



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	215051
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?

Somewhat

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

Although the objectives are broadly aligned with the 50 year community vision. Many aspects remain open ended and subjective. Both the 10 year plan and 50 year vision are general in nature and lack specific measurable targets. And depend on 'funding being available'.

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

Unsure

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

Open ended and subjective plans are very hard to assess. The plans lack specific measurable targets, and are dependent on non guaranteed funding.

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

The most challenging would have to be ensuring having clean water in suburban and lower reaches of the Yarra - especially when trying work along side the state government commitment to the North East Link. The easiest is limiting the encroaching development and the Billabong rehabilitation.

3b. Why do you think this?

Improving water quality so that the Yarra can be considered "clean" is probably the biggest challenge. Urban/road runoff , pollution, litter, and reduced/modified in water flows make water quality very difficult to address and will become worse with increased urban development.

Rehabilitating billabongs should be achievable if sufficient funding and resources are allocated. Limiting encroaching develop along the river corridor should be achievable through regulation, although commercial interests may have other plans.

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 - 3

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

Protecting the significance of the Yarra River's landscapes and views - 2

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

Unsure

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

Yes

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

There are areas that could be acquired that would complete a continuous parkland/bush link along the river which would also be connected to Banyule flats on the other side of the Yarra. These include the Bulleen Driving Range, Seed Farm and the Yarra Yalley Country club site.

There are also some sites - ie The Greenery and Chris Cross Nursery/Garden Supplies - that are very close to the river and would serve both the public and the banks of the river itself better if they became parkland. If areas currently occupied by businesses are incorporated into parkland, the business owners would need to be fairly compensated and provided with opportunities to relocate.

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?

Priority must be given to the goal "identify riparian zones and areas of high

environmental or landscape value that must be protected from development".

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

Vision?

Somewhat

8b. Why do you think this?

I believe the Yarra Strategic Plan will not be effective if its goals, and the Yarra River Protection Act are merely optional during major projects such as the North east Link.

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

Somewhat

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

Increasing public access is a simplistic goal that risks destroying the natural values the plan seeks to preserve. Although preserving and connecting habitat are worthy objectives, I do not support the plan to have a bridge crossing near Birrarung Park. Modern, accessible bridges are substantial structures with a large footprint. Any bridge developed over this part of the Yarra would have the potential to disrupt some of the more secluded parts of the suburban Yarra corridor that provide a haven for wildlife including the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act protected Powerful Owl. Other goals for example "Improve camping opportunities at Longridge Park" sound like they may be opening the way for commercial operation in parks and bushland. Longridge Park already accommodates large groups. If these suggestions are to open the way for elaborate facilities in parkland that can then return a profit, I absolutely do not support it.

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?

The significant locations in the areas of my concern are discussed.

11. Do you agree with the opportunities identified for the significant places that you connect with?

Yes

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?

The number one priority to my mind is the protection and enhancement of the environmental values of the Yarra River and its surrounding corridor. There are few enough opportunities as it is in the urban reaches to provide city residents a chance to observe and connect with nature. Efforts should continue to be made to help people have a more sophisticated understanding the natural values of the Yarra corridor.

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

The goals can be said to be generally worthwhile, however are all subject to funding, an easy out for any department not wanting to fulfill its obligation. We must guard against this. Dedicated long term funding will be required for these stated objectives to be achieved, and an appropriate funding mechanism should be included as part of the Yarra Strategic Plan, and should NOT involve selling leases or operating rights. Commercial operations in parkland along the Yarra should not be encouraged.

Contact Details

Individual

First Name

██████

Last Name

████

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

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Suburb

████████

Postcode

████

Email Address

Telephone

██████████

Upload your submission here

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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

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