



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	215078
Name (Individual/Organisation):	Individual
Attachments:	Attachment 1 – Written submission



29/3/20

DRAFT YARRA RIVER STRATEGY – Comments

There is a great deal of repetition of statements throughout the document, regarding Traditional Owners and their history and relationships with the Yarra/lands. The repetitive statements lessen the importance, relevance and appreciation of the Traditional Owners' connections with the Yarra/lands. The document should be edited to provide fewer, clear, concise statements at key points.

Combining many statements of history throughout the document into one complete section would be recommended.

The draft document very much reads as a 'committee' report – too much repetition; it needs a good editor to make it into a concise **strategic** document.

Green spaces, healthy waterway, biodiversity, connectivity a key word is missing – **ecology**. All the above rely on creating a healthy ecology – relating water/green open spaces/biodiversity/habitat/connectivity/etc. They are not singular entities ... the overarching/wider ecological picture needs to be paramount ... it is the relationships between/with the singular entities, i.e. **creating healthy ecosystems** that will ensure the objectives will be met.

The importance of ecology is acknowledged further in the document – when talking about Traditional Owners *ecological knowledge* and later under Environmental protection principles: *ecological integrity*.

The 10 year performance objectives: celebrating the relationship between the river and the community

10 year performance objectives

- A healthy river and lands
Improving the water quality of the Yarra River and protecting its land, floodplains and billabongs to achieve greater biodiversity.

Yarra River 50 year community vision

Its clean waters and connected network of thriving green spaces nurture ecosystems, biodiversity and habitat, and deepen the relationships between people and nature.

The scope of the Yarra Strategic Planⁱ

To guide and manage activities on public and private land, the Act designates three categories of land to which the plan appliesⁱⁱ:

- Yarra River land is designated to allow for coordinated management of public land along the waterway. Yarra River land is the largest category of land protected by the Act. It includes the bed, soil and banks of the Yarra River and Crown and state government owned land parcels within 500 metres of a bank of the riverⁱⁱⁱ. Yarra River land does not include private land and some areas are defined as excluded land^{iv}.

Somewhere in the document, it must be allowed that private land should be acquired as the opportunity/ies arise and be converted to publicly owned parkland and come under the provisions of the Yarra River Act and the strategy. Should public acquisition be considered?

Enhancing the Yarra River's biodiversity

Creating a valley-wide loop

Once complete, the trail will link Lilydale, Yarra Glen, Healesville and connect into the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail, offering a unique recreational and cultural experience of the Yarra Valley.

It is critical that it be spelt out that the Trail is a **shared** trail for all people to enjoy. Otherwise, with the cycle-centric dominating attitude that prevails in Melbourne, the Trail will be seen as a cyclists recreational/sports trail as is being increasingly evidenced on Melbourne's CCT to the detriment and discouragement of pedestrians.

Our framework for collaborative action

To support the Yarra Collaboration Committee, the Minister for Water will nominate one responsible public entity as the lead agency for implementation. The lead agency will:

- Enable the Yarra Collaboration Committee to implement the decision-making framework **and provide timeframes** for delivering the 10 year actions.
- Draft the implementation plan in partnership with the Yarra Collaboration Committee.
- Coordinate the development of a consolidated annual report, using information provided by each responsible public entity. They will then submit the report to the Birrarung Council^v.

Figure 1: Representation of a healthy river and lands in the future.

Strengthened habitat corridors
to support biodiversity.

Wording should be amended to: **Strengthened ecosystems to support biodiversity and habitat corridors.**

Figure 2: Representation of quality parklands for a growing population in the future.

Preserved bush character
to support biodiversity
and enable contact with
nature.

Should read: Preserved bush character to support biodiversity **and habitat** and enable contact with nature.

Note: Protecting and enhancing (*supporting*) biodiversity, in turn leads to *support* for enhanced habitat. **It is not just one or the other; it is both.**

Cf definitions:

Biodiversity - the variety of plant and animal life

Habitat - the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism

'Its connected network of thriving green spaces nurture **ecosystems**, biodiversity **and habitat** and deepen the relationship between people and nature.' – Yarra River 50 Year Community Vision

Part 2: Land Use Framework

Whole-of-river directions

The Yarra Strategic Plan recommends the following whole-of-river planning directions be progressed to ensure the values of the river are protected and the 50 year community vision can be realised. These include:

Refine and introduce permanent design and development and landscape management controls between Richmond and Warrandyte which continue to prescribe mandatory maximum building heights, minimum development setbacks and overshadowing controls, and strengthened **stormwater management** and vegetation controls for all new development

The inner city reach

Urban

- Select appropriate plant species to help restore ecological values, improve biodiversity **and habitat** and contribute to urban cooling and greening.
- Ensure development is set back from the Yarra River's edge to strengthen the vegetation buffer along the waterway and ensure tree canopies retain their dominance within the landscape **and to prevent overshadowing of the waterway**. Development must also be set back from adjoining parklands and conservation areas to maintain views **and prevent overshadowing**.

Glossary

I have trouble with your mixing the definition of Biodiversity with habitat. They are not the same.

Biodiversity is the variety of plant and animal life

Habitat is the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism

Similarly, reducing habitat to just Habitat Corridor is not correct.
