



Yarra Strategic Plan community engagement Summary of Suburban and Inner City Workshop (Warrandyte to Port Melbourne)

Between May and August 2018 Melbourne Water undertook community engagement to build the content of the draft Yarra Strategic Plan.

This engagement included a series of community workshops along the Yarra, an online survey, an interactive online map, and social media.

The information collected from the community will be used to write the draft Yarra Strategic Plan, to be released in 2019.

This report provides an overview of the responses received at the Suburban and Inner City Yarra Community Workshop, which took place in Alphington on Sunday 17 June 2018, with 32 people in attendance.





The purpose of the workshop was to ensure the draft Yarra Strategic Plan reflects the community's vision for the river and explore how the plan can protect the Yarra and its parklands into the future.



Workshop participants were asked to reflect on five key themes, discuss what success would look like for the Yarra Strategic Plan, and identify areas for protection. Melbourne Water will consider all feedback in the development of the Yarra Strategic Plan.

Themed discussion

Workshop participants were asked to explore the five key themes of access, parklands, culture and heritage, views and landscapes, and experiences using maps to illustrate issues and opportunities. The following provides a summary from each of the themed discussions.



Access: Where should we expand and improve access to the Yarra River? What for?

Discussions focused on improving access for walking and cycling, with particular reference made to extending the main Yarra Trail and connecting its missing links.

Participants also highlighted the need to protect local ecology when creating new access points, which may mean restricting access in some areas.



Parklands: How would you like to see the river parklands and trails improved and expanded?

Much of the discussion focused on improving and expanding trails along the river and connecting gaps in existing trails.

Ongoing maintenance and better consideration of shared pathway safety was also highlighted by participants.

Protection of natural parklands, including weed management, revegetation and protection from development were also discussed.



Culture and heritage: Where are the places of heritage and cultural value? How would you like them protected?

Places identified as being of heritage and cultural value were diverse, including Aboriginal and post-settlement areas. Specific places included Dights Falls, Herring Island, Bolin Bolin Billabong, Banyule House and Heide Museum.

The Yarra River was highlighted as being of cultural and heritage value because of the connection it provides with nature.

Participants identified an opportunity for more education and celebration of Aboriginal culture and history.

Views and landscapes: Where are the important views and landscapes along the river? What makes them valuable?

The focus of this discussion was on ensuring that landscapes and views along the Yarra are protected from development.

Experiences: How would you like to see the river parklands and trails improved and expanded?

The main types of experiences participants would like along the Yarra River were:

- Experiences which contribute to a healthy river and parklands.
- Recreation such as walking, cycling, swimming, nature play, and canoeing.
- Experiences which provide a connection with nature and the quiet of the river, escaping the rush of the city.



IMAGINE THE YARRA

What success looks like...

Participants were asked to describe what the success of the Yarra Strategic Plan would look like in five, ten and fifty years.

The following highlights some of the participants' aspirations.

... in 5 years

- There is a coordinated effort to implement the plan amongst responsible authorities.
- The health of the Yarra River and surrounding parklands has improved.
- The community are engaged and value the health of the river.

... in 10 years

- There are improvements to the natural environment, such as water quality.
- There is continued management of habitat, weeds and vegetation.
- The community is involved in caring for the river.

... in 50 years

- The health of the river and riparian land is thriving, including water quality, wildlife and indigenous vegetation.
- The river and parklands are protected and accessible to the community.



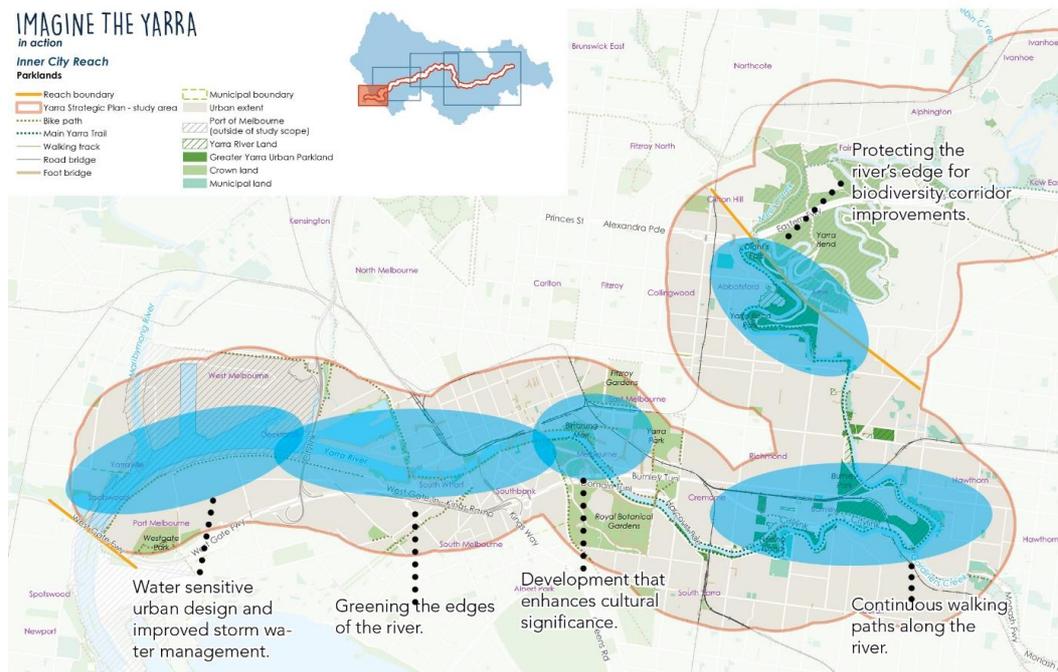
Priority areas for protection

Participants were asked to identify areas along the river to be considered for protection. The following outlines these areas as well as participants' motivations for protecting particular areas.

Inner city reach

The key reasons people cited for identifying areas for protection in the inner city reach were:

- A need for more stormwater management and water sensitive urban design.
- A need to protect against encroaching development.
- A need to protect sight lines along the Yarra.
- Opportunities to improve public access through private land.

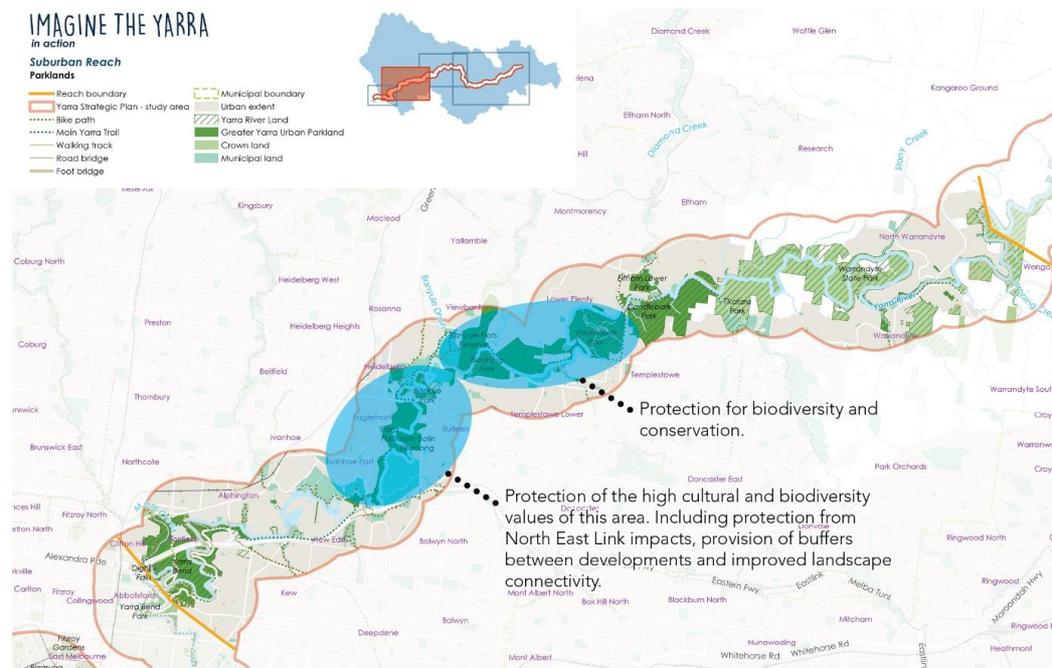




Suburban reach

The key reasons people cited for identifying areas for protection in the suburban reach were:

- A need for a consistent approach to protection along the river.
- Opportunities for more community engagement in river management.
- A need for consistent revegetation to support biodiversity.



Next steps

The feedback collected during this phase of engagement will be used to write the draft Yarra Strategic Plan which will be released for comment in 2019.