[INSERT DATE]

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 obligations on Councils flowing from the Yarra River Protection (Willip-gin Birrarung murron) 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?

I would appreciate you answering our election requests in your election commitments. I stand by the vision of the Yarra Riverkeepers and invite you to contact them should you have any queries about protecting the Yarra for the benefit of the community you wish to help lead.

Your sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

Supporter of the Yarra Riverkeepers

www.yarrariver.org.au