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Request to be heard?: Yes

**Full Name:** Andrew Kelly

**Organisation:** Yarra Riverkeeper

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:** Yarra\_River-Bulleen\_Precinct\_-\_Land\_Use\_Framework\_Plan\_Submission\_YRka\_6.6.

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** Submission attached



Our Yarra: Healthy, Protected and Loved

6 June 2019

**Submission by the Yarra Riverkeeper Association:  
Yarra River - Bulleen Precinct  
Land Use Framework Plan Draft 2019**

The Yarra Riverkeeper Association endorses the **Yarra River - Bulleen Precinct Land use Framework Plan Draft**. In particular, we endorse the Objective 1: 'Ecological and Parkland Objectives' and the role of the precinct in delivering Objective 4: 'An Internationally Significant Cultural Place.

In particular we endorse sub-objective 1.2 'Restore and link remnant indigenous landscape' and 1.3 'Revive the study areas billabong network'.

The Bulleen Precinct Land Use Framework Plan is being drafted happening at the same time as planning process for the North-East Link planning is being undertaken.. The two are being considered at the same time in the same context. This is a once in a generation opportunity to create a paradigm shift in the way the parklands along the Yarra Corridor are considered and managed. These parklands have reached a vulnerable point in their life-cycle. The waterways and the river corridor are being squeezed by the twin pressures of a drying climate and the urbanization that is the result of rapid population growth.

The waterways, especially the Yarra River, are the green arteries that make the city liveable. The Precinct Plan is a step-change in the way the river landscape is considered, and an opportunity to be grasped.

The draft plan is both consistent with and implements outcomes from Plan Melbourne and the Yarra River Protection (Willip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act. In particular the Precinct Plan implements the important principle, when aligned with the North-East Link to deliver on the promise of the Yarra River Protection (Willip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act:

*There should be a net gain for the environment in the area of the Yarra River land arising out of any individual action or policy that has an environmental impact on the Yarra River land.*

As we commonly expect the economy to grow, then environmental improvement must grow alongside it if the environment is to continue to support human life and deliver ecosystem services.

The Precinct Plan is also consistent with and reflecting and implementing the intent of other planning instruments including the State Planning Policy and the Nilumbik and Manningham Planning Policies.

We note the value of the precinct in developing the contemporary expression and celebration of the ancient culture of the Wurundjeri-Woiwurrung. The precinct is significant as it brings together the culturally significant places of several cultures and is an opportunity to express reconciliation with people (and therefore with land) in tangible way across a connected landscape.

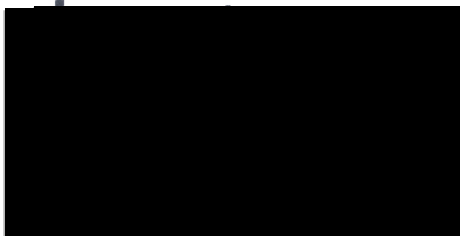
The plan reflects the opportunity, in connection with North-east Link, to use the public acquisition overlays to fill the gaps in the public land footprint along the Yarra River. It is time these opportunities were exercised.

We note that population pressure means a greater human presence in the parklands and a need to create undisturbed areas or refuges where wildlife can retreat during sensitive times such as courting and breeding. Paths, for example, should not follow the course of the river at all points but be set back. Controlling disturbance from light, noise and the presence of people are factors that need to be considered in planning.

The Association supports the proposals by Dr Maudie Palmer and Eugene Howard as a attainable expression of the opportunities for Bulleen to be a connected cultural precinct.

Our major concern is that the recreational needs are given undue weight against the need to create a long-term environmental gain that will benefit a greater number of people with a greater age range. The importance of passive recreation must be acknowledged alongside the values promoted by advocates for sporting clubs.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Kelly, Yarra Riverkeeper,  
on behalf of the Yarra Riverkeeper Association