

Statement

Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Environment

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Outdoor Recreation



Thursday, 28 November 2024

STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

We want as many Victorians as possible to enjoy the great outdoors.

Parks Victoria manages more than four million hectares of parks and reserves which attract more than 100 million visits every year.

These assets must meet the needs of Victorians for generations to come.

It's clear that Parks Victoria's current operations need to be improved to meet community expectations.

I have therefore ordered a comprehensive review of Parks Victoria, to advise how the organisation can better serve the needs of Victorians and help them enjoy the great outdoors.

The review will focus on Parks Victoria's priorities, the delivery of its objectives under the Parks Victoria Act 2018, the organisation's administration, finances, functions and delivery model – to identify ways the organisation reduce red-tape, improve customer service, and deliver better outcomes for Victorians.

The review will be completed by March 2025, and will be overseen by the Victorian Government with the support of Korda Mentha.

As part of this process, Matthew Jackson, the CEO of Parks Victoria, has departed his position by mutual agreement and I wish him well.

Graeme "Gus" Dear has been appointed as Interim CEO of Parks Victoria.

Gus brings with him 30 years of experience in public and private sector administration and has served on the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) Board since its inception, most recently as Chair.

Gus loves the bush. Ever since he caught his first redfin at Ringwood Lake as a young boy, he's been "hooked on fishing."

His passion for the great outdoors and experience in administration means he is the right person to help Parks Victoria change.

His leadership will ensure Parks Victoria continues to provide accessible, enjoyable outdoor experiences while protecting and enhancing the state's natural environment.