



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	215086
Name (Individual/Organisation):	Friends of Glenfern Green Wedge Inc
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)

The stated objectives are on the right track, but the draft does not make it clear enough how these objectives will be measured. Importantly, the issues of climate change, biodiversity and the need for habitat corridors for preservation of flora and fauna should be highlighted as a separate objectives.

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)

While the objectives are achievable and realistic, we need more detailed planning as to how these objectives will be measured and what types of specific actions will be put into place to achieve them. A carefully-designed method for achieving the objectives is difficult to discern in the draft document. Some of the areas that are particularly vague include wetlands and identifying and managing important habitat corridors. The principles and organisation of 'integrated water management' involving all the responsible parties, is also not addressed sufficiently well in the draft.

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

One of the most challenging aspects is the plan for integrated water management - how to get all the responsible authorities including councils and the water authorities to work together to achieve the objectives -how to bring all the stakeholders together and also to bring the community along with this, always remaining receptive to community input. . Another challenge is how to best achieve the crucial role of the river as a habitat corridor with high-level conservation qualities - balancing this against the objective of 'quality parklands for the population'. In regard to the specific actions listed under the objectives -these are not strong nor specific enough, particularly in regard to biodiversity, habitat corridors and climate change.

3b. Why do you think this?

My opinion is based on 10 years of working in community environmental groups and interacting with the broader community and all levels of government to get better outcomes for waterways in my local area (especially Ferny Cree and Monbulk Creek in Yarra Ranges and Knox). I understand from first hand experience the difficulties of bringing the stakeholders (including private landowners) to work collaboratively. The

best way to achieve this is to have strong and consistent guidelines in the planning provisions. I also know from first-hand experience what the challenges are in creating a sustainable, healthy riparian corridor that will function effectively to conserve flora and fauna . This is more challenging and not necessarily compatible with simply providing open space and aesthetically-pleasing parkland for the community. The two objectives can sometimes be at odds with each other, so we need to think very carefully about how both can be achieved.

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 - 2

Protecting the significance of the Yarra River's landscapes and views - 3

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, but I think further research is needed to identify these.

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

The entire river needs to be treated as one integrated entity. It would help to have

specific projects identified as key priorities. Further investigation is needed to help identify key other areas of land for potential inclusion.

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 well integrated into local planning schemes or local councils will find ways to bypass it. Further thought needs to be given to identify more than the 13 'significant places' given that the Yarra stretches for approx. 240 km. Some vital issues that have not been sufficiently addressed in the draft include the consequence of urbanisation, impermeable surfaces, and storm-water management. Also, critically, the issue of climate change. Fragmentation and disturbance needs to be dealt with and areas need to be set aside specifically for the purpose of biodiversity and habitat, giving this high priority.

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

Somewhat

8b. Why do you think this?

If the Land Use directions were able to better address some of the issues I have identified in the previous question, it would be better placed to support the 50 Year Vision. Issues of biodiversity and habitat corridors, fragmentation and with storm water are critical. As I explained above, I am basing my comments on my previous and current experience in community environment groups in caring for local waterways and looking for more integrated solutions that unite stakeholders in common goals. This

can only be achieved if clear guidance is given at at least state level.

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

Somewhat

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

I think they are on the right path, but need more filling out, more detail in accordance with my comments above.

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

No

10b. Why do you think this?

I think there are far more places that could be identified given that the Yarra stretches for 240 km. More research needs to be directed to identify other potential 'significant places' (taking indigenous heritage strongly into account).

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

Somewhat

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?

We need to find a mechanism within the plan which will ensure that the Wurrundjeri Land Council is able to secure a stream of funding.

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

In implementing the plan, there are bound to be conflicting interests, but we need to make sure that environmental objectives are always paramount.

Contact Details

First Name

████████

Last Name

████████

Organisation (if applicable)

Friends of the Glenfern Green Wedge Inc

Address

████████████████

Suburb

████████████████████

Postcode

████████

Email Address

Telephone



Upload your submission here

No file specified

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

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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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