

From: Dean Smith
Sent: Tuesday, 19 June 2018 10:23 PM
To: projects dhelkunyadja
Subject: Feedback to the Draft JMP

Please find enclosed a word doc with my Feedback to the draft. Please read it.

Regards

Dean Smith
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SUBMISSION TO THE DHELKUNYA DJA LAND MANAGEMENT BOARD. IN RELATION TO THE DRAFT JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dean Smith

Frankston, Vic

Thankyou for being given an opportunity to comment on the current JMP, and congratulations to the Dja Dja Wurrung community in reaching such an important milestone in history.

As an active user of all public land in Victoria for my personal and family activities I am seriously concerned about the future of access provided to us, not only for the present, but for the future generation of my family.

I am continually hearing of plans from the: Greens, VEAC, and Politicians who make the final decisions on policy that is trying to close off our access to our land. Decisions made by some people who do not have any interest in enjoying the outside world.

I have now been informed that the 'first stage' of the recommendations in the current JMP is to close off another 12'000 HA to my personal hobby of prospecting for gold nuggets. I have also been informed under the new management of the appointed land there are many other areas that might be on the radar for restricting or closing the access for recreational use in the future.

Again, I must congratulate the positive step forward in history by recognising the significance and recognition of the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the acceptance to joint manage our special land with Parks Victoria. I have had the great opportunity to work alongside some amazing and influential Koorie people over the years, people I call friends. I have also been lucky enough to share stories and be shown basic traditional ways, including bush tucka and cultural interpretation on land. Something that makes me appreciate what we have together even more. What makes me concerned is if another group are trying to close off vast areas of our land (land I want to be in and get out of the rut of work and city life) it will cause resentment and angry feedback.

Large areas of the known Dja Dja Wurrung (appointed land) has a history of being prospected heavily from the mid 1800's onward. The scars are there to see now, yet many of these areas also now have historical significance as well. These sites are also protected from further 'mining' (remember mining is totally different to prospecting) and under the miners right and existing laws

(which also covers prospecting) these areas must be respected....And they are respected by the users of the bush....that is why they are still there to see and appreciate today. One example : <https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/archaeology-and-shipwrecks/archaeology-and-heritage-inventory>

I would prefer to learn more about the cultural significance of the whole state, and as a group of users and managers open more land to share the knowledge, not shut up vast areas without knowing and understanding.

GOOD HEALTH TO COUNTRY AND SPIRIT.....Good heath to the users of this amazing land too.

PS: I see more new growth of tubers and bush in old (filled in) holes from previous prospectors. To be honest I think it is due to loosening the soil of the rock hard nature we have in the Dry forests of central Vic. It could be from my old pick hole the size of a dinner plate, the vast amount of disturbance from our endemic mammals and birds such as Bandicoots, clearly seen all over the land. I am also sure that traditional harvesting of the vanilla and chocolate lilly etc, for their tubers as tucka was beneficial to the seasonal growth from the soils being turned over and loosened.

I invite you to come out and see what is prospecting for gold.

Regards

Dean Smith

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