

# Grampians (Gariwerd) Projects

## Community Update



Spring 2024

This update provides information on a range of projects across Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park on the Traditional Lands of the Jardwadjali and Djab Wurrung peoples.

Parks Victoria is working in partnership with Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to plan upgrades at various locations.

### Mackenzie Falls (Migunang wirab)

Mackenzie Falls (Migunang wirab) is one of the most spectacular and most visited sites in the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.

The precinct is being revitalised. The full scope of the \$7.76 million project will include improved information and interpretive signage, a new viewing platform at the base of the Falls, improvements to walking tracks, safety, car parking and managing visitor congestion.

#### Improving safety

Following geotechnical assessments that revealed a risk of rockfalls, we have been working hard to reduce the risk without impacting on the natural beauty of the area.

There are three areas where we need to reduce the risk of falling rocks. To do this we will:

- Add metal mesh netting and rock anchors to a rock wall above the track to the Falls
- Add metal cabling and rock anchors to a rocky outcrop near the Falls
- Realign boardwalk on the track past the Falls to move visitors away from where rocks may fall
- Regularly inspect each area and monitor the risk and any potential changes.

#### Better visitor facilities

The things that we will build or improve as part of this project are now confirmed. The main elements are outlined below.

##### Main viewing platform

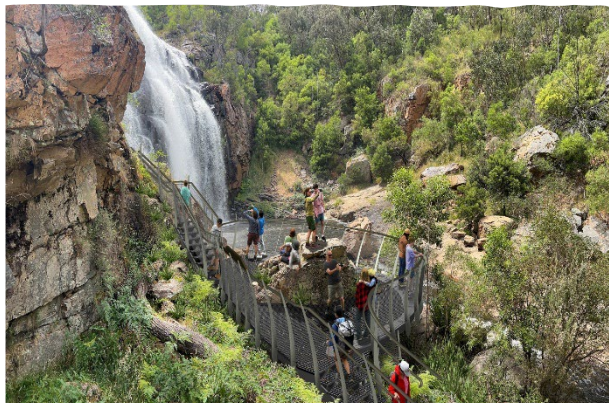
A new viewing platform at the base of the Falls will improve safety and provide an enhanced view of the natural environment.

The platform will have the capacity to hold at least 40 people at a time. It will be wrapped around a large existing boulder that overlooks the Falls.

It will improve safety as it will discourage people from going into the water and deter access to the area opposite the Falls, which is permanently closed to public access due to the risk of falling rocks. Swimming is prohibited at the Falls.

We have been working closely with Traditional Owners on the design of the viewing platform. Elements of the blackfish – a species that is

important to the cultural landscape of MacKenzie Falls (Migunang wirab) will be integrated in the design.



*Photo 1 – Concept design for main viewing platform at base of MacKenzie Falls.*

### **Bluff Lookout Walking Track**

We are really pleased to confirm that we are upgrading the walking track to Bluff Lookout so that it provides a more inclusive visitor experience.

The work will involve making the track surface smoother in sections, fixing drainage, and changing the gradient in places so it is less steep. As one of the most visited places in Gariwerd, we want to make sure that everyone can enjoy as much of the area and spectacular views as possible. Once complete, the track will be a Grade 1 walk, suitable for visitors with prams, wheelchairs or limited mobility to get a sweeping view across the valley to MacKenzie Falls (Migunang wirab).

### **Carparking**

We have confirmed plans to upgrade the car park to create safer pedestrian access and improve traffic flow and drainage. We will create 53 extra parking spaces to ease congestion during peak periods.

Once complete, there will be a total of 120 carpark spaces and 14 long vehicle parking spaces.

### **Other improvements**

Signage at the Falls, along tracks and in the arrival area will be improved. As well as better wayfinding signs, there will be a particular focus on helping people learn more about the cultural heritage and environmental values of the area.

There will be minor improvements to the existing picnic area to improve accessibility.

As previously mentioned, we won't be building the proposed return Loop Trail as part of this project due to the prohibitive cost.

### **Project timeline**

Due to the complexity of the planning and design work involved, especially to deal with the risk of rockfalls, the revitalisation works are now due to be completed by late 2025.

### **What's next**

We are working to finalise the design of the new viewing platform, the Bluff Lookout walking track, car park and arrival area improvements.

To make sure that we consider everything on site, there will be some further surveys of plants and animals done, as well as cultural heritage surveys.

We will continue to keep you updated as the project progresses. To stay informed about the revitalisation [sign up for updates](#).

## **Grampians Peaks Trail**

Planning is well underway to improve access to the Grampians Peaks Trail with upgraded access points. The construction contractor – Ace Landscape - is expected to start work on the trailheads at Halls Gap (Budja Budja) and other locations along the trail in late 2024/early 2025.

We have also recently completed fencing at the Redman Road trailhead. This fencing protects threatened Grampians Globe-pea plants discovered after the trailhead was created in 2021.

Approximately 580 metres of fencing (within the existing cleared footprint) now surrounds the carpark adjacent to the road and both sides of the link track to the Grampians Peaks Trail to encourage visitors to stay on the path.

This work not only protects this special plant but has enabled us to open another access point for the Grampians Peaks Trail, providing more flexibility for walkers.

To stay informed about the GPT Trailheads project [sign up for updates](#).

## Stay up to date

Find out more about the [MacKenzie Falls \(Migunang wirab\) revitalisation](#) and [Grampians Peaks Trail improvements](#) and who we are working with.

Feel free to forward this on to anyone else who may be interested. If you have any questions please contact us at [engage@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:engage@parks.vic.gov.au) or call 13 1963.