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

**Full Name:** Gayle Roberts

**Organisation:** No

**Affected property:** 1905/100 Lorimer Street

**Attachment 1:** Fishermans\_Bend

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** Please find attached my Submission for alternative to Tram Bridge across Yarra's edge. I am proposing that an underground tunnel be constructed rather than the proposed intrusive tram bridge across the Yarra

Department of Environment, Land, water and Planning

GPO Box 500. EAST MELBOURNE 3002

Email: [fishermansbend@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:fishermansbend@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Submissions Online <https://engage.vic.gov.au/fishermans-bend-draft-framework>

6<sup>th</sup> December 2017

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## FISHERMANS BEND FRAMEWORK

### ISSUE: TRAM BRIDGE ACROSS THE YARRA AT YARRA'S EDGE

### SUBMISSION FOR PLANNING REVIEW

## REASONING FOR ALTERNATE PLACEMENT OF "TRAM BRIDGE" OVER YARRA RIVER

### BACKGROUND

Melbourne sees itself as being a bold, inspirational and sustainable global city and one of the world's top 10 most liveable cities. Melbourne municipality is a smart, intriguing, green and clean city and positioned for continued tourism success. Melbourne has visitor curiosity and the city wishes visitors to explore Melbourne's inner regions. The very essence of the world's finest cities lies in its vitality of its streets, public places, waterways, and uniqueness.

Melbournians and visitors love the city's lifestyle – its vibrant energy, restaurants, cool bars on the Yarra and city back streets, markets, fashion boutiques, café-filled laneways and waterways, stimulating galleries, parks and village-like inner suburbs, each with its own special character.

Melbourne municipality covers area of 37.6 square kilometres and incorporates 16 suburbs, from Flemington and Parkville in the north, east and west Melbourne, Docklands, and parts of South Yarra, and Port Melbourne. The face of the municipality has changed rapidly and includes the development of Docklands and Yarra's Edge, and renewal areas such as the planned development of Fishermans Bend.

The rapid growth of high-rise living is changing the feel of the city. According to the ABS in 2014, the residential population of the municipality stood at 122,207 and is predicted to double by 2036. It had a daily population in 2014 of approx. 854,000 (residents, workers, visitors and students). It is estimated that by 2030 the municipality will receive more than 68,000 internal visitors each day, nearly double the current figures of 2014. The importance of tourism-related economic activity in the Melbourne municipality which is estimated at \$20 billion contributes to Victoria's economy. \$3.7 billion is generated within Melbourne municipality, therefore infrastructure must support the successful creation of a high standard of living for all.

The \$AUD is likely to make Australia more attractive to international visitors; nevertheless, there is vigorous competition from other major cities within Australia. Therefore Melbourne needs to ensure it is competitive, innovative, and well promoted with strong, well-integrated strategies to attract and service these markets. Melbourne has a global focus with a highly skilled workforce and affordable business accommodation and wishes to attract future global investment and visitors.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING (CONT'D.)

Situated on the Yarra River between crown casino and Bolte bridge, is the Yarra's Edge beautiful and iconic marina; boasting one of the best marina locations in Victoria on the doorstep to Melbourne municipality on the banks of the Yarra. Yarra's Edge marina is a beautiful area which maximises boating time enjoyment, a range of facilities including gyms, local restaurants, coffee shops, wine bars, various services, and multiple high-rise apartments with world class marina views. And is currently one of Melbourne's tourist landmarks together with South Wharf. It is a beautiful marina with many low cost yachts with their tall masts amidst a number of high-end premier yachting including ocean-going vessels and many visitor watercraft. On any weekend, visitors enter Yarra's Edge Marina to berth and spend time visiting Crown Casino, Melbourne CBD, various South Wharf restaurants and Yarra's Edge bars and restaurants, therefore adding a significant increase to the Melbourne municipality economy.

The Yarra's Edge marina is located on what was traditionally Melbourne's working wharf – South Wharf. Yarra's Edge itself has an enviable location on the southern bank of the Yarra River. It is an area of photographic delight capturing the boat marina, the tall high-rises with the backdrop of the Bolte Bridge – a magnificent sight at sunset. Residents and visitors alike are often having an afternoon wine outside the restaurants and cafes while taking in the beautiful water views with the yachts and boat craft with their tall masts. The area includes an Art Gallery, children's park and BBQ area, green area which boasts morning yoga and morning fitness classes, a beautiful promenade along which a number of restaurants front the waterfront – all with the beautiful marina and water views. Yarra's Edge has a community village atmosphere which is more and more attracting not only visitors to the area, but as well, workers from across the Yarra spend their lunch breaks in Yarra's edge.

Many bicycles are seen along the promenade on their way to the CBD and surrounding areas for their daily commute; and on their way home, are often seen stopping to watch the Yarra's Edge views from the Webb Bridge.

- Why ruin this beautiful, unique area by severely limiting Yarra's Edge Marina to only small craft and no visiting yachts? This area is the municipality's gift to surrounding residents in high-rise apartments, local workers in Lorimer St and commercials lining the northern banks of the Yarra. Instead preserve this unique area and take the credit for being far sighted to the future with an alternate method of people moving to the new Fishermans Bend precinct

Southern Cross Station is also expected to experience a substantial rise in patronage forecast to increase from 47.7 million in 2014 to over 78.4 million in 2021.

Improved water transport is an important addition to travelling around Melbourne as a River City particularly along the Yarra River and the city's urban waterways, exploring Docklands and inner Melbourne.

- **Why ruin this with a tram bridge of 6m across the Yarra River resulting in a loss of this beautiful marina, loss of views and substantial devaluation of the surrounding high-rise buildings on both sides of the Yarra, where residents have poured their life savings into their new homes and apartments**
- **Why ruin something so unique and special to Melbourne and make it just a river found in any city, not a unique city like Paris for instance with its underground tunnels**
- **Let Melbourne show its equal to European cities that make its waterways a unique feature while transport moves people and visitors fast and with ease & beauty.**

## **SOLUTION TO “TRAM BRIDGE’ ACROSS THE YARRA**

Fishermans Bend combined precinct is an exciting happening, but will impact severely on traffic management. We need to capitalise on what is already occurring with the current Metro.

Melbourne trams are iconic to our city; but we don’t want to ruin beautiful parks, village atmosphere, and the Yarra’s Edge marina.

- Let’s have a European solution with no detrimental effects
- Aesthetics of current YE marina will not be lost
- Current tunnelling machines are already in Melbourne for the Metro underground – already paid for
- No compensation issues
- Save by not having to expensively go over the Freeway
- Save by not installing an out-dated boom gate in busy Lorimer Street and disrupting traffic flow
- Least disruption, but higher cost (but no houses or development yet at Fishermans Bend)
- A special levy on new building in the Fishermans Bend precinct to cover traffic management in Lorimer & Montague precincts; and not unfair disruption on existing Yarra’s Edge buildings and marina
- Benefit to ALL of City of Port Phillip; new 80,000 new residents/workers; and increase in rates due to more buildings

### **An underground tunnel under the Yarra River instead of proposed disruptive Tram Bridge**

- Not affecting current Yarra’s Edge boating Marina
- Adding tourists to the combined musicality
- Assisting with businesses and their employees getting to and from place of employment
- Lowering traffic around the municipality as trams and trains from the CBD, Docklands, Yarra’s Edge and inner city flow without disruptions
- Add an underground tram station (similar to Plaza Sol in Madrid) near Lorimer Street’s current Convenience Store to service nearby commercial premises, local residents in townhouses and multiple apartments
- Underground tunnel to go under Hartley Street and underneath current Freeway, and emerge on the Port Melbourne side of Freeway, with another “station” which will well service the current and soon-to-be-new businesses and employees (and new residents)
- Traffic management in Lorimer Street to include all trucks, inclusive all cement trucks, to turn left to Todd Road and onto Freeway, instead of heavy & slow trucks turning right into Lorimer Street and onto the Freeway at the dangerous Montague intersection.

I believe taking the trams from the CBD via a Tunnel underneath the Yarra River is a “cleaner” solution and one more for the future of growing Melbourne’s combined municipality. It would make our City aligned more to the European solution by keeping traffic flowing, cleaner, and not clogged up. More visitors and residents would use public transport to not only get to their place of work, whether in Fishermans Bend or the CBD/Docklands; and visitors will be more favoured to visit inner city of Yarra’s Edge, CBD laneways and hospitality, Port Melbourne beaches and the new Fishermans Bend area.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING (CONT'D.)**

As the south side of the Freeway is to be developed, the tram could easily head to the new Plummer Street area; and if required, the offshoot to the business precinct of Fishermans Bend.

It is noted that the commercial area is to have expanded buses servicing this area.

Currently there are buses along Lorimer Street running to the CBD which are fast and efficient. The budgeted expansion of this bus service is well thought out as many local residents use this service; as well as employees who live in the CBD and work in Bay Street Port Melbourne.

It is important to note that Melbourne Metro can combine underground stations from Southern Cross Station and onto the underground stations of Fishermans Bend, now, or into the near future to capitalise on the growth of the Melbourne municipality.

***\*\*\* Please refer to my drawings (not in scale; nor completed with the assistance of any construction professional).***

Thank you for your time in considering my proposal for an alternative to the "Tram Bridge" over the Yarra; and considering my recommendation of an underground tunnel from near the ANZ building in Docklands and emerging the Port Melbourne side of the Freeway.

**Kindest regards**

***GAYLE ROBERTS  
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