These paragraphs provide a general description of the area into which the course will be travelling and the level of support available. The following criteria are described:

- Communication Systems;
- Vehicular Access;
- Difficulty of Trip; and
- OEG Support Staff Available.

These paragraphs do not necessarily align directly with the Program Level (i.e. 1, 2, and 3). Therefore a Program that is Level 1 (Introductory) may have Type 2 for criteria (e.g. Difficulty of Trip).

**PARAGRAPH 1 - COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS**

**Communication Systems - Type 1**
Groups are operating in the area with a dedicated Course Coordinator who will contact each group twice daily at pre-determined times. More regular contact can be pre-arranged.

Groups are able to contact the Course Coordinator 24 hours a day.

Communication devices include UHF radio, mobile phone or satellite phone (or a combination of these, depending on the specific area).

Whilst it is uncommon that these types of communications devices malfunction, it is impossible to guarantee that they will always work when and where required. Radios and portable phones can sometimes be unreliable depending on terrain, atmospheric conditions and other variables. The group will be contacted physically in the event that communication is unsuccessful for a period of time.

Due to the nature of some terrain that we travel in, our groups may experience some delay from when the call for external assistance was made and when it actually arrives.

**Communication Systems - Type 2**
Groups are operating in the area with a dedicated Course Coordinator who will contact each group twice daily, at pre-determined times. More regular contact can be pre-arranged.

Groups may attempt to contact the Course Coordinator outside of prearranged contact times, but if unable to do so, groups will be able to contact emergency services however a delay (up to one hour) may be experienced in making contact (e.g. the staff member may need to reach higher ground).
Communication devices include UHF radio, mobile phone or satellite phone (or a combination of these, depending on the specific area).

Whilst it is uncommon that these types of communications capabilities will not function, it is impossible to guarantee that they will always work when and where we want them to. Radios and portable phones can sometimes be unreliable depending on terrain, atmospheric conditions and other variables. The group will be contacted physically, in the event that communication is unsuccessful for a period of time.

Due to the nature of some terrain that we travel in, our groups may experience some delay from when the call for external assistance was made and when it actually arrives.

**PARAGRAPH 2 - VEHICULAR ACCESS**

**Vehicular Access - Type 2**
There is moderate vehicle access within the Program area via both 4WD and 2WD tracks and roads.

Groups will often be travelling and camping on or near vehicle tracks with parts of the trip up to three hours away from vehicle access points.

OEG will provide at least one 4WD vehicle to operate in the Program area.

**Vehicular Access - Type 3**
There is moderate vehicle access within the Program area by 4WD tracks. 2WD access tracks are poor and are generally limited to the start and end points.

Groups are generally not travelling and camping on or near vehicle tracks and may have sections of the trip up to four hours away from vehicle access points. Often the best evacuation option is to continue travelling for some distance in the current mode of transport to vehicle access. In time critical situations a helicopter may be required (if deemed suitable by emergency services).

OEG generally provide at least one 4WD vehicle to operate in the Program area.

**PARAGRAPH 3 - DIFFICULTY OF TRIP**

**Difficulty of Trip - Type 2**
This type of Program is for participants who have taken part in previous outdoor education Programs. Basic skills are revised on the Program.

With appropriate level of guidance from staff, participants are encouraged to accept some responsibility for group tasks. Terrain, whilst generally undulating may include prolonged sections ascending and descending steeper ground. This may include some off track walking and rocky sections. Participants should arrive with a moderate level of physical fitness.
OEG Support Staff Available - Type 1
OEG has a dedicated Course Coordinator supporting the Program who is not involved in delivering Program activities.

They are able to respond quickly to individual groups requirements with minimal interruption to other groups.

Local authorities / land managers are alerted to OEG presence in the area but may be some time away from the groups.