

**From:** Ron Schmal  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 June 2018 3:24 PM  
**To:** projects dhelkunyadja  
**Cc:** pmav@; lily.dambrosio@parliament  
**Subject:** Submission to the Draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks.

Dear Sir / Madam,

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

In regard to the Draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks, the impact of the concerns raised, in particular on page 35, item 4.5.8, about panning, sieving or sluicing in creeks or rivers is grossly exaggerated. Temporary and minimal disturbance and clouding due to these activities, is minimal in comparison to it naturally occurring due to rainfall or storms. Even a 4WD driving through a creek will create such an effect on a similarly equal level as the above-mentioned prospecting activities.

That in parks, the prospecting with metal detectors and hand non-mechanical tools is considered in the Draft to be a concern for disturbance to cultural sites, places and objects, is very unfounded, with no evidence to back this claim. It should also be noted that about 99% of all prospecting activities with metal detectors conducted, are on ground that has already been "disturbed" in times gone by, during the gold rush era of the mid to late 1800's.

Today's metal detecting activities and the disturbance of the ground can be considered to be on the same scale of that of a Kangaroo or Wombat going about their natural activities, and the majority of Prospectors actually fill back their holes, in line with our PMAV's Code of Conduct. One may even consider the activity to be air rating the ground, not as stated in the document as "Soil Compaction"!??

Similarly, the dispersion of weeds, is done more so by wind, rain and animal activity, rather than a prospector brushing by a bush or having a seed stuck on the soul of their boots! What about all the other visitors to the parks and the "accepted" recreational 4WD activities?

My own 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 Dja Dja Wurrung community.

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

Why are horse riding, cycling, mountain bike riding, four-wheel drive and car touring, with all of their impact on these parks not an issue and allowed in the Parks, and yet Prospecting with far lesser impact to be restricted!?

I also object strongly to this idiotic idea of the proposed bulldozing of the historic diggings in these Parks to, as some particular interest groups would like to call it 'repair the land'. These old diggings are an important part of our shared history and should be left as they are.

I fully support and respect the Dja Dja Wurrung people and their rights as traditional owners, however I ask respectfully to also respect mine. The current Draft Management Plan does **not** reflect this.

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