



# Fact Sheet IMAGINE THE YARRA

## Land Use Framework and panel process

The directions for future land use and development, contained in the draft Yarra Strategic Plan's Part 2 - Land Use Framework, will give effect to the plan's performance objectives and vision and ensure the Yarra River is at the centre of planning and decision-making

### Land Use Framework

#### Purpose and content

The Land Use Framework is the spatial representation of how we will work towards the Yarra Strategic Plan's four performance objectives and the Yarra River 50 Year Community Vision – over the next 10 years. It provides broad directions for land use and development to protect the Yarra River corridor and its significant values.

#### Legislative requirements

The Land Use Framework responds to the requirements outlined in sections 20 and 21 of the *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017* and complements the other projects and actions that will be delivered through the Yarra Strategic Plan.

#### Structure of the framework

To reflect the unique characteristics of the Yarra River, and align with the 50 Year Community Vision, the Land Use Framework provides directions for land use and development across four reaches:

- Upper rural: Upper Yarra Reservoir to Healesville

- Lower rural: Healesville to Warrandyte
- Suburban: Warrandyte to Dights Falls
- Inner city: Dights Falls to Westgate Bridge.

The Land Use Framework includes an analysis of current land use, pressures and threats along the Yarra River corridor. It then outlines directions for future land use and development and identifies new areas for protection and significant places where we can work to improve parklands, biodiversity outcomes, cultural heritage and community access.

#### Statutory implementation

Following approval of the final Yarra Strategic Plan, the Land Use Framework will be given effect in eight local planning schemes:

- Banyule
- Boroondara
- Manningham
- Melbourne
- Nillumbik
- Stonnington
- Yarra
- Yarra Ranges

It will also be implemented into planning policy by updating of the



existing Yarra River protection policy (at clause 12.03-1R of the Victoria Planning Provisions).

The Land Use Framework's maps and directions for future land use and development will work with other statutory controls, including interim Yarra River Protection planning controls introduced in 2017, to ensure that the Yarra River is at the centre of planning and decision-making in the corridor.

Implementation of the Land Use Framework in this way means that planning permit and amendment proposals within the Yarra Strategic Plan area must be consistent with the Yarra Strategic Plan.

### Planning scheme amendment

A planning scheme amendment to implement the Yarra Strategic Plan and the Land Use Framework will be drafted and implemented following the panel process and subsequent finalisation of the plan.

Any planning scheme amendment to implement the approved Yarra Strategic Plan will be subject to the Minister for Planning's consideration under Part 3 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

### Further implementation

Not all content in the Land Use Framework will become part of planning policy, with a range of actions and initiatives in the Land Use Framework delivered through different means. Future project opportunities identified in the Land Use Framework will require further investigation by the Yarra Collaboration Committee partners and be subject to separate engagement and consultation with the community.

As such, even projects which may have a statutory planning component will not be implemented through planning schemes immediately.

### Aligning with Plan Melbourne

The metropolitan planning strategy, *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*, recognises the significance of the Yarra River and its parklands to the identity, liveability and prosperity of Melbourne and the Yarra Valley.

The Land Use Framework builds on *Plan Melbourne* policy to protect and enhance the Yarra River and its parklands by establishing performance objectives and directions which will help us start to realise the Yarra River 50 Year Community Vision. The Victorian Government will ensure alignment between the Yarra Strategic Plan's Land Use Framework and land use framework plans currently being prepared for each metropolitan region as part of *Plan Melbourne*.

## Panel process

### Purpose

The *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017* requires a panel process be undertaken so that submissions relating to Part 2 – Land Use Framework can be independently considered.

Prior to referral to the panel, submissions made on Part 2 – Land Use Framework will be thoroughly reviewed and where agreed, incorporated into the updated version of the plan. Submissions which are not fully adopted will be further considered by the panel.

The panel will be appointed by the Minister for Water and be administered by Planning Panels Victoria. Its operation will be similar to a planning panel under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and like a planning panel, the panel process for the Yarra Strategic Plan will be independent.

While the panel will not be requested to consider specific amendments to any planning scheme in the Yarra Strategic Plan area, its recommendations will inform the finalisation of the YSP and the preparation of subsequent planning scheme amendments.

### Public hearings

The panel will hold public hearings, providing an opportunity for submitters, should they wish, to present their submissions and call any expert evidence. Following completion of the public hearings, the panel will prepare and submit a report and any recommendations it thinks fit to the Minister for Water.

Consistent with the *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017*, the final decision on the content of the Land Use Framework will be made by the Minister for Water. The dates for the panel hearings are as follows:

27 April 2020	<b>Directions Hearing</b>
Week commencing 25 May 2020	<b>Public Hearing commences</b>

The dates, times and locations will be confirmed with submitters following exhibition of the draft Yarra Strategic Plan on the Engage Victoria website.

### Directions Hearing

The Directions Hearing will be an opportunity for the panel to consider any preliminary or procedural matters, including the circulation of further information and expert witness reports, and to make arrangements for the public hearing (including the hearing timetable) and provide an opportunity for submitters to ask any questions about the panel process. These details will be communicated to parties that have lodged a submission referred to the panel.

## Providing feedback on the draft Yarra Strategic Plan and its Land Use Framework

Your feedback on the Draft Yarra Strategic Plan and the Land Use Framework in particular, will help us refine the directions for land use and development and influence the protection of the Yarra River corridor. Submissions will be used to update the Draft Yarra Strategic Plan, then be referred to a panel, together with the updated version of the plan, for independent consideration.

To ensure your feedback on the Land Use Framework is considered, please make a submission through the Draft Yarra Strategic Plan Engage Victoria [www.engage.vic.gov.au/help-us-shape-10-year-strategic-plan-yarra-river](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/help-us-shape-10-year-strategic-plan-yarra-river).