

# DHELKUNYA DJA

LAND MANAGEMENT BOARD

*Manyangurr ngulumbara dhelkunya Djandaki murrupi*  
We meet together to return good health to Country and Spirit

## Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks: **STRATEGY**

Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board  
October 2018



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Wai-galk (Wattle)

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## ACRONYMS

AHA .....	<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> (Victoria)
CFaLA .....	<i>Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987</i> (Victoria)
CLRA .....	<i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i> (Victoria)
CSIRO .....	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DDWCAC .....	Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
DELWP .....	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DDLMB.....	Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board
DDW.....	Dja Dja Wurrung
EPBC (Act) .....	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth)
FFG (Act) .....	<i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Victoria)
FPIC.....	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
JMP.....	Joint Management Plan
MP .....	Member of Parliament
NPA.....	<i>National Parks Act 1975</i> (Victoria)

NCCMA . . . . .	North Central Catchment Management Authority
PVA . . . . .	<i>Parks Victoria Act 2018</i> (Victoria)
RCC . . . . .	Recreation Cultural Practices and Customs (Overlay)
<i>RSA 2013</i> . . . . .	<i>Recognition and Settlement Agreement 2013</i>
s . . . . .	Section (of legislation)
SMART . . . . .	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound
TOLMA . . . . .	<i>Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement</i>
TOS (Act) . . . . .	<i>Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010</i> (Victoria)
VAHR . . . . .	Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register
VEA . . . . .	Visitor Experience Area
WESI . . . . .	Weeds at and Early Stage of Invasion

## CONVENTIONS

1. “People” when it refers to Dja Dja Wurrung People is capitalised throughout. “Djaara” is often used interchangeably with “Dja Dja Wurrung People”.
2. The words “Dja Dja Wurrung” appear frequently throughout this document. Where required, we use the full term at least once on the page or table, and subsequently replace with the acronym DDW. Occasionally, the full term is used again to comply with cultural protocols.
3. Most photos appear without captions with exceptions as agreed by the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board—photographers are acknowledged inside the front cover.
4. “Parks” when it is capitalised refers to the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks—the five parks and one reserve that make up the Dja Dja Wurrung Appointed Land. Similarly, “joint management” when it refers to joint management of the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks is capitalised to Joint Management. Capitals are also applied to specific instruments and activities associated with the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks including: Codes of Practice; Memorandum of Understanding; Operational Plans; Change Management Plan; Cultural and Natural Resource Management; and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.
5. “Country” when it refers to Dja Dja Wurrung Country is capitalised throughout. Similarly, “Culture” when it refers to DDW Culture, and appears as a stand-alone term, is capitalised throughout.
6. Related Boxes, Tables and Figures from the Resources document are labelled with R (R1, R2 etc.) and cross-referenced throughout this document.
7. Dja Dja Wurrung language words appear with the English equivalent after them in italics the first time the word is used. The spelling of English words uses United Kingdom Conventions.
8. Minimum punctuation style is used in lists and tables i.e. full stops or semi-colons are not used unless somewhere in the list or table column there is an entry with two sentences, in which case full stops appear throughout that column or list; full stops appear at the end of lists.
9. “Our” throughout this document is an inclusive term reflecting “Joint” Management, underpinned by the *Recognition and Settlement Agreement 2013* between the State of Victoria and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, through this Joint Management Plan prepared by the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board (DDLMB). The Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change appointed the DDLMB to undertake this task. Partners in this Joint Management include the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation; Parks Victoria; the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; together with the Dja Dja Wurrung People; and the wider community of Park users and stakeholders.
10. Conventions are noted in a footnote the first time they are used to alert the reader, and a couple are repeated where the location of the first occurrence might easily be missed.

# GLOSSARY OF DJA DJA WURRUNG LANGUAGE

## General Words

Boort (burt) . . . . .	Smoke
Boyn . . . . .	Bread, damper
Darrak . . . . .	Branches
Datimdatim . . . . .	Boomerang
Dhelkunya Dja . . . . .	Healing/make good, land/Country
Dhelkunya Wi or Wii	Healing Fire
Dja or djaa . . . . .	Earth
Djaara . . . . .	The People of Country
Dja Dja Wurrung . . . . .	Yes Yes speaking/lip/tongue
Djandak . . . . .	Dja Dja Wurrung Country
Djuwima Djandaki . . . . .	(For Dja Dja Wurrung People) to show and to share our Country (to show how we care for our Country and share it with you); in this Plan, Djuwima Djandaki is used as an alternative to the English language concept of Foundation Assets
Galka . . . . .	Trees
Gatjin . . . . .	Water
Girra . . . . .	Leaves
Larr . . . . .	Stone
Mayam . . . . .	Shelter
Mirryn . . . . .	Air
Milakuk . . . . .	Lightning
Murun dhelk . . . . .	Living good health
Ngulumbarra . . . . .	Gathering together
Wurrekangek . . . . .	My Talk (my story)
Wurrekang . . . . .	Talk
Wi or wii . . . . .	Fire

## Dja Dja Wurrung Dreaming Stories

Barramul . . . . .	Emu Dreaming of Larr-ni-barramul—and Emu in the night sky
Bunjil . . . . .	Creator Being who transformed into Wedge-tailed Eagle
Martiinga Kuli Murrup	Ancestral Spirits
Waa . . . . .	Bunjil's Brother—Fire Dreaming—Australian and Little Raven (previously mis-recorded as crow)

## Animals and Plants

Banya . . . . .	Ring-tailed Possum
Barramul . . . . .	Emu
Bial . . . . .	Red Gum
Binggal . . . . .	Snake
Bolitj . . . . .	Cherry Ballart
Burul . . . . .	Sugar Glider
Djarrk . . . . .	Common Reed
Djinbonggure . . . . .	Wallaby
Djinyap . . . . .	Sulphur-crested White Cockatoo
Djutj . . . . .	Gum
Duan . . . . .	Brush-tailed phascogale
Dum . . . . .	Frog
Gal Gal . . . . .	Dingo
Gamitj . . . . .	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
Gurri . . . . .	Kangaroo
Murnang . . . . .	Yam Daisy
Ngana-nganitj . . . . .	Bat
Wai-galk . . . . .	Wattle
Willa . . . . .	Brush-tailed Possum
Wirrap . . . . .	Fish
Wirrmal . . . . .	Owl

## Place Names

Dharrangowar . . . . .	Mt Tarrengower
Kara Kara (garra garra)	Gold (to kick)
Kooyoora (Guyura) . . . . .	Mountain of Light
La Larr Ba Gauwa . . . . .	Stone Mountain (Mt Alexander)
Lalgambuk . . . . .	Mt Franklin
Larr-ni-barramul . . . . .	Home of the Emu (Franklinford area)

## Cultural Note:

Dja Dja Wurrung People are the custodians of their language and the cultural authority on the correct spellings and usage. Protocols are in place to protect the cultural heritage of Traditional Owners from cultural misappropriation, and cultural heritage is protected under cultural heritage and copyright laws of the Australian State and Commonwealth Governments. The DDWCAC as the Recognised Aboriginal Party under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Victoria) may assist and provide guidance on the use of language for publication.



# GUIDE TO DJA DJA WURRUNG SOUNDS AND SPELLING

## Closed sounds (consonants)

b at the start of a word, p in the middle and end of a word e.g bupup. This is a sound that is in-between b and p. This is why b and p are considered the same sound in Aboriginal languages.

m—same as English m

w—same as English w

d at the start of a word, t in the middle and end e.g diti (*hard*). This is a sound in-between d and t. This is why d and t are considered the same sound in Aboriginal languages.

n—same as English n

l—same as English l

rr—this sound is a rolled r, like the Scottish or Spanish rolled r sound.

g at the start of a word, k in middle and end e.g gaka (*come*), gurruk (*magpie*). This is a sound in-between g and k. This is why g and k are considered the same sound in Aboriginal languages.

ng—the soft sound as in **si**ng or **fi**nger. Try to fade out the si and just say ng.

ngg—the hard sound as in **a**nger or **h**unger

y—same as English y. The middle of the tongue is place near the roof of the mouth.

dj at the start of a word, tj in the middle and end e.g dja dja wurrung, djitjtj (*marrow*), like the English ‘j’ sound in jam or judge or **ch** sound in **ch**urch, but instead place the middle of the tongue on the roof of the mouth.

ny at the start and middle of a word, yn at the end of a word e.g nyakinyarr (*see you soon*), barrip-djapayn (*paternal aunty*). This is a special n sound by placing the middle of the tongue on the roof of the mouth.

dh at the start of a word, th in the middle and at the end

(however, this sound doesn’t occur much in the middle or end of word in Dja Dja Wurrung) e.g dhelk (*good*), ngangguth (*breathe*). This is a special d sound by placing the middle of the tongue at the back of the front teeth.

nh—a special n sound by placing the middle of the tongue at the back of the front teeth.

rt—this is a curled back t sound by placing the tongue tip and curling it behind the gum ridge.

rn—this is a curled back n sound by placing the tongue tip and curling it behind the gum ridge.

rl—ly at the middle of words (rare in Dja Dja Wurrung), yl at the ends of words. This is a curled back n sound by placing the tongue tip and curling it behind the gum ridge.

r—this is like the English r sound in the word round.

## Open sounds (vowels)

a—same as English **but** or **pasta**

aa—held longer **card**

e—same as English **bed**

i—same as English **big**

ii—held on longer **sheep**

u—the oo sound in English **put** or **book**

o—same as English **log**

oi—same as English **boy**

ai—same as English **buy**

au—same as English **now** or **bough**

ui—same as English **gooey**

ua—same as English **tour**

## ANOTHER GUIDE TO THE SPELLINGS (VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL CORPORATION FOR LANGUAGES)

LIP SOUNDS	TONGUE TIP SOUNDS (1) tongue at the gum ridge	TONGUE TIP SOUNDS (2) tongue pulled back behind the gum ridge	TONGUE MIDDLE SOUNDS (1) tongue at the teeth	TONGUE MIDDLE SOUNDS (2) at the roof of the mouth	TONGUE BACK SOUNDS
p or b	t or d	rt or rd t, d	th or dh	ty, dy tj, dj ch, j	k or g
m	n	rn	nh	ny or yn (at the ends of words)	ng
	l	rl l		ly or yl (at the ends of words)	
w				y (occasionally j)	
	r, rr (maybe rolled too)				





## FOREWORD FROM THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

I am delighted to release the first Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks and only the second plan of its kind in Victoria. The Joint Management Plan translates the aspirations of the Dja Dja Wurrung People for their Country, and incorporates their traditional knowledge, culture and practices into the Joint Management of six parks (Dja Dja Wurrung Parks) in Central Victoria for the benefit of all Victorians.

This document symbolises the commitment of the Victorian Government and the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation to a collaborative partnership, as embodied in the landmark *2013 Recognition and Settlement Agreement*, for the Joint Management of the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks. It recognises the important past, present and future cultural and natural values of the Dja Dja Wurrung (DDW) Parks for the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the wider Victorian community.

The Plan builds on the *Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan 2014-2034* which established a shared Vision for the DDW Parks and identified nine Djuwima Djandaki (Foundation Assets). Implementation will empower the Dja Dja Wurrung People by building their skills and capacity to conserve, protect and enhance their Country and maximise its economic and social values. The Dja Dja Wurrung People will play a vital role in delivering 'Healthy Parks, Healthy People' for DDW Park users.

I would especially like to thank Graham Atkinson (Chairperson) and the rest of the team at the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board for their diligent work in preparing this Plan and to CSIRO which led the Consortium in its development. I also commend those individuals and organisations who contributed to the Plan including: the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises (trading as Djandak); Conservation Management; the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; and Parks Victoria. I would also like to thank the individuals and community and natural resource organisations who contributed through public consultation.

The passion and enthusiasm of everyone who has contributed to the development of this Plan is fundamental to its strength and will be critical to its implementation over the next fifteen years. This is not just a Plan of action, but a critical step on the journey to self-determination for the Dja Dja Wurrung People through the Joint Management of their Country.



**The Honourable Lily D'Ambrosio MP**  
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change



## APPROVED JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN

This *Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks* has been prepared in accordance with Division 5A of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987* (Victoria). The Plan comprises a Joint Management Plan Strategy document, including maps, and a Joint Management Plan Resources document for six Parks that will be jointly managed.

It is consistent with the objects and requirements of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Victoria) for the four parks that are managed under that Act; and is consistent with the purposes and requirements of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (Victoria) for the one park and one reserve that are managed under that Act. This Plan meets the preparation requirements of the Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement between Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the Victorian Government, and is approved for implementation.

The purpose of this Plan is to set and guide the strategic direction for the Joint Management partnership between the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the Victorian Government; to enable the knowledge and Culture of the Dja Dja Wurrung People to influence, and be recognised in, the management of the six Parks; and to enable the combined natural resource management skills and expertise of the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the Victorian Government to be applied in the management of these Parks.

This Plan supersedes any previously approved management plans for the six Parks.

This Plan is agreed in accordance with Section (s)82PG of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987* (Victoria).



**Graham Atkinson**  
Chairperson, Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board



**John Bradley**  
Secretary to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

This Plan is approved in accordance with the provisions of s82PH of *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987* (Victoria).



**The Honourable Lily D'Ambrosio MP**  
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change



## FROM THE CHAIR OF THE DHELKUNYA DJA LAND MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board (DDLMB), in close collaboration with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DDWCAC) and the Victorian Government, is proud to present this Joint Management Plan (Plan). The Plan, amongst other things, places the aspirations of the Dja Dja Wurrung People back in the landscape of the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks.

The notion of Joint Management here recognises that the Traditional Owners, the Dja Dja Wurrung People<sup>1</sup>, have a significant connection to their Country<sup>2</sup>, and in turn, have inherent rights and responsibilities to care for their Country. The DDLMB regards this as a significant reform because in the past the voices of Traditional Owners were not prominent in the management of Country.

This Plan for the Joint Management of five Parks and one Reserve begins a partnership of Joint Management of Country in a national park and reserve setting. Its foundations stem from the historic *Recognition and Settlement Agreement 2013 (RSA 2013)* successfully negotiated between the State Government of Victoria and the Traditional Owner Entity—the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DDWCAC) of Central Victoria.

One of the outcomes of the agreement was the Joint Management of five Parks and one Reserve (the Appointed Land as described in the *RSA 2013*) that were transferred from Crown to Aboriginal Title held by the DDWCAC. The *RSA 2013* also enabled establishment of the Traditional Owner Land Management Board (TOLMB), later renamed the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board, to develop the Joint Management Plan.

Dhelkunya Dja means *Healing Land* or *to make good Country* in the Dja Dja Wurrung language and is the name given to the *Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan 2014-2034* and the TOLMB, Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board.

Healing land (Country) goes beyond ridding the environment of pest plant and animals, managing fire and visitor impacts. The Plan is as much about Dja Dja Wurrung People as it is about the land—we are a part of it. Dja Dja Wurrung People are part of the land and cannot be separated from it now and into the future. What Dja Dja Wurrung People bring to Joint Management is an understanding of Country that encompasses multifaceted layers of cultural, spiritual, social and emotional values overlaying the physical health of Country.

*Dja Dja Wurrung Country is a cultural landscape that is more than just tangible objects; imprinted in it are the dreaming stories, Law, totemic relationships, songs, ceremonies and ancestral spirits, which give it life and significant value to Dja Dja Wurrung People... Their Country is shaped from the belief system that all things have a murrup (spirit)—water, birds, plants, animals, rocks and mountains. The Dja Dja Wurrung People see all the land and its creatures in a holistic way, interconnected with each other and with the people (Recognition Statement, RSA 2013).*

Country is understood on many levels with various weather conditions and signs of particular culturally significant species and interaction with them. It is these species that signify the cues for ceremonies, hunting, gathering, breeding times and movements, with the transition of seasons interpreted through cultural values and beliefs. This is where new fire regimes, built on the knowledge of old fire regimes, can be trialled to reach a benchmark in biodiversity and utilise this important tool in reshaping the land for future generations. This is where Traditional Ecological Knowledge and modern-day science can bridge ecological knowledge systems to reinvent a methodology to manage Country in a way that is inclusive, evolutionary, sustainable and holistic.

*Dhelkunya Djangaki, Dhelkunya Murrup, Dhelkunya Djaara Ngulumbarra—Murun dhelk (Healing our Country, Healing Spirit, Healing People gathering together—living good health).*

*Dhelkunya Dja is the foundation of knowing that we are all a part of something much bigger than ourselves. That we are connected to the health and wellbeing of our environment and our community. Healing one part will help heal another. Rebecca Phillips (City of Greater Bendigo 2017, p. 2)*

We welcome the input and involvement of the community that allowed us to produce this Plan.

Graham Atkinson  
Chairperson  
On behalf of the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board

<sup>1</sup> People when it refers to Dja Dja Wurrung People is capitalised throughout. “Djaara” is often used interchangeably with “Dja Dja Wurrung People”.

<sup>2</sup> “Country” when it refers to Dja Dja Wurrung Country is capitalised throughout. Similarly, “Culture” when it refers to DDW Culture, and appears as a stand-alone term, is capitalised throughout.

## MESSAGE FROM JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN PARTNERS

### Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DDWCAC)

For my People our Djandak (Country) is our being. It is a landscape in which the tangible is interwoven with our dreaming stories, our Lore and our martinga kuli murrupi (*ancestral spirits*). It is the land that gave birth to our ancestors and nourished and sheltered them. In return they were the guardians of Djandak, in the care of the waterways and woodlands, ensuring the health and future of both Djandak and Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung People).

Djaara, through the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DDWCAC) as a partner with the State and as members of the DDLMB, have created this Joint Management Plan, realising our aspirations. It provides a way in which we can continue to engage with and take responsibility for our Djandak, ensuring its health and wellbeing and strengthening our role as its guardians into the future.

Participating in the creation of this Plan, with CSIRO and Conservation Management, is a step forward on the path to realising our aspirations for Djandak.

**Trent Nelson, Chair, DDWCAC**

### Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises, trading as Djandak

The opportunity to collaborate with CSIRO and consortium partners in development of the Joint Management Plan commissioned by the DDLMB has been invaluable for DDW Enterprises. The competence developed in Healthy Country Planning and Strategic Partnering will enable DDW Enterprises to lead initiatives in land management on behalf of DDWCAC in-keeping with the aspirations of Djaara as detailed in the *Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan 2014-2034* into the future.

As a business, DDW Enterprises is an expression of Djaara rights to self-direction, economic independence and to care for Country—for which their connection is intimate and undeniable as evidenced by the rich knowledge and values contributed in the development of the Plan. DDW Enterprises now anticipates being integral to the implementation of the Plan and in doing so “putting Djaara back in landscape” to the benefit of the six parks and the communities that enjoy them.

**Rodney Carter, Chairperson, Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises—trading as Djandak**

### CSIRO

CSIRO has greatly valued our opportunity to lead the Consortium, including DDWCAC, DDWCAC Enterprises and Conservation Management, which has supported the DDLMB to develop this Plan. We are proud of our efforts together and look forward to this Joint Management Plan making a huge difference both for the Dja Dja Wurrung People and for all Australians to build a new way of managing our protected areas.

The delivery of Free Prior and Informed Consent of Dja Dja Wurrung People for this Plan is an exciting step towards meeting international standards. The Plan weaves science, Indigenous and local knowledge using Indigenous-led engagement and participatory mapping, important innovations for protection and restoration of our environments. This project is at the forefront of the science we are fostering related to collaborative governance and knowledge systems globally, and we are very pleased to have been involved.

**Dr Ian Cresswell, Research Director, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Knowledge and Services Program, CSIRO Land and Water**

### Conservation Management

Conservation Management has been very proud and honoured to be able to work on the Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung lands as part of the CSIRO consortium, with CSIRO, DDW Enterprises and DDWCAC in support of the DDLMB. Working under the guidance of the consortium partners and Dja Dja Wurrung People has, in our view, produced a strong and clear Plan that sets out an exciting future for these Parks, and for all people who are associated with, and have an interest in, them. We would like to thank all the people who participated in the process for their generosity of spirit, willingness to engage in dialogue and seek solutions, and overall good humour. In particular, though, we would like to thank the Dja Dja Wurrung People for the opportunity to play a part in their story and Country.

**Stuart Cowell, Director, Conservation Management**

### Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is a proud partner of the Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks. Joint Management is a really important step forward in the way public parks and reserves are managed. This new model places great importance on the value and knowledge that Traditional Owners bring to land management. I'm excited to see how the Dja Dja Wurrung People will play a more significant role in the management of land under Aboriginal Title in the coming months and years. Visitors to these parks will see positive changes in how Djandak is managed and there will be some enriching new experiences on offer that will allow all Victorians to connect with the cultural history of this region. I congratulate the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board for its work driving this plan, as well as all partners involved.

**Mr John Bradley, Secretary, Department of Environment, Water, Lands and Planning**

### Parks Victoria

Working with the Dja Dja Wurrung People in shaping a new and powerful future for the parks and reserves in Central Victoria inspires our organisation on the journey of recognition.

Our staff have valued the opportunity to work with the DDLMB, DDWCAC and partners in the development of this important Joint Management Plan, through listening, talking and learning.

Parks Victoria is committed to our role. The development of this Plan is an achievement and for celebration; now and in the future, our commitment is to continually focus on how the goals in this Plan are being achieved through great partnerships, respect, involvement, and leadership.

**Matthew Jackson, Chief Executive Officer, Parks Victoria**





DDLMB Members<sup>3</sup>. From Left to right: Trevor Miles, Marlene Burchill, Doug Humann, Graham Atkinson, Jan Mahoney, Rick Kerr and Rebecca Phillips. Profiles of the Board Members can be found at <http://www.dhelkunyadja.org.au/about/who-we-are>

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public engagement and consultation are central to the DDLMB's approach to developing this Plan. Engagement with stakeholders began in September 2017 with the public announcement that development of a Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks had commenced, accompanied by release of two information brochures, "Djuwima Djandaki Foundation Assets"<sup>4</sup> and "Planning Issues"<sup>5</sup>.

Initial engagement with the public occurred from September to December 2017 to put together a Draft Plan, followed by engagement during a two-month formal public consultation period after the Draft Plan was released in April 2018.

Development of the Draft Plan occurred through nineteen face-to-face meetings, five telephone discussions, four Information Sharing Workshops in Bendigo, Inglewood, Maryborough and Daylesford and a public mapping workshop in Bendigo. Twenty-six people responded to an online survey and six people recorded their special places on an online interactive map. Regular updates on progress were provided via partner websites and brochures. The findings from this engagement were published in the Initial Stakeholder Engagement Summary<sup>6</sup> with details about who we listened to and what we heard.

<sup>3</sup>Most photos appear without captions with exceptions as agreed by the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board—photographers are acknowledged inside the front cover.

<sup>4</sup> [https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/700780/DDLMB-Planning-Issues.pdf](https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/700780/DDLMB-Planning-Issues.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/700779/DDLMB-Foundation-Assests.pdf](https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/700779/DDLMB-Foundation-Assests.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/712029/Initial-Stakeholder-Engagement-Summary.pdf.pdf](https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/712029/Initial-Stakeholder-Engagement-Summary.pdf.pdf)



The Draft Plan was released under the relevant legislation for two months public consultation, which opened on 19 April 2018 and closed on 19 June 2018. Engagement with stakeholders during the two month public consultation stage occurred through five Community Information Sessions in Melbourne, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Daylesford and Inglewood. In addition, two face-to-face meetings were held at the invitation of the Prospectors and Mining Association of Victoria (PMAV). Emails with relevant information were sent in response to twenty-four queries. Individuals and groups were invited to complete feedback forms at the Community Information Sessions, send submissions in any format by email, and/or to respond to an online survey.

The response to the public consultation was very good. DDLMB received one hundred and sixty separate submissions by email, of which ninety-five were identical form letters raising concerns about prospecting exclusions and protection of mining heritage. A further twenty-six feedback forms were completed at the Community Information Sessions. Eighty-three individuals completed the online survey, thirty-five fully completed and forty-eight completed partially.

Numerous submissions identified many different issues, and often these issues occurred in multiple submissions. In total, two hundred and twenty-nine separate issues were identified and responded to. The submissions received were invaluable, and have resulted in significant changes between the Draft and final Plan. The Summary of Public Comment on Draft Plan and Our Responses at <http://www.dhelkunyadja.org.au/community-engagement> highlights the important changes made. Every individual or group who made a submission, and provided contact details, has received an individual letter from the DDLMB acknowledging their input, with a copy of this Summary. Submissions can be accessed online at <http://www.dhelkunyadja.org.au/community-engagement>.

The DDLMB recommended the final Plan to the Secretary of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in September 2018. A two-step review process occurred before the Plan was then finalised:

- First, the Secretary and the DDLMB reached agreement about the final Plan, in accordance with s82PG of the *CFaLA*, in September 2018.
- Second, the Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change exercised her responsibilities to review the agreed Plan under s82PH of the *CFaLA*. The Minister completed her review and approved the Plan on October 5th 2018, at which time the Plan came into effect.

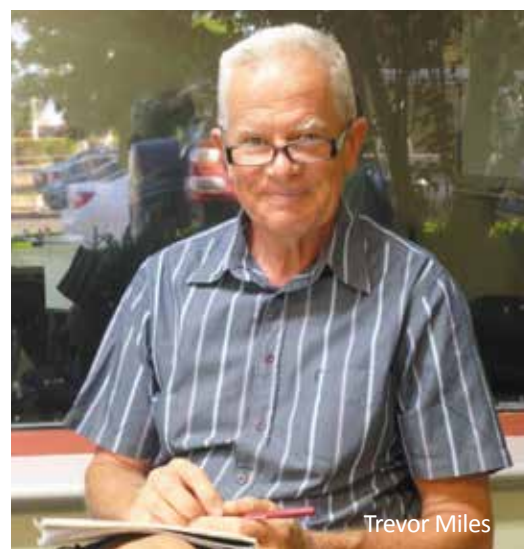
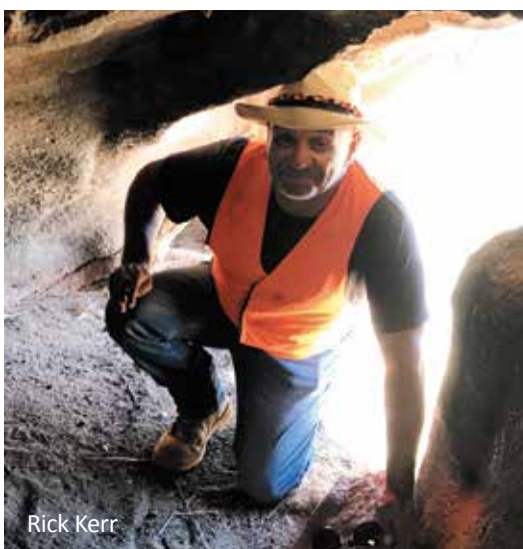
#### INITIAL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

<b>SEPTEMBER 2017</b>	Launch of Initial Public Engagement, with information brochures, through web-site, media, advertising and emails to stakeholder lists.
<b>OCTOBER 2017</b>	September – October 2018 Information Sharing Workshops, Key stakeholder meetings
<b>DECEMBER 2017</b>	Map-a-thon Release of Initial Stakeholder Engagement Summary online and through emails to stakeholder lists

#### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OVER DRAFT PLAN

<b>APRIL 2018</b>	<b>Call for Submissions</b> April – June 2018 Draft Plan released for community comment for 60 days, again using website, media, advertising and emails to stakeholder lists
<b>MAY 2018</b>	Community Information Sessions Key stakeholder meetings and email responses to queries
<b>JUNE 2018</b>	<b>Review Submissions</b> June – July 2018 Submissions on the draft plan were carefully considered in preparing the Final Plan
<b>JULY 2018</b>	Analysis of submissions and identification of responses and amendments to finalise the Plan
<b>AUGUST 2018</b>	<b>Final Plan</b> August – September 2018 Final Plan developed and updated, based on submissions, by DDLMB
<b>SEPTEMBER 2018</b>	First stage review of revised Plan to reach agreement between the DDLMB and the Secretary
<b>OCTOBER 2018</b>	Second stage review and subsequent approval by the Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change of the Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks

Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board Members. For Profiles see <http://www.dhelkunyadja.org.au/about/who-we-are>





*Paddys Ranges State Park*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Joint Management Plan (Plan) was prepared by Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board (DDLMB), assisted by a CSIRO-led Consortium including Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DDWCAC), Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises (DDW Enterprises, trading as Djandak) and Conservation Management. The DDLMB members are: Graham Atkinson (Chairperson); Doug Humann AM (Deputy Chair); Marlene Burchill; Dr Janet Mahoney; Trevor Miles; Rebecca Phillips; and Rick Kerr. We would like to acknowledge the invaluable work of the Board's staff in supporting the development of the Plan: Michele Braid (Senior Project Manager); Karen Smith (Secretariat Officer); and Tony Christianen (Chief Finance Officer). We would also like to acknowledge the co-investment and support from all the organisations in the Consortium, and the staff who worked on the project: Dr Ro Hill, Dr Leah Talbot, Nat Raisbeck-Brown, Rowena Bullio, Dr Cath Moran, Dr Kirsten Maclean, Daniel Dzubiel and Darran King (CSIRO); Dr Nathan Wong, Steve Jackson and Robyn Bowden (DDW Enterprises); Rodney Carter, Barbara Huggins and Jim Brooks (DDWCAC); and Stuart Cowell, Dr Heather Moorcroft and Philippa Walsh (Conservation Management). We acknowledge the wonderful support and assistance provided by Parks Victoria, including

the Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger Team, to many aspects of the development of this Plan. The support and advice received from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is much appreciated.

Even more, we would like to thank the many Dja Dja Wurrung individuals who contributed through the Champions Focus Groups and for their ongoing roles in connecting with and shaping their Country. We acknowledge and thank the DDWCAC for its outstanding support for the DDW People to maintain, strengthen and represent their roles on their Country. We also acknowledge and thank the many stakeholders who contributed to this Plan through their attendance at Information Sharing Workshops, meetings and input to the online survey.

The Board is also grateful for the support of Bush Heritage Australia, the North Central Catchment Management Authority, and a range of other organisations who are enthusiastic to play a role in the implementation of Joint Management in the future.



Djinbonggure  
(Wallaby)

## THANK YOU MARTIINGA KULI MURRUP (ANCESTRAL SPIRITS) AND DJA DJA WURRUNG ELDERS AND LEADERS

For a time in the recent past, Dja Dja Wurrung People's voices were not heard and their stories were forbidden to be shared. DDW People persevered and now they have arrived at a new day where the opportunity exists for them to unveil stories untold.

The strength and wisdom of the DDW ancestors has enabled DDW People to walk in their footsteps towards healing, and walk the path of healing DDW Country.

Today DDW People share their Culture, knowing that when we all strive together for the balance of Bunjil's (*Wedge-tailed Eagle's*) creations, for current and future generations, the Martiinga Kuli Murrup walk with us.

We thank and acknowledge the DDW Elders, past and present, and their future leaders, for accompanying us on this journey together with Martiinga Kuli Murrup. *Adapted from Rebecca Phillips, Dja Dja Wurrung (2014, p.2) and the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board Website (www.dhelkunyadja.org.au).*



Bunjil



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Plan presents a new start for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks<sup>7</sup>—recognising and involving the Dja Dja Wurrung (DDW) People, their knowledge, culture and connection—to shape the next millennia of these lands, just as they have shaped their Country since ancient times. The Joint Management of the DDW Parks is based on strong community engagement, linking DDW knowledge with the science of ecological integrity to forge a better future for the Parks with multiple social, environmental, cultural and economic benefits. As a result of the *Recognition and Settlement Agreement 2013 (RSA 2013)* between the State of Victoria and the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DDWCAC), the DDW Parks are owned by DDWCAC under Victorian legislation as Aboriginal Title<sup>8</sup>. The Plan is presented as a landscape-wide, integrated approach to the six DDW Parks: Hepburn Regional Park; Greater Bendigo National Park; Kooyoora State Park; Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve; Paddys Ranges State Park and Kara Kara National Park. This Plan replaces existing management plans for the Parks.

The Plan is in two documents: the **Strategy** (this document), and the **Resources** document. The **Strategy** provides all the information needed to understand the Plan’s intent, goals and actions and includes at the back (in the printed version) a set of **Maps**, which show how zones, overlays, road and track designations control use of and access to the Parks. The **Resources** document provides information necessary to understand and support implementation of the Strategy<sup>9</sup>. The **Maps** are also able to be downloaded separately online.

“Our” throughout this document is an inclusive term reflecting “Joint” Management, underpinned by the *RSA*

2013 between the State of Victoria and DDWCAC, through this Joint Management Plan prepared by the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board (DDLMB). The Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change appointed the DDLMB to undertake this task. Partners in this Joint Management include: the DDWCAC; Parks Victoria; the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP); together with the DDW People; and the wider community of Parks’ users and stakeholders.

Our Strategy document is in four parts:

- Part A: Our Vision and Our Parks
- Part B: Putting Our Plan Together
- Part C: Djuwima Djandaki<sup>10</sup> (*Foundation Assets*) Goals and Strategies
- Part D: Our Monitoring and Evaluation.

The Plan will strengthen the nine Djuwima Djandaki which underpin the health of People and Country, to deliver four major outcomes by 2033 (within 15 years) (Table 1). The nine Djuwima Djandaki reflect the nine goals of the *Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan 2014-2034*, together with priority assets identified in existing Parks Victoria and other plans, policies and scientific papers.

The Plan recognises the values and aims of Dja Dja Wurrung People and Park users within the zoning and overlay arrangements. Zones and overlays are used to separate different or potentially incompatible public uses—such as bird watching and trail-bike riding—while ensuring ongoing public access to the Parks. The Plan introduces a new “Recreation, Cultural Practices and Customs” overlay that identifies areas

<sup>7</sup> “Parks” when it is capitalised refers to the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks—the five parks and one reserve that make up the Dja Dja Wurrung Appointed Land. Similarly, “joint management” when it refers to joint management of the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks is capitalised to Joint Management; capitals are also applied to specific instruments and activities associated with the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks including: Codes of Practice; Memorandum of Understanding; Operational Plans; Change Management Plan; Cultural and Natural Resource Management; and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

<sup>8</sup> Aboriginal Title is a new form of freehold tenure for Victoria. It is granted only for lands that are jointly managed and is subject to restrictions that ensure it is used for joint management, and must be dealt with by a traditional owner corporation in a way that is consistent with joint management. Whilst the Aboriginal Title land is owned by the Traditional Owner Corporation, the State retains the right to use and manage the Aboriginal Title areas jointly with the Traditional Owners.

<sup>9</sup> Related Boxes, Tables and Figures from the Resources document are labelled with R (R1, R2 etc.) and cross-referenced throughout this document.

<sup>10</sup> Dja Dja Wurrung language words appear with the English equivalent after them in italics the first time the word is used. The spelling of English words uses United Kingdom Conventions.



for future planning based on modification of Parks Victoria’s Visitor Experience Area approach (Maps GB1a and b, H1, PR1, KK1 and KW1). Prospecting continues to be welcome in many areas of the Parks through provisions under the *National Parks Act 1975 s32D*.

This Plan establishes a pathway towards achieving the two broader goals sought from Joint Management of these Parks:

- i. The DDW People are empowered in the landscape to look after Country their way
- ii. Sustainable management of the DDW Parks generating

social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits for DDW People and the wider community.

Achievement of these goals will contribute to reconciling the past and moving forward together. While it is expected that benefits will accrue to Dja Dja Wurrung People, the whole region will benefit economically from the business generated by these Parks. More importantly, social and well-being of the whole community will be enhanced through healing Country and all people. Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples’ responsibilities for these Parks brings the management closer to the local and regional communities, in line with the aspirations of many Victorians.

Table 1 Overview of the Contents of the Program Logic for the Plan (see also Appendix 1)

OUR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES <sup>11</sup>	OUTCOMES SOUGHT FROM OUR PLAN (2018-2033)	BROADER GOALS OF JOINT MANAGEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen Dja Dja Wurrung (DDW) Cultural Practices, Customs and Heritage</li> <li>• Re-establish Wi (<i>cultural fires in the landscape</i>)</li> </ul>	1. DDW People’s health and wellbeing is good, underpinned by strong living culture	DDW People are empowered in the landscape to look after Country their way
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish New and Support Existing Dja Dja Wurrung Businesses on and linked to the Parks</li> <li>• Support Self-determination of the Dja Dja Wurrung People</li> </ul>	2. DDW People are empowered, managing their own affairs from a strong economic, cultural, spiritual, environmental and social base	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen Equity, Empowerment and Capacity for Joint Management</li> <li>• Engage and Raise the Cultural Awareness of the People of the Parks and Surrounding Landscapes</li> </ul>	3a. Equitable power sharing occurs between DDW People and the State of Victoria in sustainable, culturally inclusive Joint Management of the DDW Parks 3b. The Minister, Secretary, DDW People and the community accept the Plan and commit to its successful implementation	Sustainable management of the DDW Parks generating social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits for DDW People and the wider community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage Tracks, Trails and Roads</li> <li>• Manage Invasive Plants and Animals</li> <li>• Manage Camping</li> <li>• Undertake and Partner with Landscape-Wide Restoration Initiatives</li> <li>• Ongoing: Develop and Implement Operational Plans for all Strategies in Each Park</li> </ul>	4. The DDW Parks have achieved a net gain in ecological condition and are actively managed to protect multiple community, cultural and environmental values and include DDW laws, culture, rights and responsibilities	

<sup>11</sup> Minimum punctuation style is used in lists and tables i.e. full stops or semi-colons are not used unless somewhere in the list or table there is an entry with two sentences, in which case full stops appear throughout that column or list; full stops appear at the end of lists.

## LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987* (s82A – 82PJ) provides the statutory framework for the formation and operation of the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board and the development of this Joint Management Plan. The Plan has been developed in accordance with legislative framework provided by the *National Parks Act (NPA) (1975)*, the *Crown Land (Reserves Act) (CLRA) 1978* and the *Traditional Owner Settlement (TOS) Act 2010*.

The *NPA* (s4(a)) establishes the overall intent for management of the National Parks (Greater Bendigo and Kara Kara) and the State Parks (Paddys Ranges and Kooyoora) as:

- (i) for the preservation and protection of the natural environment including wilderness areas and remote and natural areas in those parks;
- (ii) for the protection and preservation of indigenous flora and fauna and of features of scenic or archaeological, ecological, geological, historic or other scientific interest in those parks; and
- (iii) for the study of ecology, geology, botany, zoology and other sciences relating to the conservation of the natural environment in those parks; and
- (iv) for the responsible management of the land in those parks.

The *CLRA* s47(B1) establishes the overall intent for the management of Hepburn Regional Park as a regional park to be:

- (a) to provide opportunities for informal recreation associated with the enjoyment of natural or semi-natural surroundings; and
- (b) to protect and conserve biodiversity, natural and cultural features and water supply catchments; and
- (c) for minor resource use that is not inconsistent with paragraphs (a) and (b).

The *CLRA* s44 establishes the overall intent for the management of the Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve as:

- the purposes of nature conservation.

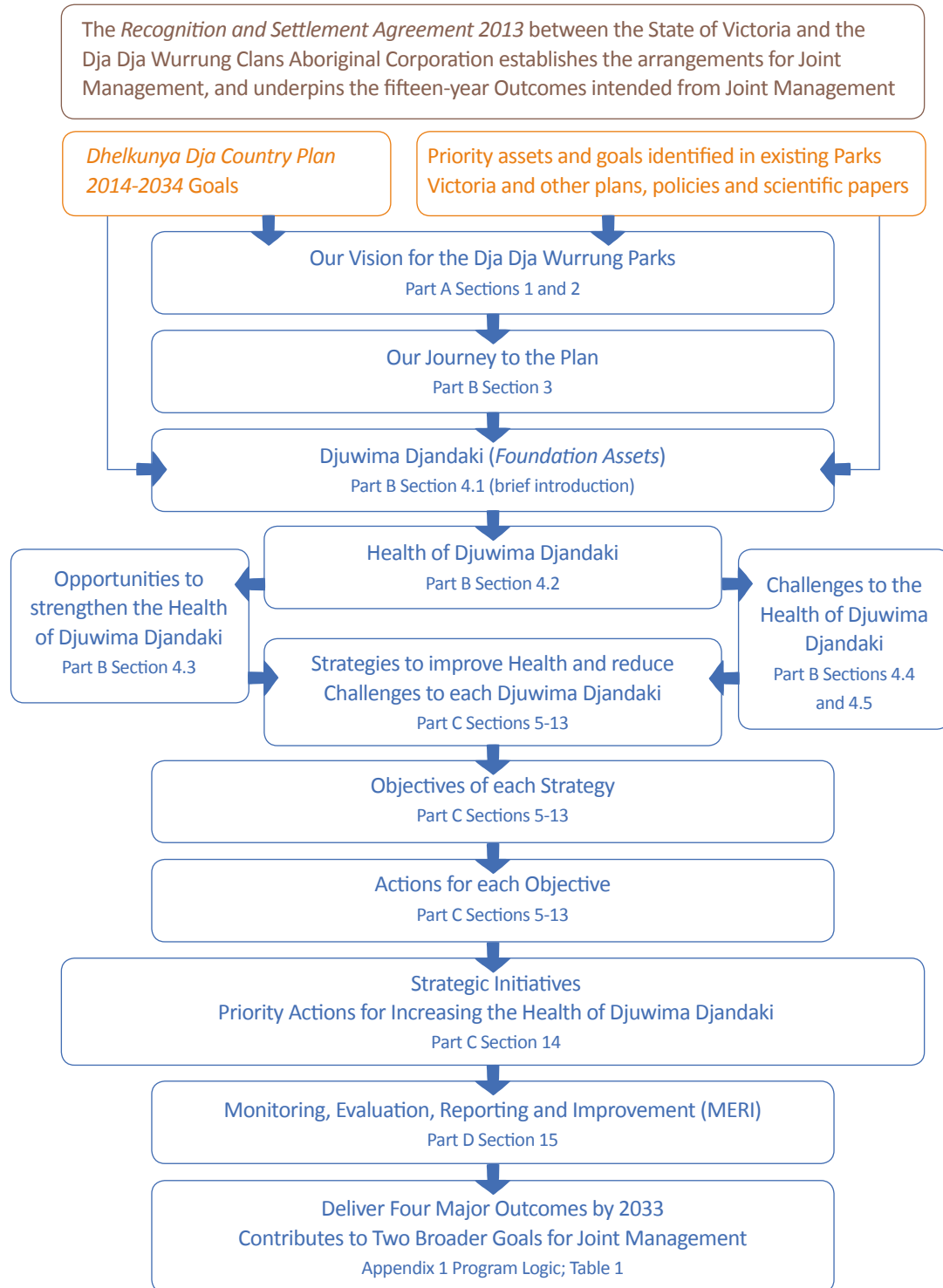
The purposes of the *TOS Act* s1 are to advance reconciliation and promote good relations between the State and traditional owners and to recognise traditional owner groups based on their traditional and cultural associations to certain land in Victoria by—

- (a) providing for the making of agreements between the State and traditional owner groups—
  - (i) to recognise traditional owner rights and to confer rights on traditional owner groups as to access to or ownership or management of certain public land; and
  - (ii) as to decision making rights and other rights that may be exercised in relation to the use and development of the land or natural resources on the land.

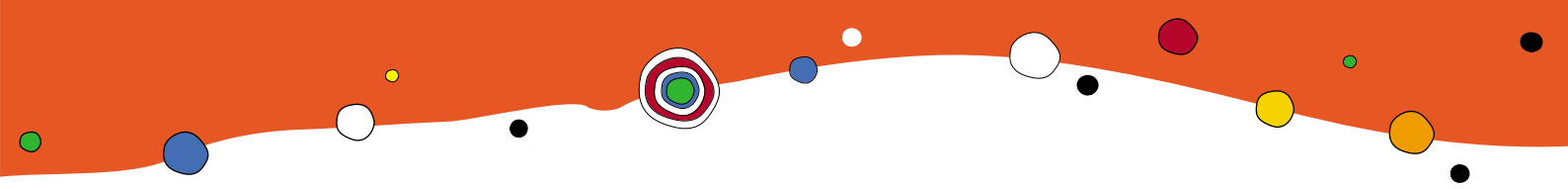
## HOW TO READ THESE JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS

The Plan includes a Strategy document, which aims to provide sufficient information to stand alone and was developed through a logical process, underpinned by the *RSA 2013* (Figure 1). The DDLMB aims to keep the Strategy document simple, concise and readable, and together with the Maps, provides all the information for the general public to continue to enjoy and contribute to the Parks, and understand the intent of management in the future. More detailed information is available in the Resources document.

Figure 1 Logical Connections in the Strategy Document







For those with a greater level of responsibility and interest—for example Parks Victoria staff, members of conservation organisations, neighbours and others—the Resources document provides vital details necessary to understand and support implementation of the Strategy. The Resources document is best read alongside the Strategy document (Table 2). The Maps show Park users how the Parks are divided by zones and overlays to provide for different sorts of activities in different areas. The Maps also show the location of visitor facilities, such as walking tracks and camping areas.

The logical flow in Figure 1 shows how our analysis of the Djuwima Djandaki assets, their health, challenges to their health, and opportunities to improve Djuwima Djandaki, provides the reasons for the Strategies and Actions presented

in Part C. The Plan is based on an integrated, landscape-wide analysis. This means that the story about why we need each Strategy and Action is generally not found together with the Strategy and Action. In a few cases, where Actions are particularly important to Dja Dja Wurrung People or the Joint Management partners, we have included more information in Part C. Many of the Action statements also include some information about the reasons within them (e.g. R15 Establish signage and messages about the DDW People and Parks to increase awareness and cultural understanding). Readers wishing to fully understand the reasons for each Strategy and Action need to carefully consider the information in Part B as well as Part C. Table 2 provides further guidance on where to find the reasons for the Strategies and Actions in each of the documents.

**Table 2 Guidance on where the Reasons for the Strategies and Actions can be found in the Strategy and Resources Documents**

<b>REASONS FOR STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS</b>	<b>RELEVANT SECTION OF THE STRATEGY AND RESOURCES</b>
Some Strategies and Actions are designed to strengthen the health of our Djuwima Djandaki, based on a clear understanding of how the community values the Djuwima Djandaki	<p>Information on the values of each of our Djuwima Djandaki is provided in two parts of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.1: provides a brief summary overview of the values of each of our Djuwima Djandaki</li> <li>• Part C, Sections 5-13: provides a concise description of the values of our Djuwima Djandaki in each Section, with cross-references to more detail about these values (e.g. lists of Threatened Species) in the Tables, Boxes and Figures of the Resources document.</li> </ul> <p>Information about the current health of our Djuwima Djandaki can be found in Section 4.2 of the Strategy, while Section 4.2 in the Resources document explains our approach to understanding the health of our Djuwima Djandaki.</p>
Some Strategies and Actions are designed to take advantage of a range of opportunities to improve and benefit from our Djuwima Djandaki identified through stakeholder engagement	Information about these opportunities can be found in Section 4.3 of the Strategy.
Some Strategies and Actions are designed to address the challenges to the health of our Djuwima Djandaki	Information about the challenges to the health of our Djuwima Djandaki can be found in Section 4.4 of the Strategy and Section 4.5 identifies the priority challenges on which this Plan is focused. Section 4.4 in the Resources document provides information about our approach to rating the priority challenges.



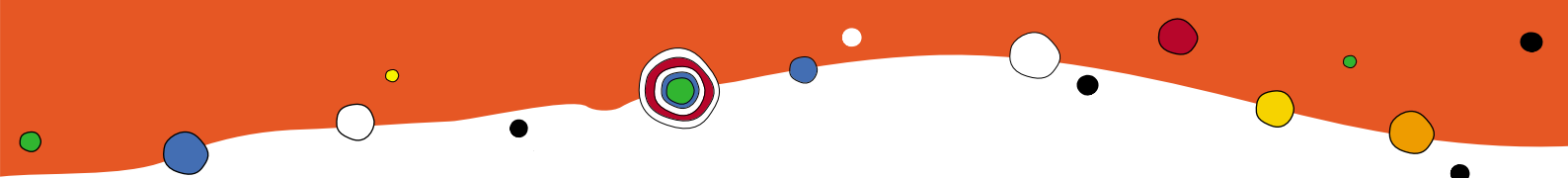
Burul (Sugar glider)



The Maps provide information to guide people on the use of roads, tracks and zones in the Park (Table 3).

Table 3 Map Titles and Numbers to Guide Park Users

MAP TITLE	MAP NUMBER
Greater Bendigo National Park (North) Visitor Access and Facilities	GB1a
Greater Bendigo National Park (South) Visitor Access and Facilities	GB1b
Greater Bendigo National Park (North) Zones and Overlays	GB2a
Greater Bendigo National Park (South) Zones and Overlays	GB2b
Hepburn Regional Park Visitor Access and Facilities	H1



MAP TITLE	MAP NUMBER
Hepburn Regional Park Zones and Overlays	H2
Paddys Ranges State Park Visitor Access and Facilities	PR1
Paddys Ranges State Park Zones and Overlays	PR2
Kara Kara National Park Visitor Access and Facilities	KK1
Kara Kara National Park Zones and Overlays	KK2
Kooyoora State Park and Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve Visitor Access and Facilities	KW1
Kooyoora State Park and Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve Zones and Overlays	KW2

Victorian legislation requires that parks and reserves must have a management plan that sets out the vision, outcomes and long-term strategies for the future. Zones and overlays are used to separate different or potentially incompatible public uses—such as bird watching and trail-bike riding—while ensuring ongoing public access to different parts of the parks for all users. In general, all park management plans sit in a hierarchy, where they must be consistent with existing legislation and policy. Operational plans developed by the land manager, Parks Victoria or a Traditional Owner Land Management Board, and others with responsibility for implementation, must in turn be consistent with the Plan (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Hierarchy of Legislation, Policy, Management Plans and Operational Plans





Darrak (Branches)



PART A

# OUR VISION AND OUR PARKS

*Greater Bendigo National Park*





Dhelkunya Dja—Returning good health to Country under the guidance of our ancestors. The returning boomerang is overarching the gathering place where the knowledge, story and values of those places (organs) flows into the wurrekang (*talk*) like a river system (veins), and protection of our Country reaches back out to Country that is a holistic organism.

## 1. OUR VISION

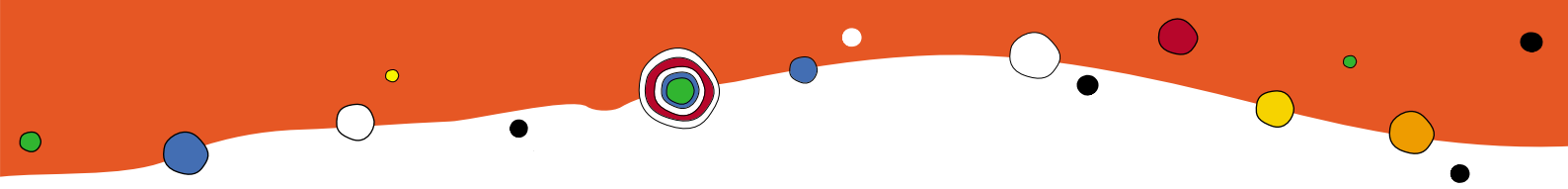
*Manyangurr ngulumbara dhelkunya Djandaki murrupi*  
 We meet together to return good health to Country and spirit

Our Vision is for the knowledge and culture of the Dja Dja Wurrung People to be recognised and incorporated into the Joint Management of the DDW Parks in DDW Country.

The DDW Parks will underpin strong living culture, good health and wellbeing, and self-determination of DDW People. The wider community of people linked to the Parks, surrounding landscapes and beyond will be able to strengthen their relationship and engagement with the Parks, and will feel welcome and invited onto Country.

The lands, waters and heritage of the Parks will be healthy and promote Dja Dja Wurrung values, law, culture, rights and responsibilities to care for Country, together with those of the wider community. Through expert stewardship led by DDW People, the DDW Parks will play a vital role in delivering 'Healthy Parks, Healthy People' benefits for Park users and the community.

The DDW Parks will assist DDW People to be recognised in their Country, to be empowered with an established place in society and to have the capacity to manage their own affairs from a strong and diverse economic, cultural, spiritual, environmental and social base.



Djandak and the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks

This image represents Dja Dja Wurrung Country, with circles for each of the six Dja Dja Wurrung Parks



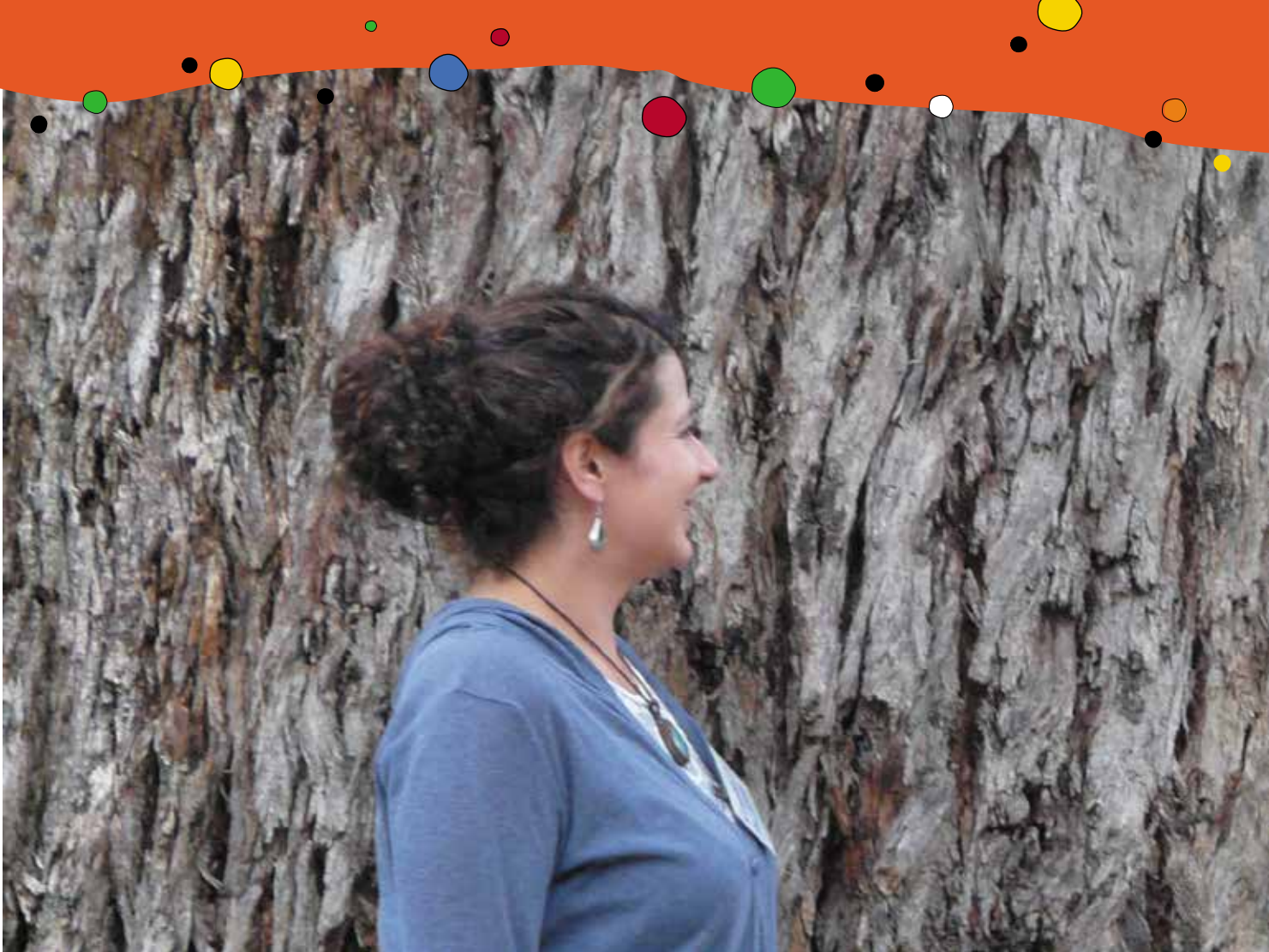






Kooyورا State Park





Kara Kara National Park



Wehfa Nature Conservation Reserve



Hepburn Regional Park



Pattys Ranges State Park

*Galka (Trees) and  
Girra (Leaves)*

## 2. THE DJA DJA WURRUNG PARKS

This Joint Management Plan (Plan) covers five Dja Dja Wurrung (DDW) Parks and one Reserve in Central Victoria, Australia, referred to hereafter as the DDW Parks (or 'the Parks'). The DDW Parks are within Dja Dja Wurrung Country, the traditional lands of the DDW People (Figure 3).

The Parks are:

- Hepburn Regional Park
- Greater Bendigo National Park
- Kooyoora State Park
- Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve
- Paddys Ranges State Park
- Kara Kara National Park (except a small portion on the western edge).

The DDW Parks are owned by DDWCAC under Victorian legislation as Aboriginal Title. DDW People's traditional custodianship of their Country is based on their customary law, developed through living and caring for these lands over thousands of years. Dja Dja Wurrung dreaming stories of Djandak (*Country*) explain the creation of the lands and the People. The murrup (*spirits*) are imprinted on the gatjin (*water*), birds, plants, animals, rocks and mountains and connect with DDW People through stories and ceremonies. The State of Victoria has recognised these connections in their *Recognition and Settlement Agreement 2013* with the DDWCAC. The *RSA 2013* applies to approximately 266,500 hectares of Crown land, including the six Parks on Aboriginal Title. A number of the Parks have existing management plans (Table R3).

The DDW Parks cover approximately 47,000 hectares and protect much of Australia's remaining Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands. Located in Central Victoria, the Box-Ironbark forests, the mallee and grassy woodlands, together with wetlands and other habitats in the Parks, contain many plants and animals important to DDW People for weaving baskets, making artefacts, conducting ceremonies and connecting with

the time of Creation. The Parks provide an important home for at least one hundred and twenty threatened plant and animal species. Significant threatened species include: birds such as the Swift Parrot, the Regent Honeyeater, and forest owls; lizards like the Pink-tailed Worm-lizard; and plants such as the Whipstick Westringia and a number of orchids.

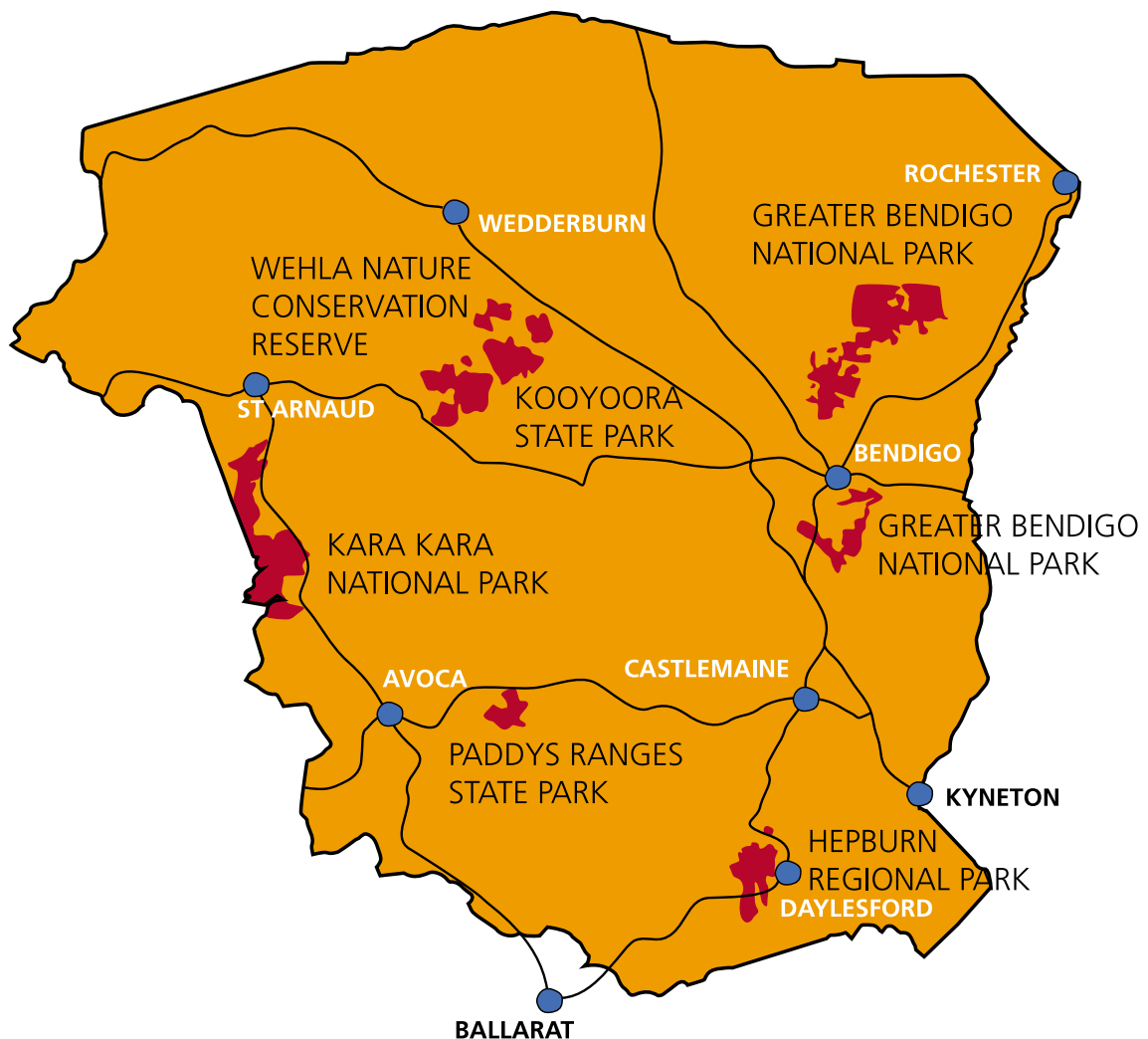
The cultural heritage includes more than one hundred and thirty-seven registered sites of significance to the DDW People, and hundreds of un-registered sites, as well as sites relating to the shared history of the Bendigo and Clunes Goldfields. The landscapes of the Parks incorporate an extinct volcano, caves, creeks, rocky ridges and mineral springs, as well as relict mining sites. The DDW Parks are popular for numerous recreational pursuits such as hiking, camping, fishing, prospecting, sightseeing, orienteering, as well as for general nature appreciation and enjoyment of the mineral springs.

### THE STATE OF VICTORIA RECOGNISES DJA DJA WURRUNG CONNECTIONS TO THEIR COUNTRY:

*The State recognises that the Dja Dja Wurrung People have a special relationship with their Country, which is of great significance to them. In the Dja Dja Wurrung worldview, dreaming stories of Djandak (Country) and Dja Dja Wurrung date back to the creation of these lands and all within them. Dja Dja Wurrung evolved with Djandak. Djandak has been shaped and nurtured by the traditional way of life of the Dja Dja Wurrung People and their ancestors, reflecting principles embedded in kinship, language, spirituality and Bunjil's Law. Bunjil is the creator being who bestows Dja Dja Wurrung People with the laws and ceremonies that ensure the continuation of life. Dja Dja Wurrung People know Mindye the Giant Serpent as the keeper and enforcer of Bunjil's Law. RSA (2013), Volume 1, page 2.*



Figure 3 The Dja Dja Wurrung Parks and Country





Duan (Brush-tailed phascogale)



PART B

# PUTTING OUR PLAN TOGETHER



## 3. OUR JOURNEY TO THE JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DJA DJA WURRUNG PARKS

### 3.1 DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE'S TIMELINE WITH THEIR COUNTRY

This first Dja Dja Wurrung Joint Management Plan is one chapter in the bigger story of Dja Dja Wurrung People's journey to self-determination. The bigger story is one of belonging, dispossession, resilience, rights and responsibilities, and now reconciliation. Today's chapter is about reconciliation, correcting some of the wrongs and injustices inflicted on DDW People and DDW Country, through the impacts of colonisation and protectionism<sup>12</sup>.

For tens of thousands of years, DDW People lived by their deep and intimate knowledge of Country, a knowledge accumulated over countless generations and passed down to them from their ancestors. Dja Dja Wurrung People are part of Dja Dja Wurrung Country, and their strength is maintained by being on and spending time with Country. They have customary responsibilities to care for their Country; a responsibility that no other people share.

With colonisation in the 1830s, DDW Country began to change. Development, gold mining, agriculture and other land uses altered the land significantly. These uses poisoned the waters, degraded the soils, changed the vegetation, introduced pests, and changed the fire regimes resulting in the damage of many cultural places and values. DDW People were subject to protectionist policies that saw many people forcibly removed, dispossessed and forced onto missions or stations, such as the Loddon Aboriginal Protectorate established at Larr-ni-barramul (*Home of the Emu, Franklinford area*) in 1841. DDW People, like other Aboriginal Peoples around Australia, fought for their basic human rights as well as their rights to access their Country. They worried about the health of their Country but held firm to the belief that they would once again be able to spend time on Country and carry out their customary responsibilities of caring for Country.

Nearly a century and a half later, changes to the law enabled DDW People to lodge their first native title claim in 1998. However, native title arrangements made it very challenging to have title determined in the Federal Court. In 2010, the *Traditional Owner Settlement (TOS) Act* of Victoria was passed, providing the State with the ability to settle native title

claims out of court, recognising Traditional Owners and certain rights in Crown land.

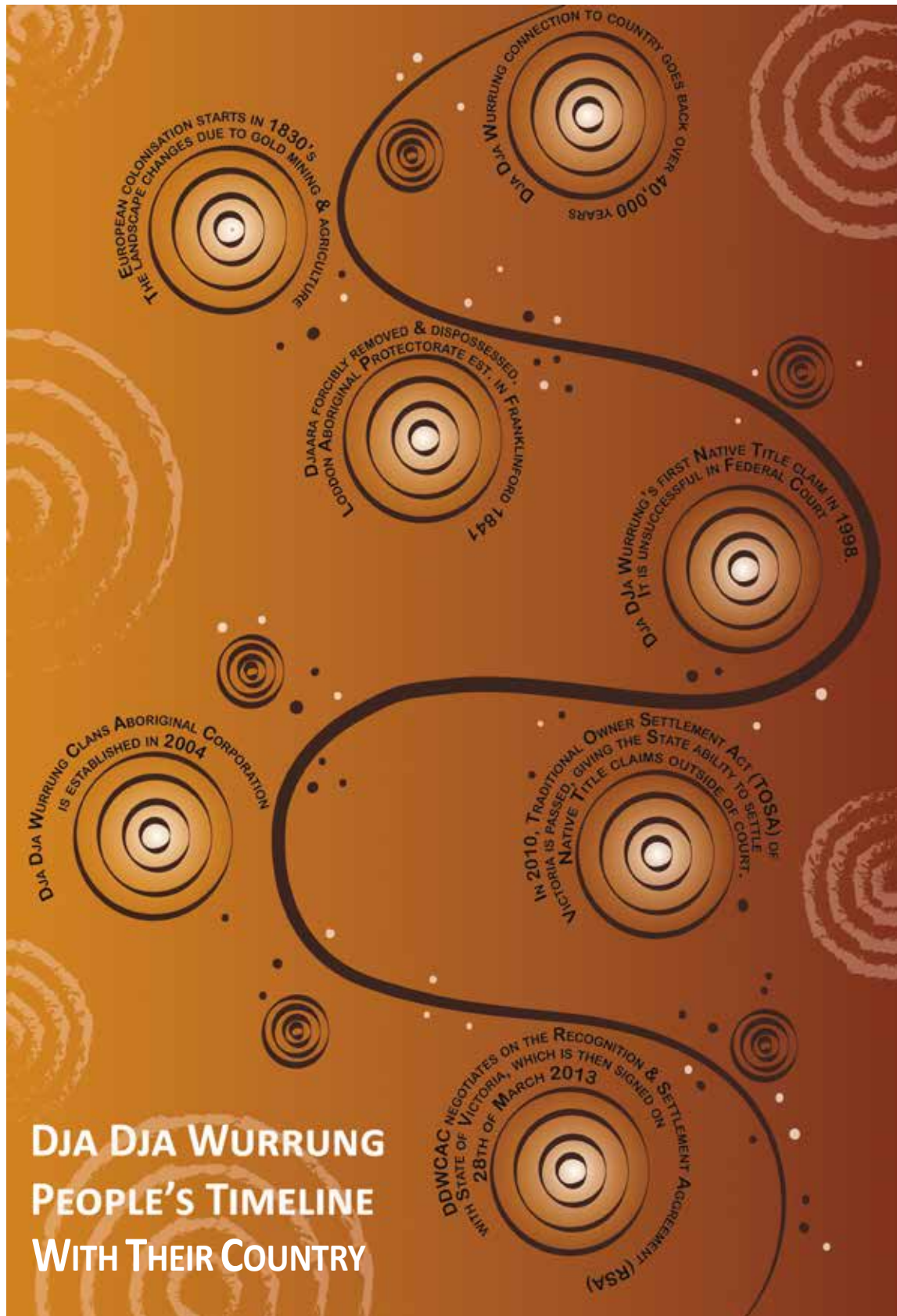
In 2004, DDW People established the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DDWCAC) to assist their negotiations for recognition of their rights, and promote community economic development, health and well-being. A Negotiation Team, established by DDWCAC and Native Title Services Victoria, negotiated a *Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA 2013)*. The *RSA 2013* was signed on 28 March 2013 and was the first comprehensive settlement under the Act. The DDWCAC became the Traditional Owner Group Entity in March 2013 for the purpose of managing and implementing the *RSA 2013*. The Dja Dja Wurrung People's timeline with Country on the path to the *RSA 2013* is shown in Figure 4.

Under the *RSA 2013*, DDW People secured a number of rights, including ownership of the DDW Parks as Aboriginal Title, and management rights as set out in the *Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement (TOLMA)*. The transfer of the DDW Parks to Aboriginal Title is now complete. In accordance with the commitments of the State of Victoria, the transfer did not affect any existing use and access, recreational activities, or leases, licences and other rights and interests. The *TOLMA* articulates that Joint Management will be established to give effect to the *RSA 2013*, and to ensure that the knowledge and culture of the DDW People are recognised and incorporated into the management of the Parks, including through preparation of a management plan.

The Plan for the DDW Parks delivers on the State of Victoria's commitment that everyone will continue to have access to the Parks for a wide range of activities, including prospecting, bird-watching, orienteering and many others. The Plan uses zones and overlays, as do all park plans in Victoria, to separate potentially incompatible public uses—such as cultural heritage protection and prospecting—while ensuring ongoing public access to the Parks. The *RSA 2013* leaves the door open for other areas to be transferred into Aboriginal title, owned by DDW People and jointly managed. The State acknowledges the aspiration of DDW People to own and jointly manage all current and new parks and reserves in their Country.

<sup>12</sup> In Victoria, this policy was legislated through the *Aborigines Protection Act 1886*.

Figure 4 Timeline of the Journey to the *Reconciliation and Settlement Agreement 2013*





Signing of the Recognition and Settlement Agreement in 2013

## 3.2 OUR JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN TIMELINE

### 3.2.1 DDLMB RESPONSIBILITIES

The Victorian Government, as a result of its agreement with the DDWCAC, established the Dja Dja Wurrung majority Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board (DDLMB) on 15 September 2014. Under the *TOLMA*, the Board has responsibility for developing the Joint Management Plan (JMP) for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks (Box R1).

The *Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan 2014-2034*, an innovative and inspirational document reflecting the knowledge and aspirations of the DDW People, and developed by the DDWCAC, has provided a vital foundation for all subsequent planning work. This Joint Management Plan for the DDW Parks was developed during 2017 and 2018. A Consortium led by CSIRO and including DDWCAC, DDW Enterprises and Conservation Management was contracted by DDLMB in December 2016 to assist them to develop the Plan. The timeline of public consultation for development of the Plan is shown on p. xiii. Achievements and lessons learnt under previous management planning processes for the Parks informed the development of the Plan, as did existing park management plans, regional strategies and relevant legislation.

Ongoing collaboration between the DDLMB and Parks Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has been vital throughout the development of the Plan. Public engagement has been central to the development of the Plan, as detailed on p. xii.



### 3.2.2 DDW PEOPLE'S FREE PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC)

The DDWCAC supported the processes of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for the Plan through engagement of their members, DDW People, and decision-making by their Board. DDW People were engaged in developing the Plan through several activities including: DDW Champions Focus Group, with several held on-Country; the DDWCAC Annual General Meeting; opportunities for interactive online mapping; and a three-day "Map-a-Thon" workshop in collaboration with Parks Victoria. The DDWCAC Board made decisions at six Board meetings held during 2017-18 (see timeline in the next column).

DDW Enterprises and Conservation Management conducted Healthy Country Planning workshops which assessed the health of the Parks, prioritised challenges, and identified opportunities, goals and strategies to improve and maintain the health of the Parks.



#### Dja Dja Wurrung Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)

##### Timeline:

DDW Participation and Consultation

<b>May 2017</b>	DDW Champions Focus Group Bendigo: Input to scope of the Plan
<b>June 2017</b>	DDW Champions Focus Group: Hepburn Regional Park on-Country discussions
<b>August 2017</b>	DDW Champions Focus Group: Kooyoora State Park and Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve on-Country discussions
<b>October 2017</b>	DDW Champions Focus Group: Paddys Ranges State Park and Kara Kara National Park on-Country discussions
<b>November 2017</b>	DDW Enterprises and Conservation Management: Healthy Country Planning Workshop
<b>December 2017</b>	DDWCAC Annual General Meeting: project display and interactive mapping
<b>December 2017</b>	DDW Map-a-thon: interactive mapping over 3 days
<b>February 2018</b>	DDW Champions Focus Group: Greater Bendigo National Park on-Country discussions
<b>May 2018</b>	DDW Champions Focus Group: Feedback on Draft Plan
<b>August 2018</b>	DDW Champions Focus Group: Discussions of Final Plan

#### Dja Dja Wurrung Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)

##### Timeline:

DDWCAC Board decision-making and consent

<b>May 2017</b>	DDWCAC Board: Consent to scope of Plan
<b>October 2017</b>	DDWCAC Board: Consent to Summary of Stakeholder Engagement
<b>February 2018</b>	DDWCAC Board and DDLMB: joint meeting about Draft Plan
<b>February 2018</b>	DDWCAC Board: Consent to Draft Plan for public release
<b>July 2018</b>	DDWCAC Board: Consideration of Final Plan
<b>August 2018</b>	DDWCAC Board: Consent to Final Plan

### 3.2.3 PROTECTION OF DJA DJA WURRUNG INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

The DDWCAC has an *Intellectual Property and Research Protocols for the use of Cultural Knowledge—Policy and Procedure* which was strictly adhered to during the development of this Plan. Their policy reflects the rights and protections of Aboriginal cultural knowledge in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*<sup>13</sup>. Dja Dja Wurrung People own their Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural expressions including, but not limited to:

- Oral expressions (including language, songs, and stories)

- Performing arts (vocal and instrumental music, dance, and performance)
- Social practices, rituals, and festive events
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe (including environmental, spiritual and ecological knowledge)
- Visual arts and craftsmanship (skills and knowledge involved in their production)
- Images of Dja Dja Wurrung People.

DDWCAC ensured that agreements to protect intellectual and cultural rights were in place with all Dja Dja Wurrung People who participated in developing this Plan.

## 3.3 JOINT MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OUTCOMES BY 2033 (WITHIN 15 YEARS)

The Joint Management Plan makes a critical contribution to the implementation of the *RSA 2013* signed between the State of Victoria and DDWCAC in 2013. The State and DDWCAC have agreed to evaluate implementation of the *RSA 2013* against the three broad goals listed below:

1. Achievement of the Vision in the *Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan 2014-2034*: Strengthened People and Culture and DDW People understanding their rights and responsibilities
2. State policies incorporate the ongoing learnings from the *RSA 2013*
3. Wider community in DDW Country is aware of and understands the DDW community.

Joint Management of the DDW Parks contributes to these overarching goals for the evaluation of the *RSA 2013* through the Program Logic set out in Appendix 1. This includes the broader goals of Joint Management:

- Dja Dja Wurrung People empowered in the landscape to look after Country their way
- Sustainable management of the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks generating social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits for Dja Dja Wurrung People and the wider community.

This Plan sets out to achieve four outcomes by 2033 (i.e. within 15 years):

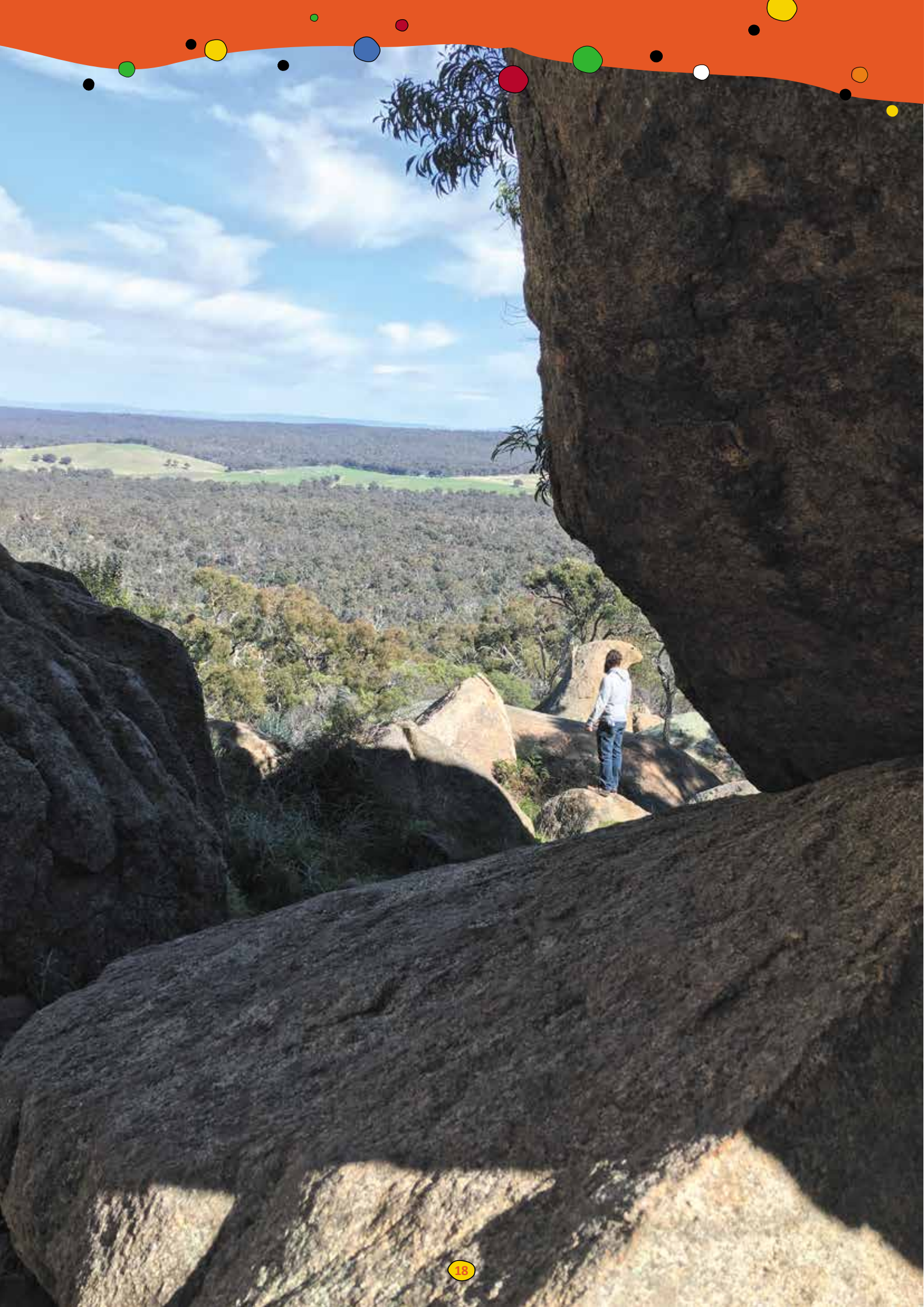
- DDW People's health and wellbeing is good, underpinned by strong living culture
- DDW People are empowered, managing their own affairs from a strong economic, cultural, spiritual, environmental and social base
- Equitable power sharing occurs between DDW People

and the State of Victoria in Joint Management of the Parks

- The DDW Parks have achieved a net gain in ecological condition and are actively managed to protect multiple community, cultural and environmental values and promote DDW law, culture, rights and responsibilities.



<sup>13</sup> [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf)



## 4. DJUWIMA DJANDAKI (FOUNDATION ASSETS)

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION TO DJUWIMA DJANDAKI

Nine Djuwima Djandaki represent what is most important for Dja Dja Wurrung People and the wider community in caring for our DDW Parks. They are our Foundation Assets. These Assets are described briefly here, with more detail in the sections in Part C. Our knowledge of Djuwima Djandaki comes from DDW People, science and the broader knowledge of the public, and has been gathered through background research and stakeholder engagement, consistent with the joint land management principles under the *RSA 2013* (Box R2).

Our nine Djuwima Djandaki are:

#### People of the Parks and Surrounding Landscapes

Many people provide invaluable contributions to the Parks including DDW People, communities located in DDW Country, and others with responsibilities and interests in the area. DDW People have occupied these landscapes for time immemorial.

#### Recreation, Cultural Practices and Customs

DDW People connect with the Parks through diverse cultural practices such as traditional harvesting and weaving, knowledge of seasons and indicators of change, story-telling, language, and spiritual customs and practices. The Parks provide all people with opportunities for a wide range of recreational activities including, for example, bushwalking, four-wheel drive touring, nature photography, orienteering and prospecting.

#### Cultural Heritage

The Parks are rich in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites, places, and landscapes including, for example, artefact scatters, larr (*stone*) arrangements, scarred galka (*trees*), and granite shelters with evidence of occupation. Stories, spiritual customs and other traditions are also recognised as part of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Strategies and Actions to protect Intangible Cultural Heritage are currently presented under the Djuwima Djandaki titled Recreation, Cultural Practices and Customs. Valuable heritage is also present from the recent eras of gold mining, charcoal production, eucalyptus oil distillation and forestry.

#### Plants and Animals

Plants with medicinal properties, food value, and uses in ornaments, necklaces, weapons and tools are known by DDW People throughout these Parks. Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands are the dominant vegetation, with more than seventy plant species listed by the Victorian Government for their conservation significance. Fairy Owl, Djinyap (*Sulphur-crested White Cockatoo*), Gamitj (*Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo*), Baramul (*Emu*), wirrap (*fish*), gurri (*kangaroo*), possums, koala and many other animals of importance to DDW People are found here. The Parks provide habitat for many species currently listed as rare and threatened, including four mammals, thirty-two birds, two dum (*frogs*), three lizards, one

binggal (*snake*) and more than seventy plants. The Gal Gal (*Dingo*) and other native animals that no longer occur in the Parks are also of great cultural significance to DDW People.

#### Rivers and Waterways

The rivers and waterways of DDW Country provide the social and economic fabric of the region. They are places of deep spiritual and cultural significance to DDW People. Places like the springs and soaks at Kooyoora, the mineral waters at Hepburn and the rock wells scattered across the Parks are particularly important. The Parks play an important role in the health of the rivers and waterways as well as providing habitat for many plants and animals.

#### Landscape and Open Space

DDW Country is a diverse landscape. The Parks include volcanoes, granite outcrops, caves, cliffs and sandstone reaches with forest vistas that many people enjoy. DDW People's Culture is embedded in this landscape so it is important that those areas that have been damaged by mining and other previous practices are healed.

#### Self-determination of the Dja Dja Wurrung People

DDW People's strength as the Traditional Owners of their Country is gaining recognition and respect by the wider community. Surviving the devastating impacts of colonisation, protectionism and the gold rush era, DDW People have negotiated agreements which will ensure they are caring for DDW Country and determining their future. Joint Management of the Parks is a significant milestone in the self-determination of the DDW People.

#### Enterprises

Self-determination and community well-being are dependent on a sustainable economic base. DDW People have developed a business, DDW Enterprises, to support financially stable delivery of their *Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan 2014-2034*, including their aspirations across their Country and their Parks. Joint Management is the key opportunity for DDW Enterprises to expand its role in natural and cultural heritage management, including through delivering more management services in a culturally appropriate way. Investment opportunities also exist to open doors for DDW People into other areas associated with Joint Management of the Parks, such as tourism, cultural education and enjoyment of the mineral water.

#### Joint Management

Joint Management of the Parks with the State of Victoria is a significant step in the self-determination of DDW People. It is recognition of DDW People's responsibilities of caring for their Country. Joint management allows DDW People to spend time with their Country, to work with their Country and to work with others in partnership to ensure best practice management of the DDW Parks.







## 4.2 HEALTH OF DJUWIMA DJANDAKI

Understanding the current health and condition of our Djuwima Djandaki is vital to the development of a good plan for the management of our assets. A health assessment of our Djuwima Djandaki was undertaken at a Healthy Country Planning Workshop in November 2017, attended by a range of experts, including four Dja Dja Wurrung People, two ecologists, three geographers and two Parks Victoria staff. The team used a range of indicators to assess each asset—for example presence of old galka and a mixed age class of galka; and uninterrupted views of landscapes (see section 4.2 in the Resources document for further examples). These indicators can be used to monitor progress as the Plan is implemented through to 2033. The trends in health reflect consideration of asset health in three time periods: the current health of the asset (Today<sup>14</sup>); its health ten years ago (-10 years); together with informed expectations about the likely health of the asset ten years into the future (+10 years, Table 4). Further information about the health assessment is provided in the Resources document, section 4.2.

<sup>14</sup> The health assessment was undertaken in November 2017.





Mick Bourke explaining their Dja Dja Wurrung monitoring site  
in Greater Bendigo National Park

#### DJANDAK WI:

*"We are at Djandak Wi site, which is the name of the place and Wi means Fire in our language ... We needed to get a larger burn going then we could place the traditional burn in the centre of it ... When we burn, we start with dead leaves and place them in a circle and make it go outwards ... Once the burn gets up a tree, to the yellow leaves it's no good then."*

*"We just hand lit the fire with our sticks ... We did a cleansing with the Elders first, and then lit the fire by hand and the Elders moved around the fire ... We can read the landscape by the colour of the different leaves on the ground." Mick Bourke, DDW Focus Group visit to Greater Bendigo National Park, 11 February 2018.*

Table 4 Health of Djuwima Djandaki

DJUWIMA DJANDAKI	-10 YEARS	TODAY	+10 YEARS	TREND
People of the Parks and Surrounding Landscapes	●	●	●	↑
Recreation, Cultural Practices and Customs	●	●	●	↑
Cultural Heritage	●	●	●	↗
Plants and Animals	●	●	●	↗
Rivers and Waterways	●	●	●	↗
Landscape and Open Space	●	●	●	↗
Self-determination of the Dja Dja Wurrung People	●	●	●	↗
Enterprises	●	●	●	↑
Joint Management	●	●	●	↑

**Key to health rating**

●	<b>Poor</b>	Restoration very difficult; may result in complete loss of asset
●	<b>Fair</b>	Outside acceptable range of variation; requires human intervention for maintenance of asset
●	<b>Good</b>	Indicators within acceptable range of variation; some intervention required for maintenance of asset
●	<b>Very good</b>	Most desirable status; requires little intervention for maintenance of asset

**Key to trend rating**

→	Asset is assessed as at the same health rating for the three time periods
↗	Asset is likely to increase one level of health rating over the three time periods
↑	Asset is likely to increase more than one level of health rating over the three time periods



## 4.3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARKS AND PEOPLE BASED ON DJUWIMA DJANDAKI

The Dja Dja Wurrung Parks provide many health, well-being, economic and other benefits to people. There is a wide range of opportunities for continuing and growing the delivery of these benefits for DDW People (the Traditional Owners of these Parks) and the wider community. Many opportunities for both DDW People and the wider community that can contribute to strengthening the health of each of the assets have been identified in this Joint Management planning process; these are listed in Table 5 and explained in the following text.

### 4.3.1 WI (*CULTURAL FIRES IN THE LANDSCAPE*)

Delivery of Wi by Dja Dja Wurrung People, provides significant opportunities to restore the health of Country, and for DDW People, including youth, to strengthen knowledge transmission. It also assists with showing the wider community the role of cultural fire in the landscape, in promoting ecosystem health and protecting property and life. Establishing a good fire regime provides for stronger partnerships and enterprise opportunities with a range of government and non-government agencies.

### 4.3.2 PEOPLE CONNECTING TO THE DJA DJA WURRUNG PARKS

Many different groups contribute voluntary effort to the Parks, increasing their feeling of community ownership. Weed and pest control in the Parks benefit greatly from the hard work of volunteers' efforts. Educational and interpretive materials and activities, for example clean-up rubbish days, orienteers' maps, walking tracks, bike trails, picnic areas, ceremony grounds and DDW signage could be increased. Some campgrounds are well maintained. Many Park users obtain spiritual and physical well-being as a foundation that improves overall quality of life and ability to contribute to the community. For example, prospectors connect with Parks through visiting and camping out in the bush to search for minerals.

### 4.3.3 DJA DJA WURRUNG LEADERSHIP OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Leadership by DDW People of community engagement is viewed as an important opportunity by many stakeholders. The wider community of Parks' stakeholders would like to interact more and learn from DDW People, and each other. Key opportunities include: Stakeholder Advisory Committees for the Parks; field days led by DDW People to co-develop Joint Codes of Practice (for example for four-wheel driving to ensure

cultural heritage protection); and activities to share knowledge on-Country about DDW People's approaches to management.

### 4.3.4 PEOPLE AND PARK MANAGERS CONTRIBUTING TO CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

Parks Victoria staff are acknowledged for their commitment to heritage protection and management with limited resources. Cultural heritage art and craft workshops can be held in the Parks. Some recreational users, e.g. orienteers, have protocols with DDW People to ensure all Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites are avoided.

### 4.3.5 DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE WITH THEIR COUNTRY

For DDW People, the most important opportunity is to be with their Country—to connect with cultural heritage, plants and animals, stories, each other and the deep belonging over millennia. Being on Country is vital for spiritual, cultural and traditional practices and to strengthen the unique relationships DDW People have with each other and Country.

### 4.3.6 VISITORS AND ACCESS TO THE PARKS

The Parks provide invaluable opportunities for enjoyment by a wide range of visitors for activities ranging from simply enjoying the peace and quiet, to action-packed trail bike rides. Access to these landscapes through a network of tracks is appreciated, as is people using the bush sensitively. Seasonal track closures are necessary, and some separation between activities is useful—for example to allow for both noisy activities and quiet spaces. Many users, e.g. orienteers, prospectors, four wheel drivers and friends groups, contribute to protection of the Parks' natural and cultural assets through producing maps, removing rubbish, finding and removing toxic metals (e.g. lead), reporting of illegal dumping, and reporting the presence of pest animals and weeds.

### 4.3.7 DJA DJA WURRUNG KNOWLEDGE

Many opportunities to strengthen DDW People's knowledge exist. DDW knowledge can continue to be actively practiced through: culture camps; story-telling and recording; documenting DDW People's knowledge of seasons and indicators of change to provide a DDW Seasonal Calendar; and then applying it for timing of management activities; using DDW language; and repatriating information and artefacts.



#### 4.3.8 SIGNAGE AND VISITOR FACILITIES

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Improving interpretive and way-finding signage and visitor facilities, and improving access via tracks and roads, can encourage increased recreational use and support ‘Healthy Parks, Healthy People’ benefits central to the Parks Victoria Strategy “Shaping our Future”. Interpretive signs can also greatly increase visitor understanding and assist protection of natural and cultural values. A growing body of research tells us that time spent in nature improves people’s health, reduces stress and promotes mental and physical wellbeing.

#### 4.3.9 ENHANCED EDUCATION

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The profile of Dja Dja Wurrung People in the wider community is growing. This profile and general awareness of DDW Peoples’ aspirations and knowledge could increase with educational opportunities such as cultural mentoring and services to schools and universities. Scholarships and research funding can encourage and support DDW People to continue with postgraduate studies.

#### 4.3.10 ENTERPRISES AND EMPLOYMENT

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Natural and cultural resource management services and other enterprises owned by DDW People can contribute strongly to Park management. There are opportunities to develop successful tourism enterprises, for example in growing Asian tourism markets. Passive facilities, such as signage, shelter sheds and smart phone apps, can provide the basis for DDW engagement going forward. The Parks Victoria Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger Team, employed as a result of the *RSA 2013*, are playing key roles in looking after Country. The DDW Rangers are greatly appreciated by both the DDW People, Parks Victoria staff and the wider community. Further employment of DDW People is a key opportunity to build capacity of both the agencies and the individuals.

#### 4.3.11 A GATEWAY FACILITY

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A gateway facility, through which visitors pass to enter a park, is a globally-recognised means of generating economic, cultural and social returns, minimising impacts on parks, and maximising visitor engagement. The Mineral Springs Reserve with spa facilities adjacent to Hepburn Regional Park could offer a potential opportunity for development of a gateway facility. Further scoping of the Parks may identify other potential locations. Many opportunities exist for DDW Enterprises and other DDW-owned businesses to be engaged throughout such a project, in scoping, design, construction and delivery of services and products.

#### 4.3.12 RESTORATION PARTNERSHIPS

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The health of many of our Djuwima Djandaki depends on other assets both within and outside the Parks—for example, patches of galka used by Swift Parrots. Land restoration to create connectivity between habitat remnants is a key opportunity. DDW People in their *Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan 2014-2034* express their aspiration to collaborate with other land managers and researchers to investigate the feasibility and impacts of reintroducing culturally significant apex predator species such as Gal Gal.

Restoration partnerships provide opportunities to work together with many other groups particularly those neighbouring the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks. Working with neighbours can be an effective way of managing pest, plants and animals, stock encroachment and fostering collaboration to improve ecological health. Many community groups also currently work to improve the health of DDW Country, for example by providing artificial nesting boxes (used by brush-tailed phascogales), undertaking weed and pest control and increasing ecological connectivity in the surrounding landscape. DELWP can provide useful tools for ensuring that restoration activities are efficient and effective including: models to help identify the most cost-effective action to control invasive species; and the Weeds at an Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) approach.



Table 5 Opportunities to Support the Health of Our Djuwima Djandaki

Opportunity	Peoples of the Parks and Surrounding Landscapes	Recreation, Cultural Practices and Customs	Cultural Heritage	Plants and Animals	Rivers and Waterways	Landscape and Open Space	Self-determination of the Dja Dja Wurrung People	Enterprises	Joint Management
Wi ( <i>Cultural fires in the landscape</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
People connecting to the DDW Parks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DDW leadership of community engagement	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
People and Park managers contributing to cultural heritage protection	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DDW People with their Country	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Visitors and access to the Parks	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
DDW knowledge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Signage and visitor facilities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Enhanced education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Enterprises and employment	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
A gateway facility	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Restoration partnerships	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



The Parks provide wonderful opportunities for camping and for picnics  
—this group is at Kooypoora State Park





## 4.4 CHALLENGES TO THE HEALTH OF OUR DJUWIMA DJANDAKI

### 4.4.1 OVERVIEW OF CHALLENGES TO THE HEALTH OF OUR DJUWIMA DJANDAKI

There are many challenges to improving the health of the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks, most of which also pose challenges to DDW Country beyond the Parks and more widely. Information about the challenges was gathered through the stakeholder engagement, and through review of relevant plans and scientific literature. These challenges can be broadly clustered around four management themes:

- *Culturally appropriate access (people management):* competing interests between groups of people over protection and use of the Parks; lack of cultural awareness; poor recognition of DDW Culture and heritage; unclear (and contradictory) policy settings; encroachment on the Parks from surrounding landscapes; weak commercial rights of Aboriginal Peoples; collection of firewood; inappropriate visitor activities; wilful and accidental site damage (e.g. damaging vegetation by camping in sensitive sites); and (illegal) dumping of waste and toxic materials.
- *Cultural and natural resources management:* climate change and drought; re-establishing Wi; cultural heritage sites that are not recorded; unsustainable allocation of natural resources; soil disturbance; loss of stream and gatjin (*water*) quality; dams and diversions; repeated cycles of timber harvesting in the past; competition between pest and native animal species; other impacts of pests and weeds; other impacts of invasive plants and animals; loss of native middle-range and apex predators, such as the Gal Gal; overabundant native species (overbrowsing on vegetation); habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation; loss of pollination services; loss of wood on the forest floor; interruptions to views of connected vegetation; and changed land forms, including tailings, mullock heaps and shafts from a range of past activities.
- *Resource constraints:* insufficient capacity, resources and knowledge across government agencies to implement Joint Management in a culturally competent manner. Provision of sufficient and appropriate resources for management of parks generally, and the DDW Parks, is a challenge.
- *Infrastructure management:* road maintenance and road works; fire control activities including clearing; pollution with fire-retardants; inappropriate design, siting (location), and materials associated with developments within and adjacent to the Parks; quarries; irrigation; mining contaminants; pollution from farm chemicals; mirryn (*air*) and gatjin pollution; land uses leading to soil erosion and salinisation; and agricultural activities adjacent to Parks.

To develop management priorities, we rated the challenges by examining their scope, severity and irreversibility. The top ten priority challenges and ratings are listed in Table 6 (see Box R3 for an explanation of the ratings). The rating was undertaken at the same Healthy Country Planning workshop in November 2017 that rated the health of the Djuwima Djandaki, with some changes made following subsequent review by expert staff in PV and DELWP. By the completion of the Plan, we want all the priority challenges to be rated lower. Some of our opportunities and challenges are connected—re-establishing Wi is both an opportunity and a challenge.



Mifakuk (lightning)

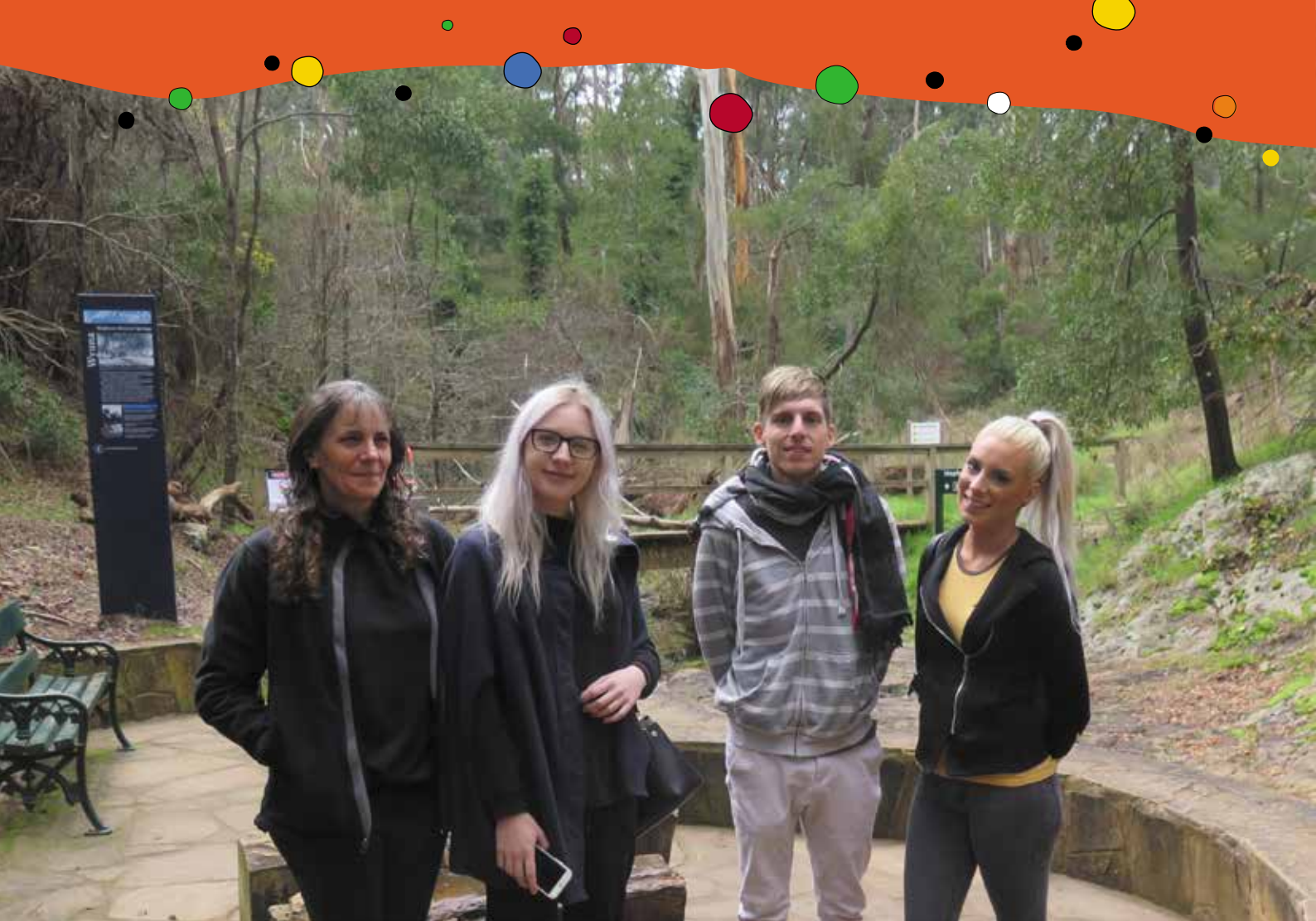
Table 6 Ten Priority Challenges to the Health of Our Djuwima Djandaki (See Box R3 for an explanation of the ratings)

Priority challenges	People of the Parks and Surrounding Landscapes	Recreation, Cultural Practices and Customs	Cultural Heritage	Plants and Animals	Rivers and Waterways	Landscape and Open Space	Self-determination of the Dja Dja Wurrung People	Enterprises	Joint Management	Summary: Overall level posed by each challenge to all the Djuwima Djandaki combined
Climate change and drought	High	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	High
Wi	High	High	High	High	High	High	Medium	Low	Medium	High
Dams and diversions	High	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	High
Invasive animals	High	High	High	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	High
Invasive plants	Medium	Medium	High	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Overabundant native species	Low	Low	High	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Managing camping	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Managing prospecting, mining and quarrying	Low	Low	High	Medium	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Managing trail development and use	High	High	High	High	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low	High
Managing dumping of waste and toxic materials	High	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Summary: Overall level of challenge to each Djuwima Djandaki	High	High	Very High	High	High	High	High	Low	High	Very High

**Key to priority challenges**

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low





## 4.5 DETAILS ON THE PRIORITY CHALLENGES TO THE HEALTH OF OUR DJUWIMA DJANDAKI

A thorough understanding of the priority challenges to the health of our Djuwima Djandaki is vital to the success of our Strategies to reduce these challenges. We provide here more information about the current understanding of these challenges.

### 4.5.1 CLIMATE CHANGE AND DROUGHTS

The climate of Dja Dja Wurrung Country generally follows a pattern of cool wet winters and warm, drier summers, but the summer rain that does fall is very important. The climate has changed a lot over the time that DDW People have occupied their Country—for example, at the height of the last ice-age, Country was dominated by sub-alpine vegetation. DDW People's knowledge of seasons and indicators of change provide them with the ability to change their management as the signals from Country change, ensuring an ongoing strong and vibrant Culture. The key challenge today is the rapid pace of climate change.

Climate change projections for the area suggest warming of 0.6 to 1.3°C by 2030 and many more hot summer days (over 35°C), if greenhouse gas emissions are maintained<sup>15</sup>. Under this scenario, annual rainfall will be reduced, potentially by 40% by late in the 21st Century. Droughts become more frequent and last for longer and fire weather becomes harsher, extending further into the cool season. Extreme rainfall events are expected to become more intense, with increasing frequency and may lead to more flooding.

Climate changes will directly impact the number and distribution of plants and animals (both native and introduced species), and their behaviour (e.g. feeding patterns, flowering times). Species may be lost, while new species may appear. Harsher bushfires, extreme heatwaves and lower stream-flows will directly change Country and potentially affect the availability of bushfoods and people's sense of place. These changes will interact with other priority challenges (e.g. fire regimes, dams and diversions, invasive species) and affect management responses.

### 4.5.2 WI

For Dja Dja Wurrung People, Wi is a practice with some equivalent aspects to contemporary fire management


undertaken by Parks Victoria, DELWP and other agencies. Wi helps deliver a disturbance regime that supports or hinders particular plant species and manipulates animal distributions. Among other impacts, Wi can open the forest floor to light, release the seedbank to support greater biodiversity, help convert old wood into available nutrients and stimulate the cycle of birth, death and re-birth. However, Wi is far more than an environmental management tool—it is an expression of cultural obligation, of Dja Dja Wurrung People's connections to land, each other, and Creation time. Fire regimes that lack DDW involvement threaten cultural obligations, aspirations and knowledge systems, as well as the healing of the landscape. Wi is as much about who applies Wi as how Wi is applied.

Since colonisation the application of Wi has dramatically changed. Consistent intensity and timing of Wi is lacking in the landscape, and intense wildfires occur periodically, with ongoing damage to cultural and natural heritage. Planned burning is largely centred on fuel reduction—the cultural outcomes, impacts on DDW food and fibre plants and animals, cultural connections and obligations have been little considered. While controlled burning is beginning to integrate DDW cultural practices, fire regimes continue to damage Country. Cultural heritage in the Parks can also be damaged by the use of fire retardants, mineral earth fire breaks, control lines and in some cases the intensity of controlled burns. Finally, ongoing climate change will affect how fire behaves in DDW Country and how it can be used as a management tool.

### 4.5.3 DAMS AND DIVERSIONS

Dja Dja Wurrung People always had sources of gatjin in the landscape. These sources includes the chains of ponds in the creek and river systems that were identified by many early colonists. These ponds provided refuge for many culturally important plants and animals. Rock wells across the landscape ensured gatjin was available in all seasons to support both the People and the animals. With the introduction of domestic stock and the wide spread clearing of land, catchments have degraded, resulting in the loss of the chain of ponds in the creeks and rivers. To overcome this seasonal loss of gatjin, many dams and diversions have been put in place to capture and store gatjin in the landscape.

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/en/climate-projections/future-climate/regional-climate-change-explorer/sub-clusters/?current=MBC&tool=tip=true&popup=true>



The dams change habitat for stream-living animals by converting a flowing watercourse into a pond or lake-like habitat. While this can increase habitat for some species, it is unsuitable for those plants and animals that rely on flowing waterways. Dams fragment the watercourse they're built on, preventing movement of aquatic animals between parts of the stream on either side of the dam. Dams and channels can decrease gatjin flows downstream, particularly in low rainfall periods, reducing streams to disconnected pools, or causing problems associated with low flows, such as algal outbreaks. Dams sometimes release gatjin on Dja Dja Wurrung Country at unnatural times. The contamination of gatjin through legacies from mining is also of great concern to DDW People.

#### 4.5.4 INVASIVE ANIMALS

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A number of introduced animals occur throughout DDW Country and reducing their impacts requires a landscape-wide approach. Feral cats and foxes are probably having the greatest impacts in the region, as ferocious predators of small mammals and birds in particular, as well as frogs and reptiles. Rabbits are also a problem because their burrows disturb habitat and cause erosion. Goats, feral pigs and deer cause soil compaction and erosion as well as damage to native vegetation. Introduced pathogens can affect native animals, brought in, for example, in the faeces of feral dogs and cats and through exotic bees. There is concern that some measures taken to control invasive species (e.g. baiting) could affect native species. Traditional Owners' cultural beliefs and significant DDW sites or places may be impacted by control programs.

#### 4.5.5 INVASIVE PLANTS

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Invasive plants can change the composition of native vegetation through a range of processes including: out-competing native plants; smothering them; slowing their growth; preventing their regeneration; and reducing the habitat value of grassy areas for some native wildlife. Weed invasion has reduced the health of waterways in DDW Country. Invasive plants can also cause fires to burn more intensely or to reach higher into the canopy. At the time of writing, invasive plants considered to be high priority for control include: Horehound; Sweet Briar; Wheel Cactus; Pampas Grass; Cape Broom; Bridal Creeper; Chilean Needlegrass; Blue Periwinkle; Oxalis; Paterson's Curse; St John's Wort; Blackberry; English Broom and Gorse.

The seeds of weed species enter the Parks in many ways and the disturbance of soil and vegetation can favour the

establishment of invasive plant species. Sources of weed seed and/or disturbance include park users (e.g. horses, tyres of vehicles and bikes, people walking, jogging, rock-climbing or orienteering); park management activities (e.g. road maintenance work); public works' infrastructure (e.g. gatjin channels); private business operations (e.g. mining); illegal dumping of garden waste; and gardens, farms and other parts of the surrounding landscape.

#### 4.5.6 OVERABUNDANT NATIVE SPECIES

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In some of the Parks, the numbers of native herbivores (e.g. wallabies and kangaroos) can increase to levels that are above carrying capacity of the landscape. This overabundance in some areas results in reduced plant and animal health. Many of the plants impacted are of significance to DDW People for food and fibre production, and the impacts of overabundance need to be managed. Impacts are most evident during prolonged dry periods and droughts. Within the Parks, over grazing and over browsing mostly affects grassy, shrubby and herb-rich woodlands, especially in areas with higher moisture and fertility (e.g. gullies and creek lines) where palatable grasses and herbs grow well. This problem is exacerbated by grazing and browsing by non-native animals such as rabbits, pigs, goats, deer, hares and horses. These processes of overabundance in some places also result from changed interactions with cultural fire and cultural hunting which historically manipulated grazing animal distribution and abundance within the landscape.

#### 4.5.7 MANAGING CAMPING

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Dja Dja Wurrung People have used these landscapes for habitation for generations. The appropriateness of places to camp and remain is determined by seasonal availability of resources and ceremony. Cultural insight into camp selection and maintenance, and local knowledge and experience, are important to minimising the impacts of camping. Camping is well-managed in some areas, while in others the potential impacts of camping are not adequately dealt with. Designated camp sites, where they exist, are areas of concentrated visitor use and camping can compact soil, damage vegetation and cause soil erosion in these areas, affecting the integrity of the native vegetation, facilitating weed invasion and causing soil erosion. The collection of firewood depletes woody debris and other habitats for wildlife in the vicinity of campgrounds and has been prohibited in some places, while it continues in others. In addition, fire can escape from poorly managed camp fires, potentially affecting substantial areas of the Parks.

#### 4.5.8 MANAGING PROSPECTING, MINING AND QUARRYING

Mining and quarrying has occurred in the DDW Parks for millennia—Dja Dja Wurrung People accessed many resources including a range of different larr types for tool making, such as quartz crystals. Access to larr and mineral resources rose rapidly during the gold rush era, with many changes to the landscapes.

Mining is also ongoing in Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve and under Greater Bendigo National Park. Contemporary management of mining aims to minimise damage to waterways, natural and cultural assets during the operating lifetime of the mine, and to restore the landscape and vegetation at mine closure.

Prospecting, which involves searching for minerals or gemstones, continues to occur across the Parks through provisions under the *NPA s32D*. Prospectors are only permitted to use non-mechanical hand tools in the Parks. The most common form of prospecting uses metal-detectors, which generally impact small areas with excavation occurring at ‘hit’ points. Prospectors report that their activities cause little or no disturbance when undertaken in accordance with the PMAV Code of Conduct.

Nevertheless, prospecting activities using metal detectors can contribute to the disturbance of cultural sites, places and objects of significance to DDW People. Prospecting can also cause soil disturbance, erosion, gatjin and ground contamination and pollution, soil compaction, disturbance to vegetation and weed dispersal and invasion.

Some prospecting or fossicking involves panning. In streams panning removes material from stream banks and beds, potentially reducing the stability of the stream bed. When fine sediment particles are returned to the stream, this can create turbid (hazy or cloudy) gatjin downstream (although this may be temporary).

#### 4.5.9 MANAGING TRAIL DEVELOPMENT AND USE

Dja Dja Wurrung People moving through the landscape used a range of markers and messages to ensure the safe and appropriate passage of people through their Country. Walking Country in a manner that respects the culture, knowledge, values and story of that place is important for appropriate trail development. Where trails and paths through Country have been developed outside of the official network of

roads, track and trails, potential exists for impacts on a range of cultural and natural values, including through damage to vegetation, soil compaction, erosion, and damage to DDW cultural heritage. Inappropriate trail development can interfere with the use of the Parks by others, for example by disrupting orienteering spaces. There is strong interest that the development of unofficial trails be addressed as a priority challenge in implementation of the Joint Management Plan.

#### 4.5.10 MANAGING DUMPING OF WASTE AND TOXIC MATERIALS

Dja Dja Wurrung People as a group managed the Parks and surrounding landscapes for millennia. They had cultural practices and processes in place to manage waste and cleanliness of the landscape so it was able to support a significant human population. The dumping of waste—including garden materials, domestic rubbish, toxic materials (e.g. asbestos) and car parts—is not consistent with the practice of millennia and reduces the ability of DDW People and the wider community to enjoy, access, protect and interact with the Parks. Illegal dumping can impact on sites, places and objects of cultural significance to DDW People. Dumping also has visual impacts, as well as causing damage to vegetation, harm to wildlife, and contamination of soil and gatjin. Existing dumping sites need to be cleaned up and remediated, and issues relating to ongoing monitoring and enforcement of illegal dumping need to be addressed. In addition, there are examples of ongoing contamination as a result of historic mining activities.





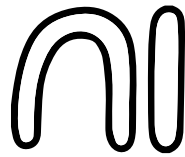






PART C

# DJUWIMA DJANDAKI: GOALS AND STRATEGIES



## 5. PEOPLE OF THE PARKS AND SURROUNDING LANDSCAPES: GOAL AND STRATEGIES

**Goal: Dja Dja Wurrung People and the wider community use, have a relationship with and benefit from the Parks.**

The Parks have a role in the life of many people including Dja Dja Wurrung People, communities located in DDW Country, and others interested in the area. The DDW People have occupied these landscapes for time immemorial. Dja Dja Wurrung People today are descended from eighteen individuals known as Apical Ancestors who were living at the time of European arrival.

### DJA DJA WURRUNG FAMILY CONNECTIONS FORGE LINKAGES WITH COUNTRY:

*We are not the owners of this land but the custodians of it—we have inherited rights and responsibilities through our bloodlines to care for it as we do for our family ... on behalf of our extended family over generations—for our ancestors and for the unborn family yet to come. Rebecca Phillips, Dja Dja Wurrung (2014, p.102).*

The Parks connect DDW history with the recent history of pastoralism, mining, agriculture and timber production across the Goldfields Region of Central Victoria. All the nearby towns, including Bendigo, Daylesford, Maryborough, Avoca, St Arnaud, and Inglewood, were established during the

gold rushes of the 19th Century. Hepburn Regional Park, for example, is currently named after Captain John Hepburn, a pastoralist who was the first chairman of the Creswick District Roads Board. Shared history, economies, recreational activities and other shared interests link the residents of central Victoria, the DDW People and the Parks.

Many others come to the Parks for activities like walking, bird watching and prospecting. Many Actions to support and enhance recreational opportunities are detailed in the Strategy for Engaging People in the Parks (Table 7), and Table R4 (Resources document) lists the diverse interests of many different groups who are involved with the Parks.

Zones and overlays are tools used by park managers to create different areas to separate these uses to some extent—for example, some areas provide for peace and quiet and others for noisy activities. Zones and overlays also provide for higher levels of protection for sensitive environments that can be damaged by recreational activities.

Three different zones and five different overlays, each with different management aims, are used in the Plan to manage different Park users (Table 8). See also the Maps GB2a and 2b, H2, PR2, KK2, KW2 and the Resources document Tables R6-R11.



## 5.1 ENGAGE PEOPLE IN THE PARKS: STRATEGY

Table 7 Engage People in the Parks Strategy: Objective and Actions (Action numbers labelled with P)

**OBJECTIVE: DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE AND THE STATE OF VICTORIA, AS JOINT MANAGERS, INVITE AND ENCOURAGE A WIDE RANGE OF STAKEHOLDERS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PARKS.**

CODE	ACTION	PARKS WHERE IT APPLIES
P1	Ensure Dja Dja Wurrung People have opportunities to come together in the Parks to strengthen their connections with each other and their traditional lands, now owned as Aboriginal Title	All
P2	Support stakeholders to learn about, provide advice and assist Park management, including, for example, through existing and new Friends of the DDW Parks groups, formation of partnerships and Stakeholder Advisory Committees for each Park established as appropriate	All, see stakeholders in Table R4
P3	Support DDW People and organisations to educate the wider community about the purpose and significance of the Parks, including through the formal education sector (e.g. schools, universities), and in collaboration with partners and stakeholders	All, see Table R5
P4	Enable DDW People to conduct field days, walks and talks in the Parks and conduct other cultural educational activities, including Cultural Awareness Training, tailored to the interests of diverse stakeholder groups	All
P5	Establish DDW Cultural Mentors for other DDW People and also for partner and other agency staff	All
P6	Use the zoning and overlays systems to allocate areas for a range of stakeholders' interests, from areas with strict protection to areas for use of the Parks' resources	All, see Tables R6 to R11

Table 8 Management Aims for Different Zones and Overlays in the Parks

<b>ZONE/OVERLAY</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT AIM</b>	<b>PARKS WHERE IT OCCURS</b>
<b>ZONES</b>			
<b>Reference Area</b>	Relatively undisturbed representative land types and associated vegetation <sup>16</sup>	Protect viable samples of one or more land types that are relatively undisturbed for comparative study with similar land types elsewhere, by keeping all human interference to the minimum essential and ensuring as far as practicable that the only long-term change results from natural processes. This is in accordance with ministerial directives established under the <i>Reference Areas Act 1978</i>	All except Hepburn and Wehla
<b>Conservation</b>	Broad areas containing sensitive cultural heritage and ecosystems	Manage DDW cultural practices to support, protect and restore cultural and natural values and provide for minimum-impact recreation and simple visitor facilities, subject to ensuring minimal interference with ongoing DDW cultural practices and natural processes	Greater Bendigo, Hepburn, Kara Kara and Wehla
<b>Conservation and Recreation</b>	Important but less sensitive natural and cultural values	Manage DDW cultural practices to support, protect and restore values while providing for sustainable, dispersed recreational activities, culture-based tourism and small-scale recreational facilities without significant impact on DDW cultural practices and natural processes	All
<b>OVERLAYS</b>			
<b>Recreation, Cultural Practices and Customs</b>	Important areas suitable for more considered planning, interpretation, integrated with education about DDW and other cultural values and practices; aligned with existing visitor sites and areas with intense peri-urban interfaces	Develop through (modified) Visitor Experience Area (VEA) approaches with appropriate planning and management	All see Section 6.3 Planning for the Recreation, Cultural Practice and Customs (RCC) Overlays in the Parks
<b>Special Protection Areas (SPA)</b>	Highly significant and sensitive ecosystems and land types	Protect values through specific management actions identified for the specific SPA	All except Hepburn and Wehla
<b>Special Management Area (SMA)</b>	High-voltage electricity lines as a public utility	Manage vegetation to allow safe transmission of high-voltage electricity	Greater Bendigo and Paddys Ranges
<b>Prospecting</b>	Recreational prospecting	Allow searching for minerals while protecting natural and cultural values	All
<b>Declared Water Supply Catchment</b>	Water supply catchments	Protect water supply from contamination	Kara Kara

<sup>16</sup> The Plan respects the intent and objects of the *Reference Areas Act 1978*, while also recognising that DDW management and interaction with these areas has been occurring for millennia.





## 6. RECREATION, CULTURAL PRACTICES AND CUSTOMS: GOAL AND STRATEGIES

**Goal: Dja Dja Wurrung People and the wider community enjoy recreational and cultural activities in the Parks, and show respect for Dja Dja Wurrung Culture**

Dja Dja Wurrung People link with the Parks through many cultural practices including:

- language
- spiritual customs and practices
- traditional harvesting and weaving
- art
- story-telling
- camping
- sitting and walking
- ceremonies
- Wi.

DDW People have gained recognition by the State of Victoria of their rights to camp and gather resources in the Parks for their cultural practices. DDW People gather: grasses and rushes to weave baskets and belts; branches and girra (*leaves*) for smoking ceremonies; and timber to carve clapsticks and boomerangs.

Cultural repatriation and reinterment form the vital links between DDW healing and restoring connection to Country and Joint Management of the Parks. The Joint Management planning process has developed several Actions relating to Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural Practice and Customs (Table 9).

The Parks provide for many recreational activities for a wide range of users, including:

- bird watching
- bushwalking
- cycling
- camping
- car rallies
- dog walking
- educational and guided activities
- fishing
- four-wheel drive touring
- horse riding
- nature photography and painting
- orienteering

- prospecting
- picnicking
- sightseeing
- trail bike riding.

A series of Actions have been identified in the Joint Management planning process relating to Recreational Practices and Activities (Table 10). Prospecting continues to be welcome in many areas of the Parks through provisions under the *NPA s32D*. Prospecting is not allowed in National Parks and State Parks unless such provisions under *s32D* are in place (Table 11). Some areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage are protected from potential impacts through activities such as mountain biking, four wheel driving and prospecting.

Public interest in understanding and viewing Aboriginal cultural heritage is very high. Often the location, identity and purpose of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites is not appropriate to be shared or described for cultural or other reasons, including that the site may be intruded upon or disrupted inadvertently or otherwise. Dja Dja Wurrung People want to share their knowledge, culture and practices and this Plan enables this sharing through Actions to support guided tours, educational experiences and time spent together on Country.

### DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE EXPRESS THEIR LINKS TO THE PARKS THROUGH STORIES AND ART:

*Expressing my stories through art has brought me much joy and passion for telling stories that are a tradition for keeping my heritage alive. To celebrate the formal acknowledgement of Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners of our Lands, I painted 'The Descendants', depicting Dja Dja Wurrung families with Bunjil and Waa watching over us. Aunty Roslyn Dodson, Dja Dja Wurrung (2014, p. 93).*

## 6.1 STRENGTHEN DJA DJA WURRUNG CULTURAL PRACTICES AND CUSTOMS: STRATEGY

Table 9 Strengthen Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural Practices and Customs Strategy: Objective and Actions (Action numbers labelled with R)

**OBJECTIVE: DJA DJA WURRUNG LANGUAGE, CUSTOMS AND PRACTICES ARE ALIVE AND RESPECTED ON THE PARKS, KEEPING CONNECTIONS WITH DJA DJA WURRUNG PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.**

CODE	ACTION	PARKS WHERE IT APPLIES
R1	Support Dja Dja Wurrung traditions and knowledge to continue to be actively practiced in the Parks through: trips onto Country; culture camps; story-telling and recording; arts, crafts, sculpture, dance, and music; documenting DDW People's knowledge of seasons and indicators of change to provide a DDW Seasonal Calendar, and then applying it for timing of management activities; using DDW language; and repatriating information and artefacts.	All
R2	Support DDW knowledge renewal through a spatial information system that is owned and managed by the DDWCAC, to capture and store knowledge about Culture and Country in the Parks, and to register Intangible Cultural Heritage where appropriate.	All
R3	Support DDW People to have opportunities to come together with Country to connect and hold ceremonies, for example a 'Welcome to Country' specifically for babies and children, and other ceremonies.	All
R4	Support DDW People to have access to camp on the Parks in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Recognition and Settlement Agreement 2013</i> and the zoning plans.	All
R5	Support DDW People and interested Park users—for example prospectors, four-wheel drivers, field naturalists and friends groups—to share knowledge on-Country about each others' perspectives on management, leading to Joint Codes of Practice and/or Memoranda of Agreement and relevant public education. Ensure DDW cultural heritage is recognised and respected throughout this process.	All
R6	Support DDW People to undertake a research project to identify and agree on DDW names for Parks and other relevant features in the Parks.	All
R7	Enable DDW People to have flexible access to privacy on the Parks (different places at different seasons) for the conduct of cultural ceremonies and practices.	All
R8	Support DDW People to produce a multi-media online storybook version of the Plan, using video, imagery, art etc., to ensure it is widely accessible to all, including DDW People.	All

## 6.2 ENHANCE PEOPLE'S ENJOYMENT OF RECREATIONAL PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES: STRATEGY

Table 10 Enhance People's Enjoyment of Recreational Practices and Activities Strategy: Objective and Actions (Action numbers labelled with R)

**OBJECTIVE: PEOPLE ENJOY THE BUSH AND THE PARKS THROUGH A WIDE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT ARE MANAGED FOR HEALTHY COUNTRY, HEALTHY PEOPLE OUTCOMES.**

CODE	ACTION	PARKS WHERE IT APPLIES
R9	Maintain access to the Parks through roads, with relevant seasonal closures	See Visitor Access and Facilities Maps GB1a, GB1b, H1, PR1, KK1, KW1



CODE	ACTION	PARKS WHERE IT APPLIES
R10	Allow horse riding, cycling, mountain bike riding, four-wheel drive and car touring on designated roads and tracks in the Parks and in accordance with existing and new (jointly developed) Codes of Practice.	See Visitor Access and Facilities Maps GB1a, GB1b, H1, PR1, KK1, KW1 and Tables R12 to R16
R11	Maintain access to the Parks for walking-based activities, including nature appreciation, photography, bird-watching, orienteering, education and other activities, and in accordance with existing and new (jointly developed) Codes of Practice.	See Visitor Access and Facilities Maps GB1a, GB1b, H1, PR1, KK1, KW1 and Tables R17 and R18
R12	Maintain existing designated tracks and trails and establish new ones over time to support bushwalking and associated activities. Ensure other tracks and trails are closed and rehabilitated. Reference Areas are free from designated tracks.	See Visitor Access and Facilities Maps GB1a, GB1b, H1, PR1, KK1, KW1 and Tables R12 to R18
R13	Manage road, track and trail maintenance to protect natural and cultural values and maintain (and where possible reduce) the extent of road verges.	All
R14	Maintain visitor facilities.	All
R15	Develop Plans based on a modified version of the Visitor Experience Area (VEA) approach of Parks Victoria to manage activities within the Recreation Cultural Practices and Customs Overlays of the Parks. Continue existing uses and maintenance until plans are complete and able to be implemented.	See Zones and Overlays Maps GB2a, GB2b, H2, PR2, KK2, KW2 and Table 12
R16	Establish signage and messages about the DDW People and Parks to increase awareness and cultural understanding.	All
R17	Maintain camping access through designated camping sites, walk-in dispersed/ bush camping and vehicle-based dispersed/bush camping in accordance with management zones (Table 11).	See Zones and Overlays Maps GB2a, GB2b, H2, PR2, KK2, KW2 and Tables R17 and R18
R18	Increase the presence of DDW People in the landscape to manage camping and other visitor activities in accordance with the provisions of the Plan.	All
R19	Initiate seasonal camping by opening certain parts of the Parks in different seasons (using DDW People's knowledge of seasons and indicators of change, and the DDW Seasonal Calendar, after it has been documented).	All
R20	Manage rubbish in partnership with local government authorities, through development of a litter strategy, including compliance, and encouragement of Park visitors to take their rubbish away with them.	All
R21	Manage prospecting in accordance with management zones and existing or new (jointly developed) Codes of Practice, developed jointly between DDW People, government agencies and stakeholders (e.g. the Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria, the Victorian National Parks Association, and taking account of the outcomes of the previous government enquiry <sup>17</sup> ).	See Zones and Overlays Maps GB2a, GB2b, H2, PR2, KK2, KW2 and Tables R17 and R18

<sup>17</sup> See Reports - Investigation into Additional Prospecting Areas in Parks at <http://www.veac.vic.gov.au/investigation/investigation-into-additional-prospecting-areas-in-parks/reports>

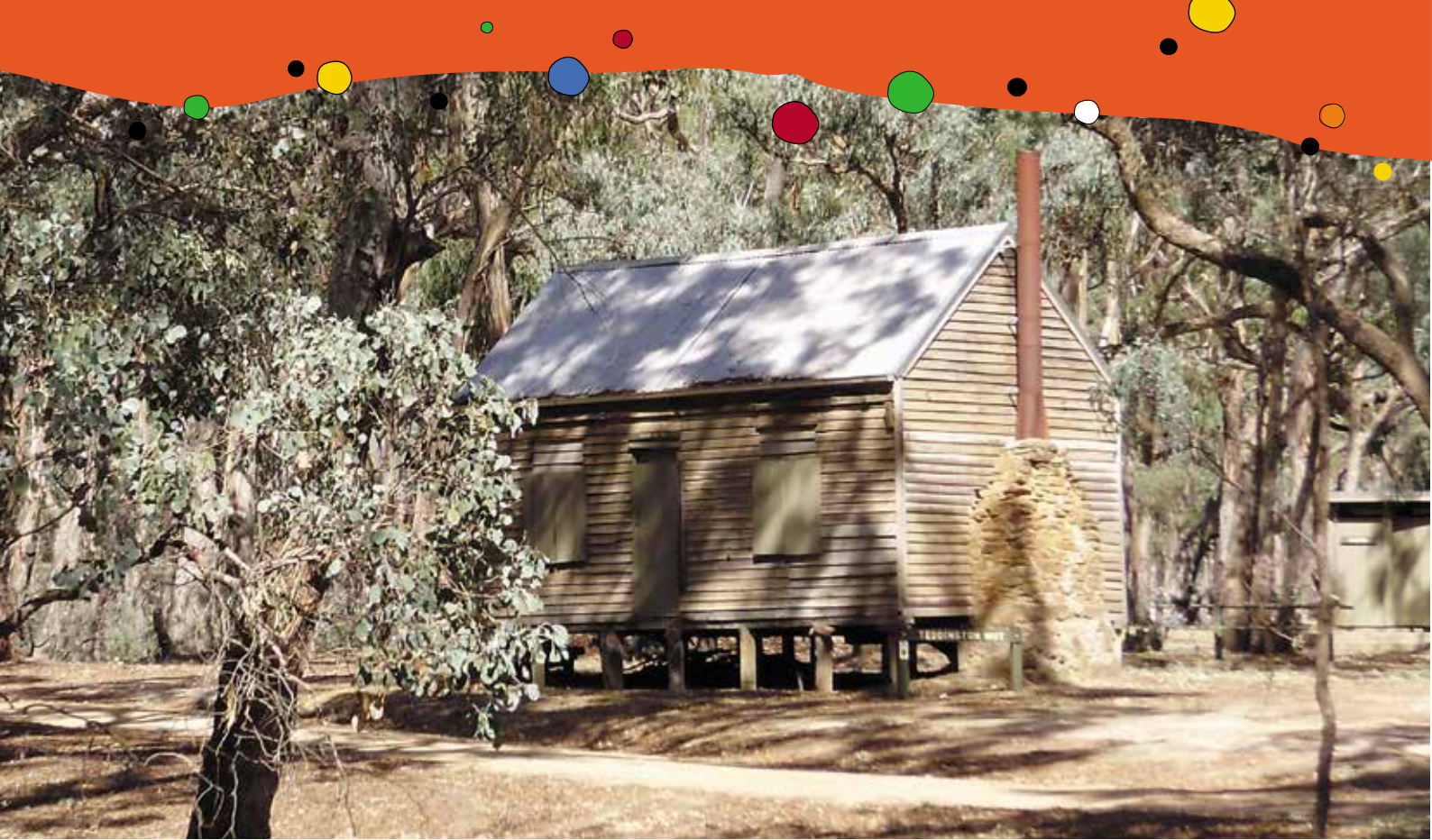



Table 11 Opportunities for Prospecting and Dispersed/Bush Camping in the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks

PARK NAME	MAP NUMBER	WHERE PROSPECTING IS ALLOWED	WHERE DISPERSED/ BUSH CAMPING IS ALLOWED <sup>18</sup>	TOTAL AREA AND PERCENTAGE OF THE PARK AVAILABLE FOR DISPERSED/BUSH CAMPING	TOTAL AREA AND PERCENTAGE OF THE PARK AVAILABLE FOR PROSPECTING
Greater Bendigo National Park	GB 2a and 2b	All areas marked according to the following legend:  Prospecting	Conservation and Recreation zones where prospecting is allowed except not within 500m of visitor sites <sup>19</sup>	6926 Ha / 40 %	8601 Ha / 50%
Hepburn Regional Park	H2	As above	Not allowed, camping is only permitted in designated sites	0 Ha / 0%	2479 Ha / 79%
Paddys Ranges State Park	PR2	As above	Recreation and Conservation zones where prospecting is allowed	560 Ha / 28%	560 Ha / 28%
Kara Kara National Park	KK2	As above	As above	4174 Ha / 30%	4174 Ha / 30%
Wehla NCR	KW2	As above	As above	0 Ha / 0 %	410 Ha / 100%
Kooyoora State Park	KW2	As above	As above	7369 Ha / 69%	7369 Ha / 69%

<sup>18</sup> Vehicle-based dispersed/bush camping is allowed within 100m of a road or less subject to local conditions e.g. camps must be more than 20m from a watercourse

<sup>19</sup> Camps must be more than 500m from the Notley, Loeser, Rush Dam, Mulga Dam, Shadbolt and Flagstaff Hill visitor sites (Map GB1a).

### 6.3 PLANNING FOR THE RECREATION, CULTURAL PRACTICES AND CUSTOMS (RCC) OVERLAYS IN THE PARKS

Parks Victoria’s Visitor Experience Framework guides a planning process that identifies where and how to invest the available resources to provide the greatest overall benefit to visitors. High quality planning is critical in a time when visitor numbers and expectations are growing faster than budgets; assets are ageing; and climate change is increasing the frequency of extreme rainfall events, fire and storms. The VEF planning occurs through five stages: Define sites; Define Visitor Experience Areas (VEAs, areas that groups several sites); Plan Visitor Experience Areas; Plan Visitor Sites and Set Future Levels of Service; and Outputs and Actions (the VEA Plan and actions to implement it).

This Plan includes a new Recreation, Cultural Practices and Customs (RCC) Overlays in each Park (see Zones and Overlays Maps GB2a, GB2b, H2, PR2, KK2 and KW2) where a modified form of Visitor Experience Area plans are proposed to be developed to meet a range of purposes (Table 12). The existing Visitor Experience Area planning approach of PV will be modified to meet the broader needs of both visitation and cultural development projects. While this modification is yet to occur, guidance from relevant international practice suggests it will need to include:

- A space model—how the space will be allocated to different uses
- An experience mode—what are the different types of visitation and cultural experiences that we wish to provide
- A business model—how the VEA will or will not generate revenue
- A cost model—how much it will cost to develop
- A market segment model—who are we intending to attract and for what segment of experiences.

The RCC overlays indicate where more intensive planning will occur, aligned with the intent set by different zones where the RCC overlays are placed. Visitor experiences will continue to be developed across all the Parks, with ongoing provision of assets and resources to enhance visitors’ enjoyment of the Parks for a range of purposes.



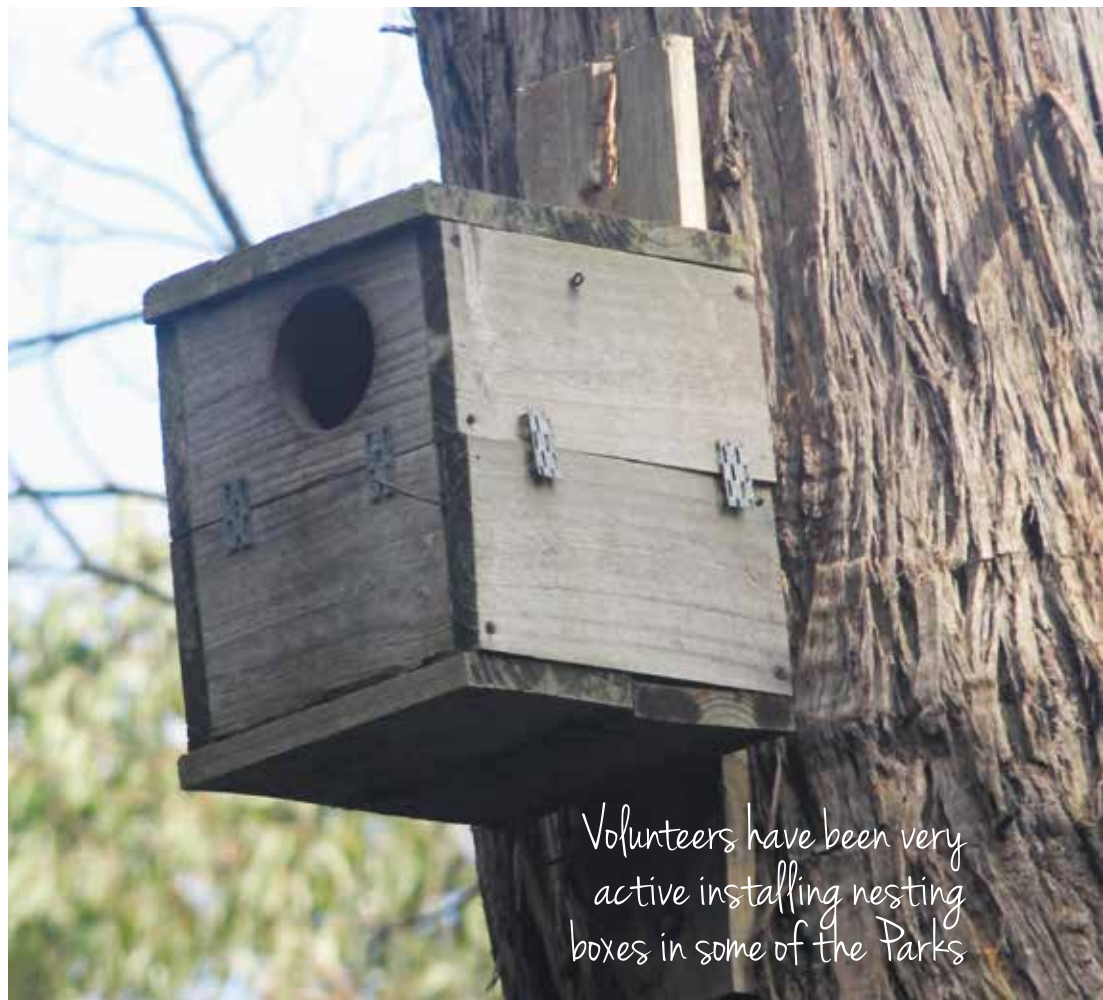
Boyn (Bread, damper), Datimdatim (Boomerang)

Table 12 Recreation, Cultural Practices and Customs Overlays in the Parks and their Purposes to Guide (Modified) Future Visitor Experience Area Planning

<b>PARK</b>	<b>PLANNING OVERLAY CODE</b>	<b>ZONE WHERE THIS PLANNING OVERLAY WILL BE APPLIED</b>	<b>PURPOSE TO GUIDE (MODIFIED) FUTURE VEA PLANNING</b>
Greater Bendigo National Park	GB-RCC1	Conservation	Better planned and improved visitor day-use and Dja Dja Wurrung cultural interpretation—consistent with the intent of the Conservation Zone
	GB-RCC2	Conservation and Recreation	Better planned and improved visitor day-use and DDW cultural interpretation, including demonstration of restoration of culturally important plants—consistent with the intent of the Conservation and Recreation Zone
Hepburn Regional Park	H-RCC1	Conservation and Recreation	Restoration and management of DDW cultural values, camping management and native forest restoration—consistent with the intent of the Conservation and Recreation Zone
	H-RCC2	Conservation and Recreation	Partnerships with local community groups to manage and restore edges—consistent with the intent of the Conservation and Recreation Zone
	H-RCC3	Conservation and Recreation	Better planned visitor day-use and DDW cultural interpretation—consistent with the intent of the Conservation and Recreation Zone
	H-RCC4	Conservation and Recreation	Better planned and improved visitor day-use and DDW cultural interpretation—consistent with the intent of the Conservation and Recreation Zone
	H-RCC5	Conservation and Recreation	Partnerships with local community groups to manage and restore edges—consistent with the intent of the Conservation and Recreation Zone
	H-RCC6	Conservation and Recreation	Better planned visitor day-use and DDW cultural interpretation—consistent with the intent of the Conservation and Recreation Zone
Paddys Ranges State Park	PR-RCC1	Conservation and Recreation	DDW cultural interpretation, including demonstration of restoration of culturally important plants—consistent with the intent of the Conservation and Recreation Zone
Kara Kara National Park	KK-RCC1	Conservation and Recreation	Better planned visitor day-use and DDW cultural interpretation—consistent with the intent of the Conservation and Recreation Zone
	KK-RCC2	Conservation	Better planned and improved DDW cultural interpretation, including demonstration of restoration of culturally important plants—consistent with the intent of the Conservation Zone
Kooyoora State Park	K-RCC1	Conservation and Recreation	DDW cultural interpretation, including of material cultural heritage places and objects—consistent with the intent of the Conservation and Recreation Zone
Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve	W-RCC1	Conservation	Goldfield and mining cultural heritage interpretation and visitor use and protection of Dja Dja Wurrung cultural heritage—consistent with the intent of the Conservation Zone

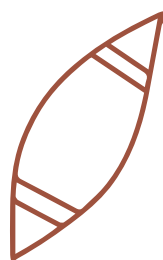


*Dhelkunya Wi (Healing Fire)*



*Volunteers have been very active installing nesting boxes in some of the Parks*





## 7. CULTURAL HERITAGE: GOAL AND STRATEGIES

**Goal: Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage are recognised and protected as a celebration of our identity and community, and have the same value in the wider community**

Many Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (AHA)* are found in the Parks, including artefact scatters, larr arrangements, scarred galka, quarries, rock art, rock wells and historical places. Granite shelters abound with evidence of occupation. Stories, spiritual customs and other traditions are also recognised as part of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Strategies and Actions to protect Intangible Cultural Heritage are currently presented under the Djuwima Djandaki titled Recreation, Cultural Practices and Customs. Kooyoora State Park is particularly rich as a cultural landscape with much evidence of occupation and continued cultural use today (Table R19). There are also many cultural heritage sites in the Parks that remain unregistered. The use of Dja Dja Wurrung language names for places and features of cultural significance is a key priority for DDW People.

### THE CULTURAL SITES CONNECT DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE WITH THEIR COUNTRY:

*When you go to a site, you feel proud knowing that your ancestors—your mob—were there. I get that strong feeling when I go to the site at Rocky Crossing where the grinding grooves are... there are scar trees and hoop trees and artefact scatters and mounds. You can feel that it was a very significant place. Wendy Berick (Dja Dja Wurrung 2014, p. 109).*

All parties to the Joint Management, including DDWCAC as the Registered Aboriginal Party under the *AHA*, the DDLMB, and the State of Victoria, agree that there are many unregistered Aboriginal places within the Parks. The parties agree to prioritise conduct of cultural heritage surveys in the implementation of the Plan, and recognise the need to resource those surveys.

The outcomes of those surveys will then be used to:

- change zones and overlays in Maps in the Plan in response to the surveys/registration of cultural heritage
- Secure protection for this cultural heritage through the *AHA*
- Secure protection from prospecting through nomination under s7(1) of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* for those Parks managed under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978; and removal of provisions under s32D of *National Parks Act 1975 (NPA)* that allow prospecting for those Parks managed under the *NPA*
- Use administrative and legislative mechanisms to protect those sites and areas of cultural significance
- Provide information and educational opportunities for Park users and the wider community.

The Parks abound with heritage from the recent eras of gold mining, charcoal production, eucalyptus oil distillation, gatjin storage and distribution, and forestry (Table R20). Mining heritage includes registered historic places such as Rostrons Puddlers, Victoria Gully Puddlers and Grumbers Gully in Kara Kara National Park (Table R21). Hepburn Regional Park has a strong history of mining, with historic gatjin races featuring as major attractions for visitors.

Foundations and huts associated with Hartland's Distillery in Greater Bendigo National Park link to the significance of the production of eucalyptus oil. An old coach-route can be seen in Kooyoora, where remains of a rare Chilean Mill, used for commercial ochre crushing, is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. Table 13 and Table 14 list Actions associated with the Strategies for DDW Cultural Heritage and for Cultural Landscape and Historical Heritage, respectively.





## 7.1 IDENTIFY AND PROTECT DJA DJA WURRUNG CULTURAL HERITAGE: STRATEGY

Table 13 Identify and Protect Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural Heritage: Objective and Actions (Action numbers labelled with C)

**OBJECTIVE: DJA DJA WURRUNG CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES IN THE PARKS ARE IDENTIFIED AND THEIR MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS PRIORITISED AND IMPLEMENTED.**

CODE	ACTION	PARKS WHERE IT APPLIES
C1	Support Dja Dja Wurrung People to identify priority areas of the Parks for systematic surveys of cultural heritage	All
C2	Support DDW People to undertake systematic surveys of priority areas of the Parks to identify and register cultural heritage sites, including those with existing preliminary reports	All
C3	Support DDW People to prioritise the management needs of the cultural heritage sites, based on significance and challenges	All
C4	Support DDW People to implement priority management actions for cultural heritage sites, including through Cultural Heritage Management Plans where required	All
C5	Support DDW People's activities to return and protect ancestral remains, cultural objects and collections, to Country, in the Parks where appropriate	All
C6	Ensure DDW People's cultural heritage is used to promote healing and reconciliation, teach one another and raise awareness in the wider community, including through tourism	All
C7	Ensure that an ongoing training and development program provides an active group of DDW People available to be employed as cultural heritage field and other staff	All

## 7.2 PROMOTE AND PROTECT CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND HISTORIC HERITAGE: STRATEGY

Table 14 Promote and Protect Cultural Landscape and Historic Heritage Strategy: Objective and Actions (Action numbers labelled with C)

### OBJECTIVE: CULTURAL LANDSCAPE VALUES AND HISTORIC HERITAGE SITES IN THE PARKS ARE PROTECTED AND PROMOTED.

CODE	ACTION	PARKS WHERE IT APPLIES
C8	Manage places of historic cultural significance in accordance with the Burra Charter <sup>20</sup> ; provisions of the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i> ; the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> ; the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> ; and the management principles of Parks Victoria's Heritage Management Strategy and operational policies. Consult with agencies, including Heritage Victoria and the Australian Government heritage agencies, and the community, as appropriate.	All
C9	Consider community perspectives and opinion in determining appropriate management and interpretation of the Parks' historic cultural heritage values.	All
C10	Encourage the research and recording of historical information.	All
C11	Ensure that an ongoing training and development program provides staff who are available, informed and authorised to manage historic cultural values.	All



#### INCLUSIVE AND COMPASSIONATE:

*This Plan has to be applauded for its inclusiveness and compassion, given that non-Aboriginal heritage is only 250 years old. Submission from member of the public in response to the Draft Plan.*



<sup>20</sup> The Burra Charter is a set of principles that have been adopted to create a nationally accepted standard for heritage conservation practice in Australia. The Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance, known as the Burra Charter, was first adopted at Burra in 1979.

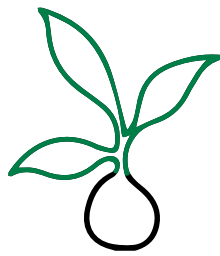


Djarrk (Common reed)





*Gani (Digging stick), Murnang (Yam)*



## 8. PLANTS AND ANIMALS: GOAL AND STRATEGIES

**Goal: Dja Dja Wurrung Country, with its important species and ecosystems, is healthy and continues to nourish Dja Dja Wurrung People by providing bush tucker and medicine**

Plants with medicinal properties, food value, and uses in ornaments, necklaces, weapons and tools for Dja Dja Wurrung People occur throughout the Parks. Murnang (*Yam Daisy*) and wattle seeds that provided staple foods in the past have declined greatly since European occupation. Although known from all the Parks, the populations are often isolated and not in an abundance capable of providing for a staple diet of an individual, let alone a group of DDW People today. Seven plants have been identified by DDW People as significant food and fibre plants on which to focus their restoration actions (Table R22). DDW People are able to collect from a number of common wattle species in the Parks without limitations (Table R23). However, some limitations currently apply to DDW People's collection of protected plants and threatened species of wattle (Tables R24 and R25).

Many plants in the Parks have significance to DDW People for medicines and crafts. The plant Austral Crane's Bill is used to treat diarrhoea and Blackwood to treat rheumatism. Many different kinds of Mat-rush for example Spiny-headed Mat-rush, are used for weaving. Lumps of sugar are dropped onto the forest floor by Manna Gum. Common Reed provides materials for ornaments, necklaces, rope, and the root can be eaten. More than seventy plant species listed by the Victorian Government for their conservation status (vulnerable, threatened or endangered) are in the Parks (Table R26).

Baramul, Willa (*Brush-tailed Possum*), Banya (*Ring-tailed Possum*), wirrap, gurri, koala and many other animals in the Parks have cultural significance to DDW People. Bunjil (*Wedge-*

*tailed Eagle*), Waa (*Australian Raven*) and Dyinyap (*Sulphur-crested Cockatoo*) who roam across all the Parks are vital as ancestral beings responsible for the creation of their Country. Under the *RSA 2013*, Dja Dja Wurrung People can hunt some species, such as the Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Willa, on some types of public land. Dja Dja Wurrung Authorised users are able to exercise their rights for hunting in the DDW Parks in accordance with a Natural Resources Agreement under the *RSA 2013*, Authorisation orders and other relevant legislation.

The Parks provide habitat for four mammals, thirty-two birds, two dum, three lizards, one binggal listed as rare and threatened, including the beautiful Brush-tailed Phascogale and Swift Parrot (Table R26). Many hollow-dependent animals are found in the Parks, particularly Kara Kara, such as the Powerful Owl, Squirrel Glider, Brown Treecreeper, Sugar Glider, Feathertail Glider, Willa, Banya and Yellow-footed Antechinus. DELWP Habitat Distribution Models, and models of the most cost-effective actions for invasive species control, helped in the identification of zones and actions to protect vital threatened species in the Parks (Tables R27 and R28).

Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands are the dominant vegetation across the Parks, providing a unique system of habitats (Table R29, Figure R2). Kara Kara National Park protects the largest relatively intact area of Box-Ironbark forest and woodland in Victoria. However, the history of logging, mining and settlement has greatly depleted the Parks and wider DDW Country of vital resources to support these animals. DDW People place high value on all native animals,

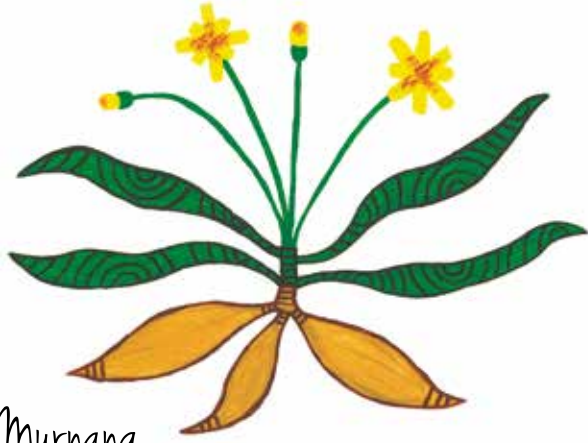


Gani (Digging stick), Murnang (Nam)

and the reintroduction of Gal Gal (*dingo*) and other culturally important animals within the landscape is identified as an action in their *Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan 2014-2034*. The Gal Gal is also valued as an iconic Australian species by the wider community. Native apex predators, such as the Gal Gal, provide an overall benefit to biodiversity and ecosystem function, including through their interactive roles with medium-sized predators, such as foxes and cats. Effective re-introduction of any native animals requires understanding of their habitat requirements, home ranges, interactions with

other animals, how to source viable populations and how to introduce animals. Thorough consideration is needed of how to manage both positive and negative social and economic impacts on surrounding private land in assessing any proposed re-introductions.

Several Actions were identified for the Strategies for Healthy Plants, Healthy Harvesting (Table 15) and Threatened Species Recovery (Table 16).



Murnang



Chocolate lily



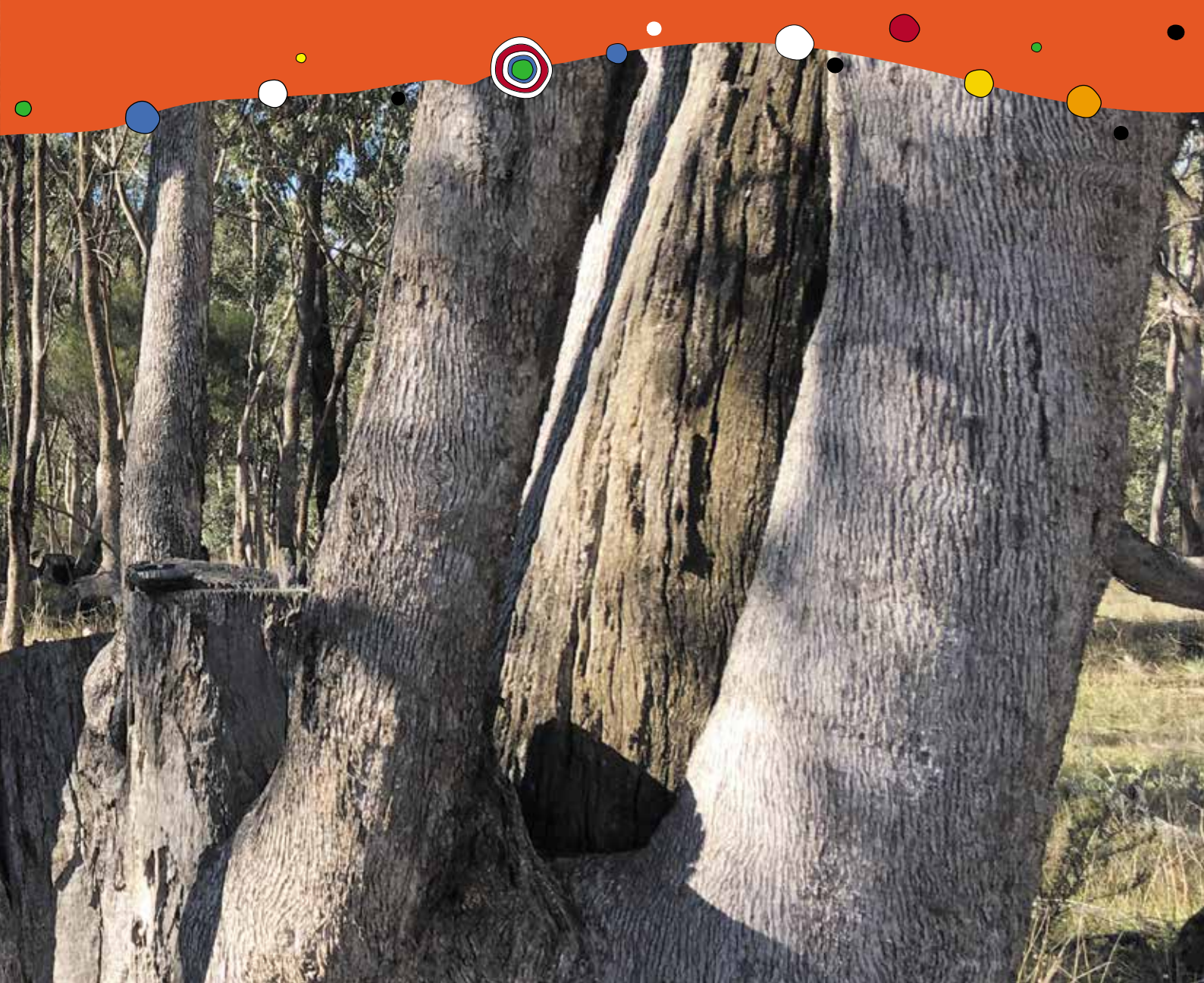
Ngana-nganiti (Bat)



Djutj (Gum)







## 8.1 ENSURE HEALTHY PLANTS, HEALTHY HARVESTING: STRATEGY

Table 15 Ensure Healthy Plants, Healthy Harvesting Strategy: Objective and Actions (Action numbers labelled with PA)

**OBJECTIVE: HEALTHY COUNTRY IN THE PARKS PROVIDES FOR ABUNDANT PLANTS AND ANIMALS, AND SUPPORTS HARVESTING, IN THE RIGHT SEASON, BY DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE OF USEFUL PLANT SPECIES.**

CODE	ACTION	PARKS WHERE IT APPLIES
PA1	Prepare and implement restoration plans for Dja Dja Wurrung People to re-establish their seven priority food and fibre plants across the Parks (e.g. through native plant nurseries, forest gardening, targeted Wi, and other means)	All
PA2	Restore and maintain plants and animals that are useful for DDW People to enable harvesting in the Parks according to the DDW People's knowledge of seasons and indicators of change (see also Action R1 about documenting the DDW Seasonal Calendar) and in accordance with the <i>RSA 2013</i>	All
PA3	Gradually restore native vegetation to the Lalgambuk ( <i>Mt Franklin</i> ) section of Hepburn Regional Park in order to recognise and restore the outstanding cultural significance of this place to DDW People	Hepburn Regional Park
PA4	Reduce the impacts of existing invasive plants and animals in the Parks, guided by DDW People's cultural knowledge, local knowledge, DELWP models of cost-effective actions and taking account of relevant innovations (e.g. conservation detection dogs)	All
PA5	Support strategic invasive animal control and transmission of DDW People's cultural knowledge about hunting by including DDW People in accredited volunteer shooting programs and partnerships with farmers, neighbours, PV and organisations such as the Sporting Shooters Association and others	All
PA6	Support control of overabundant native species, based on scientific assessment and public consultation, in ways that enable transmission of DDW People's knowledge of cultural practices associated with hunting, by ensuring DDW People are engaged in all stages of overabundant native species culling, including identification, harvesting and use, in accordance with the <i>RSA 2013</i>	All
PA7	Manage animals (both invasive and native) through interactions with Wi, based on DDW People's knowledge and scientific knowledge about how fire and animal behaviour change the composition of ecosystems	All
PA8	Investigate, in collaboration with other land managers, stakeholders and researchers, the environmental, cultural, social and economic impacts of reintroducing culturally significant apex predator species such as Gal Gal back into the landscape, with the view to eventually trialling these reintroductions on the DDW Parks as a restoration intervention	All
PA9	Reduce the impacts from new and/or early stage weeds, using the DELWP <i>Weeds at an Early Stage of Invasion</i> approach, including installation of cattle grids and rumble strips at strategic Park entrances to maximise weed-propagule removal from vehicles and increase detectability of new weed incursions	All
PA10	Support DDW People to strengthen, renew and record, under DDW leadership, DDW knowledge of plants, animals and Country	All
PA11	Promote understanding of DDW People's knowledge of managing Country, including through the (modified) Visitor Experience Area plans and interpretation material	All, Table 12

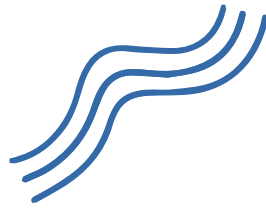
CODE	ACTION	PARKS WHERE IT APPLIES
PA12	Ensure DDW People are able and desire to share their cultural knowledge of plants and animals, with a focus on youth and others	All
PA13	Engage with DDW People, to re-establish Wi on the Parks, and support appropriate training	All
PA14	Engage with the Victorian Government’s climate change frameworks to develop strategies that will enable the DDW Parks to become ‘carbon positive’ through achieving zero emissions from management and other activities and through ongoing carbon sequestration	All
PA15	Work with the wider community to show the multiple benefits, savings and costs of implementation, associated with Wi and ensure ongoing public access to information about Wi	All

## 8.2 SUPPORT THREATENED SPECIES RECOVERY: STRATEGY

Table 16 Support Threatened Species Recovery Strategy: Objective and Actions (Action numbers labelled with PA)

**OBJECTIVE: HEALTHY COUNTRY IN THE PARKS RESTORES AND MAINTAINS HEALTHY POPULATIONS OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS, AND HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS, AND ASSISTS THE RECOVERY OF THREATENED SPECIES.**

CODE	ACTION	WHERE IT APPLIES
PA16	Implement eco-thinning (experimental removal of small trees that are crowding the understorey of the forests and woodlands undergoing recovery). Any eco-thinning should be based on the approaches in trials that demonstrate, including through ongoing monitoring, evaluation and reporting, increased speed of recovery of the woodlands and forests in the Parks. Incorporate DDW People’s cultural values and support cultural knowledge sharing in eco-thinning.	All
PA17	Ensure sufficient nesting resources are available for hollow-dependent animals and protect existing hollows.	All
PA18	Partner with organisations and neighbours for restoration to support a landscape-wide approach to ensuring healthy plants and animals, managing threats (including from vegetation disturbance in areas adjacent to the Parks), and addressing the priority actions to protect threatened species which occur in the Parks—the majority of these actions are located outside the Parks.	All
PA19	Ensure that the zoning schemes for the Parks are implemented and well managed to protect Country, including undisturbed habitat for rare and threatened species.	All, Zones and Overlays Maps GB2a, GB2b, H2, PR2, KK2, KW2, Tables R6 to R11
PA20	Manage roads, tracks and trails to reduce the impacts of erosion, contaminated run-off, land degradation and fragmentation of threatened species habitat.	All
PA21	Encourage better understanding of the plants and animals, and their responses to management of the Parks, through collaborative baseline surveys, targeted research, ongoing monitoring and public reporting—particularly to underpin climate change responses and protection of rare and threatened species.	All
PA22	Implement Action Statements for threatened species and ecological communities under the <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> .	All, Table R26
PA23	Implement National Recovery Plans for threatened species and ecological communities listed under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .	All



## 9. RIVERS AND WATERWAYS: GOAL AND STRATEGIES

### Goal: Healthy rivers and waterways meet the needs of Dja Dja Wurrung People, their Country, and the wider community

For DDW People, the rivers are the veins of their Country, and provide food and medicine, and places to camp, hunt, fish, swim and hold ceremonies. They are places that are central to DDW People's creation stories, and many cultural heritage sites are associated with waterways—burial sites, birthing sites and middens. The Loddon, Campaspe, Avoca and Wimmera Rivers, and other swamps and creeks, are significant parts of DDW Country that link DDW People to their past and will provide for their future. DDW People hold rights and responsibilities under customary law for these waterways, although these are only recognised to a limited extent by government legislation and policy through Victoria's Entitlement Framework (water, rivers and catchments).

Recognition is growing that gatjin needs to be managed to provide ecological flows (sufficient gatjin to meet the ecological requirements of native plants and animals), and cultural flows (sufficient gatjin to support continuing cultural practices such as camping, hunting, holding ceremonies etc.). The Victorian Government has recently appointed the first Aboriginal Water Commissioner, in recognition of the need to increase the voice of Aboriginal people in gatjin and recognise the role of Aboriginal communities in gatjin management.

The Parks sit in the upper catchments of several significant waterways recognised as regional priorities for catchment management, including: the Loddon, Campaspe, Avoca, and Wimmera Basins (Figure R3). Sailors Creek and Jim Crow Creek, both of which flow through Hepburn Regional Park, are also recognised as regional priority waterways (Map H2).<sup>21</sup> The Campaspe River is recognised as a priority waterway by the Victorian Government. The Campaspe has been chosen as one of ten Flagship Waterways across Victoria as a focus for restoration, and delivery of shared cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits.

While no wetlands in the Parks are listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia, Hepburn Springs is recognised as important for its mineral waters. The following wetlands of state significance occur with the DDW region: Lake Buloke

(on a boundary with Barengi Gadjin); Woolshed Swamp; Lake Lyndger; Tang Tang Swamp; Thunder Swamp; Frogmore Swamp; Moolort Plains Wetlands (Long Swamp); Merin Merin Swamp; Middle Swamp; and York Plains Wetlands. The Trentham Falls in the Coliban River Scenic Reserve is a culturally significant wetland to the DDW People. Seepages and the associated wetland communities of Kooyoora State Park are also of cultural and natural significance.

Actions for the Strategy to Enhance the Health of Rivers and Waterways are listed in Table 17.

#### GATJIN IS CRITICAL TO ALL ASPECTS OF DJA DJA WURRUNG LIFE:

*They [Djaara] were known in the earlier days as the Loddon River People or the Loddon Tribe. It was hugely important. People didn't travel too far away from water. As you know, water is a huge lifesaver and life giver. When I worked in cultural heritage protection and stuff, we found out that around seventy percent of cultural sites are found within fifty to one hundred metres of water, people didn't travel or camp too far away from water. If you got to walk twenty miles, it's good to know where there's some water on the way. Also you camp near water. It's a base for your food and stuff, lots of food grows along the banks of the river, lots of the animals would come down to the river to get drinks. It's a life giver, the river, virtually ... people used their bark canoes to go out on the swamps and get duck eggs and things like that. Even on the swamps and the rivers, people used their canoes to get food and stuff. It wasn't really the bark though. We know bark gets water-logged and actually sinks. There's a little layer of wood just under the bark, what protects that heartwood of the tree, and that's what they're after. It's called the cambium, it's a thin layer of wood under the bark. That's what the people were after. Rick Nelson, Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owner.*

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/north\\_central\\_waterway\\_strategy\\_2014-2022.pdf](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/north_central_waterway_strategy_2014-2022.pdf)



## 9.1 ENHANCE THE HEALTH OF RIVERS AND WATERWAYS: STRATEGY

Table 17 Enhance the Health of Rivers and Waterways Strategy: Objective and Actions (Action numbers labelled with W)

**OBJECTIVE: RIVERS AND WATERWAYS IN THE PARKS ARE FLOWING AND HEALTHY, AND SUPPORT THE CULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER PRIORITIES OF DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY.**

CODE	ACTION	PARKS WHERE IT APPLIES
W1	Enable flows and stream condition in the rivers and waterways to return to more natural regimes; support a wider diversity of plants and animals; and support Dja Dja Wurrung cultural values, rights and interests in gatjin, subject to the legal obligations and rights of others, and in accordance with Victoria's Entitlement Framework (water, rivers and catchments)	All
W2	Identify the water-flow, stream-side and in-stream requirements of gatjin-dependent plants and animals in the Parks, and identify and take action to restore these plants and animals (e.g. through native aquatic animal release programs and stream-side revegetation)	All
W3	Contribute relevant information about rivers and waterways in the Parks to the business case for cultural and ecological flows and other gatjin rights based on the identification of specific DDW gatjin interests	All
W4	Collaborate in consultation and research to identify and pilot methods for defining DDW People's values, rights and interests in gatjin	All
W5	Establish a role for DDW Park managers in gatjin planning across the region	All
W6	Support DDW People to gather and pass on their knowledge of the cultural traditions, values and practices associated with gatjin	All
W7	Protect and restore seepages and the associated wetland communities to support plants and animals dependent on these ecosystems	All
W8	Collaborate with partners, including the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA), to ensure protection and restoration of priority waterways within and connected to the Parks.	All



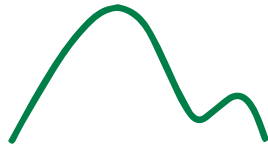


Mayam (Shelter) at La larr Ba Gauwa (Stone Mountain, Mt Alexander)



Upside-down Country at  
Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve





## 10. LANDSCAPE AND OPEN SPACES: GOAL AND STRATEGIES

**Goal: The upside-down Country in the Parks is healthy again, and all lands used in ways consistent with their values and sensitivity**

Dja Dja Wurrung Country presents visually appealing broad vistas of forest with scattered mountains and boulders. DDW stories record how Lalgambuk erupted, scattering large boulders, lava and boort (*smoke*) across the land towards Dharrangowar (*Mt Tarrengower*).

DDW Country extends from the Central Victorian Uplands in the south, descending gradually to the Northern Riverine Plains of the Murray to the north (Figure R4). The top, eroding surface is made of some very old rocks, formed from sedimentary deposits in a deep ocean, which were folded and uplifted introducing gold and quartz into the corrugations. Granite mountains and boulders protrude above the eroded surface, together with the hard ridges of metamorphic rock, such as Dharrangowar. More recent volcanic eruptions produced broad lava flows that formed basalt plains and a variety of landscape features, such as the crater at Lalgambuk. Soils vary with the different underlying rocks, and include some fertile clays and other soils that are salty and some that are highly erodible.

The Parks show a range of these land features, including ancient rocks scattered with gold deposits, granite mountains, volcanoes and lava flows. Big Hill Range (in Greater Bendigo National Park), part of the same hard metamorphic rock formation as Dharrangowar, is listed as a Geological Site of State Significance.

Within all the Parks, and the landscapes generally, are also the disturbed features of upside-down Country, with what used to be under the ground now on top in the form of mullock heaps, and other deposits. The mining era has left a legacy of soil erosion, salinity and toxicity from contaminants such as arsenic and mercury. A significant program of remediation, and new knowledge about the best techniques to apply to achieve recovery, is required to bring this land back to good health.

The Park zones and overlays are necessary to ensure that the uses of the Park occur in the right places, so people are not endangered by upside-down Country. Mining continues in some parts of the Parks, including in the Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve, and under the Greater Bendigo National Park. Mining heritage in the Parks is celebrated, recognised, managed and protected, according to the Cultural Heritage goals and strategies set out in section 7.



## 10.1 HEAL UPSIDE-DOWN COUNTRY: STRATEGY

Table 18 Heal Upside-Down Country Strategy: Objective and Actions (Action numbers labelled with L)

**OBJECTIVE: REMEDIATION PRIORITIES ARE IDENTIFIED AND HEALING OF COUNTRY INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE PRIORITIES.**

CODE	ACTION	PARKS WHERE IT APPLIES
L1	Apply relevant assessment tools to prioritise known upside-down Country sites for healing	All
L2	Undertake a baseline condition assessment of upside-down Country in the Parks	All
L3	Develop a strategy, based on the best available science, other relevant knowledge, ongoing trials, observation and learning, for healing upside-down country in partnership with other land managers including government agencies, and engaging with park users, stakeholders and the public	All
L4	Ensure that the zoning schemes for the Parks are implemented and well managed to ensure compliance, protect Country and the people linked to the Parks	All
L5	Support Dja Dja Wurrung People to be able to, and desire to, share their cultural knowledge of the landscapes with a focus on youth and others	All
L6	Develop a strategy, together with local government authorities and the Environment Protection Authority Victoria, to manage illegal dumping, increase compliance (e.g. through strategic placement of cameras) and educate the wider community about the hazards and options in managing waste	All
L7	Quantify the liability involved in the legacy of rehabilitation works required to remediate the past mines across the Parks (based on the baseline assessment L2), and work with government to investigate the establishment of an appropriate restoration fund for the DDWCAC to undertake and contract the works	All, see also E7





## 11. SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE: GOAL AND STRATEGIES

**Goal: Dja Dja Wurrung People are empowered to manage these Parks in their Country, with the support of the wider community**

For Dja Dja Wurrung People, the Parks are vital in their goal to have an established place in society and be empowered to manage their own affairs. Victorian legislation underpins and supports self-determination: the *Recognition and Settlement Agreement 2013* and the *Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement (TOLMA)* to jointly manage Aboriginal Title lands between the Victorian Government and the DDWCAC. The ongoing ability of DDW People to engage equitably depends on the health and viability of these assets.

DDW People's ongoing capacity for customary decision-making is important to their self-determination. DDW People established the DDWCAC as the entity to represent their interests, and the Registered Aboriginal Party under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. Customary decision-making requires that DDWCAC is properly resourced to bring DDW People together for the discussion, consensus building and understanding that is required for informed consent based on collective decisions.

Victorian government agencies are integral to supporting the empowerment of DDW People in the Parks, including through delivery of their obligations under the *RSA 2013*. These agencies have a wealth of resources including personnel, knowledge, systems, documents and data. Both DDW People and the government agencies recognise that the Traditional Owners are not yet centrally involved in Park management.

A step-wise shift is required towards empowerment of DDW People, including actions to enable a strategy of self-determination (Table 19). Change Management is an important part of ensuring a good transition to the new arrangements required for Joint Management, and can be assisted by existing government strategies such as DELWP's Aboriginal Inclusion Plan Munganin Gadhaba (*Achieve Together*).

### THE WIDER COMMUNITY IS EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE'S SELF-DETERMINATION:

*It is important to me that Aboriginal people get the opportunity to develop a strong culture and strong bond again with Country after many years of being separated from it, or not being allowed a say in the way the Parks are managed. There would be more centuries of wisdom about Country and how to care for it compared to the few centuries of white devastation. I've always appreciated too that Aboriginal people care for Country as a living thing for future generations. Survey Respondent, October 2017.*

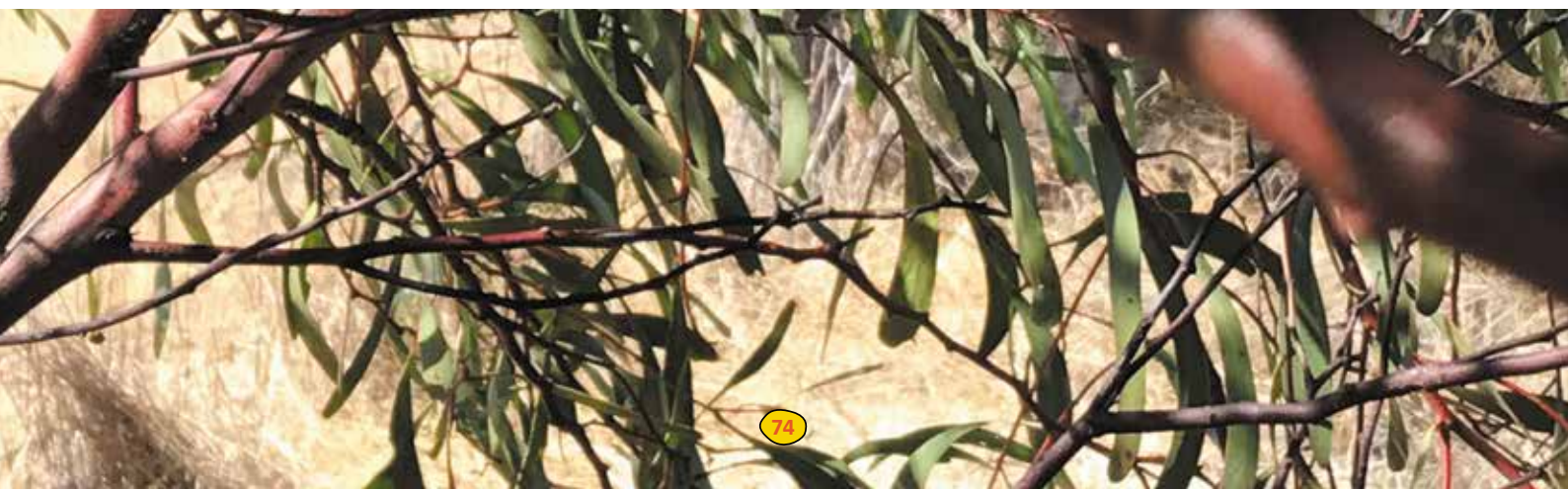


## 11.1 SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE: STRATEGY

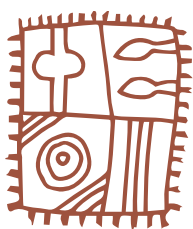
Table 19 Support Self-determination of the Dja Dja Wurrung People Strategy: Objective and Actions (Action numbers labelled with S)

**OBJECTIVE: DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE ARE REPRESENTED BY DDWCAC, AND SUPPORTED BY AGENCIES AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY TO DETERMINE AND IMPLEMENT PRIORITIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PARKS.**

CODE	ACTION	PARKS WHERE IT APPLIES
S1	Explore and develop decision-making and prioritisation processes that enable Dja Dja Wurrung to be supported by DDWCAC to make collective decisions about the Parks	All
S2	Identify how resources of agencies can be applied in ways that support DDW empowerment and leadership of Park management and implement relevant resourcing approaches	All
S3	Negotiate Memoranda of Agreement to encourage partnerships with the broader community that support DDW leadership of Park management	All
S4	Conduct field days, walks and talks between locals and DDW People in the Parks to support mutual exchanges and cross cultural understanding	All
S5	Ensure high-quality interpretation, education and information is available to support understanding of DDW ownership and leadership of Park management	All
S6	Develop and implement a Change Management Plan, based on the Prosci approach, to assist in the shift towards self-determination, empowerment and leadership by DDW People	All







## 12. ENTERPRISES: GOAL AND STRATEGIES

**Goal: The Parks provide a strong and diverse economic base to strengthen Dja Dja Wurrung living culture, and contribute to the health and wellbeing of Dja Dja Wurrung People and the wider community**

The Parks' assets underpin enterprises in tourism, beekeeping, revegetation, fire management, cultural site rehabilitation and other Cultural and Natural Resource Management services. At the time of writing, more than eighty apiary sites are located across the Parks. Prospectors and other users of Parks make significant contributions to the local economies, often staying considerable periods of time, and purchasing a range of goods and services. Other enterprises are involved in managing public infrastructure (e.g. powerlines, pipelines), hosting special events, conducting educational activities and some mining. Through these activities, Parks make an enormous contribution to regional economies.

DDW People have their own business in land management, DDW Enterprises (trading as Djandak), and recognise that they have a relative advantage through their Culture, traditional knowledge of Country, asset base and rights to resources that open up opportunities in all these sectors, for both DDW Enterprises and new or existing Dja Dja Wurrung-owned businesses. DDW Enterprises has been providing services required for park development and maintenance since 2012.

These services include revegetation, fire management, pest control, cultural site rehabilitation and landscaping which are all vital to Park management. DDW business and People's enterprise interests are in three areas:

1. Portfolio Services: Governance, management, development and maintenance of the Parks. While governance and management are likely to be addressed in the Joint Management arrangements established to implement this Plan, they are intrinsically linked to enterprises.
2. Active Enterprises: This includes DDW Enterprises and new businesses created by DDW People that leverage the resources of the Parks—for example tourism, beekeeping, facilities management and others.
3. Passive Income: Royalties or licence fees from commercial activities in the Parks including mineral springs, tourism operators, apiary businesses and others.

Systemic barriers such as weak commercial rights, unclear policy, lack of cultural recognition and over allocation of natural resources create difficulties for DDW People in benefitting from enterprises in the Parks. Implementing actions as part of the Strategy to 'Establish New and Support Existing Dja Dja Wurrung Businesses on and linked to the Parks' (Table 20) will address these issues. The Parks have an existing array of Visitor Facilities that will assist in enterprise development (see Visitor Access and Facilities Maps G1a, G1b, H1, PR1, KK1, KW1 and Figure R5).

### THE HIGH LEVEL OF TOURIST VISITATION PRESENTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR DJA DJA WURRUNG ENTERPRISES:

*It's amazing how many different tourists are in there when we go in for a spa, when we go in for a soak. From all over the country—all over the world. DDW Focus Group, 18 June 2017.*



## 12.1 ESTABLISH NEW AND SUPPORT EXISTING DJA DJA WURRUNG BUSINESSES ON AND LINKED TO THE PARKS: STRATEGY

Table 20 Establish New and Support Existing Dja Dja Wurrung Businesses on and Linked to the Parks Strategy: Objective and Actions (Action numbers labelled with E)

### OBJECTIVE: DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE ARE LEADING ENTERPRISE INITIATIVES IN THE PARKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY AND OTHER LAND MANAGERS.

CODE	ACTION	PARKS WHERE IT APPLIES
E1	Explore and plan options for a gateway facility adjacent to the Parks, owned and led by Dja Dja Wurrung People, with a collaborative approach to design and construction. Together with Hepburn Shire Council, Parks Victoria, current lessees and occupiers, and the community consider how and whether partnerships, lease arrangements and re-development of Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve, and Hepburn Bathhouse and Spa can be such a major information centre for all the DDW Parks.	All
E2	Support ongoing employment by Parks Victoria of the DDW Ranger team conducting natural and cultural resource management activities in Greater Bendigo and DDW Parks.	All
E3	Explore and plan options for DDW Enterprises to expand its Cultural and Natural Resource Management services, building on activities in Greater Bendigo National Park (in a step-wise manner) into: Kooyoorra State Park; Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve; Paddys Ranges State Park; Kara Kara National Park; and Hepburn Regional Park.	All
E4	Establish passive facilities, for example the DDW shelter and potentially a Keeping Place <sup>22</sup> , to support provision of DDW information and interpretation, and support active DDW tourism enterprises in the future.	All
E5	Increase areas under management with a DDW Park Management Team (including, for example, rangers, specialist fire rangers, cultural heritage officers, interpretation experts and other relevant staff) operating in each and every Joint Managed Park.	All
E6	Ensure DDW People have preferential contracting and licensing for works in the Parks and are able to undertake commercial activities in the Parks without licence fees, in accordance with their roles as Traditional Owners and holders of Aboriginal Title to the Parks.	All
E7	Establish new, and support existing, DDW People's businesses to undertake a leading role in mining rehabilitation, based on the quantification of liability and establishment of an appropriate restoration fund for DDWCAC to manage and contract as set out in Action L7.	All
E8	Establish new, and support existing, DDW People's businesses to provide Park-related services.	All

<sup>22</sup> Keeping Places are Aboriginal community managed places for the safekeeping of repatriated cultural material (M&G NSW 2011).



## 13. JOINT MANAGEMENT: GOAL AND STRATEGIES

### Goal: Dja Dja Wurrung People are accountable for all levels of Park management

The DDWCAC (on behalf of the Dja Dja Wurrung People) and the State of Victoria (on behalf of the people of Victoria) have agreed to share responsibility for the Parks. Aboriginal Title to the Parks reflects ownership by DDW People for this land and underpins their aspiration for sole management, with ongoing joint governance provided through the *RSA 2013*.

The *Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement* (between the State and Dja Dja Wurrung People) sets out six principles to guide their Joint Management (Box R2). Actions associated with the Strategy of Joint Management are listed in Table 21. DDW People's long-term goal is for all Crown land on DDW Country to be Aboriginal Title for which they have management responsibility. This long-term goal is based on their customary law and practice.

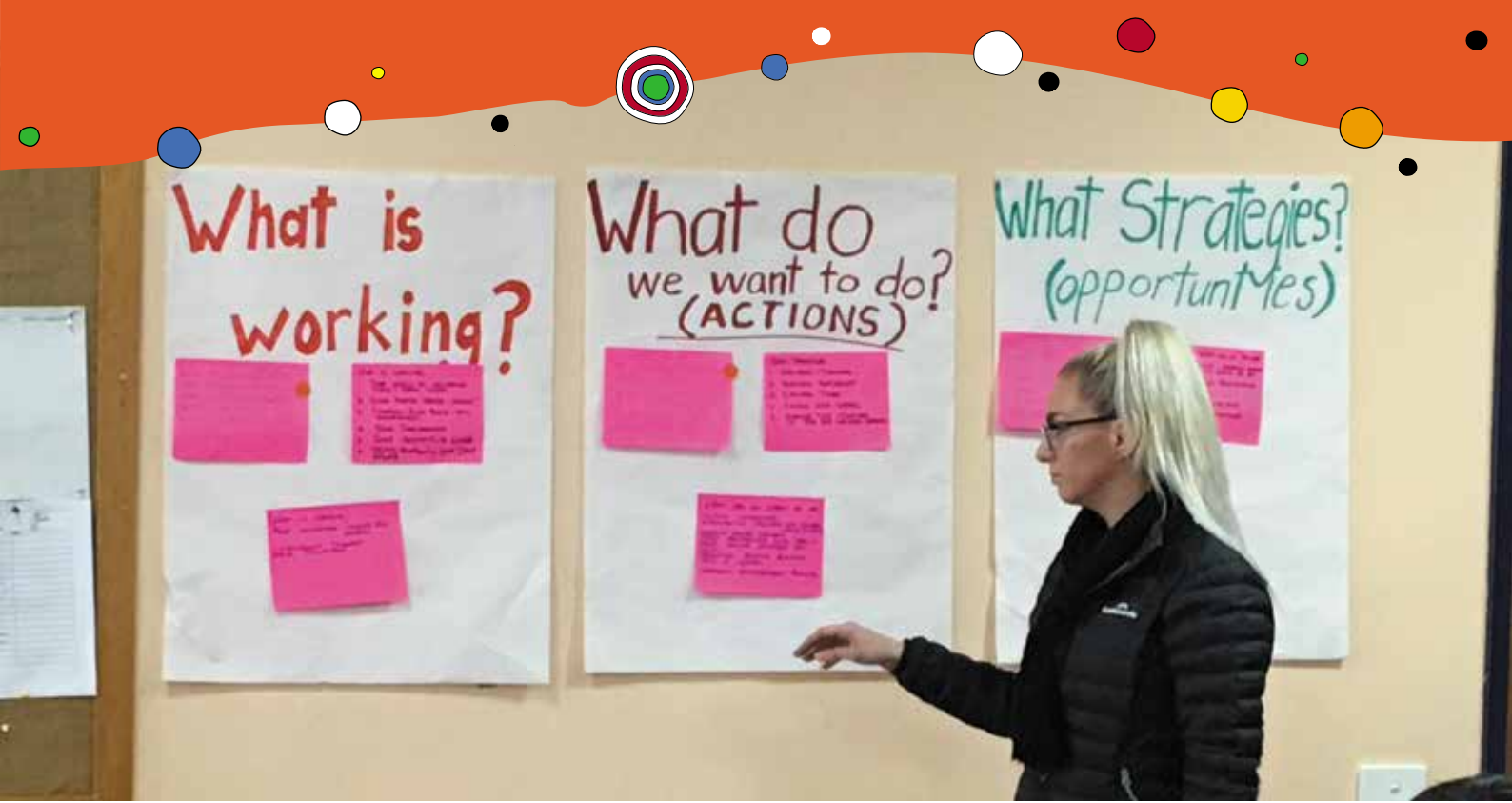
"The rights and responsibilities of the DDW People are inherited through our bloodlines and bestowed upon us as the laws of Bunjil. This inheritance means that, to continue the life cycles, there are responsibilities for Dja Dja Wurrung People to share the stories, conduct the ceremonies, sing the songs, and dance the dances, that instill the integrity for sustainability of all Bunjil's creations to manifest. DDW People have a right and a responsibility to ensure Country is in better

condition for the future generations than how it was returned to us through the *RSA 2013*. DDW People have a right to speak for and make decisions about Country and responsibility to practice our ceremonies and Culture that care for Country. We acknowledge and welcome that all people have a responsibility to care for Country. For DDW People, Joint Management provides the opportunity to bring together our responsibilities for Country, and the wider responsibility of all people, to uphold existing legislation with respect to the DDW Parks."

The DDLMB supports this statement made by DDW Members of the DDLMB on 12 September 2018.

#### DJA DJA WURRUNG ELDERS ARE VITAL TO JOINT MANAGEMENT:

*Under our Recognition [and] Settlement Agreement we've got, between Dja Dja Wurrung and the state government, we have rights as Traditional Owners of this Country. It's important that we all acknowledge that and we work with our Elders, we talk, we yarn, we communicate, that way it better helps. DDW Focus Group, 13 August 2017.*



### 13.1 ESTABLISH EQUITABLE AND EMPOWERING JOINT MANAGEMENT: STRATEGY

Table 21 Establish Equitable and Empowering Joint Management Strategy: Objective and Actions (Action numbers labelled with J)

**OBJECTIVE: DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE TAKE UP ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ALL LEVELS OF JOINT MANAGEMENT.**

CODE	ACTION	PARKS WHERE IT APPLIES
J1	Revise the current <i>Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement (TOLMA)</i> to strengthen the governance and management responsibility of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (the Traditional Owner Group Entity of the Dja Dja Wurrung People) for all DDW Parks.	All
J2	The revised <i>TOLMA</i> establishes the framework for the implementation of the Joint Management Plan (the Plan). Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (the Traditional Owner Group Entity of the Dja Dja Wurrung People) and Joint Management partners, establish a governance framework consistent with the revised <i>TOLMA</i> to enable implementation of the Plan.	All
J3	Develop and implement a strategy with SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound) targets to effectively transition implementation of the Joint Management Plan in the DDW Parks from Parks Victoria to the DDWCAC.	All
J4	Establish, within the first twelve months after the Plan approval, a resource agreement between the State of Victoria and DDWCAC to support the transition strategy in accordance with J3 and provide resources for implementation of this Plan.	All
J5	Develop a capacity and staffing strategy and structure for Joint Management to allow for identification of specific staff requirements (e.g. housing) and ensure any capacity gaps are addressed.	All
J6	Establish training and education pathways for DDW youth and others to support delivery of Joint Management, including opportunities for postgraduate studies and research relevant to Joint Management processes; and opportunities for the broader DDW community to understand government policies and processes that affect Joint Management.	All



## 14. STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Strategic Initiatives were prioritised through the assessment of priority challenges and opportunities at the Healthy Country Planning Workshop held in November 2017 (Sections 3.2, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4). The Actions with the greatest likelihood of increasing the health of our Djuwima Djandaki, and reducing the impact of priority challenges, were identified and clustered into the Strategic Initiatives on the basis of their alignment with the Objectives of the Plan (Part C, Sections 5-13).

Implementation of the Strategic Initiatives forms the basis of achieving the fifteen year Outcomes, the broader goals of Joint Management, and the broader goals of the *RSA 2013*, as illustrated in the Program Logic (Appendix 1). Adequate levels of operational resourcing to support implementation will be essential to achieve the fifteen year Outcomes and longer term goals.

An essential foundation for the Joint Management of the Parks is understanding, documenting and registering the rich cultural heritage in the Parks. Effective implementation of all other management activities relies on this knowledge of cultural heritage being in place. Immediate commencement of the cultural heritage surveys is therefore required.

Actions whose contributions to the achievement of the Objectives were assessed as being of a lower priority will be delivered through the ongoing tasks of the land managers developing and implementing Operational Plans for each Park.



### 14.1 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	MAIN OBJECTIVES (FROM RELEVANT STRATEGIES) TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE WILL CONTRIBUTE	RELEVANT ACTION NUMBERS
<b>Strengthen Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural Practices, Customs and Heritage</b>	Dja Dja Wurrung language, customs and practices are alive and respected on the Parks, keeping connections with Dja Dja Wurrung past, present and future (6.1)  DDW cultural heritage sites in the Parks are identified and their management requirements prioritised and implemented (7.1)	P1, R1, R2, R3, R4, R7, R8, C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, PA10, PA11, PA12, W3, W4, W6, L5
<b>Re-establish Wi</b>	Healthy Country in the Parks provides for abundant plants and animals, and supports harvesting, in the right season, by DDW People of useful plant species (8.1)	PA7, PA13, PA14, PA15
<b>Establish New and Support Existing DDW Businesses on and linked to the Parks</b>	DDW People are leading enterprise initiatives in the Parks in partnership with the wider community and other land managers (12.1)	E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7, E8, L7

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	MAIN OBJECTIVES (FROM RELEVANT STRATEGIES) TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE WILL CONTRIBUTE	RELEVANT ACTION NUMBERS
<b>Support Self-Determination of the DDW People</b>	Dja Dja Wurrung People are represented by DDWCAC, and supported by agencies and the wider community, to determine and implement priorities for the management of the Parks (11.1).	S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, W5
<b>Strengthen Equity, Empowerment and Capacity for Joint Management</b>	DDW People take up accountability for all levels of Joint Management (13.1).	J1, J2, J3, J4, J5, J6, C7
<b>Engage and Raise the Cultural Awareness of the People of the Parks and Surrounding Landscapes</b>	DDW People and the State of Victoria, as Joint Managers, invite and encourage a wide range of stakeholders to strengthen their relationship and engagement with the Parks (5.1).  Cultural landscape values and historic heritage sites in the Parks are protected and promoted (7.2).	P2, P3, P4, P5, R5, R6, R10, R11, R12, R15, R16, R18, R21, PA11, S4, C8
<b>Manage Tracks, Trails and Roads</b>	People enjoy the bush and the Parks through a wide range of recreational activities that are managed for Healthy Country, Healthy People outcomes (6.2).	PA20, R9, R10, R11, R12, R13, R14
<b>Manage Invasive Plants and Animals</b>	Healthy Country in the Parks restores and maintains healthy populations of plants and animals, and healthy ecosystems, and assists the recovery of threatened species (8.2).	PA4, PA5, PA6, PA7, PA8, PA9
<b>Manage Camping</b>	DDW People and the State of Victoria, as Joint Managers, invite and encourage a wide range of stakeholders to strengthen their relationship and engagement with the Parks (5.1).  Healthy Country in the Parks restores and maintains healthy populations of plants and animals, and healthy ecosystems, and assists the recovery of threatened species (8.2).	R17, R18, R19, R20
<b>Undertake and Partner with Restoration Initiatives</b>	Healthy Country in the Parks restores and maintains healthy populations of plants and animals, and healthy ecosystems, and assists the recovery of threatened species (8.2).  Rivers and waterways in the Parks are flowing and healthy, and support the cultural, environmental and other priorities of DDW People and the wider community (9.1).  Remediation priorities are identified and healing of Country initiatives implemented in accordance with these priorities (10.1).	PA1, PA2, PA3, PA16, PA17, PA18, PA19, PA21, PA22, PA23, PA24, L6, L7, W1, W2, W7, W8
<b>Ongoing: Develop and Implement Operational Plans for all Strategies in Each Park</b>	All other Actions whose contributions to the achievement of the Objectives are of a lower priority.	



Wirmal (Dwl)





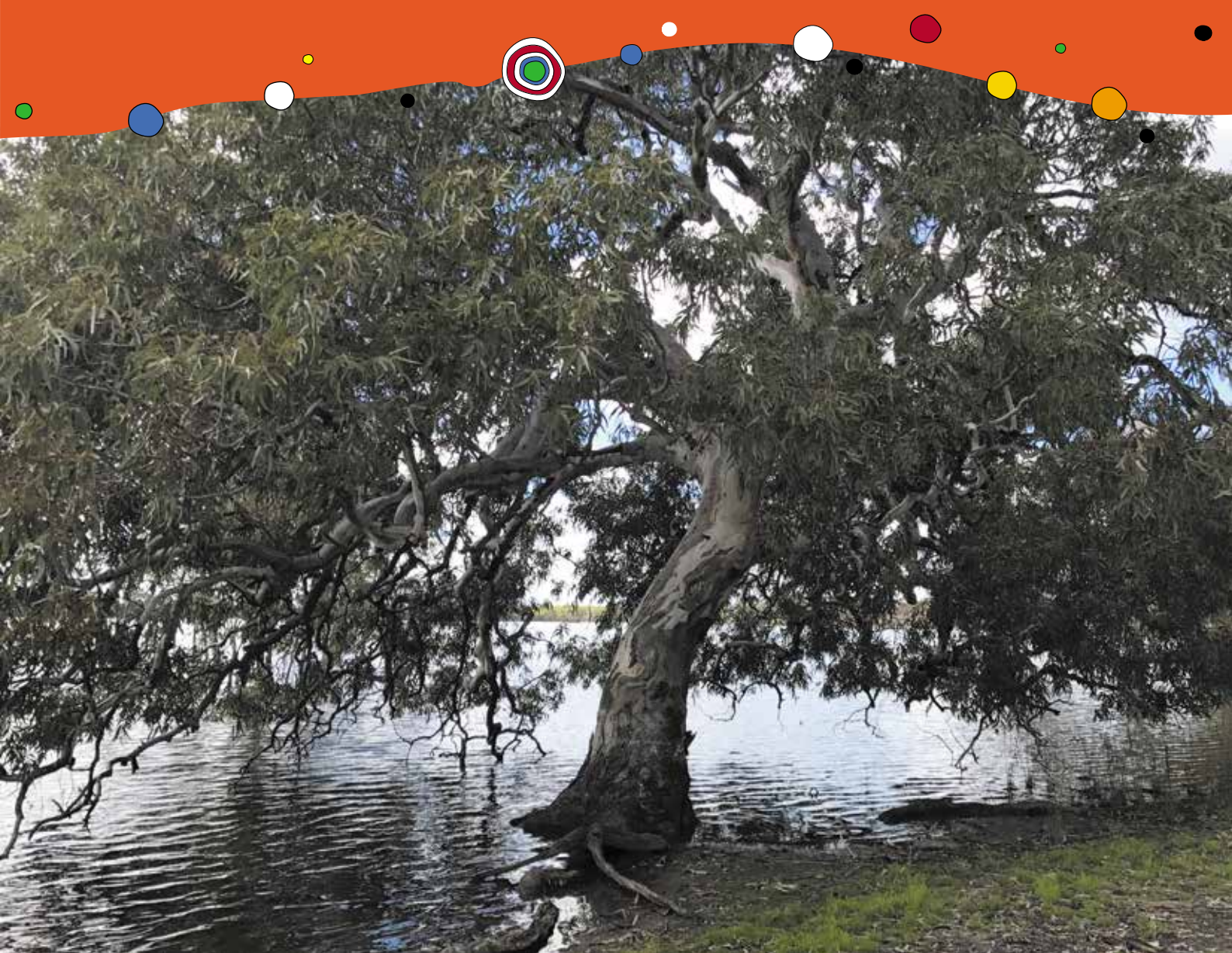






PART D

# OUR MONITORING AND EVALUATION



## 15. MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND IMPROVEMENT (MERI)

This Joint Management Plan will be delivered through an adaptive management approach, a way of implementing management while learning about which management actions are most effective and which ones need to be changed slightly or greatly. Adaptive management requires knowledge of how our Djuwima Djandaki are changing as a result of management actions and cultural practices. Monitoring allows us to detect whether management regimes, cultural practices and interventions are effective or sustainable, and how to adapt them for improved outcomes.

Monitoring, Evaluating, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plans support a “learning by doing” approach to adaptive management. Program Logic (Appendix 1) shows how Our Strategic Initiatives (and the Actions within them) are intended to deliver the fifteen year Outcomes from our Plan. Delivery of these fifteen year Outcomes underpins achievement of the

broader goals of Joint Management, which in turn underpins delivery of the broader goals of the *RSA 2013*.

The MERI approach for the Joint Management Plan is based on measuring key indicators, related to the Actions within each of the Strategic Initiatives. Analysis of the data from measuring these indicators can be brought together with data from surveys and focus groups to help managers understand their progress towards achieving the fifteen year Outcomes. Table R31 provides a full list of indicators relevant to the Actions in the Strategic Initiatives. Further work by the land managers will be needed to develop the longitudinal surveys, and explore citizen science opportunities (e.g. Park users being able to record locations of threats such as invasive plants and animals), focus group and critical reflection methods and tools to support the MERI.



Table 23 Indicators and Analysis for Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement

15 YEAR OUTCOME	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	INDICATORS (EXAMPLES ONLY, SEE R31 FOR OTHERS)	WHO IS INVOLVED	ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
1. DDW People’s health and wellbeing is good, underpinned by strong living culture	Strengthen Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural Practices, Customs and Heritage	e.g. Number of on-Country trips; number of signs and communication products DDW language	DDWCAC staff, DDW Rangers in PV, staff of DDW Enterprises, DDWCAC members	Annual reporting will enable data collection on key indicators such as number and type of events
	Re-establish Wi	e.g. Number and extent of DDW cultural burns		Effectiveness of these events in strengthening living culture will be assessed through interactions (e.g. surveys, focus group, discussions) that allow perceptions to be measured
2. DDW People are empowered, managing their own affairs from a strong economic, cultural, spiritual, environmental and social base	Establish New and Support Existing DDW Businesses on and linked to the Parks	e.g. Number of DDW Enterprises staff engaged on the Parks	DDWCAC, PV and DELWP	Annual reporting will enable data collection on key indicators such as number and type of staff
	Support Self-Determination of the DDW People	e.g. DDW People are satisfied with their collective decision-making		Participant responses to longitudinal surveys will allow empowerment to be measured, aggregated and tracked over time for trends to be identified

15 YEAR OUTCOME	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	INDICATORS (EXAMPLES ONLY, SEE R31 FOR OTHERS)	WHO IS INVOLVED	ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
3a. Equitable power sharing occurs between DDW People and the State of Victoria in sustainable, culturally inclusive Joint Management of the Parks	Strengthen Equity, Empowerment and Capacity for Joint Management	e.g. Effective delegation is in place and DDWCAC are fulfilling their accountabilities	DDWCAC, DELWP, DDW Enterprises, visitors, stakeholders	Annual Reporting will enable data collection on key indicators such as number and type of staff  Critical reflections between the Joint Management partners will enable them to identify challenges and success factors as Joint Management progresses, and address/build on these
		e.g. Number of DDW people employed in PV to work on Parks as Rangers and in other roles		
3b. The Minister, Secretary, DDW People and wider community accept the Plan and commit to its successful implementation	Support Self-Determination of the DDW People	e.g. DDW People are satisfied with their collective decision-making		
	Engage and Raise the Cultural Awareness of the People of the Parks and Surrounding Landscapes	e.g. Number of visitors and their self-reported satisfaction with experiences		
4. The DDW Parks have achieved a net gain in ecological condition and are actively managed to protect multiple community, cultural and environmental values and include DDW laws, culture, rights and responsibilities	Manage Tracks, Trails and Roads	e.g. Number of tracks closed and rehabilitated	PV, DDW Enterprises, stakeholders, visitors, researchers	Annual reporting will enable data collection on key indicators such as number and type of actions to control invasive species  Long term monitoring is critical to establish the actual condition of the Country in the Parks and its changes in response to climate and other drivers
	Manage Invasive Plants and Animals	e.g. Number and extent of cost-effective actions to manage invasive species implemented		
	Manage Camping	e.g. Extent of compliance of campers with regulations		
	Undertake and Partner with Restoration Initiatives	e.g. Extent of plant harvesting according to the DDW People's knowledge of seasons and indicators of change		
	Develop and Implement Operational Plans for all Strategies in Each Park			

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Appendix 1 Plan Program Logic



