

**From:** Miner's Den Melbourne  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 June 2018 2:04 PM  
**To:** projects dhelkunyadja  
**Subject:** Submission to Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board re Management Plan

Submission from: Colin A Wilson, Mitcham VIC 3132  
Phone:

I am writing this submission because I am concerned that under this "Draft Management Plan" my rights to enjoy camping out in the bush and using my metal detector to prospect for natural gold nuggets - in what is currently public land - will be diminished and severely restricted.

In simplistic terms - as I understand – we are giving an Aboriginal group significant control over what is "public land" – much of which is only protected in its current form because of "reservations for future mining exploration" by past government mines and mineral departments – now renamed as State Forests, Regional Parks and National Parks.

As I understand Aboriginal culture – there is no land ownership as such – just a traditional custodial use of the land – for all the local tribes and groups. (What I would describe as "public land" in modern terms).

By locking out current bush user groups - with the many and varied activities that they pursue – and providing more status and power to "Aboriginal culture and control" - I believe will be grounds for conflict - not mutual respect and harmonious coexistence.

If I can acknowledge and respect Aboriginal culture... and their traditional ties to these lands... with their dreamtime stories and sacred places – then I am sure they can respect my desire to enjoy these same land areas with my family traditions and history of four generations camping out and prospecting for gold. I am sure we can all share these areas with mutual care and respect.

Many of the people out enjoying gold prospecting have tried to do the "right thing" and purchased their Miners Right - and many comply with the rules and regulations pertaining to the conditions of such Miners Right... has there been any statistical information collected on the amount of Miners Rights purchased each year... and the demographics of people purchasing Miners Rights??? Has there been any surveys of what they think of diminishing the amounts of areas we can prospect in Victoria by introducing these "Management Plans"?

In all the years that I have enjoyed camping out and prospecting in some of the areas under review for "Management Plans" – I have never seen any Aboriginal people in the bush! Have there been any surveys... or is there any way of knowing how many current "Aboriginal bush users" will be involved in making decisions for these "Management Plans" that will affect so many bush user groups?

We are all Australians and the "Public Lands" should be for fair public use for ALL... not for one particular group having majority control and influence.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit my view.

Regards – Colin

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