



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

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| Submission Number: | 215083 |
| Name (Individual/Organisation): | Individual |
| 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 objective are broad reaching and high level. In addition there can be conflict between the objectives as outlined. " Healthy river and land " can be in conflict with "improving parkland for recreational use". Recreation frequently leads to the degradation of the bush environment - increase trampling, expansion of the use of mountain bikes along the river bank and loss of existing open land to recreational facilities. The requirement of the Act is to achieve a net gain in environmental values.

2a. Are the actions identified to deliver the 10-Year Performance Objectives achievable,

realistic and measurable?

A critical factor is to ensure actions apply the SMART principle of achieving outcome Specific, Measurable, Attributable, Responsive and Timely

2b. Please outline your reasoning for this opinion (optional)

The measurement of the current starting point for the Yarra status and from here on the achievement of the objectives of the plan is not clearly laid out in the plan. I am aware of the State of the River Report 2018 that highlights most the values of the river are currently in decline. Where 5 year action plans are agreed a clear status stating line must be established and from here clear measurable outcomes must be established, measured and reported upon at then of 5 year period with interim reporting to ensure the plan is one track or being modified to ensure objectives are met.

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

The most difficult, due to population pressure, climate change and pressure for development along the beautiful Yarra is net gain for the environment. Achieving environmental gain in the urban environment is challenging and will require tight planning regulation. I could not see in the plan how regulation of planning and development across multiple government agencies- local and state - would be achieved and monitored by an independent body. Does the Yarra Collaboration Committee has the power the control development to ensure compliance with objectives of YSP?

3b. Why do you think this?

A great deal of work has been completed by local community groups to restore bush land along the river with some excellent results. Unfortunately not all members of the community understand the fragility of bushland areas - ie bike riders building tracks into the bush , walkers travelling off the paths that become too crowded, damage to the water ways by dropping of rubbish. An education program is required to allow communities and users to understand the ecological value of Yarra land and the objectives of the YSP and it implementation so they

value what is being 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 - 3

Improving the river's parklands to support community wellbeing - 4

Protecting the significance of the Yarra River's landscapes and views - 2

5. Do you feel the draft Yarra Strategic Plan has put appropriate actions in place to ensure delivery on the aspirations of Traditional Owners?

Unsure

6a. Are there key priority areas of land you think should be added to the parkland network along the Yarra River?

My understanding of areas covered is not clear enough to comment

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

One key feature of the plan implementation is to ensure that fragmentation of land areas is corrected and avoided in future - this is critical for the river health, environmental and ecological resilience. The connection on protection of wet lands and tributaries to the Yarra must also be protected.

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?

The landuse frame work is critical component of the requirement of the Yarra River Protection Act. Controlling appropriate planning in areas of natural beauty posses greater challenges due to the perceived value of the development opportunities. Acknowledging and then tightly managing the risks posed by over development needs to be a clearly outlined and enforced.

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

Unsure

8b. Why do you think this?

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

Somewhat

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

All land use must achieve the overriding objective of net environmental gain for the Yarra environment

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

Unsure

10b. Why do you think this?

The 13 significant places were not clearly outlined in the draft YSP

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?

From an environment perspective some critical areas to the river health and ecosystem may require restricted or limited use to ensure there recovery and survival - ie wet lands. The areas could be open for supervised access ie excursions at times so they can be appreciated without being damages or provide viewing points ie bird hide.

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

I believe that the plan is not specific in how the high level objective will be achieved. Greatly details must be determined and communicated for approval by the community

Contact Details

Individual

First Name

██████

Last Name

██████████

Organisation (if applicable)

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

I agree to the Collection Notice

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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