

Dja Dja Wurrung on Country Rights

Introduction and Overview

I am both delighted and proud to introduce the Authorisation Orders for our specific rights as Dja Dja Wurrung people, recognised in the Recognition and Settlement Agreement. This will enable our members who so choose to exercise their Traditional Owner Rights, outlined below, in our Country.

A Dja Dja Wurrung person is a person who is descended through either parent from Apical Ancestors who were associated with Dja Dja Wurrung country by birth, place of burial, and/or other connection with Dja Dja Wurrung country. Descent maybe via adoption (being raised up by a Dja Dja Wurrung parent), which shall be determined by considering factors such as:

- is the adopted person Aboriginal?
- was that person brought up by the adoptive Dja Dja Wurrung family since birth?
- was the adopted person brought up on Dja Dja Wurrung country?
- does that adopted person know his or her traditional country?

Our Recognition and Settlement Agreement, signed on 28 March 2013, secured significant resources and opportunities for our community. These achievements are building blocks which directly affect the way we are able to practice our culture and strengthen our community. To help us understand who in the community is activating these rights, we have introduced a Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owner verification card, that is available to members of the full Native Title claim group, that you can apply for through the Corporation.

Graham Atkinson – Chair, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation

www.delwp.vic.gov.au

Traditional Owner Rights

As part of the *Dja Dja Wurrung Recognition and Settlement Agreement (2013)* the state of Victoria recognised specific rights on Country for Dja Dja Wurrung people. These are put into law through five Authorisation Orders that broadly, they cover:

- **Hunting**, (certain protected animals as well as game and pests)
- Taking, protected **flora** (plants) and **fauna** (fish – other animals are covered by the hunting order)
- Collecting **forest produce** (fallen timber, specific kinds of plants and also ochre, etc.)
- **Camping** (in certain areas)
- Taking and using **water** (from natural sources to which you have access)

Refer to the last page for links to a Map of the Settlement Area.

It's important to understand the detail of what these rights include. This page is an introduction, with further explanation of each of the Traditional Owner rights in additional information sheets.

Most of these rights allow things to be done only for “**traditional purposes.**” The Authorisation Orders use the term “traditional purposes” to mean purposes of providing for **your own needs, your family's, or the (non-commercial) communal needs** of a group of Dja Dja Wurrung people.

There are some things that you can also do for “**commercial purposes.**” For example, turning plants or parts of plants into items for sale is included in the Agreement. The information sheet on Plants and Forest Produce explains what can be used for commercial purposes.

Many of the things you hunt, or collect, need to be **reported** to the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal

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Corporation (once per month). This is important to help the Corporation and the government protect each species for future generations.

Who has these rights?

Dja Dja Wurrung people who have applied for and received a **Dja Dja Wurrung verification card** can exercise these rights. That helps us protect your Country.

If you're doing something under these rights that ordinary members of the public can't do, then staff from the relevant government agencies (such as Parks Victoria Rangers or Fisheries Officers) might ask you about it. Just show them your verification card and explain that you're exercising your Traditional Owner rights.

Verification cards are available to Dja Dja Wurrung members, who are part of the full Native Title claim group, and who can show the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation that they have read and understood these explanatory materials. Contact us for further information or to apply for your verification card.

Where can I exercise my rights?

These rights apply only on public land covered by the Recognition and Settlement Agreement. Your **rights apply differently in different public land areas** so you will need to know what type of public land you are in – Eg you can hunt in a State Forest but you can't hunt in a Nature Reserve.

The public lands within the agreed boundaries of Dja Dja Wurrung Country include:

- National Parks: Greater Bendigo National Park, Kara Kara National Park, Terrick Terrick National Park (only the sections inside Dja Dja Wurrung Country)
- State Parks: Kooyoora State Park, Paddys Ranges State Park

- Regional Parks: Bendigo Regional Park, Creswick Regional Park, Hepburn Regional Park, Maryborough Regional Park, Mount Alexander Regional Park, St Arnaud Regional Park
- Heritage Parks: Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park
- State Forests
- Reserves
- Unreserved crown land

Refer to the last page for links to a Map of the Settlement Area.

Private land is not included in the Agreement.

Also, **some rights apply differently in different public areas** – for example, you can hunt in a state forest but you still can't hunt in a wildlife sanctuary (except for pests). These restrictions are explained in the information pages below.

Do other rules and regulations still apply?

Yes. The Authorisation Orders give you rights to do certain things without needing the particular licence or permit that other people would need. However, you still need to follow other laws and rules that apply to everyone in the community – such as firearms regulations, emergency provisions, fire safety rules, and so on – when exercising your Traditional Owner rights. Some of these related rules are mentioned where relevant in each of the infosheets.

Information sheets on specific rights area as follows:

- Camping
- Hunting and Fishing
- Plants and Forest Products
- Water

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Web links and more information

Dja Dja Wurrung Recognition and Settlement Agreement (2013)

<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/your+rights/native+title/dja+dja+wurrung+settlement+commences>

Authorisation Orders

<http://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2014/GG2014S354.pdf>

Map of Settlement Area

<http://www.djadjawurrung.com.au/maps>

Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation Contact Details

<http://www.djadjawurrung.com.au/contact-us>
5444 2888

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