




Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo

A review of the first year of
implementation of the Yarra
Strategic Plan



The Yarra Riverkeeper Association is an independent community-based organisation that advocates for the health and protection of the Yarra, Birrarung River and her tributaries.

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The Yarra Riverkeeper Association acknowledges that the lands and waterways of the Yarra, Birrarung catchment, are the unceded territories of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples. We pay our respect to their Ancestors, who cared for Country since time began, and to all Traditional Owners who continue to speak and care for their Country. We acknowledge that the river now called the Yarra has always been known as the Birrarung by its custodians.

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Summary

The *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrnong) Act 2017 (the Birrarung Act)* and the subsequent *Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo (Yarra Strategic Plan)*¹ (the Plan) are part of an unprecedented endeavour to reimagine the future of the Yarra, Birrarung River as a living integrated entity.

In light of the Plan's first year of implementation, the Yarra Riverkeeper Association provides our own independent assessment of the Plan's progress in this report. We highlight what is working well, what is not working, and make recommendations about changes needed to ensure that the aim of *Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo*, "what's good for the Yarra is good for all", is realised.

We have written this report using publicly available information, as well as information acquired through our interactions with the Birrarung Council, the Yarra Collaboration Committee, Traditional Owners, and the many actors involved in delivering the Plan.

We recognise the ground-breaking nature of the Birrarung Act, and we commend the intention of all involved to use collaborative governance to progress the Plan's implementation. We are encouraged by the emphasis on the role of the Traditional Owners in leading the process. We are pleased to see that the Birrarung Council is fulfilling many aspects of its role as an advocate for the Yarra, Birrarung, including its role in monitoring how the Responsible Public Entities (RPEs) are implementing the actions and principles of the Plan. We also welcome the work of Melbourne Water in leading the challenging work of implementing the Plan's many actions, including those that are highly complex.

However, the picture is not all rosy: the Plan's implementation has some major impediments. This includes a major lack of resourcing, which is impacting progress towards collaborative governance and the implementation of key priorities and projects, particularly those that seek to transform the Birrarung. We note two-thirds of the 40 actions in the Plan, were underway or planned before the Plan began to operate.

Another significant concern is a lack of community participation in the Plan's implementation and decision-making processes. This is exacerbated by a lack of transparency and inclusion in key governance mechanisms (the Birrarung Council and Yarra Collaboration Committee).

Furthermore, delays in embedding the land use planning framework at State and local levels are resulting in planning decisions that undermine the Plan. Indeed, despite the Birrarung Act's emphasis on the principle of "net environmental gain",² the public entities responsible for implementing the plan are not applying the principle nor using the related decision-making framework to support planning decisions.

We recommend the relevant Ministers, Birrarung Council, and the Yarra Collaboration Committee take the following actions.

We recommend that the relevant Ministers:

1. Establish an overarching mechanism for community participation at a strategic level and consult community groups on the design of the mechanism.
2. Identify resources for funding to support the full implementation of the Plan, including meaningful, transformative projects.
3. Document on an annual basis how this funding is contributing to new activities.
4. Provide resources to employ a full-time partnership broker for at least three years starting in 2023.
5. Extend the Yarra River Planning Controls to the entire river corridor.
6. Integrate the land-use framework into State and local planning schemes, as a matter of priority.

We recommend that the Birrarung Council:

7. Publish annual reports on its activities, including meetings held with local government agencies and state departments.
8. Maintain an up-to-date website independent of government, including information on its responsibilities, and Council contact details.
9. Include community activities, contributions and perspectives in its annual implementation report.

We recommend that the Yarra Collaboration Committee:

10. Engage with the broader community on a regular basis through a formal mechanism. Melbourne Water and the Committee should apply the principles of IAP2 Quality Assurance Standards on community and stakeholder engagement at least to the level of 'Collaborate'³
11. Include community activities, contributions and perspectives in its annual implementation reports.
12. Integrate the land-use framework into State and local planning schemes.
13. Apply the Decision Making Framework, including the principle of environmental net gain to all Birrarung Parkland projects.



Introduction

The Yarra Riverkeeper Association was pivotal in initiating the Yarra River Protection (*Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn*) Act 2017 (*the Birrarung Act*). We also helped drive the development of *Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo* (*Yarra Strategic Plan*) (the Plan). As an independent non-partisan advocate for the Yarra, Birrarung River, we aim to ensure that the Birrarung Council, Melbourne Water, and the Responsible Public Entities act in the best interests of the river, and deliver on the promise of the Act.

Our vision for the river is that she is “healthy, protected and loved”.⁴ The effective implementation of the Plan is central to achieving this vision. We welcome the Birrarung Council’s first annual report on *Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo*,⁵ which was tabled in Parliament at the end of February 2023. The Council’s report draws on the Plan and Melbourne Water’s Yarra Strategic Plan – Annual Report 2021-22.⁶

Our report coincides with an internal review of the Birrarung Council and with changes in its membership. This offers the opportunity for the renewed Council to consider our recommendations.



Year one review

The Birrarung Act paved the way for the Plan and the structures that oversee and implement the Plan, principally the Birrarung Council.

The role of the Birrarung Council is: “*to provide advice to the Minister in relation to Yarra River land and other land, the use or development of which may affect Yarra River land, and other matters, and to report annually to the Minister on the implementation of a Yarra Strategic Plan by responsible public entities.*”⁷

The government established the Yarra Collaboration Committee (the Committee) in 2017 to coordinate the implementation of the Plan. Five years after the Birrarung Act became law, the Plan became operational in February 2022. The Birrarung Council and the Committee⁸ have each published their assessments on the first year of the Plan’s implementation.

The Plan sets out 40 Community Vision actions. Of those, three have been delivered, 16 are in progress, and 21 are in the planning phase. Of the 16 actions in progress, five are priority actions, namely:

- Floatlands Project
- Birrarung Rangers Project
- Polystyrene Pollution Program
- Yering Billabongs Project
- Yarra Flats Project.

The Yarra Riverkeeper Association is responsible for the Polystyrene Pollution Program and is involved in four other projects (so far).⁹

What is working

Traditional Owner recognition

We recognise, and support, the ground-breaking nature of the Birrarung Act, and the intention to design the Plan in a way that enables and promotes collaborative governance. This approach is ambitious and unique in how it recognises and prioritises the role of Traditional Owners. Traditional Owners are leading the way in supporting greater knowledge and understanding of the river as a living entity. In turn, RPEs are making good efforts to listen, learn and partner with Traditional Owners.

Although this collaboration is a new experience for all parties, the intention is genuine, and the Birrarung Council has been essential in this deep learning journey. Good practices by responsible public entities include:

- Developing simplified funding agreements with Traditional Owners
- Allocating a proportion of grants funding for Traditional Owners
- Establishing a dedicated team for engagement and partnership development with Traditional Owners.

Collaborative governance

The collaborative governance approach is an innovative and hopefully transformative model championed by the Birrarung Council and the lead agency Melbourne Water. This model helps those included in the Plan's implementation to better understand how to implement it, not just what needs to be implemented. This includes the recognition of Traditional Owners as decision-makers and delivery agents, sustained cross-organisational collaborative planning and management,

and individual agency-level organisational practice that reflects a commitment to the Plan. While this approach will take time to progress, we acknowledge that it is a pivotal and central process to achieve the Plan and the Community Vision.

Priority projects and actions

The Plan has five priority projects. These include the Floatlands Project, the Birrarung Rangers Project, the Polystyrene Pollution Program, the Yering Billabongs Project and the Yarra Flats Project.

We are pleased that the Floatlands Project is operational and five floatlands have been installed. Numerous birds, rakali, and nesting swans have been spotted, taking advantage of the green spaces.

Our own Polystyrene Pollution Project is well underway, with one stakeholder roundtable held and a pollution pathway developed to track how polystyrene escapes into the river and waterways. At the time of writing, a lead for the Birrarung Rangers Project is being recruited, which is great news.

Of the 40 actions in the Plan, three have been completed in full. These include:

- The development of an integrated water management plan (including bicultural approaches) for the Yarra Catchment
- The development of a 10-year berthing strategy for the Lower Yarra River
- The establishment of a Lower Yarra River management committee to guide commercial berthing, events and activation.

What is not working

Other promising projects are underway and we look forward to see how they develop.

Birrarung Council monitoring and advocacy

The Birrarung Council, despite its relatively small size, has worked hard to ensure that the Plan can be effectively monitored, not just in terms of the 'what', but also the 'how'. Of particular interest to the Council is ensuring:

- Traditional Owners are decision-makers and delivery agents on their Country
- That collaborative planning and management become the norm across agencies
- That individual agencies demonstrate real and sustained commitment to the Plan.

In terms of advocacy, we welcome the Council's work to:

- Advance the use of the Land Use Framework through its incorporation into local and state planning policy
- Support for the Decision Making Framework and the need to ensure net environmental gain for the environment
- Positive transformation of the river and her parklands cannot happen without these.

Lack of core resourcing for collaborative governance and implementation

Melbourne Water is the lead agency responsible for the Plan's implementation. The State government has provided the agency with funding for three staff and supporting activities until June 2024. This funding is inadequate for the scale of the work required to deliver on the Plan. It will soon run out.

Despite the ambition of the Plan, Melbourne Water and the other responsible public entities have had to rely on existing allocations in the first year of the Plan to support the implementation of activities. No new funding was provided. In June 2023 (the second year of the Plan's implementation), the Minister for Water announced funding of \$1.65 million across four priority projects, including resourcing for Traditional Owners.¹⁰ Although this funding is welcome, it falls well short of the amount required to meaningfully implement the actions and intentions of the Plan through a collaborative governance approach.

From how the Plan describes how budgeting is to happen, we understand that it is being treated as business-as-usual. When reviewing all 40 actions, only a quarter have received additional funding after the Plan was adopted. We recognise that the Victorian government must assess projects against budget capacity and not be responsible for funding the entirety of the plan. Yet, not providing adequate upfront funding for such a flagship and transformative initiative, seems to forego the systemic, environmental and economic gains that would likely result from integrated river management. This is contrary to the intention of the Birrarung Act.



According to our analysis (see Appendix 1), two-thirds of the 40 actions listed under the Plan were already ongoing, or planned, before the Plan was adopted in 2022. Therefore, without additional funding, the Plan is not directly providing additional gains. Transformational projects are also lacking, likely as a result of the funding model.

Lack of community participation and transparency

It was a momentous day when the Victorian Parliament passed the *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrnong)* Act on 21 September 2017. Unique in Australia, the Act enshrines the Birrarung as a living entity in law, and recognises the role of Traditional Owners in the management of the Birrarung. The Birrarung Act is the first law to include Woiwurrung language in its title and preamble. It delineates an independent Birrarung Council to act as the voice of the river and to advise the Minister of Water about the river.

The Birrarung Act has energised community groups and environmental groups. The high level of interest is shown by the more than 2,500 members of the community who provided input to the Plan's Community Vision, alongside *Nhanbu narrun ba ngarguinin twarn Birrarung* (Wurundjeri Water Policy).¹¹ More widely, it has garnered the interest of Australian and international actors working in water governance and the rights of nature. For many reasons, it is important that the Act delivers on its potential.

The long delay in approving the Yarra Strategic Plan resulted in much of the impetus, interest and optimism the Birrarung Act generated to dissipate, however.

Since the Plan came into force, the agencies responsible for implementing the Plan have not involved community groups in a systematic manner. Neither the Birrarung Council nor the Yarra Collaboration

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Committee sought community input into their Year 1 implementation reports. They have operated within the bounds of their organisations, with little inclusion of the communities who felt intimately involved in the Plan's development.

As a result, community and environmental groups are confused as to how best to make their experience, knowledge and activities part of the collaborative effort to care for the Birrarung. We are concerned that there is currently no formal mechanism through which community groups can interact with the Birrarung Council and the Yarra Collaboration Committee.

From the perspective of those outside the Council and the Committee, there is a lack of transparency and collaboration. For example, while the Birrarung Council reported on its activities annually in 2019 and 2020, it did not publish any information on its activities in 2021 and 2022. As a result, the 2023 report is the first public document about work being done under the Birrarung Act in three years.

The Council's 2020 annual report states that: "The Birrarung Council welcomes feedback and provides a link for 'contact us'.¹² Yet, the only contact method the website provides is the standard phone number for the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), with no email address. And when that number was called, the DEECA inquiry centre was unable to provide contact details for the Council. While this may seem minor, it suggests the Council is isolated from the community.



The Yarra Collaboration Committee has so far resisted calls to open up membership to community groups, including the Yarra Riverkeeper. The reason given is that the Committee is only open to RPEs and Traditional Owners. Given that community groups are central to the sustainable implementation of the plan, and critical to the Community Vision, their exclusion seems arbitrary and lacks common sense.

On the other hand, Melbourne Water has recently started consulting with the Yarra Riverkeeper on a regular basis, which is welcomed. But multilateral collaboration is needed not only for the Plan to be consistent with the intent of the Community Vision but also for its effective governance, implementation and long-term sustainability.

Smaller community groups, such as “Friends of” groups along the river’s tributaries are the backbone of community care for the Birrarung. Without their inclusion in decision-making, the Plan’s actions will remain disconnected and fragmented, and the transformation the river so desperately needs will be unachievable.

Delays in embedding the land use planning framework are leading to planning decisions that undermine the Plan

We share the Birrarung Council’s concerns about the delayed integration of the Land Use Framework into state and local planning laws. This delay has allowed for planning approvals that undermine the ecological health, and the environmental and cultural values of the Birrarung. These decisions challenge the Birrarung Act’s protection principles.

For example, the Bulleen Land Use Framework has not been completed.


As a result, a new sporting complex has been constructed next to the river. Had the Manningham Council and the State government followed the intentions of the Land Use Framework, this development would not have happened. Instead, the significant cultural precinct and the relationship between the river, Traditional Owners, nature and arts could have been showcased.¹³ As Wurundjeri Elder, Aunty Margaret Gardiner, said in one of the Birrarung Council’s annual reports: “The river needs its lands”.

These types of development initiatives and approvals are disappointing. They call into question whether local government agencies understand the requirements of the Land Use Framework, and have the political will to adapt their planning decisions in line with the Birrarung Act’s protection principles.

Another aspect of the Birrarung Act’s protection principles that is not being applied relates to the disclosure of information. There is no centralised record of instances in which the Birrarung Act has been actively applied. It would be useful and worthwhile to see when and where local government agencies have rejected planning applications, or requested amendments, on the basis of the protection principles. This would help the broader community understand how the Act is working in a real and tangible way.

Delays in applying the principle of net environmental gain

The Birrarung Act embeds the principle of “net environmental gain” in the Birrarung Act’s protection principles. The principles require that individual actions, or policies, that impact Yarra River land (as defined) must result in a net gain for the environment.



Further, the decision-making framework set by the Birrarung Act requires decision-makers to consider whether their decision will lead to a net environmental gain.

We share the Birrarung Council's observation, and concern, that RPEs and local government agencies lack sufficient understanding of how to apply the principle of net environmental gain. Instead, they treat the principle as "a transactional arrangement to enable environmental offsets".¹⁴ This transactional approach is contrary to the intended integrated management of the Birrarung as a living entity.

In 2021, the Birrarung Council commissioned a report, 'Reframing environmental net gain for the Yarra, Birrarung',¹⁵ and produced its own summary report from the consultants' report.¹⁶ The Birrarung Act enshrines the net environmental gain principle. The Birrarung Council recognised that the concept was not clearly defined and therefore commissioned the consultants' report. The Council concluded that a reframed approach would have to go beyond transactional replacement of ecosystem functions to:

"a more developed approach ... which is grounded in the principles of restorative ecology ... and be built on a concept of landscape which incorporates the physical as well as the cultural understanding of Traditional Owners."¹⁷

We agree with this recommendation from the Council. Given that the it commissioned the detailed report and made clear recommendations on

how to apply the net environmental gain principle, it is disappointing that RPEs are still not integrating these recommendations into their project planning and implementation.

The Plan states that the outcomes "from this research (commissioned by the Council) will inform future policy and management decision-making". There is no evidence that RPEs are actively integrating the outcomes from the report, nor is there any information about the Council's role in promoting the uptake of its recommendations.

Lack of transformational projects

According to the Plan, transformative projects are:

"larger integrated projects with higher aspirations of delivering transformational change in the river corridor. It was recognised through the consultation process that continuing to deliver routine business activities and local projects is unlikely to be sufficient for protection of the Yarra, given the pressures of population growth, urban development and climate change. By their nature, these transformative projects will require higher levels of collaboration and resourcing to achieve the desired outcomes. (They will) involve multiple partners working across the corridor collectively aiming to address gaps identified by the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation on their Country, Yarra Collaboration Committee, Birrarung Council, key stakeholders and the community."¹⁸

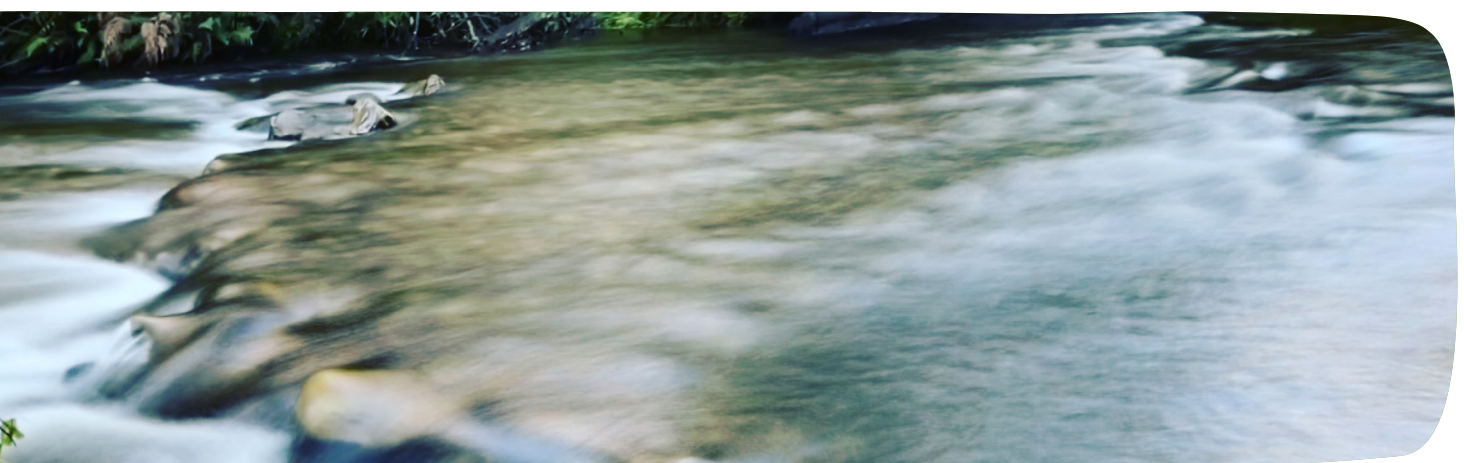
At the time of writing, the Plan has one project – the Annulus Billabong project - that is listed as transformational. However, using the information provided in the Plan, this project does not fully meet the criteria for a transformative project, which is disappointing.

The Birrarung Act was passed in 2017, and the Plan was in development soon after. If transformation rather than business-as-usual was the intent of the Plan, then we would expect to see the prioritisation of more than one project of this nature. We believe that the funding model (or lack of funding) is why we do not have these projects. We would like to see more emphasis placed on developing transformative projects that work across the whole river corridor. This could include, for example, multi-stakeholder projects related to stormwater, litter, community engagement and climate change. All of these projects, given their wide-ranging nature, should be co-developed with communities, not just the current Committee.

Exclusion of the Yarra River upstream of Warrandyte from the Yarra River Planning Controls

The Yarra River Planning Controls¹⁹ exclude a significant portion of the upstream section of the Yarra, Birrarung. Yet the condition of a river's upstream watershed is a vital determinant of the river's overall health. Omitting this upstream section significantly reduces the scope and effectiveness of the Birrarung Act. The example of the Yarra Ranges Council's future development blueprint for Warburton illustrates the problems.

Significant portions of the Yarra Ranges Council's Warburton Urban Design Framework are inconsistent with the requirements of the Land Use Framework. This undermines the Yarra Strategic Plan. The Warburton Urban Design Framework also appears contrary to the intent of Action 39 in protecting the river from the adverse impacts of intrusive development and overuse. The framework promotes development activities in the crown lands of the river reserve and prioritises commercial interests in the immediately adjoining flood-prone lands in the commercial precinct of Warburton.



What changes are needed

Increase resourcing for collaborative governance

The Plan intends to pioneer collaborative governance, an untested approach to river management in Victoria. We can't expect this ambitious model to work without dedicated and new targeted resources. There also needs to be recognition that working in new ways and bridging traditional boundaries is challenging, and often our attempts fall short of the expectations of those involved. For collaborative governance to work, the Plan needs to be supported and strengthened through innovative and skilled management of the process. This requires the specific knowledge, skills and expertise of a partnership broker. Someone who can help stakeholders navigate the collaborative governance journey.

We recommend the Minister for Water make available dedicated funding for a full-time external partnership broker for at least three years to support the Plan's collaborative governance process. The broker's support will foster:

- Empathy, cross-cultural communication, balance, independent advice, and mentoring to Melbourne Water and other RPEs, and
- More equitable relationships between Traditional Owners, government agencies and communities.

Increase funding for the implementation of the Plan

Dedicated and additional funding is urgently required if the Plan's actions and transformative projects are to be implemented effectively, efficiently, and with

the level of collaboration required for the impacts to be sustainable.

We recommend that the Minister for Water identify resources for a pool of funding to support transformative projects. Community groups should be able to apply for this funding if they demonstrate that their proposal meets the criteria of transformative projects. The Yarra Riverkeeper Association has calculated that \$400 million over the 10 Year Plan would support transformative projects for RPEs, Traditional Owners and communities.

As said above, two-thirds of the 40 actions listed under the Plan were already ongoing, or planned, before the Plan was adopted in 2022. See Appendix 1. We recommend that the Birrarung Council and the Committee include documentation of additionality in their future annual reports.

Reform the approach to community participation and decision-making

Achieving collaborative governance of the Yarra, Birrarung River will require a fundamental shift in how Melbourne Water, DEECA and the other RPEs think and act. In a similar way that agencies are engaging with Traditional Owners as partners, Melbourne Water and others need to respect and recognise the role of community and environmental groups. Similarly, the Birrarung Council and the Yarra Collaboration Committee need to find ways of systematically engaging community and environmental groups on a regular basis and opening multilateral and bilateral communication channels. To foster community and environmental groups' contributions in a meaningful

way, the Birrarung Council and the Yarra Collaboration Committee must also proactively share information.

We recommend that:

- The Minister for Water establish an overarching mechanism for community participation at a strategic level and consult community groups on the design of the mechanism.
- The Birrarung Council and the Yarra Collaboration Committee include community activities, contributions, and perspectives in their annual implementation reports. This should include a record of voluntary labour, similar to the record of volunteer hours compiled by Parks Victoria.
- The Birrarung Council publish annual reports on its activities, including meetings held with local government agencies and state departments.
- The Birrarung Council maintain an up-to-date and independent website, including information on its responsibilities, and Council contact details.
- The Birrarung Council actively informs and seeks out the community as the 'voice of the river'.
- The Birrarung Council promotes and advocates for the use of the principles of the Birrarung Yarra River Protection Act in planning scheme decision-making, as well as agency decision-making more broadly.
- The Yarra Collaboration Committee engage with the broader community on a regular basis. The lead agency and the current members of the Committee apply

the principles of best standard of IAP2 Quality Assurance Standards to the work of the Yarra Strategic Plan at least to the level of 'Collaborate'.²⁰

Embed land use planning framework at state and local level to ensure planning decisions support the Plan

To prevent irreversible environmental impacts to the Yarra, Birrarung, we recommend that the relevant Ministers, municipalities and RPEs integrate the land use planning framework in state and local planning schemes by June 2024, at the latest.

Apply the principle of net environmental gain and Decision Making Framework to all policy actions, projects and planning decisions

RPEs have not embraced implementing the net environmental gain through the Decision-Making Framework yet. We recommend that this be prioritised so that actions taken in the Plan and those by RPEs more generally are in the best interest of the river.

Include the river upstream of Warrandyte in the Yarra River Planning Controls

To ensure the whole river is protected from development that negatively impacts the river and her parklands, we recommend that the Minister for Water initiates the process to ensure that the Yarra River Planning Controls can be amended to include the entire length of the Birrarung River, including the section upstream from Warrandyte.

Conclusion

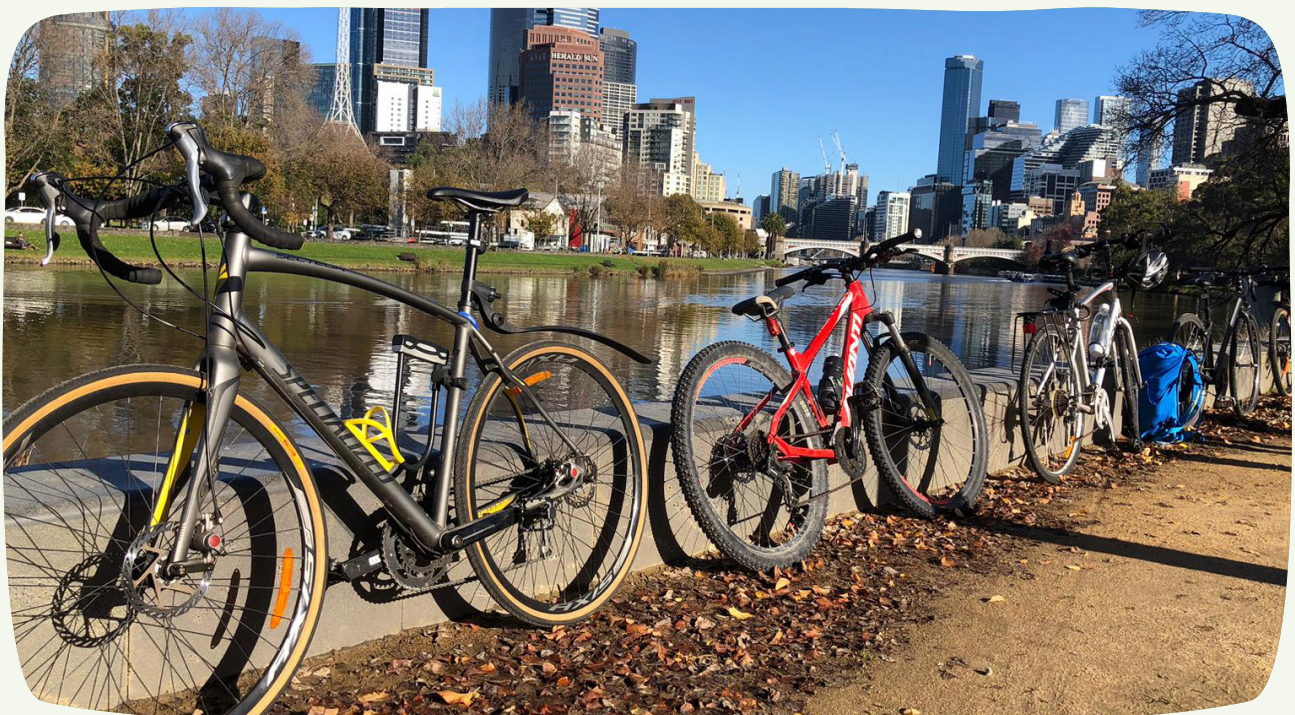
The Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017 and the subsequent *Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo (Yarra Strategic Plan)* are part of an unprecedented endeavour to reimagine the future of the Yarra, Birrarung River as a living integrated entity. The vision though lofty, is achievable, but only when everyone is able to play to the best of their abilities, and when the 'whole' is bigger than its individual 'parts'. In year one of the Plan, the foundations have been mostly laid. The Yarra Collaboration Committee is active, and some actions are underway. It's still early days.

However, some critical pieces are missing or being underplayed. Resource allocation remains a pressing concern, with the current funding falling short of the transformative potential the Plan holds. Collaborative governance, a pioneering approach, requires dedicated expertise.

Community involvement, transparency, and engagement must be elevated to the forefront. Open communication channels, systematic engagement, and transparent reporting can align the Plan with the needs and aspirations of those intimately connected to the Birrarung.

Crucially, the integration of the Land Use Framework and the application of the net environmental gain principle remain foundational to the Plan's success. Likewise, the comprehensive inclusion of the upstream section of the Birrarung River within planning controls is essential to ensure the river's overall health and vitality.

The Yarra Riverkeeper Association looks forward to progress and transformation. We ask that the government and decision-makers include us and communities so that we can realise the vision - together.



Appendix

Assessment of actions under the plan

All 40 actions have been assessed to determine if they are new and whether they have received additional funding since the start of the Plan.

Time is measured from the release of the Plan in February 2022.

| Actions | New or pre-existing project? | Additional funding since the start of the Plan? |
|--|---|---|
| Performance Objective 1: A healthy river and lands | | |
| Stormwater and litter, Actions 1-4 | New, Action 1 Existing, Actions 2-4 | Yes, for a sub-component, Action 1 No, Actions 2-4 |
| Septic tanks, Action 5 | Existing, Action 5 | Yes, for risk framework and guidance material, Action 5 |
| Billabongs and wetlands, Actions 6-9 | Existing, Actions 6-9 | Yes, Action 6 N/A, Action 7 (project completed) Unconfirmed, Actions 6-8 Yes, partially, Action 9 (for research) |
| Habitat connectivity, Actions 10-16 | Existing, Actions 10-14, 16 New, Action 15 | Yes, Actions 10-11 No, Actions 12-14 Yes, Actions 15-16 |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Native fish, Actions 17-19 | Existing, Actions 17-18 New, Action 19 | New, Action 17 Unconfirmed, Action 18 No, Action 19 |
| Pest plants and animals, Actions 20-21 | Existing, Action 20 New, Action 21 | No, Actions 20-21 |
| Climate change, Actions 22-23 | New, Action 22 Existing, Action 23 | Unconfirmed, Actions 22-23 |
| Performance objective 2 – A culturally diverse corridor | | |
| Aboriginal cultural heritage, Actions 24-27 | New, Actions 24-25, 27 Existing, Action 26 | No, Actions 24-27 |
| Historic cultural heritage, Action 28 | Existing Action 28 | No, Action 28 |
| Performance objective 3 – Quality parklands for a growing population | | |
| Caring for Country, Actions 29-31 | New, Actions 29-30 Existing, Action 31 | No, Actions 29-30 No, Action 31 |
| Balancing access and conservation, Action 32 | New, Action 32 | No, Action 32 |
| Expanding the park network, Action 33 | Existing, Action 33 | No, Action 33 |
| Infrastructure and services, Actions 34-38 | New, Actions 34-35 Existing, Actions 36-38 | Unconfirmed, Actions 34-38 |
| Performance objective 4 – Protecting the natural beauty of the Yarra River corridor | | |
| Protect landscape and views, Action 39 | Existing, Action 40 | Yes, Action 39 |
| Monitor changes in land use, Action 40 | New, Action 40 | No, Action 40 |

Endnotes

1. Victorian State Government (2022) Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo, Yarra Strategic Plan - A 10-year plan for the Yarra River corridor - 2022 to 2032. Available: <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/about/what-we-do/publications/yarra-strategic-plan-burndap-birrarung-burndap-umarkoo> [Accessed 24 August 2023].
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5. Birrarung Council (2022) Birrarung Council Report on the implementation of Burndap Birrarung Burndap Umarkoo – Yarra Strategic Plan 2022. Available: <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/tables-docs/JRents/search-tabled-docs/JRents/details/3/11990> [Accessed 24 August 2023].
6. Melbourne Water (2022) Yarra Strategic Plan – Annual Report 2021-22. Available: <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/about/what-we-do/publications/yarra-strategic-plan-burndap-birrarung-burndap-umarkoo> [Accessed 24 August 2023].
7. Victorian State Government (2017) Section 1 (c).
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