



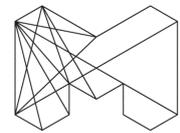
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THE YARRA

# DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

### SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

<b>Submission Number:</b>	YSP32
<b>Name (Individual/Organisation):</b>	City of Melbourne
<b>Attachments:</b>	Attachment 1 – Written submission



CITY OF MELBOURNE

GPO Box 1603  
Melbourne VIC 3001  
Telephone (03) 9658 9658  
**Facsimile** (03) 9654 4854  
DX210487

ABN 55 370 219 287

4 May 2020

Jane Doolan  
Chair of the Yarra Collaboration Committee  
c/o Melbourne Water  
990 La Trobe Street,  
Docklands, VIC 3008

Dear Jane

**Re: *City Of Melbourne's Submission to Draft Yarra Strategic Plan***

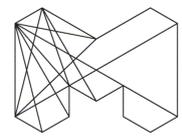
The City of Melbourne is pleased to provide a submission to Melbourne Water on the Draft Yarra Strategic Plan. This letter formalises our draft comments provided to the project team on the 27 March 2020. We also attach City of Melbourne's 'Yarra River - Birrarung Strategy' endorsed by the Future Melbourne Committee on 3 December 2019 for the Committee's reference, which establishes strategic directions and place-based opportunities for the Yarra within our municipality.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this submission, please contact Vicki Barmby, our representative on the Yarra Collaboration Committee, [vicki.barmby@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:vicki.barmby@melbourne.vic.gov.au).

In the meantime, we look forward to our continued involvement in the finalisation and implementation of the Yarra Strategic Plan through the Yarra Collaboration Committee.

Yours sincerely

Alison Leighton  
**General Manager Strategy, Planning and Climate Change**



**CITY OF MELBOURNE**

## City of Melbourne's Submission on the Draft Yarra Strategic Plan

It is positive to see such a strong focus on cultural values, water quality and the natural environment in the Draft Yarra Strategic Plan. The strategic directions covered in City of Melbourne's recently endorsed Yarra River Birrarung Strategy align with much of this focus, however, there are some aspects currently not included in the Draft Yarra Strategic Plan that we recommend for consideration.

### Traditional Owner Groups acknowledgement and engagement

We are pleased with the updated version of the Wurundjeri Chapter, particularly noting the subject headings have been changed and not worded to indicate exclusive connection to the land.

The City of Melbourne acknowledges that more than one Traditional Owner group has cultural connections to the Birrarung. It is important that the Yarra Strategic Plan recognises this connection. Currently the draft Plan only includes formal acknowledgement of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung. City of Melbourne recommends that before the Wurundjeri chapter there is a section that makes reference to the different Traditional Owner groups that have connection to the Birrarung.

Recommendations:

- The Yarra Strategic Plan should replace reference to Traditional Owners with Traditional Owner Groups. Include a statement, where there is no legally recognised Traditional Owner group/s, all Traditional owner groups who have interest/connections to the Birrarung will be engaged with in the implementation of the Yarra Strategic Plan.
- Before the Wurundjeri chapter there is a section that makes reference to the different Traditional Owner groups that have connection to the Birrarung.
- Following the Wurundjeri chapter include a Bunurong Boon Wurrung chapter, seek permission from Boon Wurrung Foundation to include: <https://cv.vic.gov.au/stories/aboriginal-culture/nyernila/boon-wurrung-the-filling-of-the-bay-the-time-of-chaos/> Boon Wurrung: The Filling of the Bay – The Time of Chaos, which talks of Boon Wurrung peoples connection to the Yarra.
- In regards to representation on Birrarung Council, in the event that another Traditional Owner Group is given Registered Aboriginal Status over sections of the Birrarung, the City of Melbourne recommends representation of this Traditional Owner Group to be included as members of the Birrarung Council.

### Declared land

Yarra River land has not been declared in City of Melbourne as it only currently applies upstream of Punt Road, South Yarra. To endorse the 'Final Plan', the City of Melbourne needs clarity on what lands the Plan will apply. We request clarification of timelines for declaring land in the City of Melbourne reach of the river.

We were concerned to understand that in the "Yarra River land" areas, declared especially for protection purposes (to support river health etc), State Major Projects may be not be

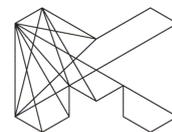
required to observe these protection principles. Ideally the protection principles would be observed by all future proposals on Yarra River land with no exemptions.

### Priority projects and 10 year targets

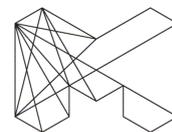
The specifics of the 10 year targets have the potential to offer further direction and detail regarding future aspirations however, these are not defined in the current Draft. Local government is identified as playing role in delivery of many of these targets and so the opportunity to review these before they are released is important.

### Specific Comments on the Draft Yarra Strategic Plan

Reference	Comment
Page 43	The last two dot points under “Consistent with the Act, each of the responsible public entities” would benefit from a review of the sentence structure.
Page 67	While City of Melbourne understands why the Green Wedge Zone, the Rural Conservation Zone, Public Conservation and Resource Zone are listed as a land use zone as a form of statutory protection to manage the values of the Yarra River, we are not sure why the Neighbourhood Residential Zone is also included and think it should be taken out.
Overview map and/or map on p112/113	Make clear the area that is Wurundjeri country (Registered Aboriginal Country under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006) and where there is contested land (approximately from Dights Falls to Port Phillip Bay).
Page 112/3	Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and potentially special building overlay would need to be updated with current data (we are working with Melbourne Water now to update these overlays. Could also show SLR (current Melbourne Water data)
Page 112	‘Catchment links’ are not represented on the plan? Have Urban Habitat corridors been verified with CoM Ecologists?  ‘Yarra River Land’ is not declared for inner city reach. Should be declared before final.
Page 115	Encourage reference to the other traditional owner groups in this area.
Page 115	In terms of managing the impacts of development through the review and update of relevant overlays, City of Melbourne will not be in a position to say that we will introduce mandatory height and setback controls, until we know what they are, how they have been arrived at and how well they are justified.  The current wording “the review and introduction of permanent controls which prescribe mandatory maximum building heights and minimum setbacks” needs to be amended so that it is not so definitive. Suggested wording could be “the review of existing controls and potential introduction of permanent controls which prescribe mandatory maximum building heights and minimum setbacks” or “the review of existing controls and introduction, where appropriate, of



	<p>permanent controls which prescribe mandatory maximum building heights and minimum setbacks”.</p> <p>There is similar wording in other sections of the document (e.g. page 73, 85, 99), City Of Melbourne recommend that all sections are amended or only ours, depending on how representatives from other Councils feel about it.</p>
Page 122	“Other major projects underway by the Melbourne City Council’s include” should be “Melbourne City Council include”.
Page 122	Specific threat of Sea Level rise and future changes to the flood overlays need to be highlighted and how this impacts future urban development.
Page 122	Recommend right terminology for “Birrarung Falls”. Our understanding is that they were called “Yarro Yarro”.
Page 122	The Central City chapter (second paragraph) should state “ <i>The Bunurong Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri Woi wurrung peoples have identified key sites of significance within the central city...</i> ”
Page 122 paragraph 4	“ <i>Key priorities are to embrace Bunurong Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung culture and Heritage ...</i> ”
Page 122	The City River Strategy is now called the Yarra River-Birrarung Strategy, please update reference to it
Page 122	Include “Floatlands” proposal as part of “Opportunities for future projects”
Page 122	<i>Establish appropriate landings....</i> Change this sentence to: Consolidate existing landings and facilities for commercial and recreational vessels.
Page 122	<i>Investigate the feasibility....</i> Change this sentence to: Investigate the feasibility of recreational and commuter services between Victoria Harbour and the Hoddle Street Bridge taking into account limitations like speed limits and bridge clearances.
Page 122	<i>Improve rowing infrastructure...</i> Change this sentence to: Maximise opportunities for non-motorised crafts on the river by improving access to facilities for uses like kayak and rowing landings.
Page 123	Change one of the images to Tanderrum (Federation Square) images can be obtained from Ilbijerri Theatre Company so you have an image of the area that was a meeting place of the Kulin Nation.
Page 123	Yarra River Land indicated as continuous strip on Southbank whereas isolated green patches on Northbank – please clarify?



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Page 123	Plan on page 123: All the 'Existing recreational trail' indicated on the map (the red dashed lines) are not correct and are confusing the information. Layer in the drawing that has shifted out of place. This needs correction.
Page 126	Useful names and Abbreviations, include: Bunurong Land Council, Boon Wurrung Foundation and Boon Wurrung language group.