



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	YSP20
Name (Individual/Organisation):	Individual
Attachments:	Attachment 1 – Written submission

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: DRAFT Yarra Strategic Plan
Date: Sunday, 29 March 2020 10:24:13 AM

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to this this very important Plan at a time when key environmental indicators for the Yarra River are trending sharply downwards.

We support the aspirations of the Yarra Strategic Plan. The plan defends the river against the twin pressures of climate change and urbanization, using the planning scheme mechanisms and other tools to re-think how we manage the river not only over the 10 years of the plan but also over the next 50 years. The YSP promotes the use of modern governance – collaboration and coordination – to help address issues on the Yarra. That is the way to go. But does the YSP include mechanisms of sufficient strength to ensure collaboration and coordination?

The plan, however, is too high level and aspirational in its wording. It needs more detail and more specific outcomes.

- Make the Performance Objectives SMART goals that reference the environmental indicators in 'State of the Yarra and its Parklands' report as a baseline to measure the improvement of the action instituted over the next 10 years.
- The Performance Objectives and Actions need to be time-bound and cumulative. They also need to clearly and adequately address the impact of climate change and urbanization, That includes the effect of the rapid expansion of hard surfaces such as roads and roofs on our waterways and the consequent stormwater pollution. This pollution kills that macroinvertebrates that are the base of the food chain.
- It is critical that the plan recognizes the conflict between disturbance and habitat fragmentation on the one hand and access to the river on the other. Suitable planning tools need to be included in the plan to clearly define what is to be protected and where activity nodes are appropriate.
- The YSP has been prepared by the Yarra Collaboration Committee (p 4 & p 10 of the Draft Yarra Strategic Plan) and not, as required under the legislation, by the lead agency. The committee has an inherent conflict of interest, and the plan reflects what is currently being done rather than what is intended to be delivered under the Yarra River Protection (Willip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act.

Regards

[REDACTED]