



Monday 13 November

AGENCIES ON BOARD WITH DJA DJA WURRUNG WATER VISION

Dja Dja Wurrung Elders joined Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, its enterprise DJANDAK, and water industry partners at the Platypus Compass in Axedale today for a streamside ceremony to officially launch the Djaara **Gatjin** (Water) Strategy.

The Strategy is called **Dhelkunyangu Gatjin**, which means ‘Working together to heal water’.

DJANDAK is partnering with all water agencies across Dja Dja Wurrung Country to implement the Dja Dja Wurrung vision for managing water, outlined in the strategy.

Since the strategy’s release in June, DJANDAK and its water agency partners have been co-developing actions and initiatives that incorporate Dja Dja Wurrung knowledge and practices into conventional water management.

Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO Rodney Carter praised the work of DJANDAK’s **Gatjin** team and Dja Dja Wurrung knowledge group **Kapa Gatjin** (“Knowing Water”) in developing and beginning to implement the strategy.

“It gives me immense pride to officially launch this strategy,” Mr Carter said.

“Dja Dja Wurrung People have a cultural obligation, passed down from our Ancestors, to care for water and ensure it is healthy as it flows downstream to neighbouring mobs.

“Through **Dhelkunyangu Gatjin** we are working in partnership with water authorities and the community to apply 60,000 years of knowledge and Culture to water management.

“Today is also a celebration of **ngaldurrong yana** (walking together). We are thrilled that our water industry partners have committed to working with us, to heal water and heal Country for the benefit and healing of all,” Mr Carter said.

Dhelkunyangu Gatjin sets out a pathway for Dja Dja Wurrung People to work in partnership with authorities and the community to manage water for a healthy and sustainable future.

DJAARA’s 2013 Recognition and Settlement Agreement with the State of Victoria gives Dja Dja Wurrung People a right to be involved in the management of water that falls on and flows through Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

Today’s ceremony is part of a week of celebrations marking 10 years since the Recognition and Settlement Agreement was signed. Find details of other events at <https://djadjawurrung.com.au/galka-our-organisation/yapenya>

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