

18 January 2024

Ms Audrey Jamieson  
Coroner  
Coroner's Court of Victoria  
Via email [cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)

Dear Ms Jamieson,

**FINDING INTO DEATH WITHOUT INQUEST OF AHEDAH HAMED (COR 2021 000269)**

I am writing in response to your letter dated 22 November 2023, regarding the Finding without Inquest into the death of Ahedah Hamed (COR 2021 000269). The Findings include a recommendation under section 72(2) of the *Coroner's Act 2008 (Vic)* (**the Act**) that directs Parks Victoria. This letter forms Parks Victoria's response to the recommendation pursuant to section 72(3) of the Act.

The recommendation states:

- (i) *With the aim of preventing like deaths and promoting public health and safety, I recommend that Parks Victoria consider the installation of signage at Bushrangers Bay that clearly and concisely warns visitor of the hazards present in the area and the need for caution around the water.*

Pursuant to section 72(4) of the Act, Parks Victoria states that the recommendation was implemented prior to both the Coroner's finding and the date of the incident resulting in the tragic death of Ahedah Hamed.

To demonstrate that the recommendation was implemented, I provide within this response photos of the risk signage that was in place at the time of the incident. The photos were taken on 14 January 2021, the day following the death of Ahedah Hamed.

Bushrangers Bay is an isolated bay at the back of Cape Schanck. The beach at Bushrangers Bay is primarily on private land. The title of the property extends to the high tide line, and the private land holders do not prevent public access. Public access is generally gained through Mornington Peninsula National Park along a single walking track to Bushrangers Bay that branches off the walking track from Cape Schanck to Boneo Road. The image below (figure 1) shows the National Park boundary (the green line) and the private land stretching to the high tide mark.

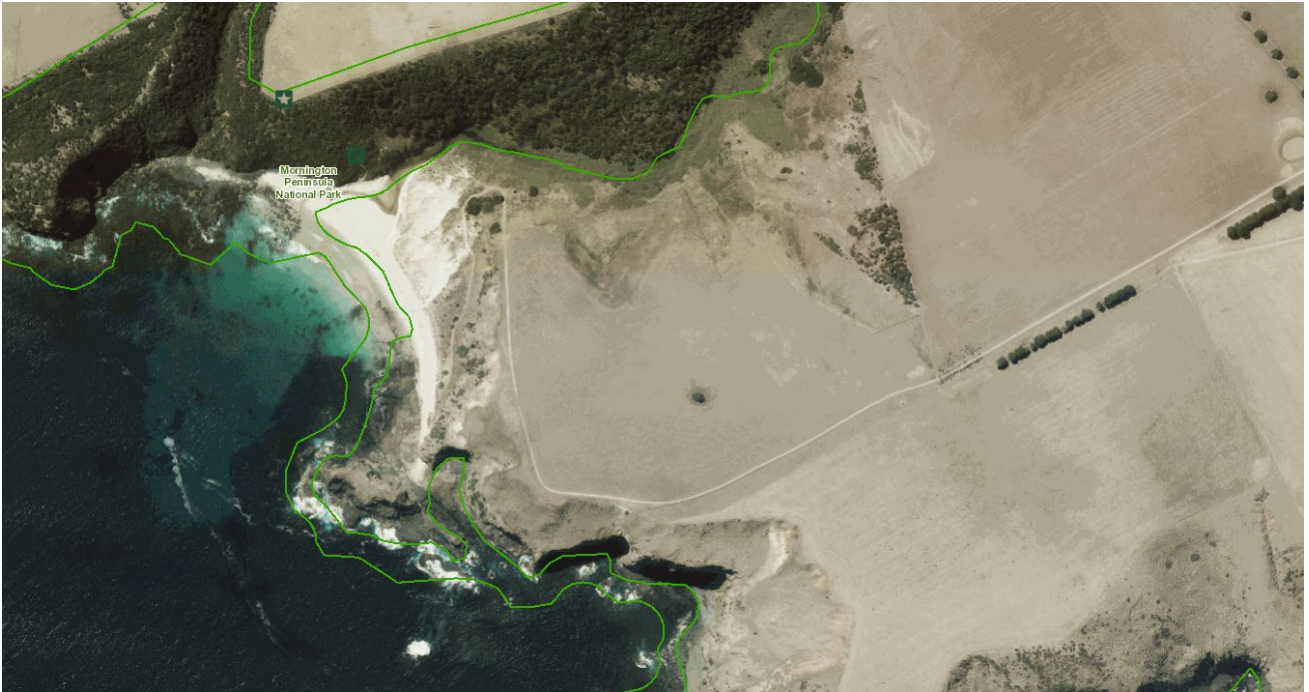


Figure 1: Satellite photo of Bushrangers Bay showing the boundary of Mornington Peninsula National Park and the adjacent private property.

The photos below (figures 2-7) demonstrate that risk signage was in place at the start of the walking track, at the track junction and at the point of the track immediately prior to the beach.



Figures 2 & 3: Risk signage at the Boneo Road entrance to the Bushrangers Bay walking track





Figure 4 & 5: Risk signage at the Cape Schanck entrance to the Bushrangers Bay walking track and the Risk signage on Bushrangers Bay walking track



Figure 6: Risk signage at the track junction leading to Bushrangers Bay beach





*Figure 7: Risk signage at the end of the Bushrangers Bay walking track*

In addition to the existing signage, Parks Victoria will place a risk totem with matching hazard symbols adjacent to the red sign installed on entry to the beach at Bushrangers Bay.

Parks Victoria's signage manual was guided by the Australian Standards for Water Safety Signs and Beach Safety Flags specifications for water safety signs used in workplaces and public areas. Parks Victoria's signage manual is regularly reviewed and updated, with the most recent update in 2023. This ensures Parks Victoria's signage utilises best practice principles to maximise signage effectiveness in influencing visitor behaviour.

Parks Victoria is committed to the safety of visitors to the land under its management. Parks Victoria will continue to maintain appropriate risk signage at Bushrangers Bay and across the Mornington Peninsula National Park.

I would like to express my sincere condolences to Ahedah's family.

Should you require further advice on this matter please contact John Stevens, Senior Manager Legal at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Jackson  
Chief Executive Officer