

VAGO CONTACT US FORM

Name	[REDACTED]
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Subject	Suggest an audit
Sector	Environment
Comments	<p>During the last 3 years, Parks Victoria has attempted to prevent rock climbers from accessing multiple locations within the Grampians/Gariwerd National Park and Mount Arapiles/Tooan State Park. It is believed that more than 3 million dollars has been spent by Parks Victoria in efforts to justify these exclusions.</p> <p>I request an audit of procurement processes used by Parks Victoria in seeking archaeological advice in relation to known rock climbing sites at these locations. I have attached supporting evidence, obtained from Parks Victoria under the Freedom of Information Act, giving rise to the following concerns for your further investigation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Failure by Parks Victoria to seek competitive tenders and subsequently appointing Robert (Ben) Gunn for items of archaeological consulting work as "sole supplier in the market" and "Gunn being the only qualified person to complete this task in the State". It is my contention that several qualified archaeological consultants were available to do this work, located both in Victoria and in other states. 2) On 09/08/2019 Mr Gunn was appointed for a 10-month contract under procurement reference No. ITS1-00611. Justification for exemption from tendering was again claimed as "sole supplier in the market", despite the extensive nature of the works and the availability of alternative providers. 3) Evidence of multiple archaeological contracts awarded to Robert (Ben) Gunn indicates that contract values may have been broken into smaller portions in efforts to avoid scrutiny. 4) The attached Parks Victoria documents, released under the Freedom of Information Act 1982, have been heavily redacted, including removal of dollar values. It is my contention that this level of redaction contravenes the Act. 5) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Note that two additional Freedom of Information applications made on 11th May 2020 remain unresolved and Parks Victoria has, to date, refused to release this information.</p> <p>This request for audit seeks to bring probity to the procurement of scientific advice sought by Parks Victoria to assist in the proper protection of Aboriginal Cultural heritage at these locations.</p>
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