



IMAGINE  
THE YARRA

# DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

## SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

<b>Submission Number:</b>	215092
<b>Name (Individual/Organisation):</b>	Individual
<b>Attachments:</b>	Attachment 1 – Written submission

[REDACTED]

29/30 March 2020

Melbourne Water

To Whom It May Concern

### **COMMENTS ON DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN 2020**

As a resident of Kingston who values the natural areas and waterways we are fortunate to have in our locality, and a local conservation volunteer, including being a Friend of Mordialloc Catchment and Bradshaw Bushland Reserve, I write briefly in general support of the Draft 2020 Yarra Strategic Plan.

#### **Traditional owners' involvement**

We have much to learn from First Peoples ways of sustainable use of land and waterways, directly or through recorded history of First Peoples, and their inclusion is welcome thank you.

#### **Whole-of-river-actions**

A whole-of-river-approach with compatible actions for each reach of the Yarra is essential, thank you.

Some of the points below may be covered in the strategy but they are important. **Request**, for all reaches of the Yarra:

- a) Hold water in the surrounding riparian landscape where possible, including wetlands to filter stormwater and converting drains to natural creeks, to improve Yarra water flow and water quality.
- b) Restore waterway conditions, habitats and populations of indigenous aquatic plants and animals.
- c) Remove introduced aquatic plants and animals, including trout that displace native species.
- d) Elimination/firm control of feral animals such as deer, pigs, foxes, dogs, rabbits, etc.
- e) Ban domestic cat ownership within 2 kilometres of natural areas and waterways, and ban release of other pets into the Yarra environs such as discarded aquarium species, dogs, cage birds, pigeons, etc.
- f) Consider returning dingoes to wild areas for their ecological contribution.
- g) Prevent riverbank access by livestock.
- h) Restore indigenous plant communities according to assigned Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVCs) with appropriate layers of canopy trees, understorey shrubs and ground plants.
- i) Sections of the river waters and bank retained as relatively undisturbed aquatic and riparian wildlife habitats and kept free of public access, and ensure habitat connectivity.
- j) Retain mature native trees, especially those with hollows, for essential wildlife habitat.
- k) Remove riparian and aquatic environmental weeds, including garden escapes, such as polygala, mirror bush, ivy, tradescantia, etc.
- l) Replace introduced vegetation such as poplar, elm, oak, pines, conifers, pittosporum, etc, with local or Australian native non-invasive trees and shrubs.
- m) Reduce pesticide and herbicide use on public land and encourage landholders to also.
- n) Riparian buffer zones kept free of public and private buildings and infrastructure.
- o) Educate and encourage landholders, river users and visitors to responsibly assist in caring for the Yarra environs.

**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:**

**Priority 1** - Improving water quality of the Yarra River and protecting land, floodplains and billabongs.

**Priority 2** - Protecting the significance of the Yarra River's landscapes and views.

**Priority 3** - Acknowledging, protecting and commemorating the rich heritage of the Birrarung.

**Priority 4** - Improving the river's parklands to support community wellbeing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, albeit briefly, and for the intent to improve the Yarra environs.

Yours faithfully

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