

DISCUSSION SESSION

David Whitelaw -

KARRATHA REGIONAL LEADER PVS

Since the abseiling ban in Karijini National Park, as marked in Draft Policy 18, has the recent accident changed anyone's behaviour?

Tour operators' behaviour has changed due to the accident. There is a strong interest in going in the right and safe areas for recreational activities. It is harder to change the attitude of those who use the 'Miracle Mile'.

Are there still minority adventure groups that are climbing out the gorge (rock scrambles) without using B lanes? If so this is against all safety procedures.

Yes. It is near impossible for Karijini staff to monitor the actions of all park users. We have an idea where most people are breaking the rules and the only way to stop this 100% would be to place a CALM member at the top of the gorge and one at the bottom to deter them. We simply do not have the resources for this. Other suggestions have been to put in permanent hand holds, relay points or simply barricade the whole area off so its out of bounds. At the moment we're liasing with Climbing WA in updating their climb documents so that it is essential that people going beyond a certain point have the necessary equipment.