

ACAV Media Release Wednesday 19 June, 2019

Lockout motion passes in Victorian Parliament Upper House

Thank you to the MASSIVE amount of ACAV members and non-members who responded to the ACAV Committee's request to send emails to Legislative Council members and share their stories and lobby in favour of the [Lockout motion](#).

Today, Wednesday 19 June, [Tim Quilty](#) put forward the Lockout motion to the Victorian Upper House for debate:

MR QUILTY

I give notice that, on the next day of meeting, I will move —

That this House —

- (1) recognises that the Government has locked Victorians out of public land, and in doing so has —
 - (a) prevented enjoyment of outdoor recreation, caused severe distress to affected businesses and disrupted long-running events;
 - (b) in many instances, failed to —
 - (i) consult with affected parties;
 - (ii) construct public land arrangements that satisfy all users that rely on public land access;
 - (iii) provide notice to public land users;
 - (iv) provide adequate recourse to public land users;
- (2) notes that —
 - (a) cultural heritage legislation is a cause of many lockouts;
 - (b) Parks Victoria manages regional public land from a centralised office in Melbourne;
- (3) calls on the Government to —
 - (a) improve accountability in Parks Victoria and Aboriginal Victoria; and
 - (b) consider a decentralised management structure for public lands so that local communities have a guaranteed opportunity to provide input on all significant decisions made about public land.

These lockouts are a major issue that we face on behalf of future generations of climbers and all who love the outdoors.

Many members spoke in favour of the motion and shared their own personal memories of the Grampians National Park.

In particular, [Bev McArthur](#), [Jeff Bourman](#), [Melina Bath](#), [Catherine Cumming](#) and [David Limbrick](#) all spoke positively about climbers as being a respectful user group, questioned the legality of the bans and the management of the land by Parks Victoria. Andy Meddick, despite voting against the motion, was sympathetic to our cause.

After over an hour of debate, the ACAV Committee are happy to report that the motion was passed with a resounding room full of 'Ayes' within the Upper House.

What does this mean?

The Minister's office can no longer choose to ignore rock climbers as a legitimate user group. Our voices have now been heard and this has now put pressure on the Minister's office to compel Parks Victoria to recognise climbers as a stakeholder and *consult* with us on all matters regarding access to public land where our sport takes place, now and into the future.

The passing of this motion in the upper house means that we have significant leverage to further lobby the Minister for the Environment towards bringing Parks Victoria into line. The poor performance of Parks Victoria needs to be addressed in relation to the management of rock climbing. Parks Victoria must in future, follow due process, in keeping with levels of behaviour expected of public servants.

The ACAV will continue to move forward with respectful discussions with the Traditional Owners as part of this ongoing process.

View the full media release from Tim Quilty below.

Thank you all for your continued support! We hope to see you all at the AGM!

From the ACAV Interim Committee

TIM QUILTY

MP for Northern Victoria, Liberal Democrats

MEDIA RELEASE

19 June 2019

No more sudden lockouts: Quilty motion

Liberal Democrats MP for northern Victoria, Tim Quilty will put forward a motion today that would end sudden lockouts by Parks Victoria that have caused considerable grief and financial loss to people in Victoria's regions over the last year.

The motion will compel Parks Victoria to consult with stakeholders about Cultural Heritage Management Plans and prevent the circumstances that led to the sudden eviction of rock climbers from the Grampians, the crippling of a horse riding business near Warrnambool and the cancellation of a car rally at Lake Tyrell.

Mr Quilty said the motion provides a better balance between protecting sensitive areas and allowing public access to public land.

"This should not be controversial with anyone. Asking for more consultation could do much to enhance the treaty process with indigenous people and end these public relations disasters – even the government should welcome it. It's just unfortunate that we need to legislate for consultation, which should be a basic good practice."

In a further step, the motion seeks to provide mechanisms to give more decision making power to local communities near public lands.

"Unfortunately, this won't undo some of the damage done for people already locked out. The Liberal Democrats will continue to try and resolve these situations amicably – but this motion will prevent any future lockouts without adequate consultation," he said.

For more information, contact Gavin Atkins on 0408 829 971