



IMAGINE
THE YARRA

DRAFT YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Submission Number:	YSP34
Name (Individual/Organisation):	City of Stonnington
Attachments:	Attachment 1 – Written submission

MARCH 2020

Draft Yarra Strategic Plan

City of Stonnington Feedback

Introduction

The City of Stonnington (Council) is pleased to provide feedback on the draft Yarra Strategic Plan.

Council welcomes the draft Strategy and acknowledges the coordination and leadership provided by Melbourne Water in its preparation through the Yarra Collaboration Committee.

Key Feedback

The City of Stonnington is a member of the Yarra Collaboration Committee and at its meeting on 28 October 2019 endorsed the draft Plan for release for public consultation alongside other local government members of the Yarra Collaboration Committee.

The City of Stonnington supports the intent and direction of the Plan including support for the proposed cultural values studies and cultural mapping to identify culturally significant landscapes along the river by the Wurundjeri Woi wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Some elements of the Plan require further clarification, as per the following:

- **Stonnington supports an open and transparent consultation process.** Some information is missing from the current draft Plan including the aspirations of the Wurundjeri Woi wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation for policy and legislative reform, the draft decision-making framework to ensure implementation and decision-making meets the performance objectives, the proposed priority projects and the proposed update to the Planning Policy Framework (Clause 12.03-1R). It appears that there will be no opportunity to comment on these as these have not been included in the Plan at this stage.
- **One size fits all approach requires targeted engagement.** There are many different land uses within the Yarra River Corridor including community facilities which may have a need to change and grow in the future. There are also private land owners who have direct access to the River. Targeted engagement with relevant private land owners and community facility providers such as schools is encouraged, particularly as there may be an opportunity for collaboration.
- **Purpose of Part 2 – the Land Use Framework is unclear.** It appears to function as part action plan / part planning objectives. This is confusing and it is not clear how some of the actions will be implemented.
- **Content of proposed update to permanent planning controls is unclear.** It is understood that there will be two updates to the Stonnington Planning Scheme – one to the Planning Policy Framework resulting from a final Yarra Strategic Plan. The second to review the current planning controls and include them within the Planning Scheme permanently. The content of both updates is unclear at this stage and Council cannot comment or endorse in the absence of detail.
- **Status and alignment of Reference documents is unclear.** It is unclear whether the draft Yarra Strategic Plan and the 'Lower Yarra River Recommendations Report 2016' (a current reference document in the Stonnington Planning Scheme) currently align or are proposed to align in the future.
- **Insufficient time for Council to consider consultation outcomes.** The timing between the closure of consultation (29 March) and the beginning of the Panel process is minimal and consequently Council will not get the opportunity to consider any of the community feedback relevant to Stonnington and the response to the feedback. In the interests of collaboration, this should be addressed.

- **The Yarra River and its lands as one living entity.** The City of Stonnington also acknowledges the declaration within the Yarra River Protection Act 2017 that the Yarra River and its lands are one living and integrated natural entity. This concept although alluded to within the draft Plan, could be emphasised and made clearer.
- **The public realm and governance.** The draft Plan could strengthen its articulation of the role of communities influencing, shaping and playing a key role in the design, management and custodianship of the public realm in the Yarra River environment.

As required, further feedback will also be provided to the Yarra Collaboration Committee.