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21 May 2020

Victorian Climbing Club Committee

Re: Request for immediate return of ACAV funds

Dear VCC Committee,

Thank you for the recent update on the VCC's legal action against Parks Victoria. This action has in-principle support from the ACAV committee and on behalf of the committee I hope the objectives are achieved. However the ACAV committee is under increasing pressure from our members and indeed our own expectations, that the funds provided to the VCC are used for the purposes of regaining and retaining access for climbers.

Due to the ongoing delays in filing this legal action, the ACAV committee must formally request the return of our members' funds, a sum of \$30,000. This sum was offered under the expectation that the legal action would be taken swiftly; which has not occurred.

If and when the VCC commits to the legal action and provides documentation of it having been filed, the ACAV will look favourably upon re-committing our members' funds to the VCC case. However until such a time, our members funds must be under the control of the ACAV to allow the pursuit of climbing access strategies.

Importantly, the VCC is in a financial position which enables the legal action to be filed without the ACAV funds. Hence returning our members' funds to the ACAV will not impact the legal action being launched.

I invite you to please see this from the perspective of the ACAV and our members. Many members donated additional funds and they did not intend the use of these funds to be delayed to this extent. There are gathering doubts concerning the resolve of the VCC committee to take this important step for climbing advocacy.

The ACAV committee expects that our members' funds be returned at the earliest opportunity and would expect notification of such by COB Friday 22nd May.

Sincerely

Kuba Szczepanik
ACAV Secretary