

**From:** Jack Cohn <  
**Sent:** Sunday, 17 June 2018 6:40 PM  
**To:** projects dhelkunyadja  
**Subject:** Submission

The Dj Dja Wurrung people similar to most if not all other Aboriginal groups were nomadic and as such travelled over extensive areas of land. It is reasonable to expect that over the years items such as stones, stone flakes, grinding dishes, and other items used by these people would be left behind at sites frequented. People would also die and be placed in appropriate places.

These areas that were frequented should be respected by people today and burial areas left as they are. To hand possession of vast tracks of land at the exclusion of other people who would want access to these areas for many varied reasons and activities is totally unacceptable. Even with joint management with the DELWP I have been made aware that many current tracks will be closed and re-classified as maintenance tracks only. Many current park user groups will be stopped from accessing substantial areas. These same areas have been accessed for many years without damage.

The handing of land to the Dja Dja Wurrung is a form of reverse apartheid where many people will be excluded. I am also aware that the claimed areas of heritage importance have been substantially over exaggerated as items are moved by clan members to new areas to substantiate and demand more land areas be included in land claims. It is obvious that the aims of the Dja Dja Wurrung is to take control of as much land as possible.

The existing National Parks, State Parks and other State and Commonwealth areas should remain as currently gazetted with use by many and varied interested parties. An education program to teach users of these areas to the importance to previous inhabitants would be preferable. It will also increase understanding and respect. The closing or severely diminishing of access to areas will lead to a more divisive feeling towards indigenous peoples.

Please accept my submission to maintain the current status of all Parks and other areas that the Dja Dja Wurrung are seeking to have title over so as to allow availability of access to all people and activities.

Jack Cohn

**Note: Personal Contact details redacted for on-line publishing.**