



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

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From: [REDACTED]

To:

[Yarra Strategic Plan](#)

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The Yarra river was already a source of itches, fevers and coughs when my childhood friends and I swam in its polluted waters at Heidelberg 65 years ago. Whilst the blatant industrial contamination is now better controlled, new contaminants such as plastics, modern pesticides and farm Chemicals have taken their place.

There is no reason for optimism about the Yarra's condition or any Strategic Plan to fix it because of the inherent conflict in its goals. Namely improving the environment plus increasing human activity.

There is a startling difference between the Yarra and the many beautiful rivers around Buxton where I live. The difference is due to the city and pressure imposed by the most dangerous and pervasive pest species the world has ever seen viz. humans.

The serious options for the Yarra are :

1. to drastically reduce the human population world-wide and in Melbourne in particular and let nature heal the river. (After all any environmental proposal which excludes human population factor is a delusional fraud.)
2. To abandon environmental concerns and create a mammoth, landscaped, artificial park, like Birrarung Marr, of the lower 20 km "for human recreational use".
3. To bury the Yarra into a covered-over drain for the lower 20kms and give the people of Melbourne and would-be immigrants extra real estate for the little bits of suburban and high rise "paradise" they crave. This would mimic the treatment of the river that now runs under Elisabeth St.

To those who reject the premise that humans are inherently destructive and cannot be trusted with the environment, I recommend a tour around Snobs creek where the effect of clear-fell logging is now producing, in a few months, (and under the Victorian government's imprimatur) the same destruction as the lawless settlers of Melbourne took decades to achieve.

Yes there is some hope for parts of some rivers but the lower Yarra is a doomed drain.

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