

**From:** Philip jakubik < >

**Sent:** Monday, 18 June 2018 9:36 PM

**To:** projects dhelkunyadja

**Cc:** projects dhelkunyadja; [lily.dambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:lily.dambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au); [vicki.ward@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:vicki.ward@parliament.vic.gov.au); The Prospectors' and Miners' Association of Victoria.

**Subject:** Dja Dja Wurrung Joint Management Plan

Hello,

it is with great respect that I write and implore you not to prevent prospecting for gold, by use of manual labour in the newly proposed areas of Victoria. I am professionally employed with Australian Border Force and for ten years have developed an absolute passion to escape to various Victorian goldfields each weekend to pursue my hobby to search for gold nuggets with my metal detector. This weekly escape is the tonic to the mental stresses I face in my job. I don't always find a bit of gold, but am always amazed by the beauty the bush provides me; sometimes the landscape looks surreal. It is an absolute thrill to walk through the bush with an exuberant expectation for that 'eureka' moment. The anticipation that each new signal may be gold is very exciting; when that 'target' is dug with my pick and it turns out to be junk, I don't get upset-the hope lives on that the next target may be a precious bit of gold-which thousands have searched for since 1851. The junk targets are pocketed into my bag, the hole I dug is refilled and I continue on with an exuberant search. Though, when the 'target' is extracted from its hole and it turns out to be a little bit of golden metal, well, imagine the thrill!

My prospecting hobby offers therapeutic benefits to me. I inject a lot of money into many Victorian townships' economies, including Maldon, Maryborough, Beaufort, Dunolly, Heathcote, Castlemaine, Inglewood, Talbot, Wedderburn, Newstead and elsewhere.

I have a seven year old nephew who is inspired by my Victorian adventures and I wish for him to pursue the same interest into his adult life; and beyond.

Please do not prevent further restrictions to our good and honest hobby and life

pursuits.

I write this submission as a proud prospector and owner of a Miners Right issued by the Victorian Government.

My prospecting is conducted in a respectful way in line with the PMAV's Code of Conduct and does not affect the rights of any other park users – including the Aboriginal community.

I strongly object to the substantial loss of another 10,000 hectares of Public land for my prospecting; especially when there is no scientific evidence to support exclusion.

I also object to the proposed bulldozing of the historic diggings in these Parks to 'repair the land'. These old diggings are an important part of our shared history and should be left as they are.

I fully support the Dja Dja Wurrung people continuing to enjoy their rights as traditional owners as long as they also respect mine. The current Draft Management Plan does not do this.

Philip jakubik  
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18.06.2018

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