Media Release

Ingrid Stitt MP
Minister for Early Childhood & Pre-Prep
Minister for Environment



Thursday, 29 June 2023

KEEPING OUR PARKS SAFE ACROSS THE STATE

The Andrews Labor Government is continuing to keep our parks and communities safe, thanks to a major investment to repair and revitalise some of Victoria's much loved natural spaces.

Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt announced the \$24.76 million Asset Regeneration Program will remove, repair or replace more than 100 pieces of park infrastructure across the state over the next three years.

The investment will deliver important works to boardwalks, bridges, lookouts, shelters and playgrounds within parks – while also removing assets that have reached the end of their operational life.

Delivered by Parks Victoria, the Asset Regeneration Program aims to keep parks open and safe for all visitors to enjoy for many years to come.

The Program will also support healthy and liveable communities, while boosting visitation of parks across the state.

Visitors to the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park will benefit from the replacement of the Grand Canyon Staircase so walkers can continue to explore the stunning rocky gorge and cultural landscape. While, in Melbourne's southeast, the playground at Cardinia Reservoir Park will be repaired for local families and visitors to enjoy.

Construction and maintenance works are expected to directly inject more than \$6 million into the economy and support local jobs, particularly for specialist trades, over the coming years.

The Asset Regeneration Program is just one of the significant works Parks Victoria undertakes, with the organisation responsible for managing and maintaining over 50,000 pieces of infrastructure annually.

For more information on this project visit <u>parks.vic.gov.au/projects.</u>

Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt

"I'm delighted to see such a diverse range of works planned across the Parks Victoria estate – many of these sites have been appreciated by visitors for years, and the Asset Regeneration Program will protect them for future generations to enjoy."

"The Asset Regeneration Program reflects the Labor Government's investment in and commitment to ensuring natural and built environments across the state are preserved, protected and safe for all to visit."

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