

# Media Release

**The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
Minister for Suburban Development



**DELIVERING  
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Monday, 15 October, 2018

## NEW PLAN TO GUIDE MANAGEMENT OF VICTORIAN PARKS

The Andrews Labor Government is working with Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners to jointly manage six parks in Loddon Mallee, under Victoria's second Joint Management Plan.

Minister for Environment Lily D'Ambrosio joined the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board to launch the Dja Dja Wurrung Joint Management Plan (JMP), preserving Traditional Owners' strong connection to lands and waterways.

The plan involves Dja Dja Wurrung peoples working in partnership with the Labor Government to manage six parks under Aboriginal title in Loddon Mallee. The partnership will deliver future opportunities for knowledge sharing, employment and education, and improve park visitor experiences.

The parks included in the plan are:

- Greater Bendigo National Park
- Hepburn Regional Park
- Kara Kara National Park
- Kooyoora State Park
- Paddys Ranges State Park
- Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve.

The JMP is the result of significant work by Traditional Owners and the Labor Government. To view the JMP visit: [dhelkunyadja.org.au/](http://dhelkunyadja.org.au/)

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

*"This plan recognises the importance of Traditional Owners in helping to manage the future of these parks."*

*"We're protecting these landscapes for future generations, while creating local opportunities for jobs, education and training."*

### Quotes attributable to Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board Chair Graham Atkinson

*"Today's launch breaks new ground for settling the unfinished business that has stood between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of this country for nearly 160 years."*

*"The future of these six Dja Dja Wurrung Parks looks very promising through their Joint Management by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the Victorian Government."*

### Quote attributable to Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation Chair Trent Nelson

*"Joint management will help establish trust between Djaara and the State, and the inclusion of culturally appropriate management will provide a more worthwhile and captivating visitor experience and increase the value of these parks."*

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