

# Kooyoora State Park Visitor Site Upgrades

## Concept design



### A Cultural design

As part of the Joint Management Plan, Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners are investing in Kooyoora State Park. A recently developed concept design layouts the upgrades that are to take place at the three visitor hubs across the Melville Cave precinct. This includes the bottom picnic area, upper camping area, and main lookout and carparking area. Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, who are now trading as DJAARA, are planning and delivering of the project in partnership with Parks Victoria.

A landscape sensitive approach has been taken with the picnic area upgrades to incorporate the natural landscape and existing Catto lodge shelter into the design. The natural spring to the north of the site will be reactivated, flowing through a series of seasonal ponds designed to grow culturally important food and fibre plants. The picnic area will also see the addition of a new ceremonial welcome fire pit, picnic tables, cooking fire pits, and a new toilet block and additional gathering shelter. A nature exploration area has also been added to encourage nature play. At the back of the picnic area a group walk-in camping area will also be reinstated, catering for school groups and Dja Dja Wurrung cultural gatherings.

The upgraded campground will provide better defined campsites, improved traffic organisation, a dedicated tent-based camping area, new fire pits, picnic tables, and refurbished toilet amenities. The site will also see the addition of a new picnic and trail head shelter.

The lookout carpark will be re-landscaped to offer better parking and traffic management solutions. The site will see the addition of a new interpretation and picnic shelter, from where

a series of upgraded walking tracks will guide visitors through to the various lookouts. Each lookout will be refreshed through an infrastructure upgrade. This will also include the addition of staged seating to the natural amphitheatre located next to the main lookout. Walking track upgrades between the picnic area, main lookout area and adjoining trail network will take place in stage 2 of the project.

Through using a human centered design approach, the concept design upgrades will deliver a much needed site refresh, improving areas for local gatherings, tourism and traditional cultural practices, whilst also encouraging learning and exploration. A Dja Dja Wurrung cultural advisory group called a Wartaka has led the cultural design for the upgrades ensuring visitors have a unique Dja Dja Wurrung cultural experience when visiting.

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## Timeline



### Strategic Vision

Approved during Water and Kangaroo time  
(July – August) 2021



### Concept Design

Approved during Perch and Cod time  
(November – December) 2021



### Detailed Design

Commencing during Emu and Lightning  
time (December - March) 2021



### Construction

Commencing during Yam daisy and black duck time  
(April) 2022



### Opening ceremony

Late 2022



The concept design, with site layout as well as previous fact sheets can be found under the fact sheets tab at <https://djadjawurrung.com.au/resources/>.

Throughout the design process DJAARA will be seeking community feedback and providing updates.

For more information, please contact:

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