



Media release

The Hon Ted Baillieu MP

Premier
Minister for the Arts

Friday 15 April 2011

Premier announces funds to restore the Grampians

Premier Ted Baillieu today announced a multi-million dollar package to assist in restoring the Grampians National Park following significant floods earlier this year.

Visiting Halls Gap in the Grampians with Minister for Environment and Climate Change Ryan Smith this morning, the Premier said almost \$5.5 million would be set aside in the 2011-12 Budget to repair extensive damage to visitor infrastructure, roads, walking trails, wildlife habitat and traditional sites. Along with estimated insurance payments of \$16.1 million, a total of \$21.6 million will be made available to restore the Grampians National Park.

“The Grampians is one of the state’s premier visitor locations. It is home to some of Victoria’s most rare and endangered species, and it is also home to rock art of great significance to our heritage,” Mr Baillieu said.

“Floods have caused significant damage to the natural environment and visitor infrastructure. Our immediate priority with this funding is to restore safe access for Victorians, but repeated flooding has made the damage assessment and early recovery works difficult.

“This funding will allow priority works to be undertaken,” Mr Baillieu said.

Those priorities include restoring access to the Wonderland area and Silverband Falls, re-aligning and strengthening walking tracks washed away in the 192 landslips caused by the floods, and re-opening the Halls Gap-Dunkeld Road, the Mt Victory Road and the Silverband Falls Road.

Minister for Environment and Climate Change Ryan Smith said since September more than 70 parks or reserves had been affected by severe storm and flood events that battered the state.

“The damage sustained has prompted partial, and in some cases total, closures of some of our most popular visitor areas causing hardship for the local tourism and small business operators,” Mr Smith said.

“The Baillieu Government is aware of the enormity of the task ahead in rebuilding following the floods, and acutely aware of the need to support local businesses and tourism operators.

“The Grampians is open for business this Easter and I encourage families who would normally spend this break at the park not to change their plans. There are more than a dozen walking tracks open, places to picnic, climb and explore, and three campsites are available,” Mr Smith said.

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Where to go in the Grampians this Easter

WALKS
Halls Gap Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fyans Creek Loop
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chataqua Peak (eastern side)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boronia Peak
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clematis Falls
Southern Section
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Piccaninny
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mt Sturgeon
Northern Section
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mt Stapylton Loop
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gulcan Manja
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hollow Mountain
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mt Zero
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beehive Falls
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heatherlie Quarry
VISITOR SITES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heatherlie Quarry
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mt Zero Picnic Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summerday Valley climbing area
ART SHELTERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gulgurn Manja
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ngamadjidj
CAMP GROUNDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plantation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Troopers Creek
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mt Stapylton
Additional temporary areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northern Grampians (two areas available for bush camping)

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