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MEDIA RELEASE

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NANNY STATE – LABOR RESTRICTS RECREATION

Fancy a walk in the park?

You may have to get approval from the Bracks Government first.

You may also need to undertake some training, take out insurance and prepare a risk management study before taking your stroll.

Welcome to Steve Bracks' nanny state of Victoria.

The Bracks Government is developing adventure activity standards to control the use of public lands including parks and recreation facilities by commercial operators. These standards will also apply to other users, like private walking groups at a park.

The Outdoor Recreation Centre is the industry association which was awarded a \$245,000 contract for this project, without a tender.

The original idea behind the project was to address insurance problems experienced by commercial operators, yet once they are adopted, these adventure activity standards will have implications of insurance and legal responsibilities for all people using public land for recreational activities.

There has been little public consultation on the issue outside industry and club circles. Some amateur groups have had strong objections to the project, but they have been largely ignored by the Bracks Government.

Applying regulations and standards that are developed for commercial operators to amateur occasional users of parks is onerous, unduly restrictive and has serious long term implications.

Does the Bracks Government have a hidden agenda to limit access and restrict certain recreational activities on public land?

Safety and responsible use of parks is an important and desirable objective but it is doubtful that these activity standards will achieve it.

A nanny state mentality with over regulation of amateur recreational activities is unnecessary.

Victorians don't need the Bracks Government introducing regulations and funding projects with taxpayers' dollars that discourage participation in sport and recreation and restrict outdoor activities in the community.

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