

Received SPM 18 June 9:31 PMHi Michele  
Please except our Branch Submission  
Cheers  
Bill Schulz  
PMAV Central Central Glodfield Branch  
President.



## Prospectors & Miners Association of Victoria Inc.

### **Central Goldfields Branch**

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### **Central Goldfields Branch**

#### **Submission to the Draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks**

Our Branch and its members are not in favour and will not support the Draft Management Plan in its present form.

There are some significant issues and questions that need to be addressed first.

- (1) The restriction to prospecting without consultation.
- (2) Loss of ground for prospecting. A total of 12,000 Hectares within these Parks.
- (3) The possible destruction of mining heritage sites within the Parks under your 'Healing' program.
- (4) Closing off some roads and tracks that could make it almost impossible for CFA and other fire-fighting units to access areas in case of bush fires.
- (5) Restrictions to camping areas where we are currently allowed.
- (6) The Draft Plan should also outline who is accountable and responsible for the various aspects of the management plan and how other user groups are placed within that chain of responsibility.
- (7) The Draft management plan has no systems or processes in place to ensure any consultation takes place or to ensure that any

relevant information will be acknowledged and taken into account in decision making processes. In other words, decisions being made behind closed doors.

(8) No assurance that no more ground will be lost to prospecting after the Draft has been agreed to by the appropriate Government authorities. Or restrictions to other bush users at a later date.

(10) There is no assurance in the Plan that, if other Parks are created within the region and the Dja Dja Wurrung are granted these Parks, that public consultancy is guaranteed. We are concerned that the concepts contained in this Draft could be automatically adopted.

**(A) From Parks Victoria web site, Under the agreement of the Aboriginal Joint Management Plan**

The heading of :-

**Joint management and the community**

it states :- *The areas where joint management is established will continue to be public parks and reserves. **Everyone will continue to have access to these areas.** Joint management will help visitors learn more about the continuing connection between Traditional Owners and the land.*

Nowhere does it state Loss or Restriction to areas to anyone or group. And that includes prospecting.

**(B) From the Victorian State Government, Department of Justice web site.**

*Recreational activities like hunting and fishing will not be affected. We found out that statement includes prospecting.*

Also under the same agreement :-

*Transfer of parks or reserves to Aboriginal title does not affect existing use and access.*

**(C) From the Forestry and Reserves Victorian Government web site**

:-

**Access and Use of Joint Management Lands**

*Jointly managed areas will continue to be managed under the relevant public land Act under which they are reserved. Transfer of parks or reserves to Aboriginal title does not affect existing use and access*

*Access and use will be considered through the joint management planning, which includes a public consultation process. The joint management plan must be consistent with statewide policy to maintain public access.*

*This means that existing licences or leases within the jointly managed area will be protected, friends groups can continue to operate, and recreational fishing and hunting will be able to continue.*

## **Conclusion**

The Central Goldfields Branch recognises the Dja Dja Wurrung people as the traditional owners of land in the Central Goldfield Region. And that they are entitled to the right to protect their culturally significant and historic sites within the Parks - but without restrictions to all other park users.

We would be pleased to work with the Aboriginal Community and are willing to support them in their efforts. But under the present Draft proposals this will be impossible as it will not give us all a level playing field or platform to work from.

If the Board would like clarification on any points raised, please feel free to contact me.

We also feel that the Dja Dja Wurrung and it's Board are working outside the scope of the original Joint Management Agreement that was signed in 2013 with the Victorian Government.

Yours truly

***Bill Schulz***  
***President, PMAV - Central Goldfields Branch.***