

From: Greg Morris <

Sent: Tuesday, 19 June 2018 2:56 PM

To: louise.staley@parliament

Cc: projects.dhelkunyadja; pmav@pmav; lily.dambrosio@parliament

Subject: My Stolen Retirement Plans - Dja Dja Warung "Shutting the Gate" on bushland access.

Dear Ms Stayley,

RE: Proposed Loss of Access to 10,000 hectares of Crown Land due to the ‘Submission to the Draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks’.

I am writing to ask for your help to stop the proposed plan as mentioned above. My wife and I have recently purchased a property in Maryborough and moved here a few months ago from the Central Coast of NSW, with the intent of retiring here in this community in a few years time.

The focus of my retirement was to be that I had planned to enjoy my hobbies of bushwalking and taking photographs along the walks, as well as taking up prospecting, which I enjoyed as a child with my late father and his friends. I was very much looking forward to taking this up again. With this in mind, the first community group in Maryborough that I have joined is the local branch of the PMAV (Prospectors and Miners Assoc. of Victoria). The PMAV made me aware of some very disturbing news.

It now looks like my retirement plans that I have are in jeopardy due to the Dja Dja Warung Proposal and it appears that the Victorian Government Miners Right that I have paid for won't be worth the paper that it is written on for much longer. The abovementioned Proposal will virtually lock up land from all access in the following areas: the Kooyoora State Park, Greater Bendigo National Park, Kara Kara National Park, Paddys Ranges State Park, Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve and Hepburn Regional Park.

We have moved to the country to enjoy a ‘tree change’ and had planned to retire here. The only problem is that the ‘tree change’ needs trees to be part of our plan!

Any prospecting that I had planned to do would be conducted in a respectful way in line with the PMAV's Code of Conduct which would 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, locking it up so that I and other everyday people cannot enjoy it. Already there are many areas locked up. There is no scientific evidence to support exclusion from these lands.

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 my rights. The current Draft Management Plan does not do this.

I would appreciate your thoughts and where you stand on this issue. I am 63 years of age and after having committed to moving here I am at a loss as to what I can do now.

I would not like to have to move from Maryborough as a result of this plan Shutting the Gate on my few, unobtrusive, retirement hobbies.

Yours Sincerely,

Greg Morris

Maryborough VIC 3465

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