

From: **Tourism Mailbox** <Tourism@parks.vic.gov.au>
Date: Wed, May 6, 2020 at 1:38 PM
Subject: Summerday Valley LTO Update - Licensing beyond 30 June 2020
To: LTOlicensingMailbox

LTO Update

Summerday Valley Access - Grampians National Park

Thank you to those who were able to attend yesterday's meeting online re: Summerday Valley. For those who were unable to attend, a recording is available through the link below.

We acknowledge the difficult business conditions being faced due to current circumstances, and we are committed to supporting our Licensed Tour Operators during these times.

During yesterday's meeting, we discussed the future licence conditions for operating in Summerday Valley and at Lookout Point Wall, in Grampians National Park.

As you know, Special Protection Areas typically restrict climbing activities, but with support from Traditional Owners, access has been provided with strict conditions to ensure protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage and environmental values.

Provided existing conditions have been met – and noting the public health measures currently in place due to coronavirus – from 1 July we're looking to provide tour operator access to these areas for another 12 months, or until the new management plan for the Grampians landscape has been finalised and any relevant changes implemented.

To strengthen protections and better recognise the park's cultural values during that time, the new licences will include a requirement for operators to hold a Cultural Heritage Permit from Aboriginal Victoria. A draft Code of Conduct has also been developed to support respectful access and operations in the Grampians National Park.

Cultural Heritage Permit

- To strengthen the protection of cultural values in the Grampians National Park, licences will be updated with a requirement for tour operators to hold in their business name, a Cultural Heritage Permit from Aboriginal Victoria.
- Operators have been operating in these areas under a Cultural Heritage Permit for the past year. Having tour operators hold the permit in their name places direct, legislated responsibility with them to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage.

- Parks Victoria will arrange for the permits to be provided to tour operators who have indicated they want continued access to Summerday Valley and Lookout Point Wall. The fee to obtain a Cultural Heritage Permit will be covered by Parks Victoria for LTOs who have confirmed their desire to continue operating at Summerday Valley and/or Lookout Point Wall by 19 May.

Code of Conduct

- A draft Code of Conduct has been prepared with Traditional Owners to increase tour operators' awareness of Gariwerd's significant Aboriginal cultural heritage, and to carry out their business with respect to that heritage.
- While the Code of Conduct is voluntary, tour operators will be asked to adhere to it out of respect for Aboriginal cultural heritage in Gariwerd, native title rights and land rights.
- LTOs are asked to review the code of conduct and provide any feedback by 19 May.

Next steps

A copy of the draft Code of Conduct and information about Cultural Heritage Permits are included in this email, as is a recording from yesterday's meeting and the presentation slides.

If you'd like to continue to have access to operate in Summerday Valley and at Lookout Point Wall, please formally advise Parks Victoria via tourism@parks.vic.gov.au by Tuesday 19 May 2020.

As a reminder, licence fees have been waived for 2020, and Parks Victoria will arrange to cover the cost of the Cultural Heritage Permits that are requested by Tuesday 19 May.

From the 19th, we will begin the process of updating licences and preparing Cultural Heritage Permits for signing.

If you don't wish to continue with access to these areas in the park, you can still continue to operate in the park outside of the Special Protection Areas.

If you have any feedback on the draft code of conduct, please provide it via tourism@parks.vic.gov.au by Tuesday 19 May 2020. The Code of Conduct will be finalised prior to 1 July 2020.

Further information

- [Meeting recording and presentation slides](#) (3 versions of meeting recording are available – HD/High Resolution, Low resolution and audio only + slides)
- [Cultural Heritage Permits](#)
- Draft Code of Conduct for feedback (attached)
- Meeting Q&A (attached)

If you have questions about these or other aspects of your licence, please contact me or one of the team.

Kind regards,
Jarred

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