

AAAS Timeline

Friday 10 Nov 2017. Peter Campbell, 0409 417 504, president@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Summary timeline

13 Oct 2015. Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) Board passed a resolution that the scope of the proposed Bushwalking AAAS be limited to commercial operators/adventure tourism industry and that it must not apply to recreational non-commercial users. Ref: Bushwalking Victoria Board resolution regarding national AAS 13 Oct 2015.pdf

22 Nov 2015. BWV President (Tony Walker) letter to Outdoors Victoria requesting exemption in proposed Bushwalking AAAS for recreational bushwalkers. Ref: 2015_11_22 Ltr to Chuck Berger OV AAS Review.pdf

6 Mar 2016. BWV President (Tony Walker) letter to Outdoors Victoria following up about exemption for recreational bushwalkers. Ref: 2016_03_07 Ltr to OV re Australian Adventure Standards.pdf

9 Mar 2016. Letter from Chuck Berger to BWV President Tony Walker

Chuck Berger stated *"An exemption for "non-commercial" or "not-for-profit" organisations will not be a feature of the national standard"*. Ref: 2016-03-09 OV response Bushwalking Victoria.pdf

4 Aug 2016. BWV Meeting with Chuck Berger (Outdoors Victoria CEO and Chair of AAAS Steering Committee). Philip Davis and Peter Campbell attended for Bushwalking Victoria. Chuck agreed to provide us with a copy of the funding agreement for the development of the National AAAS and to consider our request for an exemption for recreational and community bushwalkers.

Chuck subsequently did not provide a copy of the funding agreement and again ruled out including our requested exemption.

9 Aug 2016. BWV Meeting with David Strickland, Sport and Recreation. Peter Campbell and Charlie Ablitt attended for Bushwalking Victoria. David stated that he believed the proposed Bushwalking AAAS would operate as guidelines have no negative effect on recreational bushwalkers. I advised David of our concerns.

22 Aug 2016. Bushwalking Victoria letter to Sports Minister John Eren our detailing concerns with proposed Bushwalking AAAS. Ref: 2016-08-22 BWV letter to Minister for Sport re proposed AAAS.pdf

22 Sep 2016. BWV Meeting with Minister Eren's advisers, Philip Davis and Peter Campbell attended for Bushwalking Victoria and reiterated BWV's concerns.

30 Sep 2016. Bushwalking Victoria sent feedback from over 60 clubs and individual members to Outdoors Victoria on the draft AAAS Core Standards, opposing compliance

for recreational bushwalkers. Ref: 2016-09-30 Bushwalking Victoria feedback on draft AAAS Core Standards.pdf

24 Oct 2016. Martin Foley MP, Acting Minister for Sports advised in a letter to Bushwalking Victoria that *“there is no desire on behalf of jurisdictions for the Australian Adventure Activity Standards to be mandated”*

8 Dec 2016. Dom Courtney, Chair of AAAS Steering Committee, advised *“Given the AAS are voluntary standards, exemptions are not necessary. The AAS Steering Committee cannot provide exemptions from adhering to good practice for the conduct of led outdoor activities for individuals or organisations.”*

17 Jan 2017. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change advised Bushwalking Victoria in a meeting that the AAAS should not impact recreational bushwalkers.

23 Mar 2017. Matt Sheens, Group Manager for Industry Development (DHHS) advised via email that *“the department is not in a position to provide blanket exclusions for any Club or peak body from the proposed Australian Standards”*.

4 Apr 2017. Andrew Knight, Outdoors Victoria CEO advised Bushwalking Victoria in a meeting that *“the AAAS would only apply to a very small number of bushwalking club trips”*

3 May 2017. Draft activity standards for Bushwalking and Camping for the Australian AAS released for public comment. Volunteer bushwalkers are captured by these draft standards.

29 Jun 2017. Minister for Energy, Environment & Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio MP, advised that *“on their own, the standards have no legal status and there is no requirement to comply with them”*.

2 Sep 2017. Online petition started: Don't impose commercial standards on community-based bushwalkers (3,600 supporters) <http://bit.ly/AAAS-petition>

8 Sep 2017. Minister for Sport, John Eren MP advised that *“there is no current intent to mandate the use of the AAAS on behalf of relevant jurisdictions, including the Department of Health and Human Services, Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning”*.

9 Nov 2017. Mike Grant and Peter Campbell met informally with Andrew Knight, who advised that AAAS Core Standards were being re-written, with the final version possibly published late 2018. We advised him that we did not consider that the AAAS were relevant to volunteer bushwalkers and that there was no requirement to comply with them.