



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	215072
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)

The report appears to be very comprehensive, encapsulating the main priorities for the vision.

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

Yes

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

The information outlined in the report is detailed and has been well-considered.

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

Improving the water quality of the lower reaches.

3b. Why do you think this?

It will not be inexpensive but overall, I believe the community will 'buy in', particularly at this time when there is such concern for the health of our environment and wetlands.

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 - 1

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

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

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?

Yes

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

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

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?

Rivers cannot be built. They are a natural, precious resource, particularly in our very dry continent. Rivers bring a uniqueness to the areas through which they flow, such as the suburb of Warrandyte where live. The health, nurture and preservation of the river must have priority at all times over the building of infrastructure.

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

Yes

8b. Why do you think this?

The directions outline a responsible plan, for the reasons detailed in the report.

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

Yes

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

As above - the directions have at their heart the welfare of the river and the respect owed to the cultural heritage of the first peoples who inhabited the regions through which the Yarra flows.

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

Yes

10b. Why do you think this?

As detailed in the report.

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?

No - I think the geographical, environmental, cultural and historic aspects of the vision for the next ten years are consistent with my passion for the river. However, please note my response to question 13.

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

The Performance Objectives of the YSP are too high level and too vaguely worded. They should be stated as SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-Bound). The YSP must, but the draft YSP does not, use the 'State of the Yarra and its Parklands' report to establish a baseline against which the ultimate success or failure of the Performance Objectives and the YSP can be measured. The YSP does not show how the Actions given for each Performance Objective will build a cumulative effect over the ten-year period to create a foundation for the 50 year Community Vision. The following have been left out of the Yarra Strategic Plan and are gaps: a) no part of the YSP is binding; b) Priority Projects; and c) Decision Making Framework. The draft YSP states that no part of the YSP is binding, though the Yarra/Birrarung Act expects parts of the plan to be binding. The draft YSP states Priority Projects will be developed for the final plan. They will not then be developed through 'collaboration with the community' as required by the Yarra/Birrarung Act, but behind doors closed to community input. The draft YSP states that a decision making framework is not included in the draft, as the framework itself is still in draft. The Yarra/Birrarung Act requires a decision-making framework to be part of the YSP. The key principle in Yarra/Birrarung Act of a net gain for the environment from every river project is ignored by the draft YSP, which is the appropriate and only vehicle for implementing this important principle. Application of this principle would generate funding for environmental projects. According to the document, the draft YSP was prepared by the Yarra Collaboration Committee, not by the lead agency as required under the Yarra/Birrarung act. The YSP must show how the Land Use Framework will implement the 'Directions' given for each reach in the framework. Annual assessment of implementation of Performance Objective 2 to be paid for by each responsible entity to the Wurundjeri Woi wurrung Tribe Land Council as one source of new annual funding for the Council. CEOs and department secretaries need to be included in the Yarra

Collaboration Committee for it to be effective in driving change through collaboration and modern governance.

Contact Details

Individual

First Name

██████

Last Name

██████

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

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Suburb

██████████

Postcode

████

Email Address

Telephone

██████████

Upload your submission here

No file specified

Collection Notice

The Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) 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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The Engage Victoria Team

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