

From: Ken
Sent: Sunday, 17 June 2018 11:36 PM
To: projects dhelkunyadja; lily.dambrosio@
Cc: Pol_Russel Northe MLA
Subject: A Submission - Joint Management Plan For the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks

A submission to:-

Draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks and Reserves.
And including - (Kooyoorra State Park, Greater Bendigo National Park, Kara Kara National Park, Paddys Ranges State Park, Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve and Hepburn Regional Park.)

To Whom it May Concern,

As a senior member of our community and as a prospector and owner of a Miners Right issued by the Victorian Government, and as a family member who has, over some 50 years introduced my Children and Grandchildren to our wonderful “freely” accessed Australian bush, not only here in Victoria but across Australia from North to South, and East to West, I make the following submission – referencing in particular the Mission Statement or Plan and the proposal intent..

1. I see this current proposal as a challenge to my personal freedoms in Australia/Victoria and discrimination by the very nature of exclusion. Any further argument in due course will be taken partly along these lines.

1.1. I draw your attention to the discriminatory words in the proposal – quote- “Joint Management is a term used to describe a formal partnership arrangement between the Traditional Owners of land and the State,”.

My point is emphasised by drawing attention to the words Traditional Owners and the State. Where do I get a mention as a citizen and user of the bush. Your proposal highlights **one group** of citizens but dares to incorporate all other users under the term “State”

I Sir am an individual and a land owner within the laws of our land and consequently entitled equally to consideration.

This omission in my view proves my discrimination claim.

2. I challenge the concept in the proposal that the Dja Dja Wurrung People, have a significant connection to their Country, and with that, have inherited certain rights and responsibilities to care for that Country t:-

I ask that you show **what legal instrument** enforces those rights and responsibilities?

3. I also in this submission ask that the instigators of this Government proposed action show, with objective evidence, that the Traditional Owner actually have evidence to support the claim that they, in fact, have any constructed plan or experience or knowledge in the planning and management of the six DDW Parks from their records.

Historically, over the generations referred to, how do you propose to identify objectively, the claimed management skills. I suggest that there is no verifiable evidence that these areas were managed at all, as the concept of management was non-existent in indigenous culture.

Connection to Country however in my view, is a given, just as I, and my children have a connection to country.

4. In reference to "Strategies" in the policy statement:-

4.1 Managing threatened species.

There already are strategies in place now.

4.2 Recognition and utilisation of traditional Dja Dja Wurrung knowledge and customs. The community already now in many ways fulfils this requirement

4.3 Attracting and managing visitors, and identifying opportunities for benefits - "etc"

This aspect is currently effectively managed by all levels of Government.

4.4 Connection with broader Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

If this is not already apparent in our community it could well be achieved without closing our parks.

4.5 Consequent economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits "etc"

Here again there is apparent singular discrimination by definition.

4.6 Public access to existing parks and reserves will continue in accordance "etc"

This comment is ambiguous as if the proposals go ahead without alteration the existing parks will not exist.

In closing I strongly object to the current Draft Management Plan and suggest as an alternative that a Management plan involving all "user groups" and all members of our Victorian Community be involved in the planning and management of the current parks without discrimination and division of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Whittaker
Tanjil South. Vic 3825

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