

From: Greg and Helen Lean < >
Sent: Monday, 18 June 2018 11:39 AM
To: projects dhelkunyadja
Cc: vicki.ward@parliament; pmav@; lily.dambrosio@parliament
Subject: Dja Dja Wurrung Joint Management Plan

Dear Sirs,

Attached is a submission made relating to the proposed Dja Dja Wurrung Joint Management Plan.

We wish our concerns to be registered.

Regards
Greg and Helen Lean

Dear Sirs,

Re Submission to the draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks and Reserves.

It is with much concern that I write to you objecting to the closure of some 10,000 hectares which are currently open to prospecting.

My wife and I are hobby prospectors (not miners) and owners of a Miners Rights issued by the Victorian Government. We carry out our prospecting with the utmost respect for the bush and cultural environment.

Although we have not come across any sign of indigenous artefacts, relics or sites, we do support the preservation of aboriginal heritage and culture as does the prospecting Club where we are members.

As such, if the proposal proceeds, we do have the following concerns and comments:

- As a general overview, emotionally it does not assist the indigenous cause to simply propose blanket exclusion zones without specific reason for designated areas. This approach has created a considerable of animosity plus distrust between indigenous groups and users of the bush. Surely it would be more equitable to identify sites then make these prospecting / recreational “no go” areas. I’m not convinced that the whole of the nominated 10,000 hectares specified is based on identified cultural heritage hence the suggestion.
- By continuing to allow prospectors to use the area in question, it is more likely that any aboriginal artefacts or significant sites will be identified and then nominated for specific exclusion. Prospectors are the best group to achieve this as it an extreme rarity to see any other groups active (including indigenous) whilst on location.
- Locking up more land currently available to all, because of pressure from the aboriginal lobby groups, is discriminatory and will lead to animosity against the indigenous cause.
- The protection of cultural heritage by exclusion is at the centre of the issue, so a second simple solution surely would be to open up a like amount of land suitable for prospecting which would appease all concerned.
- There will be a detrimental economic impact on the businesses of rural towns and other supporting industries (eg suppliers of camping goods, detector shops and the like). Prospecting regularly takes us into small country towns where if it were not for this hobby, we would not go. Along with many other likeminded tourist and other hobbyists (4WD, fishing, horse riding, bushwalking and photography

groups), we contribute to their economy by spending on fuel, accommodation and food / drink; they are dependent on this tourist income which will fade by implementing your proposal.

- Prospectors protect the bush. Whilst prospecting, we regularly clean up the bush of rubbish and keep fire tracks clear. Our Club carefully manages bush camp fires which assists in reducing fire hazards such as fallen trees.
- We fully support the Dja Dja Wurrung people continuing to enjoy their rights as traditional owners as long as they also respect our right to do likewise. The current Draft Management Plan, through closing prospecting areas, does not do this.

Sincerely,

Helen and Greg Lean

Address: Eltham Vic 3095

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Members of the PMAV (Melbourne Branch) and the Ivanhoe Fossickers Club.