DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	214978
Name (Individual/Organisation):	Individual
Attachments:	Attachment 1 – Written submission

A proposal for improving Waterways, Quantity and Quality for all the tributaries of the Yarra River within the Nillumbik Shire.

My perspective applies to Nillumbik Shire Council which abuts the Yarra, but would be applicable for lots of other abutting Councils. In fact all of Nillumbik waterways drain into the Yarra, mainly the Plenty River and the Diamond Creek. Also, all of the tributaries of the Diamond Creek, and there are quite a few, have their confluences in Nillumbik.

The strategic plan does not have to say you will spend money on this, but for abutting Councils why not encourage them to change their Planning Schemes to protect the quantity and quality of their waterways or the State Government could make the changes for all councils. The Yarra River would be the beneficiary.

In 2015/16 the Nillumbik Shire Council tried to introduce improved Environmental Significant Overlays (ESOs) including a new ESO4 which was to be protections for all Yarra River tributaries that flow from or through Nillumbik Shire. Included in this was the total Diamond Creek system including all of its tributaries. Essentially the waterways ESOs were riparian area protection for graduated distances from the waterways between 10 metres and 50 metres each side depending on the size of each particular waterway.

As well as detailing the protection offered by ESO4 the Nillumbik Council produced excellent maps for all of the waterways in the shire showing and defining the proposed riparian area protection for each section of waterway.

Below and hopefully attached are examples of the maps developed by Council for introducing the new overlays. (The examples are set of all the types of maps covering Wattle Glen, including part of the Diamond Creek and Watery Gully Creek, but are the same set for every waterway location in Nillumbik.)

PDF	PDF	PDF	PDF
Abzeco-Site17-Nillum bikESO1-ThreatenedS	Abzeco-Site17-Nillum bikESO1-Recommend	Abzeco-Site17-Nillum bikESO1-BiolinkNetwo	Abzeco-Site17-Nillum bikESO1-BiolinkNetwo

Unfortunately the introduction of these overlays was stopped with the election of a new Council in November 2016. No rational explanation for this was given, and the current Council have made no effort to revisit the protection of their waterways.

In fact just the opposite is true. In their 2019 review of their Green Wedge Management Plan they included that for landowners abutting a waterway were to be able to "divert or extract" water for their property.

All of this proposal is very consistent with **Healthy Waterways Strategy Yarra Catchment Preliminary Targets** for **Diamond Creek (Source) Management Unit** – page 12.

I assume (with permission of Nillumbik Council) that Melbourne Water or DELWP would be able to use the same maps (55 sites covering the whole shire with 4 maps each) should they want to act on this proposal at least for Nillumbik.

As a volunteer, I have been an active monthly member of Friends of ██████████████ working, in conjunction with both Nillumbik Shire Council and Melbourne Water on re-vegetation of the valley of the Watery Gully Creek including the creation of wetlands on Peppers Paddock, Wattle Glen near the confluence of the Watery Gully Creek and the Diamond Creek.

So, I am in a position to see what excellent progress Melbourne Water and Nillumbik Environment officers are doing in the re-vegetation works along these waterways and helping community groups to do likewise. However, the Council attitude as it relates to their Planning Scheme for improving the quantity and quality of the waterways is counterproductive to this good work.