

5 September 2019

Ms V. Bleyer
Bleyer Lawyers
10/250 Queen Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Ms Bleyer

Your ref: VEB:PKR:20119

I refer to your letter to me dated 2 September 2019.

I note your client's wishes to meet with representatives of Parks Victoria to discuss the issues raised in your letter.

I can confirm that Parks Victoria's Chief Operating Officer, Simon Talbot, would be prepared to meet to discuss any matters relating to the current set-aside determination.

Can I recommend that Mr Talbot's Executive Assistant, Daniela Celi be contacted on 03 8427 3754 to discuss an appropriate time that suits both parties and to confirm those who will be in attendance.

In the interim, I can confirm that Parks Victoria will not agree to the request from the Australian Climbing Association (Victoria) that it revoke the set-aside determination as it relates to restrictions on climbing activities. Your client's interpretation of the validity of the set-aside determination dated 4 February 2019 is not accepted by Parks Victoria, and it remains Parks Victoria's position that its actions in restricting climbing activities in parts of the Grampians National Park have been proportionate to meet its obligations under the *National Parks Act 1975* and *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

I note your request for any earlier set-aside determination that was replaced by the current set-aside determination in place and can confirm that, to my knowledge, there is no earlier set-aside determination in place that prohibited or restricted access to the Special Protection Areas as the current determination purports to do.

With respect to the other matters raised by your client, I can confirm that these will be addressed through consultations with all the representatives of the climbing community through the current round-table process, in which your client is a participant.

Should you wish to contact me to discuss any of the points that you raised in your letter in more detail, please feel free to do so.

Yours sincerely



John Stevens
Manager - Legal Services
Parks Victoria