



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

Engagement process

The Yarra River Protection (Willip-gin Birrarung Murrong) Bill 2017 requires the development of a long-term community vision for the Yarra. This vision will identify the unique characteristics of the Yarra River land and community values, priorities and preferences in relation to future land uses, protection and development.

Another key element of the Bill is the development of the Yarra Strategic Plan, which seeks to strengthen the protection and management of the Yarra and coordinate the public entities that operate along the river.

Melbourne Water has been designated to lead the development of the Yarra Strategic Plan and the long term community vision on behalf of the Victorian Government.

This will be informed by an open and collaborative engagement process with responsible public entities, Traditional Owners and the community.



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Phase one community engagement (September to October 2017)

To protect the Yarra into the future we asked the community to help write the story of the Yarra – a story that understands and celebrates the past, values people’s experiences now and imagines a healthy and iconic river for all Victorians in the future. These stories were used to develop a fifty-year community vision, which will become the cornerstone of the Yarra Strategic Plan.

Throughout September to October 2017 a series of opportunities for the community to get involved were held with the Library Imaginarium, walking focus groups, Wardin Silvan Field day, Yarra Conversations at the Arts Centre, Victoria Walks self-guided walk and Yarra Stories drop-in workshops and online web portal.



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Phase two community engagement (May to July 2018)

Phase two of the community engagement ran from May to July 2018 focused on the development of the Yarra Strategic Plan and the river's key elements. Community workshops were held in each of the rivers reaches and an online web portal.

Workshop and online portal themes:

1. Access
2. Parklands
3. Heritage and culture
4. Landscape and views
5. Experiences



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Following completion of the draft Yarra Strategic Plan, the Plan will be placed on public exhibition , scheduled for mid-2019. Submissions for the draft Yarra Strategic Plan will be referred to a Planning Panel for consideration and submitters will have an opportunity to make a further submission at a public hearing convened by the Planning Panel hearing.

How will your inputs be used and shared?

Following the completion of engagement, a summary of the engagement findings will be made available to the public via the project website in August/September.

Melbourne Water will protect and handle your personal information in accordance with the Victorian Government Privacy and Data Protection Act. Melbourne Water is partnering with the Victorian Government and State Library Victoria (SLV) in the delivery of the community engagement. The stories collected through this engagement may also inform other projects being delivered by the Victorian Government and SLV.