



Fw: Protesting DEAC's Central West Investigation

Philip jakubik

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Good afternoon Minister D'Ambrosio,

I am protesting VEAC's recommendations to create new

National Parks in Victoria which will prohibit gold prospecting in approximately 13,500 hectares of goldfields around the areas of Mount Cole, Avoca, Navarre, Beaufort, Wellsford, Lancefield, Wombat forest and Bacchus Marsh.

Dja Dja Wurrung people have used the bush for their own traditions for countless years; since the 1850s, generations of people have visited the same bush to explore the ground for gold. Whether individually, or with families, with mates and clubs, thousands have wandered through the wonderful Victorian bush to search for gold. While we respect the original users of the country, prospectors too demand respect by allowing us to enjoy the bush to pursue our own interests to create and extend our own traditions and cultures.

My prospecting hobby offers therapeutic benefits to the stresses of work. I inject a lot of money into many Victorian townships' economies, including Maryborough, Beaufort, Dunolly, Heathcote, Castlemaine, Inglewood, Talbot, Wedderburn, Newstead and elsewhere.

I write this submission as a proud prospector and owner of a Miners Right issued by the Victorian Government. My prospecting is conducted in a respectful way in line with the PMAV's Code of Conduct and does not affect the rights of any other park users.

I strongly object to the substantial loss of another 13,500 hectares of Public land for my prospecting; especially when there is no scientific evidence to support exclusion. I am livid at the Government's plans to exclude my interest in accessing the world class goldfields in my own beautiful [State, Victoria](#).

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

Might renaming some Parks with traditional Dja Dja Wurrung names be a better compromise?

I fully support the Dja Dja Wurrung people continuing to enjoy their rights as traditional custodians of the bush, as long as they also respect mine. The current Draft Management Plan does not do this. Please do not prevent further restrictions to our good and honest hobby and life pursuits.

Sincerely,
[Philip Jakubik](#)

11th August 2018