



Healthy Parks
Healthy People®

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25 June 2018

Uncle Graham Atkinson
Chairperson
Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board
PO Box 3100
Bendigo Delivery Centre
VIC 3554

Dear Uncle Graham,

REVIEW OF THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DJA DJA WURRUNG PARKS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks.

Our staff have tabled a range of specific detailed feedback requested by CSIRO and other advice attached for your consideration. The feedback and advice has focussed on the application of management zones and overlays, and permitted activities and uses, to assist in the finalisation of the plan. Parks Victoria recognises there are complexities in clearly characterising permitted activities and uses which may vary across the parks, zones and overlays, and we would welcome the opportunity to review amendments and provide further assistance if required to ensure clarity.

Parks Victoria looks forward to the opportunity to work with the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Clans Corporation in delivering the outcomes of an approved Joint Management Plan.

Should you require further advice on this matter please contact Joshua Chikuse on 0400 393 917, at joshua.chikuse@parks.vic.gov.au, or myself.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Hughes

Director Park Planning and Policy



**Parks Victoria feedback for Dja Dja Wurrung Parks JMP
June 2018**

Zones and Overlays

- 1) Map:H2 Zones and Overlays for Hepburn Park. It may be consistent to apply the Conservation and Recreation Zone as the underlying zone to H-RCC-1. Recreation Development Zones are generally applied to small areas with a high level of facility development catering for a high number of visitors. The extent of an RDZ may define the permitted footprint of development activity and may also align with a commercial lease area. Consideration could be given to whether there was part of the area which warranted the application of an RDV.
- 2) Map:H2 Zones and Overlays for Hepburn Park - In Reference to the proposed Conservation Zone to the west of Muskvale, PV advises that given the level of activity and use of this area, that it may be appropriate to consider there area for zoning as Conservation and Recreation Zone, including the underlying zone for H-RCC5.
- 3) Zones and Overlays Maps – Graphical representation of overlays are applied so that the underlying zones may also be read. Consideration may be given to utilising cartographic styles showing RCC overlays as hatching or stippling.
- 4) A cross-reference to table 8 (of the Strategy doc) may be useful if added to 5.1.3 (of the Resources doc) prior to Table R6, to better assist readers to connect the management aims to each of the zone and overlay types.
- 5) Table 8 (Strategy doc) – It may be helpful for the strategic purpose or management aim of the RCC overlay to be further clarified. It may be useful to note the areas are a focus for cultural development projects and are focus areas for future planning to define and determine directions for Visitor Experience Areas within each specific RRC overlay in accordance with purposes defined in Table 11. It may also be an opportunity to note that future capture of visitor experience information will also occur more broadly across the joint managed parks, not just within the RRC Overlays. This will capture information aligned with the directions set through the joint management plan; it will not change the direction.

Activities and Uses in Zones and Overlays

Table R22 and R23 may be further clarified to remove a number of possible inconsistencies, gaps or complexities. Further clarification and consistency of activities and uses applied to zones, overlays, special protection areas or special management areas is noted below.

- 6) Table R22 is not comprehensive and does not include many relevant activities such bushwalking, bbqs, birdwatching, car rallies, education, guided activities, fishing, hang gliding etc. Table R22 should be at least as comprehensive as Table R23.
- 7) RCC overlays may be included in either/or R22/R23 if there are any proposed differences to the permissible activities in an underlying zone.
- 8) Table R23- There are some challenges or it is not clear why some **passive activities** are not allowed in an overlay while other passive activities are permitted within the same SPAs/SMAs: For example, bird watching is shown as not permitted in the PR SPA or Kara Kara SMA, however nature photography is permitted. There are not substantive differences between activities such as walking or bird watching, or sightseeing that would warrant the activities being treated differently, unless there may be cultural sensitivity in some contexts such as to photography. For example, KSP SMA, Karra Kara SMA, PR SPA – as currently shown, it appears access to these areas is limited to only DDW authorised users,

education/guided activities and/or nature photography. It is not clear if there is a strategic intention to exclude other general public access.

We would ordinarily recommend that (other than reference areas) all benign passive activities with not dissimilar impact should be permitted by default in zones and overlays unless there is a specific reason for it not to occur, such as public safety, or cultural, environmental or visitor impacts. These passive activities may include walking, bushwalking, sightseeing, picnicking, bird watching, nature photography/painting fishing and fires in gas or liquid fuel stoves. The permitted activity in the underlying zone may then be applied as the default permission within specific overlays unless there are specific impacts or reasons to prohibit it in a specific overlay. Specific examples include: **Bushwalking** - PR SPA doesn't allow yet the walking track network and both the campground and the picnic areas are within this overlay. **Picnicking** - PR SPA should be shown as Y as both the campground and the picnic areas are within overlay. **Rafting/ canoeing/kayaking** - should be allowed in the Kara Kara SPA. **Orienteering/rogaining** - should be allowed in the PR SPA. **Licensed tours** - Are appropriate in the PR SPA as this is where the visitor nodes are. **Fishing** should be allowed in the Kara Kara SPA as that is where the Teddington Reservoir is. Walking should be allowed everywhere

9) Table R22 /R23 – **Campfires and firewood**. It may assist clarity to:

- A separate activity for “Domestic firewood collection” and for “Campfire firewood collection”. Is it the intention that no firewood collection is permitted anywhere by all users including DDW? Provide a clarifying provision that Firewood may be brought for use in campfires. (this is otherwise prohibited in National Parks unless set-aside).
- R23: Campfire firewood collection should be banned from all SPA/SMA (unless there is an exception for DDW authorised users.
- A separate activity for “Campfires in designated fireplaces” and for “Campfires – dispersed.
- A separate activity for “Barbeques – solid fuel”.
- R23: Campfires in designated fireplaces should be allowed in PR SPA and Kara Kara SPA
- In R23, Barbeques – PR SPA is currently shown as N yet both the campground and the picnic areas are within this overlay and have BBQs.
- In R23, it appears the provisions define that DDW authorised users will not be able to have dispersed campfires or collect firewood in a number of the SPA/SMA where they are permitted to have dispersed camping. If this is not intended, then this may need to be amended and/or include the use gas or liquid fuel stoves.
- R23: Gas / liquid fuel stoves should be allowed in Kara Kara SPA as this is where the campground is.

10) **Dog walking** designated tracks (on lead) –

- To be consistent with the approach, this would need to be indicated as Y for within the Recreation and Conservation Zone.
- **R22:** Paddys, Kara Kara, Wehla and Kooyoora **Dog walking (designated tracks)** is shown as allowed in the prospecting overlay but not in the conservation and recreation zone. This is a contradiction as all of the prospecting overlays are within that zone. Currently the only place dog walking is allowed in any of these 4 parks is at Kooyoora in an area that is not in the prospecting overlay.

11) R23 **Horse riding**

- It may be more clearly indicated as “horse riding – designated tracks only” on both R22/R23.
- It may be comprehensive to include “Horse camping” as an activity marked as N (or Y with possible horse camp locations noted if in accordance with park notes).

12) Camping R22/R23

- It may be opportunistic to define the separate activities of “Camping - dispersed” and “Camping – dispersed car-based” – This differentiates walk-in dispersed camping, from any opportunity where people can pull off a track and camp with a vehicle where there is no site.
- Camping is only permitted in designated sites in GBNP.
- R22: Camping is shown as not permitted in the Water Supply Overlay in Kara Kara – the two campgrounds (Teddington reservoir and Teddington hut) are both within the overlay so this needs to be changed.
- R23: Camping is permitted at designated sites at campgrounds within – PR SPA and Kara Kara SPA

13) **Feeding of wildlife** is prohibited in all zones and overlays within all areas gazetted under the National Parks Act.

14) It is not clear why **recreational fishing** would not be permitted in all zones and overlays other than Reference Areas unless for public safety or NA if no water exists.

15) It would be consistent for **Scenic driving, trailbike riding or other vehicle based activities including car rallies** to be indicated as Y in any zone or overlay where ever there are vehicle tracks open to public vehicles. It has been common to include a qualifying provision “Only registered motorcycles and other registered vehicles are permitted on roads and vehicle tracks open to public vehicles. Motorbikes and other vehicles are not permitted off track, on seasonally closed tracks, walking tracks or MVOs”.

16) Table R22 and R23 - Many relevant activities are currently left blank such as walking, sightseeing, fishing etc. It may be best to be clear whether or not a listed activity is permitted. “NA” should only be applied where there is no practical opportunity for an activity e.g.. no water exists for water based activities.

17) A number of the activities noted in **Tables of Road Management** are inconsistent with Table R22 or R23. It may be helpful to provide clarifying provisions in R22 and R23 where activities are linked to tracks, for example - Dog walking - CRZ - Y - only on designated tracks listed in Road Management Tables under section 6.1.2 – unless the intention is any track, not listed ones?

18) The roads listed in the tables require further validation of their future intent, whether subject to seasonal closures, classification and use.

19) The wording on **Prospecting for Minerals** (designated overlays) suggests that prospecting is allowed in all conservation and recreation zones. **Prospecting for minerals** should specify “within prospecting overlay only”.

20) R23: There are columns for Kooyoora and Kara Kara Special Management Areas however the maps don't show these parks as having SMAs.

21) Uncertainty exists in regard to the Mapping of the PR SPA (Natural values) as it now also buffers the walking track network – not sure if this the intention.

