
Request to be heard?: Yes

Precinct: General

Full Name: Andrew Kelly

Organisation: Yarra Riverkeeper Association

Affected property:

Attachment 1: submission_Fishe

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Submission is uploaded below. if there are any issues with the upload, please contact me.



Our Yarra: Healthy, Protected and Loved

15 December 2017

Submission: Draft Fishermans Bend Framework.
Due 15 December 2017, 5pm.

The Yarra Riverkeeper appreciates and welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Fishermans Bend Framework. Should you require any expansion of our comments below please do not hesitate to contact us.

1 THE YARRA RIVERKEEPER ASSOCIATION (YRKA)

Formed in 2004, the Yarra Riverkeeper Association speaks for the Yarra, Melbourne's own beautiful, resilient, iconic River. The Association is the credible and authoritative voice for the River. It is an independent community of citizen-advocates that works solely in the interest of the river. The spokesperson of the Association is the Yarra Riverkeeper.

The Yarra River is Melbourne's most important natural asset, and all Melburnians are dependent on it. It provides 70% of our piped water. It is the centrepiece of many city cultural events and plays host to sports, recreational and nature-based activities.

However, the impact of our large and rapidly growing city is putting the Yarra's health under stress. Most of the river's water is taken to supply our homes and industry, and river flows are significantly reduced. Stormwater flushes pollutants and litter into this precious waterway in distressing volumes.

2 YRKA SUBMISSION

Objective 3.8 and its associated strategies is most relevant to the Yarra River

Recognise the original topography of the area, especially the profile of the Yarra River and Hobson's Bay, as a significant historic landscape feature
Strategies

3.8.1 *Identify and protect views to the Yarra River from the surrounding street network*

3.8.2 *Identify Aboriginal cultural associations with the original topography of the area, recognising the strong cultural, spiritual and historic connections of Traditional Owners' to the Yarra (Birrarung) and the bay (Nairm)*

Also relevant are:

Objective 6.1 Create an open space network that enhances biodiversity and supports local wildlife

And;

Objective 6.2 *Establish greater habitat diversity, including over, mid and ground storey vegetation*

YRKA makes the following points on the draft Framework

- For a city shaping project with a forty-year time horizon, the draft Fishermans Bend Framework is simply not visionary enough in describing the role the Yarra River could and should play in the future of Fishermans Bend. The whole area, while not necessarily directly connected to the river at this point in time, is historically and traditionally part of the river delta and therefore part of the ‘single integrated living entity’ that constitutes our river. This needs to be explicitly recognized in the Framework.
- The draft Framework does not reference or embrace the intent of the recently enacted Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act to treat the Yarra River as ‘one living and integrated natural entity’. The time frame for the Act is for 50 years and for the Framework it is 40 years. The period for the Framework should be brought into line with that of the Act. The Framework needs to co-ordinate with the work being done around the Yarra Strategic Plan, and include the work being done around the baseline monitoring. Culturally the estuary is very much part of Fishermans Bend, and the Framework should address the health of the estuary. Stormwater is but one way that the area connects with the estuary of the Yarra.
- Images used in communication of Fishermans Bend portray the Yarra and the Bay as key attributes of the project area. In fact, on the ground (rather than from the air) much of Fishermans Bend is disconnected from both the River and the Bay and it should be an objective of the framework that those connections and relationships are strengthened.



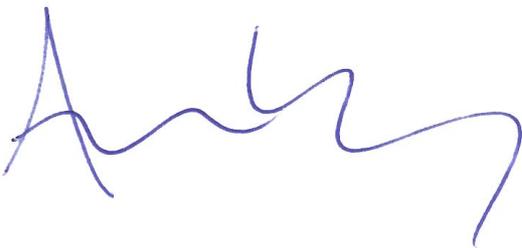
- Most of the River frontage south of the Bolte Bridge is not publicly accessible. This needs to be noted in the Framework as a barrier to the connection between the river and its banks. While much of the Yarra River south of the Bolte Bridge is

leased to the Port or is in private hands (Pier 35), a long-term strategy should consider how to return the River frontage to access by the public, both by actively searching for opportunities and by taking opportunities as they present. The land use within the port will change and further land is likely to become available for development over the next 40 years, as the port's emphasis shifts towards Webb Dock, and that will create opportunities to expand the public connection to the river frontage.

- Fishermans Bend occupies a unique and significant place in Melbourne – where the River meets the Bay. Even though the River entrance has been hugely modified since settlement, the connections between River and Bay need to be made seamless and legible
- Melbourne's urban renewal in the late 'eighties was based explicitly on the idea of re-connecting Melbourne with its River by transforming former industrial land in South Melbourne into Southbank. Docklands was also planned around the amenity of the Yarra River. This connection did not in fact succeed in that reconnection.
- Much has been learned from those earlier and still unfolding urban renewal projects. The relationship to the Yarra River varies. Recent development at North Wharf in Docklands has allowed tower forms with minimal setbacks to the River causing severe overshadowing and drastically compromising the public realm. Even while noting that Fishermans Bend is on the southern side of the River, the highest consideration for the public realm along the River should be given, especially given the need to optimise all open space and public places in Fishermans Bend.
- A common feature of much recent development in the lower reaches of the Yarra is their hard-edged nature. YRKA advocates that there is an opportunity in Fishermans Bend to create more opportunities for interaction with the River as well as softening the hard edges of the River to re-introduce an element of its wetland history. The Framework should require that any development on the river frontage should begin with a detailed site analysis that facilitates the connection and the potential future connection between land and water and facilitates the reinstatement of soft edges. One of the challenges of Docklands was that while the concept plans suggested large amounts of open space the next stage of development was driven by maximizing the built footprint, into which open spaces were then inserted.
- YRKA supports the biodiversity objectives of the plan. In more detailed landscaping at the precinct level, representation of plants that would formerly have grown in Fishermans Bend, including wetland and saltmarsh species, should be incorporated. The Framework needs to note that the biodiversity includes not only vegetation and birds but also the insects and macroinvertebrates, which, though less visible, form the base of the food chains of many indigenous species. The Framework also needs to include specific consideration that the size and shape of open spaces in Fishermans Bend support biodiversity, for example, sizeable polygonal shapes, due to edge effects, are more effective in promoting biodiversity than either isolated spaces or long linear spaces, and habitat needs to be connected as far as possible.

- Stormwater management in Fishermans Bend must be exemplary so that all stormwater reaching the Yarra River is cleansed before entering the waterway. Directions should include a minimization of hard surfacing and triple interceptor traps on roads and parking lots. Developments should be required to install gross pollutant traps and to have them regularly cleaned as part of management of business centres or as a requirement on the body corporate.
- YRKA supports the inclusion of Indigenous Australian 'caring for country' concepts in the Framework.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Kelly', with a stylized, cursive script.

Andrew Kelly
Yarra Riverkeeper on behalf of the Yarra Riverkeeper Association