



# DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

## SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

<b>Submission Number:</b>	215081
<b>Name (Individual/Organisation):</b>	Earthcare Permaculture/ Permaculture Yarra Valley/ Mount Toolebewong Landcare
<b>Attachments:</b>	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](mailto: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?**

Somewhat

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

1. Ten Year Performance Objectives.

A healthy river and lands.

This plan sets out a range of actions to restore ecological function and amenity but not greater biodiversity. Improved habitat (increased area and connectivity) can support existing biodiversity and improve the potential for increased biodiversity through natural processes or by interventions to re-establish lost or diminished species (which are the responsibility of other

agencies).

Despite its title, the Stonnington project is not about biodiversity, it's about ecological function (habitat connectivity, water quality) and amenity (recreation and educational opportunities).

Biodiversity refers to the total genetic, species and ecosystem diversity and is not an appropriate term to use when discussing habitat improvement or expansion.

The performance objective would be better stated as:

“ A healthy river and lands improves ecological function and supports biodiversity”

A culturally diverse river corridor.

Cultural diversity cannot be imposed by a strategic plan as this objective seems to indicate. Cultural values are developed through interactions between people and their environments over time. The objective should not be limited to historical aboriginal culture but should allow for the ongoing development of cultural connection by all users.

Better wording would be:

“A culturally diverse river corridor is recognised, promoted and appreciated”.

Protecting the natural beauty of the Yarra River corridor.

Objectives need to be stated as desirable end-points, not processes to get there. “Protecting” is an action. Better wording for this objective would be:

“The natural beauty of the Yarra River corridor is protected and enhanced”

**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)**

2. Actions, responsibilities and targets.

A healthy River.

Septic Tanks. By their very nature septic tanks will inevitably continue to contaminate water tables. A long term increase in water quality cannot be achieved unless septic tanks are replaced with reticulated sewerage systems in densely populated areas and composting systems in rural areas.

Rural Stormwater. Rural stormwater management from farms, earthworks and rural roads may be covered by the Healthy Waterways Strategy but there needs to be some reference to this in addition to urban SW management, as Yarra River tributaries are a major source of poor quality water in the river itself. Restoration of natural filtration through wetlands throughout the catchment should be the goal. There should be no discharge of stormwater directly into streams anywhere in the catchment.

2. Natural Beauty.

“Monitor changes in land use ... “ Monitoring is pointless without adequate controls on all developments within the corridor.

**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?**

Australia

## **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?**

3. Land Use Framework.

Page 66 Land Use Settings.

"Bush Residential" is a curious term to use to cover "agriculture, rural residential and agritourism" as the term usually applies to low density bush residential zones. "Rural" would be more appropriate to cover all non-urban private land. That would also match the other headings used elsewhere in this section.

**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?**

**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?**

Use of more accurate and appropriate terminology as outline above would make the intentions of the plan clearer and more focussed.

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

Good, but too biased towards amenity rather than ecological sustainability.

## **Contact Details**

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**Upload your submission here**

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*The Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) 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](mailto:YarraStrategicPlan@melbournewater.com.au)

**I agree to the Collection Notice**

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Regards,

The Engage Victoria Team



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