



Department of  
**Sport and Recreation**

**Western Australian Adventure Activity Standard**  
*Common safe practice for groups in the outdoors*

# Bushwalking

Version 3.2 February 2017



Department of  
**Environment and Conservation**  
Our environment, our future 



# Western Australian Adventure Activity Standard

## Bushwalking

The Western Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) are a voluntary best-practice framework for safe and responsible planning and delivery of outdoor adventure activities with dependent participants.

The standards provide guidance on safety and other aspects of responsible activity delivery, such as respect for the environment, cultural heritage and other users. The standards are not a full legal compliance guide, nor are they a “how to” guide or field manual for outdoor activities. The standards do not provide guidance on providing a high-quality experience over and above safe and responsible delivery.

The Adventure Activity Standards are designed to be applied when the participants are, for the purposes of participating in the bushwalking activity, either

- In a pre-existing group
  - Where either the group members (and or its representative third party) have made a collective purchase of / collective decision to participate in the activity (ie a school, corporate or community group); or are
- Formed into a new group
  - Where the participants have purchased / made the decision to participate in the activity as individuals or smaller groups, but having done so become a part of a new group (ie citizens or tourists who, having purchased an activity from an organisation or leader individually, are formed into a group for the purposes of participating in the activity provided).

In all cases the relationship between the group of participants and the activity provider is one based upon dependence by way of contract and or duty of care.

The AAS can also provide some guidance, but not be seen as a requirement, to other types of groups where the group is less defined and NOT dependent as a group upon an activity provider for the conduct of the activity (ie independent club members participating in an activity).

Each commercial organisation, club or group should make a considered decision as to the extent to which a duty of care exists, and the extent to which these Standards should be followed in any given circumstance.

The Western Australian Adventure Activity Standards were developed by an industry wide consultative process coordinated by Outdoors WA following the recommendations of the 2006 State Government Adventure Tourism Visitor Safety Task Force Report. The Project received grant funding via the Department of Sport and Recreation.

The development and implementation of the AAS allows the outdoor adventure industry to demonstrate its collective integrity and agreed standards. This, in turn will provide a measure of quality for the purposes of assisting

1. Consumers of our services to make informed choices about the services they select
2. Training organisations to produce graduates who understand and meet industry standards
3. Media, insurance and legal scrutineers of our industry and its members, to understand what is acceptable practice and what is not
4. The development of sustainable use practices that consider the specific natural and cultural heritage values of areas in which we conduct outdoor activities

The AAS are a critical component of the industry quality framework comprising four aligned and inter-connected components

1. Accreditation - the required business operating standards for businesses and organisations
2. Adventure Activity Standards - the minimum standards to which an activity should be conducted by a provider to dependent groups of participants
3. Leader Competency / Registration Scheme - the responsibilities and competencies required of the leaders conducting the outdoor activities
4. Codes of Conduct – the behavioural expectations of persons operating as outdoor leaders

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Western Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) have been developed to assist organisations and leaders to plan and conduct outdoor adventure activities with commercial and non-commercial dependent groups of participants where there is a duty of care based in contract and or in authority.

The purpose of the AAS is to guide the development of Safety Management Systems that can maintain the perception of adventure whilst simultaneously reducing / managing the real risk for participants. Increased outdoor physical activity with reduced incident and accident rates will be the ultimate performance indicators of the value of the AAS.

The AAS provide a valuable resource for the development of operating procedures, and or for the purposes of comparing existing operating procedures to industry agreed benchmarked standards. All groups differ in their collective skills and experience and in their degree of dependence upon the leader. They participate in outdoor activities at a range of sites with varying conditions (including weather). It therefore remains the responsibility of the leader to make the professional judgements and decisions concerning the conduct of the activity to promote the safety of the group. The AAS are designed to assist such judgements and decision making.

The AAS are also designed to promote knowledge and awareness of the broad and activity specific impacts increasing recreation and travel opportunities place upon the natural environment. The AAS are designed to assist the protection of biodiversity values and the preservation of cultural sites balanced with the increased access demands. The 7 Principles of Leave No Trace are imbedded within the AAS.

Whilst not statutory standards, the AAS provide the basis for policy formation and decision making by jurisdictions external to the outdoor adventure activity industry including, but not restricted to, licensing, insurance and legal jurisdictions.

## **ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

The activity of bushwalking involves walking in the natural environment for pleasure, challenge, experience and / or educational outcomes. The term 'bushwalking' is appropriately applied to long (multi day) as well as short (an hour or two) walks that can be experienced in diverse environments including coastal, alpine, outback and remote regions.

This AAS is intended to be applied in circumstances where the bushwalking experience is the primary activity undertaken by a dependent group of participants.

## PLANNING AND PREPARATION

The AAS provides a planning and preparation framework considered critical in maximising participant safety and enjoyment. All planning must be finalised and the relevant components documented before the activity is undertaken. A suggested planning and preparation framework includes

- Preliminary Information
- Route / Campsite Plan(s)
- Risk Management Plan
- Emergency Response Plan
- Minimal Environmental Impact Plan
- Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size

Samples and suggested templates are available at [www.outdoorswa.org.au](http://www.outdoorswa.org.au)

### Preliminary Information

The following are the minimum information requirements for conducting a bushwalk

- Objectives / desired outcomes of the session (recommended only)
- Planned start and finish times (may also include sector times)
- Leader to participant ratio and group size (refer Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size)
- Profile of the group (age (if relevant), fitness level / capability, experience)
- Land / campsite manager requirements including
  - o Access restrictions
  - o Group sizes
  - o Booking and permit requirements
  - o Regulations with regard to fire and the conduct of activities
  - o Current environmental management policies and biodiversity issues affecting the region (refer to [www.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au))
    - Regulations in regard to fire restrictions, restrictions, bans, local conditions
- Availability of suitable maps
- Equipment requirements (refer Equipment)
- Participants' names and emergency contact details
- Medical information about participants which may be relevant to the activity
  - o Conditions – EG asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, fainting, allergic reactions, blood conditions which may affect bleeding/ blood clotting, recent or long-standing injuries, (eg back,

- o knee, ankle), disability, psychological conditions
  - o Medications - what is it / why is it required / how is it administered?
- Group members are advised, in writing and or in a verbal briefing, of
  - o Potential risks associated with the activity
  - o The policy on drugs and alcohol
  - o The requirement to conform to responsible and attentive behaviour
  - o Suggested physical requirements for the walk
- RECOMMENDED - Participant signed legal liability disclaimer (informed consent) / waiver to sue / authorisation to seek / provide emergency medical treatment (retain for a time frame as dictated by the Statute of Limitations Act 2005); participants under the age of 18 must have the signature of a parent / guardian if required by the organisation that has legal responsibility for them
- An understanding of the natural and cultural history / diversity of the site(s) / location(s)

## **Route / Campsite(s) Plan**

The purpose of the route / campsite(s) plan is to assess issues regarding access, environmental impact, risk and emergency communications relative to a particular site. The route / campsite(s) plan shall provide details of

- Assessment of the suitability of the route / campsite(s) for the size and ability of the group
- Access to and along the route / campsite(s)
  - o by vehicle (2WD / 4WD) including emergency services vehicles
  - o on foot including the best routes to take to minimise environmental impact
- Where is / are the best place (s) to make an emergency contact (by mobile or satellite phone if coverage available, by radio or by a runner party to a land line, by EPIRB/PLB) and where is the best place to make these calls from
- Route / Campsite(s) characteristics
  - o Weather forecast (temperature, wind, rain)
  - o Potential risks; how these risks can be managed
  - o Specific terrain / route characteristics
  - o Availability of drinking water
  - o Availability of shelter
  - o Surface type & suitability
- Contingency plans for forecast / foreseeable weather conditions
- Opportunities for rest breaks and availability of shaded areas / shelter

- Toileting facilities and appropriate waste disposal options
- Location of any water sources
- Location of any culturally significant areas, structures, artefacts or rock art that need to be avoided
- Location of any rare or endangered plants or animals, or sensitive areas
- Ability of route / campsite(s) to withstand visitation with minimal impact upon vegetation

Samples and suggested templates are available at [www.outdoorswa.org.au](http://www.outdoorswa.org.au)

## **Risk Management Plan**

The purpose of the Risk Management Plan is to identify the human, route / campsite(s) specific, equipment and environmental risks for the safe conduct of the activity. By identifying, analysing and evaluating these risks, appropriate strategies to reduce / manage the risk can be developed and implemented. Bushwalking leaders must assess the chosen route / campsite(s) for potential hazards and adapt the planning of the activity as required. Information with regard to any new hazard must be made available within the group / organisation and to the relevant land manager where appropriate.

Samples and suggested templates are available at [www.outdoorswa.org.au](http://www.outdoorswa.org.au)

The Risk Management Plan must consider

- Leader(s) have the required authorisation, skills, qualifications and experience to
  - o conduct the bushwalk in the selected environment(s)
  - o satisfy the planned objectives
  - o effectively manage incidents (refer Requirements of Leaders)
  - o preserve the environmental integrity of the route and campsite(s)
- Leader : Participant ratio (refer Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size)
- Group size (refer Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size)
- Group profile including
  - o Skill / experience levels
  - o Needs / requirements
  - o Knowledge of environmental minimum impact strategies
  - o Methods for managing the group at all times including walkers at the front, in the middle and at the end of your line of walkers



## Emergency Response Plan

The purpose of the Emergency Response Plan is to provide a set of steps for leaders to follow in the event of an emergency which may include injury or death. The plan must include information to assist the leader to minimise the escalation of the situation, the injuries incurred and how to reduce the likelihood of further incidents occurring. The Emergency Response Plan must be route / campsite(s) specific and document current details including

- Access and egress options from the route / campsite(s) including sectors
- Contingency plans for effective rescue with minimum environmental impact to the route / campsite(s)
- Group assembly points
- Emergency contact details which may include
  - Next stage of definitive medical care (hospital, doctor)
  - Police
  - Relevant Agencies (e.g. Department of Environment and Conservation, land owners, rescue services, Department of Planning and Infrastructure)
- Specific communication requirements / available networks

ALL leaders must carry a copy and be fully aware of the emergency response plan (often included as a part of the “route plan”). A copy of the emergency response plan must also be kept (with other documentation) with a non-participating contact and be readily accessible by the leader via an available telecommunication method in the event of an emergency.

The leader is to communicate with the relevant external contact at a designated time(s). Upon failure to do so the external contact must action the emergency response plan which may include contacting the police. In situations where there is only one leader, the emergency response plan shall have been introduced to, and be available to members of the group so that it may be actioned in the event that the leader becomes unfit to do so.

Samples and suggested templates are available at [www.outdoorswa.org.au](http://www.outdoorswa.org.au)

## Minimal Environmental Impact Plan - Leave No Trace 7 Principles

### 1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations for and special concerns of the area in which you’d like to bushwalk
- Be aware of the biodiversity values and threats of the region and the specific condition of the locality
- In the South West Ecoregion, a world biodiversity hotspot, access detailed information about occurrence of *Phytophthora Dieback*

### 2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Stay on durable surfaces, which include established tracks, rock, gravel and dry grasses where practical
- Always walk on the track even if wet and muddy, to avoid widening it (with the exception of

Phytophthora areas where one should avoid mud)

- On narrow paths walk in single file as much as possible to avoid widening the track
- Manage groups to minimise disturbance to vegetation to reduce erosion and the spread of pest plant species
- Avoid revegetation areas altogether

### 3. Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack and carry out all rubbish including leftover food and organics
- Inspect your campsite and rest areas for rubbish and spilled food before leaving
- Be careful not to drop rubbish while walking
- Human waste and waste water should be disposed of at least 100 metres from any waterway
- When available, use established toilet facilities

### 4. Leave What You Find

- It is illegal to excavate, disturb or remove archaeological, historical and cultural artefacts from any public or wilderness lands
- Respect indigenous sites to ensure their longevity; land managers can advise you on these locations
- Do not touch rock art, which can be damaged by the natural oils from human skin
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them
- Avoid spreading non-native plant and animal species that are generally impossible to eradicate once they are introduced; do not transport flowers, weeds, wood or aquatic plants into or out of the wilderness
- Avoid transporting mud in the soles of boots, on tent pegs and walking poles by washing thoroughly before and after travelling; use wash stations immediately where provided
- Check clothing and all gear and burn or dispose of all hitchhiker type seeds before and after travelling in different areas

### 5. Minimise Campfire Impacts - use a fuel stove

- Observe Total Fire Bans and campfire regulations; liaise with local land management staff
- Use a lightweight stove for cooking or use a candle lantern for light when possible
- Where fires are permitted, use designated, constructed fireplaces only
- Keep fires small; use of fallen fuel and sticks
- Extinguish fire completely

### 6. Respect Wildlife

- Minimise noise at campsites

- Minimise interaction with wildlife and DO NOT FEED

## 7. Consider Your Hosts and Other Visitors

- Do not block paths or tracks with people or equipment
- Respect the wishes and regulations of all hosts – indigenous, pastoral, land managers and locals

Further information is available at Leave No Trace Australia [www.lnt.org.au](http://www.lnt.org.au)

Further information is available from the Department of Indigenous Affairs at <http://www.daa.wa.gov.au/en/Heritage-and-Culture/>

## Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size<sup>1</sup>

The characteristics of the route / campsite(s), the profile of the group, the purposes of the bushwalk, and the experience of the leader(s) will influence the ratios of leaders to participants. The following are the minimum considered acceptable, and the recommended ratios.

Note: The ratios are interpreted as registered / recognised leader : competent assistant / trainee : participant, eg: 1:1:22 = one registered / recognised leader + one competent assistant / trainee for up to twenty two participants.

Walk Type	Participant Age	Minimum	Recommended
Day and Overnight Walks – AS Track Grades 1,2,3,4,5,6	Under 18	1:1:22	1:1:22
Day and Overnight Walks – AS Track Grades 1,2,3,4	Over 18	1:0:22	1:1:22
Day and Overnight Walks – AS Track Grades 5 and 6	Over 18	1:0:12 1:1:13+	1:1:12

Group size will be determined by route and campsite(s) characteristics, land manager restrictions, environmental considerations and the application of the above ratios. A female leader should be present in the case of female participants under 18, especially for overnight walks.

<sup>1</sup>On AS Track Grades 1,2,3 and 4 there is no minimum group size  
On AS Track Grades 5 and 6 the RECOMMENDED MINIMUM group size is 4

## REQUIREMENTS OF LEADERS

The AAS are primarily designed for those who lead groups of participants where a duty of care may exist to take reasonable precautions to protect participants from harm. Each group will apply the AAS differently because they will possess distinct collective skills and experience, and depend on their leaders to varying degrees. However, the leader remains responsible for making sound judgements and decisions about the activity to promote the group's safety.

The performance of the leader is a critical factor in the safe conduct of a bushwalking activity. The leader is required to

- Manage the planning, preparation and conduct of the activity to achieve the objectives of the group. The leader may delegate individual tasks but they maintain ultimate responsibility.
- Maintain current skills, qualifications and experience as required
- Manage and minimise the impact to the environment that may be caused by the activity

This does not exclude the fact that participants are responsible for their own actions in relation to the potential risks that may be encountered by choosing to participate in a bushwalking activity.

### Responsibilities of Leaders

Leaders are required to accept the following responsibilities

- To ensure that all expected competencies as outlined in "Competencies of Leaders" are available to the group for the walk, if not within his / her competency profile then within the collective profile of his / her co-leaders
- To use their judgement to make decisions that will promote the safety of all group members and maintain the integrity of the environment including matters relevant to
  - o People based risks
    - Collect all documentation / forms signed by all participants / parents or guardians (or ensure data is collected by the third party responsible for the group)
    - Communicate the anticipated risks relating to the activity to the group in a pre-activity briefing, and others that arise during the walk
    - Match the experience / capabilities of the group to the activity
    - Be aware where participants have stored / are carrying their personal medications
    - Ensure all significant incidents and accidents are documented and reported in writing to the organisation sanctioning the walk within seven (7) days of the completion of the walk or as soon as is practical
    - Ideally the sanctioning organisation will in turn communicate such incident(s) or accident(s) to Outdoors WA in writing
  - o Site / route based risks
    - Be familiar with the selected site(s) / route(s) and the scope of variation of conditions likely to be encountered; check weather forecasts and water obstacles pre - departure

- Appropriately manage hazards that are encountered
- Consider the availability of drinking water on route and have appropriate contingency plans
- Be aware of and comply with the land / site manager's guidelines including minimal impact
- Notify nominated external contacts of safe return / completion when appropriate
- o Equipment based risks
  - Check suitability, condition and use of all equipment prior to departure
  - Ensure correct use of equipment by all participants
  - Ensure that a First Aid Kit and communication equipment suitable for the route are in good order
- o Environmental based risks
  - Apply Leave No Trace Principles
  - Comply with the land / site manager's guidelines including minimal impact principles relative to flora, fauna and rubbish removal
  - Report all environmental damage to the appropriate land manager

## Recognition of Leaders

Common safe practice is that the organisation responsible for an activity is responsible for selecting and managing suitable leaders for that activity. Such organisations include clubs, educational institutions, community groups and commercial businesses.

Normally all leaders will have all of the required skills, knowledge, experience and qualities. As people develop leadership skills they may assist in leadership roles with a more experienced leader. Where a leadership team operates, the leader in-charge must ensure that all skills are available within the group.

**Organisations MUST have a documented process to recognise leaders.** Factors to be considered when determining an appropriate recognition of leaders framework include but are not limited to the outcomes of a risk management process that considers;

- Participant, client and community expectations
- The organisational culture, capacity and experience
- Human and financial resources available
- The set of skills, knowledge, experience and qualities for specific contexts as outlined in Appendix A

Appropriate competence is typically the combination of formal qualifications and / or training, plus experience in a range of relevant situations.

Dimensions of experience include the *breadth* of experience, the *length* of experience and the *recency* of experience. Leaders of adventure activities can be recognised using one or more of pathways detailed below. Organisations develop and apply the recognition pathway(s) appropriate to their specific context.

## **Possible pathways within a recognition of leaders framework**

### **Organisational accreditation or qualification**

Key factors of an organisational accreditation or qualification system may include but are not limited to;

- Recognises the skills of the leader using a formal process
- Supports and recognises the progressive development of skills
- Maintains documented evidence of the accreditation or qualification system
- Is maintained by a group of leaders, usually more experienced leaders. (e.g. a committee or training team)
- Identifies individuals who are approved to conduct assessments using the system
- Is benchmarked against other recognised guidelines or criteria as identified in Appendix A
- Is contextualised to the organisation's requirements; may have currency requirements

### **Peer recognition and verification**

Key factors of peer recognition and verification process may include but is not limited to;

- Recognises the skills of the leader using a peer recognition process
- Progressive skills development is supported and recognised using a mentoring or coaching approach
- Documented evidence may include log books or other records of participation
- Verification is often conducted in-situ during participation
- Is based on the experience and judgement of the peer who is recognising the leader
- Is benchmarked against organisational context, expectations and other related experience as identified in Appendix A
- Currency of skills is usually demonstrated through regular participation

### **Formal training qualifications**

A relevant activity qualification in outdoor recreation along with accompanying log book. Refer to Appendix B for a list of appropriate qualifications.

### **Leader registration schemes**

Registration as an activity leader under a registration scheme. Refer to Appendix B for a list of appropriate registration/award schemes.

### **Examples of how leader recognition pathways may be applied**

1. A club or community group may consider peer recognition and verification an appropriate means of recognising leaders within their context and expectations;
2. A small organisation determines that it will use a national registration scheme as its primary recognition pathway with peer verification during initial supervised programs.
3. A large community based organisation may apply their own organisational accreditations, supplemented by peer recognition and verification in specific situations that are appropriate to their organisational culture;
4. A commercial outdoor education provider may consider that a Certificate III in Outdoor Recreation and their own organisational accreditations are a basis for employment and supplement this with a peer recognition and verification during a period of probationary employment.

## FIRST AID REQUIREMENTS

Bushwalking groups require leaders with first aid qualifications in addition to the competencies listed in Appendix A. The following framework guides the level of first aid skills recommended for different types of bushwalks.

Urban Walks (less than half a day):	Basic first aid knowledge
Bushwalks (half to full day):	Basic first aid knowledge / Provide First Aid (or equivalent)
Multi Day Bushwalks:	Provide First Aid (or equivalent)
Remote Wilderness Walks:	Advanced, Remote or Wilderness First Aid

In addition, the location of the walk in terms of medical support influences the minimum level of qualification recommended

1. Within one hour from definitive medical care – Provide First Aid required
2. Beyond one hour from definitive medical care – an advanced / wilderness / remote First Aid qualification is recommended

Where multiple leaders are present within a group, at least one leader should hold the above qualifications.

## REQUIREMENTS / RESPONSIBILITIES OF ORGANISATIONS

Organisations sanctioning the conduct of bushwalking activities for dependent groups of people are required to:

- Comply with all relevant legislation and associated Codes of Practice.
- Maintain current appropriate insurance
- Report incidents and accidents to relevant jurisdictions in writing within seven (7) days. i.e.,
  - o Insurers
  - o Land Managers
  - o Outdoors WA (recommended) and / or UPLOADS
- Provide leaders with the necessary resources to conduct the bushwalk in accordance with all aspects of this Standard
- Ensure that the leader and organisation has an emergency response plan
- Notify nominated external contacts of safe return / completion when appropriate
- Verify and accept responsibility for the current competence of leaders selected for bushwalking activities



# EQUIPMENT

Equipment requirements vary with the objectives of the activity, the group characteristic profile and the environmental conditions likely to be encountered. When planning equipment requirements for a bushwalk it is important to consider possible eventualities and to select equipment that will maintain safety and minimise cultural and environmental impact of the activity.

## Participant's Equipment

The following equipment requirements apply to all participants

- Clothing appropriate to the requirements of the route and potential weather conditions with particular emphasis upon protection from the sun, wind, rain, cold, heat, insect bites and vegetation cuts
- Appropriate footwear (usually enclosed)
- Participant's personal medication including sun and insect protection
- Suitable and sufficient water carrying capability
- Basic first aid items to manage blisters, small cuts etc (recommended)
- Whistle (optional)

## Leaders' and Group Equipment

The following equipment is required for all dependant group bushwalking activities

- A copy of the emergency response plan
- Emergency communication equipment (EG. mobile phone, satellite phone, details of nearest land line, radio, EPIRB / PLB if in remote area etc.)
- A first aid kit appropriate to the level of first aid training must be accessible at all times. For activities lasting longer than a day and/or in more remote areas, the first-aid kit should be more comprehensive.
- Tools for proper waste disposal (ie trowel if necessary)
- A whistle
- A relevant map and compass
- Equipment to clean footwear and other items that may carry soil borne pathogens such as phytosphthora (excludes disease risk free areas or if such equipment is available "on track")

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

- Activity Provider – an entity, person or group of persons assuming the role of providing the activity (the activity provider) for a dependent group of participants for a specific commercial or not – for – profit purpose
- Dependent Group / Participant – a group or individual within a group whose welfare associated with participating in the activity is in part the responsibility of the leader; who is dependent upon the leader for their safe participation in the activity which may be so deemed by law or contract
- Outdoor Leader - term for an individual accepting the roles of leading and managing the outdoor activity; can be a guide or instructor; can be paid or voluntary
- Registered Leader - currently registered in the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme
- Recognised Leader – outdoor leader recognized as suitably experienced and skilled by an organisation
- Competency - minimum industry agreed standard of skill and knowledge necessary for a specific activity being conducted at a specific level
- Competent Assistant / Trainee – adult person deemed, by the outdoor leader, as adequately capable of accepting responsibility for selected aspects of the management of the group and or its participants in conjunction with the safe conduct of the activity
- Phytophthora – Phytophthora Dieback: is a microscopic soil borne water mould that attacks plants. It impacts 40 percent of our native plant species and threatens whole communities including animal habitats. It is spread in the movement of infested water, soil or plant material. As the name water mould suggests, it requires moist conditions to thrive. Its food source is the root and basal stem tissue of living plants. It is currently the biggest threat to biodiversity in Australia and it is spread extensively by human activity. More information is available online at [www.dieback.net.au](http://www.dieback.net.au)
- Route - includes all intended and emergency routes, rest stops and campsites
- UPLOADS – Understanding and Preventing Led Outdoor Accidents Data System. A research project that accumulates and analyses incident and accident data into a National Incident Dataset Annual Report. More details at: <https://uploadsproject.org/>

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Adventure Activity Standards initially developed by The Outdoor Recreation Centre in Victoria proved to be an invaluable resource in the development of the Western Australian Adventure Activity Standard for Bushwalking.

In addition The Australian Standard for Walking Track Classification and Leave No Trace Australia provided resource in the development of the Western Australian Adventure Activity Standard for Bushwalking. Changes to the AAS have also drawn from the Queensland and NSW AAS.

## **FEEDBACK, REVIEW & APPEALS**

The AAS are designed to be 'living' standards with feedback, requests for review and/or appeal against aspects of a standard considered to be healthy part of the development process, one that will ensure the currency & relevancy of the standards. Feedback, requests for review and/or appeals will be managed by the Industry Standards Panel. Details and proformas are available at [www.outdoorswa.org.au](http://www.outdoorswa.org.au) / industry quality framework / Industry Standards Panel.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Contact Outdoors WA for further information or to obtain contact details of the organisations conducting bushwalking activities and training.

TELEPHONE: 08 9468 0102

EMAIL: [executiveofficer@outdoorswa.org.au](mailto:executiveofficer@outdoorswa.org.au)

WEB: [www.outdoorswa.org.au](http://www.outdoorswa.org.au)

## Appendix A: Provisional skills, knowledge, experience and qualities

This set of skills is taken from the Queensland Adventure Activity Standards and reflects Skills Sets from the SIS10 Outdoor Recreation Training Package that have been identified through consultation with the Outdoor Council of Australia (OCA), the peak body for the Outdoor Recreation industry and will be utilised as the basis for the registration requirements of programs like the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS). Descriptions for the unit code can be found at [training.gov.au](http://training.gov.au)

In the absence of any other agreed list, they are provided as a provisional list until such time as a review of the AAS in its entirety occurs.

This is a suggested list of skills. Organisations can use this as a guide and may amend to suit their specific needs and contexts.

### Bushwalking Guide Controlled Environments

Those wishing to guide bushwalking activities in controlled environments

Unit Code	Unit Title
HLTFA301C	Provide first aid
PUAOPE002B	Operate communications systems and equipment
SISOBWG201A	Demonstrate bushwalking skills in a controlled environment
SISOBWG303A	Guide bushwalks in a controlled environment
SISONAV201A	Demonstrate navigation skills in a controlled environment
SISOODR302A	Plan outdoor recreation activities
SISOODR303A	Guide outdoor recreation sessions
SISOOPS201A	Minimise environmental impact
SISOOPS304A	Plan for minimal environmental impact
SISOOPS306A	Interpret weather conditions in the field
SISXCAI306A	Facilitate groups
SISXEMR201A	Respond to emergency situations
SISXOHS101A	Follow occupational health and safety policies
SISXRSK301A	Undertake risk analysis of activities

## Bushwalking Guide Intermediate Environment

Those wishing to guide bushwalking activities in intermediate environments

Unit Code	Unit Title
PUAOPE002B	Operate communications systems and equipment
SISOBWG302A	Apply intermediate bushwalking skills
SISOBWG404A	Apply river crossing skills
SISOBWG405A	Guide intermediate bushwalks
SISONAV302A	Apply navigation skills in an intermediate environment
SISOODR302A	Plan outdoor recreation activities
SISOODR303A	Guide outdoor recreation sessions
SISOODR404A	Manage risk in an outdoor activity
SISOOPS202A	Use and maintain a temporary or overnight site
SISOOPS201A	Minimise environmental impact
SISOOPS304A	Plan for minimal environmental impact
SISOOPS305A	Provide first aid in a remote location
SISOOPS306A	Interpret weather conditions in the field
SISXCAI306A	Facilitate groups
SISXEMR201A	Respond to emergency situations
SISXEMR402A	Coordinate emergency response
SISXOHS101A	Follow occupational health and safety policies
SISXOHS402A	Implement and monitor occupational health and safety policies

## Bushwalking Guide Uncontrolled Environment

Those wishing to guide bushwalking activities in uncontrolled environment

Unit Code	Unit Title
PUAOPE002B	Operate communications systems and equipment
SISOBWG302A	Apply intermediate bushwalking skills
SISOBWG404A	Apply river crossing skills
SISOBWG405A	Guide intermediate bushwalks
SISOBWG406A	Apply bushwalking skills in uncontrolled landscapes
SISOBWG510A	Guide bushwalks in an uncontrolled environment
SISONAV302A	Apply navigation skills in an intermediate environment
SISONAV403A	Navigate in uncontrolled environments
SISOODR302A	Plan outdoor recreation activities
SISOODR303A	Guide outdoor recreation sessions
SISOODR404A	Manage risk in an outdoor activity
SISOOPS201A	Minimise environmental impact
SISOOPS202A	Use and maintain a temporary or overnight site
SISOOPS304A	Plan for minimal environmental impact
SISOOPS305A	Provide first aid in a remote location
SISOOPS306A	Interpret weather conditions in the field
SISXCAI306A	Facilitate groups
SISXEMR201A	Respond to emergency situations
SISXEMR402A	Coordinate emergency response
SISXOHS101A	Follow occupational health and safety policies
SISXOHS402A	Implement and monitor occupational health and safety policies

## Bushwalk Specialist – Alpine

Those wishing to guide bushwalks in Alpine environments

Unit Code	Unit Title
HLTFA301B	Apply first aid
SISOBWG507A	Apply advanced bushwalking skills in alpine areas
SISONAV403A	Navigate in uncontrolled environments
SISOODR302A	Plan outdoor recreation activities
SISOODR303A	Guide outdoor recreation sessions
SISOODR404A	Manage risk in an outdoor activity
SISOOPS201A	Minimise environmental impact
SISOOPS304A	Plan for minimal environmental impact
SISOOPS306A	Interpret weather conditions in the field
SISOOPS509A	Interpret weather for mountain environments
SISOVTR301A	Perform vertical rescues
SISXCAI306A	Facilitate groups
SISXEMR201A	Respond to emergency situations
SISXEMR402A	Coordinate emergency response
SISXOHS101A	Follow occupational health and safety policies
SISXOHS402A	Implement and monitor occupational health and safety policies
TAEDEL301A	Provide work skill instruction

## Bushwalk Specialist – Arid

Those wishing to guide bushwalks in Arid environments

Unit Code	Unit Title
SISOBWG508A	Apply advanced bushwalking skills in arid areas
HLTFA301B	Apply first aid
SISONAV403A	Navigate in uncontrolled environments
SISOODR302A	Plan outdoor recreation activities
SISOODR303A	Guide outdoor recreation sessions
SISOODR404A	Manage risk in an outdoor activity
SISOOPS201A	Minimise environmental impact
SISOOPS304A	Plan for minimal environmental impact
SISOOPS306A	Interpret weather conditions in the field
SISOVTR301A	Perform vertical rescues
SISXCAI306A	Facilitate groups
SISXEMR201A	Respond to emergency situations
SISXEMR402A	Coordinate emergency response
SISXOHS101A	Follow occupational health and safety policies
SISXOHS402A	Implement and monitor occupational health and safety policies
TAEDEL301A	Provide work skill instruction



## Bushwalk Specialist – Tropical

Those wishing to guide bushwalks in Tropical environments

Unit Code	Unit Title
HLTFA301B	Apply first aid
SISOBWG509A	Apply advanced bushwalking skills in tropical areas
SISONAV403A	Navigate in uncontrolled environments
SISOODR302A	Plan outdoor recreation activities
SISOODR303A	Guide outdoor recreation sessions
SISOODR404A	Manage risk in an outdoor activity
SISOOPS201A	Minimise environmental impact
SISOOPS304A	Plan for minimal environmental impact
SISOOPS306A	Interpret weather conditions in the field
SISOVTR301A	Perform vertical rescues
SISXCAI306A	Facilitate groups
SISXEMR201A	Respond to emergency situations
SISXEMR402A	Coordinate emergency response
SISXOHS101A	Follow occupational health and safety policies
SISXOHS402A	Implement and monitor occupational health and safety policies
TAEDEL301A	Provide work skill instruction

## **Appendix B: Qualifications and registration/award schemes**

The intention of this list is to identify common qualifications utilised in WA that may be considered when identifying the skills required to perform the activity. This list is not comprehensive. The list is reviewed as part of the Adventure Activity Standards review process. An up-to-date list is maintained on the Outdoors WA Website.

### **Qualifications**

- VET Outdoor Recreation Training Package Certificate III or higher with a skills set / competency list consistent with the requirements of Appendix A of this document
- Notre Dame University – Bachelor of Outdoor Recreation with appropriate units consistent with the requirements of Appendix A of this document
- La Trobe University – Bachelor of Outdoor Education with appropriate units consistent with the requirements of Appendix A of this document
- Edith Cowan University Graduate Diploma in Outdoor Pursuits with appropriate units consistent with the requirements of Appendix A of this document

### **Registration/award schemes**

- National Outdoor Leadership Registration Scheme as a bushwalking guide or instructor in appropriate bushwalking activity area.