



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	214874
Name (Individual/Organisation):	Individual
Attachments:	Attachment 1 – Survey submission
	Attachment 2 – Supporting document



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?

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?

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

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

3b. Why do you think this?

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

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?

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?

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

8b. Why do you think this?

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

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

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?

I am a longterm resident of the Bend of Islands and agree that it is indeed a significant place. However, I don't think it is appropriate that public access to the river is promoted. It is an area with special 'Residential Conservation' planning controls. The aim of the area is to protect and enhance the high biodiversity of the area. Any increased public visitation could compromise these aims. The local Conservation Association has worked closely with the Wurundjeri over many years and would support protection of the cultural values of the area.

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?

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

Contact Details

Individual

First Name

██████

Last Name

██████

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

██████████

Suburb

██████████

Postcode

████

Email Address

Telephone

██████████

Upload your submission here

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

This is not SPAM. You are receiving this message because you have submitted feedback or signed up to Engage Victoria. If you think you have been sent this by mistake please contact us at contact@engage.vic.gov.au.

[Privacy Policy](#) [Log In to Site](#)



This is my 2nd submission (original submission was on 3/03/20)

Item 11 was omitted from the copy of my 1st submission that I received, so it is copied into this submission.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] My typed answers (below) were submitted as part of the interview. These incorporate a few more points than were in my 1st submission.

COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY – Individual feedback

Thank you again for taking the time to give us your valuable feedback on the draft Yarra Strategic Plan.

One of the key consultations questions we have been asking is ***will the draft plan deliver the foundations of the Yarra River 50 Year Community Vision?*** As an Assembly member you were selected through a rigorous process to represent your community and develop the Community Vision **therefore you are in the best position to assess whether we have reached this goal.**

It's important to note that the Yarra Strategic Plan will provide a **ten year** strategy to establish the foundation for long-term change in governance, and guide us towards delivering the 50 year Community Vision for the Yarra River.

The following is a series of questions so we can get your feedback on this but also get your feedback on the plan in general and if you think there are any gaps we should be filling.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

Firstly, the 10 year performance objectives within the plan are as follows:

1. A healthy river and lands

Improving the water quality of the Yarra River and protecting its land, floodplains and billabongs to achieve greater biodiversity.

2. A culturally diverse river corridor

Acknowledging, protecting and commemorating the rich heritage of the Birrarung and its stories.

3. Quality parklands for a growing population

Improving the river's parklands to support community wellbeing and strengthen the relationship between the Yarra River, its community and visitors.

4. Protecting the natural beauty of the Yarra River corridor

Respecting the significance of the Yarra River's landscapes. Where we build, we will protect and celebrate the river's natural beauty, landscapes and views.



1a. Do you think the four, 10-Year Performance Objectives adequately reflect the 50 Year Community Vision?

Yes Somewhat No Unsure

1b. Why?

Captures main concepts of the vision, but plan needs to be more prescriptive with measurable targets

2. What do you think is the greatest opportunity the Yarra Strategic Plan presents? Please rank the following statements in order of importance from 1 -4

1	Improving water quality of the Yarra River and protecting land, floodplains and billabongs
2	Acknowledging, protecting and commemorating the rich heritage of the Birrarung
4	Improving the river's parklands to support community wellbeing
3	Protecting the significance of the Yarra River's landscapes and views

If you do 1 to 3 then 4 will happen

PART 1 – Working together to deliver the community vision

3a. Looking at the whole of river actions proposed under each performance objective in more detail (see pages 58-61), which of these are a high priority for you and why.

Please list

Ob 1 – items 1 & 2 – enviro health of river desperately needs improvement in the LRR – vision calls for cloak of mature forest thru floodplain – immediate action required to achieve this.

Ob 1 – item 3 - 2nd & 4th dots all particularly relevant to LRR – Regulation and control of 'pesticides and chemicals entering the waterway' needs to be better defined to set measurable targets. Involvement of EPA type controls and testing is essential



3b. Do you feel the draft Yarra Strategic Plan has put appropriate actions in place to ensure delivery on the aspirations of Traditional Owners?

Yes Somewhat No Unsure

Comments

The recognition of the Traditional Owners and the opportunities for their input and promotion, provided by the YSP, are wholeheartedly supported

3c. Do you feel that the actions outlined in the draft plan will set the 10 year change required to achieve the 50 year vision?

Yes **Somewhat** No Unsure

Comments

enviro health of river desperately needs improvement in the LRR – vision calls for cloak of mature forest thru floodplain – immediate action required to achieve this. Need defined and measurable goals, both for this 10-years but also for the 50 years. An overall proposed staged approach needs to be defined to show how we get to achieve the 50 year vision.

There is also a need to show how the 1st 10-year plan has been designed to fit into an overall 50-year plan. Although it is recognised that there are many unknowns involved, this is essential to give confidence that enough is being done in the 1st 10-year stage.

3d. Are there any additional actions you think are missing that will allow us to set the foundation to deliver on the 50 year Community Vision?

Please list

4. Opportunities to strengthen the plan

There are 7 key policy areas underlying the actions that have been proposed within the plan. They are:

- Stormwater,
- Septics,



- Extending Parklands,
- Setbacks,
- Environmental Water,
- Recreation and
- Climate Change.

Please choose 1-2 of these areas that most interest you and answer the following questions:

- **Stormwater** - Do you have any new ideas or initiatives that may lead to significant change in practice or improvement in the condition of the river ?
In the LRR, Reveg of wide strips along banks (incorporating all billabongs) can be designed to filter runoff from the floodplain. These will need to be designed to cope with floods and there will need to be serious on-going weed control to facilitate the establishment of natural vegetation of high biodiversity.
- **Septics** - Do you have any new ideas or initiatives that may lead to significant change in practice or improvement in the condition of the river ?
Need documented control system to ensure septic systems in L&URRs are operational and regularly maintained as required. This much cheaper than construction of sewerage system
- **Extending Parklands**
 - Are there key priority areas of parkland that you think should be extended in the Yarra Strategic Plan project area? Where are these key priority areas?
LRR 'Billabong park and NR' help justify the cost of reveg by making it a 'public asset'
 - What are the values (scenic, environmental, social, cultural or economic) that you think should be enhanced and protected ? e.g. what is the basis or justification for extending this parkland?
 - Can you suggest any new or existing initiatives that will promote, protect and enhance the Greater Yarra Urban Parklands?
- **Setbacks**
 - When development occurs in the river corridor, how should this be done to enhance views, protect the environment and provide recreational opportunities and benefits?
- **Environmental Water**
 - What do you value about billabongs in the river corridor and are there sites that are important to you?
Billabongs are fundamental part of a healthy river system adding to overall diversity of health, flora and fauna.
 - What do you want to see or experience at the billabongs, eg permanent water, birds, feeling of remoteness?
All this and more consistent with a healthy river system adding to overall diversity of health, flora and fauna.



- **Climate Change**

- What does climate change mean for you in your reach?
Hotter drier climate – need for larger % of flow as ‘environmental water’ (This, with the crazy increase in population, means need for massive ‘water wise’ campaign to lower water usage rates of whole population.)
- For the Yarra river corridor, what do you see are the key adaptation and mitigation measures?
Maximization of biodiversity of the natural systems, the river and environs, to give them the best opportunity to adapt to CC

- **Recreation**

- Do you have suggestions relating to new and/or improved passive or active recreational facilities?

PART 2 - Land Use Framework

The Land Use framework aims to put the Yarra River at the heart of future planning and development decisions.

The Yarra Strategic Plan provides a regional framework for land use planning and decision-making on both public and freehold private land at a local level. The framework complements the collaborative actions set out in Part 1 of the plan by ensuring all activities within the corridor align with the performance objectives in the next 10 years.

To summarise, the land use framework provides the land use or town planning directions for the whole of the river corridor but also within each reach and identifies opportunities at a site based level.

5. Do you believe the Land Use Framework outcomes will support the 50 Year Community Vision, focusing on the reach that you are most familiar with?

- Upper rural – see pages 72-73
- Lower rural – see pages 84-85
- Suburban – see pages 98-99
- Inner city – see pages 114-115

Yes Somewhat No Unsure

Comments

The Land Use Framework concept is a good one, however its effectiveness is dependent in clear definition of the directions and analysis of these to create measurable goals, so that its effectiveness can be monitored and progress on the achievement of the 50 Year Vision can be clearly assessed and documented.



IMAGINE THE YARRA

The intentions sound very good, however I have a major reservation regarding the regeneration of the riverside vegetation zone, including the billabongs, in the Lower Rural Reach (LRR) .

The words are good but there is no quantification of the amount of actual physical works will be aimed for and no measurable targets have been set to gauge performance. The lack of vegetation on the river banks and the billabongs throughout the LRR is a major concern for the environmental health of the river.

The 50 Year Vision calls for a 'wide mature cloak of indigenous vegetation. For this to be mature in 50 years (2068), revegetation works need to be planted in this 1st 10-year section of the plan.

Given the continuous improvements to the river and its environs, since the 1970's, in the 2 reaches downstream of the LRR, it can be argued that the LRR section across the flood plain (Yering Gorge to Healesville), is currently the most environmentally degraded section of the river.

To gain an appreciation of this degradation one can use Google Earth to take a 'drone view' along the river. The lack of streamside vegetation, and the parlous state of the billabongs is astounding, despite MW's Streamside Improvement program which has been in place for many years. The river is basically little more than a drain across the floodplain. Refer to ATTACHMENT 1 for a snap shot of this 'drone view'. The extent of degradation, and the dire need for action, can only be fully appreciated by checking the whole length of this section of the river.

The regeneration of the riverside vegetation zone, including the billabongs, in the LRR will be the most difficult to achieve.

In the LRR, Reveg of wide strips along banks (incorporating all billabongs) can be designed to filter runoff from the floodplain. These will need to be designed to cope with floods and there will need to be serious on-going weed control to facilitate the establishment of natural vegetation of high biodiversity.

MW's Streamside Improvement program has been in place for many years, so the vast majority of landowners willing to participate in this will have already done so. In other words, the majority of areas needing revegetation will be on land where the landowners will be averse to any change. This means that stronger government initiatives (land acquisition?) will need to be adopted to enable the changes required to achieve the 50 Year Community Vision. (The 50 Year Vision defines a 'wide mature cloak of indigenous vegetation [continuous] for the riverside vegetation zone, including the billabongs, in the Lower Rural Reach). This could make this item very expensive, however it is fundamental to the restoration and improvement of the health of the Yarra River.

The creation of a 'Billabong Park/Nature Reserve' along the Yarra from Yering Gorge to Tarrawarra in the LRR, to encompass the riverside vegetation and the billabongs on both



sides of the river, would be a standout achievement for this 1st 10-year stage of the 50-year plan. This obviously would be expensive, but it would be clear indication of true commitment to the Strategy.

It would restore the health of this much degraded section of the river, and would create a valuable community asset for all future generations to utilise and enjoy.

The 1st and 4th dot points of the 'In the next 10 years' (page 85) mention 'restoration of depleted sections' and 'new protection'. There is no real definition of these statements or quantification of the works involved, and this is critical.

To have a 'wide mature cloak of indigenous vegetation' in 50 years (2068), planting needs to happen in this 1st 10-year program. This is a massive task, but without it, it could be argued that the strategy is only 'paying lip-service' to the 50-year Vision.

Specific Comments

Watsons Creek biodiversity corridor (pages 86 & 93)

The map shows the habitat link up Watsons Creek but in fact the effective link is much wider and extend easterly to the escarpment line at the east of Sugarloaf dam. There are excellent records of the use of the east side of the link by various species coming from Kinglake NP to the Bend of Islands via this route, including Lyrebirds, Lace Monitors, Red-browed Tree-creepers etc. (detailed records are available)

Sugarloaf Link Project is a good example of the environmental enhancement appropriate to the link to ensure its on-going benefit to the Yarra and Warrandyte State Park.

Further weed and pest animal control along Watsons Ck and beyond, to KLNP is welcomed.

Billabong systems (page 90)

The title of this section should be Yering Gorge to Healesville (not Yering and Tarrawarra)

The map on pages 68 & 69 shows 10 Wurundjeri Sites of Significance (brown title boxes) and 6 Areas for protection (pink title boxes). I'm surprised that there are no sites nominated upstream of Coranderrk??

Access to the river needs to be strategically planned and controlled. It will be a balance of nurturing the public's appreciation of the river's special places and ensuring the cultural/environmental qualities are not compromised.

I am a longterm resident of the Bend of Islands and agree that it is indeed a significant place. However, I don't think it is appropriate that public access to the river is promoted. It is an



area with special 'Residential Conservation' planning controls. The aim of the area is to protect and enhance the high biodiversity of the area. Any increased public visitation could compromise these aims. The local Conservation Association has worked closely with the Wurundjeri over many years and would support better protection of the cultural values of the area.

General Comments

The passing of the 'Act', the development of the 50 Year Community Vision, and now the YSP are a fantastic initiative to better protect and enhance the Yarra.

Looking at the Yarra as an entire entity clarifies appreciation of its huge value to Melbourne and its residents.

This value must be enhanced by the protections and initiatives incorporated into the YSP.

The YSP is essential to reverse the mistakes of the past and to overcome the increasing degradation pressures of population growth and climate change.

Draft Yarra Strategic Plan

6a. Based on what we've discussed today, do you feel that the draft Yarra Strategic Plan delivers the 10 year change required to achieve the 50 year Community Vision?

Yes Somewhat No Unsure

6b. If not, do you have further ideas for how this can be done?

I fully support almost all the directions, both in the LRR and the other reaches. My concern is that there is lack of definition which is needed to ensure the progress made in the 1st 10-year plan will be adequate to achieve the 50-year Vision.

There is also a need to show how the 1st 10-year plan has been designed to fit into an overall 50-year plan. Although it is recognised that there are many unknowns involved, this is essential to give confidence that enough is being done in the 1st 10-year stage.