners, climbers and other visitors.

Dyurrite is the Wotjobaluk Nations' name for Mt Arapiles and is used for the remainder of this document to represent the area.

The aim of the addendum is to better protect the cultural and environmental values of the Dyurrite landscape for current and future generations and support access to nature and recreation.

An amendment to the Mount Arapiles–Tooan State Park (Dyurrite Cultural Landscape) Management Plan will enact this addendum.

2 Background

2.1 Recognition of Wotjobaluk Nations

The Dyurrite Cultural Landscape is managed by Parks Victoria with the support of Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation represents the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk People of the Wotjobaluk Nations - known collectively as the Wotjobaluk People.

The Wotjobaluk People are recognised as the Traditional Owners of the Dyurrite Cultural Landscape under Victorian and Commonwealth legislation:

- Barengi Gadjin Land Council's status as a Registered Aboriginal Party under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* provides the right and legal responsibility to Care for Country, and to be recognised as the primary source of advice and knowledge on matters related to the protection and management of Wotjobaluk Peoples' cultural heritage.
- Barengi Gadjin Land Council is the Registered Native Title Body Corporate that represents the Wotjobaluk People as native title holders under the *Native Title Act 1993*.
- Barengi Gadjin Land Council is the Traditional Owner group entity that represents the Wotjobaluk People as rights holders under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*.

In December 2025 the Yity Yity Land Management Board was established pursuant to Section 82B of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*. The role of the Board is to enable the knowledge and culture of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk People to be recognised and incorporated into the management of their Appointed Land, which includes Dyurrite. This will involve preparing a Joint Management Plan for the Appointed Land.

2.2 Dyurrite cultural heritage values

Dyurrite is a living cultural landscape which links the past with the present and continues into the future.

In 2020 rediscoveries of Aboriginal cultural heritage, including scarred trees, rock art with evidence dating back 3000 years, and one of the largest stone quarry complexes found in Australia further demonstrated that Dyurrite has been a significant place for the Wotjobaluk Peoples for tens of thousands of years.

Comprehensive archaeological surveys confirmed the Dyurrite Cultural Landscape as a place rich with cultural heritage.

The re-discovered cultural heritage has been registered through the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register and Parks Victoria, as the land manager, is obligated to ensure management controls are in place to protect it under the.

The mitigations and changes to access outlined in this addendum would significantly improve the existing protections of cultural heritage at Dyurrite, replacing the five voluntary closure areas currently in place.

2.3 Dyurrite local values and climbing

Visitor experiences at Dyurrite are important to the local community and climbers for many reasons including connection to nature and friends, emotional wellbeing and mental health benefits, and economic and tourism benefits.

Through community consultation between November 2024 and February 2025, many participants emphasised the personal and communal value of the park. People shared personal stories about their experiences and love for climbing, as well as their care for nature at Dyurrite, including their stewardship of the landscape.

Climbing is a core recreational opportunity with the range and accessibility of climbs, from beginner grades through to some of the world's most challenging climbs, makes Dyurrite a sought-after climbing experience, both locally and internationally. Dyurrite also offers a range of climbs suitable for all-abilities climbers.

The landscape makes it a popular hiking and camping experience supported by diverse tracks and visitor facilities, including a simple but well utilised campsite.

Dyurrite is seen as important for the economic and tourism value it brings to local and regional communities, particularly Natimuk, Horsham, and the wider Wimmera region. The park is an important community asset, supporting community uses such as bush kindergarten and providing a space for families and groups to come together for picnics and gatherings.

Improving visitor facilities will help improve the visitor experience for both existing users of the park as well as encourage a wider range of people to enjoy and appreciate the natural, cultural and recreational values of Dyurrite.

3 Dyurrite Community Working Group

3.1 Evaluation of risk to cultural values

A new approach has been developed to better protect the cultural values of the Dyurrite landscape and support access to nature and recreation. A series of workshops involving rock climbing, local community representatives and Barengi Gadjin Land Council identified where rock climbing activities interacted with cultural heritage values and what mitigation actions might be feasible to reduce the risk of harm to these values while enabling recreational access including climbing to continue in areas where there was a lower risk of harm.

3.1.1 Process

The workshop assessments were undertaken in accordance with a robust Guidance Framework, prepared in consultation with the Dyurrite Community Working Group. It was developed in alignment with Victorian Government Risk Management Framework 2025 and the Burra Charter (a globally recognised set of principles for managing and conserving cultural heritage places). The details can be found in Appendix 1 and 2.

The Guidance Framework provided a transparent process for representatives to take part in a sub working group to review climbing related activities that intersect with cultural heritage. This ensured input provided by these representatives was risk and evidence based.

The Guidance Framework followed a structured, consistent process for providing advice about climbing related activities (including access), assessing risks they pose to Aboriginal cultural heritage and providing advice on possible risk mitigations. All assessment of risk under the Framework were demonstrable and evidence based.

The process that was followed went through 4 steps:

- **Step 1 – What’s here?** – what cultural values are present
- **Step 2 – Could this cause harm?** – does the recreational activities intersect or interact with the cultural values and give rise to a demonstrable and evidence-based risk of harm
- **Step 3 – Can the risk be reduced?** – what practical measures are available to avoid, minimise or manage the identified risk
- **Step 4 – Provide advice on appropriate outcome** – clearly document advice, including the evidence relied upon, the risk assessment undertaken, the mitigations measures considered and why they were not adopted and the justification (in a manner that protects sensitive cultural information)

Information provided to Parks Victoria for review sufficiently documented the process and evidence used. Barengi Gadjin Land Council provided the outputs of the workshops and requested physical barriers such as fencing of registered extents be used to further protect cultural heritage.

Decisions regarding access, restrictions or prohibition remain the responsibility of Parks Victoria as the land manager in accordance with its statutory obligations, including under the *Parks Victoria Act 2018*, *National Parks Act 1975 and regulations* and *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

3.2 Monitoring

Monitoring of cultural and environmental values will continue at Dyurrite to ensure their ongoing protection.

If further cultural values are rediscovered or climbing areas are found to interact with cultural or natural values, the process above will be used to assess the risk to these values.

4 Management strategies

Work with Barengi Gadjin Land Council and user groups to investigate further physical barriers (including fencing, screening and revegetation and laying of brush/logs) to protect cultural heritage, noting there may be practical limitations and may require further approvals.

Work with Barengi Gadjin Land Council and user groups to implement mitigations identified in **Table 1** to reduce the risk of harm to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

Allow climbing (including abseiling) and bouldering except in exclusion zones where climbing, bouldering and access is not permitted (including areas for the protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Appendix 3 maps, seasonal closures for Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) nesting, areas for the protection of threatened species, for example Skeleton Fork-fern (*Psilotum nudum*)).

Investigate feasibility of site protection measures, such as ground hardening or platforms to reduce the risk of harm to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage at Pharos Back Wall and Pharos Boulders.

Develop a program to rehabilitate (where appropriate) informal tracks in consultation with Barengi Gadjin Land Council and user groups, with priority for endangered native grass-dominated areas in Scree-slope Woodland and Shallow Sands Woodland.

Work with Barengi Gadjin Land Council and First Peoples State Relations to undertake monitoring, education and compliance where required to support protections for cultural and environmental values.

Where any further rediscoveries of Aboriginal cultural heritage and intersections with climbing or other recreational activities are identified, undertake a risk-based assessment in accordance with Section 3.1.1 to determine appropriate management actions to reduce the risk of harm.

Support visitors to continue their stewardship of Dyurrite and build their understanding of Dyurrite as a cultural landscape.

Encourage visitors to:

- Use designated tracks and routes to access climbing and bouldering areas where possible
- Adhere to any area closure which may be applied to areas as required, e.g. rediscoveries of Aboriginal cultural heritage or plants of environmental significance
- Acknowledge that Parks Victoria cannot and does not warrant that any fixed protection (bolt anchors, belay points, abseil stations, alternative fixing methods etc.) that have been installed or maintained and is at a suitable standard, and that use is at the climber's discretion and that they therefore agree to assess and accept the risk of use
- Minimise impacts on vegetation close to boulders and climbing routes.

Provide visitor information, including on the Parks Victoria website, to share and build awareness of changes to access at Dyurrite, enhance cultural and environmental awareness and celebrate the significance of Dyurrite in collaboration with Barengi Gadjin Land Council and user groups.

Establish mechanisms (such as community reference groups or other forums) to better engage the local community and user groups on the ongoing park management.

Improve together with Barengi Gadjin Land Council the diversity of recreational opportunities and supporting infrastructure for community to continue to build connection with Dyurrite as a cultural landscape.

4.1 Mitigations to protect cultural heritage – Table 1

Area	Mitigations
Bushrangers Bluff	Investigate signage installation to confirm closure of left side of wall
Comic Strip	All climbs to be lower off only (no walk-off) to avoid protected area
Bum Rock	All climbs to be lower off only (no walk-off) to avoid protected area
Pilot Error	Climbs Gilt Edged, Intangled and Kryptonite Crack to be lower off only (no top-out) to avoid protected areas Avoid walking close to wall at Kryptonite Ledge to avoid protected areas Re-route climb Neta to start at Mesa accessing climbs from the other side of boulders to avoid entering the cave Investigate installation of log barrier/signage before the climb Fixed Smile
D Minor Pinnacle	Re-route the start of Aardvark to avoid protected area

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Area	Mitigations
Minstrel Pinnacle	Re-route climbs: Pestilence and Chancre to front of Minstrel Pinnacle to avoid protected area
Bluff Major (Thundercrack Area)	Re-route the start of climbs: Final Departure, Station to Station, The Prow to avoid protected area
Bluff Major North Face (Anxiety Area)	Re-route the start of climbs: Karma Sutra, The Mule, Holey Moses to avoid protected area
Denim Wall	Re-route climb: Stretch Faberge to access from right to avoid protected area Re-route the first pitches of Raison D'etrier, Dead and Buried to avoid protected area
Fang Buttress	Re-route: Downward Bound to start from the right and avoid protected area
Bard Buttress	Re-route: The Desired and Orpheus to start at Eurydice to avoid protected area
Plaque Rock	Climbs: Cumelittle, Everest without Oxygen are to be lower off only (no top-out) to avoid protected area
Tiger Wall	Define the track along Tiger Wall at cliff base with brush, plantings, logs or low-key fencing to avoid walking through protected area Re-route: No Future to start from Kaiser to avoid protected area Re-route the climbs: Tiger Wall, Syrinx, Syrinx Direct, Boy Racer, Sunday Best, Deathwatch Beetle, Radish, Shaggy's Route, The Dribble to lower off only (no top-outs or walk-offs) to avoid protected areas
Castle Crag	Investigate the installation of a log barrier to define access at tunnel that will further protect cultural heritage Re-route Nati Dread to come up through the tunnel to avoid protected area
The Pharos Boulders	Mitigations such as hard surfacing to be investigated to avoid protected areas
Pharos Backwall	Investigate platform options to avoid protected area
Pharos Frontwall	Re-route the start of Five Fingered Mary and Horus to avoid protected areas
Voidoid Area	Jack Ass Crack and Last New Route at Arapiles are to be lower off only (no top-out) to avoid protected areas
Lower Yesterday Gully	Investigate diverting path away from the climb Elongate through installation of a rock or log to avoid protected area
Watchtower	Investigate the installation of a barrier to close access to cave
Lou and Evelyn Wall	Re-route the start of Fox Hole Escape to avoid protected area
Werewolf	All climbs to lower off only (no top-out) to avoid protected areas
Mitre Rock Guiding Light Area	Re-route the start of climbs: Behemoth, Guiding Light, He Certainly Is, The Emperor Strikes Back, and access climbs behind boulder close to wall to avoid protected areas

5 Appendices

5.1 Appendix 1 – Evaluation principles for decision making process

1. All Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected from harm, alongside continued use of the land, in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.
2. Evaluations will seek to avoid or minimise risks through the least restrictive measures in accordance with a structured risk assessment methodology, documenting any residual risk that would remain.
3. Access and use to public land is to be facilitated except where there is an unacceptable risk that would remain.
4. The Burra Charter should be used as a reference, including:
 - a. Acknowledgement of coexistence of cultural values
 - b. Significance base management
 - c. Minimal necessary intervention
 - d. Proportionality of response
 - e. Retention of compatible uses where they do not adversely affect cultural significance
 - f. Evaluations will be rational, evidence based, and proportionate and take into account relevant considerations while avoiding reliance on unsupported assumptions.
5. Risk of harm must be identified by reference to a credible evidence-based mechanism supported by identifiable information or analysis by which the activity could impact the cultural heritage value and:
 - a. assess risk through evidence and structured analysis
 - b. recognise that not all risk must be eliminated, but managed
 - c. ensure similar situations are assessed consistently
6. Restrictions on access will only be applied where a demonstrable and evidence-based risk of harm is identified and cannot be adequately mitigated and where it has been demonstrated that less restrictive measures are insufficient.
7. Where impacts can be avoided or reduced through practical measures, access should be maintained, and less restrictive measures must be preferred.
8. Both tangible and intangible cultural heritage values must be considered. Impacts must be supported by identification of how harm may occur and the basis for that conclusion having regard to the context and extent of the value being protected, with a default for coexistence options.
9. Evaluations will be documented in a manner that protects sensitive information and supports transparency, reviewability and proportionality.

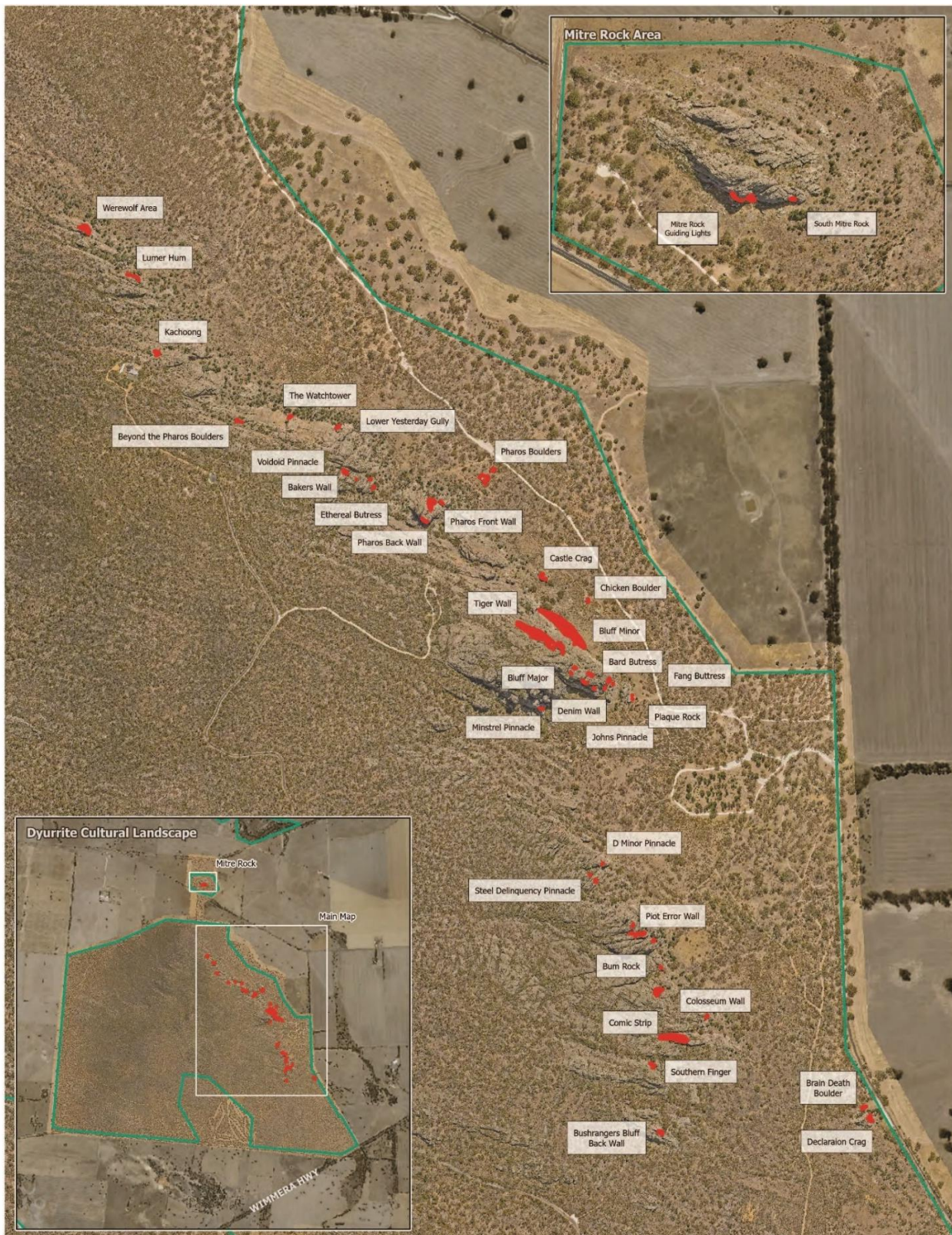
5.2 Appendix 2 – Risk management framework

The assessments applied the risk management framework by applying it consistently across comparable situations to ensure equitable and predictable outcomes.

1. Identifying the type of cultural heritage at risk
2. Describing the climbing related activities that may put the cultural heritage at risk of harm
3. Determining the likely consequence of the potential harm
4. Determining the likelihood of that harm occurring
5. Documenting the risk level before any mitigation is implemented.
6. Identifying the appropriate mitigation
7. Documenting the residual risk level after the appropriate mitigation is implemented

CONSEQUENCE	Extreme 5	6 - Medium	7 - Significant	8 - Significant	9 - High	10 - High
	Major 4	5 - Medium	6 - Medium	7 - Significant	8 - Significant	9 - High
	Moderate 3	4 - Low	5 - Medium	6 - Medium	7 - Significant	8 - Significant
	Minor 2	3 - Low	4 - Low	5 - Medium	6 - Medium	7 - Significant
	Minimal 1	2 - Low	3 - Low	4 - Low	5 - Medium	6 - Medium
		Rare (1)	Unlikely (2)	Possible (3)	Likely (4)	Almost certain (5)
LIKELIHOOD						

5.3 Appendix 3 – Maps showing prohibited areas



Dyurrite Cultural Landscape - Proposed Protection Area

13/07/2026

■ Proposed Protection Area
□ Park Boundary

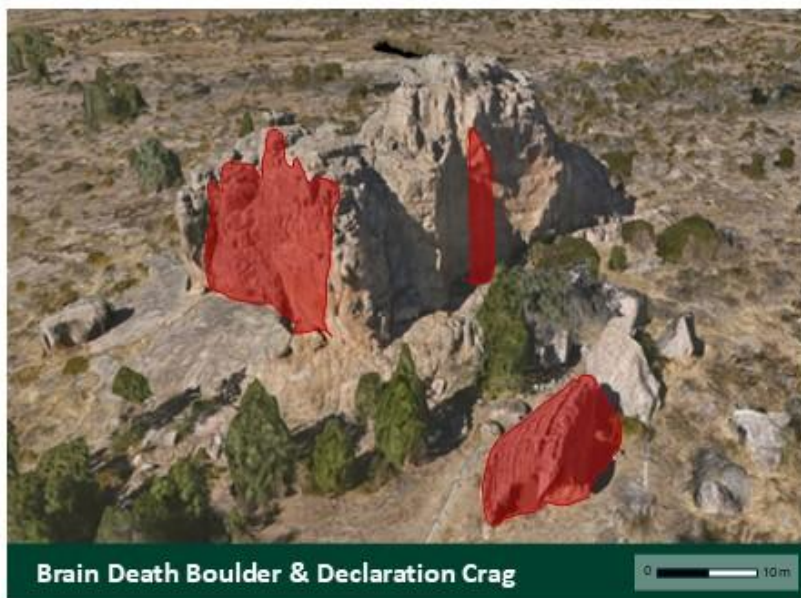
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Below is a list of known areas and climbs subject to proposed mitigations or prohibited access areas

AREA	CLIMBS RE-ROUTED	CLIMBS CLOSED
Declaration Crag	0	7
Brain Death Boulder	0	All
Bushranger Bluff Back Wall	0	4
Southern Finger	0	0
Comic Strip Wall	0	0
Colosseum Wall	0	3
White Mice Walls	0	2
Upper Hunger	0	0
Bum Rock	0	0
Baby Buttress	0	4
Pilot Error Wall	5	5
Lois Lane Wall	0	4
Steel Delinquency Pinnacle	0	2
D Minor	1	0
Minstrel Pinnacle	2	0
Denim Wall	3	1
Johns Pinnacle and Below	0	3
Plaque Rock	2	1
Fang Buttress	1	0
Bard Buttress	2	0
Bluff Major North Face (Anxiety Area)	3	0
Bluff Minor (Flinders Lane Area)	0	3
Bluff Major (Thundercrack Area)	3	0
Tiger Wall	11	3
Islamabad Bouldering Area	0	All
Chicken Boulder	0	3
Castle Crag	2	6
The Pharos Boulders	0	All
Pharos Front Wall	2	2
Pharos (entry to Spasm Chasm)	0	1
Pharos Back Wall	0	2
Ethereal Buttress	0	2

AREA	CLIMBS RE-ROUTED	CLIMBS CLOSED
Lower Yesterday Gully	0	1
Bakers Wall	0	1
Voidoid Pinnacle	2	0
The Pinnacle Face	0	2
The Watchtower	0	2
Beyond The Pharos Boulders	0	2
Kachoong	1	3
Evelyn and Lou	1	0
Lower Hum	0	6
Werewolf Area	0	0
Mitre Rock Guiding Light Area	4	1
South Mitre Right Side	0	1

All Prohibited areas are shown in maps as a red polygon



Declaration Crag

Climbs closed include:

Craddock Creek, Marshmallow Sea x 2, Sunny Gully, All Decked Out, Deck Games, Steps Ahead

Brain Death Boulder

All climbing routes closed



Bushranger Bluff Back Wall

Climbs closed include:

Troopers 0, 1, 2, 3



Southern Finger

Cultural heritage better protected without closure of known climbing routes



Comic Strip Wall

Lower off only (no walk off)



Colosseum Wall

Climbs closed include:

The Rack, Christian Crack,
Crucifixion



White Mice Walls

Climbs closed include:

Left Hand Variant, Right Hand
Variant



Upper Hunger

Cultural heritage better protected
without closure of known climbing
routes



Bum Rock

Lower off only (no walk off)



Baby Buttress

Climbs closed include:

Tendrill, Metronome, Falsetto, A Cappella



Pilot Error Wall

Climbs closed include:

Fixed Smile, Togrul Khan, Tarzan, Pilot Error

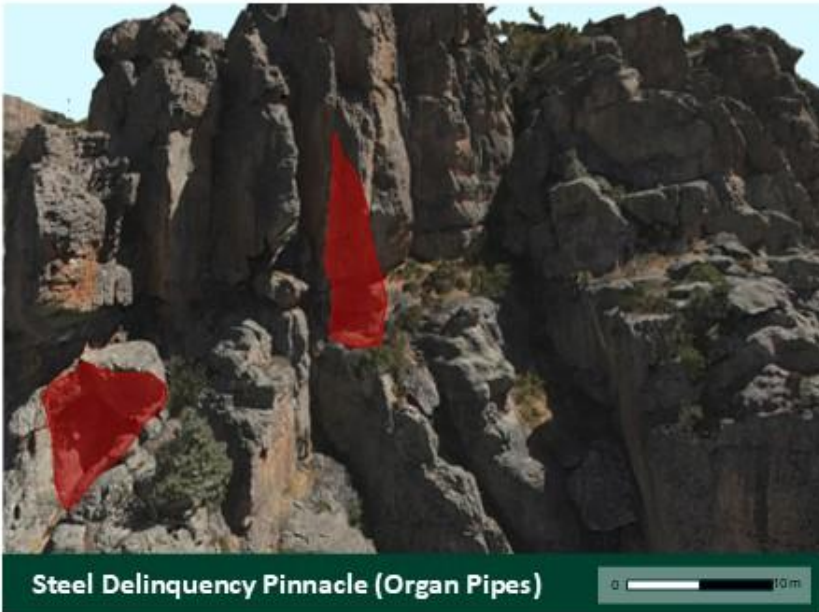
Five climbs re-routed:

Gilt Edged, Intangled, Kryptonite Crack, Mesa, Neta

Lois Lane Wall

Climbs closed include:

Reunion, Calypso, Contraction, Beasley Street



Steel Delinquency Pinnacle (Organ Pipes)

Climbs closed include:

Frenzy, Trench Warfare



D Minor Pinnacle

One climb re-routed:

Aardvark



Minstrel Pinnacle

Two climbs re-routed:

Pestilence, Chancre



Denim Wall

Climbs closed include:

Vixen

Three climbs re-routed:

Raison D'etrier, Dead and Buried,
Stretch Faberge

Johns Pinnacle and below

Climbs closed include:

Allez, Nursery Rhymes, The
Dude Abides



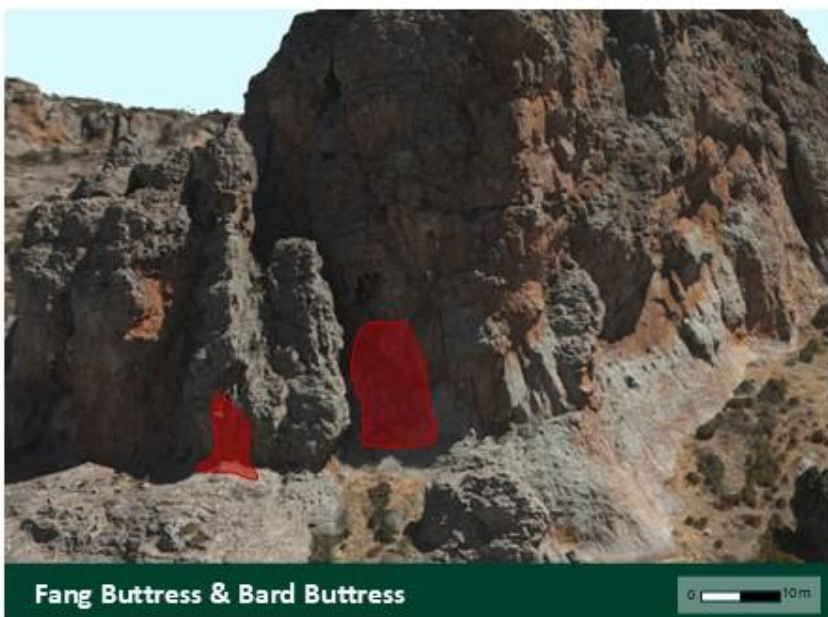
Plaque Rock

Climbs closed include:

Age of Reason

Two climbs re-routed:

Cumelittle, Everest Without
Oxygen



Fang Buttress

One climb re-routed:

Downward Bound

Bard Buttress

Two climbs re-routed:

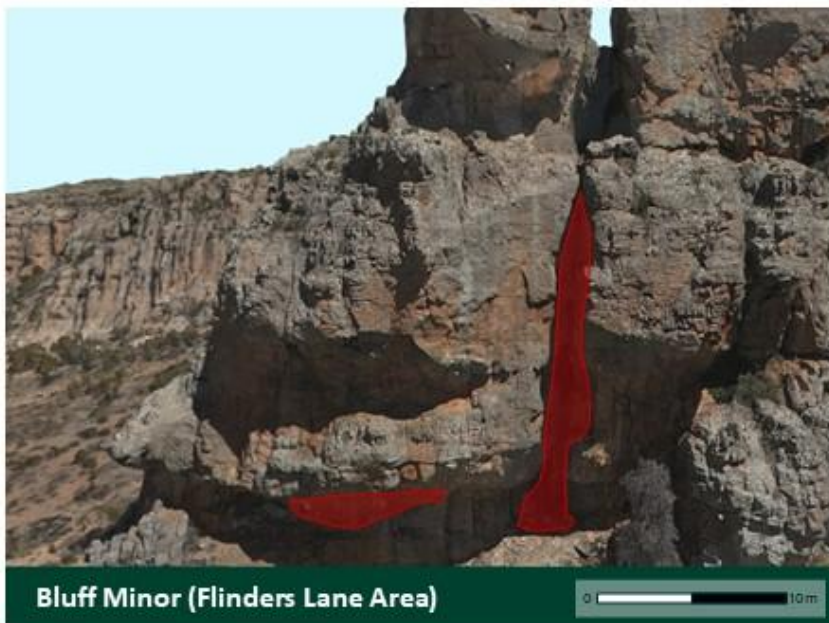
The Desired, Orpheus



Bluff Major North Face (Anxiety Area)

Three climbs re-routed:

Karma Sutra, The Mule, Holey Moses



Bluff Minor (Flinders Lane Area)

Climbs closed include:

Inquisition, The Last Laugh, Jerry Project



Bluff Major (Thundercrack Area)

Three climbs re-routed:

Final Departure, Station to Station, The Prow



Tiger Wall

Climbs closed include:

Seneca, Headbanger and The Eighth Extension

11 climbs re-routed:

No Future, Tiger Wall, Syrinx, Syrinx Direct, Boy Racer, Sunday Best, Deathwatch Beetle, Radish, Shaggy's Route, The Dribble

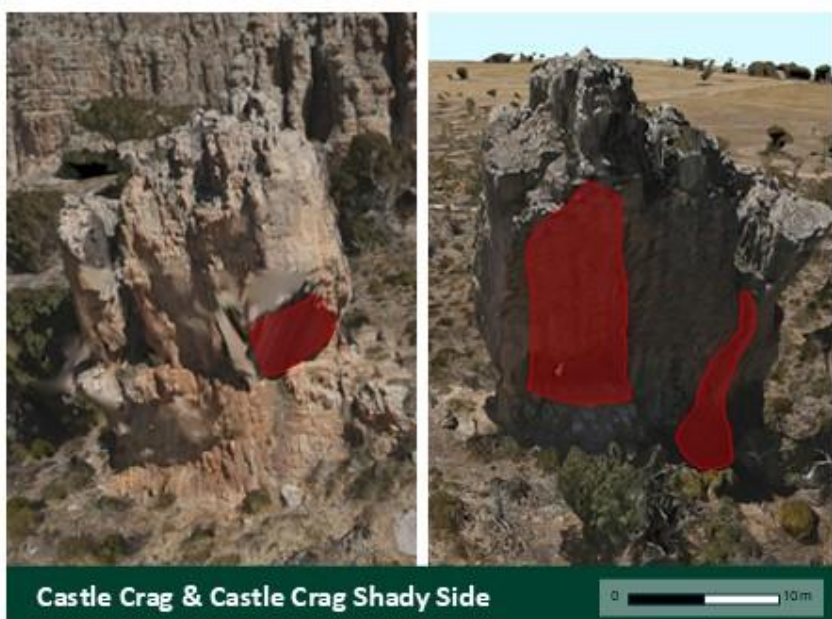
Islamabad Bouldering Area – closed



Chicken Boulder

Climbs closed include:

Between Fear and Desire, Pete's Problem aka TLC, V9



Castle Crag

Two climbs re-routed:

Nati Dread, Procul Harum

Castle Crag Shady Side

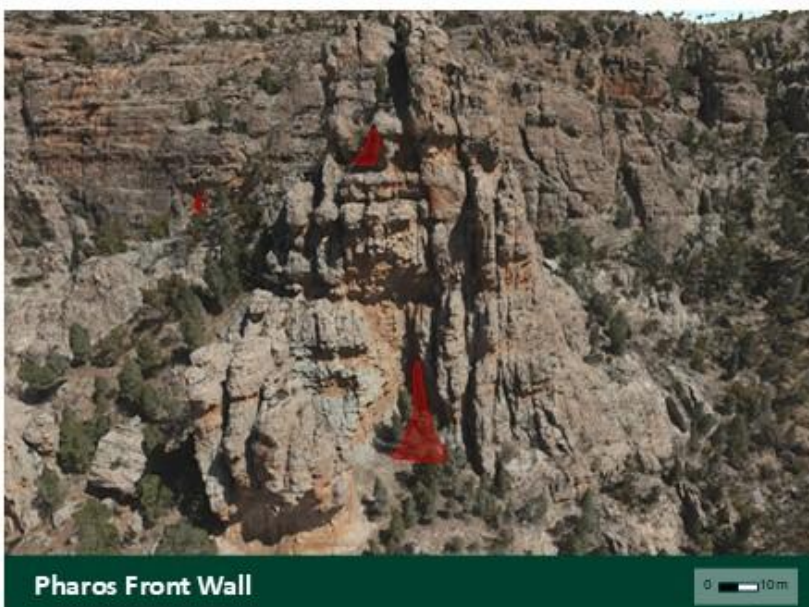
Climbs closed include:

Siva, The Overtaker, The Caretaker, The Undertaker, Blow Up, Cunrack



The Pharos Boulders

All climbing routes closed including:
Around the World, Monkey Puzzle,
Superman Boulder, Finalgon
Boulder



Pharos Front Wall

Climbs closed include:
Prevarication, Sport Climb This,
Undercover
Two climbs re-routed:
Horus, Five Fingered Mary



Pharos (entry to Spasm Chasm)

Climbs closed include:
Project



Pharos Back Wall

Climbs closed include:

Masada, Trojan



Ethereal Buttress

Climbs closed include:

High Traverse, Ministry of Fig Pluckers, Zub, Cyclops

Lower Yesterday Gully

Climbs closed include:

Elongate



Bakers Wall

Climbs closed include:

Load Shooter



Voidoid Pinnacle

Two climbs re-routed:

Jack Ass Creek, Last New Route –
(lower off only)



The Pinnacle Face

Climbs closed include:

Just Out of Habit, Cruella de Ville



The Watchtower

Climbs closed include:

Pumping, Project Route



Beyond the Pharos Boulders

Climbs closed include:

Beware of the Slee Stacks, Hokey Pokey



Kachoong

Climbs closed include:

Power, Lies and Corruption, Cellular Destruction, Cellular Banana

One climb re-routed:

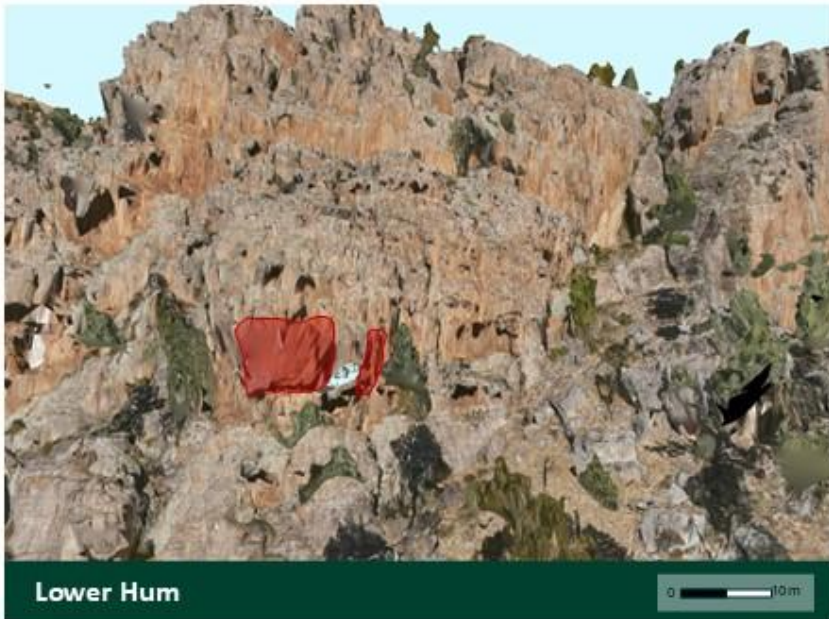
High Dive



Evelyn and Lou

One climb re-routed:

The Foxhole Explorer



Lower Hum

Climbs closed include:

Bitter Blue, Fretwork,
Anchorman's Delight, Womens
Weekly World Discovery Tour,
Fade Out, All in Vein



Werewolf Area

Lower off (no top out)



Mitre Rock Guiding Light Area

Climbs closed include:

Seamy Side

Four climbs re-routed:

Behemoth, Guiding Light, He
Certainly Is, The Emperor Strikes
Back



South Mitre Right Side

Climbs closed include:

Cooking for Beginners

6 Definitions

6.1 Harm

The key definitions of harm below were applied in recognising risks to Aboriginal cultural heritage under the framework.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* provides the following definition: harm, in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage, includes damage, deface, desecrate, destroy, disturb, injure or interfere with.

However, the terms damage, deface, desecrate, destroy, disturb, injure, or interfere with are not defined in the Act so we rely on their common dictionary definitions.

In this context, the definitions of these terms are as follows:

- Damage - Inflict physical harm on (something) so as to impair its value, usefulness, or normal function
- Deface - Spoil the surface or appearance of (something), for example by drawing or writing on it
- Desecrate - Treat (a sacred place or thing) with violent disrespect
- Destroy - End the existence of (something) by damaging or attacking it
- Disturb - Interfere with the normal arrangement or functioning of something
- Injure - Harm or impair [weaken or lessen] (something)
- Interfere with - Prevent something from operating or existing in the correct way

Climbing Related Activities that may put the cultural heritage at risk of harm (Hazard ID)

- Climbing itself
- Activities around the base of climbs
- Bolting and placement of natural protection
- Approaches to climbs
- Descent from climbs

