



The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW STANDARDS FOR ADVENTURE ACTIVITY

New guidelines for the conduct of 'adventure activities' in NSW were released today at the Outdoor Recreation Industry Council's (ORIC) conference at Sydney Olympic Park.

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, in opening the conference said the NSW Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) are an excellent starting point for activity providers to develop effective risk management programs and strategies.

"I commend the ORIC for its work in developing the AAS guidelines, which will help the growth of safe and sustainable outdoor adventure activities.

"The suite of guidelines released today is the first stage in an ongoing project and consultation is continuing with a wide range of stakeholders," Mr Annesley said.

The new documents are the result of the combined efforts of some 67 industry members who volunteered their time and expertise to help create and refine the standards, along with input and oversight from ORIC board members.

The AAS apply to adventure activities such as abseiling, bushwalking, kayaking and challenge ropes courses.

They provide guidance on issues such as equipment management, emergency response strategy and environmental sustainability.

Mr Annesley said ORIC's conference had attracted over 150 delegates, 24 presenters, four keynote speakers, together with international experts and outdoor recreational enthusiasts from both interstate and overseas.

"ORIC is recognised as the peak body for the outdoor recreation industry in NSW, with 100 member organisations including Scouts Australia, Girl Guides NSW, various education institutions and adventure tourism businesses," Mr Annesley said.

"I'm also delighted to announce the NSW Government is increasing its annual funding of the Outdoor Recreation Industry Council by \$10,000 to \$55,000 per year.

"I congratulate ORIC on its achievements and I'm confident the industry and the general public will appreciate its efforts in ensuring quality safety and risk management exists in adventure activities," Mr Annesley said.

For more information on ORIC, please visit www.oric.org.au.