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Bushwalking

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Australian

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Adventure Activity

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Good Practice Guide

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Guidance for day and overnight bushwalking and orienteering.

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17 Traditional Owner Acknowledgement

18 We acknowledge the *Traditional Owners* of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection
19 to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and
20 present.

21

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24

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43 and ratifying the documents:

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- 45 • are not liable for any loss resulting from an action taken or reliance made on any information
46 or material contained within the Australian Adventure Activity Standard, Good Practice Guides
47 and associated documents.

48 Version details

Version	Date	Details
1.0	23 Sept 2019	Version one release.
2.0	2026	

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52 Foreword

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54 "When I experience dadirri, I am made whole again. I can sit on the riverbank or walk through the trees;
55 even if someone close to me has passed away, I can find my peace in this silent awareness. There is no
56 need of words. A big part of dadirri is listening."

57 **Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann AM**

58

59 The Australian Adventure Activity Standard and Good Practice Guides are designed to ensure effective,
60 responsible, sustainable and safe delivery of adventure activities to *dependent participants*. They can help
61 people across the outdoor sector to develop appropriately managed adventure activities which enhance
62 individuals and our communities, while protecting the environment and culturally significant places. In
63 doing this, these documents can help ensure that people will continue to enjoy the benefits of adventure
64 activities well into the future.

65 Best wishes for all your adventures.

66 **The Australian Adventure Activity Standard Steering Committee.**

67 **Outdoor Council of Australia.**

Creation

The Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS) and accompanying Good Practice Guides (GPGs) were developed through a national project and launched in 2019. They drew together, and built upon, the various state and territory-specific adventure activity standards that had previously operated across Australia, replacing a fragmented set of arrangements with a single, nationally consistent voluntary framework. The original development drew on the input of a wide range of outdoor and adventure activity experts with extensive experience, supported by expert advisory groups and informed by open consultation across *activity providers*, education authorities and other stakeholders.

The Steering Committee gratefully acknowledges the members of the various focus groups, industry consultation, working groups and expert advisors for their work and contributions, and thanks the State and Territory Governments for funding the original development.

The AAAS and GPGs are now maintained by the Outdoor Council of Australia (OCA). They are subject to comprehensive review at least every five years, with targeted reviews undertaken in response to serious incidents, fatalities, relevant court decisions, or material changes in regulation or practice. Reviews are overseen by the Steering Committee and conducted in accordance with the AAAS Review and Update Methodology — a pragmatic, mixed-methods process combining legislative and regulatory analysis, currency checking of cited standards and instruments, stakeholder consultation, data-informed *risk assessment*, and structured expert input through the Expert Advisory Group, followed by open public consultation before endorsement.

The first comprehensive review under this methodology was undertaken in 2025–26. The review was facilitated, and the Standard and Good Practice Guides drafted, by The OREAS Group Dr David Marsden for and on behalf of the Outdoor Council of Australia. The Outdoor Council of Australia gratefully acknowledges the contributions of all who took part in the review:

- Dr David Marsden (PhD), Lead Consultant (The OREAS GROUP)
- Lori Modde, Project Sponsor (OCA Chair)
- the members of the AAAS Steering Committee, who provided governance, direction and endorsement of the reviewed documents;

Lori Modde, OCA Chair, Outdoors NSW, ACT

David Marsden, Lead Consultant, The OREAS Group

Andrew Atfield, Tasmania Government

Andrew Knight, Outdoors Victoria

Dom Courtney, Outdoors Queensland

Jodie Freund, South Australian Government

Katie Brown, Outdoors WA

Mitchell Hardy, NT Government

Neil Le Febvre, Outdoors WA

- the members of the Expert Advisory Groups, who contributed specialist knowledge and reviewed drafts across the Core and activity Good Practice Guides; and
- the *activity providers*, education authorities, peak bodies and individuals who contributed through public consultation, focus groups, and submissions.

Further details of the creation and review of the AAAS and GPGs can be found at www.australianaas.org.au, where updates are also published.

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147 Preface

148 About these documents

149 The Australian Adventure Activity Standard (AAAS) and related Good Practice Guides (GPGs) are an industry
150 good-practice framework for safe and responsible planning and delivery of outdoor adventure activities
151 with *dependent participants*.

152 The AAAS and related GPGs provide guidance on responsible activity delivery, including safety and respect
153 for the environment, cultural heritage and other users. They are not a full legal compliance framework.

154 Activity *providers* are encouraged to obtain independent professional and legal advice in relation to their
155 obligations and duties in delivering adventure activities and should reference the relevant laws to the area
156 in which they intend to undertake the adventure activity.

157 Dependent Participants

158 A *dependent participant* is a person who is owed a *duty of care* by the *activity provider* and who wholly or
159 partially on the provider's systems, processes and operational practices for the support, supervision,
160 guidance or instruction needed to take part in an activity. In most cases this means a participant who
161 reasonably relies on the provider for their safety. The degree of dependence may vary over the course of
162 an activity.

163 Considerations for determining whether a person is a *dependent participant* may include, but are not
164 limited to:

- 165 • whether the organisation is providing a service or product to the person
- 166 • whether the organisation owes the person a *duty of care* in the circumstances
- 167 • whether the person reasonably relies on the provider for the support, supervision, guidance
168 or instruction needed to participate safely.

169 Considerations for determining the **level of dependence** may include, but are not limited to:

- 170 • the foreseeable level of competence of the participant in the activity, and the degree of
171 reliance this creates on the provider's work system, including reliance on *activity leaders*
- 172 • the foreseeable level of self-reliance of the participant to reasonably manage their own safety
- 173 • the variation, or possible variation, in the degree of dependence or self-reliance throughout
174 the activity
- 175 • the individual context, nature and circumstances of the activity
- 176 • the relevant circumstances and particular facts relating to the responsibilities assumed by the
177 provider.

178 Does the Standard and Good Practice Guides apply to me?

179 The Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS) and associated Good Practice Guides (GPGs) are
180 primarily designed to support activity *providers* conducting lead or supported adventure activities involving
181 *dependent participants* with the aim of delivering safe, responsible and well-managed experiences. Each
182 *provider* must determine, based on their specific circumstances, whether the participants they work with
183 are dependent and/or their level of dependency on the provider's systems and operations. Providers
184 should use the AAAS and relevant GPGs to ensure that the activities they lead are planned and delivered in
185 accordance with the Standard.

186 Australian *providers* operating internationally can use the AAAS and GPGs as a benchmark for safe practice,
187 while complying with the laws and relevant standards of the jurisdiction in which the activity is conducted.
188 Legal advice should be obtained where activities cross jurisdictions.

189 Activity *providers* include outdoor education and adventure businesses, schools, universities, TAFEs, camps,
190 clubs and organised "meet-up" groups, youth organisations, not-for-profits, and community-based
191 organisations that deliver adventure activities to *dependent participants*. An individual may also be an

192 *activity provider* where they hold the ultimate legal *duty of care* to participants. “The Standard” and the
193 GPGs apply to a provider as a “whole organisation” rather than to “specific roles” within it.

194 Some providers may have their own standards or guidelines appropriate to their *duty of care*. These should
195 be reviewed periodically to ensure current *duty of care* expectations are met, and “the Standard” and the
196 GPGs may assist with such reviews.

197 Are they legally binding?

198 The AAAS and GPGs are not legal requirements. However, they may refer to specific laws and regulations
199 which may be legally binding on *activity providers*. Some *land managers* and other organisations may
200 require compliance. This may be as a condition of obtaining a licence, permit or other permission, or some
201 other condition (e.g. a contract).

202 Under Australian common law and relevant legislation, *providers* have a legal *duty of care* towards
203 *dependent participants* in some circumstances. In broad terms, the legal duty requires *providers* to take
204 reasonable care that their actions and omissions do not cause reasonably foreseeable injury to *dependent*
205 *participants*.

206 It is important to be aware that adventure activities in Australia operate within a complex legal landscape.
207 *Activity providers* must understand the obligations that apply to them and seek independent professional
208 and legal advice where any obligation is unclear.

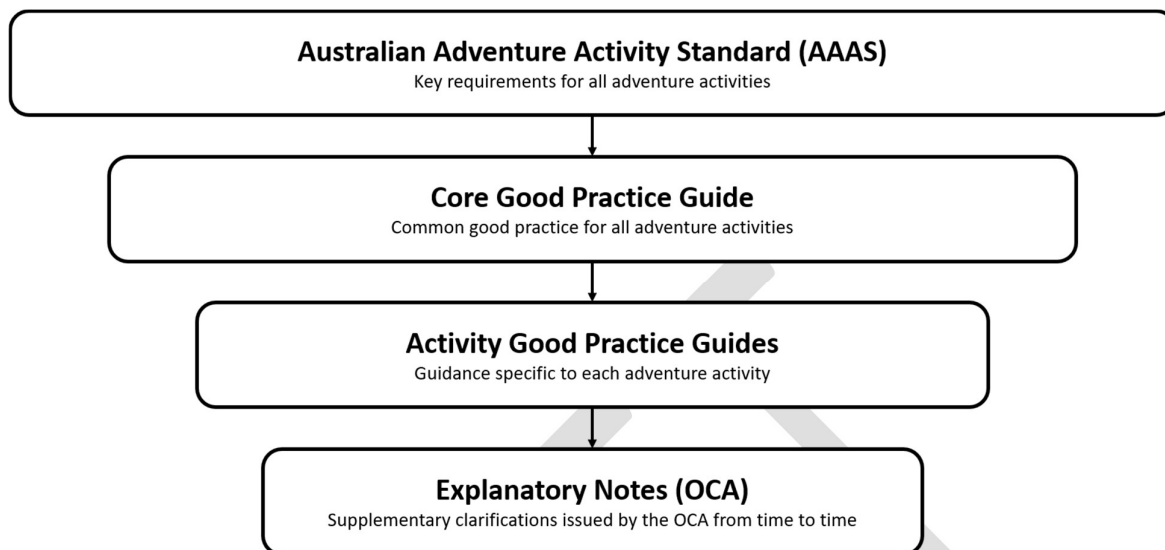
209 The following obligations include, but are not limited to, those set out in detail in Appendix A — Principal
210 legal obligations, grouped by the function each obligation performs:

- 211 1. Work health and safety — the foundational legal duty for the majority of providers, including the
212 primary *duty of care*, officers' due-diligence duty, consultation, safe systems of work, and
213 notifiable-incident reporting.
- 214 2. *Duty of care*, negligence and consumer protection — the common law *duty of care*, the Civil
215 Liability Act (or equivalent) of each state and territory, and the Australian Consumer Law.
- 216 3. Protection of children and vulnerable persons — Working with Children and Working with
217 Vulnerable People schemes, Child Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Schemes.
- 218 4. Transport of participants — land, water and air — heavy vehicle, road transport, domestic
219 commercial vessel, recreational marine and civil aviation obligations.
- 220 5. Land access, environment and cultural heritage — park, Crown land and reserve licensing, the
221 EPBC Act, Aboriginal cultural heritage law(s) and/or regulation(s), and biosecurity duties.
- 222 6. Information privacy, equity and employment — the Privacy Act and Australian Privacy Principles,
223 anti-discrimination law(s) and/or regulation(s), and the Fair Work Act and relevant award.
- 224 7. Substances, food and licensed items — medicines and poisons, food safety, liquor and tobacco,
225 and firearms obligations.
- 226 8. Activity-specific licensing — fisheries and recreational fishing licensing, and animal welfare duties.

227 Appendix A is an orientation only and is not exhaustive. It does not constitute legal advice, and the relevant
228 law(s) and/or regulation(s) of the jurisdiction(s) of operation must in each case be determined and
229 complied with.

230 Structure of the Standard and Good Practice Guides

231 The guidance for adventure activities comprises several related documents. For any activity, the AAAS (the
232 Standard), the Core GPG, the relevant activity GPG, and any applicable Explanatory Notes issued by the
233 Outdoor Council of Australia, from time to time, should be consulted.



234

235 *Figure 1.1: Structure of the Standard and Good Practice Guides*

236 The documents present cumulatively more specific information. Providers should determine how they use
237 the AAAS and GPGs based on their context and need, and are encouraged to draw on them when
238 developing and reviewing their standard operating procedures. Activity providers are encouraged to obtain
239 independent professional and legal advice on their obligations and to reference the laws relevant to the
240 area in which they operate.

241 Interpretation of the Standard and Good Practice Guides

242 The following words and phrases are used in all documents and have specific meanings:

243 **Must:** used where a provision is mandatory, if the provider is to operate fully in accordance with AAAS or
244 GPGs. (This is equivalent to the keyword “shall” used in other voluntary standards e.g. Standards Australia,
245 other International Standards Organisations (ISOs) etc.)

246 **Should:** used where a provision is recommended, not mandatory. It indicates that the provider needs to
247 consider their specific situation and decide for themselves whether it applies or is relevant. A “should”
248 statement describes good practice. Departure from a “should” statement does not of itself establish a
249 breach of duty — a provider may meet its obligations by other means appropriate to its context — but
250 providers should be able to explain the basis for a different approach.

251 **Can/cannot:** indicates a possibility and capability.

252 **May/need not:** indicates a permission or existence of an option.

253 **But are/is not limited to:** used to indicate that a list is not definitive and additional items may need to be
254 considered depending on the context.

255 The following formatting is used throughout:

256 Defined words are in italics. They are defined in the Glossary.

257 Examples are in smaller italic 9-point font.

258 In document references are underlined. References are to section heading titles.

260 1 Introduction

261 1.1 Bushwalking Overview

262 *Bushwalking* is walking in predominately natural areas. This may be for a short period of time for example,
263 a few hours or an extended period requiring overnight *camping*.

264 Extended duration bushwalking imposes a requirement for self-sufficiency in preparation, training,
265 equipment and food, including in the case of injury or incident. *Providers should* not assume that outside
266 assistance is contactable or available.

267 *Bushwalking* can occur in a diverse range of environments/natural areas including but not limited to:

- 268 • coastal
- 269 • plains
- 270 • forest
- 271 • arid or outback
- 272 • tropical
- 273 • mountain or alpine.

274 1.2 Exclusions

275 This activity GPG is not generally applicable to *day walks* using class 1 and 2 walking trails in *non-remote*
276 areas.

277 1.3 Related activities

278 Where *camping* occurs on a bushwalk, the Camping GPG *must* be complied with.

279 Consideration of the Bushwalking GPG *should* occur when conducting rogaining & orienteering activities
280 with *dependent participants*.

281 2 Management of Risk

282 *Risk management* in outdoor and adventure settings is highly context-specific. In natural environments
283 there is an almost infinite range of combinations of participants, purpose, weather and local conditions,
284 and every provider differs in structure, size, philosophy and operating environment. *Risk management*
285 therefore cannot be a 'tick-the-box' exercise or a 'one size fits all' approach; risk systems should be flexible,
286 adaptive and highly responsive to the circumstances of each activity, drawing on recognised frameworks
287 such as AS ISO 31000:2018 and AS ISO 4980:2023.

288 The section guides providers to build a risk system that fits their own structure and operating environment
289 rather than copying another organisation's. A volunteer-led club might apply it as a lightweight but
290 documented plan with strong dynamic assessment in the field; a commercial operator might use it to
291 underpin a formal, audited *risk management* system. In every case it directs the provider to make risk
292 thinking flexible, adaptive and responsive to the actual circumstances of each activity.

293

294 2.1 Management of risk

295 *See Core GPG (2 Management of Risk).*

296 2.2 Context Matters

297 *See Core GPG (Management of Risk).*

298 2.3 Risk management framework and process

299 *See Core GPG (Management of Risk).*

300 2.4 Risk management plan

301 *See Core GPG (Management of Risk).*

302 2.5 Dynamic risk assessment

303 *See Core GPG (Management of Risk).*

304 2.6 Incident reporting

305 *See Core GPG (Management of Risk).*

306 3 Planning

307
308 Sound planning is what turns intent into safe and consistent delivery. Clear management and approval
309 processes help a provider manage risk, with the people responsible for approving processes, plans and
310 procedures varying according to the organisation's context. Good planning considers the purpose of the
311 activity, the people involved, group size, the cultural and environmental values of the place, and what to do
312 when conditions change or things go wrong.

313 Here the guidance helps a provider translate intent into a repeatable, defensible process. Approval roles
314 can be scaled to context — a single coordinator in a small operation, or a tiered sign-off structure in a larger
315 one. The material can shape activity-plan templates, prompt early engagement with *Traditional Owners*
316 and *land managers*, and ensure emergency planning and field documentation are in place and reviewed
317 before participants arrive.

318 3.1 Management and approval of activities

319 *See Core GPG (Planning).*

320 3.2 Activity plans

321 *Bushwalking* specific planning considerations *may* include but are not limited to:

- 322 • the required navigation skills & equipment
- 323 • the suitability of maps for navigation
- 324 • what the intended route is
- 325 • identifying suitable sites to camp
- 326 • what terrain will be encountered on the route
- 327 • where sources of drinking water are
- 328 • the remoteness of the route and the implications this has for communications, evacuation,
- 329 first aid equipment and first aid competencies
- 330 • the access to start and finish locations, and access and egress options throughout the activity,
- 331 including for evacuation or incident response
- 332 • the impact of current seasonal factors
- 333 • identifying route specific hazards and risks
- 334 • determining the expected trail classification
- 335 • the expected weight of equipment *activity leaders* and participants need to carry

- 336 • having reasonable access in the initial stages, to enable practical assessment of participant's
337 abilities so that in cases where the participant's ability does not match that needed to
338 complete the activity, they can leave or withdraw without significant difficulties.

339 *See Core GPG (Planning) for the general requirements and further detail.*

340 3.3 Group size

341 *See Core GPG (Planning). Group size for this activity is addressed under Participants in this guide.*

342 3.4 Cultural, environmental and historical values

343 *See Core GPG (Planning).*

344 3.5 Emergency management planning

345 *A non-participating contact must be used as part of the emergency management plan for:*

- 346 • class 4, 5 and 6 bushwalks
347 • remote bushwalks
348 • overnight bushwalks.

349 *See Core GPG (Planning) for the general requirements and further detail.*

350 3.6 Activity leader required documentation

351 *See Core GPG (Planning).*

352 4 Diversity, equity and inclusion

353 Adventure *activities* are delivered by, and for, people of diverse identities, abilities, cultures, life
354 experiences and circumstances. Recognising that diversity, and providing equitable opportunities for safe
355 and meaningful participation, is fundamental to safe and effective practice.

356 In practice this section guides providers to design activities that include rather than exclude, applying
357 across interactions between leaders, participants and others encountered during an activity. A provider can
358 use it to review enrolment and communication practices for barriers, build cultural and psychological safety
359 into leader briefings, and ensure complaint and review mechanisms are visible and accessible. It is intended
360 to be read alongside the Participants and Responsibilities sections rather than in isolation.

361 The recommendations in this section apply alongside, and inform the application of, the subsequent
362 sections of the Core, including without limitation 5 Participants, 5.3 *Vulnerable participants*, 5.5 Privacy of
363 information, j2pqeh53snxp3zsexu8e3ee94.3 Cultural safety, 4.4 Psychological safety and dignity, and 8
364 Responsibilities and roles. Those sections continue to apply in their own terms; where requirements
365 overlap, the more onerous applies.

366 4.1 Diversity of participants and leaders

367 *See Core GPG (Diversity, equity and inclusion).*

368 4.2 Inclusive practice

369 *See Core GPG (Diversity, equity and inclusion).*

370 4.3 Cultural safety

371 *See Core GPG (Diversity, equity and inclusion).*

372 4.4 Psychological safety and dignity

373 See Core GPG (*Diversity, equity and inclusion*).

374 4.5 Information, communication and consent

375 See Core GPG (*Diversity, equity and inclusion*).

376 4.6 Leader competence

377 See Core GPG (*Diversity, equity and inclusion*).

378 4.7 Concerns, complaints and review

379 See Core GPG (*Diversity, equity and inclusion*).

380 5 Participants

381 Every activity depends on the people taking part, and on the information and support they receive before
382 and during it. Pre-activity information and communication help potential participants, parents or legal
383 guardians and client organisations make an informed decision about taking part, and continue through
384 consent, acknowledgement of risk, and the care of those who may be vulnerable. Supporting participants
385 well — from first enquiry to supervision in the field — is central to safe and respectful practice.

386 Its purpose is to help a provider ensure people know what they are signing up for and are appropriately
387 supported once they arrive. Pre-activity information can be adapted to the audience and activity,
388 participation restrictions set defensibly, and additional safeguards put in place for *vulnerable participants*
389 and minors. The supervision guidance lets a provider calibrate direct versus *indirect supervision* to the
390 activity, environment and group.

391 5.1 Information provided pre-activity

392 Refer to Core GPG – Participants for general pre-activity information requirements. The following
393 bushwalking-specific information provisions apply in addition to those in the Core GPG.

394 Pre-activity information given to participants *should* clearly communicate:

- 395 • the estimated overall backpack weight that a *participant* is likely to carry
- 396 • the equipment the provider will or can supply
- 397 • what equipment, clothing or footwear the participant needs to supply
- 398 • any necessary guidance as to the weight, size or type of equipment, clothing or footwear the
399 participant needs to supply.

400 An appropriate pre-activity assessment *should* be completed to ensure participants have the necessary
401 equipment, clothing and footwear for the activity context, and meet the necessary requirements to carry
402 the overall backpack weight that they are likely to carry.

403 See Core GPG (*Participants*) for the general requirements and further detail.

404 5.2 Group size

405 The following table outlines recommended maximum group sizes to be considered when planning
406 bushwalks. Final group size *should* take into account the activity context, environmental sustainability,
407 participant needs, and any *land manager* requirements.

408 Also, refer to considerations for determining group size in Core GPG.

409 Note: Maximum group size is inclusive of all *activity leaders, responsible persons* and participants.

Where group sizes are large, it is recommended that *providers* consider splitting the group into smaller, more manageable sub-groups, each with appropriate leadership.

Table 5.1: Group size

Bushwalking	Day		Overnight	
Class	Minors	Adults	Minors	Adults
1-2	46	46	22	22
3	46	46	22	22
4	23	23	22	22
5-6	19	19	19	19

See Core GPG (Participants) for the general requirements and further detail.

5.2.1 Bushwalking minimum group size

The recommended minimum group size *should* be four for class 4, 5 and 6 bushwalks.

5.3 Activity leader to participant ratios

5.3.1 Supervision considerations

Supervision ratios are dependent on the activity context and a range of considerations identified in the *provider's risk assessment*. Providers *should* consider the recommended supervision ratios provided in this document alongside the considerations listed below.

Prior to determining ratios, providers *must* consider the recommended supervision ratios provide in this document and considerations on Core GPG sections:

- Activity leader to participant ratios
- Land owner, land manager and other authorities' activity leader ratios
- Land owner and/or land manager requirements
- Environmental sustainability principles
- Environmental sustainability procedures.

In the following tables, maximum group size means the total number of *activity leaders, responsible persons* and participants. The ratios provided are recommendations. Smaller group sizes or additional adults may be required depending on the activity context, participant needs, and *land manager* requirements.

The following tables outline the supervision ratios that *should* be considered when deciding the leadership requirements for specific bushwalk classes.

5.3.2 Supervision recommendations for minors

Table 5.2: Supervision recommendations for minors Class 1-2

Leader recommendations – Minors Class 1-2	Day	Overnight
2 responsible persons minimum or 2 activity leaders depending on context	1-30	
3 responsible persons minimum or 3 activity leaders depending on context	31-43	
1 activity leader and 1 responsible person minimum *Suitable support available		1-20
1 leader and 1 assistant leader		1-20
Maximum group size^ (also refer land owner/manager requirements)	46	22

Table 5.3: Supervision recommendations for minors Class 3

Leader recommendations – Minors Class 3	Day	Overnight
1 activity leader and 1 responsible person minimum	1-30	

1 activity leader and 2 responsible persons minimum	31-43	
1 activity leader and 1 responsible person minimum *Suitable support available		1-20
1 leader and 1 assistant leader		1-20
Maximum group size^ (also refer land owner/manager requirements)	46	22

439

440 *Table 5.4: Supervision recommendations for minors Class 4*

Leader recommendations – Minors Class 4	Day	Overnight
1 activity leader and 1 responsible person minimum *Suitable support available	1-20	1-20
1 leader and 1 assistant leader	1-20	1-20
Maximum group size^ (also refer land owner/manager requirements)	22	22

441

442 *Table 5.5: Supervision recommendations for minors Class 5*

Leader recommendations – Minors Class 5-6	Day	Overnight
1 leader and 1 assistant leader minimum	1-17	1-17
Maximum group size^ (also refer land owner/manager requirements)	19	19

443

444 5.3.3 Supervision recommendations for Adults

445 *Table 5.6: Supervision recommendations for Adults Class 1-2*

Leader recommendations – Adults Class 1-2	Day	Overnight
1 responsible person or activity leader depending on context	1-22	
1 activity leader		1-15
1 activity leader and 1 responsible person minimum *Suitable support available		16-20
1 leader and 1 assistant leader		16-20
Maximum group size^ (also refer land owner/manager requirements)	46	22

446

447 *Table 5.7: Supervision recommendations for Adults Class 3*

Leader recommendations – Adults Class 3	Day	Overnight
1 activity leader	1-22	1-15
1 activity leader and 1 responsible person minimum *Suitable support available		16-20
1 leader and 1 assistant leader		16-20
Maximum group size^ (also refer land owner/manager requirements)	46	22

448

449 *Table 5.8: Supervision recommendations for Adults Class 4*

Leader recommendations – Adults Class 4	Day	Overnight
1 leader	1-21	1-15
1 activity leader and 1 responsible person minimum *Suitable support available		16-20
1 leader and 1 assistant leader		16-20
Maximum group size^ (also refer land owner/manager requirements)	22	22

450

451 *Table 5.9: Supervision recommendations for Adults Class 5-6*

Leader recommendations – Adults Class 5-6	Day	Overnight
1 leader	1-3	1-3
1 leader and 1 assistant leader minimum	4-17	4-17

Maximum group size^ (also refer land owner/manager requirements)	19	19
--	----	----

452

453 *Responsible person(s) should* have a first aid qualification appropriate to the activity context. A person with
454 a first aid qualification appropriate to the activity context *must* be present in every group.

455 **Table Notes:**

456 ^Maximum group size = total of all *activity leaders* plus responsible persons plus participants.

457 *Suitable support available: *Providers* considerations for operating with only 1 *activity leader* include but
458 are not limited to:

- 459 • factors identified in Core GPG – *Activity leader* to participant ratios & *Land owner, land*
460 *manager* and other authorities' *activity leader* ratios
- 461 • the skills and knowledge of the responsible person
- 462 • what nearby suitable support the provider has that can reach the group within a reasonable
463 response time.

464 5.4 Pre-activity communication

465 *See Core GPG (Participants).*

466 5.5 Participation restrictions

467 *See Core GPG (Participants).*

468 5.6 Vulnerable participants

469 *See Core GPG (Participants).*

470 5.7 Health and wellbeing

471 *See Core GPG (Participants).*

472 5.8 Privacy of information

473 *See Core GPG (Participants).*

474 5.9 Supervision and management during the activity

475 5.9.1 supervision and management

476 Group separation poses a significant risk. Groups *should* not be divided during an activity unless required
477 for emergency response, and procedures *must* be in place to manage the risk of unplanned group
478 separation.

479 Procedures *must* be in place to reduce the potential of participants becoming separated or lost.

480 5.9.2 Indirect or remote supervision

481 Where *dependent participants* may not have *activity leader* direct or indirect supervision for parts of the
482 activity, refer to the following sections of the Core GPG:

- 483 • *remote supervision*
- 484 • indirect and *remote supervision* instructions considerations
- 485 • leadership of training activities.

486

487 5.10 Activity leader to participants ratios

488 See Core GPG (*Participants*).

489 5.11 Activity briefing

490 See Core GPG (*Participants*).

491 6 Environment

492 Environmental conditions can directly affect the safety of an activity, and everyone involved shares
493 responsibility for protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the places they visit. Weather, fire, water,
494 terrain, wildlife and the requirements of *land owners* and managers all shape what can be done safely and
495 respectfully. Providers must actively identify, reduce and manage both the risks the environment poses and
496 the impact an activity has upon it.

497 For providers, the guidance encourages planning around the localised, in-situ conditions at the specific time
498 and place of an activity, rather than relying on general assumptions. The trigger-point approach can set
499 clear go/no-go and modification thresholds, fire and severe-weather planning can be aligned with the
500 relevant guidance material, and *land manager* requirements confirmed. Activity-specific detail is expected
501 to come from the relevant activity GPG, with this section providing the common baseline.

502

503 6.1 Environment related planning

504 Other environmental considerations other than climate or weather for bushwalking *may* include but are
505 not limited to:

- 506 • the type of flora expected (e.g. impeding progress, ability to cut or scratch etc.)
- 507 • the fauna expected (e.g. risks associated with venomous snakes, ants etc.)
- 508 • the terrain (e.g. steep slopes, uneven or unstable footing, cliff edges etc.).
- 509 • tidal waters, tide heights, tidal flow and wave heights where routes involve coastal or
- 510 estuarine environments

511 6.1.1 Weather information

512 Refer [Appendix V - Weather information](#).

513 6.1.2 Severe weather triggers

514 *Trigger points must* be based on the relevant Bureau of Meteorology weather warnings and actual weather
515 conditions.

516 The *risk management plan* and emergency management plan *should* include guidance on *trigger points* and
517 associated actions for:

- 518 • *severe weather* warnings
- 519 • thunderstorm warnings
- 520 • coastal waters wind warnings
- 521 • tropical cyclone advice: watch and warning
- 522 • extreme cold temperature
- 523 • extreme hot temperatures.

524 Actions for relevant weather *may* include but are not limited to:

- 525 • cancellation
- 526 • modification and/or evacuation to a safe location
- 527 • avoiding locations affected by tides or surf

- 528 • avoiding areas and river crossings that have the potential for *flash flooding*
- 529 • preparations to avoid the risks associated with blizzards
- 530 • moving to areas that are protected from strong winds
- 531 • managing risks of flying or falling items during strong winds
- 532 • moving to areas that are protected from hail
- 533 • preparations to avoid the risks associated with lightning.

534 Also refer to Core GPG – *Severe weather* triggers for guidance on establishing *trigger points*.

535 Weather forecasts are probability-based and *should* not be relied upon as guarantees of conditions. *Activity*
536 *leaders should* prepare for conditions that may be worse than forecast and have contingency plans in place.

537 6.2 Bushfire, prescribed fire and fire danger

538 *See Core GPG (6 Bushfires/fire danger).*

539 6.3 Water crossing and flooding

540 The crossing of swollen creeks, rivers, flooded bridges or fords, or the entry of floodwaters *should* be
541 avoided.

542 When assessing the suitability of a potential crossing, considerations *should* include but are not limited to:

- 543 • if there is debris floating or flowing in the current as this can indicate the risk of being hit
544 and/or swept away by debris
- 545 • how clear the water is and if the base of the crossing be seen as this can help determine the
546 depth of crossing and its base
- 547 • the ease of entry to and exit from the water, including whether steep or unstable banks
548 increase the risk of slipping, entrapment or difficulty in the event of an emergency
- 549 • the depth of the crossing as this can indicate the amount of water and force needed to be
550 overcome to avoid being washed away
- 551 • the speed of the water as this can indicate the volume of water and force needed to be
552 overcome to avoid being washed away
- 553 • where the water flows as the flow may wash people into dangerous or deadly situations (e.g.
554 into trees in the water that act as strainers, into narrow rock crevices)
- 555 • the base of the crossing (e.g. pebbles, sand, small rocks or large rocks) as moving water can move the
556 base increasing the danger of foot entrapment and/or reducing the likelihood of maintaining stable
557 footing during the crossing).

558 6.3.1 Flash flooding

559 When *camping*, locations likely to experience *flash flooding* *should* be avoided.

560 Areas likely to experience *flash flooding* *should* be avoided during *severe weather* or thunderstorms.

561 The suitability of water for drinking during and after flooding *should* be assessed.

562 When camping near waterways, the selection of campsites *should* include consideration of ingress and
563 egress options in the event of flooding or rapidly rising water levels.

564 6.4 Environmental conditions, safety and impact management

565 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

566 6.5 Bushfires, prescribed fire and fire danger

567 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

568 6.6 Tree safety

569 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

570 6.7 Drinking water safety

571 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

572 6.8 Food safety

573 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

574 6.9 Wildlife safety

575 Procedures *should* be in place to minimise the risks associated with wildlife that *may* be encountered.

576 The types of wildlife encounters that *may* need to be considered include but are not limited to:

- 577 • crocodiles
- 578 • snakes
- 579 • spiders
- 580 • ticks
- 581 • stinging or biting insects
- 582 • wild pigs.

583 *See Core GPG (Environment) for the general requirements and further detail.*

584 6.10 Land owner and/or manager requirements

585 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

586 6.11 Water environments

587 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

588 7 Equipment and logistics

589 The right equipment, well chosen and well maintained, is fundamental to safe delivery. Equipment
590 requirements differ from one activity and context to another, spanning personal and group gear, first aid
591 and medication, communications and transport. Deciding what is genuinely needed, keeping it fit for
592 purpose, and organising the logistics around it are everyday responsibilities for any provider.

593 It helps a provider decide what equipment is genuinely needed, who is responsible for it, and how it is kept
594 fit for purpose. The framework can drive equipment checklists matched to each activity, inspection and
595 maintenance schedules appropriate to scale, and communications and first aid provisions matched to the
596 remoteness and risk of the activity. It supports consistent logistics decisions without imposing a single
597 equipment list on every provider.

598 7.1 Framework for equipment requirements

599 *See Core GPG (Equipment and logistics).*

600 7.2 Equipment requirements

601 Procedures *must* be in place to ensure participants have clothing appropriate to the expected and
602 foreseeable weather conditions, footwear appropriate to the expected and foreseeable terrain, and a
603 personal drink supply.

604 Procedures *should* be in place to ensure that important equipment provided by participants, and
605 equipment provided by the *provider*, is appropriate for the activity context.

606 Procedures *should* be in place to ensure that the specific equipment needs of participants with disabilities
607 are identified and accommodated, including the provision or approval of specialist adaptive equipment
608 where required.

609 Example equipment lists can be found in Appendix U – Common bushwalking equipment.

610 Refer Core GPG – First aid equipment and medication for first aid kit requirements.

611 *See Core GPG (Equipment and logistics) for the general requirements and further detail.*

612 7.3 First aid equipment and medication

613 *See Core GPG (Equipment and logistics).*

614 7.4 Communications equipment

615 *See Core GPG (Equipment and logistics).*

616 7.5 Use of equipment

617 Training for the appropriate lifting, lowering and manual handling techniques for backpacks and other
618 heavy or awkward equipment *must* be provided to relevant people.

619 Training for the appropriate fitting and adjustment of backpacks and other modifiable personal equipment
620 *must* be provided.

621 *See Core GPG (Equipment and logistics) for the general requirements and further detail.*

622 7.6 Transport

623 *See Core GPG (Equipment and logistics).*

624 7.7 Maintenance of equipment

625 *See Core GPG (Equipment and logistics).*

626 7.8 Storage of equipment

627 *See Core GPG (Equipment and logistics).*

628 8 Responsibilities and roles

629 This section sets out the responsibilities and roles of persons involved in the planning and delivery of
630 bushwalking activities under this guide. It must be read in conjunction with Core GPG Section 8, which
631 contains the generic responsibilities and roles framework applicable to all outdoor activities. Where a sub-
632 section below states ‘See Core GPG’, the full requirements for that sub-section are set out in the Core GPG
633 and apply without modification to bushwalking.

634 8.1 Responsibilities and roles framework

635 See Core GPG Section 8.1 — the responsibilities and roles framework, including the three operational
636 leadership roles of *Leader*, *Assistant Leader* and *Support person*, applies without modification to
637 bushwalking activities delivered under this guide.

638 8.2 Naming conventions

639 See Core GPG Section 8.2. This guide uses the standard Core GPG role terms — *Leader*, *Assistant Leader*
640 and *Support person* — throughout. Where a provider uses activity-specific titles, they map as follows:

641 *Bushwalking guide* — equivalent to *Leader* in the Core GPG.

642 *Assistant bushwalking guide* — equivalent to *Assistant Leader* in the Core GPG.

643 *Support person* — the Core GPG term is used unchanged (see Core GPG Section 8.4.3).

644 8.3 Provider responsibilities to prepare and support leaders

645 See Core GPG Section 8.3 — the provider responsibilities to prepare and support leaders apply without
646 modification to bushwalking activities delivered under this guide.

647 8.4 Leader responsibilities and role descriptions

648 See Core GPG Section 8.4 — the leader responsibilities and role descriptions, including the role descriptions
649 for *Leader* (8.4.1), *Assistant Leader* (8.4.2) and *Support person* (8.4.3), and the leader fitness for work
650 requirements (8.4.4), apply without modification to bushwalking activities delivered under this guide.

651 8.4.1 Leader — operational responsibility in the field

652 The *Leader* carries operational responsibility in the field for the activity and all participants, working within
653 the provider's systems and direction; see Core GPG Section 8.4.1 for the full role description.

654 8.4.2 Assistant Leader — delegated responsibility

655 The *Assistant Leader* supports the *Leader* and carries delegated operational responsibility for defined
656 elements or participant groups, operating under the *Leader's* direction; see Core GPG Section 8.4.2.

657 8.4.3 Support person

658 The *Support person* is a non-technical role that assists *activity leaders* in managing participants and fulfilling
659 general supervisory and organisational duties, and does not carry the technical responsibilities of a *Leader*
660 or *Assistant Leader*. The key responsibilities of this role, and its important limitations — including that a
661 *support person* must not be treated as an *activity leader* for the purpose of calculating *activity leader* to
662 participant ratios unless they also hold the relevant bushwalking knowledge and skill — are as set out in
663 Core GPG Section 8.4.3.

664 8.4.4 Leader fitness for work

665 Leaders and *assistant leaders* must be physically and psychosocially fit for the demands of the role;
666 providers must take reasonable steps to manage risks arising from factors including physical and
667 psychosocial fitness, alcohol, medication, other substances and fatigue; see Core GPG Section 8.4.4.

668 8.4.4.1 Physical and psychosocial fitness

669 The provider must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that each person assigned to a *Leader* or
670 *Assistant Leader* role is physically and psychosocially capable of the demands of bushwalking — which vary
671 with track classification, environment, load and trip duration. Leaders must self-assess their fitness before
672 accepting a role; see Core GPG Section 8.4.4.1.

673 8.4.4.2 Alcohol, medication and other substances

674 Alcohol and other substance consumption should be discouraged during or immediately before an activity
675 where it could impair a leader's performance. Leaders must carry sufficient medication for the full duration
676 of the bushwalk and have a contingency if it is lost, damaged or unavailable in the field; see Core GPG
677 Section 8.4.4.2.

678 8.4.4.3 Fatigue

679 Physical and mental fatigue creates significant risk, particularly on multi-day and remote bushwalks;
680 providers must implement reasonable controls including appropriate scheduling, role allocation, travel
681 arrangements and self-assessment procedures; see Core GPG Section 8.4.4.3.

682 8.5 Leader readiness and capability

683 See Core GPG Section 8.5 — the leader readiness and capability requirements, including leadership
684 knowledge, skill and experience (8.5.1), provider responsibilities under the Outdoor Leader KSE Framework
685 (8.5.2), first aid (8.5.3), knowledge and skill acquisition (8.5.4), verification (8.5.5), currency (8.5.6) and
686 verification and currency records (8.5.7), apply to bushwalking activities delivered under this guide.

687 The detailed knowledge, skill and experience required of a Leader is set out in Appendix M of this guide,
688 and of an *Assistant Leader* in Appendix N. The program planning matrix (leader-matching tool) is set out in
689 Core GPG Appendix O, the recognition-of-competence pathways in Core GPG Appendix P, and the
690 indicative experience bands in Core GPG Appendix Q.

691 8.5.1 Leadership knowledge, skill and experience

692 The provider must ensure each person in a Leader or *Assistant Leader* role holds integrated knowledge, skill
693 and experience appropriate to the responsibilities of the role and the specific bushwalking context. This is a
694 non-delegable provider obligation that cannot be satisfied by a qualification alone — it requires active,
695 documented verification against the role's responsibilities; see Core GPG Section 8.5.1.

696 8.5.2 Provider responsibilities under the Outdoor Leader KSE Framework

697 Providers must verify the capability of every person assigned to a Leader or *Assistant Leader* role across the
698 nine domains of the AAAS Outdoor Leader KSE Framework, scaled to the activity context and the capability
699 level required for the bushwalk; see Core GPG Section 8.5.2. The bushwalking activity scope, and the leader
700 requirements that flow from track classification and environment, are set out at the head of Appendix M.

701 8.5.3 First aid

702 Leaders must hold a current first-aid qualification appropriate to the activity, environment and applicable
703 work health and safety law(s) and/or regulation(s); for remote and multi-day bushwalks a remote or
704 wilderness first-aid qualification should be considered. See Core GPG Section 8.5.3 and Core GPG Appendix
705 L (first aid and medication considerations).

706 8.5.4 Knowledge and skill acquisition

707 Knowledge, skill and experience may be developed through, but is not limited to, formal qualifications,
708 industry training, provider-based programs, structured participation or a combination; no single method
709 has primacy; see Core GPG Section 8.5.4.

710 8.5.5 Verification

711 For each person in a Leader or *Assistant Leader* role, the provider must verify knowledge, skill, experience
712 and currency in context before the person carries the role. The detailed bushwalking knowledge, skill and
713 experience against which verification is made is set out in Appendix M (Leader) and Appendix N (*Assistant*
714 *Leader*), and pathway guidance is in Core GPG Appendix P; see Core GPG Section 8.5.5.

715 8.5.6 Currency

716 Knowledge, skill and experience must be current. The provider must determine the minimum currency and
717 recency requirements appropriate to the context — having regard to the activity, the track classification
718 and environment, the role, the frequency of practice, and the consequences of a lapse in capability — and
719 verify currency for each person in a leadership role before they carry the role. The means by which
720 currency may be established are set out in Core GPG Section 8.5.6.

721 8.5.7 Verification and Currency Records
722 Providers must maintain records of how verification was conducted — including the basis, method, date
723 and person responsible — for each person in a leadership role, retained consistent with the provider’s
724 record-keeping obligations; see Core GPG Section 8.5.7.

725 Glossary

726 Also, refer terms and definitions from Core GPG.

727 AAAS: Australian Adventure Activity Standard – See Introduction for details.

728 *Assistant bushwalking guide*: is an *Assistant Leader* for a bushwalking activity

729 *Bushwalking*: walking in natural areas

730 *Bushwalking guide*: is a *Leader* for a bushwalking activity.

731 *Camping*: the use of a temporary site for overnight camping.

732 *Day walks*: *bushwalking* that has the intention and *expected results* of being completed without the need
733 for *camping* or sleeping overnight.

734 *Flash flooding*: is flooding in a localised area with a rapid onset, usually as a result of relatively short intense
735 bursts of rainfall.

736 *Minor*: someone under the age of 18 years.

737 *GPGs*: Good Practice Guide(s) – See Introduction for details.

738 *Trigger point*: a particular circumstance or situation that causes an action to occur.

739

740 Acronyms

741 The following acronyms are used in this Good Practice Guide.

742 AAAS: Australian Adventure Activity Standard

743 GPG: Good Practice Guide

744 ISO: International Organization for Standardization

745 OCA: Outdoor Council of Australia

746 PLB: Personal Locator Beacon

747 Appendices

748 Appendix A Principal legal obligations

749 *See Core GPG (Appendix A).*

750 Appendix B Management of Risk

751 *See Core GPG (Appendix B).*

752 Appendix C Summary of AS ISO 31000 – risk management

753 *See Core GPG (Appendix C).*

754 Appendix D Risk management process

755 *See Core GPG (Appendix D).*

756 Appendix E Risk analysis information

757 *See Core GPG (Appendix E).*

758 Appendix F Risk management plan template examples

759 *See Core GPG (Appendix F).*

760 Appendix G Dynamic risk assessment process

761 *See Core GPG (Appendix G).*

762 Appendix H Benefit–Risk Assessment

763 *See Core GPG (Appendix H).*

764 Appendix I Emergency management planning framework

765 *See Core GPG (Appendix I).*

766 Appendix J Health & wellbeing considerations for risk management

767 *See Core GPG (Appendix J).*

768 Appendix K Privacy of information

769 *See Core GPG (Appendix K).*

Appendix L Environmental sustainability procedures

See Core GPG (Appendix L).

Appendix M First aid and medication considerations

See Core GPG (Appendix M).

Appendix N Knowledge, skill and experience — Leader

Each knowledge, skill and experience requirement in this appendix is to be applied by the provider within the context of the planned bushwalking activity — including the track classification under AS 2156.1-2001, the environment (non-remote, semi-remote, remote or wilderness), the participant group and the provider's own program structure. The requirements are not a minimum checklist to be satisfied mechanically — they are a framework for the provider to assess and confirm the capability of each person in a leadership role against the demands of the specific activity. This appendix contains only the requirements specific to bushwalking; the generic Leader knowledge, skill and experience is set out in Core GPG Appendix M.

Activity scope and leader requirements

This guide applies to the delivery of bushwalking activities across the range of track classifications and environments commonly encountered in Australia. The knowledge, skill and experience required of a Leader varies with the track classification and environment in which the activity is conducted.

The Australian Walking Track Grading System, specified in AS 2156.1-2001 Walking Tracks — Classification and Signage, provides the primary reference for classifying walking tracks in this guide. Leaders must hold capability appropriate to the highest track class they are leading, and must not lead at classifications beyond their competence.

Table N.10: Walking track classification and leader technical requirements (AS 2156.1-2001)^a

Remoteness	Track class	Track characteristics
Non Remote	Class 1 and 2	Well-formed, smooth, signposted tracks. Mostly accessible surfaces. Suitable for all ages and abilities in appropriate footwear.
Semi Remote	Class 3	Formed but uneven, unsurfaced or gravel track. Some obstacles. Requires sturdy footwear and reasonable fitness. Signposted.
Remote	Class 4	Partly formed or unformed. Rough and challenging terrain. Not necessarily signposted. Requires solid fitness and some experience.
Remote	Class 5	Unformed, undulating terrain. May be unmarked and untracked. Requires strong navigation skills, high fitness and substantial self-reliance.
Wilderness	Class 6	Very challenging and remote. May involve cliff faces, river crossings, thick scrub, technical terrain. Requires specialist outdoor skills.

^a Public-facing track grading systems used by Australian state land management agencies (e.g. parks agencies) and major user organisations (e.g. Scouts) generally use a five-grade system. In those systems, grade 5 corresponds to Classes 5 and 6 of AS 2156.1-2001.

In addition to track classification, certain environments impose additional technical requirements on the Leader regardless of the formal track class. Specialist environments include alpine and subalpine terrain (temperature extremes, snow, ice, route-finding in low visibility), remote and extended-range

798 environments (limited emergency access, communication blackspots, multi-day self-sufficiency), and
799 coastal and offshore island environments (tidal and weather exposure, evacuation limitations). A Leader
800 operating in a specialist environment should hold verified specific knowledge and experience for that
801 environment, beyond the baseline requirements for the track class.

802 The program planning matrix (leader-matching tool), which scales leader requirements by the operational
803 context — provider support and backup availability, environment and proximity, and activity complexity —
804 is set out in Core GPG Appendix O. The domains below contain only the requirements specific to
805 bushwalking; they do not repeat the generic content of Core GPG Appendix M.

806 Safety and risk management

807 The Leader identifies and manages hazards specific to bushwalking environments and track types. This
808 domain covers activity-specific hazard assessment and management that adds to the generic safety
809 framework in the Core.

810 Knowledge

811 The Leader understands the bushwalking-specific hazards including track and terrain risks, fauna and flora
812 hazards, water-crossing assessment, heat and cold illness under load, and weather triggers for route
813 modification.

814 This should include, but is not limited to: track and terrain hazards (unstable surfaces, exposed edges,
815 deadfall); fauna hazards (snakes, ticks, leeches, stinging fauna; crocodiles and wild pigs in specific regions);
816 flora hazards (lawyer cane, sharp grasses, stinging trees, toxic plants); water-crossing assessment criteria;
817 heat and cold illness under load; and weather triggers for route change including flash flooding and
818 lightning exposure.

819 Skills

820 The Leader applies bushwalking-specific risk-assessment and monitoring skills including water-crossing
821 decisions, fauna and flora response, and reading participant condition under load.

822 This should include, but is not limited to: assessing water crossings against hazard criteria before leading
823 the group across; recognising and responding to fauna and flora hazards including snake bite and tick
824 removal; monitoring participants under load for heat illness, cold illness and fatigue; and reading weather
825 signals that require a change in route, pace or plan.

826 Experience recommended

827 The Leader has managed bushwalking groups across varied environments, seasons and hazard types.

828 This should include but is not limited to: assessing and managing water crossings with groups in varied flow
829 conditions; and managing fauna and weather hazards in bushwalking environments across a range of
830 seasons and regions.

831 Technical activity leadership

832 This domain covers the technical knowledge, skill and experience specific to bushwalking. The primary
833 variable is track classification (Classes 1–6 under AS 2156.1-2001), with specialist environments (alpine,
834 remote, coastal) as an additional overlay. Capability must extend to the highest track class and
835 environment type the guide leads.

836 Knowledge

837 The Leader understands the technical content of bushwalking, including the Australian Walking Track
838 Grading System, equipment, load management, navigation, camp craft and field-living requirements across
839 the track classes within scope.

840 This should include, but is not limited to: the Australian Walking Track Grading System (AS 2156.1-2001,
841 Classes 1–6) and the demands of each class; footwear and backpack selection, load management and pack
842 fitting; safe lifting technique; navigation methods appropriate to track class (signage, topographic map and
843 compass, GPS as supplementary); participant equipment standards; emergency and rescue equipment
844 including PLB and bivouac equipment; camp site selection and shelter; and water sourcing, purification and
845 cooking equipment.

846 **Skills**

847 The Leader applies the practical technical skills required to lead bushwalking groups across the relevant
848 track classes, including equipment management, navigation, camp craft and water crossings.

849 This should include, but is not limited to: fitting backpacks and coaching safe lifting technique; conducting
850 pre-activity equipment checks; applying the walking track classification system to route selection;
851 navigating with topographic map and compass in tracked and untracked terrain; selecting minimum-impact
852 camp sites; treating water sources; executing water-crossing techniques; assessing participant load-carrying
853 capacity early and adjusting accordingly; and managing group camping equipment.

854 **Experience recommended**

855 The Leader has led bushwalking groups across the range of track classes and trip durations within their
856 scope, including remote-area navigation and multi-day logistics.

857 This should include but is not limited to: leading groups across the range of track classifications within
858 scope; navigating with topographic map and compass in untracked or poorly marked terrain; planning and
859 conducting multi-day bushwalks with camp and logistics management; leading groups through water
860 crossings in varying flow conditions; and responding to participant equipment failure, injury or fatigue in
861 remote contexts.

862 Leadership and group management

863 This domain covers group management challenges specific to bushwalking, particularly the management of
864 participant capacity under load and the assessment of ability before committing to demanding terrain.

865 **Knowledge**

866 The Leader understands how to assess participant capacity under load early in a trip and recognise the
867 indicators of deterioration in load-carrying contexts.

868 This should include, but is not limited to: practical early-trip assessment of fitness and load-carrying
869 capacity (pace observation, breathing, self-reported effort); and indicators of fatigue, heat stress and cold
870 deterioration under load, including the difference between normal exertion and early deterioration.

871 **Skills**

872 The Leader applies the practical skills required to assess participant capacity early in a trip and adjust the
873 activity in response.

874 This should include, but is not limited to: conducting early-trip assessment and adjusting route, pack loads
875 or pace in response to observed capacity; and managing group pace and rest frequency in response to
876 participant condition, terrain and conditions.

877 **Experience recommended**

878 No activity-specific additions are required; refer to the equivalent domain in Core GPG Appendix M.

879 Decision-making and judgement

880 Not modified for bushwalking — the requirements of Core GPG Appendix M (domain M.4) apply in full.

881 Planning and program management

882 This domain covers planning requirements specific to bushwalking that extend beyond the generic planning
883 framework in the Core.

884 Knowledge

885 The Leader understands the access, egress and equipment-communication planning requirements specific
886 to bushwalking activities.

887 This should include, but is not limited to: access and egress logistics including trailhead road access, car
888 shuttles, permits and seasonal restrictions; and pre-activity communication of minimum equipment
889 standards to participants.

890 Skills

891 The Leader applies the access, logistics and pre-activity communication skills required to plan bushwalking
892 activities.

893 This should include, but is not limited to: planning access and egress logistics including vehicle shuttles and
894 contingency for access failure; and communicating equipment requirements to participants before the
895 activity.

896 Experience recommended

897 No activity-specific additions are required; refer to the equivalent domain in Core GPG Appendix M.

898 Environment and place-based knowledge

899 This domain covers the environmental and terrain knowledge specific to bushwalking environments,
900 including the walking track classification system and the reading of terrain, weather and water relevant to
901 route decisions.

902 Knowledge

903 The Leader understands the terrain, weather, water and specialist-environment characteristics that affect
904 safe bushwalking in Australian conditions.

905 This should include, but is not limited to: topographic map reading and identifying terrain features from the
906 map; weather patterns in alpine, inland and tropical environments and triggers for route modification;
907 water-source reliability and quality across seasons and regions; seasonal and environmental risk factors
908 (snow, heat, cyclone, flood); and specialist environments (alpine and subalpine, remote, coastal and
909 offshore island).

910 Skills

911 The Leader applies terrain, weather and water-assessment skills to bushwalking environments across the
912 conditions within their scope.

913 This should include, but is not limited to: interpreting topographic maps to identify terrain features, select
914 routes and estimate walking times; reading weather signals that require a change in plan; and assessing
915 water sources and applying appropriate purification.

916 Experience recommended

917 The Leader has led groups across the terrain types, track classifications and environmental conditions
918 within their scope.

919 This should include but is not limited to: leading groups in varied terrain and conditions across the track
920 classifications within scope; and completing route-finding and navigation tasks in untracked or complex
921 terrain using topographic map and compass.

922 Communication and interpersonal skills

923 Not modified for bushwalking — the requirements of Core GPG Appendix M (domain M.7) apply in full.

924 Self-management and professional practice

925 Not modified for bushwalking — the requirements of Core GPG Appendix M (domain M.8) apply in full.

926 Outdoor living, activity and travel skills

927 This domain covers the field-living and travel skills specific to bushwalking, including food planning, camp
928 craft and minimum-impact practice as applied in Australian walking environments.

929 Knowledge

930 The Leader understands the food, hygiene and minimum-impact camp craft requirements for bushwalking
931 trips in Australian environments.

932 This should include, but is not limited to: food planning for trip duration, terrain and group size; field
933 hygiene including food, personal and human-waste management in remote environments; and minimum-
934 impact camping practice for Australian bushwalking environments.

935 Skills

936 The Leader applies food-planning, camp-craft and minimum-impact skills across multi-day bushwalking
937 trips.

938 This should include, but is not limited to: planning and preparing a food and cooking plan for a trip of
939 specified duration and group size; setting up and packing down a campsite with minimal impact; and
940 managing group hygiene, food safety, waste disposal and Leave No Trace practices across a multi-day trip.

941 Experience recommended

942 The Leader has planned and led multi-day bushwalking trips including food, camp and logistics
943 management.

944 This should include but is not limited to: planning and provisioning food and equipment for multi-day trips
945 of varying duration and remoteness; and leading overnight and multi-day bushwalks requiring camp site
946 selection and multi-day food logistics.

947 Appendix O Knowledge, skill and experience — Assistant Leader

948 This appendix sets out the knowledge, skill and experience expected of an Assistant Leader (assistant
949 bushwalking guide) carrying the role described in Section 8.4.2. The role is structured against the same nine
950 domains as Appendix M; the requirements of Appendix M apply, with the variation that each domain is
951 applied at the level of the delegated tasks, under the direction of the Leader and within the provider's
952 systems. This appendix contains only the requirements specific to bushwalking; see also Core GPG
953 Appendix N.

954 Safety and risk management

955 As for Safety and risk management — applied at the level of the delegated tasks. The Assistant Leader must
956 be able to recognise and report the activity-specific hazards relevant to the terrain they are assigned,
957 including water crossing conditions, fauna and flora hazards and participant deterioration under load, and
958 must know the emergency action procedures to be followed.

959 Technical activity leadership

960 As for Technical activity leadership — applied to the delegated tasks only. The Assistant Leader must hold
961 the technical knowledge and skills for the track classification and environment they are assigned to, but is

962 not required to hold the full range of technical capability required for independent leadership at higher
963 classifications. The assistant guide must be able to assist with equipment fitting and checks, provide basic
964 navigation support on signposted routes, and execute delegated participant supervision tasks.

965 Leadership and group management

966 As for Leadership and group management — applied to the assigned participant subgroup. The Assistant
967 Leader must be able to monitor participant condition under load and report observations to the Leader.

968 Decision-making and judgement

969 As for Decision-making and judgement — the Assistant Leader must understand the decision thresholds
970 and escalation procedures used by the Leader, and must be able to act in accordance with them when
971 performing delegated supervision.

972 Planning and program management

973 As for Planning and program management — the Assistant Leader must be familiar with the planned route,
974 access logistics and equipment requirements for the activity, and must be able to perform pre-activity
975 equipment checks for assigned participants.

976 Environment and place-based knowledge

977 As for Environment and place-based knowledge — applied to the track class and environment of the
978 assigned activity. The Assistant Leader must be able to read terrain and weather at a level sufficient to
979 perform delegated supervision and to support the Leader's decision-making.

980 Communication and interpersonal skills

981 As for Communication and interpersonal skills — the Assistant Leader must be able to communicate clearly
982 with participants and the Leader in the field environment.

983 Self-management and professional practice

984 As for Self-management and professional practice — the Assistant Leader must maintain the fitness,
985 currency and professional standards required for the role and track classes they are assigned to support.

986 Outdoor living, activity and travel skills

987 As for Outdoor living, activity and travel skills — the Assistant Leader must be familiar with the camping,
988 cooking and minimum-impact practices required for the activity and must be able to supervise participants
989 in carrying them out.

990 Appendix P Recognition of competence: pathways to verification

991 See Core GPG Appendix P. The recognition-of-competence pathways — formal qualifications and training
992 courses, industry training, provider-based verification, structured participation and experiential learning,
993 and combining methods — apply without modification to bushwalking.

994 Appendix Q Indicative experience bands and evidence expectations

995 See Core GPG Appendix Q. The indicative experience bands and evidence expectations support the
996 provider's verification judgement under Section 8.5 and apply to bushwalking, adjusted for track
997 classification, environment and trip duration.

998 Appendix R Australian Bureau of Meteorology weather warnings
 999 and trigger points
 1000 See Core GPG (Appendix R).

1001 Appendix S Program planning matrix: leader-matching tool

1002 See Core GPG Appendix O. The program planning matrix (leader-matching tool) applies without
 1003 modification to bushwalking. Providers rate the three factors — provider support and backup availability,
 1004 environment and proximity, and activity complexity — and read off the recommended minimum leader
 1005 configuration. For bushwalking, activity complexity is informed by the track classification under AS 2156.1-
 1006 2001 and any specialist environment (see Appendix M, Activity scope and leader requirements).

1007 Appendix T Walking trail classifications

1008 See the Core GPG.

1009 Appendix U Common bushwalking equipment

1010 The equipment required and the appropriate “type” of equipment used is dependent on the specific
 1011 context of the activity.

1012 Equipment used for *bushwalking* may include but is not limited to:

1013 Emergency/rescue

- 1014 • documentation (see Core GPG - Activity leader required documentation)
- 1015 • emergency communication equipment (see Core GPG - Emergency communication)
- 1016 • first aid kit in waterproof storage (see Core GPG - First aid equipment and medication)
- 1017 • a waterproof method of storing and carrying documentation and communications equipment
- 1018 • specific activity context equipment required
- 1019 • emergency shelter where appropriate for the context
- 1020 • emergency fire lighting equipment appropriate to the activity and location
- 1021 • emergency equipment to keep a patient warm (e.g. mat, sleeping bag) where appropriate for
- 1022 the context

1023 Activity Leaders

- 1024 • communications equipment (standard communication rather than emergency communication
- 1025 where this differs) and spare batteries or backup “power banks”
- 1026 • relevant maps and navigation information
- 1027 • a waterproof method of storing and carrying maps and navigation information
- 1028 • compass and/or other navigation aids (e.g. GPS)
- 1029 • pen/pencil and blank writing paper
- 1030 • watch or equipment suitable to tell and measure time for first aid purposes
- 1031 • head torch and spare batteries
- 1032 • appropriate spare equipment
- 1033 • appropriate repair equipment
- 1034 • same as for participant

1035 Personal

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| 1036 • | personal medications (including for | 1042 • | waterproof pack liner |
| 1037 | asthma and anaphylaxis) | 1043 • | water containers |
| 1038 • | personal hygiene requirements | 1044 • | jumpers |
| 1039 • | whistle | 1045 • | thermals |
| 1040 • | strong backpack, suitably sized and | 1046 • | beanie or balaclava |
| 1041 | adjusted | 1047 • | sun hat |

1048	•	raincoat suitable for the	1057	•	gloves
1049		environment	1058	•	handkerchief
1050	•	overpants	1059	•	pocket knife
1051	•	footwear suitable for the conditions	1060	•	sock covers or gaiters
1052	•	suitable socks	1061	•	sunglasses
1053	•	shirt with collar and preferably long	1062	•	spare prescription glasses
1054		sleeves	1063	•	walking pole(s)
1055	•	strong shorts or trousers	1064	•	sit mat
1056	•	underwear	1065	•	sunscreen
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- 1067 **Group**
- 1068 • trowel for toileting
 - 1069 • toilet paper
 - 1070 • hand sanitiser
 - 1071 • water purification system
 - 1072 • repair kit
 - 1073 • food for the expected duration plus sufficient spare provisions for foreseeable delays (e.g.
 - 1074 weather, flooding, or other disruptions)
 - 1075 • rubbish bags
 - 1076 • multi-tool with knife
 - 1077 • sunscreen
 - 1078 • insect repellent
- 1079 **Repair equipment**
- 1080 • buckles
 - 1081 • needle and thread
 - 1082 • duct tape
 - 1083 • multi tool
 - 1084 • multi-purpose glue
 - 1085 • tent pole repair tubes
 - 1086 • sleeping mat repair kit
- 1087 Refer [Core_GPG](#) for first aid kit common content.
- 1088 Additional context-specific equipment
- 1089 • light garden gloves (e.g. for off-track walking through scrub)
 - 1090 • high visibility vest (e.g. during hunting season or near roads)
- 1091 Additional equipment used for overnight or extended duration walks *may* include but is not limited to:
- 1092 **Activity Leaders**
- 1093 • personal items as listed under Personal above
- 1094 **Group**
- 1095 • appropriate shelters (e.g. tent)
 - 1096 • cooking equipment and ‘lifters’ for pots
 - 1097 • cleaning equipment for catering equipment
 - 1098 • cooking stove and fuel
 - 1099 • matches/lighter
 - 1100 • glow sticks, spare batteries, candles
- 1101 **Personal**
- 1102 • small torch and spare batteries
 - 1103 • sleeping bag in waterproof bag
 - 1104 • eating utensils such as cutlery, bowl, plate and cup
 - 1105 • spare clothing
 - 1106 • spare shoes for camp
 - 1107 • sleeping mattress.
- 1108

1109 Appendix V Weather information
1110 See the Core GPG.

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