



Expression of Interest

Board Member of the Dhelkunya Dja (Healing Country) Land Management Board

Background

Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, trading as DJAARA, is seeking applications from Djaara for a position on the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board. The Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board is the board that is overseeing the implementation of the Joint Management Plan for the national parks and reserves that were granted to DJAARA as Aboriginal Title as part of the settlement with the State of Victoria.

The Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board provides an opportunity for Dja Dja Wurrung to work with Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in jointly managing and caring for our traditional lands.

The Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board was established on 17 July 2014 under the *Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement* between the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the State of Victoria.

As a public entity established under the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987 (Vic)*, the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board reports to government through the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

For the term commencing on 1 January 2020, the Minister approved the appointment of a revised Board membership to include five Traditional Owner directors, one DELWP director and one Parks Victoria director.

As a board member, you will:

1. have a commitment to working closely with government bodies and incorporating Dja Dja Wurrung culture and traditional knowledge into land management; and
2. demonstrate a strong capacity for teamwork and consensus decision making.

Role of the Board

The role of the Board is to enable Dja Dja Wurrung knowledge and culture to be recognised and incorporated into the management of the Appointed Lands, through the carrying out by the Board of its functions, powers and duties as set out in the Establishment Determination.

In this term of appointment, the Board will have a strengthened role in the Joint Management Plan implementation, including:

- ensure joint management partners can meet as equals for operational decision-making and oversight;
- active participation, as an equal partner in annual operational planning;
- ongoing partner engagement regarding delivery on Dja Dja Wurrung Country; and
- monitoring and evaluation of the Joint Management Plan



The Appointed Lands of the Board, approximately 47,523 hectares, comprise five parks and one reserve:

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

Key Responsibilities of Board Members

The Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board meets regularly, in person and online. Most meetings are held in Bendigo and site visits may also be involved. Overnight travel may be required at times.

Attendance at no less than 75% of meetings is required under the *Public Administration Act 2004*. Pre-meeting preparation and out-of-session decision making is also required.

Members are expected to actively contribute to decisions of the Board.

Members are required to undertake any pre-reading requested by the Chair of the Board or the Executive Officer and to consider the broader context of agenda items.

Sub-committees of the Board may be formed, focusing on specialised topics. Membership of these sub-committees is determined by the Board and may require an additional time commitment.

Board Member duties

In performing their role, Board members must conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with:

- common law directors' duties;
- the public sector values of responsiveness, integrity, impartiality, accountability, respect, leadership, and human rights (as set out by section 7 of the Public Administration Act 2004);
- the duties of directors as set out under section 79 of the Public Administration Act 2004; and
- the Director's Code of Conduct, which requires Board members of all public entities to:
 - Act with honesty and integrity
 - Act in good faith in the best interests of the public entity
 - Act fairly and impartially
 - Use information appropriately
 - Use your position appropriately
 - Act in a financially responsible manner
 - Exercise due care, diligence, and skill
 - Comply with the establishing legislation
 - Demonstrate leadership and stewardship

Personal qualities

It is expected that board members will possess abilities beyond their technical skills, including exercising good judgment, resolving problems creatively, and communicating constructively on complex and contentious issues.

Board members are expected to work together as a team, contributing their own views and then supporting the final decisions of the board.

Board members will demonstrate integrity at all times. They must avoid actual and perceived conflicts of interest in the completion of their duties and comply with disclosure requirements under legislation.

Board members must treat board matters as confidential.



Appointment

A Selection Panel will be responsible for short-listing applicants, conducting interviews, and deciding who to recommend to the DJAARA Board as their nominees.

Short-listed applicants will be contacted by phone and requested to submit additional information to complete a probity check, including a National Police Check.

The DJAARA Board will then consider the Dja Dja Wurrung nominees to recommend to the Minister. DJAARA nominees are appointed by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, currently The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP.

Term of appointment

A member of the Board holds office for a term not exceeding three years. The current term for members of the Board expires on 1 January 2023.

No restrictions exist on re-appointment.

Key Selection Criteria

If you wish to submit an application for a position on the Board, you will need to demonstrate how you meet the following key selection criteria:

1. An understanding of Dja Dja Wurrung culture and community aspirations
2. A commitment to building strong relationships and the principles of reconciliation
3. An understanding of the role, duties, and governance obligations of members of statutory boards
4. The ability to work towards consensus decision making
5. A demonstrated interest in and commitment to the sound management of Victoria's parks and reserves
6. A demonstrated passion for the preservation and promotion of Dja Dja Wurrung culture, history, and land
7. Demonstrated qualifications, skills, or experience in one or more of the following disciplines:
 - knowledge and experience in natural resource management, including parks and protected areas planning and legislation
 - specific knowledge of one or more of the ecosystems present in the Appointed Lands
 - capacity building in areas such as governance and community development
 - communication and public relations, including community engagement and consultation
 - strategic or management planning
 - experience in serving on a committee or board
 - financial management

How to apply

Please email your full Curriculum Vitae (Resume) together with a written statement showing how you meet the key selection criteria to:

Cassandra Lewis, General Manager at corporation@djadjawurrung.com.au

Alternatively, you can post your application (marked 'private and confidential') to:

Cassandra Lewis, General Manager
DJAARA
PO Box 1026
Bendigo VIC 3552

Applications must be received by 5pm 27 August 2021