

Bendigo Mountain Bike Club Inc.
125 Hargreaves Street
BENDIGO VIC 3550



21 June 2018

Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board
Level 3, 8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne 3002

Email: consult@dhelkunyadja.org.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks

Bendigo Mountain Bike Club Inc. (BMBC) would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks. We apologise for the late submission but hope our submission will be considered.

We strongly support the development of the joint management plan and the role it plays in supporting the *Recognition and Settlement Agreement 2013 (RSA 2013)* and providing aboriginal peoples a significant place in management of country.

The BMBC would like to take the opportunity to underline the high value we place on lands that we ride, the lands are a significant place for riders to connect with the natural environment. We are sensitive of the need to minimise our impacts on the environment and country - and understand that we have an important role in being custodians of the land for conservation and recreation.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to participate in the consultation process and attending the initial open house sessions. We believe that providing access to a range of user groups that are sensitive to the environment and other users requirements will lead to more beneficial outcomes. As such, we are concerned that the draft strategic plan contains significant statements such as outlined below, which we believe shows a bias to one recreational user group, at the expense of all others.

4.5.9 Managing Trail Development and Use

Inappropriate trail development can interfere with the use of the Parks by others, for example by ruining orienteering spaces. There is strong interest that the development of unofficial trails be addressed as a priority challenge in Joint Management planning processes.

The BMBC - and the broader mountain bike community - believe it is vital that appropriately planned, designed and constructed trails are provided that allow a broad range of recreational uses to access and appreciate the natural environment. The BMBC has used this approach at the existing Spring Gully Trail Head and Green Loop - which has a high level of multi-user interactions - with great success. We do not see mountain biking as mutually exclusive to other user groups - and indeed actively promote interaction with other recreational users.

The BMBC understands, and takes quite seriously, our role in the broader community and the social licence that we require to conduct our sport. Our members range in age from 3 to 73, and our largest demographic are junior riders aged 17 and under. We actively encourage riders to understand, protect and provide responsible custodianship of the bush.

We look forward to continuing to work with council to achieve these outcomes.

Yours faithfully


Stu MacGregor
Club President
Bendigo Mountain Bike Club Inc