

Submission to the Draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks

I write this Submission to record my objection of being refused use of My land. I am a very proud Australian as were my parents, grandparents and great grandparents. My history is here in this country as it is for my children and grand children.

I do not dispute the Dja Dja Wurrung people continuing to enjoy our land and respect their rights as traditional owners to do so – as long as they respect mine. Why are my rights as an Australian being taken away?

My father and many brave young Australians fought in senseless Wars to protect this country, so we could have the privilege and the right to live in and enjoy this country freely. If it were not for those brave people defending us, we would not be having this debate as Australia as we know it would not exist.

This land belongs to ALL AUSTRALIANS to enjoy.

As a child, my family spent many “Sundays” enjoying picnics and exploring the many exciting aspects of our bush i.e. discovering windflowers, seeing a kangaroo or the occasional koala, many bird varieties – this is how we learned about our country. My grandchildren are still to have this privilege.

I am a Counsellor and work in the Allied Health industry. It is a well documented fact that accessing the Bush and nature assists the wellbeing of people suffering stress and depression. Our aging population are fitter and healthier both in mind and body as they are able to walk, bird watch and camp in our bush.

With the closure of a further 12,000 hectares of OUR land, recreational activities such as horse riding, bike riding, bush walking, bee keeping, bird watching, fossicking and prospecting and the hundreds of other activities that we enjoy for health and recreation will cease as will the many thousands of dollars spent by bush users in our small country towns.

The bush will become overgrown and a bushfire hazard not to mention being overrun with ferral animals which will impact farming.

I am also a Miner’s Right holder and a member of the PMAV, an association that holds a strict code of ethics and high regard for our land. I respect our bush and as an occasional prospector, I remove rubbish when I see it, including rusty wire, cans, car parts, spent bullets and adhere to our code of ethics and always fill in any holes I may make.

I have a voice and a vote which I will be using in the next State election.

I am proudly Australian and believe we are all equal and therefore should be treated so.

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