



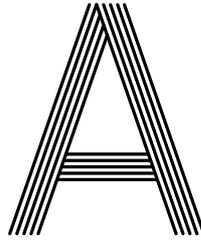
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THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	214995
Name (Individual/Organisation):	The Yarra Link Project
Attachments:	Attachment 1 – Written submission



PLAN A



THE YARRA LINK PROJECT

SUBMISSION – DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

Plan A represents the Yarra Link Project, an incorporated charity which administers a parcel of land on the banks of the Yarra at 70 Heyington Place, Toorak. The vision for the project is to revive the history, culture, flora and fauna of this particular parcel of land on the Yarra and to encourage community access for education and recreation in a restored riverside location.

Draft: Yarra Strategic Plan

Part 1: Working together to deliver the community vision

We consider that the vision of the Yarra Link Project is closely aligned with the Yarra River 50 Year Community Vision. Furthermore, the actions proposed to achieve the performance objectives in the draft Yarra Strategic Plan are consistent with the objectives of the Yarra Link Project.

The Yarra Link Project aims to involve the community in the following urban ecological conservation activities:

Environmental objectives:

- Work with local organisations and authorities to improve the land and water quality.
- Engage in research regarding indigenous plants and propagation of a diverse and representative sample of the local flora.
- Breed and distribute seeds of endangered flora species.
- Provide a test-case for application of minimal impact land management techniques (including management of invasive plants and improvement of water runoff capture).

Educational objectives:

- Deliver an interactive educational program, including workshops and co-operative projects with local schools, universities and community groups.
- Deploy examples of sustainable technologies suitable for soil and energy conservation.
- Demonstrate traditional food and medicinal uses of indigenous plants.
- Engage local groups in accessible educational activities.

Community & Social objectives:

- Provide community access to this parcel of land on the Yarra.
- Improve community knowledge of indigenous plants and urban revegetation practices.
- Provide a meeting point and group activities for a diverse cross section of community members.
- Improve community access to the river by constructing an all abilities jetty to provide kayak/canoe access.
- Improve connections between community groups and encourage well-being through social engagement.
- Collaborate with Melbourne businesses to bring tourists and visitors to an indigenous garden and community space.

When the subject land was acquired in 2013 it was in a disused state. The Yarra Link Project charity has since conducted a number of activities to improve the land and community access, including;

- Ecological and cultural surveys and contamination testing (with good results)
- Liaison with stakeholders (Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, Victrack, Metro Rail, Stonnington City Council, Melbourne University, St Kevin's, Yarra River Keeper, Toorak Rotary)
- Community volunteers have planted over 1,500 indigenous plants, utilising grants from Melbourne Water
- A research project testing an innovative litter catchment device on the river (Monash University, with approval from Parks Victoria)
- Trials of three different non-chemical weed reduction methods and associated education
- Plant and weed identification workshops
- Social gatherings and a sculpture exhibition
- Significant litter and hazard reduction in collaboration with Clean Up Australia

The ability to undertake these activities has been somewhat hampered by the lack of facilities on site. The aim of the Yarra Link Project is to have greater community involvement, especially including adjoining schools, which requires a higher standard of access and safety than currently available on site. Refer to comments below regarding planning controls.

Draft: Yarra Strategic Plan

Part 2: Land Use framework

We appreciate the desire to implement permanent planning controls to avoid inappropriate development along the Yarra River however we question whether the current interim controls are effective in achieving the community's vision for the Yarra River.

Our client's site is zoned Public Park Recreation Zone. Whilst the Yarra Link charity is not a public land use manager, previous letters of support for the project have been provided by Melbourne Water. The subject site is also affected by the following overlays:

- Land Subject to Inundation Overlay
- Significant Landscape Overlay (Schedule 1) and
- Design Development Overlay (Schedule 3).

In order to deliver and achieve the Yarra Link Project's vision, our client wishes to build an all abilities access jetty and associated ramp, walking tracks and a shipping container office (which would be used to hold education workshops and store equipment for growing local flora etc).

We have consulted Stonnington City Council regarding this project and were advised that the buildings and works associated with this project would be prohibited pursuant to the current interim controls, in particular DDO3 due to the mandatory minimum setback of 30metres.

The Land Use Framework sets out the following community priorities and values for achieving the Yarra River suburban reach 50 year community vision:

- *Expand the river's local parklands and trails to improve continuous access, increase biodiversity and enhance river health;*
- *Celebrate our spiritual connection to the river and its surrounds;*
- *Establish new habitat for endangered birds, fish and wildlife;*
- *Employ collaborative planning processes for development to ensure changes are for the benefit of the river and the advantage of all in the community, not just the few;*
- *Collaborate to provide innovative immersive experiences with nature by expanding natural river tracks and creating environmental playgrounds along the corridor;*
- *Explore opportunities for community education and connection to Wurundjeri knowledge and cultural practice and significant sites.*

It is our view that exceptions should be made for development (such as an all abilities access jetty) which is consistent with delivering these community priorities and achieving the vision for the suburban reach of the Yarra River.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak you with about the Draft: Yarra Strategic Plan and our clients subject land further.

Kind Regards

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