

# Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Climbers Association of Western Australia  
Incorporated

and the

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and  
Attractions

MAY 2022



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between Climbers Association of Western Australia Incorporated (CAWA) and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). This MOU seeks to ensure the parties maintain the highest standards of communication and cooperation to optimise opportunities to complement the other party's activities in areas of common interest and ultimately support achieve the parties' organisational goals within the resources available.
- 1.2 This MOU is not a legally binding document, does not create any legal relationship between the parties and does not restrict or fetter either party in the performance of their functions.
- 1.3 In this MOU "rock climbing" means a person who climbs rock-faces or mountains in Western Australia, for recreational or leisure purposes only.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

### **CAWA**

- 2.1 CAWA is the peak body representing climbers in Western Australia.
- 2.2 CAWA's objects are to:
  - (a) promote and develop rock climbing, especially in Western Australia;
  - (b) protect and promote the interests of rock climbers in Western Australia;
  - (c) provide an institution for rock climbers to meet;
  - (d) formulate and publish guidelines which CAWA will promote as desired conduct by rock climbers, and will encourage members and other rock climbers to adopt; and
  - (e) encourage groups with similar objects to affiliate with CAWA.
- 2.3 Part of CAWA's role is to establish and maintain rock climbing site access and use throughout Western Australia, including education, environmental care, clean-up and rehabilitation.
- 2.4 CAWA has established and endorses:
  - (a) a 'Code of Conduct' which sets out the standards that all climbers in Western Australia are encouraged to adopt in relation to rock climbing;
  - (b) a 'Code of Bolting and New Route Development' which sets out the standards that all climbers in Western Australia are required to adopt in relation to developing and bolting new rock climbing routes;
  - (c) a 'Code of Practice Regarding Aboriginal Cultural Heritage' which sets out standards for all climbers in Western Australia to adopt regarding Aboriginal Cultural Heritage; and

- (d) a 'Risk Management Plan' which sets out a plan to manage and mitigate the risk of CAWA's rock climbing activities.

## **DBCA**

2.5 DBCA's policies, objectives and guidelines relevant to rock climbing activities are set out in:

- (a) Corporate Policy Statement No. 18 [Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services] (Policy 18); and
- (b) Guideline 32 made under the Corporate Policy Statement No. 18 (Guideline 32).

## **3. PURPOSE**

3.1 The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework for establishing, managing and maintaining rock climbing site access and use throughout Western Australia, including education, environmental care, clean-up and rehabilitation.

## **4. TERMS**

- 4.1 This MOU will remain in place from the date of signature by all parties until its replacement with a revised MOU or cancellation. It will be formally reviewed and endorsed by each party every three years.
- 4.2 This MOU may be cancelled by mutual agreement or by written notification by any of the parties.

## **5. COMMON AIMS AND INTERESTS**

- 5.1 CAWA and DBCA have the common aim and interest of establishing, managing and maintaining rock climbing site access and use throughout Western Australia, including education, environmental care, clean-up and rehabilitation, consistent with:
  - (a) CAWA's objects as set out in clause 2.2 above;
  - (b) CAWA's Code of Conduct;
  - (c) CAWA's Code of Bolting and New Route Development;
  - (d) DBCA's Corporate Policy Statement 18 and Guideline 32.



## 6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 In seeking to fulfil the purpose and aims of this agreement, CAWA will:

- (a) Comply with and promote Policy 18 and Guideline 32.
- (b) Work to maintain open and cooperative communications with DBCA in relation to proposals regarding establishing and maintaining rock climbing site access and use throughout Western Australia.
- (c) Provide input and comment to DBCA in the development of rock climbing policies and procedures in so far as they relate to rock climbing activities on DBCA-managed lands.
- (d) Actively promote and educate rock climbers on minimal impact recreation on DBCA-managed lands through 'Leave No Trace' principles.
- (e) Work with DBCA in the promotion of safe and responsible use of DBCA-managed lands for rock climbing activities.
- (f) Comply with all DBCA safe work requirements and promote safe work practices when undertaking volunteer work on DBCA-managed lands.
- (g) Assist DBCA in notifying CAWA members and the general public of environmental or safety issues associated with particular rock climbing sites.
- (h) Assist DBCA by advising of any environmental or safety issues or concerns associated with rock climbing sites.

6.2 DBCA will:

- (a) Work cooperatively with CAWA to identify, manage and maintain sustainable rock climbing activities on DBCA-managed lands.
- (b) Resources permitting, support CAWA in establishing and maintaining rock climbing site access and use, where appropriate, including education, environmental care, clean-up and rehabilitation.
- (c) Establish and maintain open and cooperative communications with CAWA, advising CAWA of any changes or potential changes to rock climbing site access, or DBCA policy changes that is likely to affect rock climbing activities.
- (d) Support CAWA in pursuing funding opportunities that will facilitate the management and/or promotion of sustainable rock climbing activities in Western Australia.
- (e) Support CAWA in dealing with other state and local government agencies on climbing matters of relevance to DBCA, including providing letters of support where appropriate.
- (f) Support CAWA in promoting sustainable climbing activities and/or undertaking training initiatives.
- (g) Promote the work of CAWA in DBCA publications, visitor information and interpretive materials, media press releases and through DBCA's website, where appropriate.
- (h) Recognise and reward the efforts of CAWA volunteers working on DBCA endorsed projects where these are registered with DBCA, in keeping with DBCA's Policy No. 15 'Volunteers and Community Involvement', and the associated 'Volunteer Management Handbook'.

## 7. ADMINISTRATION AND LIAISON

- 7.1 Each party will bear their own costs of administration and management of activities undertaken in support of this MOU, but may identify and implement projects that the parties have resolved to jointly fund.
- 7.2 The MOU liaison officers listed below will be responsible for promoting this MOU to their respective organisations and will act as a contact point for any members or staff who seek clarification on this MOU. They will also be responsible for facilitating the implementation of joint projects or initiatives that may be undertaken under the terms of this MOU.
- 7.3 The MOU liaison officers from each party will meet on an annual basis or as required to review the operations of this MOU and to make recommendations to the working group. These officers will also formally review this MOU every three years and will communicate any changes or concerns they may have about how the MOU is working.

## 8. COMMUNICATION AND DISPUTES

- 8.1 It is recognised that on occasion there may be differences of opinion on issues, but that cooperative action is likely to lead to outcomes each of the respective parties desire. Any disputes that arise will be dealt with constructively and in the spirit of this MOU initially by the liaison officers appointed under this MOU.
- 8.2 If a dispute is not resolved within 14 days by the liaison officers then it shall be referred to the president and chairperson of CAWA and DBCA's Director of Parks and Visitor Services, respectively, for resolution.
- 8.3 In the unlikely event that a dispute cannot be resolved either of the affected parties may withdraw from this MOU upon written notification to the other party.

### Appointed Liaison Officers:

Greg Carter  
Secretary  
Climbers Association of Western  
Australia  
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9219 8265

## 9. ENDORSEMENT

The President of CAWA and the Director General of DBCA endorse this Memorandum of Understanding.



Jiri Stastny  
President  
Climbers Association of Western Australia

Date:

11/06/22



Mark Webb  
Director General  
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and  
Attractions

Date:

20/5/22