



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	YSP25
Name (Individual/Organisation):	Individual
Attachments:	Attachment 1 – Written submission

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Yarra Strategic Plan](#)
Subject: DRAFT Yarra Strategic Plan
Date: Sunday, 29 March 2020 2:39:59 PM

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Submission to the Draft Yarra Strategic Plan

I am not an expert or fully across the detail of the Draft Strategic Plan. I live in Kew and regularly visit the river in Studley Park. I have also kayaked on the river in a number of locations. The river is Melbourne's greatest natural asset, a place of peace in an often frenetic world. I am concerned that it be protected and its health restored for this and future generations.

I would like to comment on Performance Objective 1 set out below. I am concerned that this objective contains no specific outcomes or dates by which such outcomes would be achieved. Without more specific targets for this performance objective I think it will be impossible to assess performance. There is no goal to strive for and no way to determine whether performance has been satisfactory or not. The objectives as stated are more like motherhood statements which we can all agree on and never be tested against.

I suggest that to ensure results are achieved from all of this good work that this Performance Objective be significantly tightened so that success or failure in achieving it can be measured. Interim specific targets should also be included so that we don't arrive at year 10 before we know whether outcomes are being achieved.

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Performance objective 1: A healthy river and lands

Improving the water quality of the Yarra River and protecting its land, floodplains and billabongs to achieve greater biodiversity.

With substantial projected population growth, rising temperatures and decreasing rainfall, the health of the river corridor is under significant pressure. More frequent extreme

weather events due to climate change will have a detrimental impact on biodiversity and water availability, and increase bushfire risk.

Building the resilience of our Yarra River and its parklands is crucial to delivering Traditional Owners' aspirations and the community's vision. We must act now to protect the Yarra River corridor's environment and secure the social, recreational and economic benefits of the river for future generations.

To deliver a healthy river and lands, the Yarra Strategic Plan builds on existing state and regional environmental initiatives such as the Biodiversity Strategy 2037, the Regional Catchment Strategy and the Healthy Waterways Strategy.

The Yarra Strategic Plan will:

1. Restore billabongs and wetlands by increasing water for the environment and undertaking complementary land and water management.
 2. Strengthen terrestrial and aquatic habitat corridors between the Yarra River and the catchment to support biodiversity. Priorities include:
 - Healesville to Warrandyte
 - Healesville to Millgrove
 - Watsons Creek (area for protection)
 - Gardiners Creek (celebrating significant places).
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1. Deliver foundational actions to achieve Traditional Owners' aspirations and the community's vision for 'clean waters'. This includes:
 - reducing the volume of litter impacting the Yarra River
 - strengthening stormwater management controls and strategies
 - increasing education, awareness and regulation to reduce pesticides and chemicals entering the waterway
 - improving septic tank and wastewater management.