

Request to be heard?: Yes

Full Name: James Deane

Organisation:

Affected property: 5

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: I live in Banyule and visit the Yarra River corridor in Banyule, Bulleen and beyond on a regular basis. I have a background in biological sciences and a PhD in botany. I have followed planning for the North East Link project and complimentary projects closely. I am concerned that the environmental impacts of the Bulleen Precinct proposal have not been fully considered: Plans presented for the Yarra Valley Country Club site and the Bulleen Driving Range site involve filling in the river flood plain to elevate the construction site and compensatory excavation to restore volume. This will result in a reduction and modification of the Yarra floodplain, an outcome that is not consistent with a 10 year performance objective of the draft Yarra Strategic Plan: "Improving the water quality of the Yarra River and protecting its land, floodplains and billabongs to achieve greater biodiversity." During the North East Link Environmental Effect Statement hearing Melbourne Water expressed a desire for a 150-250m riparian buffer along the Yarra corridor (pg 113, NELP Inquiry and Advisory Committee Report). Part of the planned sports field development at Templestowe Rd is closer than 100m to the Yarra River and thus impinges on this intended buffer zone. The sites earmarked for bridges across the Yarra River will result in the loss of many large River Redgum. Large native trees like this are ecologically important and take many human lifetimes to replace. The bridges and associated trails indicated will also disturb more secluded pockets of habitat along the river corridor. The combined effects of development and increased disturbance are of particular concern for the Powerful Owl. This Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act listed species is known to occupy and raise young in areas that will be directly affected by the Bulleen Precinct proposal. An understanding of how the Powerful Owl uses local habitat should inform plans. However, the current Yarra River Bulleen Precinct Plan and related Templestowe Road Soccer facility plans provide no indication that the required information on Powerful Owl habitat has been considered.