



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	215057
Name (Individual/Organisation):	Individual
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?

Yes

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

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

Somewhat

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

There are massive and increasing conflicts of interest, driven by developers and the transport lobby.

An example is the exclusion of declared projects within the meaning of the Major Transport Project Facilitation Act 2009.

It is understandable that essential projects go ahead, but with the example of the North East Link, the proponents of the project have been able to effectively bypass the environmental effects process, and have not been compelled to demonstrate that the long term benefit of the project is worth the cost to the Yarra and environs. On the contrary, the project is in contravention to the Governments own transport integration plan, and to the advice and opinion of a great many experts on transport planning for the ends of sustainability and efficiency.

NELA ran an a multi-million dollar propaganda campaign which has convinced the people in the area that the project will solve the congestion problem, and is worth the money and damage to the area.

The Yarra will be badly affected by local creeks going into barrel drains, massive increase in untreated runoff, and the loss of 26,000 trees. The advocates of environment over unsustainable development have been sidelined.

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

Quality parklands and Cultural diversity will be much easier to deliver than Healthy river and Natural beauty.

3b. Why do you think this?

Healthy river is going to be a tough ask, as the environment dries and heats with climate change, and pollution from increased road runoff and hard surface runoff increases, combined with ever-increasing demand on water. The river flow already seems to be quite low for much of the time.

I think the State Government is too beholden to the corporate sector, which will make it hard to stop high rise developments being built too close to the river.

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 - 4

Acknowledging, protecting and commemorating the rich heritage of the Birrarung - 2

Improving the river's parklands to support community wellbeing - 1

Protecting the significance of the Yarra River's landscapes and views - 3

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

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?

In my area of Banyule there are several garden supply and other businesses and the Bulleen Country club which could be given incentive to relocate in order to increase riverside habitat.

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 pressure from expansion and growth is ever-increasing, and land along the river is so hard to claw back that any acquisitions that are possible should be done quickly, and any regulation required to limit/ convert land use to activities in line with the plan should be enacted.

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

Somewhat

8b. Why do you think this?

I am concerned that corporate interests will be able to prevent its full implementation.

It is also unclear if there will be enough funding, ongoing.

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

Yes

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

The restoration/ care of the river should be the overriding priority of any activity.

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

10b. Why do you think this?

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

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?

I think public activities and use which does not degrade the river and environs should be encouraged. There are always entrepreneurs wanting to set up business such as tree walks and food outlets on parkland, and as the population expands, the pressure to build more sports facilities in parkland will increase.

The plan needs mechanisms to prevent these activities from happening.

There could be more launching sites for canoes, as this is a healthy activity which helps people appreciate the natural environment.

It is a shame that there is no funding for litter traps, or enforcement of litter control (polystyrene) from building sites, as there is a depressing amount of junk floating/caught up in the river.

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

Great to see it happening, with a good start, and genuine goodwill and consultation.

Also so necessary to involve and empower the original owners of the river in the plan.

I remain concerned that the Government is too beholden to the corporate sector, to allow the plan to reach its potential.

I think the NE Link is a key demonstration of the vulnerability of the plan to corporate interests prevailing over the common good.

Contact Details

Individual

First Name

█

Last Name

█

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

█

Suburb

█

Postcode**Email Address****Telephone****Upload your submission here**

No file specified

Collection Notice

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

I agree to the Collection Notice

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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