

---

**Request to be heard?:** No - Copy of Directions and  
**Precinct:** General

**Full Name:** Judy Bush

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:** fishermans\_bend

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** see attachment

15<sup>th</sup> December, 2017

Planning Panels Victoria  
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning  
1 Spring Street  
Melbourne, Victoria 3000

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Review of the Fishermans Bend Draft Framework Plan**

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Draft Framework Plan proposed for the Fishermans Bend development.

We are researchers at the University of Melbourne, focused on the provision, benefits, policy and governance perspectives of urban green spaces and their contributions to liveability within the urban environment. Judy Bush is researcher and lecturer at the University of Melbourne with an extensive background in environmental planning and policy. Darcy Coombes is a Master's Degree student at the University with a background in ecology and invertebrate biology.

This submission focuses on the biodiversity dimensions of the framework in order to facilitate liveability and social-ecological systems resilience in the Fishermans Bend development. The proposed sustainability strategies and targets defined in the draft Framework elaborate a thorough and achievable approach to creating a biodiverse community within the confines of the development. There are a number of strategies that could be further elaborated to strengthen and consolidate a network of connected green spaces, to promote habitat remediation, minimise the impacts of existing and new structures on the natural environment, and aid cohesion between the built and natural environments.

We commend the incorporation of the Yarra River as a social attraction within Fishermans Bend, as described in the framework. Utilisation of the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay as public attraction will help to strengthen Melbourne as a 'river city', while simultaneously fostering an awareness of, and community engagement with, Melbourne's waterways and their health. This will provide an incentive for the community to become engaged with ongoing efforts to restore the river that has suffered from years of pollution and degradation. Riverside revegetation will lead to a more biodiverse aquatic habitat, and will bolster commitments by local governments and communities to foster remediation initiatives and decrease pollution.

The draft proposal's prioritisation of green infrastructure is an excellent initiative for mitigating the urban heat island effects within the site, as well as providing for a diverse array of wildlife. We advocate incentivising the incorporation of green roofs and walls in existing industrial sites and brownfield developments, as well as in new developments. It is important to ensure the adequate provision of accessible habitat within brownfield sites. Utilising 'nature-based solutions' approaches wherever possible in the provision of urban infrastructure can further increase cohesion between natural and built environments.

We applaud the emphasis on native and indigenous flora where appropriate, which will support local biodiversity and endorse cultural values as well as community engagement within the development. In selecting tree species for streetside plantings, it will be important to also consider their resilience to increased urban heat associated with climate change impacts. Recent research assessment of the vulnerability of street tree species to temperature rises should be considered in this context<sup>1</sup>.

The sustainability goals' 2050 targets related to biodiversity define a minimum level of achievement, but should be expanded to provide more explicit detail of expectations for creating and maintaining a biodiverse community, including targets for canopy cover, vegetation cover, soil and water quality as elements of the social ecological systems that underpin habitat quality and quantity. In addition, community participation in green space and biodiversity management, governance and stewardship are also important elements that should be reflected in targets, monitoring and evaluation.

In order to facilitate the incorporation of realistic strategies and measurable targets, we recommend the following:

- Strategy 6.1.4: Inclusion of incentives to integrate green infrastructure in brownfield developments as well as new developments.
- An additional strategy under Objective 6.1 addressing the use of nature-based solutions in urban infrastructure, to increase local habitats in the built environment.
- Objective 6.2: Incorporation of aquatic habitation and diversity within the objective.
- Strategy 6.2.4: Inclusion of improved water health, particularly in the Yarra River, alongside soil health.
- An additional target for significantly decreased soil and waterway pollution by 2050 compared to 2017 levels.

If you have any further questions regarding the points raised in this submission, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Bush [judy.bush@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:judy.bush@unimelb.edu.au)

Darcy Coombes [coombesd@student.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:coombesd@student.unimelb.edu.au)

---

<sup>1</sup>Kendal, D, Farrar, A, Plant, L, Threlfall, CG, Bush, J & Baumann, J 2017, Risks to Australia's urban forest from climate change and urban heat. Report for the Clean Air and Urban Landscape hub of the National Environmental Science Programme, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne.  
[https://www.nesurban.edu.au/publications-resources/research-reports/CAULRR07\\_RisksAustralianUrbanForest\\_Nov2017.pdf](https://www.nesurban.edu.au/publications-resources/research-reports/CAULRR07_RisksAustralianUrbanForest_Nov2017.pdf)