



Victoria's Great Outdoors Program Larni Yirrip

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Victoria's Great Outdoors Program?

As part of the Victorian Budget 2019/20, \$105.6 million has been allocated to a new Victoria's Great Outdoors Program to build new campgrounds, upgrade facilities and tracks, and reduce camping fees. Of this total, \$44.6 million is being invested to build over 30 new campgrounds across the state and to upgrade 30 others. Two million dollars has been allocated towards the development of camping infrastructure in the parks around Bendigo.

2. What is happening in Bendigo as part of the VGO program?

A new campground and camping experience is being created within the Bendigo Regional Park, adjacent to No. 7 Park in Kangaroo Flat. This development is set to provide improved outdoor recreation and camping facilities whilst also providing a culturally immersive experience on Dja Dja Wurrung country.

3. What is Larni Yirrip?

Larni Yirrip is the new name for the campground that is currently in development as part of the VGO program for Bendigo. Larni Yirrip means 'Home of the Ironbarks' in Dja Dja Wurrung language. Red Ironbarks are the dominant native tree species that are found at the campground.

4. Why was this site chosen?

The site adjacent to No.7 Park was chosen through a selection process involving DJAARA, Parks Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, City of Greater Bendigo, Coliban Water and North Central Catchment Management Authority.

- The site adjoins the City of Greater Bendigo No. 7 Park. City of Greater Bendigo supports this site as the preferred option and sees the value of having camping adjacent to Crusoe Reservoir and No. 7 Park, returning a Dja Dja Wurrung presence in the landscape and enhancing the overall recreational offer at this site.
- There are great connections to existing trails, including the Bendigo Bushland Trail and Bendigo Creek Trail, making it a destination of choice for those interested in exploring these trails.
- The site has a combination of European heritage features and complementary heritage interpretation on the Coliban Channel. The campsite will encourage people to visit and learn about the rich history of this region.

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DJA DJA WURRUNG CLANS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION TRADING AS DJAARA

Located at 13-15 Forest Street, Bendigo Vic 3550

ICN: 4421



- With its expansive canopies and good quality vegetation, this site provides a natural camp setting to be enjoyed by the public.
- This beautiful landscape with a thriving understory provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Dja Dja Wurrung culture in a healthy and thriving Box-Ironbark landscape.
- Situated beside the Calder Highway, this site has easy access for visitors, and many great services nearby.
- With no existing Parks Victoria camping opportunities in the Southern part of Bendigo, this camp site will fill a gap in recreational facilities.
- The site has good proximity to the Big Hill Lookout.

5. Why is DJAARA managing the project?

DJAARA works closely with Parks Victoria and DEECA managing and delivering projects on Crown land where Dja Dja Wurrung People are recognised as the Traditional Owners. The Greater Bendigo National Park is one of six jointly managed parks in Central Victoria.

Through managing the project, DJAARA aims to:

- develop a project that showcases Dja Dja Wurrung presence in the landscape in a contemporary way
- base the campground around Dja Dja Wurrung values and design
- put people back into the landscape and create new Dja Dja Wurrung places for the community to share
- allow visitors to immerse themselves in Dja Dja Wurrung culture and engage in cultural and environmental experiences that are uniquely 'Dja Dja Wurrung' in nature.

6. How were stakeholders and community consulted?

We ran an extensive engagement process with residents and community groups during the planning process. A focus through this engagement was ensuring everyone had the chance to be involved and have their say. A Dja Dja Wurrung Wartaka or knowledge group has been engaged to ensure the site has the correct cultural identity and that the campground's design and infrastructure are uniquely 'Dja Dja Wurrung' in nature.

7. How will natural values be maintained or improved?

As part of the planning process, environmental and cultural assessments have been undertaken. The project plan had an aim to have a minimal environmental impact, utilising previously disturbed areas.

The project aims to create Immersive shared spaces that allow cultural and natural values to be explored, valued and respected.

8. When will the campground be available to use?

We look forward to welcoming people to this campground once the project is complete in mid-2024.

9. What type of camping and facilities will be available at the campground?

Twelve low-impact, tent-based campsites will be situated around a centralised space with a shelter, site information, toilet amenities, shared fire pit and welcome ceremonial fire. A buffer zone between neighbouring properties and the campground, will add an extra level of privacy for campers and local residents.

The concept design, which features site layouts and concept images, can be found under the resources tab at <https://djadjawurrung.com.au/resources>.



10. How will the site be managed once it is open to visitors?

Once the campground is opened in mid-2024, Parks Victoria rangers will be regularly patrolling, maintaining, and managing day-to-day operations. We anticipate campsite bookings will be managed through Parks Victoria's online booking system. It is also expected that after-hours access to No. 7 Park and the campground will continue to be managed with a new electronic boom gate system.

11. How are potential bushfire risks being managed?

We have thoroughly examined various campfire management options. This includes the implementation of set asides, which will restrict campfires to designated contained fire pits. This measure ensures that campfires are only lit in areas with sufficient clearance around them. An accredited bushfire management consultant has conducted a comprehensive bushfire risk assessment. This assessment has yielded a list of recommendations, all of which we have incorporated into the project's design to ensure a best-practice approach in mitigating any potential risks.

To ensure the safety of all visitors, Fire Forest Management Victoria's campfire regulations will be enforced. These regulations require individuals to constantly attend to their campfire, maintain a minimum of 10 litres of water on hand for extinguishing the fire, and prohibit campfires on total fire ban days. Furthermore, the campground will be closed on extreme fire danger days. Once the campsite is operational, authorised officers will be diligently enforcing the campfire regulations.

12. Who should I contact to find out more about the project?

DJAARA – Mike Hayes E: mike.hayes@djadjawurrung.com.au

Key Points

Through the Victorian Great outdoors package, the Victorian State Government has committed to the development and improvement of recreational experiences in the Greater Bendigo area. As a result, a new campground is being planned for Bendigo. DJAARA is managing the project.

This new Dja Dja Wurrung-inspired camping and cultural experience will feature contemporary structures that speak to traditional values. We hope it will become a destination of choice for those seeking to experience and learn about the history of this land.

- We've engaged with residents and community groups throughout the planning process, ensuring that everyone has the chance to be involved and heard during this process.
- The new campground is on a site located in the bushland adjacent to the City of Greater Bendigo's No.7 Park. This site provides easy access to services and transport options, has nearby trails, is close to Crusoe Reservoir, has quality vegetation within a beautiful landscape and provides a natural camp setting, readily accessible to all users.
- We look forward to welcoming new visitors to the site once the project is complete in mid-2024.
- You can find out more information by visiting <https://djadjawurrung.com.au/resources>. Larni Yirrip project updates, factsheets and the concept design can be found under the relevant resource tabs.