

From: Ian Aitken

Sent: Monday, 18 June 2018 10:15 AM

To: projects dhelkunyadja

Cc: [pmav](#)

Subject: Submission to Draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks.

Dear Sirs

Please accept this submission to the Draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks.

I write as a long term prospector and metal detector operator, objecting to the huge loss of access to public land, in this new Draft plan.

As a little background, I started prospecting as a young lad of 14 & am now age 66. This has been quite literally a life-time hobby which has taken me to most parts of Victoria. I now live in South Australia but still travel back to Victoria probably once a month for a few days detecting in these same areas that the draft plan is proposing to close. These trips contribute to the Victorian economy, and probably more importantly, the Rural Victorian economy, in the petrol, accommodation (Motels & caravan parks) & meals. Let me also point out that I am only one of many hundreds of South Australian who similarly travel to Victoria as our primary gold detecting locations.

I have always been the holder of a Victorian Miners Right, am fully aware of the responsibilities that come with that document & have always been respectful of others who also want to enjoy the bush in various ways. In fact I've often said that I feel that responsible bush users like myself are probably more involved in conserving & 'looking after' the bush than a lot of suburban 'greenies' who never venture beyond their local coffee shop.

In my opinion, the Aboriginal community do have their rights to these bush environments, but these should not be Exclusive. Like other bush users, there is no reason for their rights to exempt all other peoples rights, we are all Australians after all.

I thank you for your time in reading my submission & look forward to a positive inclusive outcome from this submission period.

Ian Aitken

Grange, SA

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