

# Turning 'wrong way' climate, 'right way'

Dja Dja Wurrung  
Climate Change Strategy  
2023-2034



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to provide special and heartfelt thanks to the *dja dja wurrung* Members who contributed to this Strategy and the deep cultural knowledge and priorities they shared with the project team over several months. We also acknowledge and thank all of the staff across the Dja Dja Wurrung Group who contributed to this Strategy.

## INDIGENOUS CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (ICIP) & CONFIDENTIALITY

As guided by the Dja Dja Wurrung Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) framework we ask that you respect the cultural expressions and knowledge shared by *djaara* throughout this Strategy.

Direct quotes from our *djaara* participants involved in the development of the Climate Strategy are embedded within the document.

All quotes have been de-identified to respect and maintain anonymity and are shared only for the purpose of this Strategy.

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## ARTWORK

Front cover artwork provided by Daikota Nelson depicting climate change on *djandak*.



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## Executive Summary

Mismanagement of Country on *djandak* and all over the world has turned our climate 'upside-down'. The pollution of *wura-wura-yi djaa* (sky Country) is fueled by the extractive and profit-oriented values central to colonial land management, and where Country has been treated as a commodity rather than as an entity with rights and *murrun* (spirit).

*Djaara* are already witnessing the disruptive impacts of climate change, from harm to people and communities, landscapes, rivers and animal populations and all the way down to the smallest creatures: the dragonflies, yabbies, lichens and fungi. The disappearance of native species and changes in the seasonal cycles is disorienting for *djaara*, and more extreme weather makes it difficult to practice culture and heal country. When cultural heritage sites are eroded by floods or charred by fire, *djaara* knowledge and wellbeing is harmed.

The impacts of climate change have been amplified by the exclusion of *djaara* from Country. While seasonal flows and the ecological communities on *djandak* have changed over millennia, *djaara* culture and knowledge has remained strong and cannot be severed from Country. Addressing climate change the *djaara* way is our right and obligation, enshrined within our Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) with the State of Victoria. Actively managing our cultural landscapes through cultural tools, customs and practices informed by *djaara* traditional knowledge is central to achieving the goals laid out in our *dhelkunya dja* Country Plan and is vital to achieving self-determination for *dja dja wurrung* people.

DJAARA wants to walk together with those who live on or share responsibility for *djandak*, to reduce climate change and adapt to the impacts already being felt across Country. *Djaara's* solutions to climate change are holistic and transformative, focusing on returning *murrun* to *djandak* and ensuring people are healthy so that Country is healthy. We seek to lead by example by minimising emissions and waste from our own operations and practices. It is the aspiration of *djaara* that future generations inherit a landscape that is healing through cultural management rather than a landscape that is unable to support the spirit and life of Country.

Climate change in Victoria needs *dja dja wurrung* People and DJAARA to lead if the problem is to be effectively addressed. By sitting with, listening to and walking on Country together, we can heal People, Country and climate for our Ancestors and for current and future generations.



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## Definitions

<b><i>dja dja wurrung djali</i></b> <b>(language) &amp; terms</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<i>djaara</i>	<i>dja dja wurrung</i> People
<i>djandak</i>	<i>dja dja wurrung</i> Country
DJAARA	The Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
DJANDAK	The enterprise arm of the Dja Dja Wurrung Group (DDW Group)
<i>dhelkunya dja</i>	Healing Country, healthy Country, to heal Country, the Country Plan
<i>murrun</i>	Spirit
<i>wi</i>	Fire
<i>djandak wi</i>	Cultural fire, Country fire, cultural burning
<i>gatjin</i>	Water
<i>kapa gatjin</i>	Healthy water, water knowledge, cultural water
<i>galka</i>	Trees, forests, wood
<i>wura-wura-yi dja,</i> <i>wura-wura</i>	Sky Country, sky
<i>malamiya</i>	Cultural heritage
<i>galkangu</i>	Joint management
<i>galk-galk dhelkunya</i>	To heal forests, <i>dja dja wurrung</i> Forest Gardening Strategy
<i>nyuawi mutjeka</i>	Spirit of the Sun, to Keep the Sun, <i>dja dja wurrung</i> Renewable Energy Strategy

<i>bundjila wurrungguk</i>	Bundjil's Law, DJANDAK cultural water values report
<i>wartaka</i>	To meet and come with purpose, djaara cultural knowledge advisory group. This Strategy was led and informed by DJAARA's Climate Change Wartaka Group of Members over three months in 2022.
Recognition & Settlement Agreement (RSA)	The formal legal agreement between the State of Victoria and <i>dja dja wurrung</i> which came into effect in 2013 and sets out the rights and obligations djaara have for land ownership, access and use of natural resources.
Note on language	We have purposely used lower case versions of <i>dja dja wurrung</i> language. Capitalising language has colonial and imperial connotations. In a small way we hope to decolonise the use of <i>djaara</i> language in this document. Language remains capitalised where <i>djaara</i> words come at the start of a sentence and when referring to the Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrung is used.

Climate change terms	Definition
Climate change mitigation	Reducing climate change involves reducing the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This can be done through reducing emissions from electricity generation by switching to renewables or enhancing carbon sinks by planting trees or restoring carbon in the landscape such as through soil carbon.
Climate change adaptation	Adapting to life in a changing climate involves adjusting to actual or expected future climate conditions. It is about decisions that people, communities, businesses and governments take to prepare and respond to a changing climate and subsequent impacts.
Climate resilience	The ability for natural, physical and social systems or communities to absorb the impacts of climate change and bounce back and continue to function and even thrive in similar and new ways to how that system or community functioned before being impacted.



Climate solutions	Solutions designed by people or exist in nature that address climate change. These can be actions that focus on mitigation such as renewable energy and carbon farming, adaptation such as improved early warning systems, or a combination of both like planting mangroves to capture carbon and protect communities from storms and floods.
Climate justice	Climate change is an issue of environmental and social justice. It is an issue that affects everyone, but the impacts are unevenly experienced. The people who have contributed the least to the causes of climate change are facing the worst impacts.
Net zero emissions	The emissions released from industries, sectors and activities that cannot decarbonize are equal to the emissions being removed from the atmosphere through carbon sequestration (e.g. planting trees, revegetation, and returning carbon to the soils).
Climate literacy	Basic understanding and awareness about the science of climate change, the greenhouse effect, key drivers, impacts and solutions and what it means for people and our environment.
Nature-based solutions	Climate and sustainability actions that harness the power and resilience of nature/Country to solve challenges commonly addressed with western science and engineering. Examples of nature-based solutions to coastal erosion are planting or restoring mangroves rather than building seawalls.
Climate provenances	Plants adapt to the local environmental and climate conditions where they grow. As the climate warms plant species with ranges more suited to hotter and dryer conditions may germinate more easily than variations of that species did in the past, under cooler climate conditions. Restoration projects are now considering taking seed from hotter and dryer parts of a species' range so that plantings are more climate resilient.





## Rights and responsibilities in the context of climate change

The *Dja Dja Wurrung* Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) is the key legal document and agreement that lays out the rights for access to land and resources for the *dja dja wurrung* People and their obligations for healing Country. The RSA provides the legal framework for engagement, partnership and collaboration between the Victorian Government and DJAARA with a particular focus on ensuring *dja dja wurrung* People are enabled to practice culture on *djandak*.

The RSA has relevance to climate change and climate action as climate change worsens and poses an increasing threat to culturally important species, plants, animals, places, and other cultural heritage, across *djandak*.

DJAARA hopes to work with our government partners through realising our rights enshrined within the RSA to ensure that *djaara* can continue to practice culture and to exercise their Traditional Owner rights and responsibilities to Care for Country, in the context of a changing climate



*“Healthy Djandak is when Djaara is playing a major role in the decisions on what is happening on Country. When we are involved in high level decision making for the long term, and there’s employment for Djaara in the long-term.”*

Wataka Member

Schedules 15, 16 and 17 in the RSA provide particularly important considerations when it comes to climate change. Schedule 15 focuses on the principles of sustainability of resources available for *djaara* use:

- The environment and natural resources need to be “maintained for the benefit of future generations”
- Species in “irreversible decline, including rare and threatened species and communities, will not be accessed and used unless authorised”
- Harmful unintended environmental impacts and consequences should be avoided
- When faced with “threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation”.

Climate change interacts with each of these principles so must be considered in how natural resources are managed across *djandak*. DJAARA’s participation in decision-making about management plans and strategies is a central focus of the RSA as outlined in Schedule 16.

The *dja dja wurrung* Land Use Activity Agreement (LUAA) is at Schedule 11 (Clause 4) of the RSA. The LUAA gives *djaara*, through DJAARA, the right to comment and negotiate with government land managers regarding activities occurring on *djandak* within the Recognition and Settlement Area. Climate change worsening has a compounding impact on these rights. *Djaara*’s rights in the RSA are powerful tools to ensure land use activities do not unduly impact species, plants, animals, places, and other cultural heritage, which in the context of climate change and climate impacts is of great concern for *djaara*.

The RSA was renegotiated in 2022 and now sets out more clearly *djaara*’s rights to utilise and care for *djandak* through the Natural Resource Agreement (NRA) 2022 (an attachment to the updated RSA). The NRA allows *djaara* to ‘access, occupy and use the land’ including for hunting, taking, cutting, digging and selling natural resources from Traditional Owner Land. Ensuring *djaara*’s rights are upheld through the NRA despite climate change is an important consideration that all parties need to continue to collaborate on.



## Strategy Timeline

The *dja dja wurrung* Climate Change Strategy aligns with the timing and completion of the twenty-year duration of the Country Plan 2014-2034. While the vision and framework of the Strategy will remain, the Climate Action Areas and associated activities will be reviewed by DJAARA every five years to assess progress, prioritise projects and develop new initiatives where necessary. This process will be guided by *djaara* biocultural knowledge and engage our Members through *wartaka* meetings where required.

## Background

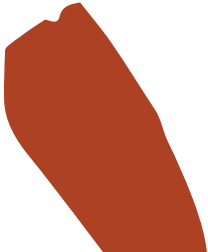
Global temperatures have risen on average by 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and the hottest 19 years on record have all occurred this century. Climate change is a global problem that has significant local consequences for people and the environment.

Hotter temperatures cause longer bushfire seasons and more catastrophic fires (e.g. the 2019-20 summer fires), reduced rainfall and longer droughts, coral reef bleaching, more extreme weather events like storms and heatwaves, sea-level rise, and more severe flooding (e.g. the 2022 QLD and NSW floods, and the Victorian floods in October 2022).

Climate change also provides the conditions for pests and diseases to spread and persist more easily (e.g. mosquito-borne Japanese encephalitis). Climate change turns Country up-side down where carbon that has been stored in Country for millennia is now being released into *wura-wura-yi dja* (sky Country), making people and our planet sick.

*“Sky Country is being polluted by things like aeroplanes. Every time they go up in the sky they’re polluting it. We’re pretty lucky in Australia not to have those heavy polluting industries like in [other countries]...but eventually that stuff will blow over towards us one day.”*

Wartaka Member





These climate change impacts put stress on our economy, food and water systems, cities and communities, plants and animals and directly affect *djaara*, *djandak* and the cultural values outlined in the *dhelkunya dja* Country Plan. Australia's leading scientific agency predicts that by 2030, the Loddon Campaspe region could have temperatures up to 1.7 degrees hotter than in 1990, with Bendigo's climate in 2050 projected to be more like Shepparton's current climate. Climate change impacts those people and places already vulnerable, disadvantaged and degraded the most and those same people have the lowest ability to adapt (see more below in climate justice).

This has made extreme weather and related disasters in the region more severe such as those experienced on Black Saturday in 2009, including the Maiden Gully and Redesdale fires and during storm and flood events such as the 2010, 2011 and 2016 floods in Bendigo and neighbouring shires. And more recent storms that hit Victoria in 2021 including on *djandak* such as those which caused significant harm to Country in the Wombat Forest and surrounding areas were more severe and damaging because of climate change. These events affect *dja dja wurrung's* ability to heal country, practice culture and achieve our aspirations as laid out in the Country Plan, enact our rights in the RSA and manage the six parks and reserves DJAARA jointly manages with the State.

*“The value the Dja Dja Wurrung People hold for their Country are shaped by the knowledge that all things have a Murrun (Spirit) – water, fire, birds, plants, animals, rocks and mountains.”*

Dja Dja Wurrung RSA

## Vision

*Djaara* is intimately connected to *djandak* through *murrin*, *wi*, *gatjin*, *wura-wura*, *galka* and our climate. Water, fire and life flow through cultural landscapes where *djaara* and *djandak* exist as interdependent entities.

Climate change is driven by colonial and western approaches to natural resource management where People, Country and Climate are seen as separate.

*Djaara* climate action is based on the principle of People-Country-Climate connected through Spirit and is focused on healing People, healing Country and healing climate.

*Dja dja wurrung's* vision is a sustainable, resilient and equitable future where past injustices of colonialism, mining and pollution are addressed by empowering *djaara*-led responses to climate change on *djandak* through self-determination, justice and biocultural knowledge.

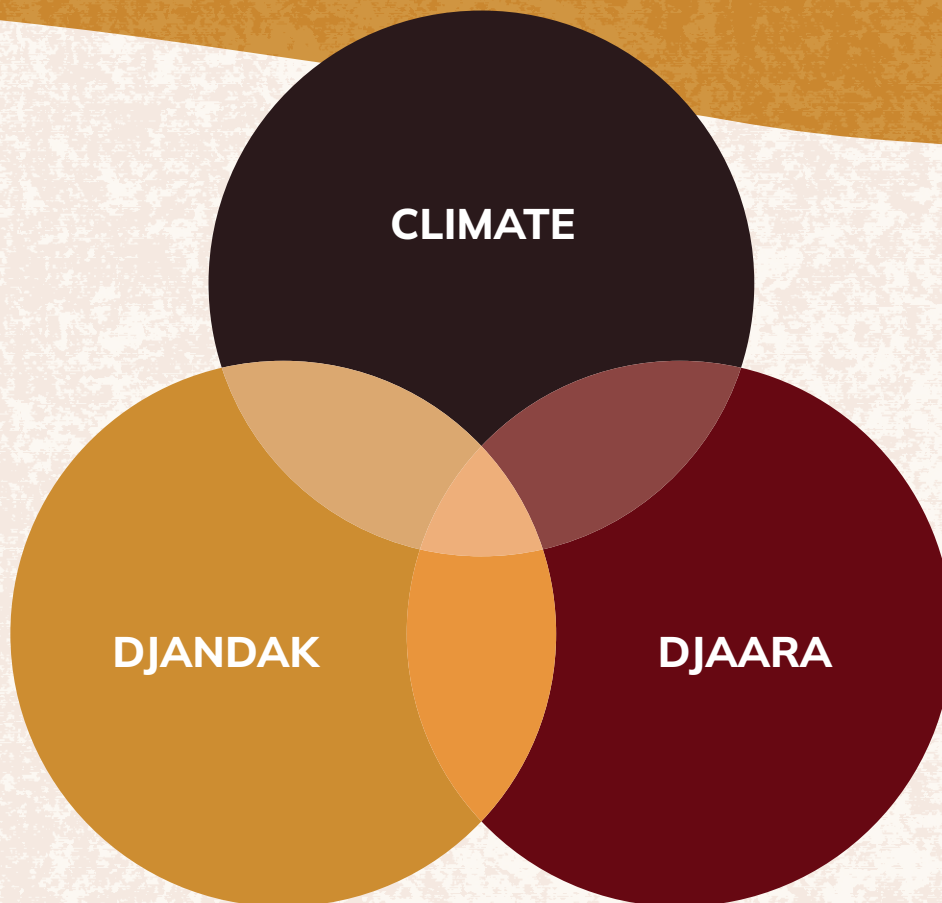



Figure 1: DJAARA People-Country-Climate model



*“It’s about getting people on country and getting them back into the ecosystem - because we’ve been pushed out for 250 years. Now we want to play our part and we understand what a critical part that Aboriginal people played in the ecosystem. It’s not just the plants and the animals, it’s us - creating a happy environment, and working with what you got and not trying to change the environment to suit your needs.”*

Wartaka Member

## **Climate change and Dhelkunya Dja**

*Dja dja wurrung* recognise climate change as a direct threat to *djaara*, *djandak* and to our culture, values, heritage, and goals and aspirations as outlined in the *dhelkunya dja* Country Plan 2014-2034.

Climate change is closely linked with colonisation and industrialisation, which have caused widespread harm to *djaara* and *djandak* resulting in ‘upside-down’ Country and ‘upside-down’ climate, unsustainable development and unhealthy land management.

Country Plan Goals	Climate change impacts	Climate change solutions
Goal 1: <i>Djaara</i>	Climate change including heatwaves, drought and extreme weather events can make <i>djaara</i> unhealthy & unsafe	<i>Djaara</i> leading on climate action can result in better outcomes for all & culturally informed activities can heal <i>djaara</i>
Goal 2: Cultural Practices and Customs	Climate change can prevent <i>djaara</i> from practicing culture & customs	<i>Djaara</i> cultural practices can directly address climate change
Goal 3: Cultural Heritage	Climate change can directly damage cultural heritage sites, cultural values & culturally significant species, ecosystems and places on <i>djandak</i>	For <i>djaara</i> connected to culture & history through protecting cultural heritage can build community resilience to climate change
Goal 4: Bushtucker and Medicine	Climate change can directly harm species used for bushtucker & medicines due to extreme heat, drought, fires, floods and storms	Healthy and functional ecosystems with bushtucker & medicine species in the landscape builds climate resilience for people & nature
Goal 5: Rivers and Waterways	Climate change can dry out water-Country from reduced rainfall & reduced flows	Cultural flows & healing activities along rivers & waterways can build community & climate resilience
Goal 6: Land	Climate change dries out <i>djandak</i> and threatens landscapes due to extreme temperatures and extreme weather	<i>Djaara</i> -led land management practices can reduce climate change impacts and build resilience
Goal 7: Self-determination	Climate change threatens <i>djaara</i> /DJAARA's ability to achieve self-determination	Self-determination for <i>djaara</i> is grounded in healing Country, which can help to heal our climate
Goal 8: Traditional Owner Economy	Climate change directly threatens the productivity of Traditional Owner economic activities such as bushfoods production or on-Country cultural tourism	Traditional Owner-led economic development is more sustainable & can help to heal people, heal Country & heal our climate
Goal 9: Joint Management	Climate change directly impacts the 6 parks & reserves that DJAARA jointly manages	Healthy & functional ecosystems in <i>dja dja wurrung</i> parks & reserves can reduce climate change & build ecosystem & landscape resilience



Self-determination for *dja dja wurrung* must be central to any actions to address climate change on *djandak*. Our ways of managing *djandak* and *gatjin* and other cultural practices are uniquely placed to mitigate and adapt to climate change (see Cultural Water Values Framework).

Our practices reduce emissions and sequester carbon within cultural landscapes. By building social, ecological and climate resilience through our practices, *dja dja wurrung* are also adapting to the impacts of a changing climate.

We address climate change through six interconnected and interdependent areas, with *murrin* (Spirit) weaving through them all.

These represent more than the intangible and are embedded with 'dreaming stories, Law, totemic relationships, songs, ceremonies and ancestral spirits' (RSA 2013). We apply the principles of sitting with, listening to and healing *djaara*, *djandak* and our climate.

*“Being adaptable - that’s what Aboriginal people are really good at. Western Europeans struggle to adapt to new situations so they could learn a lot from us about adapting to what’s coming - more floods, more fire, more droughts.”*

Wartaka Member

*Wi* (fire), *gatjin* (water), *djandak* (Country), *wura-wura-yi djaa* (sky Country), *galka* (forests) and *djaara* (people) are each integral aspects in our vision for *dhelkunya dja* and a future that is sustainable, resilient and just for *dja dja wurrung* and our cultural landscapes. *Murrin* is the centre of all things for *dja dja wurrung* while the plants and animals important to *djaara* interact with all areas and provide the seasonal indicators that form the *djaara* seasonal calendar which enables a window into understanding how each area is changing over time due to climate change. And all things are bound by *djaara* Lore – the

stories, customs, songs, and Dreamings of the *dja dja wurrung*.

*Djaara* actions to heal Country using *djandak wi*, *kapa gatjin*, *galkangu* (joint management), *galk-galk dhelkunya* (forest gardening) and other cultural land and water management practices can help meet local, regional, national and international climate objectives.

If implemented in holistic and participatory ways where *djaara* knowledge, culture and experiences are centred and the *djaara* community receive tangible ongoing benefits.



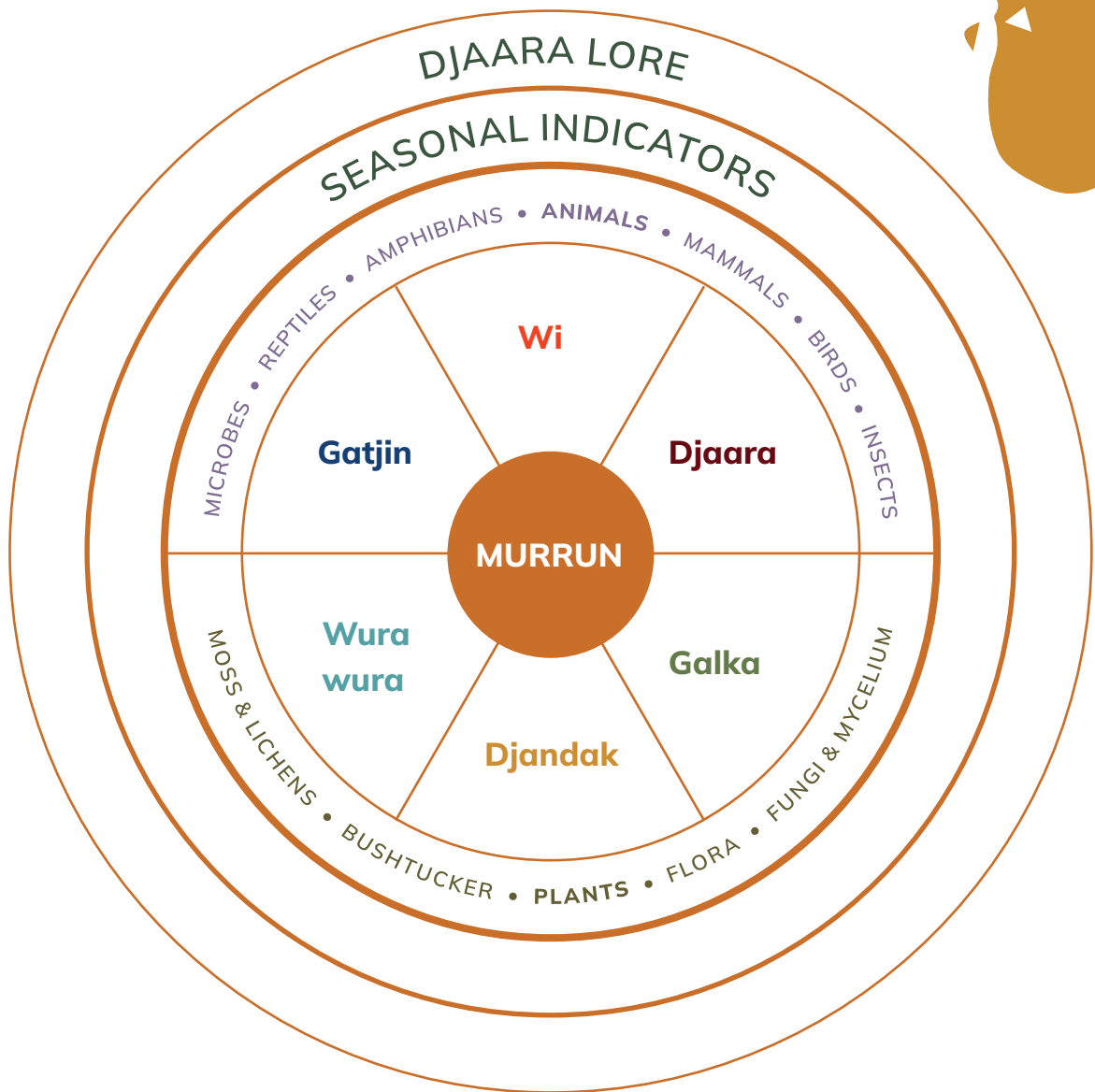


Figure 2: DJAARA holistic Climate Policy Framework

*“Insects and animals need to be considered separately as they are often overlooked, and they are trying their hardest to care for Country.”*

Wartaka Member

**The Strategy addresses climate change through six interconnected and interdependent areas that form the Dja Dja Wurrung Climate Policy Framework aligned through actions that heal Country.**

Each component of the framework is impacted by a changing climate yet provides avenues and opportunities for implementing holistic mitigation and adaptation solutions.

Figure 2 and the proceeding Strategy also look to build climate resilience for the plants and animals that connect *djaara*, *djandak*, *gatjin*, *wura-wura*, *wi* and *galka*. Ensuring the plants and animals, no matter how small, are included in our response to climate change is of importance to *djaara* and they provide the seasonal indicators we need to monitor changes over time.

*Dhelkunya dja* depends on healthy *djaara* and a healthy climate, and healthy *djaara* and a healthy climate depend on *dhelkunya dja*. By sitting with and listening to Country assisted by the *djaara* seasonal calendar, *dja dja wurrung* can heal people, Country and climate through *djaara*-led climate solutions.



Figure 3: Djaara being, sensing, healing

*“First nations should get compensated by all those big companies that pollute our air... they should pay Djaara for putting all the emissions into sky Country, into something like a green funding pool.”*

Wartaka Member

## Climate justice and intergenerational equity

Climate change impacts people and places in different ways and to different degrees. Communities and ecosystems that are already under stress from other drivers like inequality or environmental degradation are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The *dja dja wurrung* community is diverse and has other intersecting identities including gender, age, disability, sexual orientation and income. Each of these intersections can make the impacts of climate change more severe for *djaara* with lived experience across these identities.

DJAARA-led climate solutions are inherently focused on achieving climate justice for all *dja dja wurrung* people. These solutions are also built on the principles of recognising, remembering and honouring our Ancestors while at the same time providing the pathways and opportunities for our future generations to

prosper. These principles of justice for *djaara* and intergenerational equity for current and future *djaara* go to the heart of this Strategy and our response to climate change across *djandak*.

Enabling self-determination for *djaara* women and young *djaara* through active and well-resourced participation in decision-making about climate change and climate action on *djandak* is crucial in realising these principles of justice and equity. Giving the opportunity for all *djaara* including Elders, women, young people, and children to inform the implementation of this Strategy is important, and providing them with the training, education, jobs and skills to participate in climate action and the time and resources to heal Country and heal our climate is a necessity.

*“Floods are impacting us down here, it’s unhealthy. It’s not good for your wellbeing when you’re stressing about your family members and things like that... Climate change impacts us financially as well at the supermarket shelf - the cost of fuel and all those necessities.”*

Wartaka Member

# First Nations policy landscape

First Nations communities, organisations and leaders have been at the forefront of policies, strategies and programs that address climate change.

NATIONAL LEVEL	
National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change Report 2021	This gathering of First Nations people and scientists produced a statement calling for financial support for continued First Nations dialogue on climate change and its effects on communities, an Indigenous led climate-action hub to fund nature-based solutions and renewable energy projects, and respectful and authentic involvement in cross-scale government decisions that impact Country.
National Strategy for Just Adaptation 2022	Strategy developed through state-by-state consultation with Traditional Owners and other diverse communities lays out the principles and ethos of ensuring action on climate change is fair, equitable and just for all. The Strategy outlines how Traditional Owner knowledge and experience of adapting to environmental change is extensive and thus provides a pathway for responding to climate change through a healing centered approach. The report outlines five Building Blocks to support transformational climate adaptation.
STATE LEVEL	
Cultural Landscapes Strategy 2021	A strategy to strengthen and embed Traditional Owner knowledge and cultural priorities into the planning and management of cultural landscapes, through the development of proposed 'bridging tools' which bring together biocultural and western knowledge. Although climate change isn't mentioned directly, the strategy emphasises adaptive management for cultural values as landscapes respond to change over time.

<p>Right Plant, Right Way 2021</p>	<p>A review of the Victorian revegetation sector in the wake of the State Government’s target of revegetating 200,000 ha in 15 years, with an analysis of the opportunities and barriers to participation of First Nations people in the sector. The report identifies ‘right-way’ principles that can facilitate First Nation’s leadership, economic participation and biocultural knowledge implementation in revegetation efforts in the context of a changing climate.</p>
<p><b>DJA DJA WURRUNG GROUP</b></p>	
<p><i>Dhelkunya dja</i> Country Plan 2014-2034</p>	<p>The overarching plan for <i>dja dja wurrung</i> and healing <i>djandak</i>. The Plan lays out <i>djaara</i>’s goals and aspirations for caring for Country and self-determination. The Plan lays out nine goals which continue to guide all activities of the Dja Dja Wurrung Group in terms of strategy, programs and projects. The Country Plan provides a pathway and blueprint for healing <i>djaara</i> and <i>djandak</i>.</p>
<p>Joint Management Plan for the <i>dja dja wurrung</i> Parks 2018</p>	<p>The strategy for the 6 jointly managed parks on <i>djaara</i> country emphasises the risks posed by climate change to the ecosystems, cultural heritage and infrastructure in the parks. The strategy outlines the need for monitoring of native species’ habitat and distribution under changing conditions, sensible plant selection for future climate conditions, reintroduction of cultural fire/<i>wi</i> and cultural water flows, and a move towards carbon-positive operations.</p>
<p><i>Galk-galk dhelkunya</i> 2022-2034</p>	<p>The Forest Gardening Strategy is a sector leading approach to more holistic, sustainable and inclusive forest management, forest conservation and landscape management. Forest Gardening is <i>djaara</i>’s philosophy and practice for healing cultural landscapes and the Strategy lays out a vision, principles, indicators for success and strategic approach to get there.</p>

<p><i>Nyuawi mutjetka 2022</i></p>	<p>The <i>dja dja wurrung</i> Renewable Energy Strategy lays out <i>djaara's</i> aspirations to be an engaged partner and beneficiary of the clean energy transition. The Strategy outlines how DJAARA should be engaged early on and throughout all stages of the transition from generation sites (e.g. solar farms and wind turbines) to the transmission network (poles and wires). The Strategy also outlines the importance of delivering benefits to <i>djaara</i> and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.</p>
<p><i>Dhelkunya wi – Fire Strategy in progress</i></p>	<p>This Strategy outlines the implementation plans and priorities for DJAARA's cultural burning program (<i>djandak wi</i>) across <i>djandak</i>.</p>
<p><i>Dhelkunyangu gatjin 2023</i></p>	<p>Water Strategy for <i>djaara</i> owned water outlining a pathway for water allocation and water release for cultural purposes.</p>
<p>Environmental Management Policy</p>	<p>DJAARA's Environmental Management Policy which identifies climate change and harm to the environment as a key risk to the health of the <i>dja dja wurrung</i> and it's representative Group. It outlines the operational and internal process for managing environmental risk.</p>
<p>Bundjila wurrungguk Climate change: activating cultural values to inform effective policy and strategy development 2021</p>	<p>A <i>dja dja wurrung</i> led research project that embeds deep cultural knowledge about climate change adaptation in the water sector. The cultural values framework that came out of this research report has become deeply embedded in the State Government's Adaptation Plan and was foundational to this DJAARA Climate Strategy. Also see framework table in integrated cultural indicators (Sophia Jackson &amp; Hannah Burrell 2021).</p>





Photo courtesy of Hepburn Energy

# Western policy landscape

The climate change policy landscape that connects to and influences this Strategy can be broken up into international, national and state-based policies and strategies.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL	
The Paris Agreement 2015	A legally binding international treaty on climate change and carbon emissions reduction. Adopted by 196 nation states with the aim to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. Countries are required to increase their climate action ambition every 5 years under the Agreement through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030	Call for action by all UN countries to address poverty and inequality, improve health and education while tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. The 2030 Agenda outlines 17 Goals that provide a blueprint for addressing the world's grand challenges by 2030.
NATIONAL LEVEL	
Long-term Emissions Reduction Plan	Australia's whole-of-economy plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 through a focus on technology investment in climate solutions such as renewable energy.  *The new Federal Labor Government has increased the interim 2030 target to 43% reduction and an 82% renewable energy target by 2030 which increases the ambition and rollout of clean energy.
National Climate Resilience & Adaptation Strategy 2021-2025	The Strategy positions Australia to better anticipate, manage and adapt to climate change and is designed to support business, communities and governments to adapt better across four areas – social, economic, natural and built environments.






STATE LEVEL	
Victorian Climate Change Act 2017	The Act sets out commitments for the State in addressing climate change including setting a long-term net-zero emissions reduction target by 2050, 5 yearly interim targets, strategy updates and adaptation plans.
Victorian Climate Change Strategy 2021	Strategic direction of Victoria's climate action priorities. The Strategy mentions the importance of Traditional Owners in being part of the State's climate solutions including in mitigation efforts such as the renewable energy transition, carbon farming, and adaptation efforts.
Building Victoria's Climate Resilience – Adaptation Plan	The Plan sets out the State Government's ambitions and priorities for adaptation action and resilience over 5 years. The Strategy has a strong focus on partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners to 'ensure their cultural, ecological and economic values and expertise are integrated into climate change adaptation planning'.
Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan	This regional plan outlines a place-based approach to climate change adaptation across the Loddon Mallee region (North and Central Victoria). The Plan outlines a range of goals, objectives and priority actions for the region over the next 5 years. The Plan has a strong focus on centering voices and perspectives of Traditional Owners and First Nations communities in how climate adaptation is implemented.
North Central Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27	The regional approach to building catchment wide climate resilience led by the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA). The Strategy has a strong Traditional Owner focus and provides space for collaborative and holistic climate action.

# Climate Change Action Areas

## DJANDAK (COUNTRY)

*Djandak* is being impacted and altered by the changing climate. *Djaara*-led land management practices and joint management with key partners can enhance carbon storage and increase resilience across cultural landscapes.

Area	Activities	Country Plan Goals
<i>Galk-galk dhelkunya</i> (forest gardening) provides a suite of tools for <i>djaara</i> to lead land-based mitigation activities such as carbon farming, cultural burning, and revegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement <i>galk-galk dhelkunya</i> with a focus on increasing carbon storage across <i>djandak</i></li> <li>Trial carbon farming projects using <i>galk-galk dhelkunya</i> tools and principles</li> </ul>	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 6 Goal 7
Renewable energy projects & activities on <i>djandak</i> such as wind & solar are more sustainable and inclusive when <i>djaara</i> are involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a <i>djaara</i> guide for renewable energy developers and operators on how to care for Country while caring for our climate</li> <li>Ensure projects prioritise benefit sharing, compensation, or offsets to deliver net-benefit to <i>djandak</i></li> </ul>	Goal 1 Goal 6 Goal 8
<i>Djaara</i> -led land management practices including forest gardening can build ecological resilience & enhance biodiversity in face of climate impacts & extreme heat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus DJAARA &amp; DJANDAK's land management practices on enhancing biodiversity &amp; building resilience through more layered, functional and connected habitats</li> </ul>	Goal 4 Goal 6
<i>Djaara</i> traditional knowledge & our seasonal calendar can increase adaptive capacity of natural systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrating the <i>djaara</i> seasonal calendar into all policies &amp; strategies</li> <li>Incorporating the <i>djaara</i> climate change policy framework into all strategies and policies</li> </ul>	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 6



*“Djandak should be the basis upon which  
the other parts of the strategy come  
together. It is important to remember  
Bunjil’s creation story  
- Country was formed first, and water and  
forests came afterwards.”*

Wartaka Member

*“Damaging bushfires and increased climate extremes create variable flowering, and a decline of seed impacts the scale and success rates of plant establishment.”*

Right Plant, Right Way

*“If the seasons are changing, some of the plants are changing, so the fire will have to change”*

Wartaka Member

## **WI (FIRE)**

Climate change fuels and is fueled by bushfires. Fire at the wrong time drives climate change and threatens *Djaara* and *Djandak*. *Djandak wi* can help to reduce emissions, store carbon in the landscape, enhance biodiversity and reduce climate risk and vulnerabilities posed by extreme bushfires.



Area	Activities	Country Plan Goals
Cultural burning reduces risk of mega fires that release large quantities of carbon emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transition from hazard reduction burns to <i>djandak wi</i> to reduce fuel loads while healing Country</li> </ul>	Goal 2 Goal 6 Goal 7 Goal 9
Through low intensity cool burns <i>djandak wi</i> promotes healthy & functional ecosystems which can store more carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement <i>djandak wi</i> with specific focus on regenerating unhealthy parts of Country to enable greater carbon sequestration</li> <li>Maintain healthy parts of Country balancing cultural burning in the landscape</li> </ul>	Goal 6
Climate change has made bushfires on <i>djandak</i> more extreme, intense & impactful on nature & people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with partners to reduce the risk of more extreme bushfires at the 'wrong time' on <i>djandak</i></li> </ul>	Goal 6 Goal 9
<i>Djandak wi</i> empowers <i>djaara</i> to be actively connected to <i>djandak</i> which builds climate resilience in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get <i>djaara</i> out on Country &amp; practice 'right-way fire'</li> <li>Build institutional knowledge, understanding &amp; capacity in <i>djandak wi</i> across the DDW Group</li> <li>community education about cool burning &amp; how it might be applied on private land to build community &amp; landscape resilience</li> </ul>	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 6 Goal 7

*“People have respiratory problems when the smoke’s around. There are people dying because of too much smoke. The impact that has on the ozone player too... it impacts our totems, our spirit animals, our medicine plants, our supermarket.”*

Right Plant, Right Way



## **GATJIN (WATER)**

Climate change drives more extreme storms, floods and droughts. Water flows at the 'wrong time' threaten *djaara* and *djandak*. Cultural flows and *kapa gatjin* led approaches to water management and *djaara* biocultural knowledge can help to store carbon and enhance biodiversity in aquatic ecosystems while reducing climate risk and vulnerabilities posed by storms, floods and droughts.

*“There’s a change in the wildlife for the area - wildlife life cycles and breeding is impacted by climate change - if there’s too much water for birds to build their nests where they would have originally been, they leave the area.”*

Wartaka Member



*“It’s about the things you can’t see with your eyes, too: when you do water testing there’s all these good and bad bugs in the water. If we can start to see these good organisms in the water it’s a positive thing.”*

Wartaka Member

Area	Activities	Country Plan Goals
Restoring native aquatic and riparian vegetation & biodiversity along rivers, waterways and wetlands increases carbon storage in the land/water scape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus water restoration efforts on species that support carbon storage and water retention, and are resilient to drought and fluctuating water levels</li> <li>• Using the <i>djaara</i> seasonal calendar to select seasonal species that rely on seasonal forces to establish &amp; thrive (e.g. water tolerant/dependent versus species that require inundation like Red Gum)</li> </ul>	Goal 5
Restoring wetlands & aquatic vegetation provides a nature-based solution to increasingly severe storms & floods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where the State, Councils &amp; CMA is looking to build flood mitigation infrastructure, <i>djaara</i> biocultural knowledge should inform nature-based alternatives such as wetlands, chains of ponds &amp; permanent pools which provide wildlife refuge, amenity &amp; urban cooling</li> </ul>	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 5 Goal 7



<p>Restored &amp; healthy aquatic vegetation provides shade &amp; shelter from extreme heat &amp; weather for people and wildlife</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus revegetation efforts across <i>djandak</i> on providing shade, shelter &amp; cooling for people &amp; wildlife</li> <li>• Putting logs, snags &amp; debris in waterways provides habitat, breeding &amp; feeding grounds for fish &amp; other small aquatic creatures</li> <li>• Establishing trees in the short term, so they have time to grow &amp; provide amenity for future generations</li> </ul>	<p>Goal 1 Goal 4 Goal 5 Goal 6</p>
<p>Cultural flows of water across <i>djandak</i> are shown to reduce climate risk &amp; build climate resilience for people and nature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through a cultural water entitlement <i>djaara</i> takes ownership over environmental water on <i>djandak</i></li> <li>• Through Aboriginal Water Assessments (AWAs) and Cultural Values Assessments (CVAs) <i>djaara</i> decides how water is used for cultural &amp; environmental outcomes</li> <li>• Work with the State to develop policies and guidelines to better support pathways for Aboriginal/ <i>djaara</i> access to water</li> </ul>	<p>Goal 2 Goal 5 Goal 7</p>
<p>Rainwater harvesting is a key strategy for capturing &amp; storing water during high intensity rainfall events so that water is available during times of drought for people &amp; nature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install water tanks on DJAARA infrastructure</li> <li>• Find ways for <i>djaara</i> households &amp; members to conserve water usage &amp; implement rainwater harvesting where needed</li> </ul>	<p>Goal 1  Goal 5  Goal 9</p>



*“We had our weirs and fish traps,  
but colonial changes have blocked  
up the way energy flows through  
Country... water doesn’t get to flourish  
and flow through the veins of Country,  
because it’s diverted to be put in dams  
for greedy farmers”*

Wartaka Member

## GALKA (TREES)

Trees are an integral part of the carbon cycle and climate change impacts the health of forests and trees. Healthy trees and forests can reduce emissions, store carbon in soils and biomass and increase climate resilience for people and nature.

Area	Activities	Country Plan
<i>Galk-galk dhelkunya</i> (forest gardening) provides a suite of tools for restoring health and function to <i>galka</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement forest gardening on public &amp; private land</li> </ul>	Goal 6
Planting more drought and heat tolerant trees can reduce the degradation of forests to increased temperatures and other climate impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where &amp; if culturally appropriate work with the JMP, Forest Gardening and DJANDAK teams to trial climate provenancing (species with mixed provenances) plantings on <i>djandak</i></li> </ul>	Goal 9
Healthy forests depend on healthy rivers & waterways which both increase climate resilience & carbon storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with DJANDAK, <i>kapa gatjin</i> advisory group &amp; state agencies to focus restoration efforts along waterways</li> </ul>	Goal 2 Goal 5 Goal 6
<i>Djaara</i> traditional knowledge and our seasonal calendar can increase adaptive capacity of forests & trees to climate risk and hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate the seasonal calendar into DJAARA's strategy and programs, &amp; into educational activities for <i>djaara</i> &amp; the wider community</li> <li>E.g. tree planting days for members &amp; staff</li> </ul>	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 6

*“Climate change is exacerbating many of the challenges which the revegetation sector faces with changing rainfall pattern, seed availability, seed quality and more broadly germination and plant survival.”*

Right Plant, Right Way





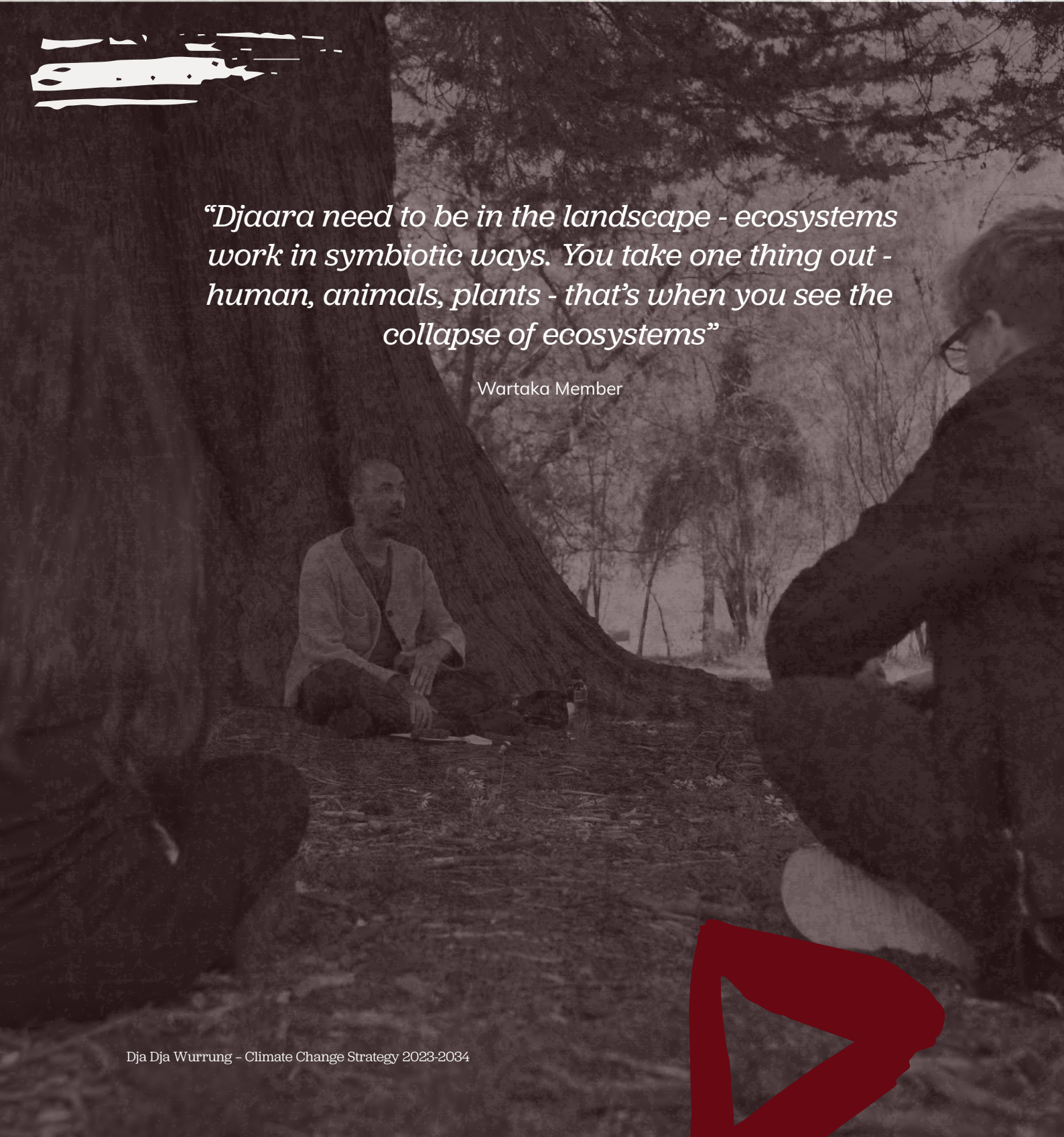
*“With these huge storms you got a lot more trees falling - when you get too much water they get very unstable and it uproots them.*

*You can also say that when there’s drought they get too dry and they drop their limbs - you’re standing under them and you can get dropped on by a widow maker”*

Wartaka Member

## DJAARA (PEOPLE)

People cause climate change and climate change impacts people. *Djaara*-led climate action can reduce emissions and build the adaptive capacities of all communities living on *djandak*. Pollution directly harms the health of all people including *djaara*. Caring for Country improves the health of *djandak* and *djaara*.



*“Djaara need to be in the landscape - ecosystems work in symbiotic ways. You take one thing out - human, animals, plants - that’s when you see the collapse of ecosystems”*

Wartaka Member

Area	Activities	Country Plan
<i>Djaara</i> owned & run renewable energy & storage projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide jobs &amp; training for <i>djaara</i> in renewable energy</li> <li>• Conduct feasibility studies for <i>djaara</i> owned &amp; run solar projects</li> <li>• Conduct feasibility studies for <i>djaara</i> owned battery storage</li> </ul>	Goal 1 Goal 8
DDW Group energy efficiency & carbon footprint reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide jobs &amp; training for <i>djaara</i> in renewable energy</li> <li>• Transition vehicle fleet to electric vehicles (EVs)</li> <li>• Install solar on <i>djaara</i> buildings/offices</li> <li>• Reduce waste</li> </ul>	Goal 1 Goal 8
Energy efficiency, rooftop solar & battery incentives & support for <i>djaara</i> community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement program to engage directly with members &amp; community to install solar, batteries and energy efficiency where appropriate</li> </ul>	Goal 1
<i>Djaara</i> are healthy & resilient to climate change through connection to Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get <i>djaara</i> regularly out on Country</li> <li>• Implement on-Country engagement &amp; events schedule for staff &amp; members (e.g. tree planting days)</li> <li>• Encourage sustainable transport alternatives for staff including public transport, carpooling and active modes of transport (walking &amp; cycling)</li> </ul>	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 6
<i>Djaara</i> bushtucker & medicine production can increase health, wellbeing & resilience of people living on <i>djandak</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote &amp; encourage <i>djaara</i> micro businesses, activities &amp; enterprise in bushtucker &amp; medicine</li> </ul>	Goal 1 Goal 4
Understanding climate change & the complexities involved with the science & solutions is a key area for <i>djaara</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build climate &amp; energy literacy for staff and members</li> <li>• Run events, workshops on <i>djaara</i>-led climate solutions</li> <li>• Develop resources, content, materials &amp; guides for internal &amp; external learning</li> </ul>	Goal 1 Goal 2

## WURA-WURA-YI DJAA (SKY COUNTRY)

Sky Country has been polluted since colonisation and continues to be degraded by human activities. Extreme weather events due to climate change start in the sky. A healthy climate is dependent on a healthy *wura-wura* (sky).

Area	Activities	Country Plan
First Nations compensation (polluter pays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advocate for <i>djaara</i> to be compensated for the pollution &amp; degradation of <i>wura-wura-yi djaa</i></li><li>• Advocate for <i>djaara</i> to be compensated for the carbon being sequestered in our parks &amp; reserves</li></ul>	Goal 1 Goal 5 Goal 6
Reduced pollution & emissions from <i>djaara</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support <i>djaara</i> to transition from polluting petrol vehicles to clean electric ones</li><li>• DJAARA to aim to be a zero emissions corporation</li></ul>	Goal 1

*“Sun is a big charging station.  
[So] we can build solar farms  
on Country”*

Wartaka Member





## ANIMALS

Animals play an intimate role in our climate and in the carbon cycle. For many animal species on *djandak* climate change is happening too quickly and coupled with other pressures like habitat loss and pest predators they are vulnerable to climate impacts. Climate resilience depends on healthy, functional, and diverse animal populations.

*“Seasons are changing, animals  
have to work it out, but they’ll  
adapt quicker than us”*

Wartaka Member



Area	Activities	Country Plan
Reintroducing keystone & culturally significant animal species to <i>djandak</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reintroduction programs in <i>djaara</i> parks &amp; reserves</li> <li>• Managing Country to encourage animals back by providing the habitat they need</li> </ul>	Goal 4 Goal 6 Goal 8 Goal 9
Pest animal species management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eradication programs of key animal pests like goats</li> </ul>	Goal 6 Goal 9
<i>Djaara</i> management of animal conservation programs & land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of dedicated <i>djaara</i> ranger positions and decision-making roles</li> <li>• Transfer of management from government agencies back to <i>djaara</i></li> </ul>	Goal 1 Goal 6 Goal 9
Include all animal groups in planning, management & monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include insects, bees &amp; butterflies</li> <li>• Include mammals &amp; birds</li> <li>• Include micro-organisms &amp; bacteria</li> <li>• Include reptiles &amp; amphibians</li> </ul>	Goal 2 Goal 4
Research & monitoring partnerships for animal conservation on <i>djandak</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with universities, government agencies, businesses &amp; community groups to monitor the impacts of climate change on animal populations</li> </ul>	Goal 5 Goal 6 Goal 9

*“We need animals. There’s no animals on Djaara Country, emus, quolls”*

Wartaka Member

## PLANTS

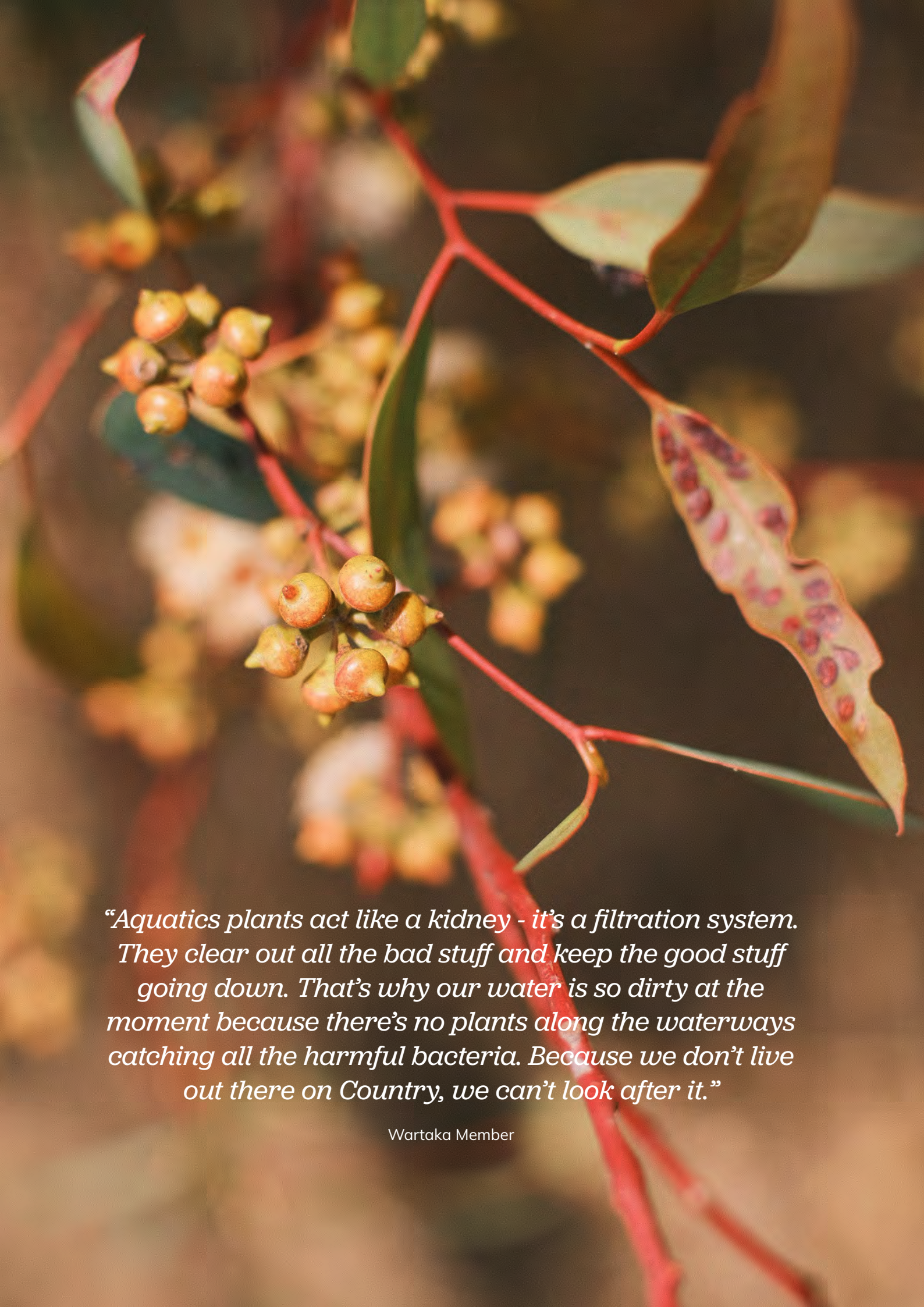
Plants including flora and bushtucker, moss, lichens, fungi and mycelium all play key roles in the climate and carbon cycles. Plants of all groups are being impacted by increasing temperatures and more extreme weather events. Climate resilience is dependent on healthy and balanced plant populations across *djandak*.

*“With the grasses and flowers you should see a rainbow of colour - that’s when you know it’s healthy because you’ve got a good mixture of plant variations in there.”*

Wartaka Member

Area	Activities	Country Plan
Seed collection & germination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish <i>djaara</i> owned &amp; operated native nurseries to germinate our seven-priority food &amp; fibre plants</li> <li>Connect &amp; knowledge share with other Indigenous owned nurseries</li> <li>On-Country days for <i>djaara</i> to collect &amp; harvest our own food &amp; fibre</li> </ul>	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 4 Goal 6 Goal 7 Goal 8 Goal 9
Skill development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment, training &amp; jobs in horticulture for <i>djaara</i></li> </ul>	Goal 1
Include all plant groups in planning, management & monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include fungi &amp; mycelium</li> <li>Include flora &amp; bushtucker species</li> <li>Include moss &amp; lichens</li> </ul>	Goal 2 Goal 4
Research & monitoring partnerships for <i>djaara</i> informed plant restoration on <i>djandak</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with universities, government agencies, businesses &amp; community groups to monitor the impacts of climate change on plant populations</li> </ul>	Goal 4 Goal 5 Goal 6 Goal 9





*“Aquatics plants act like a kidney - it’s a filtration system. They clear out all the bad stuff and keep the good stuff going down. That’s why our water is so dirty at the moment because there’s no plants along the waterways catching all the harmful bacteria. Because we don’t live out there on Country, we can’t look after it.”*

Wartaka Member



*“Self-determination is about looking after Djaara first. We’ve been cleaning up after everybody else, the mess they’ve left on Country. I’m getting too old to beat around the bush with this. It’s about our young ones.”*

Wartaka Member

## **Integrated cultural indicators - measuring success the *djaara*-way**


The DJAARA being, sensing and healing diagram (Figure 3) provides a framework for assessing the success of these activities from a culturally safe and respectful way for *dja dja wurrung* people. *Djaara* can feel, sense and know *djandak* is healthy and the climate is healthy by being out on Country. Self-determination and empowerment for *djaara* to practice culture and connect with *djandak* regularly is how we can best measure the success of our climate action.

Utilising the *djaara* seasonal calendar is one tool *dja dja wurrung* can use to feel, sense and know if Country and climate are ‘right way’ or ‘wrong way’ (healthy or unhealthy).

The presence or absence of key species for *djaara* in a given season, at a given time and in a given place provides the information needed to measure the success of DJAARA climate action in a culturally appropriate way.

Cross checking our activities against the *dhelkunya dja* Country Plan also provides DJAARA a clear way to ensure our climate action is in line with *djaara* community aspirations. If a climate activity helps to achieve goals and objectives in the Country Plan, then we know that we are healing people, healing Country and healing our climate.

As outlined under the Strategy Timeline, the Climate Action Areas listed above will be reviewed by DJAARA every five years until 2034.



*“Insects and animals are indicators  
- they tell you what’s going on, on  
Country. Without them it’s like  
reading a book with no words in it.  
Listen to the animals and insects and  
they’ll tell you what needs to be done  
to manage Country.”*

Wartaka Member

# ***Bundjila wurrungguk*** **- Cultural Water Values Framework**

In 2021, Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises (DJANDAK) developed a comprehensive biocultural framework for embedding *djaara's* knowledge systems, values and practices into our responses to climate change. Like the being, sensing and healing model and *djaara's* seasonal calendar, the following framework provides the scaffolding for enabling sophisticated monitoring and implementation of *djaara's* biocultural land/waterscape management across *djandak* (Jackson & Burrell 2021).

<b>Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural Water Values Framework</b>			
<b>WAYS OF KNOWING</b>			
<b>Presence in Country</b>	<b>Learning from Country</b>	<b>Language and songlines with Country</b>	<b>Learning through culture</b>
Maintaining strong culture through presence in Country	Ensuring the knowledge system is healthy	Being able to see Country through the eyes of our Ancestors tells us how to keep water healthy	Our cultural practices educate future generations
<b>WAYS OF BEING</b>			
<b>Reciprocal</b>	<b>Respectful</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Responsive</b>
Care for Country and Country will care for you	We recognise water has spirit and agency of its own, we respect it as a being with rights	We have moral responsibility to care for our Country, traditionally this was done through sophisticated systems embedded in our being, community, and lore	We respond to what Country tells us, being able to read Country has enabled us to be the most adaptable people in the world. That was our lifestyle
<b>WAYS OF DOING</b>			
<b>Healing Country</b>	<b>Holistic Cultural Land Management</b>	<b>Accountability</b>	<b>Governance</b>
Healing Country means regenerating water landscapes through the eyes of our Ancestors. We want to restore traditional waterways	How we manage Country is holistic, through cultural fire, cultural flows and maintaining a complex biocultural ecosystem	Water managers need to be held accountable to the right values for the health of water, not just economic values	The foundation for Indigenous water management is being able to partner equally in its governance



*“We’re losing sites and stories older than the pyramids - birthing sites, burial sites, all have been impacted by the damage caused by floods.”*

Wartaka Member

## **Internal climate action opportunities - healing climate from within**

### **MALAMIYA (CULTURAL HERITAGE)**

*Djaara’s malamiya* is a vital part of *dja dja wurrung* culture, storytelling and self-determination. Protecting this heritage from climate impacts will become increasingly important in the future. DJAARA wants to proactively prepare our cultural heritage for increasingly intense and frequent storms, floods and fires and more prolonged drought conditions and the associated erosion which threatens the integrity of our *malamiya*.

Protecting cultural heritage from climate change offers significant and new challenges to DJAARA’s ability to ensure cultural sites and values are maintained for the future and for future generations. DJAARA needs to be resourced and supported by our partners to ensure our stories and heritage are forever entangled within the cultural landscapes of *djandak*.



### GALKANGU (JOINT MANAGEMENT)

DJAARA jointly manages six national parks and reserves with the State, as outlined in the Country Plan, RSA and the Joint Management Plan (JMP). The six *dja dja wurrung* parks include: Greater Bendigo National Park; Hepburn Regional Park; Paddys Ranges State Park; Kara Kara National Park; Kooyoora (*Guyura*) State Park; and Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve.

The JMP already outlines the climate change context that conservation and land management efforts in these parks work within. Increasing temperatures, prolonged droughts and more extreme weather events and climate hazards such as heatwaves, storms, floods and fires all threaten the ability for DJAARA to achieve the aspirations and goals set out within those documents for healing Country in these parks and reserves. As climate change worsens, we hope that Joint Management activities to heal *djandak* will be resourced to build climate resilience across *djaara's* cultural landscapes.

The Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board (DDLMB) was established to steer the JMP's implementation and advise the environment minister of progress.


*“There’s carbon captured in our six JMP parks. Are we getting compensated for that and getting money we can put back into the community?”*

Wartaka Member

### DJA DJA WURRUNG GROUP

Working with all parts of the business to ensure we can be taking pro-active and informed climate action and ensure we are together building our knowledge and literacy about climate change, our resilience to climate impacts and our capabilities to implement holistic climate solutions that help to heal *djaara*, *djandak* and our climate while achieving self-determination for *dja dja wurrung*.





*“We need to lead by example. It’s not a good look to be driving around on Country in petrol powered 4WDs, contributing to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Djaara need to be leading and on the front foot of pushing for change.”*

Wartaka Member

#### **BUSINESS SERVICES AND OPERATIONS**

Reducing carbon emissions from our operations, transport, energy use, waste and procurement are all key priorities for DJAARA and as outlined within our *nyuawi mutjeka*.

Integrating a climate change lens into the Corporation’s decision making across all these areas is a key action for reducing our emissions and building our resilience. Ensuring we have set up the necessary policies, procedures and systems to manage and reduce climate risk for the organisation, for *djaara* and for *djandak* is critical.

## External climate action opportunities – walking together with our partners

While we seek to build strong relationships with those that live and work on *dja dja wurrung* Country it is important to acknowledge that under the RSA our state and local government partners have obligations to involve DJAARA in consultation, design, planning and delivery of climate action on *djandak*.

Type of partner	Possible partners	Opportunities
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander partners	Neighbouring Traditional Owner Groups	Address cross-boundary climate impacts (e.g. floods, storms & fires). Share knowledge, experiences & practices where culturally appropriate to improve climate solutions.
	Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations (FVTOC)	Share learnings through the Federation of DJAARA's progress on climate action & the action areas highlighted in this Strategy.
	Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-Operative (BDAC)	Partner with BDAC to engage the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the region to support climate preparedness in the community. Together develop understanding of the impact of climate change on the mental & physical health for ATSI peoples.
	First Nations Clean Energy Network (FNCEN)	Be an active member of the Network to stay connected to First Nations communities & their renewable energy experiences while sharing DJAARA's experiences with others.

*“It’s important to think about how Country is connected to other Country, and other nations. For example, the way water is managed up river will impact communities down river. There is a duty of responsibility to neighbouring nations.*

Wartaka Member

<p>Government agencies</p> <p>*Governments should embrace a two-way approach: 1) walk with DJAARA &amp; <i>djaara</i> in implementation; 2) embed <i>djaara</i> principles &amp; priorities in government work.</p>	Federal Government	Engage in Federal climate programs, initiatives & funding opportunities to implement <i>djaara</i> -led climate solutions.
	State Government	Partner with relevant agencies including DEECA, Parks Victoria & NCCMA to embed <i>djaara</i> ’s vision, principles & priorities for climate action into the State’s policies, strategies & programs. Engage in State led programs & initiatives to implement <i>djaara</i> -led climate solutions.
	Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board (DDLMB)	Work with the DDLMB to align JMP implementation with Climate Action Goals to support <i>djaara</i> aspirations as outlined in the Country Plan.
	Local Governments on <i>djandak</i>	Partner with LGs on <i>djandak</i> to determine opportunities to walk together on shared climate action journeys & implement this Strategy.
	Country Fire Authority (CFA) and State Emergency Services (SES)	Partner with emergency services to develop strategies to protect cultural heritage from severe climate hazards (storms, floods, fires).
Community organisations	Landcare, Friends of Groups, Sustainability Groups	Partner with NGOs & local community groups to implement <i>djaara</i> -led adaptation & mitigation solutions across <i>djandak</i> .




<p>Private sector</p>	<p>Renewable energy companies, environmental consultancies, banks &amp; financial institutions</p>	<p>Partner with the business community to find opportunities for <i>djaara</i> businesses to lead climate services delivery in the region.</p> <p>Co-design climate jobs and training opportunities for <i>djaara</i> &amp; the ATSI community.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for business to invest in <i>djaara</i> &amp; the implementation of this Strategy.</p>
<p>Education &amp; Research sector</p>	<p>Universities, research institutes, TAFEs and schools</p>	<p>Partner with research groups to identify barriers and enablers that empower <i>djaara</i> leadership of climate action on <i>djandak</i>.</p> <p>Partner with education providers to embed <i>djaara</i> knowledge into teaching &amp; learning activities and develop pathways for <i>djaara</i> to learn about climate change through formal education &amp; training.</p>

*“It’s important to educate people about the effects of climate change, farmers and others. Lots of waterways run through private land, that’s where education about Djaara values needs to begin. Some of our waterways, we can’t even get access to them. Some waterways are being revegetated but that’s only in certain areas of D jaara Country.”*

Wartaka Member





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