

In Consideration of this submission,

Tuesday, 29 May 2018

My Name is Martin Green. I am a member of the Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria. I am writing on behalf of myself and many other prospectors regarding the

Draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks.

I am an avid prospector like many others and am concerned about the impact of this plan on my leisure pursuit of prospecting for gold in the areas under consideration. I have heard that consideration is being discussed about banning prospecting and fossicking in some of the aforementioned areas within the parks.

I hold a current Miners License which I am compelled to have for the purpose of prospecting and taking of minerals on Crown land in Victoria.

I and many others like me pursue our hobby of gold prospecting across a broad range of public land within the “Golden Triangle” in the state of Victoria. For the most we are denied access to private land and rely on Crown land for the pursuit of our hobby.

I regard it as a privilege to be able to enjoy my hobby as a keen prospector and regard my prospecting as both relaxing and enjoyable and of **very low impact on the land**. I, like many others, love the Australian bush and respect the fact that I can enjoy the great outdoors in pursuit of my prospecting interests.

I think it's great that the indigenous community is getting involved in managing the areas under the plan.

I would like to think that all bush users could have a say what happens in these areas in conjunction and agreement with the indigenous community.

I respect the fact that this plan is being considered to respect the cultural beliefs of the indigenous peoples of this country. I, also am a native born Australian and consider I should be allowed to pursue my hobby inside these areas for the purposes of prospecting, particularly whilst other groups are still allowed access for their hobbies and outdoor interests.

I like most other prospectors respect the country in question and always conduct our hobby in a respectful manner and mostly always backfill our holes. We even go so far as filling in other holes that the few inconsiderate prospectors have left “open”. **These people and holes are a minority**. I and others from our organisation quite often also pick up other people's rubbish that has been left behind in the bush, even those who are not gold prospectors and do not do the right thing.

Let me tell you I spend a lot of time in the bush in the areas under consideration of the Joint Management Plan prospecting and just enjoying the forest, the flora and fauna. For the most part the bush areas in question are usually devoid of people, other than fellow prospectors, and even they are few and far between. Despite what some people believe, prospecting with metal detectors is **very low impact and minimal at the very best of times**. I have personally seen a lot of damage done by others, (truck and trailer loads of rubbish for instance dumped in the bush).

Some consideration should also be given to the income many of the small country towns rely upon being spent in their communities by prospectors and fossickers in the surrounding areas.

The benefit to the overall economy of Victoria should also not be overlooked. All the vehicles, caravans, campers, metal detectors and such equipment spent in the pursuit of prospecting and fossicking should not be overlooked.

In closing I would like to add that ALL Australians should be treated fairly and respectfully. We all have a vested interest in keeping these areas healthy. To that end I hope for a common sense outcome for all to the Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung parks plan and consideration that prospectors can add benefit to the areas under consideration and should therefore be allowed to continue to prospect in the proposed parks.

Yours sincerely

Martin Green

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