

From: Ray & Julie Novosel
Sent: Monday, 18 June 2018 4:25 PM
To: projects dhelkunyadja
Cc: pmav@

Subject: Dja Dja Wurrung Joint Management Plan

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

We have recently learned that we (the 'average' Australian bush-lover) will be prohibited from entering areas of our National Parks that have always been available for our enjoyment.

This land belongs to ALL Australians – regardless of race or ethnicity, and we should ALL be allowed to access it at our leisure and for our enjoyment. It is also a huge drawcard for overseas visitors and the tourism industry.

As young children, our parents used to travel for hours to take us for picnics and explore the bushland and creeks, and how exciting it was for us when we saw a 'wild' animal (kangaroo/wombat/various birdlife/lizards, etc, in their natural habitat.

Now, as adults and grandparents, we travel with our children and grandchildren to those same spots and share those same happy memories with them – to be passed down through the generations for their pleasure and enjoyment also.

We are also holders of a Miner's Right issued by the Victorian Government, and are members of a reputable prospecting Club who all have the utmost of respect for our bush and parks. We are also members of the PMAV, and all our members follow the same code of ethics – we do not destroy the bushlands. To the contrary – when we find metal rubbish, ie, wire, spent cartridges, rusty wire, cans, ring-pulls and the like, we collect it all and take it home to put in our own rubbish bin – thus, cleaning the bush of unwanted rubbish. . . . and we ALWAYS fill in our holes.

Our children's hobby is geocaching (an outdoor recreational activity), another healthy hobby. Isn't it much healthier for families and children to be outdoors in our natural bushland rather be indoors behind a computer or TV????

Why has this proposal been kept quiet and not been made public knowledge for all Australians to be equally informed of the Governments intent.

We write this submission because we strongly object to the substantial loss of another 10,000 hectares of Public land for our hobbies (prospecting and geocaching); especially when there is no scientific evidence to support exclusion.

We 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.

We 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.

There is an extreme political group that has taken it upon themselves to speak for all Australians – THEY ARE NOT SPEAKING FOR ME!!!

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