



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	215094
Name (Individual/Organisation):	Abbotsford Riverbankers
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 Performance Objectives lack the specificity of the Community Vision. As a result, there is plenty of room for extremely broad interpretation and watering down in terms of actual performance.

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

Unsure

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

Actions for Performance 1 - the timeframe suffers from short termism. Some are also too vague. For instance: a) 'Strengthen terrestrial and aquatic habitat corridors between the Yarra River and the catchment to support biodiversity.' Some of the short timeframes seem unrealistically short. Presumably they will be reviewed.. Some of the actions also seem too broad to be practicable. Actions, when aligned across different performance objectives, do not always align well. For instance: a) It is difficult to understand that just 1-3 years is assigned to environmental repair activities (Performance 1) while recommending 8-10 years for delivering an interactive education program (Performance 2). These differences appear incongruous. b) Performance Objective 4 provides 4-7 years for monitoring land use, which presumably feeds into restoring wetlands and improving habitat corridors. Yet, only 1-3 years are indicated to deliver on wetland restoration and improving these corridors. This does not seem realistic.

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

Easiest - awareness-raising and educational campaigns, regulation, forming committees. Hardest: 1) achieving environmental restoration and 'strengthening' along the river corridor 2) achieving behavioural change, aligned with structural, governance and management change and improvement.

3b. Why do you think this?

(Easiest) Awareness-raising, educational campaigns, regulation: these are actions that have a definable start and finish thus easiest to achieve/implement. However, this does not indicate they have achieved their purpose. (Hardest) 1) Achieving environmental change: a highly complex, ongoing task that cannot be 'shoehorned' into a timeframe, let alone the time frame indicated. 2) Achieving behavioural, structural, governance

and management change: as above. These are ongoing actions that should not be considered as having limits; rather, ongoing review and revision.

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 - 4

Acknowledging, protecting and commemorating the rich heritage of the Birrarung - 1

Improving the river's parklands to support community wellbeing - 2

Protecting the significance of the Yarra River's landscapes and views - 3

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

Somewhat

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

No

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

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?

We support the land use framework as it applies to the inner city reach of the Yarra (our area of focus and activity). In particular, we support the strengthening of habitat links along the Yarra River corridor and tributaries., through riverbank rehabilitation, expanding the urban forest and creating biodiversity hotspots. We are only concerned, given development along the Abbotsford-Richmond sections of the Yarra corridor and transport infrastructure works, that the framework is not capable of being enforced when it comes to development that is counter to river and river corridor values.

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

Somewhat

8b. Why do you think this?

As above, we are concerned that it lacks capability of being enforced.

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

Somewhat

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

We are not fully convinced that the Land Use directions for the inner city reaches of the Yarra River will be capable of enforcement in line with the principles of the Yarra River Protection (Wilipgin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017 as they pertain to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and ecological integrity.

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

Yes

10b. Why do you think this?

No comment.

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?

None at this point, having contributed to the 50 Year Community Vision. Given that (owing to the Coronavirus) the 2020 Roundtable discussions were cancelled, we would welcome the opportunity for roundtable review of the Plan, allowing for ongoing community insight and input.

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

We support the Yarra Strategic Plan. We are concerned about how well aspects of it (as we have touched on above) will hold up against development/infrastructure planning that are contrary to river/river corridor values. However, we have faith that contemporary planning solutions may be found which prioritise river health while accommodating the needs of a growing Melbourne.

Contact Details

First Name

██████

Last Name

████████

Organisation (if applicable)

Abbotsford Riverbankers

Address

████████████████████

Suburb

██████████

Postcode

██████

Email Address

Telephone

██████████

Upload your submission here

No file specified

Collection Notice

The Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) 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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