

Access changes at base of MacKenzie Falls

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park



March 2023

Recent investigations at MacKenzie Falls have revealed a significant rock fall risk at the base of the Falls. To ensure visitor safety, Parks Victoria is re-directing people away from this area. Due to the potential for rocks to fall from the cliff, the area opposite the base of the Falls and the large rock stepping stones over the river are now closed.

Why is access changing?

MacKenzie Falls is one of the most visited sites in the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. It attracts thousands of people during weekends and peak visitor periods. It is common to see visitors spending a long time opposite the base of the Falls.

An independent geotechnical investigation, undertaken as part of the [MacKenzie Falls Revitalisation project](#) in late 2022, identified high risk of rockfall above the area where visitors gather.

The structural stability of the site is likely to be affected by further ground, soil and large rock movement during wet weather events.

In addition to this, water conditions at the base of the Falls are dangerous and swimming is not permitted. Fatalities have occurred here. Steep terrain makes rescues in this location difficult.

To ensure safety Parks Victoria is re-directing visitors away from the rockshelf where many currently gather to view the Falls and access the water.

The track to the base of the falls is expected to be temporarily closed from Wednesday 22 to Friday 24 March inclusive for works to restrict public access to take place. This will include removing rock stepping stones over the river that were previously installed by Parks Victoria.

During these works – estimated to take up to a week - the walking track to base of the Falls will be temporarily closed.

Broken Falls and views to MacKenzie Falls from the Bluff Lookout walk will remain open during this time.

Once the work is complete visitors will be able to access the base of MacKenzie Falls from the popular walking track at the MacKenzie Falls carpark, and the Mackenzie Falls River walk from Zumsteins.

Until these works are completed, areas at the bottom of the walking track may be crowded, especially over long weekends and Easter. For your safety, stay on the walking track and keep off rocks at the side of the walking track as they can be wet and slippery. Plan your walk and consider visiting early in the morning or later in the afternoon.

Are the changes permanent?

A new larger viewing platform is proposed at the base of the Falls as part of the [MacKenzie Falls Revitalisation project](#). This will be built on the same side of the track as the Falls. Access to the opposite of the base of the Falls will no longer be permitted for safety reasons, this includes crossing the river at the base.

As part of the revitalisation, a new loop walking track is proposed offering new views from higher up opposite the Falls.

What is the MacKenzie Falls revitalisation?

The Victorian Government is investing \$7.76 million to improve visitor safety and the visitor experience at MacKenzie Falls and support tourism in the wider area.

When complete, the [MacKenzie Falls Revitalisation project](#) will deliver new and safe viewpoints for the falls including from a proposed new viewing platform at the base of the Falls, and from a new viewpoint from a proposed loop trail.

In addition to the new lookout platform at the base of the Falls and the new loop trail, the full scope of the project will involve a variety of upgrades across the area. These are yet to be fully determined but are proposed to include track improvements and extensions; improved education and interpretive signage, and; improved parking and congestion management.

In 2022, Parks Victoria sought community feedback on the proposed upgrades. This feedback is being considered in developing final plans for the site. Find out more about the community feedback [here](#).

The work done will align with the principles outlined in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan.

Will I be able to swim at the Falls?

Due to dangerous conditions including underwater rock shelves, swimming is not permitted at MacKenzie Falls. People have drowned at this site previously.

Safety improvements, including restricting access to the water at the base of the Falls is a key priority of the MacKenzie Falls Revitalisation project.

The main walking track down to MacKenzie Falls is steep and strenuous, leading to a river gorge with no vehicle access. The remoteness of the location, restricted access in and out of the site, and high visitation during peak visitor times make emergency response difficult.

Further information

For further information contact Brambuk The National Park and Cultural Centre:

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