



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	215096
Name (Individual/Organisation):	Biomimicry Australia
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)

While the 10-year performance objectives do reflect the 50 year community vision they do not provide adequate detail as to the strategies or measures that will be used to achieve them. Nor do they indicate what will come after them - that is, how will they continue to adapt and evolve to increasing urbanisation and impacts of climate change?

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

No

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

The actions are very vaguely detailed. To achieve the 10 year performance objectives, realistic goals that reference the environmental indicators in 'State of the Yarra and its Parklands' report should be set as a baseline to measure the improvement of the action instituted over the next 10 years. Increased urbanisation will have huge impacts unless ecological performance standards are included in planning requirements. (eg: tonnes of CO2, tonnes of biomass, water stored and/or treated on site by the ecosystem before development)

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

1) Protecting natural beauty of the river corridor - will be the most challenging to deliver in terms of the the timeline for development of planning overlays to support the 10 year plan. Developers will use this time lag to push inappropriate development as was the case with the initial overlays. To counter this we'd suggest that any developments within the Yarra environs be required to retrospectively apply with new requirements rather than be allowed to fall back on previous inadequate measures that don't meet the objectives. 2) Quality parklands - Another challenge is the conflict between increasing accessibility to the river for humans and reducing habitat fragmentation to allow for effective wildlife corridors. Suitable planning tools need to be included in the plan to clearly define what is to be protected and where activity nodes are appropriate.

3b. Why do you think this?

1) This is often how developers operate (eg: The Parkhouse Apartments on Victoria Street, Abbotsford). 2) Again as an example is The Parkhouse Apartments where the development is very close to the river's edge and will have impact on nocturnal wildlife by creating light pollution on pathways and from the buildings - also, a jetty is proposed for kayaks on this sensitive bend on the river).

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 - 1

Improving the river's parklands to support community wellbeing - 3

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?

Somewhat

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?

Key priority areas that support biodiversity by creating habitat connectivity should be identified and added in line with the findings of the 'State of the Yarra and its Parklands' report. Wildlife corridors between the Yarra and other habitat nodes within the Yarra catchment should be added to the parkland network.

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?

This needs to be developed and enacted swiftly. The main focus needs to be on supporting biodiversity by creating indigenous ecosystem corridors and nodes, with the Yarra as the main corridor.

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

Somewhat

8b. Why do you think this?

It's a good start but the strategies, mechanisms and measures for achieving the vision are vague and the potential for a fragmented approach across a number of councils seems high.

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

Unsure

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

"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." This is not a very reassuring statement. More detail required.

10a. Do you believe that the 13 significant places identified for the river corridor reflect the most regionally significant locations?

Unsure

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?

Again, further consideration needs to be given to the impacts of climate change and

biodiversity loss. To meet the environmental vision, ecological performance standards should be included as measures and goals.

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

Great start! Thanks for all the hard work.

Contact Details

First Name

████

Last Name

████

Organisation (if applicable)

Biomimicry Australia

Address

██████████

Suburb

██████████████

Postcode

████

Email Address

Telephone



Upload your submission here

No file specified

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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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