



Our Yarra: Healthy, Protected and Loved

Pd September 2020

Dear [candidate name]

Congratulations on putting your hand up for election to your Council. Our councils are the bedrock of our governmental system, and they are the frontline of environmental protection and improvement. The Yarra River flows through your local government area as well as being the imaginative lifeblood of greater Melbourne. The Yarra River corridor is critical to the physical and emotional health of our communities, and COVID-19 crisis has proved this.

The Yarra Riverkeeper Association (YRKA) is a community organisation that speaks for the river. We also care for the River through litter and revegetation projects. YRKA's advocacy was fundamental to the achievement of the Yarra River Planning Controls and the Yarra River Protection (Willip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act.

The obligations on Councils flowing from the Yarra River Protection (Willip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act are incorporated into the Local Government Act as follows:

A Council:

- (a) must not act inconsistently with any part of a Yarra Strategic Plan that is expressed to be binding on the Council when performing a function or duty or exercising a power under this Act in relation to Yarra River land; and
- (b) must have regard to the Yarra protection principles, and those parts of a Yarra Strategic Plan not expressed to be binding on the Council, when performing a function or duty or exercising a power under this Act in relation to the Yarra Strategic Plan area that may affect Yarra River land.

If elected, will you:

1. Support a comprehensive Yarra Strategic Plan (currently in draft)?
2. Invest in the river corridor in your municipality and support the investment in the Plan?
3. Support and implement development controls that protect the amenity of the Yarra River?

We would appreciate you answering our election requests in your election commitments. We would be pleased to include the good news in our social media. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Yarra Riverkeeper at the email address below or on 0408 850 810.

Yours sincerely

Warwick Leeson
President
Yarra Riverkeeper Association
Former Mayor
Shire of Nillumbik

Janet Bolitho
Board member
Yarra Riverkeeper Association
Former Mayor
City of Port Phillip

Andrew Kelly
Yarra Riverkeeper