

## **Comments on the Draft Management Plan – Dja Dja Wurrung Parks and Reserves**

Whilst having sympathy for the aspirations of the remaining descendants of the Original Inhabitants of the Dja Dja Wurrung area, achieving all the goals will take considerable time and resources. It is a good thing that Parks Victoria's limited resources will be augmented and/or supplanted by the Dhelkunya Land Management Board over time.

I would agree that future corporate prospecting and mining needs to be controlled, as it already is by current legislation. It is not a good thing that recreational fossicking and prospecting using metal detectors and panning for gold are going to lose another 10,000 hectares of available Crown land. Many of the adverse claims overstate and exaggerate the situation.

Thousands of Victorians and out-of-staters enjoy the mental and physical well-being that comes from the hope of finding something from their activities. A lot of time is spent by looking, not finding. Their time spent in this area does not produce the effects described in the Draft Management Plan. In fact the presence of recreational fossickers/prospectors from both within and without this area is essential to the economic health of the surrounding communities. Ongoing restriction of this group may be to the area's detriment.

I am sure that there must be ways in which we can co-operate to each other's benefit.

Let's talk.

Wallace Young

19/6/18

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