



4th October, 2018

Victorian Climbing Club/CliffCare
G.P.O. Box 1725
Melbourne Victoria 3000



ATTENTION: Matthew Jackson
Chief Executive Officer - Parks Victoria

**VICTORIAN CLIMBING CLUB/CLIFFCARE PROPOSAL
CLIMBING POLICY CODE OF CONDUCT UPDATE FOR VICTORIAN PARKS**

The Victorian Climbing Club and CliffCare, on behalf of the Victorian climbing community, would welcome the opportunity to discuss and collaborate on an updated, and therefore more relevant, climbing code than that which currently sits within the suite of codes and policies that Parks Victoria operate under (dating back to 2003). The current code as it stands no longer works for the modern recreational activity of climbing. This allows for inconsistent messages from park staff and can mean that park users from the climbing community can compromise outdated park codes of conduct by simply engaging in an activity they love.

Concerns from Land Managers about the impact to both environmental and cultural values from increased visitation to the parks is understandable. Our wish, as the peak representative body for climbing in Victoria, is to encourage active involvement in coordinated efforts - to help preserve these park values and the cliff environments where we climb and to ensure that climbing as a recognized and promoted activity in the parks, can continue sustainably, as it evolves. As an important user group in many of the parks in Victoria, we feel our needs and values as such, should be respected and taken into account.

It is also our wish to maintain good relations and collaborations with Traditional Owners, Land Councils and other park users and stakeholders.

An updated code or Operational Policy for rockclimbing in the parks of Victoria, would benefit both the climbing community and Land Managers in a number of ways.

- Updated recognition of the evolving and growing sport of climbing in all its forms, including: traditional climbing, sport climbing, and bouldering. This would allow the wider climbing community to engage more actively in a role of stewardship which we feel is the way forward to helping to manage climber impacts.
- Provide a framework to further build on codes of conduct and Climbing Management Plans for specific parks addressing specific issues and requirements. Including the provision to be flexible and vary the policy for individual parks.
- Provide clearer boundaries for both climbers and land managers in current and future use of the parks, such as styles and practices employed.
- Provide ongoing and consistent guidance and advice to changing park staff resources and park stakeholders.

We look forward to further discussions on the above proposal. I can be contacted via phone 0425 771 413 email: cliffcare@vicclimb.org.au

Regards,

Tracey Skinner
VCC Access & Environment Officer

Paula Toal
VCC President

CC: Simon Talbot - Chief Operating Officer, Parks Victoria
Stuart Hughes - Director Park Planning & Policy