



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	215068
Name (Individual/Organisation):	Friends of Banyule
Attachments:	Attachment 1 – Survey submission



New Form submission on Help us shape the final 10-year strategic plan for the Yarra River

Hi YarraStrategicPlan@melbournewater.com.au

There has been a submission on [Help us shape the final 10-year strategic plan for the Yarra River](#) through Engage Victoria

A copy of the submission is provided as below:

Part 1: Working toward the Community Vision

1a. Do the four, 10-Year Performance Objectives adequately reflect the 50 Year Community Vision?

Not Really

1b. Please outline your reasoning for this opinion (optional)

The Four 10 Performance Objectives are very aspirational & they do not address the greatest threat to the Yarra River and some of its tributaries which is the North East Link Project Reference Design. A clear objective should be to maintain, value and enhance the Yarra and Yarra lands to restore native vegetation - this is currently couched in terms of biodiversity and water quality. There should be a clear measurable objective to achieve a net gain for the environment as per the the Yarra River Protection Birrarung Act It is also vital that The Performance Objectives need to be rewritten as SMART objectives, Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely. An important part of this process is to establish baselines.

This is not mentioned. How do you measure improvement on something you haven't measured?

2a. Are the actions identified to deliver the 10-Year Performance Objectives achievable, realistic and measurable?

No

2b. Please outline your reasoning for this opinion (optional)

These commendable objectives cannot be achieved if the North East Link Project is built according to the reference design. This reference design was approved by the Planning Minister with inadequate Environment Performance Requirements and he actually went against key recommendations of the independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee. These recommendations whilst improving health and well being for the community also had the benefit of saving Simpson Army Barracks land, Banyule Creek, Koonung Creek, many thousands of trees and habitat and would have reduced the the surface footprint of the project so that contaminated stormwater runoff would have been significantly reduced. Without these important NELP control measures the protection and improvement opportunity that this plan offers will be lost, With NELP allowed to proceed "as is" the opportunity for "A powerful water policy and community vision" is just lost.

3a. Which specific actions do you think will be easiest or most challenging to deliver?

Easiest: All dependant on funding and resources . But what should happen is more resources to Park Vic, MW and Local Government Areas, LGA, to manage park land under their control for weed removal, planting, billabong restoration etc. LGA should be supported to have appropriate town planning controls to limit encroaching & inappropriate development.

Challenging: Dealing with climate change impact , population growth and other government agencies working in direct opposition to the YSP eg the NELP reference design is still charging ahead whilst failing to meet basic environmental protection guidelines, Given these pressures it is very difficult to see how water quality and biodiversity will improve in both

suburban and lower reaches of the Yarra. We are likely to see water quality and biodiversity go backwards. But to achieve anything we need priority projects and a clear decision-making framework with responsibility and accountability being set out.

3b. Why do you think this?

Different agencies of Government are not working together - there is NOT a WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT APPROACH. Demonstrated by the fact that major infrastructure & transport provisions exempt from the Yarra River Protection Act 2017. There doesn't seem to be clear partnerships such as with LGAs or use of Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Victoria 2018 report State of the Yarra and its Parklands useful tools and information

4. What do you/ your organisation think is the greatest opportunity the Yarra Strategic Plan presents? Please rank the following statements in order of importance from 1 -4

Improving water quality of the Yarra River and protecting land, floodplains and billabongs - 2

Acknowledging, protecting and commemorating the rich heritage of the Birrarung - 4

Improving the river's parklands to support community wellbeing - 3

Protecting the significance of the Yarra River's landscapes and views - 1

5. Do you feel the draft Yarra Strategic Plan has put appropriate actions in place to ensure delivery on the aspirations of Traditional Owners?

Somewhat

6a. Are there key priority areas of land you think should be added to the parkland network along the Yarra River?

Yes

6b. If you answered Yes, where are these key priority areas of land and why do you think they should be added?

Land should be added to the Yarra parkland network at every opportunity as it arises

/becomes available. How else will we achieve the he Greater Yarra Urban Parklands? This will be a huge benefit for the future. Examples of land to acquired include : Bulleen -Yalley Country club site, Bulleen Driving Range, Seed Farm. Banyule The Greenery and Chris Cross Nursery/Garden If NELP proceeds businesses in Bulleen will be acquired so further acquisitions here might be added. We need to expand the Yarra parkland areas to improve continuity, wildlife corridors and connectivity and access

Part 2: Land Use framework

7. The Land Use framework aims to put the Yarra River at the heart of future planning and development decisions. What is your / your organisation's view about the Land Use framework?

The land use framework is aligned with the Yarra River Protection Act goals. The goal to "identify riparian zones and areas of high environmental or landscape value that must be protected from development" should be given priority. But The distinction between part 1 of the plan and part 2, Land Use Framework Plan is not clear and we are worried that priority areas are not identified and nor is there a decision making framework for this to occur.

8a. Do you believe the Land Use directions will support the 50 Year Community Vision?

Unsure

8b. Why do you think this?

"There are no binding elements in this draft Plan. Elements of the Land Use Framework will be made binding by updating the Victorian Planning Provisions once the final Yarra Strategic Plan is endorsed and approved" . If NELP can be approved by the Planning Minister without reference to the YRP Act and ride roughshod over 4 LGAs We hold little hope of a whole of government approach or that priorities will be set to protect the Yarra and its Riverlands

9a. Do you agree with the Land Use directions for the Yarra River?

Unsure

9b. Please outline your reasoning for this opinion (optional)

"1. There is continued commitment of the Yarra Collaboration Committee to oversee rolling three-yearly implementation plans and ensure whole-of-government decision-making for Yarra River lands. KNOCKED OUT OF THE WATER BY NELP 2. There is commitment to coordinated investment decisions on Yarra River land. KNOCKED OUT OF THE WATER BY NELP 3. All stakeholders, including the community, are involved in taking care of the river. - KNOCKED OUT OF THE WATER BY NELP 4. Government agencies and Traditional Owners are supported in their transition to deliver on the 50 Year Community Vision and the Birrarung Water Policy. ???"

10a. Do you believe that the 13 significant places identified for the river corridor reflect the most regionally significant locations?

Somewhat

10b. Why do you think this?

Yes but I think importantly smaller tributaries and areas slightly exceeding the one km range could have also been included as per the exception made for Coranderrk Station ie planning provisions provided for the Watsonia Simpson Army Barracks land. Concerned about very briefly and positively listing projects in the suburban reach without identifying them as major threats and articulating a need to work very closely with Major Transport Infrastructure Authority. A definite failure of the YSP. Especially as these project do impact the Yarra River and Bolin Bolin Billabong, Banyule Flats, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Banksia Park and Warringal Parklands. For example: "Existing projects in this reach include: • Proposed North East Link – a major infrastructure project which crosses Yarra River land to provide connection between the M80 Ring Road and an updated Eastern Freeway. • Fitzsimons Lane, Eltham and Templestowe – a Major Roads Project to improve congestion and safety

for commuters."

11. Do you agree with the opportunities identified for the significant places that you connect with?

Somewhat

12. Do you have any further ideas about how the Plan may provide for the cultural/spiritual/environmental care and protection of the Yarra River over the next ten years, whilst also working toward achieving the 50 Year Community Vision?

We need a specific framework to engage with Major Transport Infrastructure Authority and to hold NELP to specific account for impacts to the Yarra River, its tributaries and to Riverland.

We also need framework to hold LGAs to account eg Banyule CC with the Heidelberg Structure plan to ensure the Yarra River and its tributary Salt creek is considered

13. Finally, what are your overarching thoughts and feelings about the Yarra Strategic Plan?

Its a step in the right direction! Thank you for the opportunity to participate and comment. Am very happy to discuss any of my answers in further detail with the Department, DELWP or Melbourne Water

Contact Details

First Name

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Last Name

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Organisation (if applicable)

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Upload your submission here

No file specified

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The Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murron) Act (the Act) requires:

- *all submissions to be made available for inspection by the public (s24(1)(b))*
- *the lead agency must make a copy of all public submissions on a draft Yarra Strategic Plan, made to the lead agency, available for public inspection - s24(2)*

All submissions will therefore be made available to the public in accordance with the Act.

Melbourne Water, as lead agency, and or DELWP will publish a copy of your submission, in its entirety, on the Imagine the Yarra website or other Victorian Government website/s as required.

In providing your feedback by written submission you agree that the lead agency may provide a copy of your submission, to affected Local Councils, Government Agencies, Panel (if required) and other submitters.

Your submission may also remain on external servers, even after the period of consultation closes and DELWP has removed the relevant pages from the Engage Victoria website.

Text will be redacted in submissions to remove personally identifying details, and to comply with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)*.

Should you need to correct the information you provided or gain access to your submission, please contact us via email at: YarraStrategicPlan@melbournewater.com.au

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Yes

To view all of the form's submissions, visit:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms/viewDetail/2535>

Regards,

The Engage Victoria Team

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