

PLANNING FOR A JOINT MANAGEMENT FUTURE

PEOPLE, CULTURE, COUNTRY, WORKING TOGETHER.



An introduction to the Gunaikurnai & Victorian Government joint management partnership



Planning is underway to develop the first Joint Management Plan between Gippsland's Gunaikurnai people and the Victorian Government.

If you have an interest in Gippsland's joint management land or Gunaikurnai culture, we want to hear from you.



ABOUT JOINT MANAGEMENT

Joint management involves the Traditional Owners working together in equal partnership with the Victorian Government to manage the natural and cultural values of parks and reserves under Aboriginal title.

THE GOALS OF JOINT MANAGEMENT

Joint management aims to bring together the combined skills, expertise and cultural knowledge of the Gunaikurnai people and the Victorian Government for managing the ten Gippsland parks and reserves under Aboriginal title in a way that respects and values the culture and traditions of the Traditional Owners.

This is expected to lead to:

- Gunaikurnai people having a real influence on how the land is managed
- employment creation, education and training opportunities
- park users and visitors continuing to be able to enjoy both traditional and new activities that connect them with nature and Gunaikurnai culture

THE JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Joint Management Plan will help guide the way the Gunaikurnai people work together with the Victorian Government to achieve the agreed joint management goals, over an initial five-year period.

It will be made up of two parts. The first will be a strategic plan, describing Gunaikurnai joint management aspirations and goals agreed to by the partners to enable the knowledge and culture of the Gunaikurnai to be recognised in the management of the jointly managed land. The second part will include a series of individual management plans for each park or reserve.

The draft plan has been developed over the last three years developed by the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board—which has a majority of Traditional Owner representatives and some State representatives—based on consultation with the Gunaikurnai community and other groups, businesses and individuals.

WHAT CHANGES ARE BEING PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN?

In many cases, community use of and access to the parks will not change. However, the plan will explore opportunities and ideas that better reflect the aspirations of the Gunaikurnai communities, particularly in relation to healing and caring for country. Ideas being explored as part of this process include increased cultural access, site naming, cultural story interpretation and cultural tourism opportunities.

GIPPSLAND'S JOINTLY MANAGED LAND



Gippsland's jointly managed land includes the following ten parks and reserves:

- Buchan Caves Reserve
- Corringale Foreshore Reserve
- Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park
- Gippsland Lakes Reserve at Raymond Island
- Lake Tyers State Park
- The Lakes National Park
- Mitchell River National Park
- New Guinea Cave within the Snowy River National Park
- Tarra Bulga National Park
- The Knob Reserve (Stratford)

GIPPSLAND'S GUNAIKURNAI PEOPLE

There are about 3,000 Gunaikurnai people, who come from five major clans.

The Gunaikurnai people are recognised by the Federal Court and the State of Victoria as the Traditional Owners of a large area of Gippsland spanning from Warragul in the west to the Snowy River in the east, and from the Great Divide in the north to the coast in the south.

THE JOINT MANAGEMENT PARTNERS

The Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board (GKTOLMB) is working in close partnership with the following groups and organisations to develop the draft Joint Management Plan:

- Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- The Knob Reserve Committee of Management
- Parks Victoria

The main role of the GKTOLMB is to set and guide the strategic direction for joint management of the appointed land by working closely with the Gunaikurnai people and joint management partners, and consulting with groups and individuals who express an interest.

GLaWAC and the GKTOLMB are separate entities, but are working together along with Parks Victoria and DELWP on the development of the plan. It is important to note that GLaWAC nominated and supports the Gunaikurnai majority representation on the GKTOLMB.

TIMELINES

We're working on a draft version of the Joint Management Plan, which will be released to the whole community for review later in 2017.

We will be inviting anyone with an interest to come along and learn more about the plan at a series of community meetings, and to share their thoughts on how the draft can be further refined.

Once we've worked through everyone's feedback, we'll be presenting a final version of the plan to the Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change for approval and we expect the plan to be finalised by early to mid-2018.

Visit our website or social media pages for regular updates or keep an eye out in your local newspapers for details when the plan is released.



GET INVOLVED

Stay up to date with the development of the Joint Management Plan in any of the following ways.

We'll keep you in the loop with progress and let you know when the draft plan is released, ask you for your feedback and invite you along to official public events along the way.



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Visit our website at www.gunaikurnai.com.au



Email us at info@gunaikurnai.com.au



Call us on 03 5150 3573



Write to us at PO Box 1012 Bairnsdale 3875



CONTACT

Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board
574 Main Street (PO Box 1012) Bairnsdale 3875

☎ 03 5150 3573

✉ info@gunaikurnai.com.au

🌐 www.gunaikurnai.com.au

