



IMAGINE  
THE YARRA

# DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

### SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

<b>Submission Number:</b>	YSP04
<b>Name (Individual/Organisation):</b>	Yarra Riverkeeper Association
<b>Attachments:</b>	Attachment 1 – Written submission

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Yarra Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to the Draft Yarra Strategic Plan  
**Date:** Thursday, 26 March 2020 2:50:29 PM

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- This is a sterling opportunity to increase and protect the health of the Yarra River. This opportunity will not come again, so it is critical to make the utter most of it, to set in place objectives and actions that will resonate for decades, for ever, for good.
- Now, today, the report by the Commissioner of Environmental Sustainability shows that 17 out of the 25 environmental indicators are deteriorating. This is despicable management. If this was your child at school, you would do something that would change things properly, change them for the rest of their life. And be changing the life of the community around them at the same time.
- I very much support the aspirations of the Yarra Strategic Plan. The plan defends the river against the twin pressures of climate change and urbanization. The planning scheme and other tools are being used to re-think how we manage the river, over the next 10 to 50 years. The YSPlan promotes the use of modern governance – collaboration and coordination – to help address issues on the Yarra. That is the way to go. But, are there strong enough mechanisms, commitment and action in there to make sure of effective collaboration and coordination?

The plan is too high level and aspirational in its wording. It needs more detail. More specific outcomes. More determination.

- Make the Performance Objectives SMART goals, which reference the environmental indicators in ‘State of the Yarra and its Parklands’; and report as a baseline to measure the improvement of the action delivered over the next 10 years.
- The Performance Objectives and Actions need to be bound by a time, and be cumulative. They need to clearly and adequately address the impact of climate change and urbanization. That includes the effect of the rapid increase of hard surfaces, such as roads and roofs, on our waterways, and with that, the increase of stormwater pollution. Pollution that kills macroinvertebrates that are the base of the food chain. The longer we let this happen, the more the community accepts that, rather than moves to prevent and stop it.
- It is critical that the plan recognizes the conflict between disturbance and habitat destruction on the one hand, and access to the river on the other. Suitable planning tools need to be included in the plan to clearly define what is to be protected, and where activity nodes are appropriate. And to promote this so builders, users and admirers of the river know whats in place, and work to support it.
- The YSPlan has been prepared by the Yarra Collaboration Committee **and not, as required under the legislation**, by the lead agency. The committee has an inherent conflict of interest. It is clear to anyone, that the plan reflects what is currently being done, rather than what is intended to be delivered under the Yarra

River Protection (Willip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act. This is governing with blinkers on. Exactly what the YSPlan should not be doing. Especially in the face of critical climate change and pollution pressures.

- Do make the Yarra Strategic Plan objectives SMART, do make it effective so that the environmental indicators look good, for good.

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