

**From:** cadcraft

**Sent:** Monday, 18 June 2018 9:10 PM

**To:** projects dhelkunyadja

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

I write this submission as a proud prospector and owner of a Miners Right issued by the Victorian Government.

My prospecting is conducted in a respectful way in line with the PMAV's Code of Conduct and does not affect the rights of any other park users – including the Aboriginal community.

I strongly object to the substantial loss of another 12,000 hectares of Public land for my prospecting and practice of my traditions which ties me to the land, especially when there is no scientific evidence to support exclusion.

I also object to the proposed bulldozing of the historic diggings in these Parks to 'repair the land'. These old diggings are an important part of our shared history and should be left as they are.

There is no disputing the fact that the Dja Dja Wurrung people and the miners of yesteryear are tied to these areas in question. These areas today are still public areas only due to the fact that mining occurred there during the gold rush period, when much of the rest of Victoria was acquired by land squatters. In a twist of fate, the very fact that mining occurred ensured that these areas were retained for public use. As the mining significants of these areas diminished, prospectors and fossickers and all other bush users actively contributed to maintain these lands for the public. Over the ages, the indigenous people of this land have been the custodian of the land and in more recent time prospectors, fossickers and all other bush users have jointly shared in the responsibility to safe keep this land for the next generation and all future generations. These public land isn't owned by any one group or individual, but by all of the peoples of this land for the use and enjoiment of all and not at the expense of any one individual or group.

I fully support the Dja Dja Wurrung people continuing to enjoy their rights as traditional owners of these areas as long as they also respect my right to practice my tradition and connection to this land. The current Draft Management Plan does not do this and hence my strong objection to this current Draft Management Plan.

Adriano Tarticchio

Altona North

18/6/2018

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