



Working together to protect & enjoy the Yarra

28 March 2013

Department of Planning and Community Development
1 Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Sir/Madam

Subject: Submission on Metropolitan Planning Strategy and in response to the discussion paper, Melbourne, let's talk about the future.

We, the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, are an independent community-based organisation working to protect and improve the health of the Yarra River and its environs, over its entire length from the mountains to the bay.

The future of Melbourne and the future of its major waterway demand serious consideration and better planning than in the past. We therefore welcome this opportunity to make a submission to the Metropolitan Planning Strategy and respond to the discussion paper.

Our submission contains the following:

1. A description of our organisation and our involvement in the planning arena.
2. The results of our consultation with the community (via a survey) about the discussion paper, and the results of another larger survey.
3. Some concluding comments based on the surveys and our views about planning for the future.

We welcome the opportunity to be further involved in this important endeavour to plan for the future of Melbourne and its Yarra River.

Yours faithfully

Ian Penrose

Riverkeeper, for and on behalf of the Yarra Riverkeeper Association

1. YARRA RIVERKEEPER ASSOCIATION INC.



We are an independent community-based organisation working to protect and improve the health of the Yarra River and its environs, over its entire length from the mountains to the bay.

Our regular river boat patrols play a significant role in monitoring the river and have provided over 300 community leaders, public servants and elected officials with a first-hand appreciation of the river. We have delivered over 600 educational events, river tours and presentations for schools, community groups, businesses and the authorities about the river's wonders, and the challenges in caring for it. Our audiences have totaled 25,000 people. We have earned the reputation of being the voice of the Yarra River.

Our extensive involvement and credentials in the planning arena

We have been an active contributor in discussions and forums about planning as it affects the Yarra River and its environs (the "Yarra River Corridor").

We have consulted with many experts in academia, councils and government departments and had meetings with local and state politicians and their advisors.

Our Riverkeeper and author of this submission is well credential in this subject, having been the planning manager for a \$billion mining business, a senior executive in DSE and a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria.

We have made numerous formal submissions:

- To state government inquiries (including the Review of Policies and Controls for the Yarra River Corridor in 2005, the Victorian Planning System Ministerial Advisory Committee in 2011),
- To all the state authorities with responsibility for the Yarra River, including Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, DSE and the EPA,
- In regard to local council applications for planning amendments,
- In response to many planning permit applications on riverside properties, several of which have been reviewed in VCAT.

This research and experience have provided us with an effective understanding of the planning system and a keenness to work with the government to better plan for the future.

Our active participation towards the Metropolitan Planning Strategy

We have participated in many government-organised forums relating to the Strategy, including:

- the forum of 100 community people on 20 November 2012 addressed by Minister Guy and Prof Roz Hansen,
- the workshop on 29 November lead by Prof Hansen and DPCD's Kate Sullivan,
- the meeting of community leaders on 18 December in DPCD's office to discuss the consultation process, at which Richard Brice from Minister Guy's office spoke, and
- the large community forum on 2 March in Docklands.

2. SURVEYS

The survey we undertook

The State Government has made it very clear that the community's views about the future of Melbourne will be primary inputs to the Strategy. And at the forum on 20 November both Minister Guy and Professor Hansen invited and welcomed open and frank discussion by the community beyond the questions posed in the discussion paper.

Given the importance of community input, we have consulted widely. However given the large scale (geographic spread) of the Yarra River, our consultation has necessarily been with a survey.

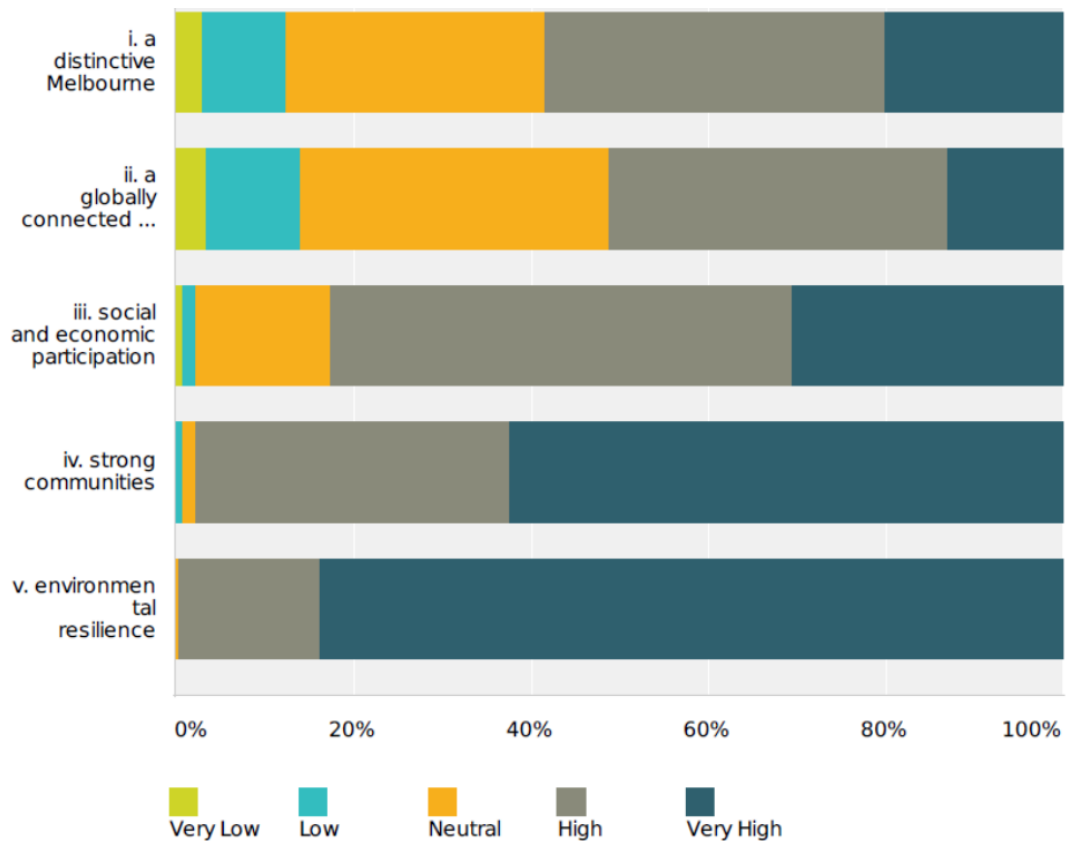
Our survey of nine questions was conducted in the period 28 February to 20 March and received 266 electronic responses and 12 responses in other formats. All the responses are voluntary and anonymous.

A description of the survey and the results from it are contained in the appendix to this submission. The results of the five multiple-choice questions are provided in graphical form. The responses to the four "open" questions were very revealing and hence are reported in full and unedited in the appendix.

So in effect this document is not the submission from a single organisation; it is a collection of **278 separate submissions**.

Here is a summary of them:

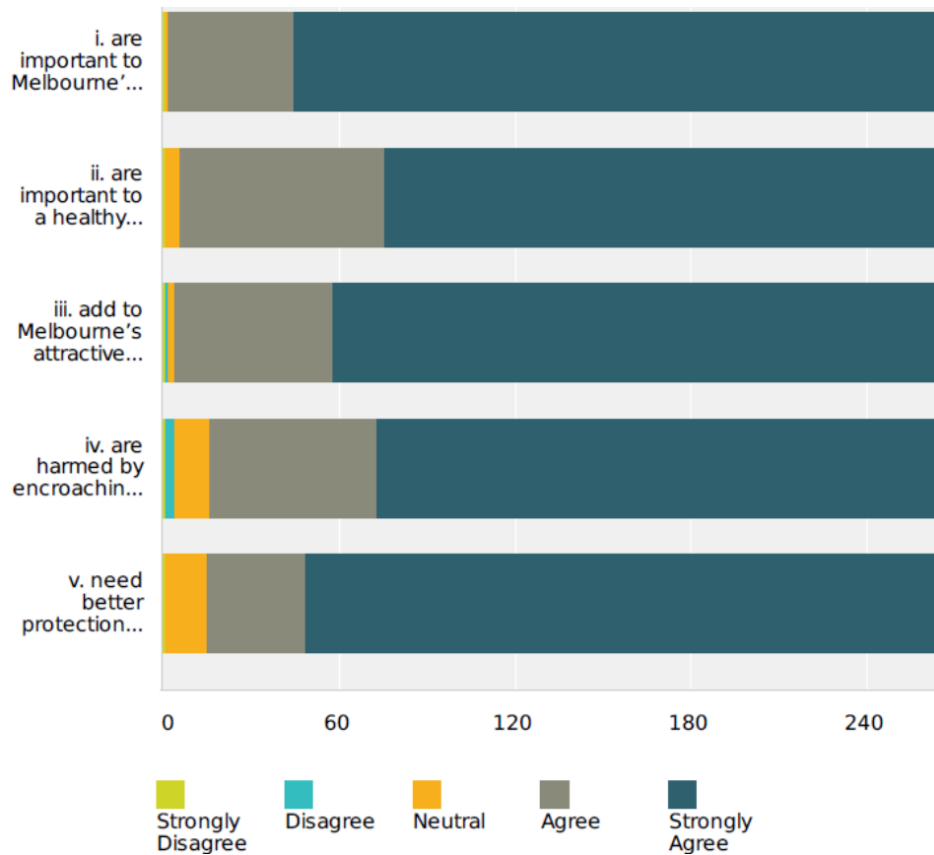
Question: The discussion paper says Melbourne’s future should be based on the following 5 principles. How important are these to you?



For most of the respondents, by far the most important principle is “environmental resilience”, with “strong communities” a clear second. Many of the supporting comments express the view that these principles are not just intrinsically important, they are pre-requisites for the other principles. Some respondents also say that “a distinctive Melbourne” and “a globally connected city” are quite unimportant to them.

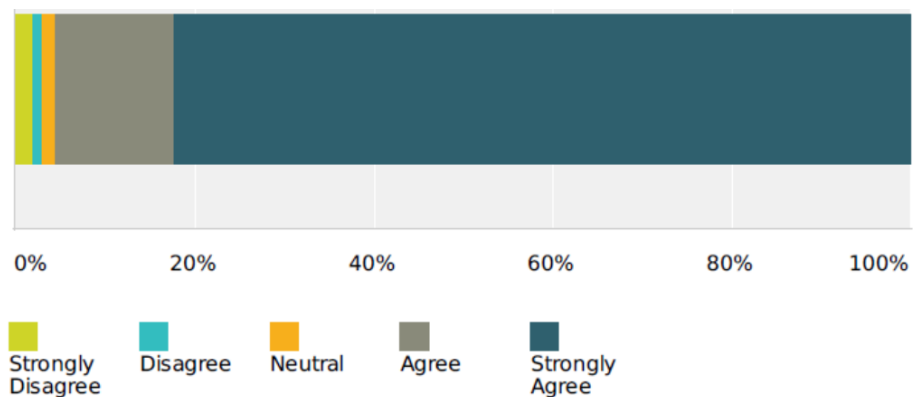
Question: Do you agree that the Yarra and its environs...

- are important to Melbourne’s liveability?
- are important to a healthy community?
- add to Melbourne’s attractiveness?
- are harmed by encroaching buildings?
- need better protection from development?



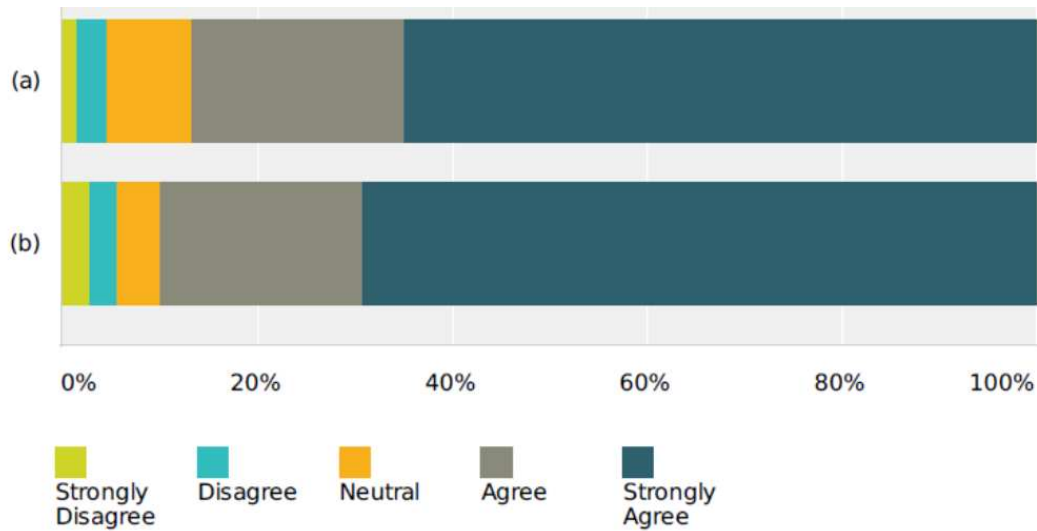
An overwhelming majority of respondents believe strongly that the Yarra and its environs are important to Melbourne’s liveability and a healthy community, and add to Melbourne’s attractiveness. A similarly large majority hold the view that the Yarra’s environs are being harmed by encroaching buildings, and therefore need better protection from development.

Question. The Yarra Riverkeeper Association’s vision for the future of the Yarra and its environs is a continuous corridor of public green space and unbroken wildlife habitat along the entire length of the river? Do you agree?



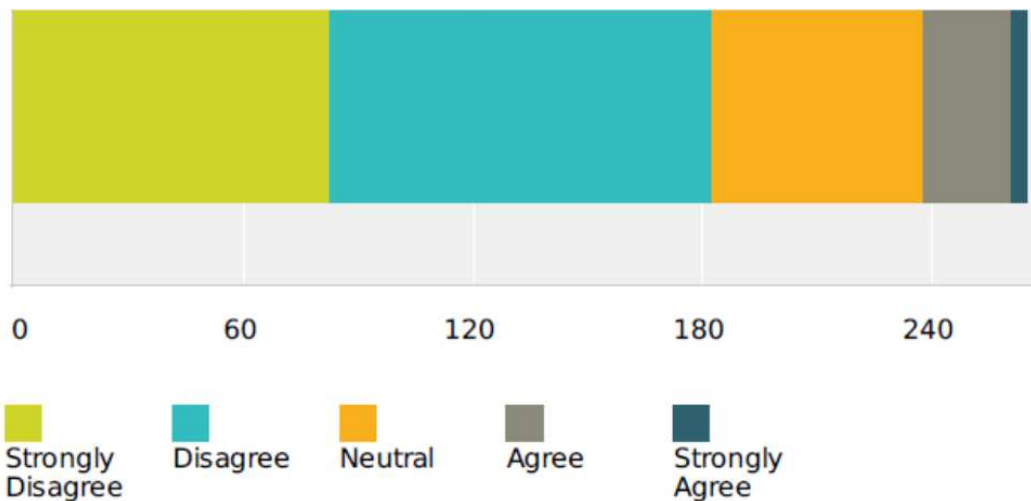
Agreement on a vision is a pre-requisite to a plan, and a large majority of respondents support the vision of a continuous green Yarra Corridor.

Question: The Yarra Riverkeeper Association believes that to stop further encroachment onto the Yarra, (a) there should be no more buildings on riverside land and (b) any new building should be no bigger nor closer to the river than what exists on the site. Do you agree?



The majority of respondents believe strongly there should be **no more buildings on riverside land**. The majority of respondents believe strongly that any new building should be **no bigger nor closer to the river** than what exists on the site. These clear messages from the community should be reflected in the plan for Melbourne, before more damage is done.

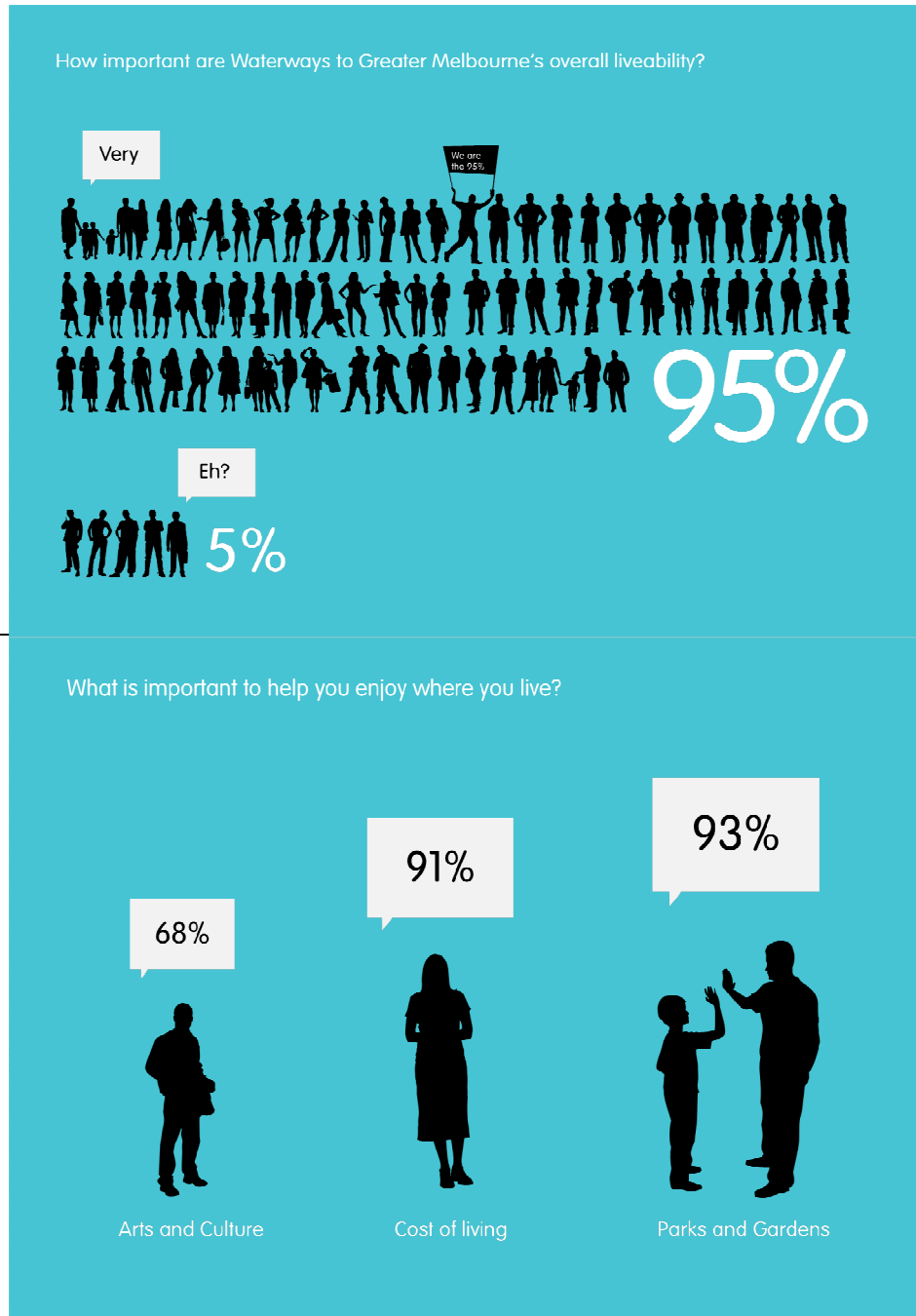
Question: Do you agree with the following statement? “Melbourne’s continued growth is good news for the Yarra River and our enjoyment of it”



The main goal of the Strategy is to accommodate a growing population whilst protecting what makes Melbourne liveable. The survey question explores whether people believe that is possible, given that the Yarra River is vital to the city’s liveability. A clear majority of respondents say that Melbourne’s **growth is bad news for the Yarra**.

Other survey

Melbourne Water commissioned TKP (The Klein Partnership) market research consultants to conduct a survey of Melburnians' attitudes to waterways in July 2012. Some key results from the 4160 responses are as follows.



95% of respondents said waterways are very important to Melbourne's liveability and 93% said parks and gardens are important where they live.

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

From the responses to the surveys and our own analysis, we provide the following concluding comments about

- the discussion paper's treatment of "environmental resilience" and
- the need to protect the Yarra River Corridor in Melbourne's future.

Environmental resilience is not enough

Environmental resilience is an important outcome for a future Melbourne. But this heading and its coverage in the discussion paper are narrow, addressing mainly climate change, and giving little mention to water management and Melbourne's green areas.

The environmental impact of Melbourne and the goal of environmental sustainability are much more extensive and profound.

The city's total environmental "footprint", is the product of:

- the average Melburnian's "footprint" (includes the consumption of food, water, energy, consumer goods etc, all requiring large tracts of land and natural resources to produce, and the disposal of our wastes which also require land and a healthy ecosystem to assimilate), and
- Melbourne's population.

This broader consideration highlights two major shortcomings in the discussion paper. Firstly, the paper gives the impression that a city dweller's environmental footprint is just the area of land occupied by his home. In actual fact, the average eco-footprint of a Melburnian is over 20 hectares.

The second shortcoming is the inadequate discussion/debate about Melbourne's future population. The population is currently growing, but that does not make it either desirable or uncontrollable.

A third serious shortcoming in the discussion about the environment is that the paper virtually ignores the natural assets of the metropolitan region (bushland, native fauna, etc). Whilst they provide important services to humans (eg tourism, recreational, ascetics, and our **liveability**) these natural assets are intrinsically valuable.

In developing a plan for future Melbourne there should be much discussion about:

- the city's environmental footprint,
- future population numbers **and alternatives**, and
- preserving ample habitat for the other species.

The discussion paper fails to do this.

Protecting the Yarra River Corridor

The corridor of the Yarra River and adjacent land is Melbourne's most important natural asset, and all Melburnians are dependent on it.

- It is the centrepiece of many of the city's major cultural events.
- It is renowned for its natural beauty and a popular destination for outings by locals and visitors.
- It provides numerous venues for sports and recreational activities.
- It provides some of the best green open space in the metropolitan area with places for walking, cycling, paddling, picnicking or simply appreciating the natural setting. This is especially valuable in the inner suburbs which are not well endowed with natural open green areas. And its value will only grow as Melbourne's population increases and needs more such areas.
- It is rich habitat for native plants and animals. For many species the continuity and vegetation of the corridor are vital for their existence and wellbeing.
- It provides city dwellers with readily accessible opportunities to connect with the natural world. There is growing evidence that this is essential to the mental and physical well-being of the community. In other words, the Yarra River Corridor is a vital public health asset¹, as well as having important environmental and social values.

The photographs below illustrate these important values.

There is much discussion in the planning arena about the need to build more infrastructure to accommodate Melbourne's growing population. But the commentary is almost exclusively about **built** infrastructure, roads, schools, hospitals, etc. Parks and open space are essential to a healthy and livable city, and with a growing population, more parks and open space are needed. The open space along the Yarra River should be viewed as vital "infrastructure", which needs to be protected **and enhanced** for a growing population.

¹ Reference current Victorian parliamentary inquiry into Environmental Design and Public Health.



Dights Falls, Collingwood - Kew



Yarra Bend Park



Deep Rock, Yarra Bend Park



End of Clarke Street, Abbotsford



Templestowe



Longridge Farm



Warrandyte



Enjoying the Yarra's rapids

The importance and uniqueness of the Yarra River Corridor have been acknowledged in numerous state government policies, ministerial statements and other key planning documents. Here are a few extracts.

- “The River Yarra and its environs shall be identified through appropriate planning measures as one of the most significant physical features of the Melbourne metropolis.”²
- “The River Yarra and its immediate environs shall be planned primarily as an open space system for nature conservation and recreation.”³
- “The Yarra River is potentially one of the State’s, and certainly Melbourne’s great assets.”⁴
- The primary objective⁵ is “to create a linear parkland along the river...to conserve and enhance the cultural and physical resources of the area...to create an attractive environment.”
- The state government will “strengthen current [planning] policies...relating to the Yarra River to ensure the long-term protection of open space, conservation values”⁶
- “Open spaces associated with the Yarra River represent the largest and most important resource of parks and green spaces in inner Melbourne. The extent of the remnant bushland and leafy environment that provides habitat for wildlife and a secluded, peaceful haven for visitors makes it unique in inner Melbourne...The open spaces...are particularly valuable...where the density of development is such that available open space is scarce.”⁷
- “The Yarra River Corridor is one of Melbourne’s best known and loved locations. [Its] parks and trails are accessed by a large number of residents from the surrounding suburbs and visitors alike.....It is important that significant open space, recreation, aesthetic, conservation and tourism assets are protected from development which would diminish their value.”⁸
- “The Yarra and Maribyrnong rivers are Melbourne’s two iconic rivers and they deserve protection from inappropriate development. Protection of the Yarra and Maribyrnong river corridors will be a lasting civic legacy for future generations of all Victorians. Th[is] amendment⁹ [will] discourag[e] development that intrudes on existing private and public open space adjacent to the river. The amendment ... recognises the two rivers’ importance to Victoria through official state planning policy recognition of their environmental, landscape and cultural values as well as their aesthetic, open space, recreation and tourism assets.”

² “Statement of Planning Policy No 4 River Yarra” 1971

³ “Statement of Planning Policy No 4 River Yarra” 1971

⁴ Minister of Conservation foreword to “Lower Yarra Concept Plan”, October 1981

⁵ “Lower Yarra Concept Plan”, October 1981, page 9

⁶ “Melbourne 2030” plan, October 2002, key initiative 5.7.4.

⁷ “Review of Policies and Controls for the Yarra River Corridor: Punt Road to Burke Road” by Planisphere for the Department of Sustainability and Environment, June 2005. Refer page 16

⁸ DPCD draft amendments to planning overlays seeking to strengthen planning controls, 2010.

⁹ Minister for Planning media statement of 14 October 2012 introducing a planning amendment.

The Yarra River Corridor is a unique and valuable asset of state significance. Its protection is paramount and warrants special status in the plan for Melbourne’s future.

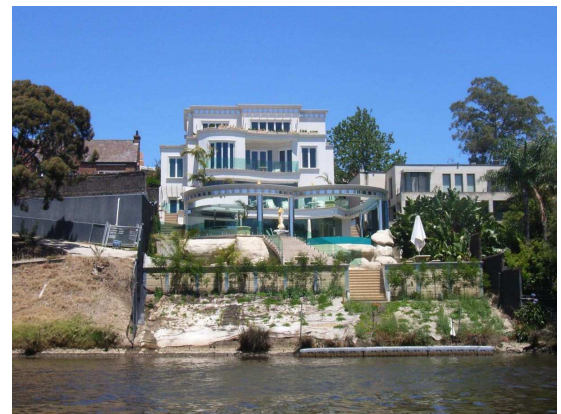
Notwithstanding the many words quoted above promising to protect and enhance the Yarra River Corridor and its vital role in community well-being, the corridor continues to be degraded by inadequate planning.

It is being smothered under bigger and more intrusive buildings and hard surfaces. The current priority being given to “built form” is at odds with the intention of the planning system¹⁰ “to ensure the protection and conservation of land in Victoria in the present and long-term interests of all Victorians.”

There are many recent instances where poor planning has failed to protect the corridor from damage. Some are large scale developments in the inner suburbs, where the excessive height and bulk, and minimal setbacks breach planning criteria and adversely impact on the corridor. Worse still, these developments are becoming benchmarks for re-development of other large sites. Damage is also occurring along many other sections of the river as far out as the rural Yarra Valley. Furthermore, whilst the large developments attract much attention, there are many more smaller developments, the cumulative impacts of which are just as devastating.



Example of large scale developments



Example of smaller scale developments

**Clearly, a much better plan for the future,
implemented by stronger and enforced planning rules
is needed to protect the Yarra River Corridor.
The future of the Yarra,
a vital component in Melbourne’s future liveability,
demands nothing less.**

¹⁰ DPCD webpage “A Guide to the Planning System”

APPENDIX:

SURVEY UNDERTAKEN BY THE YARRA RIVERKEEPER ASSOCIATION

Between 28 February and 20 March 2013

The introduction to the survey stated the following.

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF THE YARRA?

The Victorian Government is currently preparing a new blueprint for Melbourne's future over the next 30-40 years, called the Metropolitan Planning Strategy. The main underlying premise is that "*Melbourne will continue to grow, both geographically and in population*", thus increasing demand for housing, transport, open space etc. The principal aims of the Strategy are to "*ensure that the valued aspects of Melbourne are protected whilst allowing for future needs*" and to "*ensure our city remains one of the most diverse, distinctive and liveable cities in the world*".

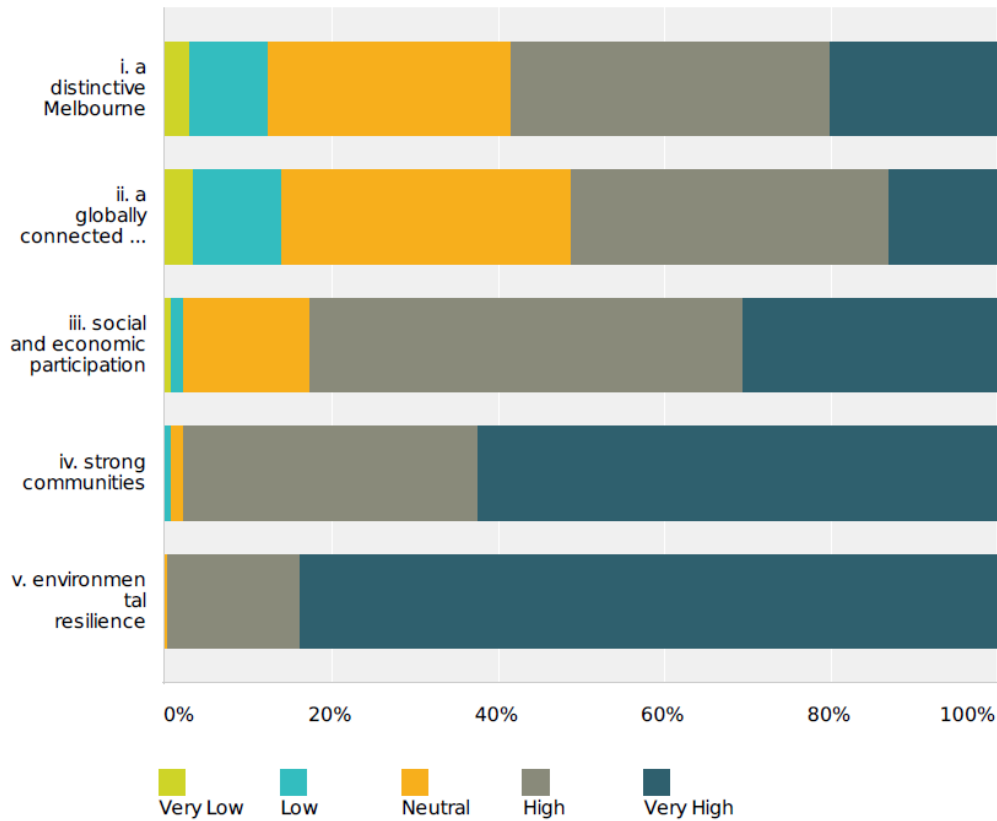
We believe that the Yarra River, together with its environs, is important to Melbourne's liveability and therefore that it should feature prominently in the Strategy. Additionally, given how much the city impacts on the river the Strategy is important to the river's future, especially in regard to what happens on the river banks and the ongoing threat of encroaching buildings.

We are therefore keen to know your views (via the short questionnaire overleaf) on your vision for the Yarra and how to get there. A summary of responses (without names) will be sent to the government. For more information about the Strategy, read the government's discussion paper, *Melbourne, let's talk about the future*, available on www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au. However, please do not confine your thoughts to the ideas presented in that paper. We and the government need your own ideas on the Yarra's future.

The survey contained 9 questions, some of which were multiple-choice, whilst others sought comments. The results, including ALL the comments received are provided in the following pages. None of the comments have been removed or edited.

Q1 The discussion paper says Melbourne's future should be based on the following 5 principles. How important are these to you?

Answered: 265 Skipped: 1



Q2 Please comment on your choice of the most or least important principle

Answered: 191 Skipped: 75

(Below are all the responses unedited.)

Without environmental resilience there won't be these other factors

I like a clean well ordered environment . Being a power house of progress is not my idea of a good place to live.

Clearly Melbourne is and always must remain, our City of Choice .. hence these positive scores

I don't really care how others see Melbourne (ie is it distinctive on a world stage) but I care very strongly about how healthy our city is, which includes environmental and social issues.

I am more interested in local issues than in Melbourne being connected to overseas issues. Strong communities are about strengthening individuals and allowing them a chance to have a wonderful life

Would like to see an environmental connection from the mountains and the bay.

Balance is important in achieving these outcomes. One cannot come at the cost to the other.

Environmental is top of my list

Without environmental resilience, strong communities and economic participation, we cannot achieve a liveable Melbourne.

Melbourne has the opportunity to become a low-energy city that exists compatibly with high-quality natural environment (an extension of the "Blue Dandenongs" tourism). River water quality and maintenance of bushland and natural forests underpins Melbourne's attractiveness.

Most important to me is that Melbourne keeps its green wedges and creates stronger urban growth boundaries to help retain Melbourne's remaining surrounding grasslands, of which only 3% still survives intact.

Whilst I think strong communities is very high I am not sure if the definition of strong communities is read the same by all. For me this is about civic participation, skills that are embedded to enable for local problem solving and flexibility to change.

I don't believe in the idea of "progress" at any cost or increasing the population to "grow the economy". Why can't we appreciate what we already have?

Preserving the green spaces in and around Melbourne is vital for a vibrant city which offers its inhabitants places to recover their resources, associate with others in a relaxed way, enjoy common outdoor areas

I feel happier in a strong community and value links with fellow citizens. If we don't show environmental resilience Australia won't be worth living in. "globally connected" is a cliché that's lost all useful meaning.

Least important is global connection and competitiveness, most important is environmental resilience and vitality because I believe in community cohesion, vitality, and equality of opportunity, but even more important is the issue of environmental resilience and sustainability in the face of the global disaster of climate change. Nature in all its aspects and space is vital to a healthy community and to healthy individuals, and particularly to the mental health of the humans who are part of the environment and not distinct from it.

Everything else is dependant upon our achieving good environmental outcomes and strong resilient, compassionate communities.

Should not be like most other cities - a hodge-podge of everything that could be found in most countries of the world. It should be uniquely Australian with a sustainable distinctively Australian environment that is not full of only exotic plants and animals.

There is too much emphasis on people getting richer and not enough of the poverty of the environment.

Environmental resilience will be required in the face of climate change. It is also required for livability. The environment needs to be protected for its intrinsic values. Strong communities is the key to happiness and social harmony.

I believe Melbourne's character is extremely special but should never come at a detrimental cost to values and ethics.

With the oncoming affects of Climate Change showing it's force now is the time for communities to pull together more than ever before to bring about changes to make us resilient into the future in the face of climate change and peak oil.

Without a sustainable environment Melbourne will not exist.

We need to be a sustainable city to be competitive. I.e. to meet social and economic participation and be competitive we need to be able to do this for the long term. Setting up better public transport and working options for people to commute. Strong recycling programs for infrastructure and waste streams etc. Maintaining access to natural values purely for the purpose of agriculture and community wellbein is critical - not every bit of land needs to become a house and our forest/bushland areas need to remain intact!

Good social and environmental outcomes will make melbourne distinct and a good place to live, we dont need to try and artificially make melbourne distinctive.

The foundations for Melbourne to become increasingly liveable, and to stay that way for the long term, are a resilient natural environment and strong, well-connected communties

Environmental resilience will determine whether we have a city in 40 years or not.

Strong communities require investment - it's nice to have the words, but there's lots of support required to organisations, community committees and all activity that relies on volunteering.

Our love of the natural environment means that we hope our grandchildren will have some to appreciate. Future of human life depends on caring for it.

Choice based on principle of staying a very liveable city.

If we build strong communities we will be able to ensure environmental resilience. Without strong communities the environment always suffers as other matters take priority.

Cities are social congregations. Their social characterisitcs are what defines them.

Envrionmental resilience should not suffer as a result of the other 4 principles; therefore I feel it is the most important principle. In addition, without a strong and healthy environment all the other aspects would not be successful and Melbourne would not be the liveable city that it is today.

The health of ecosystems underpins everything we enjoy about Melbourne. High quality drinking water, good air quality, space for recreation and places to escape the built urban environment.

all of the strengths depend on the strong and resilient community that drives it

Why would any of these principles be less than another?

A city has to be about people and must be sustainable. Otherwise it won't survive long past 2030.

Environmental resilience is of utmost importance given the changes in climate of recent years and its potential effects on local ecosystems.

I believe that many of the principles are linked to each and are interdependent. Size and competitiveness will only last as long as there is environmental resilience and stability.

there is no functional city without functional environmental assets.

In times of increasing fuel shortages; globalisation is dying

being unique or different is not as important as the others.

Strong communities mean people care about their environment and future of that environment.

Being distinctive is not as important as the other considerations

The strongest is a city that is based environmental resilience not developer exploitation

There are no jobs on a dead planet..... We need to respect and nurture biodiversity to ensure local resilience to climate extremes and fossil fuel depletion

It is important to keep the environment apace with other developments.

Strong communities relates to safe and healthy communities, which is very important to me and my profession. Also, I am passionate about environmental health and how this relates to human health - which I view as being highly integrated and important.

Strong communities support each other on a individual level. People need people.

without environmental resilience, strong communities and social and economic participation a city becomes unlivable in my view.

environmental resilience

Most important for us all is the environment.

environmental resilience matters most for choice of where to live - if you can't breathe the air or drink the water, none of the rest matter

We have a responsibility to protect the ecosystems that support us and inspire us. Local communities supporting each other with face to face contact is far more important for well being than global connections.

Strong communities underpin many aspects of a liveable, vibrant, safe, enjoyable and connected society and city.

Environmental resilience is critical for ensuring Melbourne's future

economic is code for letting developers run rampant

What does 'environmental resilience' mean ? Does it mean that when we damage it or impact it that it bounces back ? I believe the Natural environment is still being treated as a poor cousin in the triple bottom line measurement, and while most local Councils 'get it' and are doing good work, the State and Federal guys don't rate it as important. e.g. grazing high country, carbon emissions, coal-seam gas permits on farmland. We need strong communities linked to 'our country' and 'waterways'.

Water is life. The Yarra River is the lifeblood of Melbourne. From an international perspective, a major first world city with a healthy river reflects a progressive government able to implement modern

technologies, community engagement. This would enhance the strength of communities and environmental resilience. Melbourne would be naturally distinct. A healthy river is attractive to everyone, local and visiting.

Strong Communities - the little man versus the big corporates.

Without Melbourne's green spaces and parks, we lose our distinctive and iconic status as a city with green and open spaces to live, work and play. This aspect promotes all of the other points intrinsically.

Sustainability needs a strong community and good environment.

environmental resilience will create a distinctive Melbourne

being globally competitive could come at too high a cost

All important to me

We need to get a good balance, we need to maintain a healthy environment as the number 1 goal, the others won't count for much without that.

The very high rated answers are the basis of life itself. Whether that involves being the first 2 options or not, is of less consequence.

All points are crucial to the growth and well-being of our lovely, interesting and vital Melbourne but environmental resilience is the groundfloor stability for a healthy environs, understood by more of our supportive society.

community should not come second to economic progress. the very word "competitive" is divisive.

We should be preparing for climate change.

iii and v together, as the river is central to our city's layout, the better health it's in the better it is for everyone.

No environmental resilience = no future!

Melbourne is far too big and indecently large houses are allowed to be built on our best farming land and I think it is wrong. Preserve the Yarra Valley from such development.

What does 'distinctive' mean?

If we are going to have a liveable habitat in the next 20, 50, 100 years we need to have a sustainable environment, including the air, water, plants, animals and invertebrates, all are part of our environment and they mesh together.

Distinctive What is special

All are critical and interconnected strong community and environmental resilience most important

They all sound great. One isn't necessarily greater than the other, they are important together.

environment is priceless and should not be sacrificed for mere profits which are only short term and can never make up for what is lost.

iii. Believe if community is socially & economically active rest will follow- respect, value & love their city.

Environmental sustainability is key for me as far as principle for city of the future

Unhealthy environment unhealthy us no economy on a dead planet

What's good for business is good for the country is a blatant LIE! What's good for the country is good for business because if you don't look after the country there will be no business.

iii) with social and economic participation comes growth in many important areas, including cultural understanding and acceptance, individual and national wealth.

All the principles are important. Economics, employments, community and a resilient environment are crucial

I don't think we need to be "distinctive" in the sense of building grand monuments or have a "star role" in the world above social values. I'd like a loveable Melbourne first which includes easy and cheap access to excellent Public transport, a good mix of diversity with affordable housing for all.

Without environmental resilience we have nothing. We need to stop celebrating how liveable our city is, and start considering very carefully the daily planning decisions we make that will quickly erode that liveability and see it disappear irreversibly.

The way we look after our environment in Melbourne is the most important thing to me, there should be no compromise anymore, it's already so degraded.

All important

Melbourne's character & culture don't rely on having the biggest or densest (in a planning context); it comes from preserving our environment for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

Any city which is to survive needs environmental resilience - history shows what has happened to places when their resources run out.

Environmental resilience is the Most important given the limited precious resources we have left here and the importance of climate adaptation

given a changing climate, resilience is becoming more important than ever.

Without social cohesion and an environmentally sustainable Melbourne the character of this city will be lost. Items iii-v are all imperative to a liveable existence.

Strong, sustainable communities should be Melbourne's main aim for the future and this should include social, environmental and economic aspects of the city. It is nice to be globally connected and competitive also but I believe if we aim for iii, iv, and v principles then principle i and ii will follow.

these principles are inter dependent but the two I have highlighted as most important to underpin a future Melbourne

I see that environmental resilience and sustainability is the foundation for any future at all for Melbourne.

Without environmental resilience our city will become a very unpleasant place to live.

I believe having strong empowered informed connected communities is the key to physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing

Without environmental resilience and being able to cope with climate change Melbourne's future is bleak.

I feel Environmental resilience is a no brainer, as without this facet we'll be left with no future.

strong communities promote tolerance of different cultures and beliefs creating a safer and more interesting life

The growth of underclasses and environmental degradation are major threats to livability. Cities must be economically viable, but this should not be automatically assumed to mean growth. Smaller is often better.

if we do not have environmental health Melbourne will not be liveable vibrant and beautiful or healthy

The environment is most precious and important for the wellbeing of people. Re ii I am interested in an harmonious and beautiful city not a competitive one.

I believe environmental resilience is the basis for the other principles. Keeping rivers and waterways healthy will make Melbourne distinctive and a good environment will support a motivated workforce.

We need to save the green wedge and any rivers and creeks within this area . People who move here need to be made aware of the importance of the green lungs of Melbourne and healthy river systems for the coexistence of man and animals.

without environmental resilience and strong communities we will be of little significance

I treasure Melbourne for the number of parks, especially the linear parks along the rivers & creeks & the green wedge

(ii) this is the excuse given for the continuation of the Grand Prix - it's a farphy

I believe that a city's distinction is built over time not through changing planning schemes. You can build a sterile environment but character is something totally outside the realm of a built environment.

Most important is strong communities because it's what differentiates us from others - relating to and caring about our neighbours is an old-fashioned and necessary value. By valuing connectedness we don't have to live in each other's lives, just observe and take notice if someone's in trouble, or needs a hand.

No comment

More connection to country Victoria and other local communities. Environmental resilience is important in a world of climate change.

Melbourne doesn't need to be competitive-

Melbourne's future being based on environmental resilience is key for me due to the increasing demands on our natural environment from population growth and climate change. We spend our leisure time enjoying the parks, gardens and rivers and are saddened to see them threatened with

rubbish, effluent and especially sections of public land at risk of being lost to the planned east-west freeway and other commercial interests.

Environmental resilience is most important because long term it underpins everything else

Environmental resilience - once some aspect of environmental system is gone, it will be gone for good, what we have can be maintained...

All are important for overall sustainability of the city. It would be too complex to differentiate between.

Environment resilience must be maintained to keep river and surrounds in natural state.

We live in one of the best cities in the world for all the above reasons and we should all aim tonkeepnit that way. With increasing population growth no.5.is vital.

Our lives are at stake.we must become sustainable

Environmental resilience comes first as without it the other principles cannot be realised.

Without an environment of resilience and natural strength we have no city, just an uncontrollable sewer.

The environment determines everything in the long run and needs to be the number one priority

Melbourne's growth should aim to concentrate on already developed suburbs rather than the continuous spread into surrounding rural land which is needed as "lungs" for the city, and productive farming, to guard against food insecurity.

The environment must be protected waterways kept clean and nature reserves need to have the trees thinned sometime to promote stronger growth

It is the people that make Melbourne not distinctive features.

Without Social and Economic Participation one is left with an environment planned by authoritian bureaucrats

I believe that we need to be a globally connected and competitive city above all because we need an international aura to rate amongst the world's cities

I think the strongest needs are of the well being of people, and strong community participation is a short term aim but over time the environment will only get more important which is why it should also be a main focus.

Without developing our city to survive environmental change all the other topics will not be relevant

We don't want melbourne to become a highly poulated high density city. Growth must be limited to suatailable levels.

Without strong communities and a healthy environment then the others aren't possible.

Environmental sustainability is the most important issue. Without that everything else is more difficult to achieve.

without a healthy environment (ie clean, health giving and diverse) we humans cannot survive, so it is in our self interests, as well as our obligation to other species, to place environmental protection at the top of all decisions made about Melbourne and its region

Strong communities and environmental resilience so that we can continue to live and flourish in a "livable" clean and healthy environment.

The essence of Melbourne is driven by strong communities supported by healthy environments.

Environmental resilience should be the most important and a distinctive Melbourne the least.

Strong communities and sustainability are far more important than being distinctive.

I believe that the "larger Melbourne" doesn't enable people to feel connected. Functioning as smaller communities with strong, positive, environmental awareness hold a better future,

They are all tied in together - they complement each other.

How does a city do "social and economic participation"

Melbourne should be distinctive in that it protects valued elements of urban environment: natural features (rivers, beaches, open space) and fosters communities that value privacy, open space and shared spaces for healthy (physical and mental) living. An over-developed Melbourne might be distinctive for the wrong reason. Protect environment and community and you have a distinctive city that can be world class.

Global competition relatively less important than the others.

Without environmental resilience we cannot have the other 4 aspects into the future.

distinctive Melbourne least strong communities most

Total emphasis on environment, climate change & community - open spaces and get away from the "business as usual" mantra, growth at any cost & start truly planning for a carbon constrained economy that is truly sustainable. In Melbourne - How many high flats, units, townhouses are self sufficient in energy, water and heating/cooling - solar passive design?

Melbourne is currently a marvelous city but with a growing population greater pressure is placed on the resources that make such a distinctive and world renowned city. It how open spaces are managed (aesthetically, environmentally, for the mental and physical health of the community) is what will define Melbourne and the psyche of its inhabitants.

Melbourne is already a distinctive city - I would not like to see this diluted by turning Melbourne into another mega metropolis. Parks, gardens, open space and the Yarra are significant contributors to a current distinctiveness. Past "planners" did the city proud - time we did the same for Melbourne of the future.

Melbourne must be able to survive as a city in the long term without environmental decline.

Environmental resilience is most important as many of the other points will flow from this

Need to explain what you mean by "distinctive" - in what way? Can be negative!

Strong communities is key ...not so important is globally connected

Being distinctive will come about through good management anyway, it is an indirect benefit.

Communities need to control their destiny. Government cannot control, it must be responsive to residents not developers who only exploit.

Strong connected communities is vital. Melbourne is already distinctive & the Yarra is at the heart of this. The environmental awareness of the community must be important to all.

Strong communities and environmental protection are critical for the future of any city.

social and economic participation is vital as the others stem from that. If you have a social cohesive and responsible city with good economic participation you will be able to protect environments, build strong communities and compete globally

"globally connected and competitive" sounds like developer-speak for high density, overcrowding, congestion all driven by high immigration and cheap imported labour..

environmental resilience underpins the other principles. communities comes a close second

i. A distinctive Melbourne means retaining those aspects that Melbourne distinctive i.e. the Yarra with its natural feel free of buildings along its course, Melbourne's historic architecture and its lower heights.

Very importantly, the Greater Melbourne region has one of the most diverse ranges of ecosystems in Australia, and many of these ecosystems are threatened by the growth of Urban Melbourne. Perhaps another principle should be that Melbourne is "a hub closely connected to Victoria's regional centres that are designated to be the places where sustainable growth happens."

Strong communities have a distinct sense of place. By preserving our environment and making that a valuable and attractive part of our lives, we reinforce our identities and our place within the overall community.

Environment is essential to every aspect of our lives- work, play... Strong communities help maintain positive places, lower crime, better qualities of life...

The Yarra and its corridor provide a unique link for flora and fauna and therefore for human enrichment.

must preserve and minimise any further deterioration

not into competitive and really don't care about "distinctive" if it's ugly.

what makes a distinctive Melbourne? ... what is intended to make Melbourne distinctive?

While I appreciate the importance of a globally competitive city, the way the city functions locally is far more important to me and everyday life.

Why seek a distinctive Melbourne: this implies an unnecessary self-conscious regard for image and needless (endless) comparisons: artificial rivalry between Melbourne and Sydney. Globally connected and competitive? that sounds like an argument for the Grand Prix and other useless 'global' pursuits. We're globally connected whether we like it or not - it's inevitable.

Without environmental resilience, there is no point to even writing the strategy, let alone implementing it. Melbourne has come a long way in its environmental improvements but has a very

long way to go. It is imperative that any State Government does not rest on the laurels of its predecessors.

Environmental resilience contributes to the concept of Melbourne as a livable city but needs to be a higher priority to facilitate this.

all very important to our future

Without environmental resilience, nothing else is possible therefore that has to come first. However, I think strong communities tend to lead to good environmental outcomes so that is equally important.

Without a strong environment, Melbourne will not succeed in the other areas (and will spend loads of money fixing it up)

If the four I have selected as high and very high are all foundations of Melbourne's future then "a distinctive Melbourne" will be a natural result of all these things working together.

Long term environment is most important.

We paddle the yarra regularly and would like it kept free of large man made structures above Dights Falls

Harmonious & sustainable are my main wishes

least, I don't see any bennifits in that for the wider community. Most, our well bing depends on it.

The aspects I rated very high are all interconnected in my opinion. Strong communities will require environmental resilience to provide melbourne with a liveable city. Similarly strong communities are the best way to ensure that environmental action is achieved. A globally connected and competitive city will be important to ensuring Melbourne's strong communities do not get cut off from the rest of the world. If I had to choose one, the lynch pin in my opinion, it would be strong communities.

A distinctive Melbourne usually refers to multihighrise CBD and a city with strong ESD and strong communities would be better and distinctive globally for other reasons.

We have a responsibility to ensure that natural systems are able to persist alongside development

Strong integrated groups will be neede to combat the effects of overpopulation and be a positive guide to ensure a reasonable life quality.

The basis of a city must be its people, and only through involvement of those people through strong local and wider communities will people have a true input to their daily life and to the future of the city.

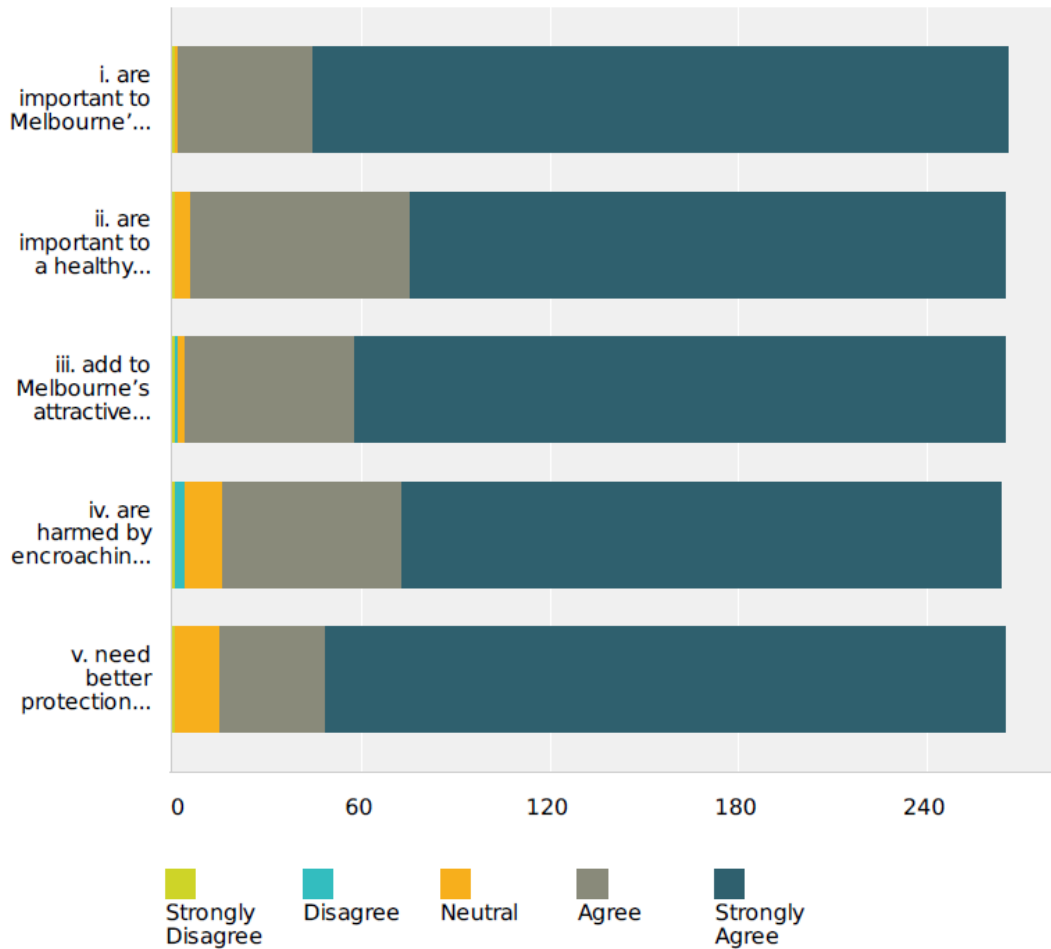
Without strong communities and environmental resilience, it is hard to maintain a basis for economic and social involvement r

Environment because all things revolve around it; a good environment allows growth of community and amenity.

Wanting "a distinct Melbourne" is an ego trip. "Environmental resilience" is critical but falls short of a commitment to environmental sustainability.

Q3 Do you agree that the Yarra and its environs...

Answered: 266 Skipped: 0



Q4 Please comment on the choice you most or least agree with.

Answered: 180 Skipped: 86

(Below are all the responses unedited.)

If we don't care, what we have that is beautiful will be trashed and gone for ever

The special quality of the Yarra is the extent to which a natural untamed environment runs alongside so much of it. That this 'bush' experience reaches into the inner urban suburbs sets the Yarra apart from other city rivers. The CBD end of the river has lost this feature. It is vital we preserve and enhance what is left.

Let me reiterate my response to Question 2

I think generally there are strong protections in place already

The River is a public space and belongs to all Melbournians. It needs to be open to all not occupied by the few.

The need to beware of adverse encroachment

Yarra Yarra and its environs are a significant part of the health of Melbourne's people. Making the Yarra accessible and maintaining its environmental quality is essential to achieve this.

I would love to see some strategic buybacks of unused factories or other buildings facing the river, to be demolished and converted to near its original state. Imagine that! I would also love to see a strengthening of legislation around setbacks for construction next to streams.

This protection must include the floodplains and all the way to upper reaches of Yarra.

Yuck to poor and encroaching developments. Proper planning process seems to have been hijacked.

Sites we turn to for relief and enjoyment exist because of planning controls

we could have a healthy community without the river , but life in melbourne would be far less enjoyable. Also the tourist trade would suffer,if the comments of my overseas visitors are anything to go by.

Most agree with more protection

My reasoning above covers the first point.I should add that it is the distinctive feature of the city - not just of the CBD where it obviously very important, but along its entire course. Sydney has the Harbour and the Bay is also important but less environmentally significant because less bushland has been conserved here than in Sydney. The river is very important to the inland areas and its course relates to many people who come from further afield. I don't know enough about the issue less agreed with but am generally very wary of developers and their links with Councils.

It is being trashed by environmentally disastrous development.

The government is always thinking of building on or over the Yarra for the views so that developers can make money. What about preserving the environment? It provides the air that we breathe and the water that we drink.Without a clean environment, we will die a horrible death. China and Japan are good examples of this.

Strongly agree with all. The Yarra is very important to Melbourne and is in need or protection.

I am unaware of any area along the Yarra where I feel the river has been compromised - except by rubbish

The Yarra is the life force of Melbourne and should be protected, preserved and cherished for the enjoyment of all living things.

The Yarra is an important resource for community activities (walking, cycling, boats, canoes, fishing, relaxation etc)

I agree strongly with all these points. The Yarra is a public assetfor all victorians and needs to be kept clean and free from building encroachment and maintain a healthy water and bush/parkland

environment for community health and provide parklands for active and healthy people in the community.

A healthy and resilient natural environment is fundamental to maintaining a healthy community, and the Yarra and its environs from headwaters to the bay, is a key element of Melbourne's natural environment

I think v. is the most relevant to this survey - and the hardest to undo. Don't let rich folks destroy the utility and beauty of the Yarra for private gain.

It is well known that the Yarra has environmental and social qualities that are not enjoyed by more than a handful of rivers worldwide - this needs to be protected.

De-centralised development - enlarging regional cities is a way to cope with population growth and preserving fertile farming land.

Some protection for the Yarra now exists. Adequacy is ever being tested by the self serving.

Healthy water ways and green corridors help clean the air, the oceans and provide haven for biodiversity. By allowing buildings to encroach on the Yarra wildlife suffers, biodiversity therefore decreases and the system limps along rather than thrives.

There certainly needs to be more environmental protection from developments. This is critical not only in the planning stages, but the implementation and follow-up stages as well. Not enough is done to ensure works are being completed as required nor functioning as they are intended. As a result, the environment and community suffers.

water in the landscape is a primitive focus and helps bring us together

If development follows the principles and planning decisions are strictly made around these principles then development could enhance current uses. (Ie development could be a park)

The Yarra is important, but it's also not the only river. It primarily serves the eastern suburbs and CBD. Focusing on the Yarra at the expense of other waterways would be socially regressive.

Any further developments on the river or industry near the river should be strictly monitored to ensure any effects on the river are minimal in terms of both pollution and aesthetics. Natural environment should always take precedence over commercial or residential development along the Yarra.

I believe all are self evident and counter arguments can only be based on short term economic gain which benefits only developres who have no long term interst in the amenity

i cycle the yarra and merri trails several times a week.

People with money blockade the river down to its waterline

for the inner east dwellers its the only taste of natural water so it certainly contributes to the attractiveness of living in the inner east - I love living in Kew but I do miss proximity (in travel time) to the beach/bay.

Most important is the protection from development

No water, no life. We are PART OF our ecosystems and river, not separate from it.

More thought is needed in all developments affecting the Yarra.

The Yarra river has been an important feature throughout my life. I see it was as an important health aspect that helps improve my health and wellbeing. This is particularly relevant from being able to swim and walk along its banks.

The health of open spaces, especially of our rivers directly effects the livability of Melbourne. The Yarra, particularly is a place for Melbournians to exercise, relax, rest & participate in social, cultural & sporting activities. It allows us to escape the urban environs & enjoy the refreshment that time in parkland can offer, both physically & for mental refreshment. Healthy rivers & parklands around them increase the value of surrounding property as well as strengthen the communities who enjoy them.

A healthy and beautiful river enhances a city

in some areas it is impossible to get to the river and I wonder what happens to biodiversity when there is no space left for any natural environment

need better protection from development

The Yarra is important to liveability

yarra is best thing about Melbourne

Public access to quality open space and natural features is essential for everyone's well-being. Privatising open space is unjust and adds to inequality.

The jury is in - research points to human well-being and its correlation with greenscape, open space, and parks.

The Yarra as recently been impacted by several inappropriate developments on its banks or close to it.

The Yarra River (along with other creeks and rivers) and Port Phillip Bay are arguably Melbourne's biggest natural assets. They provide recreation on and off water, and calming environmental retreats in a busy world. They are for the community to enjoy, not for a fortunate few to build onto.

Water is life. The Yarra River is the lifeblood of Melbourne. From an international perspective, a major first world city with a healthy river reflects a progressive government able to implement modern technologies, community engagement. This would enhance the strength of communities and environmental resilience. Melbourne would be naturally distinct. A healthy river is attractive to everyone, local and visiting.

Need protection from development (Developers)

Agree with all.

The health of the Yarra is directly related to the health of the environment around it. When the land is developed and disturbed through pollution and construction, the rest of the environs around it, and the wildlife and people who live in it are adversely affected too.

Endless growth is bad for the environment, us people and in the long run for the economy too. Endless growth is choking us. Growth should now be in QUALITY of goods and services, not Quantity any longer

the yarras catchment environs are essential to river health - remnant indigenous vegetation and revegetation effort is essential for river health.

all of equal importance

All of equal importance to me

Ability to readily connect with nature, in particular The Yarra, is one of the key reasons I choose to live in Melbourne. Walking or riding next to a healthy river with vibrant bird life and animals is very special.

The river is the lifeblood of the city, physically and arguably meta-physically (as rivers have been for eons). As such, its value goes beyond aesthetic, and keeps us connected with our life source, in profound and vital ways.

I wish the property developers could be challenged on the long-term viability of damaging visual impact development and that decisions made are corruption-free, not dollar driven. Ha!

Melbourne was built on the Yarra yet most Melbournians know nothing about it. a Healthy river system unites the environment and the community.

Yards should remain open to all.

If the river had good enough systems in place to deal with pollution off streets , imagine if people could jump in for a swim in the CBD without any worries .

No need - it's obvious

Again protection from development.

Having kayaked on the lower Yarra it is amazing how it feels so serene away from the business of life UNTIL you come across a building on the verge of the river

The Yarra is vital to our well being

Liveability - the life blood needs stronger protection

Melbourne is a city. It won't ever get back to natural. People need to live somewhere while being able to maintain some modified environments (i.e. never will be natural again). Regulation is needed to stop further encroachment, but this needs to be reasonable

The river is our city's life blood; without it, we would be lost. Simple!!

environment is priceless and should not be sacrificed for mere profits which are only short term and can never make up for what is lost.

v. river & environs belong to all Melbournians/Victorians. Amenity decreases as continued high density developments encroach on Yarra & environs.

Encroaching buildings/development must be curtailed.

Protecting riparian vegetation and managing water flows and quality (stormwater management) are critical to waterway health and amenity.

Rivers are the arteries of the earth they bring life. Mistreat your arteries you die

A healthy river system is so much more than a nice subject for a photograph.

I think if developed with strong consideration of environmental issues, new buildings can bring a new awareness to and appreciation of the Yarra and environment generally.

Better planning protection is required to protect the space available for a green corridor and tree canopy

Put simply, a healthy river gives a healthy community.

Melbourne water and its poisons which are harmful to all life are destroying the water, wildlife, and vegetation

Our waterways large and small are the lifeblood of the City and region, so appropriate setbacks are important for river health and landscape aesthetics

The Yarra is an icon, but very degraded at the 'city' end. We are really fortunate that our city has the Yarra but we need to give it the space and respect it needs so it can be improved and not further degraded.

Development if done well can improve surveillance, care and ownership of the Yarra.

The Yarra's environs are home to many threatened species and over-development places further pressure on these creatures and for what; escalating real estate prices and the personal viewing satisfaction of a very few people.

Liveability - These open spaces of plant and water go with the human need for some passive amenity

In light of new developments in Alphington protection from development is paramount

There are many global cities which have waterways that function together with the built environment (albeit with unknown ecological health). It is not encroachment that is bad, it is the way it is done.

Obviously the Yarra is the all important thread through Melbourne and the outer areas. It provides access for birds and animals which would be otherwise lost

All the above are interconnected and each need to be time and attention

The Yarra needs better protection especially in its rural areas, to ensure that any further development does not 'harm' the Yarra and its immediate environment

The Yarra River and environs define Melbourne. The river's health is fundamental to recreation, access, aesthetics. Like the foreshore it should be treated principally as a public value

I am afraid that the economic drivers related to continual growth and development will out-weigh environmental concerns about the Yarra and environs.

Protecting our river should be an ABSOLUTE priority in any development. The river belongs to everyone, not just those exploiting people with development.

Being connected to nature is an important part of how people stay healthy and relaxed, and connected to the seasons

The Yarra is only a small river and its health is tenuous. It needs very strong protection from development and from pollution.

All are important

encroaching buildings destroy the health of the Yarra and in turn us. Will we end up like third world countries where the water is poisoned????

Strongly agree with all the statements, but public health and liveability are highest priorities. "Attractiveness" is often in the eye of the beholder

I most agree with all. The Yarra is key to our wellbeing, as people and as a city

Clean water is health

To keep the Yarra and environs green we must limit development near rivers and creeks which pollute them. Wildlife needs to be protected and development should be taken elsewhere where it's already cleared.

I visit the Yarra regularly and see it deteriorating and hope it could be brought back to life.

I have seen the building encroach in areas like Abbotsford & it breaks my heart

(ii) The Yarra provides a place of tranquility amid the bustle of daily life

Cities built on rivers will always remain, however those cities that allow a river to flow by without being hindered by the city prosper more so than those dirty rivers that the city has polluted.

Even if you don't use or visit the Yarra often, it's so nice to know it's there and is healthy. Whether bubbling along near Warburton or Warrandyte, or barely flowing in the centre of the CBD it's iconic, Melbourne and I love it.

The Yarra River in Fairfield/Alphington was ruined when AMP was built

The river needs to be protected and cleaned up

Over development will mar the beauty of the river &

The well-documented health benefits of maintaining green open space in and around urban and residential areas and cities include both the physical and mental well-being of residents and go beyond any perceived short-term economic benefits. In addition the 'green lungs' effect of green open spaces and the cooling effect of vegetation and tree canopy cover offsets detrimental effects of climate change and soil erosion.

Extent of harm by encroaching buildings depends on the scale and purpose of building and environmental provisions in the development

Strongly believe the Yarra is the greater city's best feature - small and brown though it is - as it runs through the whole swathe of city and suburbs

plenty of cities have healthy communities without a river, Melbourne would be no exception

Encroaching buildings may cause pollution of river and use up natural green land.

Carefully planned, environmentally building is acceptable along some parts of the Yarra if we are going to accept growth of our city.

No comment required.

Developments are very hard and expensive to undo so it is key to have strong protection in place.

Buildings very close to the river in Richmond and Hawthorn are threatening the health of communities further downstream

Too many buildings too close to the river

These factors are all important

Building encroachment on the Yarra and its visual insult all the way down to Burnley is evident for all to see

I consider the Yarra and its environs to be important to Melbourne's liveability because it is the major river in Melbourne which flows through many suburbs and the city and therefore is highly visible

A simple way of making the environment a focus is to start with something as big and important as the Yarra

The Yarra is an important part of Melbourne. It provides a green belt which is used by many for recreation & relaxation. More needs to be done to clean up the river especially in regard to septic system overflows & industrial pollution.

Public land plays a huge part in everyone's enjoyment of their living space and it's been proven that children need wild space to roam in. This should not be developed to be owned by a few rather than by all.

Too much inappropriate development is being approved. Particularly where it blocks the public from the riverbank. The Yarra belongs to all Melburnians not just those rich enough to live on its banks.

The Yarra could add to Melbourne's attractiveness and at the moment it does and then it does not. It does because it is the natural artery of the city. It does not because it is polluted and often filthy and a subject of embarrassment.

protection for the impact of development adjacent to the river and its frontages is critical if it is not to end up as a bit of water running through a concrete sided tunnel, and development further afield must be controlled to again minimise impact on the river

The Yarra must be protected from overdevelopment and be cleaned up so that it can become an integral part of our city.

the Yarra really needs a long term vision where it is protected by developers for short term wins. all these wins add up to a loss.

The Yarra is most important for a healthy community.

The Yarra must be made available and welcoming to all. There must be no development along its banks which seek to deter the ordinary citizen from enjoying its resources.

The Yarra River IS Melbourne

The Yarra and its environs belong to all in our community and should not be encroached upon by unsympathetic development. Nature demands that we treat the environment with respect and nature is not in it for profit.

Agree strongly w/all items. I live in the inner city and green and natural aspects of the local area are important to me as a resident and also to visitors from enar and far.

I strongly agree to all of these statements - the Yarra River is an icon.

are harmed by encroaching buildings unsure

Most of the development along the yarra is inappropriate, selfish and ignores the interests of community

I Melbourne is seen as one distict community for this question only a relatively small percentage would regularly visit the Yarra and its tributaries assuming we are not refering to the environ as the whole catchment.

Riverside development outside the CBD has be ignored for many years and we are now threatened by gross over-development brought on by lack of forethought. It is imperative that this government take action NOW and send a clear message to the community that the Yarra is a precious natural resources that belongs to all, not just the few with blocks down to the water's edge.

The river must be accessible by all citizens, not just a few living on the river banks.

The Yarra is a key component to Melbourne's liveability

Not enough space 2 discuss all 5

Important for visual and paths

We saw what happened in the 1800's and 1900's when the Yarra River and its environs were not protected, the area was putrid and a threat to physical health.

The Yarra is not just a river. All that it involves is important - health, social, scenic, sustainability.

Melbourne's gardens, open spaces, its heritage -both social and cultural and its urban growth boundaries make it the liveable and unique city that it is today.

The Yarra is without doubt a fabulous asset for the city. Some buildings and development is ok along the yearra as long as it is well planned and doen so with a view to protect the ecosystems and general environs

the river is for public enjoyment. there should be active public frontages along the river. overdeveloping the rivers edge will simply commericalise this important space. we need to keep it as open public space.

rivers are vital to enhancing a city, so they MUST be protected from highrise developments along the riverbanks. The greenbelt of a rivers environs must remain intact

there is potential for harm from inappropriate building or developement but the question is too broad for further comment

v. The Yarra corridor must be protected from over looking and large buildings. The importance of the Yarra is that it flows between banks that are covered by trees and not buildings

The rampant encroachment on the Yarra's banks and environs detracts from community's overall enjoyment. The tower block's of flats, eg, just downstream of Dight's Falls, leaves visitors with the feeling of being watched or just being part of someone else's spectacle rather than being there for their own enjoyment.

The Yarra is central to Melbourne & should be treated with respect. It provides habitat for wildlife and opportunities for recreation for tourists & locals. There should be NO high rise on the Yarra

Some riverfront has been stolen from the river such as Toorak, south riverbank.

There is too much inappropriate over development along the Yarra corridor and inner city Melbourne. This creates more congestion on roads that are not able to cope with ever increasing traffic and puts pressure on an already overloaded services.

Development in Yarra is going crazy and mostly inappropriate.

the river and its banks should remain public property and accessible to all. In other parts of the world, the city river itself is a destination - open spaces where people can gather, relax, exchange, meet other people.

The Yarra needs better protection from development: high density buildings encroaching in the river pose a real threat.

Good urban design can provide appropriate development close to the river. But whole-scale development along its banks is definitely not supported.

The Yarra IS my backyard - I'm furiously biased as the alternative is (my) tiny concrete square and a tiny garden.

The Yarra is the aorta of the heart of Melbourne. Like our own aorta, it is at risk of clots, disease and poor health caused by poor lifestyle, poor maintenance and laziness. Proper choices need to be made to ensure the Yarra gets the equivalent of the heart-smart tick, so that Melbourne can be as liveable as it is promoted.

Subjective conflict exists within society regarding 'attractiveness' - manicured banks and hard edges vs 'soft' edges revegetated with indigenous plants. Personally prefer the latter.

agree with all comments

The Yarra is extremely important to physical and emotional wellbeing and to the feeling of the city. Calling the river the heart of Melbourne is cliché but very true. If there was no river here, the city would not have been settled here - pretty simple!

The Yarra is the centrepiece of Melbourne. This city was built on this river. The Upper Yarra contributes to Melbourne's water supply. Encroaching buildings and development should be planned carefully and allowed strategically - not just unplanned.

Time spent by the Yarra has been a key part of my recovery from mental illness and emotional trauma. I know there are others like me.

All waterways in Melbourne are vital

iv matter of personal opinion, you like bush to look at or development. v, waist from development to often ends up in the river.

The Yarra is the showpiece of Melbourne as far as rivers go. It flows through the CBD, provides connection to nature for a large number of suburbs, and sustains a significant tourism industry at the upstream end. A Yarra that is further degraded will significantly impact Melbourne's liveability.

Need strong controls rebuilding heights, form and materials, setbacks and river edge vegetation, drainage to protect the river for all Melbournians not just a few wealthy ones.

Fining developers or owners who offend is not adequate. They should know that if they breach planning rules their buildings will be torn down at their cost.

Riparian zones need to remain in public ownership

The Yarra and its green environs are an essential part of the things which make Melbourne a city which is comfortable with its place in the wider environment. Giving the river and its surroundings a high level of protection from development will help ensure that its place is secure as a key element in Melbourne's future.

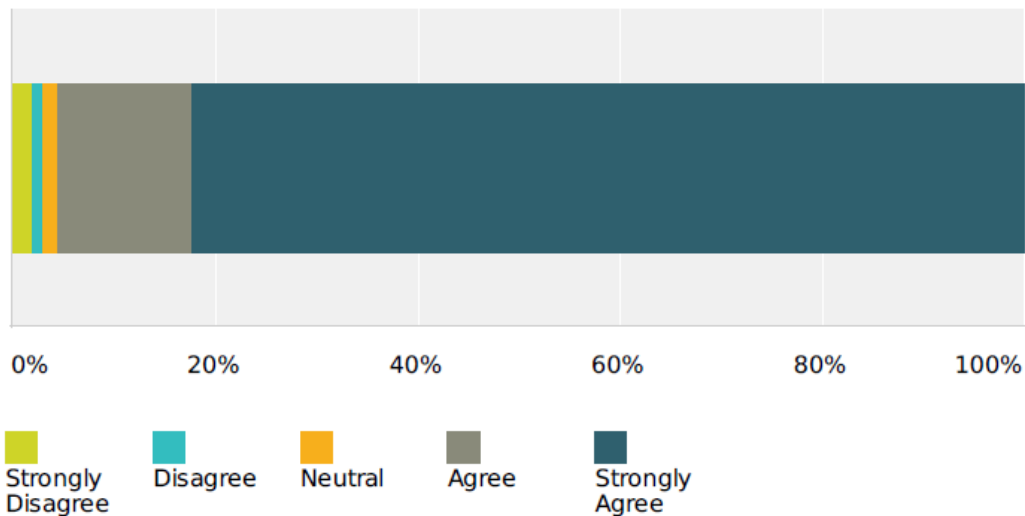
Publically accessible and Attractive natural surrounds for the Yarra encourage activity across social groupings

The tendency for wealthy individuals to build riverside mansions to the detriment of everyone else is reprehensible.

The importance of the Yarra and its environs cannot be overstated, but currently they are being degraded, a situation which the Strategy does not address.

Q5 The Yarra Riverkeeper Association vision for the future of the Yarra and its environs is a continuous corridor of public green space and unbroken wildlife habitat along the entire length of the river. Do you agree?

Answered: 265 Skipped: 1



Q6 If you disagree with this vision, what is your vision for the future of the Yarra and its environs?

(Below are all the responses unedited.)

Too often the idea of wildlife corridors takes precedence over the use of the beauty for the people. A balanced approach is needed

Wide "green" corridors protected by the strongest possible laws

there are sections right in the city where I feel this is not necessary.

Very important to a sustainable future for all Victorians and the health of our natural values; plants, animals and water etc.

Again, it's a great idea, but should not be implemented at the expense of other waterways.

In an increasingly dense cityscape the Yarra river offers local communities a unique resource for recreation and education in its current state.

It is a worthy vision but I feel that it emphasises the terrestrial aspect of the corridor whereas I would also seek in-stream ecosystem resilience and health - which is associated with a range of threat management; threats like land-use changes and rogue discharges.

the issue requires a whole of catchment approach. stormwater mgt and care for the Yarras tributaries is vital

Should be a green corridor, but doesn't have to be in public ownership (river is 245 km long).

Your question is too broad. It all depends on what needs to be done to improve wildlife "habitat" and on what is meant by "wildlife". My view is that wildlife belongs in the bush or on large reserves and that we should not be encouraging it in developed areas where it is exposed to an increased risk of harm, whether from road traffic, domestic pets or human activities. Also there are many beautiful areas along the river that are planted with non-indigenous vegetation and I would not want to see wholesale destruction of these areas in the name of providing wildlife corridors. However I would support the revegetation of degraded areas, such as is being done in say the Darebin parklands.

Once developers get their hands on this very special land it may take 100's of years to claim it back

I think the unbroken green space is excellent. Whether wildlife use it or not is uncertain (or if they are the wildlife you want). Maybe the focus is on unbroken green space, to support humans and their wellbeing, which a secondary benefit is that habitat is made available for wildlife. So the main outcome is to get green space, that is what you can fight for. You can't fight for more wildlife, but you can get the green space there so that the wildlife can then use it. You don't want to be held accountable for not getting wildlife back.

Agree, though must also address stormwater management from across the catchment.

I think this is already out of the question as so much is already developed. I don't think it's unrealistic to have development in certain areas, as long as this is carried out in accordance to strict environmental guidelines.

assume that the definition of public green space and wildlife habitat will be contextual along the Yarra - supportive of overall catchment goals but integrated with the immediate landscape.

Please ensure the Yarra mouth is part of your vision

Sounds just right

Unfortunately this vision has not occurred along the Toorak part of the river. Residents have extended gardens and private boat ramps to the edge of the river.

The consequences of climate change will totally destroy the Yarra river in Melbourne and its surrounding environment. Most of it will be inundated and under sea level. What isn't will be fundamentally different we will probably have to plant mangrove

Certain parts of the river need some attention so the wildlife corridor will be continuous .

Stronger monitoring, fines for destruction or damage of this environ, increasing awareness to the whole community of human intervention & destruction, protection of the fragile edges & runoff monitored.

Protection of our valued fauna and flora is critical for the future of this city.

with odd organic/enviro friendly cafe or two, it gives people the opportunity to sit and enjoy the river and it's immediate surrounds. a small cafe also provides much needed passive security.

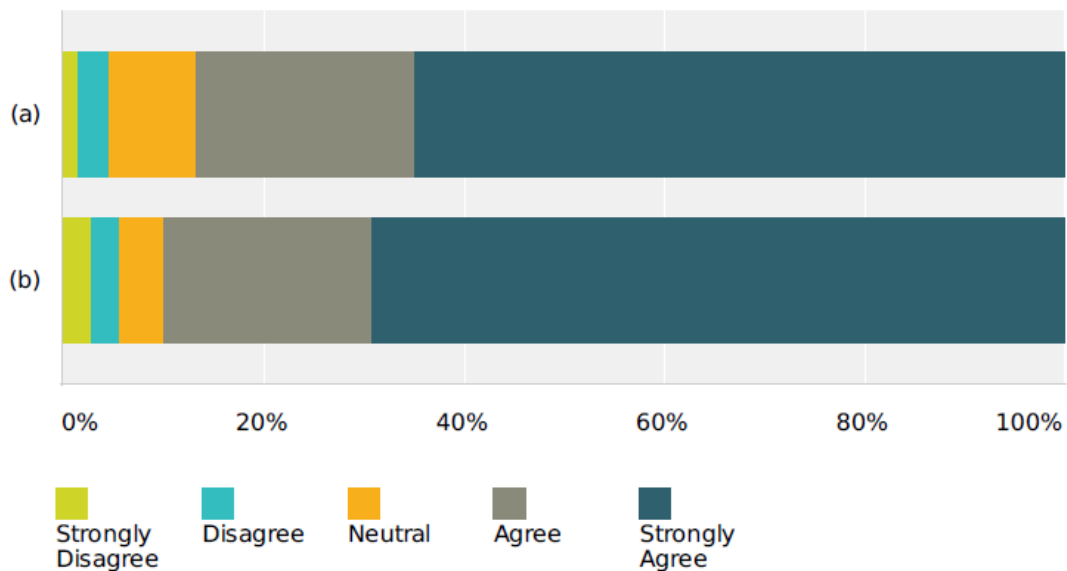
My Vision is that the Yarra of the future is clean, healthy and full of life.

... and that all its tributaries are similarly protected.

Some riverfront has been stolen from the river such as Toorak, south riverbank.

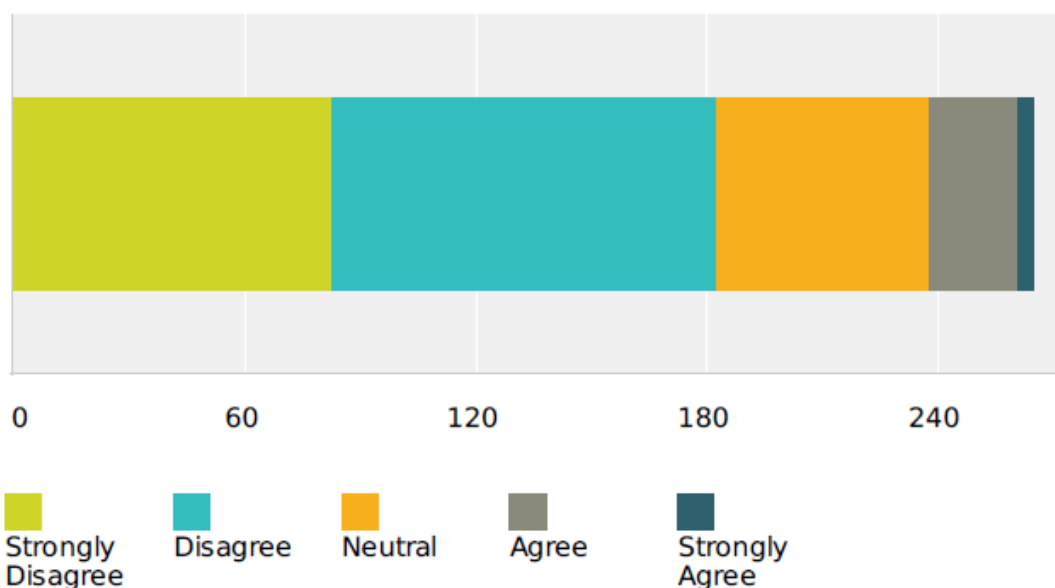
Q7 The Yarra Riverkeeper Association believes that to stop further encroachment onto the Yarra: (a) There should be no more buildings on riverside land. (b) Any new building should be no bigger or closer to the river than what exists on the site. Do you agree with?

Answered: 265 Skipped: 1



Q8 Do you agree with the following statement? "Melbourne's continued growth is good news for the Yarra River and our enjoyment of it."

Answered: 265 Skipped: 1



Q9 Please elaborate on your choice in question 8.

Answered: 210 Skipped: 56

(Below are all the responses unedited, sorted according to the level of agreement.)

1. Totally disagree

One rich person has the big house on the river at the entire communities loss. Not a good deal.

We cannot sustain this growth and sustain a healthy ecosystem

Continued growth, including unchecked population growth, can only lead to poor outcomes for any affected rivers and creeks, including loss of habitat, decrease in water quality, increases in pollution and litter, increase in impermeable surfaces leading to flash flooding etc etc...

I believe we have lost too much already. "Continued growth" will bring greater demands from developers who often put profit before environmental issues

Melbourne is too big already. Population growth, while good for the bottom line (and artificial value better replaced by GNH or gross national happiness. We desperately need to control population

worldwide and can start at home - unless we are prepared to allow the planet to become uninhabitable for many species including the human one.

Unlimited population growth will bring many problems for Melbourne.

Growth of human populations is like a cancer that slowly and inevitably destroys existing environments

I believe that the government's definition of growth refers to bricks and mortar to house the rapidly expanding population. It is a short term solution, which will lead to further pollution and carbon depletion - and not in Australia's best interests.

More people means more development, pollutions.

We need to watch urban growth and new building around the river to protect its river banks and the water tables that flow into it. What we have is enough, let's protect her beauty from here on in.

Sustainability is not compatible with continued growth. To reach a balance where the environment can sustain the population and cycle all waste in a sustainable matter we need to have a balanced population and manage our natural assets so that they are not degrading but improving.

Melbourne's continued growth puts more strain on the natural and unnatural local resources. Fitting more people in, disposing of waste, etc, all has the potential to damage the ecosystem.

As an example the paper mill at Alphington is a site where there is currently access to a large tract of the Yarra. Continued growth without adequate planning controls could destroy years of work there.

dormitory suburbs are not conducive to strong resilient communities and social connectedness. The natural environment provided by the bush along the valley should be for all.

Environmental sustainability is incompatible with increasing population growth.

I believe that any further development in and around the Yarra river will lead to further stress on ecological systems that are already in poor condition due to current human impacts. Having said that it seems inevitable that our population will continue to grow and any development need to support this growth needs to be sensitive to the needs of other non human member of our community that we are reliant on for quality of life and survival.

It would only be a true statement if everyone was at least mindful of and preferably actively engaged in reinstating the health of the river and its environs

continued and unchecked growth is like cancer, it can lead eventually to the death of a river and the environment

there is already enough buildings and people along the Yarra

Instead of governments providing ways for greater enjoyment of the Yarra through passive activities, developers are destroying the natural environs by over development close to its edge. The removal of industrial sites from the edge of the River has been positive such as South Bank, but ownership has passed from Industrial to Corporate not the citizens.

Social and city planning and development needs to be very careful of the urban sprawl and how much of our rural and green wedge communities are being sacrificed because of this encroachment of development - all which is high density and environmentally damaging

Melbourne should grow in Quality, not quantity. Apart from the river and parks it is not a very good city to live in.

The concept of growth is a mixed outcome. Growth for growth's sake is not a good thing if that growth destroys the very thing that provides the unique environs that people desire.

Melbourne Planners and councils have a poor track record re development and waterways protection

We only have to look at the apartment blocks permitted along the river and the increase in population will have an adverse effect as well.

There are plenty of land opportunities to build. The Yarra River is a "once off" and cannot be replaced or duplicated.

Present regulations don't assist quality of the Yarra and environs. Turning it into a canyon of highrise.

the river does not exist for anyone's enjoyment. It helps our environment survive. "Continued growth" could never be good news for a river. The Yarra river should never be sacrificed for anyone's "enjoyment".

The Yarra needs to be sensitively managed and more people just adds to the pressure. A favourite walk of mine on the Yarra between Abbotsford and Kew is now ruined by the looming "Honeywell" site. Only buildings sensitive to the Yarra should be built nearby and this include eco-systems and unobtrusive interruptions of Yarra views.

Growth generally means environmental degradation and I don't think that's good news for the Yarra.

Pure bullshit; this is just political & commercial spin. Such statements are designed to have the mug punters (the majority of voters) believe that increased development on the banks of the Yarra will mean more money from government and developers to 'beautify' the environs. As I said, "Pure bullshit".

It's a shame to see huge buildings being built along the river frontage - it makes access to the river for others impossible and adds to the protection needed to ensure that pollution does not come from these buildings.

Continued growth will put increasing pressure on the Yarra. Steps need to be taken to ensure that the values of the Yarra are protected and that future development does not 'harm' the Yarra

I am very wary about the 'growth is good' mantra in itself..... and its impact on the natural environment.

Continued growth puts great pressure on the river as developers and politicians see the river corridor as a prime area for human growth.

This is not a welcome scenario if it adversely impacts on the Yarra River

I believe in a sustainable population, and to continue growth in Melbourne is damming for the Yarra River and all natural systems within its development

Growth is not being done in such a way that the river and its environs are protected

This depends on what is meant by growth. At the moment growth is responsible for all the pressures that are put on the environment.

Growth, in the "gross national product" sense has no respect for the environment.

Growth in a finite environment is unsustainable.

Why would it be good news when mankind has already destroyed a lot of the Yarra with development and pollution

We need careful planning to protect the Yarra in conjunction with Melbourne's growth .

Developers' rights seem to have preference over citizens' quiet enjoyment of a special resource which should be available to all

Why can't we just sit back and relax rather than always being on the go trying to get bigger and bigger without taking time out for ourselves to enjoy what we have. If you don't water have enough water for the plants then they won't grow.

It's a fallacy that Melbourne needs to increase its population and suburban sprawl to thrive. There's a limit to how much the environment can handle and we need to maintain our green wedges and find alternative ways to coexist with our environment.

Too many people equals environmental destruction

Melbourne's continued growth puts increasing stress on all the urban creeks that are tributaries of the Yarra. Our storm water systems are already overstretched. Continued growth results in increased pollution and increased levels of rubbish in our river systems both of which result in poorer water quality and impact on the animal and fish species living in the river.

Melbourne's growth should be limited, but where developed should be concentrated close to major transport routes and already existing activity centres.

It has been systematically destroyed over the almost last 200 years and that has only ceased and been reversed in the last 20. They last thing it needs is more man made stress!

Continuing population growth will result in a poorer standard of living as Government does not have the money to upgrade infrastructure. Growth forces increased population density which impacts heavily on the environment to the detriment of quality of life.

Continued growth of Melbourne puts extra stress on our river systems and existing green corridors.

With more growth there will be more rubbish and pollutants entering the river. More development means less green space, fewer trees and less habitat for birds and animals.

continued growth is only good if it values and protects a natural asset such as the river. To destroy it further by unfettered development is a crime to future generations who wish to make Melbourne their home.

Melbourne's continued growth will only fuel pressures on this already stumbling ecosystem. water sensitive design is vital for the future of our yarra

Six million plus using the same small river and that meant to continue to be enjoyable?

Continued city growth can create problems for the Yarra. Education as to the needs of a river, and environmentally sound practices need the oversight of knowledgeable and caring people

When growth impacts on natural open space and personal open space, the densification it demands destroys the fabric of a healthy society. Growth is only good when it is contained and designed to have minimal impact on the quality of our natural environment.

Growth for growths sake is and will be if we continue down this path a of no return of an impoverished future for our children and grandchildren.

Unchecked and unfettered development will destroy the Yarra environs - it has been spared to now more through neglect than good management but we stand on the cusp of serious degradation if planning and development codes are not implemented NOW. The YRKA has done well to bring this to head and win the government's attention. Keep pushing.

The tension between the protection of the river and continued development along its banks must be resolved with mandatory guidelines.

Greater density leads to greater run-off and greater pollution.

Continued growth means increased demands on the Yarra and its water and there appears to be no mechanism whereby growth funds works needed to improve water quality and habitat along the river.

The greater the population the more pressures on the river from pollution, building encroachment and amenity over-use.

The Yarra corridor and its parklands should be protected for now and the future

"growth" to me seems to be more high density developments in yarra. With this definition in mind I strongly disagree.

Lifestyle offered by the tiny private and expensive private riverside apartments is going to put increased pressure on the riverine habitat for outdoor recreation. People are already crowding the shared ped/cycle paths and open space amenity areas like BBQs. What's it going to be like when the Victoria Street East precinct (Docklands on the Yarra) is completed?

Only if the Yarra is protected environmentally

Continued growth means further urban development. This will increase the impact on the Yarra's tributaries, and ultimately the Yarra, through increased peak stormwater flow events, reduced baseflows, increased pollution, greater demand for access to the limited public space which if not properly managed will lead to further degradation. The rate at which new developments are currently being approved does not give me confidence that these issues are being well thought through. The concerns I have are relevant to growth through the entire Yarra catchment, not just land on the river's banks.

We are already overpopulated.

2. Somewhat disagree

Unless the growth is controlled ie. the river is taken into consideration as above, then growth could end up being detrimental.

It seems obvious to me that endless growth is just not sustainable. Our history suggests we do not manage it well. We continue to exploit the natural environment to prop up the 'growth'. Whether that be continued moving of the urban growth boundary or depriving the Yarra of water flow to keep the growing city awash with pristine drinking water.

Melbourne's current growth is out of control, and left up to developers to decide, based on economic considerations only. We desperately need controls on what is developed, in all areas of Melbourne, but particularly along our vulnerable waterways.

The Yarra must be protected from pollution and encroachment on its surroundings

Continued growth is harmful for the river unless it is managed in a sustainable way. Our current development practices do not give much hope that will be achieved.

Melbourne's continued growth is stifling the city, its environs and its people. Too many cars, too many people spoil the quality of the Yarra River environs for everyone.

Continued growth equates with more pollution, runoff and habitat loss along river

from past experience it's so likely that developers will win if there's strong pressure from continued population growth. Melbourne sprawls far too much as it is, and we should be encouraging regionalization more and developing our country towns.

Too many people equates to too much eco-system pressure

Unless carefully managed, a more dense population for Melbourne will put great pressure on the Yarra river and its environs

My concern is that it is polluted by carelessness of individuals and organisations

I cannot see any contribution to the Yarra environment by growth in Melbourne.

Greater populations put increasing stress on nearly all environmental systems, rivers being a good case in point. Green reserves around the Yarra will help buffer it from the impacts of the surrounding city.

Growth must occur in a way that minimises impact on the health of ecosystems.

I believe growth is good for the city, but the Yarra is an integral part of our city that should be protected as a resource for community recreation, education and tourism. In order to achieve this commercial/residential development should be steered away from the river's edges.

growth in itself is not a good thing. all growth has negative externalities, especially on environmental assets such as our river.

More people; more waste. The link between what gets deposited on our streets and the health of the river is not appreciated

Too vague; term growth could refer to many things - an increase in people, demand for private housing, offices, that could threaten the river, its surrounds & eco systems it supports.

The more growth of Melbourne, the more threat there is to the river environment

Growth per se could be at the expense of the river. Controlled and planned growth could be good news for the Yarra and our enjoyment

Melbourne's continual growth plans raises concern in me. I do not see how continual growth supports environmental integrity. Continual growth increases consumption and waste, this is not beneficial for a healthy environment and therefore, human health - as they are intrinsically linked.

Growth often endangers environment & further growth is usually equated with economic growth rather than a broader social concept.

Melbourne's growth and development has recently had some negative impacts on the Yarra River
not in the way that growth at any cost is considered good

In theory I would like to be Neutral to this statement. In practice, more people means more pressure on natural environment and vested interests at work to provide amenity for few at expense of greater amenity for all.

Any further growth of Melbourne in or near the Yarra River is detrimental.

High density development with suitable stormwater harvesting systems; water efficient technologies and sustainable energy systems for Melbourne's growth.

growth needs to be strictly regulated re impact on the environment

Increased growth may actually place pressure on the Yarra unless development controls are improved.

Population is a vexed issue, and a global one. It does need to be addressed, and we should lead in that, though not with a 'close the gate' strategy, but rather a coordinated effort to address the problem at its roots. Part of this is to abandon assumptions that growth is good and/or necessary, so that at least the door is open to doing something about it.

Growth may not be compatible with protecting the Yarra.

I disagree, because I see that - in some areas - the river is not SERIOUSLY well managed. I live in Warburton, where the norm still is the discharge of domestic / commercial effluent. Upon complaining, was told that it was too hard for authorities to do a REAL clean up of the myriad semi-rural drains that ooze into the beautiful river. This makes me very upset, as I walk beside the river most days.

Unless stormwater is managed well, continued growth will see continued deterioration of river health.

I become very uneasy whenever I hear words like 'growth' and 'development.' They are usually words spoken by the greedy rather than people of real vision.

That statement is dependant on how "growth" is defined. Economic or population growth does not correspond to a growth in quality of living. Such economic or population growth if not managed compassionately to communities and environment can become detrimental to the city and its inhabitants.

There has to be a maximum population size for a city like Melbourne which already stretches 150 km across. In a dry land, an ever expanding city will eat up our remaining water resources and remaining agricultural land resources

It may mean more inappropriate development

growth comes at a cost, so a simple statement that growth=good news for Yarra has to be false.

Growth for its own sake is useless. There is an optimum size for everything and we have reached it. Look at the Richmond side of the Yarra at Abbotsford for the damaged land.

Melbourne's continued growth is adversely effecting the Yarra catchment and must be limited to protect the river and the catchment.

how can it be good unless it is properly looked after, we are slowly?????? destroying the water quality. just take a walk along the banks after a recent deluge. it is disgusting...the rubbish on the bends is an embarrassment. Our international visitors are revolted....

Well planned population stabilisation and decentralisation policies will help but private economic interests support growth for profit that is disastrous for the Yarra.

Continued growth means more developers trying to increase profits by pushing the boundaries of the law to the detriment of the environment and surrounding landscape.

With more careful planning & imaginative development the growth could help Melbourne but as it is this is not happening as well as it could

I can't believe that Melbourne's continued growth could be good news for the Yarra River at all - effluent management, more pressure by people for a "piece" of it, higher prices for homes overlooking it or nearby and therefore more pressure on developers to provide homes/apartments with views of the Yarra - seem to go against the statement to me.

Growth is not good when the environment suffers

tend to lead to over-development

Too much pollution entering the riversystem

IN what way?? Do not understand. Is that because with growth we have more money to preserve it?? Or because more people mean more people can enjoy it?? Growth of development must be detrimental to the river, growth in population need not be. Perhaps it will mean more people caring about it??

Increased growth leads to increased waste, which will end up, partly at least, in the Yarra and surrounding waterways, which might not affect us immediately but once it does it may be too late to turn back.

With continued growth developers can find ways (and twist the gov't's arm) to encroach on the river and promote river view living.

The river and its environs are finite without the same capacity to grow.

Growth puts more pressure on the Yarra and other environmental resources

Our growth is going to put more pressure on the river so has to be managed carefully.

It would take a world renowned city planner (Burley-Griffin comes to mind) to avoid the negative impact emanating from population growth

Although I accept that Melbourne has to grow as a capital of a wealthy nation - I also believe that unless it has strong protection from this growth it will deteriorate ecologically and aesthetically.

continued growth may have a negative impact on the Yarra River

To me this is a population distribution question. Urbanisation will impact on the Yarra with greater storm water from hard surfaces. There will be more urban rubbish entering the Yarra.

A matter of volume: increasing millions affects every aspect of environment including safety

Only if this growth is managed appropriately without having a detrimental impact upon the Yarra River.

The obsession with 'growth' is an opium for the masses - nobody knows what it really means, they just hope it will make them more money.

hard to comment without better definition of 'growth'. do you mean density? sprawl?

Continued growth will not be good news for the Yarra as more development will end up with more run off from storm water into the Yarra thereby increasing the pollution of the River and the loss of habitats for aquatic species and increased visual pollution along the banks of the river from plastics and rubbish.

If new growth comes at the cost of damaging the river and its environs, then that is not good news for the Yarra. Any new growth should make a positive contribution to the health and appearance of the river. Perhaps developer contributions could be used to fund river health projects in the future.

I think the new towers on the Honeywell site will have a massive impact on the local area. I doubt the river infrastructure (eg tracks, toilets etc) will be adequate

more growth would put even more pressure on the river which is already struggling

This is only true if safeguards are put in place to protect it

Not enough detail or background to statement but usually growth = pressure on environment/habitat and therefore I doubt growth can be good news unless the govt plans on using growth to fund river health programs.

Continued growth does not make for a healthy river. It all comes down to consideration of the River in any further growth. Whether growth leads to good news for the Yarra depends on the sensitivities of the growth, and consideration of impacts on the river. Currently, this is not being done well enough.

good news only if growth is controlled

Growth of a city generally means decreasing open space and environmental resilience.

It is only good if it is managed appropriately for the entire length of the Yarra River catchment.

More people more stress on the river. on the flip side of that. More people means more enjoyment can be had.

I don't think it is necessarily good news for the Yarra River and our enjoyment of it.. the state government and local councils need to ensure that the increasing population in Melbourne and higher urban density has no detrimental effect on the Yarra River and the public open space alongside the river. A clean and healthy Yarra River is so important for Melbourne's future especially as the City grows.

Growth is likely to increase risk of inappropriate development leading to loss of amenity associated with the river and its surroundings, and to increased pollution. Somewhere in this vision work, the issue of sewerage and rainwater runoff into the river system needs to be addressed as well.

The continuing growth of Melbourne provides serious risk for the Yarra River through increasing pressures of waste, runoff and water diversions. Unless the river values are actively considered in future planning and development of Melbourne, then it is likely that there will continue to be further degradation and development along the river.

Water quality and scenic values and ecosystems are threatened by development

Growth, per se, is not necessarily good. Planned and sensible growth can be, but only with good public transport and local communities.

3. Neutral

I believe the statement could be agreed with if the growth is managed effectively. At present it seems planning is an economic decision only and the rich can have what they want.

Growth without planning control will lead to a diminishment of one of our most valuable assets, the city's lungs, open air spaces for recreation.

It depends on how the growth is managed and what is planned for the river environs

Melbourne's continued growth will place increased pressures on the health and resilience of the Yarra and its environs. Maintaining the integrity and resilience of the natural environment will need to be a fundamental consideration in all decisions in how to manage such growth.

Growth seems inevitable, environmental damage can be averted.

It all depends on how we manage the Yarra River environment and whether we allow population pressure to degrade the river zone.

It depends how 'growth' is done. More people can mean greater recognition and ability to fund protective and enhancing measures. However, if growth and development is encouraged on an individual level without recognition of the communal and public good, 'growth' will have a negative impact on the river and other people. The crux of the issue is to ensure that collective responsibility and accountability is maintained. The river is best protected by advancing and protecting the values that benefit and are enjoyed by the general public.

On one hand growth means more people who will need places like the Yarra River to recreate, relax and appreciate nature; therefore, more people to support its protection and contribute to improving its health. On the other hand, growth puts pressure on the use of the river and surrounding land. It also adds to the litter, pollution, erosion, weed invasion, etc which has a poor impact on the river corridor.

It all depends on how we cope with inevitable circumstances - it would be better to concentrate on a more liveable environment and have growth in regional centres

Melbourne's continued growth is neither good or bad for the Yarra. It all depends on how we manage that growth. Adequate provision for sewerage and storm water are arguably more important to the health of the river than building location (although that is still important).

It could go either way depending on the values/courage of those on power and the good influence of organisations such as YRK

I am concerned how quickly Melbourne is growing with the effects on traffic and the environment. These ultimately affect our beautiful Yarra.

Although population growth puts pressure on the ecosystem, it also creates a greater need for public green spaces. Higher density housing means people are more reliant on public green spaces for exercise & recreation.

Growth is potentially good for Yarra if protection against development is strong - with more and more people using and valuing green spaces along Yarra (and river itself), more resources could be allocated to looking after it. On the other hand, growth may instead lead to more pressure on new development on riverside land, which would not be good for Yarra.

Continued growth will not be good news for the river given what we know about urban development and its in-stream impacts; but "enjoyment" is another thing. The river may be aquatically unhealthy but the greenscape will still lead to enjoyable feelings in the visitor.

Growth in Melbourne is only good for the Yarra River if the river and its waterways are constantly considered and large amounts of money is also spent on cleaning it up and protecting it. Such as upgrading sewerage systems, riparian vegetation is native and healthy, buildings and infrastructure do not impose onto the river.

Although in areas of population growth, such as Richmond & Templestowe, maintenance of the Yarra and surrounds has been good, I believe population growth has resulted in more rubbish in and around the upper reaches of the Yarra, such as in Warrandyte, Warburton.

It really depends on how this continued growth is realised.

Technically continued growth puts more pressure on the river , but conversely if there's more people in demand of what the river has to offer , it only increases the importance of looking after it the best it can be .

I'm not sure how the continuous expansion of Melbourne affects the Yarra. Most of it seems to be in the western and south-eastern corridors, although I note the increase in population density in the inner suburbs. I would certainly support the proposals in Q7 as being a way to protect the river. I assume also that the relevant statutory authorities are able to prevent further pollution of the river by sewage and other effluents ?? Moreover,even if continued growth is deemed bad news for the Yarra, it would seem to me quite impractical to stop it.

Growth is good if it is sustainable. Enhancing Life and Liveability

Population growth is inevitable we need to plan to protect and improve the river

Only if there is an increased awareness of environmental concerns re the river.

more population seems to lead to more pollution.

Melbourne's continued growth is inevitable but how and where it occurs will affect whether it is good news or bad news

This is dependent on good design that responds positively to the Yarra and allows the community to embrace the Yarra. Continued growth also requires us to plan and better adapt to the impact of population growth on water quality.

Melbourne's continued growth could be good news for the Yarra River only if there are appropriate controls on development and it's protection and enhancement is a priority.

it depends on how the growth is handled. if there is respect for and protection of the Yarra River our greatest asset, then growth is fine.

Will depend on how the river and surroundings are managed!

It depends on how well it is planned and developed.

We need to balance growth of Melbourne with retention of our waterways and improvements of them so that we can get maximum benefit for enjoyment of the Yarra particular

Without knowing what guidelines, safeguards and the policing of these will happen it is hard to say whether it is good or bad news, but I fear for the worst as money always wins.

It could be good for the Yarra but at the moment it is unlikely to be. For the development to be good developers and government need to see every development as an opportunity to give back to the Yarra and the residents of the basin, increase the vegetation and ecology of the Yarra and integrate this into the development. This will sustain the longer term return on development. Developers are selling developments now on virtues they are destroying.

it is too vague and can be interpreted as being to promote economic growth (with possibly no consideration given to the environmental values of the river), while it could be positive for the environmental values of the river IF that growth was focused on enhancing those values

So long as protection of this valuable environmental site is continued -

It is selfish to say only those of us close to it can enjoy it therefore stop growth. I want more to enjoy but less buildings, concrete, man made structures close to the Yarra

It depends on the definition of "growth" - if the "managed" growth of Yarraside nature, flora and fauna alongside other "growth factors"; then yes, good news. However if "growth" at the expense of Yarra side flora and fauna - then No !

Continued city growth may not be good for the Yarra, bringing more pollution and encroachment unless managed carefully.

It is totally dependent on how the continued growth of Melbourne occurs. It is possible to have planned growth that will not impact on the Yarra and in fact will enhance it.

Not the way this government is managing it, or more accurately, not managing it. Growth appears to be paramount and the cost is borne by the community, both in terms of the environment and in liveability.

Depends on the type of growth - if people are willing to modify their behaviour to reduce their environmental footprint then may be better than the alternative/inevitable. Never can be enough emphasis on community engagement and education.

Growth per se does not have to negatively impact on the river, but unless it is very carefully managed, it has the potential to have a negative impact on the health of the river.

It depends on what 'continued growth' is. Growth may be the end of the Yarra River.

I need a definition of "continued growth". If that is population growth and it is managed in a responsible way with sustainable housing options and open space planning that minimises encroachment on the River then perhaps I might agree. I have not seen evidence of this yet however.

4. Somewhat agree

Growth (if managed) allows for improvements to take place due to the economic benefits. The poorest countries have the worst polluted environs. We need to ensure that we continue to use the economic benefits to improve the environment not simply try to sequester it from the public who are supporting it through their contributions

If growth gets more people aware of the Yarra, it can hopefully lead to more Friends of The Yarra lobbying for its protection

More people, more people to care for it.

On balance growth should create demand for an attractive landscape along the Yarra provided it does not drive inappropriate development along the corridor

I am weary of this statement but it could be accurate. Growth means more people can enjoy the yarra and more growth means more resources to maintain and improve the yarra. However growth will threaten the yarra if we're unprepared.

Only if accredited environmentally aware "watchdogs" are in place and able to monitor and educate government bodies and interested public to preclude unwitting over-use or development and unforeseeable environmental disasters.

More people, mean that more people enjoy the Yarra. It's a bit of a loaded question. We can't stop growth or decline, but we can determine how this impacts the river by regulation and education. More people doesn't necessarily mean bad or good. You need to clarify what riverside land is, and that bigger dwelling don't necessarily mean bad either. There should be outcome criteria that must be met, something a bit more sophisticated than saying big is bad. But if it is more detrimental than now, it shouldn't be allowed.

Hopefully the increased population, perhaps many living in apartments realise how important our public spaces are for all(& future generations) to enjoy therefore value the Yarra river & its environs for leisure time & aesthetics of our city.

This statement is a bit open to interpretation. In my view growth could / should be good but might be bad

Living near the Yarra River one wouldn't realise you are only 8 km from the City of Melbourne.

Providing this growth is environmentally friendly

As long as there is strict guidelines for protection with wide boundaries, controlled drainage, extensive greenways & continued monitoring with authorities that are not bound by developers interests. With priority & encouragement given to sensitive development.

but only if it's managed properly. other great cities in the world protect it's river environs. think of paris or prague. it would be a shame to see melbourne go down the road of overdeveloping the river and not having a natural green space transition to it.

what is the measure underlying the statement "continued growth"? comment on 7b. the problem with this statement is that there are existing buildings by the banks of the river today that are massive, such as the brewery. a more aggressive policy (more prescriptive) is required, ensuring a minimum distance from the river and a max height of buildings. to use precedent or existing is not enough. we must not build based on yesterday's mistakes, or lack of foresight. new rules are required for change of use of commercial and industrial sites.

Growth should eb contained to Melbourne's existing suburbs for the health of the catchments of all Melbourne's waterways. That means higher density not surban sprall.

A prosperous city should translate to more funds and protection of our key environmental and community assets.

5. Totally agree

The corridor must be widened plus flood zones developed.