



**Camping**  
**Australian**  
**Adventure Activity**  
**Good Practice Guide**

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## Version details

Version	Date	Details
1.0	14 Dec 2018	Pre-release version. Final guidance content.

## Foreword

### “Adventure is worthwhile” – Aristotle

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

Best wishes for all your adventures.

The Australian Adventure Activity Standard Steering Committee.

# Preface

## About these documents

The **Australian Adventure Activity Standard (AAAS)** and related **Good Practice Guides (GPG's)** are a voluntary good-practice framework for safe and responsible planning and delivery of outdoor adventure activities with *dependent participants*.

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

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

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

The AAAS and related GPG's are specifically designed to help activity *providers* who are conducting activities involving *dependent participants*, to provide a safe and responsible experience. It is for each *provider* to determine based on their own individual circumstances, if they are working with *dependent participants* or not.

A *dependent participant* is a person owed a duty of care by the activity *provider* who is reliant upon the *activity leaders* for supervision, guidance or instruction to support the person's participation in an activity. For example, this often includes participants under the age of 18, participants lacking the ability to safely undertake the activity, or participants reasonably relying on the activity *provider* for their safety. The degree of dependence may vary during an activity.

Considerations for determining if a person is a *dependent participant* may include, but is not limited to:

- the foreseeable level of *competence* of the participant in the activity and the associated level of reliance this creates on the *activity leaders*
- the level of foreseeable self-reliance of the participant to reasonably manage their own safety
- the possible variation throughout the activity of the level of reliance
- the variation of the degree of dependence throughout the activity
- the individual context, nature and circumstances of the activity
- the relevant circumstances and particular facts relating to the responsibilities assumed by the *provider*.

An activity *provider* can be any organisation – business, community group, government agency, school or any other groups – that organises and leads adventure activities. Individuals can also be an activity *provider*, if they have the ultimate legal duty of care to participants. In general, 'the Standard' and GPG's relate to a provider as a 'whole organisation', rather than to 'specific roles' within the provider 'organisation'.

Some providers may have their own standards or guidelines appropriate to their duty of care. It is recommended that these be reviewed periodically to ensure current duty of care expectations are met. 'The Standard' and 'GPG's' may aid such reviews.

## Are they legally binding?

The AAAS and GPG's are voluntary, not legal requirements. However, they may refer to specific laws and regulations which may be legally binding on activity *providers*.

While the AAAS and 'GPG's' are voluntary, some *land managers* and other organisations may require compliance. This may be as a condition of obtaining a licence, permit or other permission, or some other condition (e.g. a contract).

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

The AAAS and GPG's are not legal advice, and they cannot answer whether a legal duty exists in specific circumstances. All adventure activity *providers* should check what legal requirements apply in their own situation and seek legal advice if at all in doubt.

Even in cases where participants are not dependent, other legal duties and obligations may arise. The AAAS and GPG's have not been developed for those contexts.

## Structure of the Standard and Good Practice Guides

The AAAS (i.e. the Standard) has a related Core Good Practice Guide (Core GPG). They both include guidance that applies to all adventure activities. They set out recommendations for a common approach to risk management that can generally apply regardless of the specific activity being undertaken.

Individual activity Good Practice Guides include guidance on specific adventure activities.



For any given activity, (i) the AAAS (the Standard), (ii) the Core GPG and (iii) the activity Good Practice Guide that applies to that specific activity, should be consulted.

The AAAS and Core GPG cover only those activities specifically listed. While the AAAS and Core GPG may be useful in managing *risk* generally for other activities, they may not reflect good practice for such other activities.

## Interpretation of the Standard and Good Practice Guides

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

- **Must:** used where a provision is mandatory, if the *provider* is to operate fully in accordance with AAAS or GPG's. (This is equivalent to the keyword "shall" used in other voluntary standards e.g. *Standards Australia, other International Standards Organisations (ISO's) etc.*)
- **Should:** used where a provision is recommended, not mandatory. It indicates that the *provider* needs to consider their specific situation and decide for themselves whether it applies or is relevant.
- **Can/cannot:** indicates a possibility and capability.
- **May/need not:** indicates a permission or existence of an option.

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

The following formatting is used throughout:

- Defined words are in *italics*. They are defined in the Glossary.
- The main key words are in *italics*.
- Examples are in *smaller italic 9-point font*.
- In document references are in underlined. References are to section heading titles.
- External references are in dotted underline italic.

## Creation

The AAAS and GPG's were developed with the input from a wide range of outdoors and adventure activity experts with extensive field experience. They draw on state and territory-specific standards previously in place across Australia. The development process included work by a range of technical expert working groups, as well as open consultation throughout the community of activity providers and other experts.

Further details of the creation of the AAAS and GPG's can be found at [www.australianaas.org](http://www.australianaas.org). The Steering Committee wishes to thank all the Technical Working Group (TWG) members for their work and contributions.

It is intended that the AAAS and GPG's will be regularly updated to reflect changing practice and better understanding over time. Updates will be noted on the website [www.australianaas.org](http://www.australianaas.org).

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Camping overview

*Camping* is the use of a temporary site in natural areas for overnight camping. This may be for one night or multiple nights.

*Camping can* occur in a diverse range of environments including but are not limited to:

- coastal
- plains
- forest
- arid or outback
- tropical
- mountain or alpine

## 1.2 Exclusions

This activity GPG does not cover the activities involved or used in reaching the *camping* location.

## 1.3 Related activities

Where the means used to reach the *camping* location is by an adventure activity, then the appropriate adventure activity GPG *must* be complied with.

*For example, if camping occurs during a Bushwalking activity, then the Bushwalking GPG is also used in conjunction with this Camping GPG.*

# 2 Management of risk

## 2.1 Management of risk

There are no additional specific activity provisions other than Core Good Practice Guide provisions.

# 3 Planning

## 3.1 Activity plans

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

- identifying suitable sites to camp
- availability of suitable drinking water
- the access to start & finish locations and throughout the activity.
- the impact of current seasonal factors
- identifying specific hazards and risks

# 4 Participants

## 4.1 Participant considerations

There are no additional specific activity provisions other than Core Good Practice Guide provisions.

# 5 Environment

## 5.1 Environment related planning considerations

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

- the type of flora expected (*e.g. impeding progress, ability to cut or scratch etc.*)
- the fauna expected (*e.g. risks associated with venomous snakes, ants etc.*)

## 5.2 Severe weather

### 5.2.1 Weather information

Refer Weather information in Appendix 2.

### 5.2.2 Camping severe weather triggers

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

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

- severe weather warnings
- thunderstorm warnings
- coastal waters wind warnings
- tropical cyclone advice: watch and warning
- extreme cold temperature
- extreme hot temperatures.

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

- cancellation
- modification and/or evacuation to a safe location
- avoiding locations affected by tides or surf
- avoiding areas and river crossings that have the potential for flash flooding
- preparations to avoid the risks associated with blizzards
- moving to areas that are protected from strong winds
- managing risks of flying or falling items during strong winds
- moving to areas that are protected from hail
- preparations to avoid the risks associated with lightning.

## 5.3 Camping flood risk management

*Camping* locations likely to experience *flash flooding should* be avoided.

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

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

## 5.4 Bushfire, prescribed fire and fire danger

Refer Core Good Practice Guide - Bush fire, prescribed fire and fire danger.

## 5.5 Tree safety

Trees can drop limbs, or entire trees can fall without warning.



Measures to reduce the risk of injury from a tree or limb falling *must* be considered when selecting camping and sleeping locations.

Considerations when selecting camping or sleeping locations *must* include:

- Observing any warning signage
- Avoiding camping directly under trees that have unattached limbs or material suspended in its canopy
- Avoiding camping directly under trees that appear to be dead or have dead limbs
- Avoiding camping directly under large trees
- The potential impact of severe weather or other weather conditions on the likelihood of tree or limb falls occurring.

Also, refer to [Tree Safety in Core Good Practice Guide](#).

## 5.6 Wildlife safety

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

## 5.7 Environmental sustainability procedures

Procedures *may* include but are not limited to:

- Staying within the limits or boundaries of camping areas where these have been defined.

Also refer to [Environmental sustainability procedures in Core Good Practice Guide](#) for additional procedures.

# 6 Equipment and logistics

## 6.1 Equipment requirements

Procedures *must* be in place to ensure appropriate clothing for the expected and foreseeable weather conditions is available.

Procedures *must* be in place to ensure appropriate footwear for the expected and foreseeable terrain is available.

Procedures *must* be in place to ensure a personal drink supply is available.

Procedures *must* be in place to ensure suitable *camping* equipment for the *context* of the activity.

Refer [common camping equipment](#) in [Appendix 1](#).

Example equipment lists can also be found in the [Bushwalking GPG equipment appendix](#).

## 6.2 Use of cooking equipment or fire

Incident data suggests that there is an elevated likelihood of incidents when cooking or using stoves.

There *must* be appropriate training in the use of stoves.

There *must* be appropriate supervision when *participants* use stoves or fire.

Procedures for the use of stoves or fire *must* include:

- establishing a cooking location and arrangement that minimises human traffic and congestion and avoids movement were users step over stoves
- having stoves located on a stable, flat and level base
- refuelling gas or liquid fuel stoves does not occur while it is still alight

- any spilt fuel during refuelling cannot be accidentally ignited
- extinguishing the stove occurs before moving its location
- fuel containers being located away from possible ignition sources
- use of suitable equipment to hold and manipulate hot cooking equipment
- passing hot equipment, water or food over any part of another person is avoided
- stove or fire users being situated to quickly avoid or move away from hazards that might burn them
- stoves or fire only being used in well ventilated spaces to prevent a build-up of toxic gas fumes.

## 7 Leadership

### 7.1 Naming conventions

The *activity leader* naming convention enables this activity GPG to be related to [Core Good Practice Guide](#) requirements.

The leadership naming conventions for *Camping* activities *may be but are not limited to*:

*Leader* in [Core Good Practice Guide](#).

*Assistant leader* in [Core Good Practice Guide](#).

Where the means used to reach the *camping* location is by an adventure activity, then the appropriate adventure activity GPG *may* use a different naming convention.

### 7.2 Competencies

This section outlines the *competencies* that activity leaders *should* have.

#### 7.2.1 Competencies overview

*The Australian Adventure Activity Standard and Good Practice Guides refers to units from the Sport, Fitness and Recreation Training Package for descriptive statements of the knowledge and skills required of activity leaders.*

*The Training Package units are used for the sole purpose of providing descriptions for the knowledge and skills required. It is not intended to imply or require that specific formal training, assessment or qualification is the only means of gaining or recognising knowledge and skills.*

Providers can *recognise* activity leaders as having the 'ability to apply knowledge and skills to achieve expected results' (i.e. competencies) in a number of different ways as detailed in [Recognition of competence in the Core Good Practice Guide](#).

*The Training Package units listed can be found by searching for the units on the [training.gov.au/Home/Tqa](http://training.gov.au/Home/Tqa) website. The code provided with the unit name assists in this search.*

#### 7.2.2 Camping competencies

Refer [Appendix 3 - Leader competencies for camping activities](#).

### 7.3 Recognition of competence

Refer to considerations for recognition pathways outlined in [Core Good Practice Guide](#).

## 7.4 Group size

The following table outlines the maximum group size that *should* be used when leading *camping*.

Also, refer to considerations for determining group size in [Core Good Practice Guide](#).

Camping Activity	Overnight	
	minors	adults
Camping group size	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>

## 7.5 Activity leader to participant ratios

The following table outlines the supervision that *should* be used when *Camping* is the sole activity. If camping occurs as part of another adventure activity, refer to the activity GPG for the recommended supervision ratios.

Also, refer to considerations for determining supervision requirements in [Core Good Practice Guide](#).

Camp Activity	overnight	
	minors	adults
<b>Leader requirements</b>		
1 leader		<b>1-15</b>
1 leader and 1 assistant leader or responsible person minimum	<b>1-20</b>	<b>16-20</b>
Maximum group size (also refer land owner/manager requirements)	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>

Considerations in determining if supervision requirements can be satisfactorily completed by a responsible person *should* include *but are not limited to*:

- the equipment, method and arrangements if participants are using stoves
- the ability to provide suitable emergency management
- assess to additional support to address emergencies.

## 7.6 Supervision and management during the activity

Incident data suggests that there is an elevated likelihood of incidents when *participants* are engaged in free time while at camp.

There *should* be appropriate supervision of *participants* during unstructured free time.

Procedures *should* be used to reduce the potential of *participants* becoming separated or lost.

# Glossary

Also refer to glossary from [Core Good Practice Guide](#).

## Camping glossary

AAAS: Australian Adventure Activity Standard – See Preface for details.

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

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

*GPG's*: Good Practice Guide(s) – See Preface for details.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 Common equipment

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

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

### Emergency/rescue

- Documentation (see [Core Good Practice Guide - Activity leader required documentation](#))
- Emergency communication equipment (see [Core Good Practice Guide - Emergency communication](#))
- First aid kit in waterproof storage (see [Core Good Practice Guide - First aid equipment and medication](#))
- A waterproof method of storing and carrying documentation and communications equipment
- Signalling device(s) *e.g. mirror, flares*

### Activity Leaders

- communications equipment (standard communication rather than emergency communication where this differs) and spare batteries or backup “power banks”
- relevant maps and location information
- pen/pencil and blank writing paper
- watch or equipment suitable to tell and measure time for first aid purposes
- head torch and spare batteries
- same as for participant

### Participant

- personal medications (including for asthma and anaphylaxis)
- personal hygiene requirements
- suitable bag to store personal items
- waterproof bag liner
- water containers
- raincoat suitable for the environment
- sun hat
- footwear suitable for the conditions
- spare prescription glasses
- sit mat
- camp chair
- sunscreen
- clothing suitable for the conditions:
  - jumpers (woollen or non-cotton fleece)
  - thermals
  - beanie or balaclava
  - overpants
  - suitable socks
  - shirt with collar and preferably long sleeves
  - strong shorts or trousers (synthetic fabrics preferable)
  - underwear
  - gloves
  - handkerchief
  - sock covers or gaiters
- sunglasses
- small torch and spare batteries

- sleeping bag in waterproof bag
- eating utensils such as cutlery, bowl, plate and cup
- spare clothing
- sleeping mattress

**Group**

- appropriate sleeping shelters e.g. tent
- tarp, rope and pegs for shade or rain shelter
- cooking equipment and 'lifters' for pots
- cleaning equipment for catering equipment
- cooking stove and fuel
- matches/lighter
- glow sticks, spare batteries, candles
- trowel/shovel for toileting
- toilet paper
- hand sanitiser
- water purification 'system'
- drinking water bulk water containers
- repair kit
- food for duration plus spare
- esky and/or fridge for cold storage
- containers with lids for food storage
- rubbish bags
- multi-tool with knife
- sunscreen
- insect repellent

## Appendix 2 Weather information

The Bureau of Meteorology also provides a range of services. For details refer to:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/weather-services/WeatherGuideLand.pdf>

The following table details the:

- current Australian weather warnings
- associated weather for each warning
- mainland warning trigger points for issuing warnings for strong winds and hail.

Bureau of Meteorology weather warnings and associated weather Table:

Severe Weather warning	Severe Thunderstorm warning	Coastal Waters Wind Warning	Tropical Cyclone Advice: Watch or warning
High tides			
Large surf			
Blizzards			
Heavy rain/flash flooding	Heavy rain/flash flooding		
Strong winds Wind >63 km/h Gusts >90 km/h	Strong winds Gusts >90 km/h	Strong winds Wind >48 km/h or >26 knots	Strong winds Wind >62 km/h or >=34 knots
	Tornadoes		
	Hail (>=2cm)		
	Lightning		

## Appendix 3 Leadership competencies for camping activities

Also refer to [competencies section in Core Good Practice Guide](#).

The following table outlines the recommended *competencies activity leaders should have when leading camping*.

Assistant Leader		Leader	
Unit describing skills and knowledge	Code (or the equivalent)	Unit describing skills and knowledge	Code (or the equivalent)
All Core Good Practice Guide units plus		All Core Good Practice Guide units plus	
Operate communications systems and equipment	<a href="#">PUAOP013A</a>	Operate communications systems and equipment	<a href="#">PUAOP013A</a>
		Plan for minimal environmental impact	<a href="#">SISOOPS304A</a>
		Use and maintain a temporary or overnight site	<a href="#">SISOOPS202A</a>

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