

Request to be heard?: No, but please email me

Full Name: Mrs Rosalie Jane JONES

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: City liveability is enhanced by the natural environment. Areas of indigenous vegetation, managed parklands and open spaces provide 'lungs' for urban communities. The Yarra River - Bulleen Precinct is characterised by the meandering nature of the river itself, its rapids, billabongs, flood-prone riverbanks, extensive wooded parklands and diverse flora and fauna. It has not seen large scale development and is an important ecological corridor for wildlife, the latter managed and cultivated by Traditional Owners pre-European settlement. The area is rich in cultural history and a place of beauty, with centuries old Red River Gums, river mists and birdsong. The vision for the future of the Yarra River must be to protect the study area from the pressures of urban changes in land use and built infrastructure. New industrial and residential developments, such as the proposed housing on the Yarra Valley Country Club site must not be permitted. Land holdings, at present in private ownership, should, over a nominated time, be compulsorily acquired. Proposed protection of the Yarra frontage, the extension of public open space and access to same, the retention and provision of additional active and passive recreational facilities and the inter-connection of parks with trails and bridges, will, through participation, promote public health and well being. Creating informative hubs of cultural and heritage interest, linking art and history to the legacies of indigenous people and later settlers, will add to the value and significance of the area for local communities and beyond. However, the Yarra River - Bulleen Precinct plan lacks practical guidelines to: protect sensitive areas under threat from increased public recreational use, eradicate exotic plants and animals currently well established, as for example in Birrarrung Park, for the disposal of rubbish and for the monitoring of the effects of development on water and air quality (particularly if Templestowe Road undergoes a major upgrade). Of concern are the effects of drought and climate change on environmental water flows, water quality and the ecology of the river system. Strategies need to be considered to deal with future problems such as these.