



THE HON DAN TEHAN MP
Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
Federal Member for Wannon



**THE HON LILY D'AMBROSIO
MP**
Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and
Climate Change

MEDIA RELEASE

Epic Grampians Peak Trail hike opens to boost regional economy

The Grampians Peaks Trail – a unique 160-kilometre natural and cultural hiking experience – opens to the public tomorrow, providing a much-needed boost to western Victoria's regional economy.

Showcasing the stunning Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, the \$33.2 million project was delivered through a \$23.2 million investment from the Andrews Labor Government and \$10 million from the Commonwealth Government through Horsham Rural City Council.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio announced the opening of the iconic hike, which will connect visitors to the precious natural and cultural values of the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.

"The value of our parks and reserves has become more evident in recent times, which is why we're boosting investments in projects that protect our natural places and support local communities and regional economies," Ms D'Ambrosio said.

Federal Member for Wannon Dan Tehan said the Grampians Peak Trail will bring an important economic and tourism development opportunity for the local community, the region and Victoria as a key nature-based tourism destination and will be one of the great iconic walks of Australia.

"As a keen bushwalker I am looking forward to some of the day walks and more challenging 3-day hikes and enjoying not only the panoramic views but also taking on some of the challenging terrain," said Mr Tehan

The trail connects the park's spectacular peaks – from the massive sandstone outcrops around Mount Zero in the north – to Mount Abrupt in the south.

By 2025, 34,000 walkers a year are expected to experience the wonders of the park, generating \$6.39 million in economic benefits and tourism development opportunities.

State Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula said the trail will provide incredible experiences for tourists from across Australia and the world, boosting the regional economy and helping the state recover economically from the coronavirus pandemic.

Victoria's Minister for Regional Development Mary-Anne Thomas said the trail will be a fantastic attraction.

"The Grampians Peak Trail will further drive tourism to the region, generating more jobs in the local community and broader regional Victoria," she said

The trail can be tackled in day hikes, multi-night sections or an epic 13-day journey. With 11 campgrounds, featuring raised tent pads, communal shelters, and small huts at two campgrounds, hikers will be able to experience the stunning night sky of this ancient landscape.

The trail will bring visitors closer to the rich Aboriginal culture of the Jardwadjali and Djab Wurrung peoples, who have lived in these ranges for thousands of years.

Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation have worked with Parks Victoria to guide the trail alignment and shape the visitor information and stories, which promote awareness and respect for this special cultural landscape.

The State Government is also investing in other areas of the park with a \$7.76 million upgrade to the popular MacKenzie Falls visitor area, a \$5.8 million upgrade to Brambuk – the National Park and Cultural Centre and \$5.5 million for more access points to the trail.

For more information and to book for overnight stays visit parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/grampians-national-park/things-to-do/grampians-peaks-trail

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