

Suggested responses to the Victorian government's online survey about the proposed Yarra River Protection Act

Overview

You can respond to a survey about the proposed Yarra River Protection Act, here. The survey is being conducted as part of the discussion paper *Protecting the Yarra River (Birrarung)*. The discussion paper is the next step in the creation of the Yarra River Protection Act, and is well worth reading – [you can find it here](#).

The discussion paper has been prepared by the Yarra River Protection Ministerial Advisory Committee set up by the Victorian Government in 2015.

The Yarra Riverkeeper and Environmental Justice Australia have released a report on the proposed Act. That report is referred to below. [You can read the Report here](#).

[You can respond to the survey here](#).

The survey questions with suggested answers for you to copy and paste (or edit as you see fit)

There are 10 questions. It should only take about 10 minutes to respond to the survey with these answers. Your responses will help to shape the law and protect the Yarra River, Birrarung.

[You can respond to the survey here](#).

Q1. What aspect of the Yarra River and its environs would you most like to see protected?

The river, the quality of the water and the corridor of vegetation and open spaces through which the river flows— including: indigenous heritage, European etc. heritage, cooling places, green spaces, animal habitat, biodiversity, a sense of wildness of nature and of the bush.

Q2. What aspect of the Yarra River and its environs would you most like to see improved?

Water quality for humans to swim in and for animals of all types to live in, on and around.

Overall, improved biodiversity and even more of a sense of nature and open space, and of the bush.

More land being acquired to increase the green corridor that can be protected.

Q3. What would you like to see included in a vision for the Yarra River?

A long-term inspirational, aspirational, and transformational vision that:

- looks at 10, 20, 50 and 100 year timelines;
- involves extensive ongoing community consultation;
- includes the Yarra's tributaries;
- covers the river from its source to Port Phillip Bay;
- includes improving the river's impact on Port Phillip Bay;
- involves a rigorous scientific understanding of the needs of the river and the bay;
- makes the river an international exemplar for rivers of its type; and
- delivers a river suitable for the world's most liveable city and helps make Melbourne and the Yarra Valley ever more liveable.

More riverine habitat — for example, in the same way as wetlands have been created along the shore of Albert Park Lake, similar habitat could be created between Herring Island and Port Phillip Bay. There could be pockets and ribbons of green on the edge of the water along docks, walled banks, and infrastructure.

Animal and plant sanctuaries and havens that are cat and fox free and cat and fox proof.

Q4. What elements would you like to see covered in a Yarra strategic plan?

The plan needs to include the following elements:

- a clear and strong commitment to extending biodiversity, both at species and population levels;
- the importance of waterways in connecting populations of indigenous species;
- an understanding and valuing of the ecosystem services the river provides for example: stormwater removal, and air cooling;
- a recognition of the economic benefits the Yarra provides— for example, for tourism, for health;
- a commitment to stormwater management on the river and tributaries that includes land use planning initiatives;
- a consideration of the impact that the river has on Port Phillip Bay, positive impacts (freshwater that is crucial for many animals species breeding) and negative impacts (pollutants and litter)

More broadly, I support the proposals put forward by the Yarra Riverkeeper and Environmental Justice Australia in their report "The Future of the Yarra: Proposals for a Yarra River Protection Act".

Q5. What would you like to see included in legislation to protect the Yarra River?

I support the proposals put forward by the Yarra Riverkeeper and Environmental Justice Australia in their report "The Future of the Yarra: Proposals for a Yarra River Protection Act".

Q6. What do you think are the key criteria for the evaluation of the options for management arrangements of the Yarra River and its riverscape (as outlined in section 5.4 of the discussion paper)?

A new body needs to be established to perform the functions of:
-- developing a Yarra vision and a Yarra strategic plan; and
-- the high-level monitoring of the implementation of that vision and plan.

The criteria for evaluating the options for management of the river and its green corridor should be: stewardship, independence, transparency, efficiency, ongoing community consultation, whole-of-river responsibility, accountability to Parliament and the community.

Also, the management model should be transferable and scalable for other waterways throughout Victoria.

More broadly, I support the proposals put forward by the Yarra Riverkeeper and Environmental Justice Australia in their report "The Future of the Yarra: Proposals for a Yarra River Protection Act".

Q6. What are your thoughts on the options for a new management model for the Yarra River and its environs?

I support the proposals put forward by the Yarra Riverkeeper and Environmental Justice Australia in their report "The Future of the Yarra: Proposals for a Yarra River Protection Act".

Q7. What are your thoughts about establishing a new organisation to oversee development and monitor delivery of a Yarra strategic plan?

I support the proposals put forward by the Yarra Riverkeeper and Environmental Justice Australia in their report "The Future of the Yarra: Proposals for a Yarra River Protection Act".

Q8. Are there any other management models or options we should consider?

I support the proposals put forward by the Yarra Riverkeeper and Environmental Justice Australia in their report "The Future of the Yarra: Proposals for a Yarra River Protection Act".

Q9. Is there any information or issues you feel we have missed?

I support the proposals put forward by the Yarra Riverkeeper and Environmental Justice Australia in their report "The Future of the Yarra: Proposals for a Yarra River Protection Act".

Q10. Do you have any other suggestions or feedback for the Yarra MAC that has not been addressed in previous questions?

I support the proposals put forward by the Yarra Riverkeeper and Environmental Justice Australia in their report "The Future of the Yarra: Proposals for a Yarra River Protection Act".

[You can respond to the survey here.](#)