



Victoria Government Gazette

No. S 533 Tuesday 28 September 2021
By Authority of Victorian Government Printer

Parks Victoria Act 2018

STATEMENT OF OBLIGATIONS – OCTOBER 2018
(AS AMENDED SEPTEMBER 2021)

1	PURPOSE
1.1	<p>The purpose of this statement of obligations is to set out the obligations that Parks Victoria has in performing its functions and exercising its powers in relation to the land which Parks Victoria manages, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Parks Victoria managed land as defined in the Parks Victoria Act 2018(b) land managed by Parks Victoria appointed as a committee of management under section 14 of the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 or section 50(3) of the Forests Act 1958(c) land that is subject to an agreement under section 69 of the Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987 that is managed by Parks Victoria on behalf of the Secretary to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).
2	OBJECTS
2.1	<p>Parks Victoria must have regard to its objects in the management of any land referred to in Clause 1.1 (b) and (c) above.</p> <p>Note: This is in addition to the requirement of section 7(1) of the Parks Victoria Act 2018 in relation to Parks Victoria managed land and is to the extent that the objects are not inconsistent with Parks Victoria carrying out its duties as a committee of management or managing land under an agreement.</p>
3	OVERALL GOAL
3.1	<p>In performing its functions and exercising its powers, Parks Victoria must work to be a best practice park management organisation, striving for excellence in protecting and managing Victoria's outstanding system of parks and reserves, engaging and working effectively with Traditional Owners, other land managers and the broader community, providing high quality opportunities for visitors to enjoy the parks and reserves, and contributing to the state's visitor economy.</p>
4	GUIDING PRINCIPLES
4.1	<p>In performing its functions and exercising its powers, Parks Victoria must have regard to the following guiding principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Healthy Parks Healthy People, which recognises the fundamental connections between human health and environmental health, is an underlying philosophy of Parks Victoria(b) the active involvement of Traditional Owners in park management through joint management and other management arrangements is a fundamental aspect of park management(c) the community should be placed at the centre of park planning and management(d) effective communication with the community and key stakeholders is critical to the successful development and delivery of major policies, management outcomes, initiatives and operations(e) evidence-based decision making contributes to better decisions and management outcomes

SPECIAL

	<p>(f) close collaboration between Parks Victoria and DELWP and other land managers ensures more effective and efficient public land management</p> <p>(g) a high performing organisation delivers for government, has a positive culture, promotes staff safety and wellbeing, promotes partnerships, is innovative and provides excellent service.</p>
5	ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MINISTER
5.1	Parks Victoria must provide timely advice to the Minister on Parks Victoria activities, issues and plans.
5.2	Parks Victoria must consult the Minister in a timely manner on its efforts to enhance visitor access to parks, increase visitation and stimulate Victoria's visitor economy.
6	ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY
6.1	Parks Victoria must undertake engagement with the broader community, community and Friends groups, and key stakeholders to effectively support the preparation land management plans under the Parks Victoria Act 2018 and management plans under the National Parks Act 1975 and the Wildlife Act 1975 and, if it considers it appropriate in the circumstances or as required by the Minister, will engage with any or all of the above concerning the delivery of its programs and projects. In its engagement, Parks Victoria must have regard to the principles set out in the Victorian Auditor-General's Office publication <i>Public Participation in Government Decision-making</i> (May 2017). In deciding the level of engagement, Parks Victoria must consider the level of impact of the plan, program or project on the public or natural and cultural values.
6.2	Parks Victoria must implement programs to involve volunteers in parks and other areas which it manages.
7	COLLABORATION
7.1	DELWP
7.1.1	Parks Victoria must work closely and collaboratively with DELWP to seek operational efficiencies in the delivery of services, including by sharing resources and assets.
7.1.2	Parks Victoria must work closely and collaboratively with DELWP to share knowledge, information, research and data and to develop related data standards in order to achieve efficiencies in both organisations and improved planning and responses and to avoid duplication of effort.
7.1.3	Parks Victoria must work closely and collaboratively with DELWP to adopt and implement practices to address interagency risk, consistent with the <i>Victorian Government Risk Management Framework Practice Notes</i> (2016).
7.1.4	Parks Victoria must contribute to compliance activities across public land tenures to provide a seamless service to address priority risks.
7.2	Traditional Owners
7.2.1	Parks Victoria must advance timely, respectful and culturally sensitive collaboration with Traditional Owners to develop genuine partnerships, conserve cultural heritage and support indigenous land management practices.
7.2.2	Parks Victoria must work closely and collaboratively with DELWP in engaging Traditional Owners.
7.2.3	Parks Victoria must prepare an Aboriginal Inclusion Plan under the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework, in collaboration with DELWP.

8	OVERARCHING GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND PRIORITIES
8.1	Strategies and policies
8.1.1	<p>Parks Victoria must contribute to the development and/or implementation of government policies and priorities, including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037</i> (2017) (b) regional forest agreements (c) <i>Safer Together</i> (2015) (d) <i>Water for Victoria Water Plan</i> (2016) (e) regional catchment strategies under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (f) <i>Victorian Waterway Management Strategy</i> (2013) (g) any Marine and Coastal Policy or Marine and Coastal Strategy under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018 (h) <i>Victorian Government Cultural Heritage Asset Management Principles</i> (2009) (i) <i>Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy</i> (2016).
8.2	Fire and emergency management
8.2.1	Parks Victoria must support the Secretary to deliver the Secretary's responsibilities in relation to fire and emergency management through fire and emergency management agreements.
8.3	Traditional Owners
8.3.1	Parks Victoria must support DELWP in the development and implementation of recognition and settlement agreements under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 and other agreements involving Traditional Owners and the State of Victoria.
8.3.2	Parks Victoria must contribute to the development and implementation of whole of government Aboriginal inclusion policies, such as employment and economic development.
8.4	Climate change and environmental sustainability
8.4.1	Parks Victoria must contribute to the government's response to climate change, including meeting any obligations under the Climate Change Act 2017 .
8.4.2	Parks Victoria must strive to be a model environmentally sustainable organisation.
9	PARK MANAGEMENT
9.1	Management priorities
9.1.1	Parks Victoria must work to enhance visitor access to the parks and other areas it manages while protecting the natural and cultural values of these areas.
9.1.2	Parks Victoria must support the implementation of joint management with Traditional Owners under relevant agreements.
9.1.3	Parks Victoria must adopt a whole of landscape approach in fulfilling its public land management responsibilities and work collaboratively with other land managers.
9.2	Land management strategy
9.2.1	Parks Victoria must provide a copy of the draft land management strategy, developed in accordance with the Parks Victoria Act 2018 , to the Minister at least 28 days prior to releasing it for public consultation.
9.3	Evidence-based decision making
9.3.1	Parks Victoria must employ a systematic and rational approach to researching and analysing available evidence to inform its policies, programmes, projects, monitoring, effectiveness and decision making.
9.3.2	Parks Victoria must employ adequate senior scientific staff, including a Chief Conservation Scientist, to support evidence-based park management and decision making.

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Price Code A