

8 May 2020

Mr Mike Tomkins
President
Australian Climbing Association (Vic) Inc. (ACAV)
president.vic@climb.org.au

Dear Mr Tomkins

I refer to your letter to me of 22 April 2020 and thank you for your patience in awaiting my response.

You have asked for my legal opinion on Parks Victoria's signage, specifically in relation to an extract of regulation 10(2)(a) of the *National Parks Regulations 2013* that provides as follows:

'If, under a set aside power, Parks Victoria makes a determination setting aside an area as an area in which an activity or conduct is required, restricted or prohibited, Parks Victoria must erect or display signs or notices at or near the entrance to the area indicating – (a) the area that has been set aside under the determination...'

While you will appreciate that I am unable to provide legal advice to the ACAV, I am more than happy to assist you and your members by putting Parks Victoria's position on set-aside signage at the Grampians National Park (Park).

Parks Victoria's position is that the current signage in place at the 8 sites that you identify sufficiently complies with regulation 10(2)(a). I am instructed that signage is installed at or near the entrance points to the 8 sites and that members of the public accessing these sites would necessarily have to walk past the signage.

I am further instructed that signage is located at or near the entrance to some but not all areas comprising the 107 sites that you refer to in your letter. As you will appreciate, the area that you have identified is extensive geographically, and Parks Victoria has been balancing the need to notify park users of restrictions in place without adversely impacting on the natural beauty of the Park via a proliferation of signage. Nevertheless,

Parks Victoria is constantly reviewing the requirements for new signage and will soon be implementing additional signage in the Park as part of new signage guidelines. This review will extend to the signage at Summerday Valley, which I can confirm is currently as reproduced in your letter to me. In the interim, Parks Victoria is also relying upon the cooperation of the Victorian public to respect the well-publicised restrictions on climbing activities in the Park, as well as the other enforcement tools available to it under the *National Parks Regulations 2013*.

Yours sincerely

John Stevens
Manager Legal Services
Parks Victoria