



# Grampians Peaks Trail Event Call for Dates 2023



## Overview

This document outlines the opportunity for event organisers seeking to hold an end-to-end event on the Grampians Peaks Trail, during the 2023 calendar year.

In the issuance of event permits, Parks Victoria's objective is to ensure protection of cultural and built heritage while respecting environmental and social values. Parks Victoria takes an adaptive management approach by evaluating the impacts and successes of each event and using this information to inform future decisions.

Given the strong interest in hosting end-to-end trail events on the Grampians Peaks Trail, Parks Victoria is undertaking a call for dates process to confirm suitable event organiser(s) to hold these events in 2023. The call for dates process ensures a fair and equitable allocation of permits for this type of event each year.

## The Location

The spectacular Grampians Peaks Trail runs 164km from Mt Zero, the northernmost point of the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, to the southernmost point at Dunkeld.

There are 11 hike-in campgrounds along the trail. These hike-in campgrounds are in remote locations, offering a unique trail experience and the reward of being deep inside the national park. They have been built with a high level of visitor amenity that is designed to be sympathetic to the landscape and sustainable in their construction.

Please refer to the Grampians Peaks Trail Map attached.

## Scope of this Call for Dates

This call for dates process is seeking applications for end-to-end events on the Grampians Peaks Trail, for the 2023 calendar year only. Applications for 2024 and beyond will be managed via subsequent processes.

No applications for end-to-end events on the Grampians Peaks Trail in 2023 will be considered outside of this process.

Applications for other events using the Grampians Peaks Trail or within the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park will be assessed through the regular event permitting process. Details of this process can be found at: <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/events-and-filming-permits>

## Seasonal Availability

Event proposals will not be considered during the following school holiday and peak season blackout periods:

- 10 March - 30 April 2023
- 16 September to 8 November 2023

## Application Process

This is a **Two Stage** application process.

1. Stage One: Applicants must complete and submit the following documents via email to [events@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:events@parks.vic.gov.au):
  - a. Completed Grampians Peaks Trail Event Application Form – Stage One
  - b. Event Map
  - c. A copy of the Permittee's Certificate of Currency showing valid public liability insurance to the value of \$20M.

Upon receipt of your application a Parks Victoria staff member may contact you to discuss your application, clarify any items contained within and request additional information if required. These requirements will vary depending on the type and scale of event you are proposing. If successful, in-principle approval will be provided to event organisers based on the details submitted in their Stage One Application.

2. Stage Two: If the Stage One Application is approved in-principle, an Event Permit Application Form including all mandatory and supporting documents must be submitted for assessment by Parks Victoria. Parks Victoria will assess the application, including appropriateness of proposed management, planning, control measures and conditions. If these requirements are not met to the satisfaction of Parks Victoria, an event permit will not be issued. Further detail on the event permit application process can be found here:

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/events-and-filming-permits/parks-and-reserves-application-guidelines>

Note: Stage One in-principle support can be retracted at the discretion of Parks Victoria and approval to conduct the event is only provided on receipt of a signed event permit.

## Application Timelines

- Stage One applications must be submitted by **Sunday, 11 December 2022**.
- Parks Victoria will advise all applicants of the outcome of Stage One by **Friday, 23 December 2022**.
- Successful Stage One applicant(s) must submit their full Stage Two application by **Friday, 27 January 2023**.
- Standard processing time for event permit applications will apply to the Stage Two application. This is generally 8 weeks from receipt of the application.

## Event Permit

The event permit outlines conditions under which event organisers agree to conduct their event. The permit is not

in effect until Parks Victoria receives a signed copy agreeing to these conditions and is satisfied that all other conditions have been met. Parks Victoria reserves the right to withdraw an event from the event calendar if conditions are not met. Should prevailing circumstances prevent or restrict the event being held at a particular time or location Parks Victoria will, where possible, work with the event organiser to reach a mutually acceptable outcome.

**Important note:** In the case of the scheduled event date being declared a day of Total Fire Ban or subject to extreme weather conditions any planned event may be cancelled at the discretion of Parks Victoria.

## Assessment Criteria

Events are assessed annually for inclusion in the Grampians Peaks Trail Calendar of Events. Parks Victoria reserves the right to limit the number, type and size of events per year. Assessment is based on the following:

Criteria	Weighting
1. Consistency with the purpose of the reservation as described in the National Parks Regulations 2013, National Parks Act (1975), Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.	Mandatory Criteria: Pass/Fail
2. Location of event including potential impact on the Grampians Peaks Trail environment and proposed management of this impact. Confirmation of no impact to known cultural heritage values.	30%
3. Experience in conducting successful similar events in areas of high cultural heritage significance, including reference checks, at the discretion of Parks Victoria.	20%
4. Suitability of event timing; in line with park operations and other key events and activities in the park.	20%
5. Impact of the event on Grampians Peaks Trail users, facilities, general public access, local traffic and parking.	20%
6. Benefits of the event to the National Park, community, Traditional Owners and local economy.	10%

Note any application which fails Criteria 1 will not be assessed further.

## Event Fees

An event fee is charged according to size, scale and nature of the event as determined by Parks Victoria. Upon submission of an application form an indicative fee can be supplied upon request. Parks Victoria requires the **permit fee and bond (if applicable) to be paid prior to the event.**

## Community Event Fee Schedule

Where a Permittee is a registered charitable organisation or a not-for-profit group, then the event is to be considered a community event and the permit fee is set on a cost recovery basis.

Community Event pricing will apply where:

- The Permittee is a charity, or
- The Permittee is a not-for-profit group; or
- All net proceed from the event will be distributed to a charity or not-for-profit group.

In all cases, the onus is on the Permittee to establish their status and eligibility for community event pricing as per criteria requirements on application form. For events not applying the Community Event Fee Schedule, event fees will be calculated at market rates.

The current Parks Victoria event fee schedule can be found at:

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/search?search=event+fee+schedule>

## Caring for our Open Spaces

As the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and Grampians Peaks Trail include sites of natural and cultural heritage significance, it is an expectation that the event permittee takes responsibility for looking after these spaces while occupying them. Where there has been damage to the permit area, or the permit area is required to be cleaned by Parks Victoria staff or contractors after the event, bond money held by Parks Victoria may be used for these remediation costs.

Where significant damage has been caused to the permit area (i.e. repair cost exceeds the bond held by Parks Victoria), Parks Victoria has a legal right to recover these costs arising out of Permittee's covenants within the standard terms and conditions of the event permit.

Where the Permittee has complied with the terms of their event permit their bond is to be returned within 30 days following the completion of the event. Where post-event remediation works are required, the 30-day bond return processing period will not begin until works are completed.

## Weather Contingency Considerations

- Parks Victoria may, at their discretion, amend, cancel or reschedule the event due to extreme weather conditions.
- Planned burns in proximity to the park may affect the event. Parks Victoria will work with event organisers to minimise these impacts where possible.

## Grampians Peaks Trail Call for Dates Applications 2024

Call for dates applications for events on the Grampians Peaks Trail in 2024 will open in the second half of 2023.