

The Australian Adventure Activity Standards

The Australian AAS are industry best practice guidelines for use by anyone who is leading dependent participants in outdoor adventure activities, whether this is done commercially, not for profit or in a voluntary capacity.

If “non commercial”, “not-for-profit” organisations or “small clubs” are providing activities to dependant groups (where participants have a level of dependence upon the leader(s) it is recommended they use the Australian AAS.

During the next three years Abseiling, Artificial climbing, Bushwalking, Canoeing & kayaking, Challenge ropes, Four-wheel driving, Horse trail riding, Mountain biking, Recreational angling, Caving, River rafting, Rock climbing, Snow Sports, Surfing, Trail Bike riding, Archery, Canyoning, Sea kayaking, Surf kayaking, Snorkelling, Wildlife swims, and Scuba diving will be brought within the Australian AAS framework.

For each category of outdoor adventure activities, a technical working group will be established to draft the standard, drawing on the existing standards in place around Australia.

The core standards containing all of the common content for all the Australian AAS has just been released for public comment. All members of the outdoors community can now have their say about the core standards.

For more information:

Australian AAS - <http://australianaas.org.au/>

For more information it is recommended you head to the FAQ page.

Core Standards - <http://yoursay.australianaas.org.au/core-standards/>

For more information it is recommended you head to the Q&A page.

Public Consultation Draft - <http://yoursay.australianaas.org.au/core-standards/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2016/08/Aus-AAS-Core-Standards-consult-draft.pdf>

Why is your feedback important?

Australian AAS is a voluntary standard and therefore on their own, the standards have no legal status and there is no requirement for compliance with them. However, they can become mandatory if the standard is ‘...called up in State and Commonwealth legislation.’ Land managers and education departments may also make the standards part of their requirements. This is at their discretion.

The insurance industry is interested in all means by which risk can be managed. The Australian AAS is likely to supersede the current jurisdictional AAS in due course. Therefore insurers may ask or require providers to use and/or prove that they use the relevant standards. This is at their discretion. So in the future the Australian AAS may be the standard that insurers require providers to use.