



IMAGINE THE YARRA

# Yarra Strategic Plan Map Book

## Current state land use for the Yarra Strategic Plan

September 2018

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## Purpose of the document

The Yarra Strategic Plan will be a ten year strategy to establish long-term transformational change in governance and work towards delivering the community vision for protecting our Yarra River, Birrarung.

The Yarra Strategic Plan Progress Report, released in September 2018, provides a high level update on our progress and outlines how the community vision will be brought to life through the Yarra Strategic Plan.

This map book provides the spatial detail of land use within the Yarra Strategic Plan study area to understand current state land use, as well as threats and pressures to the river such as population growth and climate change.

The information has been divided into a number of topics:

- Land use and development
- Landscapes and views
- Open space networks
- Access networks
- Tourism, activities and events
- River health and amenity
- Heritage Overlays and Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

This document can be read in conjunction with the Progress Report as a reference to the land use analysis.

These maps have also been used in our community and stakeholder workshops to work through the issues facing the river corridor and identify opportunities to protect the Yarra.

## Data sources

All spatial data displayed is publicly accessible and demonstrates existing land use (2018).

The maps are intended to be used as a reference to bring out the stories and issues related to the Yarra River corridor. The maps will also be used to test the spatial attributes of the values and priorities, which have been described for each of the four river reaches.

## Governance

The *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murron) Act 2017* (the Act), describes several types of land to which it applies. These are different but often overlapping geographic areas, which are relevant to the operations of various provisions in the Act, as well as other legislation.

The Act designates three categories of land: Yarra River land, the Greater Yarra urban Parklands and the Yarra Strategic Plan study area.

### Yarra River land

Yarra River land is the main parcel of land protected by the Act. It covers public and State government owned land within 500 metres of a bank of the river that is not excluded land. Excluded land is defined in section 3 of the Act as the Port of Melbourne (as defined in the *Port Management Act 1995*) and any land within a special water supply catchment area listed in Schedule 5 of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

### Greater Yarra Urban Parklands

The Greater Yarra Urban Parklands include Yarra River land which is used as public open space or a park within a municipal council district and within an urban growth boundary. It also includes any other land that the land owner agrees may be covered which is within an urban growth boundary specified in a planning scheme.

### Yarra Strategic Plan study area

The Act states that the Yarra Strategic Plan study area must include Yarra River land and land of any kind that is located within one kilometre of a bank of the Yarra River.

The Act also outlines that the Yarra Strategic Plan study area may include public or private land located more than one kilometre from a bank of the Yarra River that is wholly within the municipal districts of Melbourne, Stonnington, Yarra, Boroondara, Banyule, Manningham, Nillumbik or Yarra Ranges.

### Yarra River reaches

For the purpose of preparing the Yarra Strategic Plan, the river has been segmented into four 'reaches'. This helps to understand specific issues and considerations related to different parts of the river across a large study area.

Map 1 below shows the river and its four reaches, within the broader Yarra River catchment. The four reaches are:

#### Upper rural reach

The upper rural reach extends from the Upper Yarra Reservoir to Healesville. Much of this part of the river corridor is surrounded by the Yarra Ranges National Park. Upstream of Millgrove, the river flows through a steep gorge, enclosed by forests; downstream it opens out to flatter terrain and is surrounded by the fertile agricultural land of the Yarra Valley.

#### Lower rural reach

The lower rural reach extends from Healesville to Warrandyte State Park. This part of the river corridor features open, expansive agricultural land of the Yarra Valley. Long range views across the Yarra Valley are framed by surrounding mountain ranges.

#### Suburban reach

The suburban reach extends from Warrandyte (at the Urban Growth Boundary, which marks the edge of metropolitan Melbourne) to Dights Falls in Abbotsford.

In this reach much of the river is lined with a near-continuous network of parklands and conservation areas.

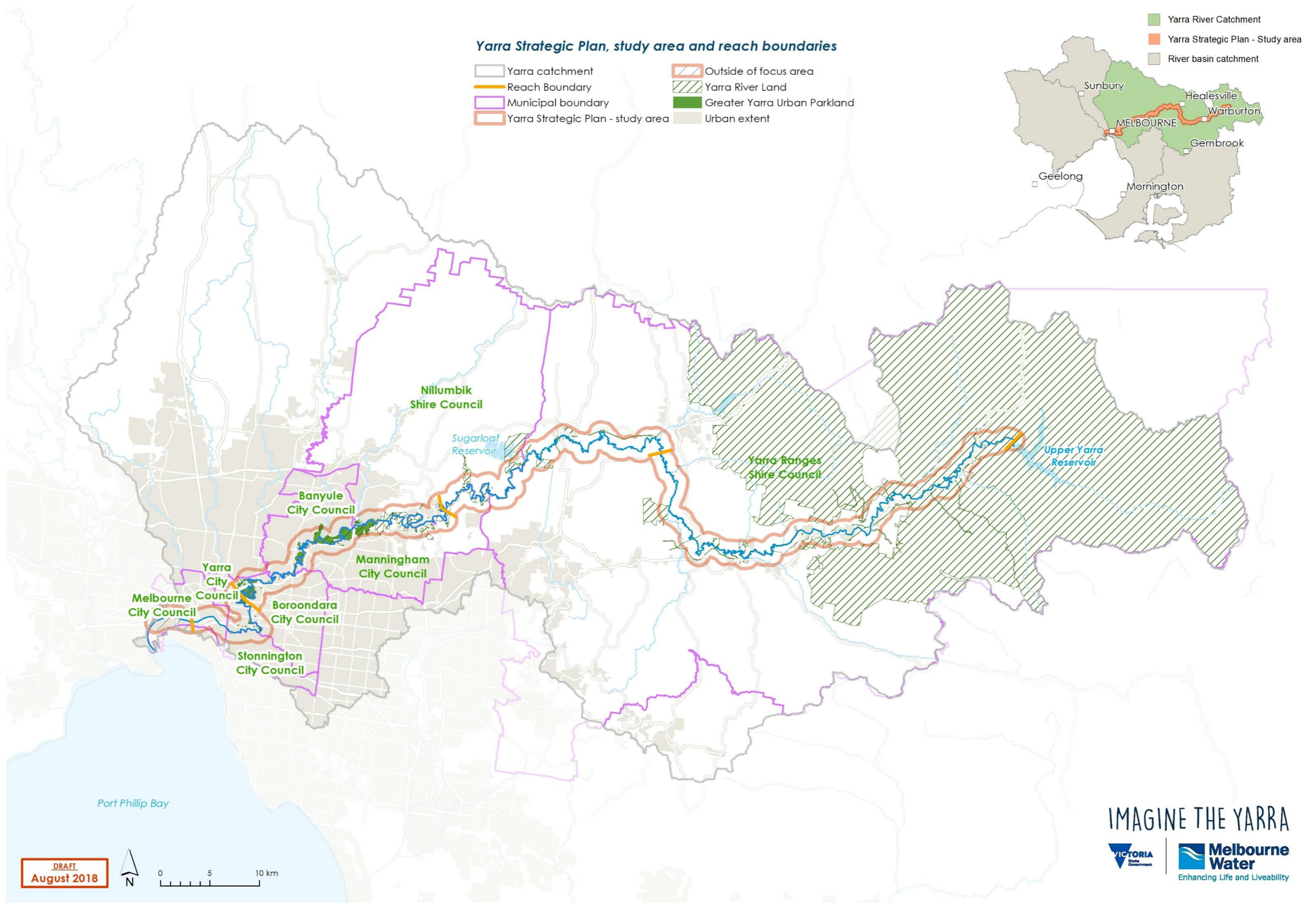
The river's setting transitions from rural at the metropolitan edge to suburban closer to central Melbourne.

#### Inner city reach

The inner city reach extends from Dights Falls to the central city (Webb Bridge). Dights Falls marks a clear transition from the suburban to the inner city and is also the point of transition between tidal and freshwater flow.

The inner city reach includes industrial areas on the river flats (many of which are undergoing transition), well-established residential neighbourhoods, extensive areas of parklands and recreation spaces and the Melbourne CBD.

The inner city precincts of Docklands, Fishermans Bend and the Port of Melbourne are currently not covered in the Yarra Strategic Plan as they are subject to separate planning processes. However, they will still be considered within the broader context of the river as key points of influence within this reach.



Map 1 - Yarra Strategic Plan Governance





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# Upper rural reach



## Land use and development

The Yarra River begins its journey in the forested upper reaches of the Baw Baw plateau in the Great Dividing Range east of Melbourne, and flows approximately 240 kilometres to its mouth at Port Phillip Bay.

Along the way the Yarra River traverses a rich variety of landscapes. This includes the Yarra Ranges National Park, the agricultural region of the Yarra Valley, the network of parklands and conservation areas that line the river through Melbourne's eastern residential suburbs, industrial areas along the inner city river flats, Melbourne's CBD, Docklands, and the Port.

Map 2 shows the character types found in the landscapes of the upper rural reach as well as the Yering Gorge water supply catchment area.

### Character types in the upper rural reach

The different ways in which land is used and developed, or retains its natural features, create a distinctive character for each area along the river corridor.

Map 2 shows the different character types within the upper rural reach, which have the following key features.

#### Yarra River conservation

This character type comprises the extensive State and National Parks of the Upper Yarra area. Upstream of Warburton, the river is enclosed by the extensive Yarra Ranges National Park, and its protected forests meet the river's edge in many locations.

Other conservation areas such as the Warramate State Forest are interspersed among farmland.

#### Rural environment

This character type comprises the various agricultural areas along the river corridor.

This includes small areas of farmland around Reefton, McMahons Creek and Warburton East.

Between Warburton and Healesville, where the topography opens out to flatter terrain, the agricultural areas surrounding the river become more expansive.

Areas of cleared farmland are interspersed with heavy vegetation of mature native trees and understorey planting, particularly along waterway corridors. Buildings are mostly obscured from view from the river corridor.

Agricultural and horticultural activities are major contributors to the local and regional economy and the stunning rural landscapes of the Yarra Valley are a key drawcard for tourism.

#### Rural township

This includes the small townships located along the river, including Yarra Junction, Woori Yallock, Millgrove and Warburton, which are hubs of activity within the rural landscape. In some locations, housing or commercial buildings are built close to the river's edge.

There is limited public land fronting the river in this reach. As a result, many parts of the river have no direct access for the community, or must be accessed on-water.

#### Parklands and recreation

This comprises open spaces and recreation reserves near Warburton and Yarra Junction townships. These have a more manicured landscape as opposed to a more natural bush setting.

### Yering Gorge Drinking Water Catchment

The Yering Gorge water supply catchment flows from the Upper Yarra Dam wall, extending through to the Warrandyte area where water is pumped directly from the Yarra River to Sugarloaf reservoir and treated at Winneke Water Treatment Plant.





This water supply contributes 25% of Melbourne's total water demand and during the drought period, supplied around a third of the drinking water supply.

In the absence of formal protections of this drinking water supply catchment, there is a risk that source water quality will deteriorate in time due to unsustainable activities and incompatible land development.



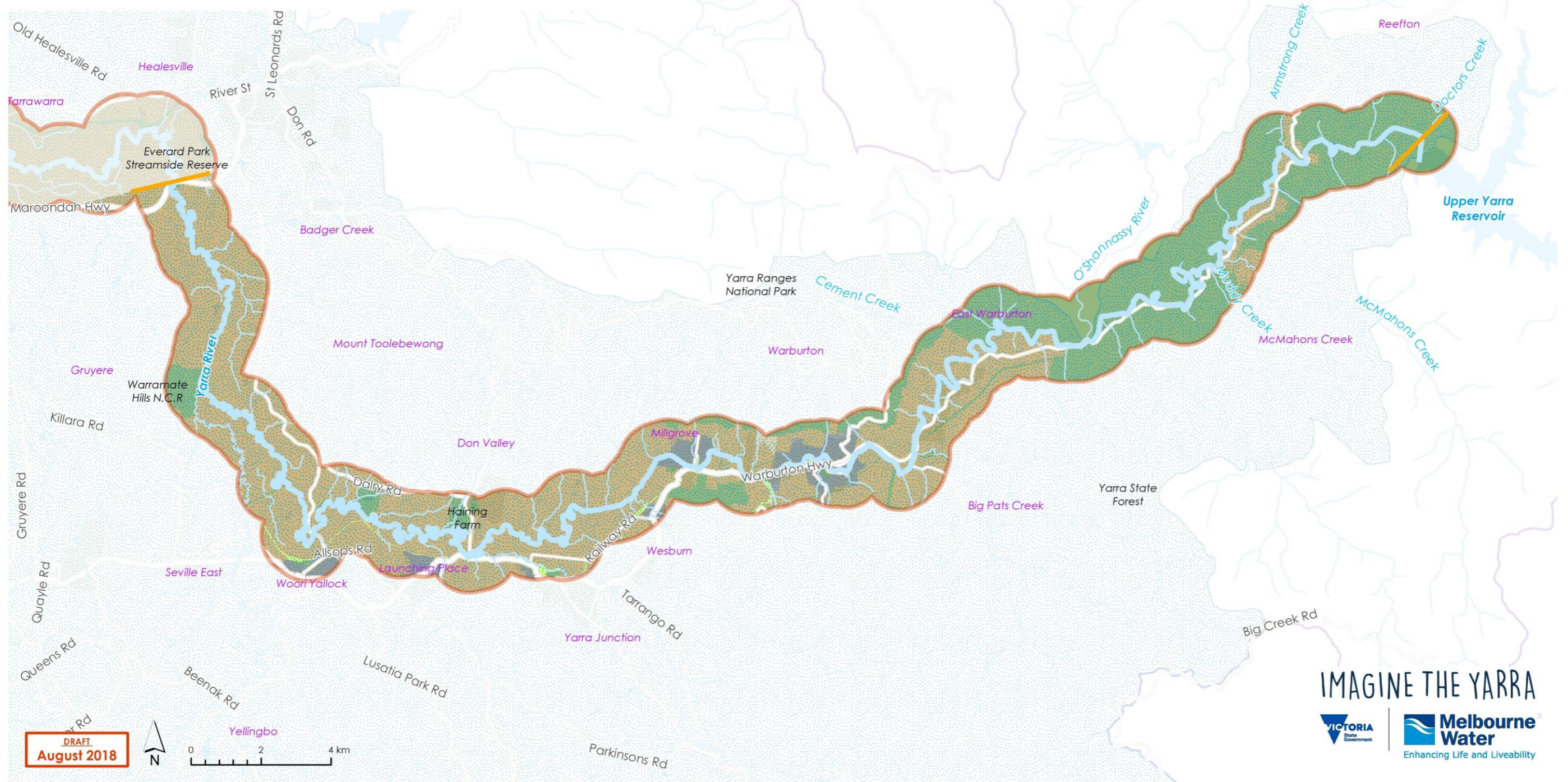
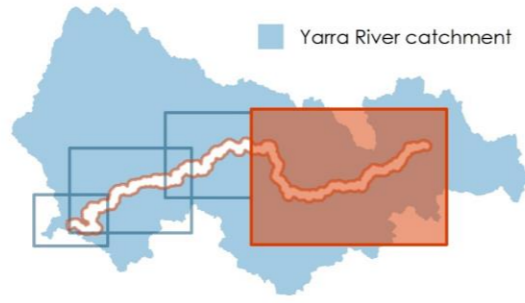
**Upper rural reach - Healesville to Upper Yarra Reservoir**

**Land Use and development**

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Urban extent
-  Yering Gorge drinking water catchment

**Character type**

-  Bush Residential
-  Parklands & Recreation
-  Rural Environment
-  Rural township
-  Yarra River Conservation



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**August 2018**



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Map 2 - Land use and development in the upper rural reach

## Landscapes and views

The Yarra River is defined by a striking range of different landscapes as it journeys from its source to Port Phillip Bay. Some of these have been formally identified as significant landscapes and are protected in the Planning Scheme.

The Yarra Strategic Plan will identify significant views along the river corridor. Views are an important aspect of how the river is experienced and appreciated.

Landscapes of the upper rural reach include the forested mountains and valleys of the Yarra Ranges National Park and the fertile expanses of the Yarra Valley.

Map 3 shows the Significant Landscape Overlay, Environmental Significance Overlay and views in the upper rural reach.

### Significant Landscape Overlay

The Significant Landscape Overlay is applied to landscapes that have identified scenic and cultural value. Large areas of the Yarra River's landscape are protected through this overlay.

For most areas within this overlay area, a permit is required to construct a building or remove vegetation. This is to ensure the impact of future development on the scenic value of the landscape is taken into consideration.

### Significant landscapes in the upper rural reach

#### Upper Yarra River and Environs

The Upper Yarra River and Environs landscape extends from the broad floodplains south of Yarra Glen and Healesville to the confined valley at the base of the Donna Buang Range near Warburton. The landscape also includes the upper reaches of the Yarra River east of Warburton and the forested valleys immediately upstream of the Upper Yarra Reservoir.

#### The Donna Buang Range

The Donna Buang Range is one of the major landforms in the region. It provides a mountainous backdrop to many of Yarra Ranges Shire's best known rural vistas.

The forested areas are also recognised as being of conservation significance as a major habitat for native plants and animals.

#### Foothills and rural townships

Townships covered by this overlay include Healesville, Yarra Glen, Yarra Junction, Seville, Warburton and Woori Yallock. A key feature of these landscapes is the visual dominance of vegetation including large, mature native and indigenous trees, vistas through development to hills, canopy trees and the surrounding landscape, obscured dwellings with minimal excavation and a lack of front fences.

Other significant landscapes within the study area include Warramate Hills, O'Shannassy Catchment and the Little Yarra Valley.

### Environmental Significance Overlay

The Environmental Significance Overlay is applied to places with particular environmental value. Many of these places are of intrinsic importance to the health of the Yarra River and its catchment.

### Environmentally significant areas in the upper rural reach

- Ben Cairn Scenic Road and adjacent areas
- Big Pats Creek
- Black Sands Creek and Yarra State Forest
- Coranderrk Aqueduct
- Eucalyptus yarraensis stands (Coldstream, Yarra Glen districts)
- Everard Park
- Healesville Sanctuary, Coranderrk and Surrounds
- McMahons Creek
- Mt Beenak, Mt Thule and Milner Hill
- Mt Tool-be-wong – Don River
- O'Shannassy Aqueduct
- O'Shannassy Catchment
- O'Shannassy Creek – Yarra River confluence
- River frontage – north of Woori Yallock
- Swamp Gum community below Upper Yarra Dam

- The Cement Creek Catchment
- Upper Yarra Catchment
- Warramate Hills
- Yarra Junction
- Yarra River and Little Yarra River Corridor
- Ythan Creek and Dirty Gully Warburton

More information on planning scheme overlays can be found at [planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/)

### Views

Viewpoints along the river corridor that offer a special place to experience the river have been identified. These places include viewing platforms, lookout points and other key locations.

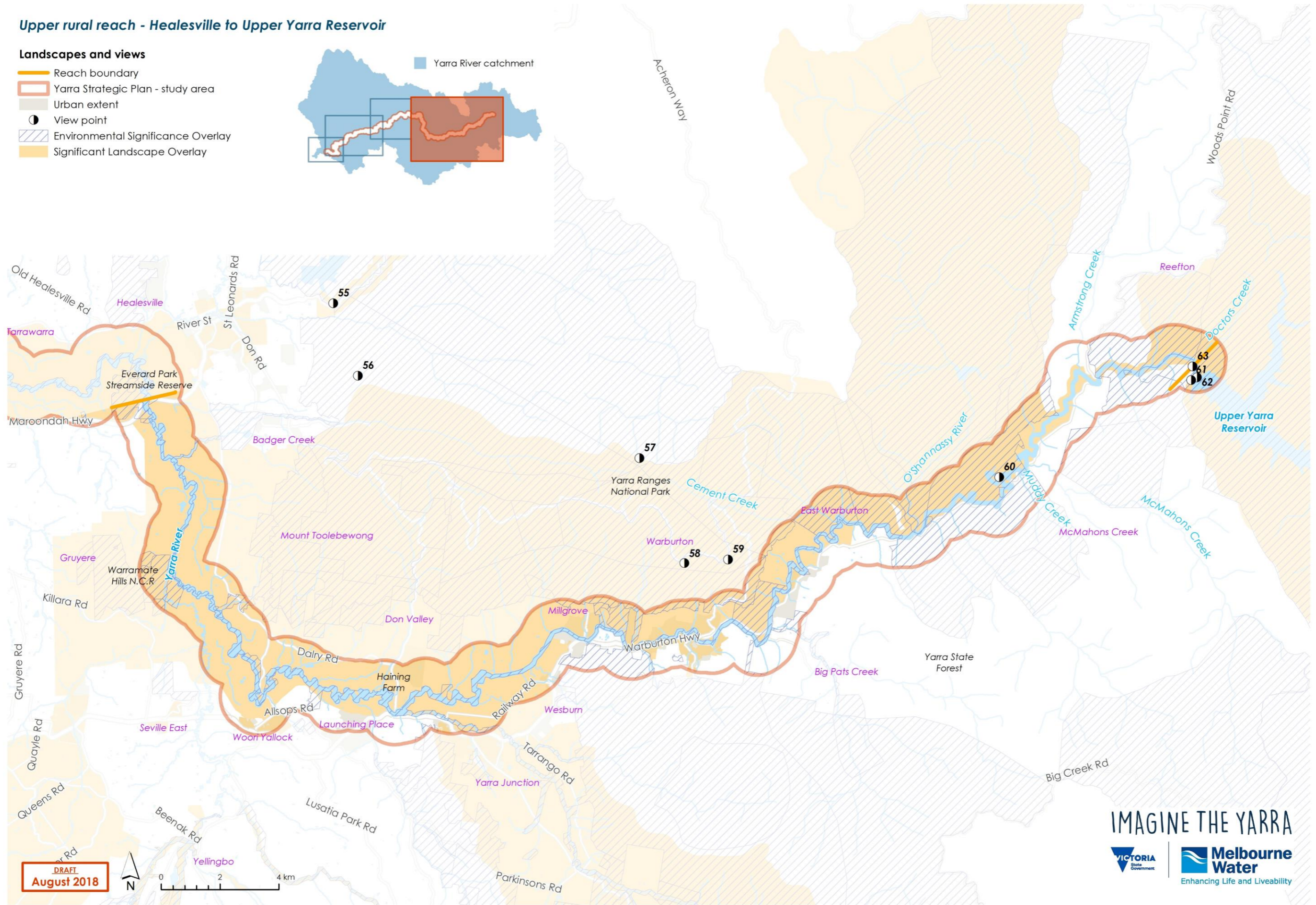
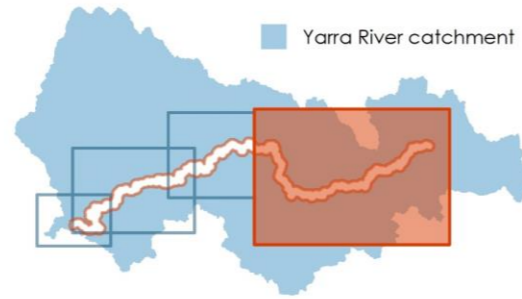
The waterway itself and the recreational trails that run alongside the river provide opportunities to experience dynamic views of the river – views that can be obtained while moving and journeying through the river's landscapes.

ID	View name
55	Selovers Lookout
56	Mt Riddell
57	Mt Donna Buang Lookout Tower
58	Mt Donna Buang
59	Mt Donna Buang
60	Viewing Platform, tunnel entrance, Big Peninsula Picnic Area
61	Upper Reservoir Lookout
62	Lower Reservoir Lookout via Bridge Crossing
63	Brimbonga Outlet Lookout

### Upper rural reach - Healesville to Upper Yarra Reservoir

#### Landscapes and views

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Urban extent
-  View point
-  Environmental Significance Overlay
-  Significant Landscape Overlay



Map 3 - Landscapes and views in the upper rural reach

## Open space networks

There are 7,795 hectares of diverse parklands and public open spaces along the Yarra River.

Within the upper rural reach, this includes 4,609 hectares of wilderness areas, parklands and recreational spaces which are of high environmental and cultural significance.

Map 4 shows parklands, tracks and trails and Yarra River Land in the upper rural reach.

### Yarra River Land

Yarra River Land is the Yarra River, including its bed, soil and banks, as well as publicly managed land within 500m of a bank of the river.

Significant areas of Yarra River Land in the upper rural reach include Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Reserve, Haining Farm and Yarra Ranges National Park.

### Tracks and trails in the upper rural reach

#### Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail

The Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail is an iconic 40km recreation trail for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. It starts to run parallel with the river around Woori Yallock and finishes in the Warburton Township.

#### Riverside tracks at Warburton

There are riverside tracks on both sides of the river for the full length of the Warburton township from the Mayer Bridge to the Signs bridge. There are picnic spots, BBQ's, toilets and river crossings at various locations.

#### Backstairs Track

This 3km track starts in Warburton Main Street and follows Scotchmans Creek Valley. It features the lush fern gullies of the Yarra State Forest.

#### Upper Yarra Reservoir

There are several short walks and lookouts over and around the Upper Yarra Reservoir. These include Fern Gully Track and Batts Creek Track.

### Parklands in the upper rural reach

#### Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Reserve

Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Reserve is 480ha in size. It provides access to bushland areas which feel remote. It can be accessed by walking tracks which provide excellent views.

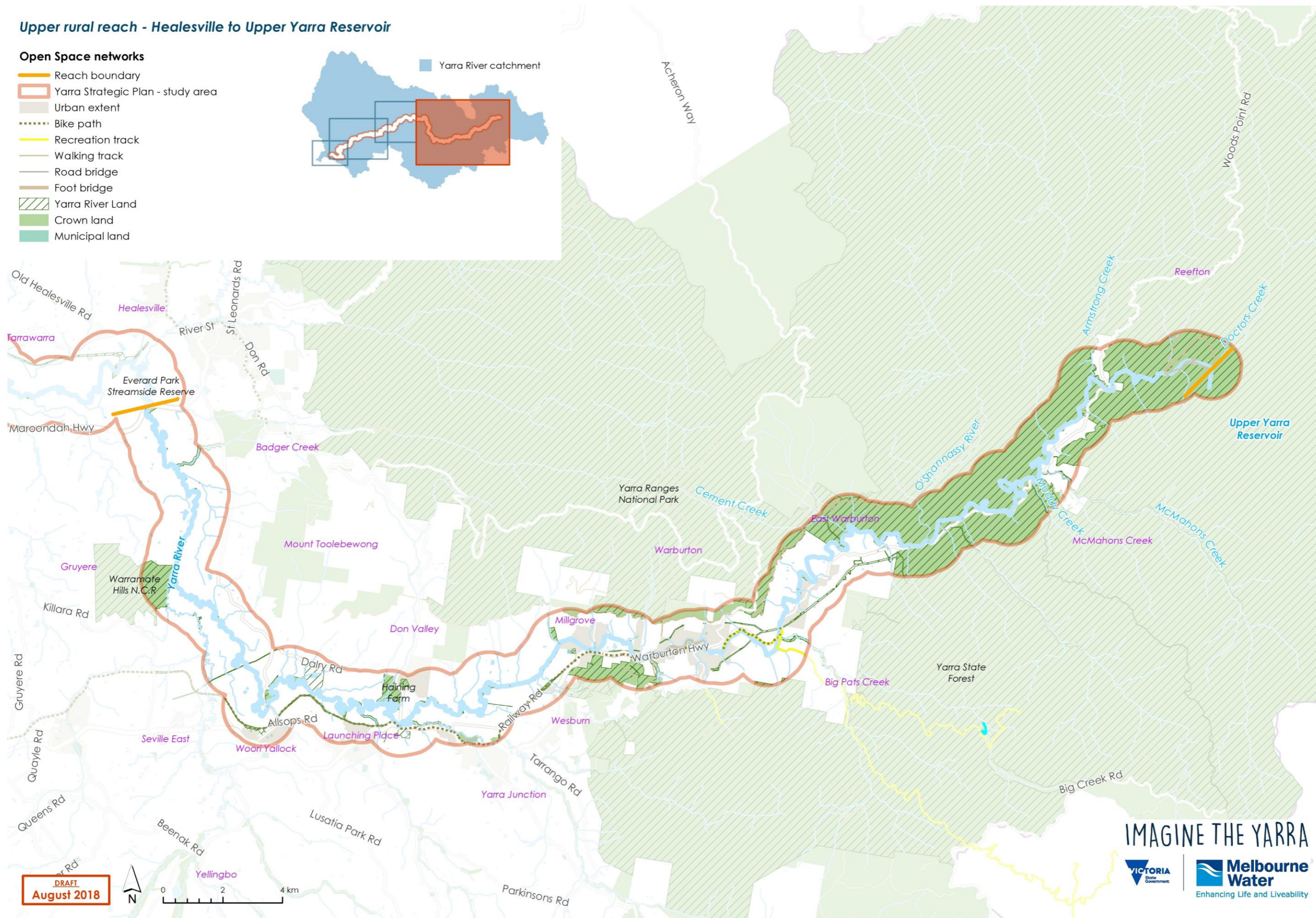
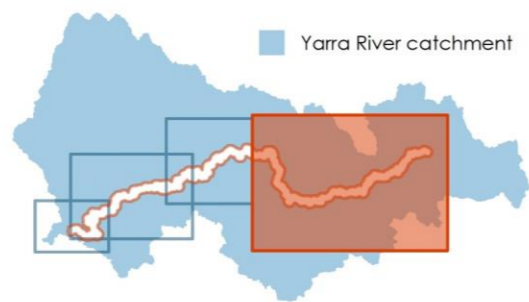
#### Yarra Ranges National Park

Yarra Ranges National Park features majestic Mountain Ash Trees, one of the tallest tree species in the world. As well as the Yarra River, the O'Shannassy and Taggerty Rivers flow through the park. Much of the area forms part of Melbourne's water catchments and is not open to the public in order to protect drinking water supply.

Upper rural reach - Healesville to Upper Yarra Reservoir

Open Space networks

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Urban extent
-  Bike path
-  Recreation track
-  Walking track
-  Road bridge
-  Foot bridge
-  Yarra River Land
-  Crown land
-  Municipal land



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Map 4 - Open space networks in the upper rural reach

## Access networks

The Yarra Strategic Plan will consider all the ways in which people access the river and the areas along the river. This includes walking, cycling, on-water transport (paddling, motorboats), public transport and vehicle access. The extensive parklands along parts of the river also often provide direct access to the water.

The plan will also consider areas where limiting access is suitable in order to protect the natural environment.

In the upper rural reach access networks through the river corridor are more limited than the downstream reaches. There are localised tracks and trails through parklands and the Lilydale-Warburton rail trail passes alongside parts of the river. Some off-road trails may be unmapped.

Map 5 shows tracks and trails, gaps in trails, public transport, on-water access and car parks in the upper rural reach.

### Tracks and trails in the upper rural reach

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#### Upper Yarra Reservoir

There are several short walks and lookouts over and around the Upper Yarra Reservoir. These include Fern Gully Track and Batts Creek Track.

### Gaps in trails in the upper rural reach

Areas highlighted in green represent gaps in track and trail access to the river. The map shows access is limited between Healesville and Woori Yallock and also between McMahons Creek and the Upper Yarra Reservoir.

### Public transport in the upper rural reach

There is a metro bus route between Chirnside Park and Warburton which travels via Lilydale station, Seville, and Yarra Junction. There is no metro or regional train line in the upper rural reach.

### On-water access in the upper rural reach

There are no formal boat ramps in the upper rural reach, though some informal access for recreational water activities exists.

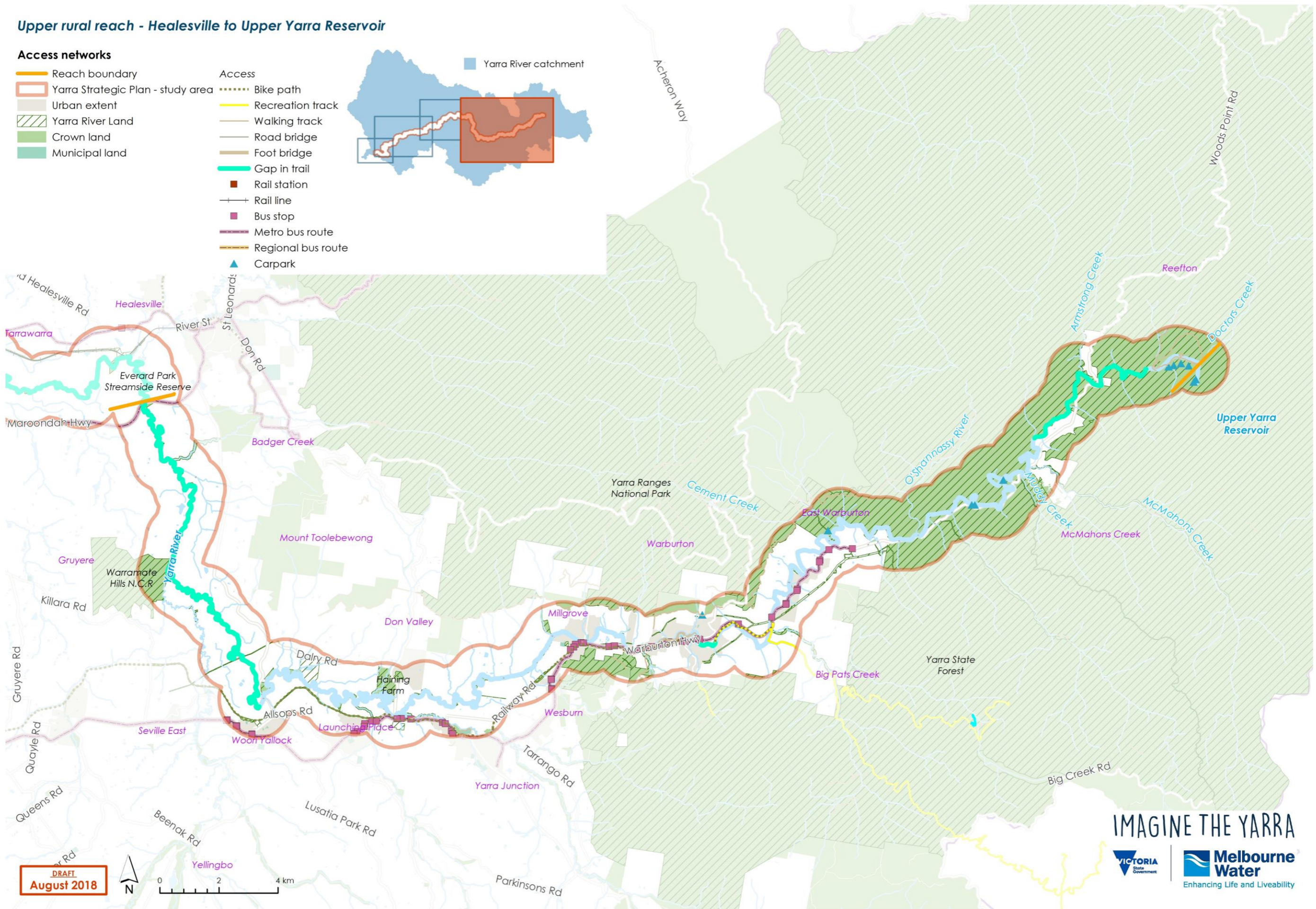
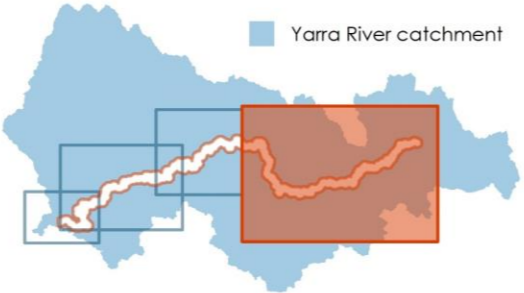
### Carparks in the upper rural reach

On-street car parking can be found in the Warburton Township which provides access to the river. 11 formal carparks have been identified which include Little Peninsula Picnic Ground, Younga Road on the O'Shannassy Trail, Cement Creek Road at the Redwood Forest and the Upper Yarra Reservoir.

### Upper rural reach - Healesville to Upper Yarra Reservoir

#### Access networks

- Reach boundary
  - Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
  - Urban extent
  - Yarra River Land
  - Crown land
  - Municipal land
- 
- Access**
  - Bike path
  - Recreation track
  - Walking track
  - Road bridge
  - Foot bridge
  - Gap in trail
  - Rail station
  - Rail line
  - Bus stop
  - Metro bus route
  - Regional bus route
  - Carpark



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Map 5 - Access networks in the upper rural reach

## Tourism, activities and events

There are many different ways people like to experience the Yarra River.

In the year ending March 2018, 1.1 million people visited the Yarra Valley, which represents 4% of all visitors to Victoria. This is a 23% increase from the previous year. The Yarra Valley is a tourism hot spot and provides significant contributions to the economy.

Map 6 shows community activities and key tourist destinations in the upper rural reach.

### Community activities in the upper rural reach

Community activities include cultural events, festivals, markets and sports events in the river corridor. An event which occurs in the upper rural reach is the Giro Della Donna cycling race at Mt Donna Buang.

### Key tourist destinations in the upper rural reach

Activities, wineries, natural features and precincts in the corridor that are tourist destinations have been identified using Council data and research.

#### Activities

- Healesville Sanctuary
- Sandra Bardas Art Gallery
- Mont de Lancey Homestead
- Rayners Orchard
- O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail
- Warburton Township
- Big Pats Walk into History

#### Natural features

- Ben Cairn Rock
- Yarra Valley ECOSS
- Mt Donna Buang
- Rainforest Gallery
- La La Falls
- Cement Creek Redwood Forest
- Steavenson Falls
- Big and Little Peninsula Tunnels
- The Ada Tree
- Upper Yarra Reservoir Park



### Upper rural reach - Healesville to Upper Yarra Reservoir

#### Tourism, Activities and Events

- Reach boundary
- Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
- Yarra River Land
- Crown land
- Municipal land
- Urban extent
- Bike path
- Recreation track
- Walking track
- Road bridge
- Foot bridge

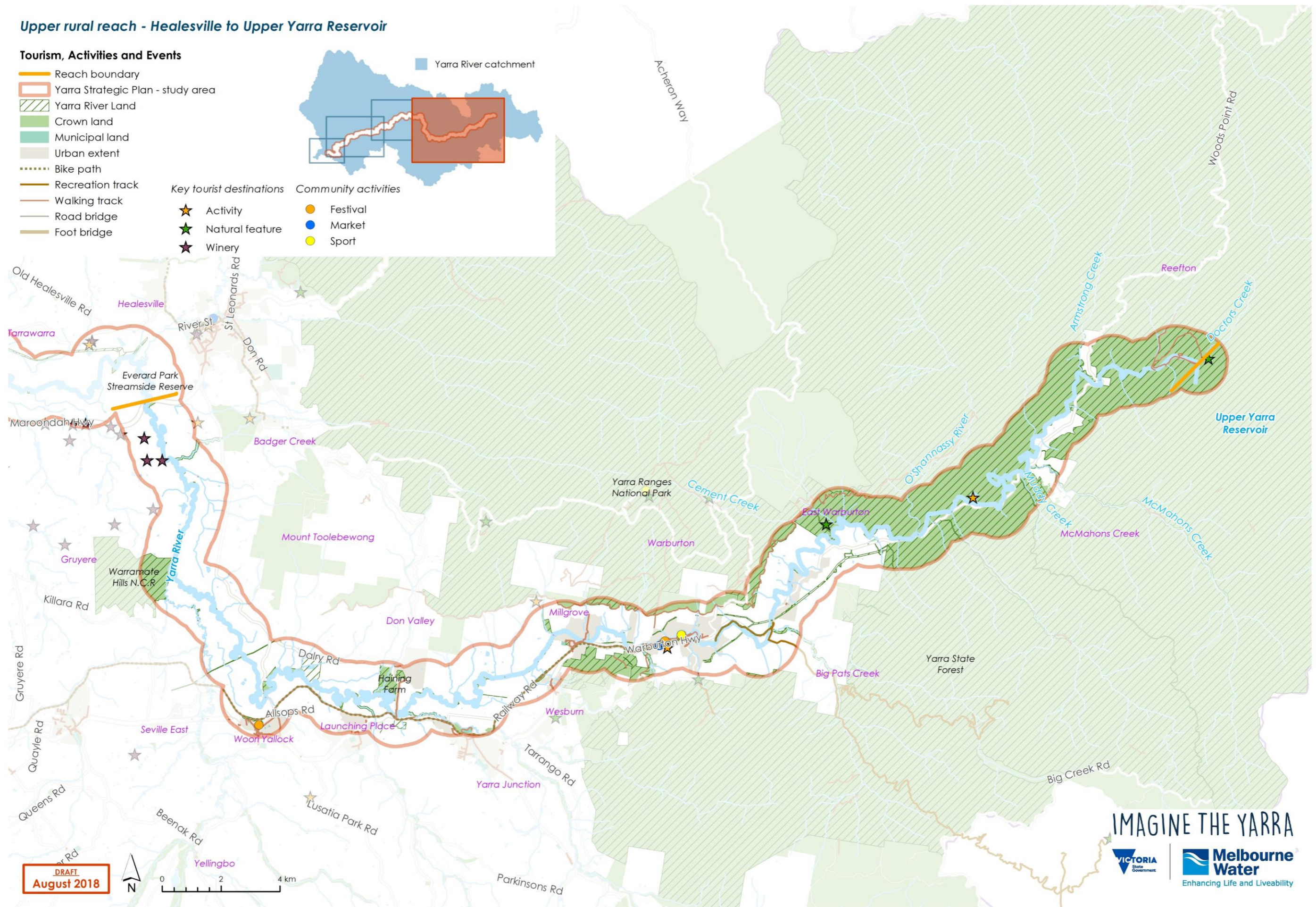
#### Key tourist destinations

- Activity
- Natural feature
- Winery

#### Community activities

- Festival
- Market
- Sport

Yarra River catchment



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Map 6 - Tourism, activities and events in the upper rural reach

## River health and amenity

The Yarra Strategic Plan needs to identify areas of high environmental value to be protected. The priority areas shown on the adjacent map are drawn from the *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)*.

Community input to the *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* has been invaluable in creating collective targets and performance objectives. Visit <https://yoursay.melbournwater.com.au/Yarra-catchment> for more information.

Map 7 shows priority stormwater sub-catchments, the Environmental Significance Overlay and 10 year priority vegetation areas.

### Healthy Waterways Strategy

An example of the performance objectives that are being developed for the *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* include:

- Reduce impacts of stormwater on waterways; focus on urban growth and rural townships
- Improve condition and extent of riparian vegetation in rural and urban areas by protecting high quality vegetation, managing threats and building resilience
- Improve environmental flows and protect drought refuges in the context of climate change
- Reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from rural land and areas of urban development; ensure no net increase in nutrient and sediment loads to protect the health of Port Phillip Bay
- Traditional Owners are supported to recognise, protect and promote intangible and tangible cultural values and to have a role in protecting and improving waterways
- Address significant risks to values from pollution (water quality) from emerging contaminants of concern such as microplastics, pesticides and pharmaceuticals.

### Priority stormwater sub-catchments in the upper rural reach

The *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* has identified priority areas for stormwater harvesting and infiltration. In the upper rural reach this includes areas of Warburton, Yarra Junction, Launching Place and Woori Yallock.

### 10 year priority vegetation

The *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* has identified priority areas to establish and maintain vegetated buffers on waterways. The Yarra River and its tributaries have all been identified as priorities.

### Environmental Significance Overlay

The Environmental Significance Overlay is applied to places with particular environmental value. Many of these places are of intrinsic importance to the health of the Yarra River and its catchment.

### Environmentally significant areas in the upper rural reach







- Ben Cairn Scenic Road and adjacent areas
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- River frontage – north of Woori Yallock

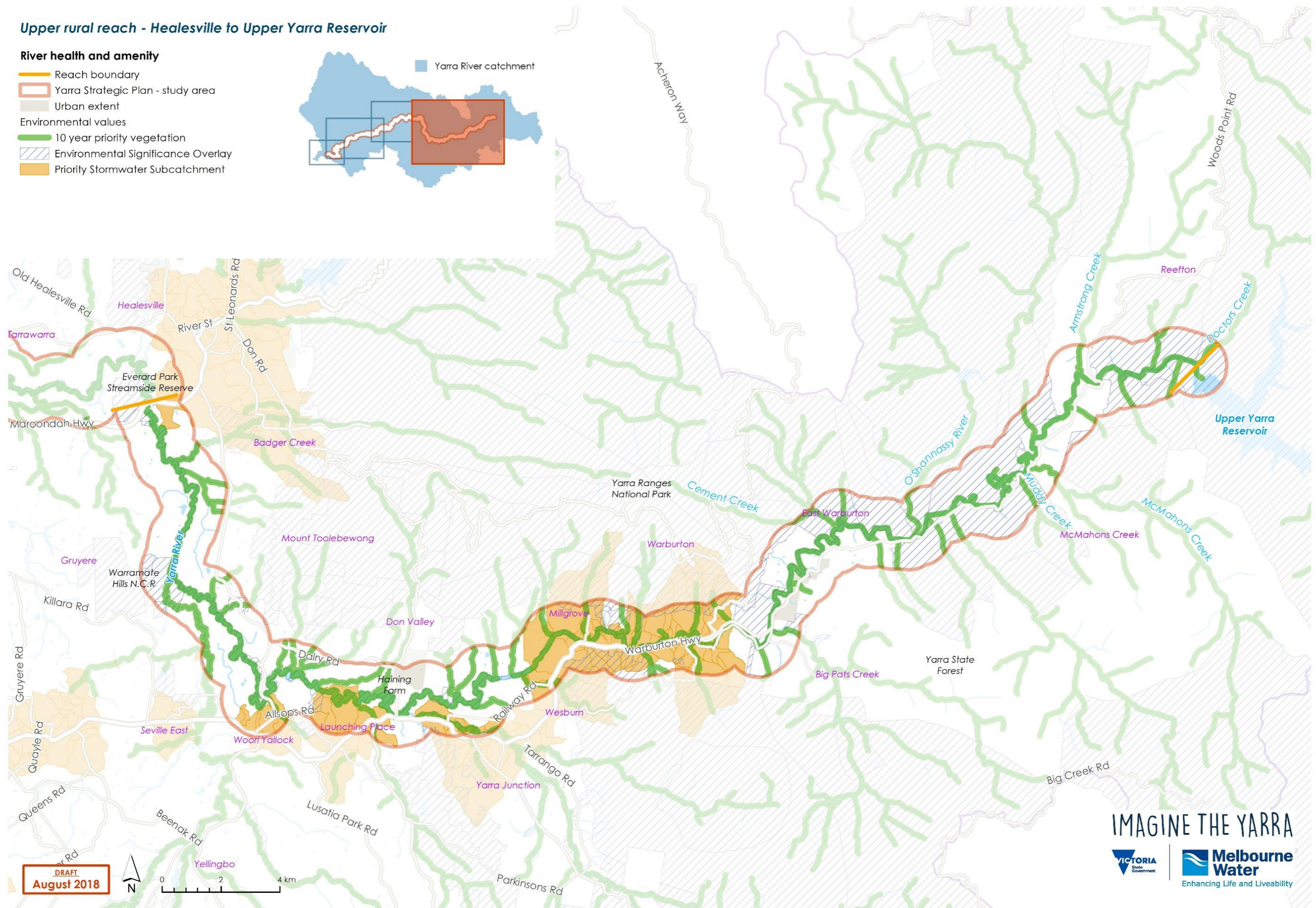
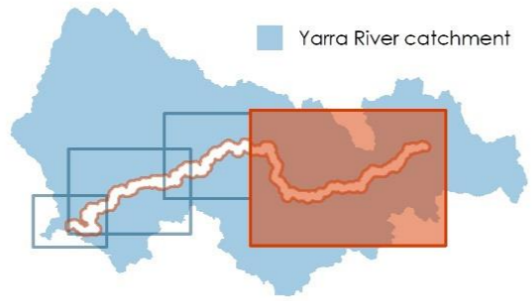
- Swamp Gum community below Upper Yarra Dam
- The Cement Creek Catchment
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- Ythan Creek and Dirty Gully Warburton

More information on planning scheme overlays can be found at [planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/)

### Upper rural reach - Healesville to Upper Yarra Reservoir

#### River health and amenity

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Urban extent
- Environmental values
-  10 year priority vegetation
-  Environmental Significance Overlay
-  Priority Stormwater Subcatchment



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Map 7 - River health and amenity in the upper rural reach

## Heritage Overlays and Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Sensitivity

Culture and heritage considers the way in which people have related to the river and its landscapes over time. It includes the relationship of Traditional Owners to the land and the river, which spans tens of thousands of years.

It also considers the river's role in shaping the history of Melbourne and surrounding rural areas since the time of settlement.

Map 8 shows the Heritage Overlay, Heritage Rivers, areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity and some key sites of cultural heritage importance in the upper rural reach.

### Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity are registered Aboriginal cultural heritage places. They include landforms and land categories that are regarded as containing Aboriginal cultural heritage.

All land within 200m of the banks of rivers and larger watercourses is designated as places of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity. This reflects the importance that water plays in Aboriginal cultural heritage and practice, both historically and contemporarily.

The designation of cultural sensitivity means that a permit and cultural heritage management plan are required for proposals that disturb the ground in these areas.

<https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/>

### Victorian Heritage Register

The Victorian Heritage Register lists the State's most significant heritage places, objects and historic shipwrecks protected under the *Heritage Act 1995*. Heritage places or objects listed on the Victorian Heritage Register are important to understanding the

history of Victoria and designated to be of State level significance.

Heritage Victoria, the State Government heritage authority, is responsible for issuing permits to modify these heritage places.

<https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/about-heritage-in-victoria/heritage-in-victoria>

### Heritage Overlay

The Heritage Overlay is applied to places that have been identified as having heritage significance. It can be applied to buildings, trees, gardens or infrastructure (such as bridges). The Heritage Overlay requires that a permit is obtained to demolish or modify the heritage place. Most of these places have been identified as having heritage significance through a Council heritage study.

More information on planning scheme overlays can be found at [planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/)

### Heritage Rivers

This reach has two sections declared as a Heritage River, including east of the Watts River to Woori Yallock Creek and from Woori Yallock to beyond Walkers Creek at Warburton. The Yarra Ranges National Park encompasses a large section of this reach and is home to a multitude of heritage sites managed by Parks Victoria. Melbourne Water also manages sites related to water catchments and supply.

### Indicative sites in the upper rural reach

The indicative sites shown on the map and listed in the table below are representative examples of the different types of sites that have been identified as significant in the river's history within the upper rural reach.

They mostly represent different periods in the river's colonial heritage and include sites related to water supply, gold mining, saw milling and tourism.

Within the upper rural reach the Coranderrk Aboriginal reserve at Healesville is a nationally significant place (National Heritage List).

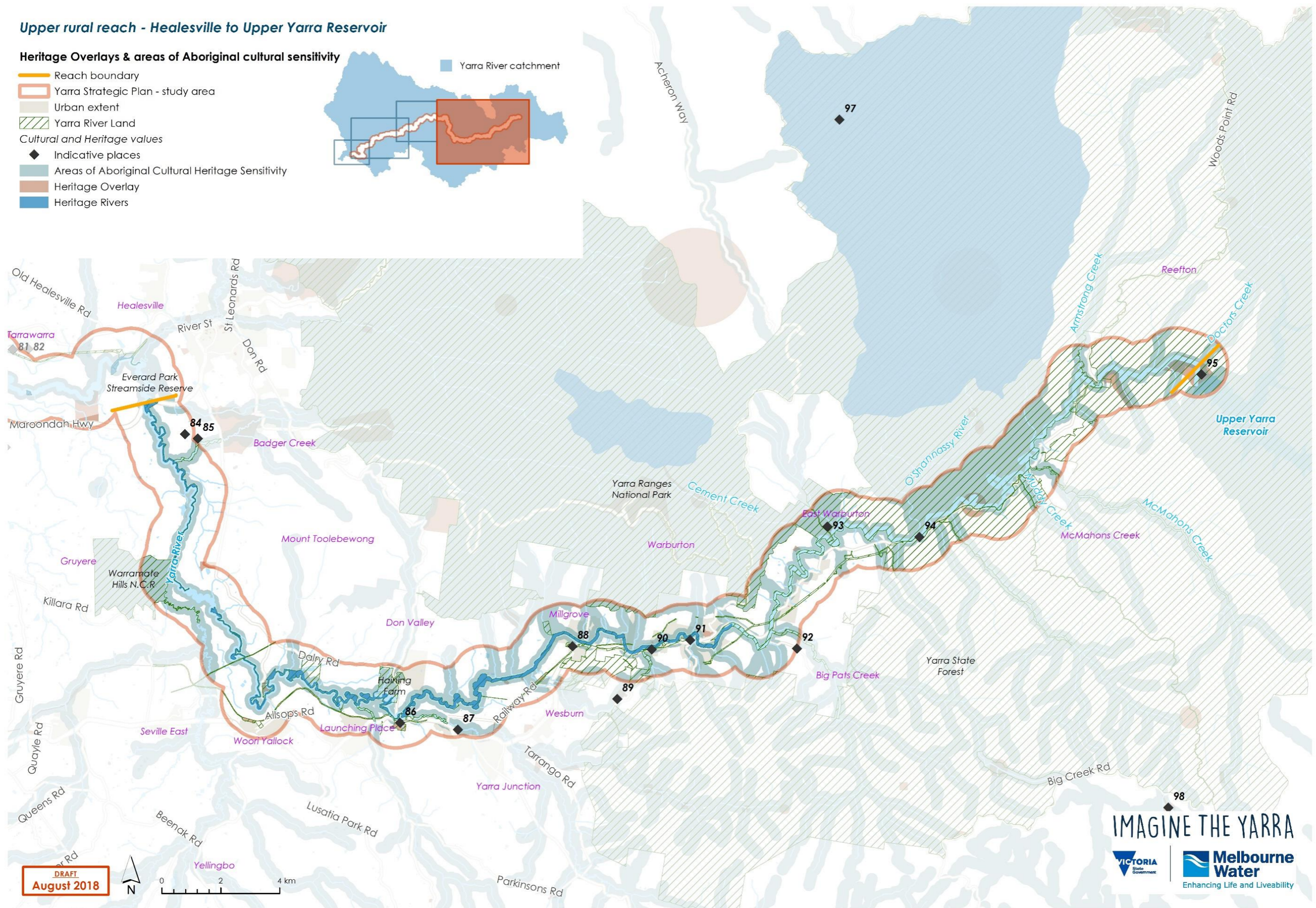
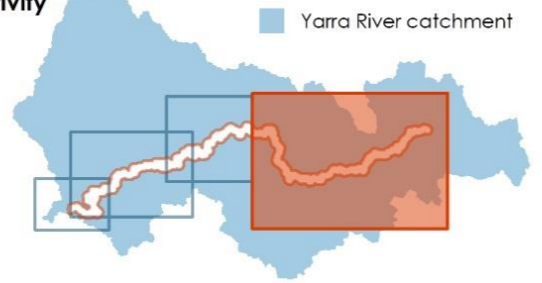
There are very few known sites of Aboriginal heritage recorded in this reach, however, many may remain unmapped. Sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage and significance will be identified through ongoing investigation currently being led by Traditional Owners.

Site ID	Site Name	Period
84	Coranderrk Aboriginal Cemetery	[1860s]
85	Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve	[1863]
86	Wanderstore	c.1920s
87	Yarra Junction War Memorial	c.1920
88	Inverarity Mill	
89	Yarra Yarra hydraulic gold sluicing company	
90	Alpine Retreat Hotel	c.1920s
91	Sanitarium Health Foods	1930s
92	Ezards Sawmill	
93	Cement Creek plantation	c.1930s
94	Cumberland Scenic Reserve	1920s
95	Upper Yarra Dam	1957
96	Yarra Ranges National Park	
97	Yarra Track (Yarra Glen – Healesville section)	c.1860s
98	Old Federal Mill	

**Upper rural reach - Healesville to Upper Yarra Reservoir**

**Heritage Overlays & areas of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity**

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Urban extent
-  Yarra River Land
- Cultural and Heritage values**
-  Indicative places
-  Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
-  Heritage Overlay
-  Heritage Rivers



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Map 8 - Heritage overlays and areas of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity in the upper rural reach





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## Lower rural reach



## Land use and development

The Yarra River begins its journey in the forested upper reaches of the Baw Baw plateau in the Great Dividing Range east of Melbourne, and flows approximately 240 kilometres to its mouth at Port Phillip Bay.

Along the way the Yarra River traverses a rich variety of landscapes. This includes the Yarra Ranges National Park, the agricultural region of the Yarra Valley, the network of parklands and conservation areas that line the river through Melbourne's eastern residential suburbs, industrial areas along the inner city river flats, Melbourne's CBD, Docklands, and the Port.

Map 9 shows the character types found in the landscapes of the lower rural reach as well as the Yering Gorge water supply catchment area.

### Character types in the lower rural reach

The different ways in which land is used and developed, or retains its natural features, create a distinctive character for each area along the river corridor.

Map 2 shows the different character types within this reach, which have the following key features.

#### Bush residential

The bush residential character comprises low density residential areas within a distinctly bushy and natural setting. This includes areas on the northern side of the river at the Bend of Islands and around Sugarloaf Reservoir.

The Bend of Islands is a low density 'environmental living' enclave within this reach on the northern side of the river. Unique planning controls apply to this precinct through the Special Use Zone to ensure that the residential use of the land does not compromise its environmental sensitivity.

#### Parklands and recreation

The parklands and recreation character type comprises open spaces and recreation reserves that have a more formal landscape, which includes the Yarra Glen Recreation Reserve and golf courses in Yering and Coldstream.

There is limited public land fronting the river in this reach. As a result, many parts of the river have no direct access for the community, or must be accessed on-water.

#### Rural environment

This character type comprises the various agricultural areas along the river corridor.

Within this reach, the flat topography of the river's fertile floodplains have been used extensively for agriculture and there are large areas of cleared farmland. These areas are interspersed with heavy vegetation of mature native trees and understorey planting, particularly along waterway corridors. There are also networks of billabongs along the river through this agricultural land, and these have extremely high environmental and cultural value.

There are also areas of agricultural use on the higher, hilly ground around Warrandyte and Yering.

Agricultural and horticultural activities are major contributors to the local and regional economy and the stunning rural landscapes of the Yarra Valley are a key tourism drawcard.

#### Rural township

The township of Yarra Glen is the only built-up area within close proximity to the river. The larger town of Healesville is approximately one kilometre from the river.

#### Yarra River conservation

This character type includes the areas adjacent to the river around Warrandyte, Bend of Islands and Yering, as well as some pockets of land around Yarra Glen and Healesville. It includes the Warrandyte State Park and Spadonis Nature Conservation Reserve which have high recreational values for bushwalking and paddling.

#### Yering Gorge Drinking Water Catchment

The Yering Gorge water supply catchment flows from the Upper Yarra Dam wall, extending through to the Warrandyte area where water is pumped directly from the Yarra River to Sugarloaf reservoir and treated at Winneke Water Treatment Plant.





This water supply contributes 25% of Melbourne's total water demand and during the drought period, supplied around a third of the drinking water supply.

In the absence of formal protections of this drinking water supply catchment, there is a risk that source water quality will deteriorate in time due to unsustainable activities and incompatible land development.



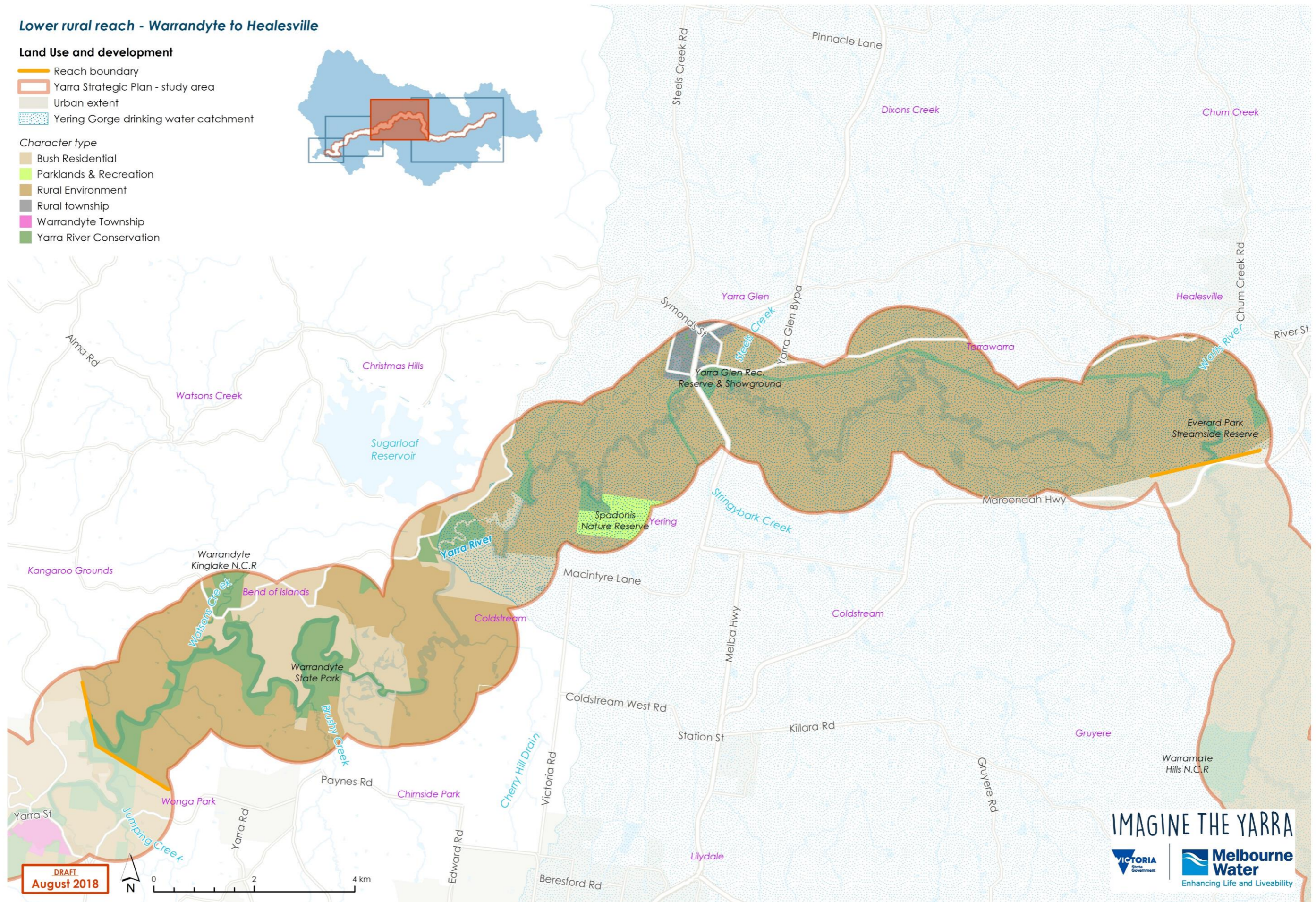
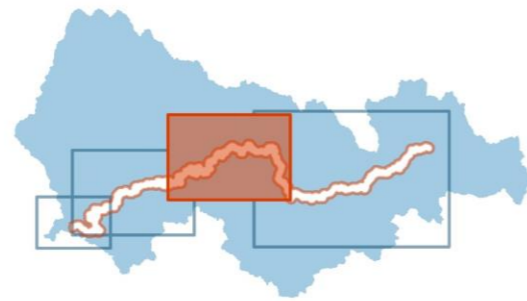
**Lower rural reach - Warrandyte to Healesville**

**Land Use and development**

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Urban extent
-  Yering Gorge drinking water catchment

**Character type**

-  Bush Residential
-  Parklands & Recreation
-  Rural Environment
-  Rural township
-  Warrandyte Township
-  Yarra River Conservation



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Map 9 - Land use and development in the lower rural reach

## Landscapes and views

The Yarra River is defined by a striking range of different landscapes as it journeys from its source to Port Phillip Bay. Some of these have been formally identified as significant landscapes and are protected in the Planning Scheme.

The Yarra Strategic Plan will identify significant views along the river corridor. Views are an important aspect of how the river is experienced and appreciated.

Landscapes of the lower rural reach include the fertile expanses of the Yarra Valley, framed by long-range views to surrounding mountain ranges.

Map 10 shows the Significant Landscape Overlay, Vegetation Protection Overlay, Environmental Significance Overlay and views in the lower rural reach.

### Significant Landscape Overlay

The Significant Landscape Overlay is applied to landscapes that have identified scenic and cultural value. Large areas of the Yarra River's landscape are protected through this overlay.

For most places areas within this overlay area, a permit is required to construct a building or remove vegetation. This is so to ensure the impact of future development on the scenic value of the landscape is taken into consideration.

### Significant landscapes in the lower rural reach

#### Upper Yarra River and environs

The Upper Yarra River and Environs landscape extends from the broad floodplains south of Yarra Glen and Healesville to the confined valley at the base of the Donna Buang Range near Warburton. The landscape also includes the upper reaches of the Yarra River east of Warburton and the forested valleys immediately upstream of the Upper Yarra Reservoir.

#### Yarra River Corridor environs

The Yarra River corridor links parklands and reserves into a near continuous vegetated landscape that provides a highly valued, secluded natural environment. It contains some of the most valued flora, fauna, geological and geomorphological assets in metropolitan Melbourne.

### Vegetation Protection Overlay

The Vegetation Protection Overlay is applied to places where significant trees or groups of vegetation exist. Much of this vegetation is important to the health of the Yarra River and its catchment.

### Significant vegetation in the lower rural reach

Areas covered by the Vegetation Protection Overlay in the lower rural reach have been identified as containing significant exotic, native or indigenous vegetation by the City of Manningham. They may be significant for their cultural, heritage, aesthetic or landscape contribution.

### Environmental Significance Overlay

The Environmental Significance Overlay is applied to places with particular environmental value. Many of these places are of intrinsic importance to the health of the Yarra River and its catchment.

### Environmentally significant areas in the lower rural reach

- Clifford Park/Bend of Islands
- Coldstream West Billabong
- Eucalyptus crenulata stand (Yering)
- Eucalyptus yarraensis stands (Coldstream, Yarra Glen districts)
- Everard Park
- Henley Road to Watsons Creek

- Spadonis Reserve
- Stane Brae/Blue Tongue Bend
- Sugarloaf Reservoir
- Watsons Creek Catchment and Yarra Ridge (east of Skyline Road)
- Yarra River and Little Yarra River Corridor
- Yering Flats
- Yering Gorge

More information on planning scheme overlays can be found at [planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/)

### Views

Viewpoints that offer a special place to experience the river have been identified. These include viewing platforms, lookout points and other key locations.

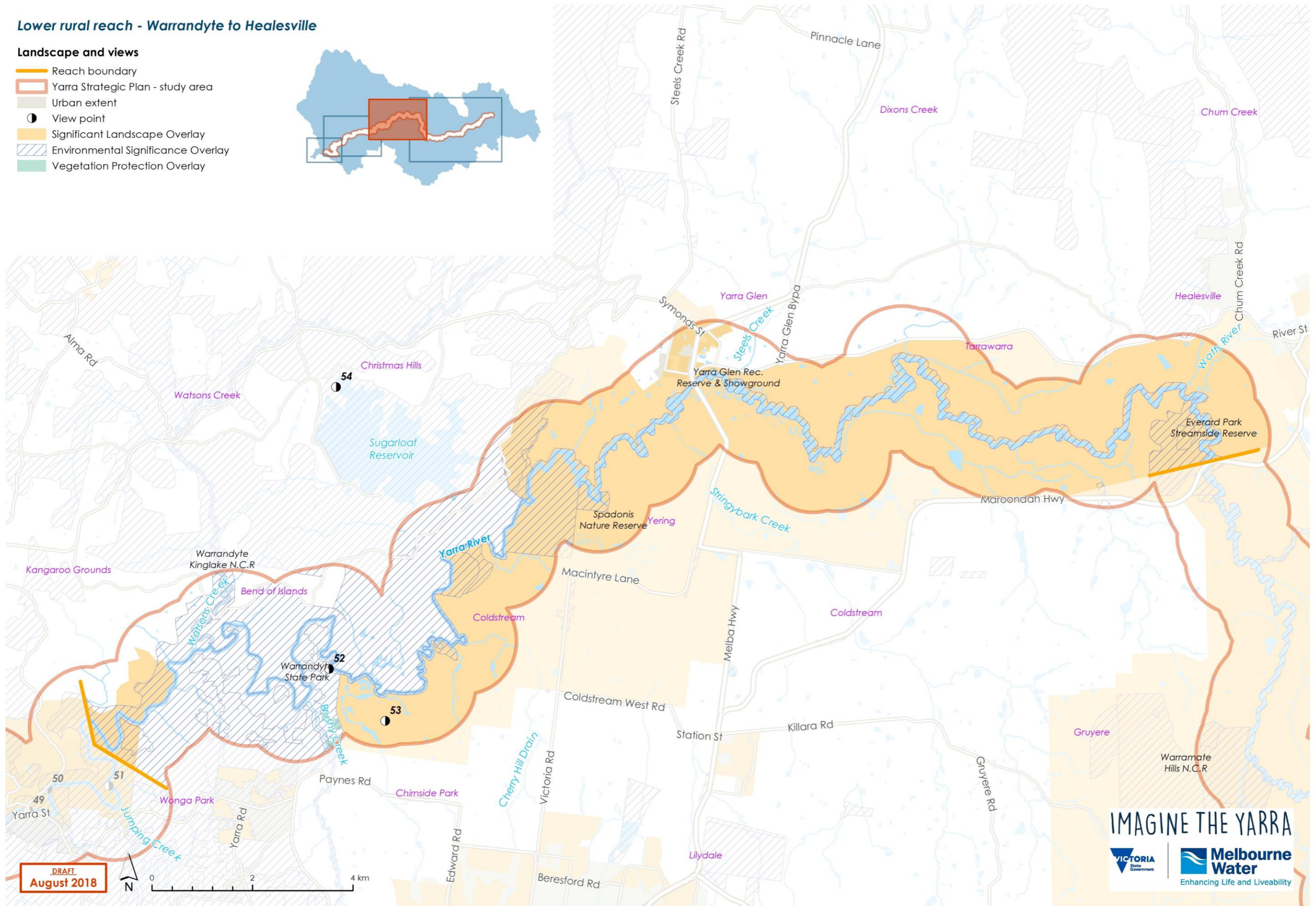
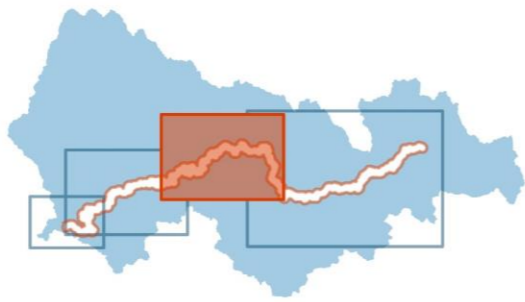
The waterway itself and the recreational trails that run alongside many parts of the river corridor provide opportunities to experience dynamic views of the river – views that can be obtained while moving and journeying through the river's landscapes.

ID	View name
52	Warrandyte State Park
53	Chirnside Park
54	Sugarloaf Reservoir Park

**Lower rural reach - Warrandyte to Healesville**

**Landscape and views**

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Urban extent
-  View point
-  Significant Landscape Overlay
-  Environmental Significance Overlay
-  Vegetation Protection Overlay



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Map 10 - Landscapes and views in the lower rural reach

## Open space networks

There are 7,795 hectares of diverse parklands and public open spaces along the Yarra River. Within the lower rural reach, this includes 654 hectares of wilderness areas, parklands and recreational spaces which are of high environmental and cultural significance.

Map 11 shows parklands, tracks and trails and Yarra River Land in the lower rural reach.

### Yarra River Land

Yarra River Land is the Yarra River, including its bed, soil and banks, as well as publicly managed land within 500m of a bank of the river. Significant areas of Yarra River Land in the lower rural reach include Yarra Glen Recreational Reserve and Showground, Spadonis Nature Conservation Reserve, Yering Gorge Bushland Reserve, Warrandyte State Park and the Yarra Valley Tourist Railway.

### Tracks and trails in the lower rural reach

#### Market Garden Track and Lucerne Paddock Track

The Market Garden Track is a gated fire management track through the Yarra Brae section of the Warrandyte State Park. It meets the Lucerne Paddock Track at Bend of Isles on the Yarra River.

### Parklands in the lower rural reach

#### Spadonis Nature Conservation Reserve

Spadonis Nature Conservation Reserve lies along the Yarra River upstream from Yering. It contains walking trails, a billabong and wetlands as well as views to Christmas Hills and Yarra Ranges.

#### Everard Park Streamside Reserve

Everard Park Streamside Reserve is a bushland reserve located on the Maroondah Highway, adjacent to the Yarra River. It is a popular spot for canoeing, fishing and walking as it has easy access to the river.

#### Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve

Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve is located near Bend of Islands. Watsons and Stevensons Creeks flow through this reserve. There are many walking trails in the reserve.

#### Yering Gorge Bushland Reserve

Yering Gorge Bushland Reserve is a protected area along the Yarra River through Yering Gorge. There are walking tracks through woodlands where native flora and fauna can be seen. Visitors can experience views of the Yarra River and Christmas Hills.

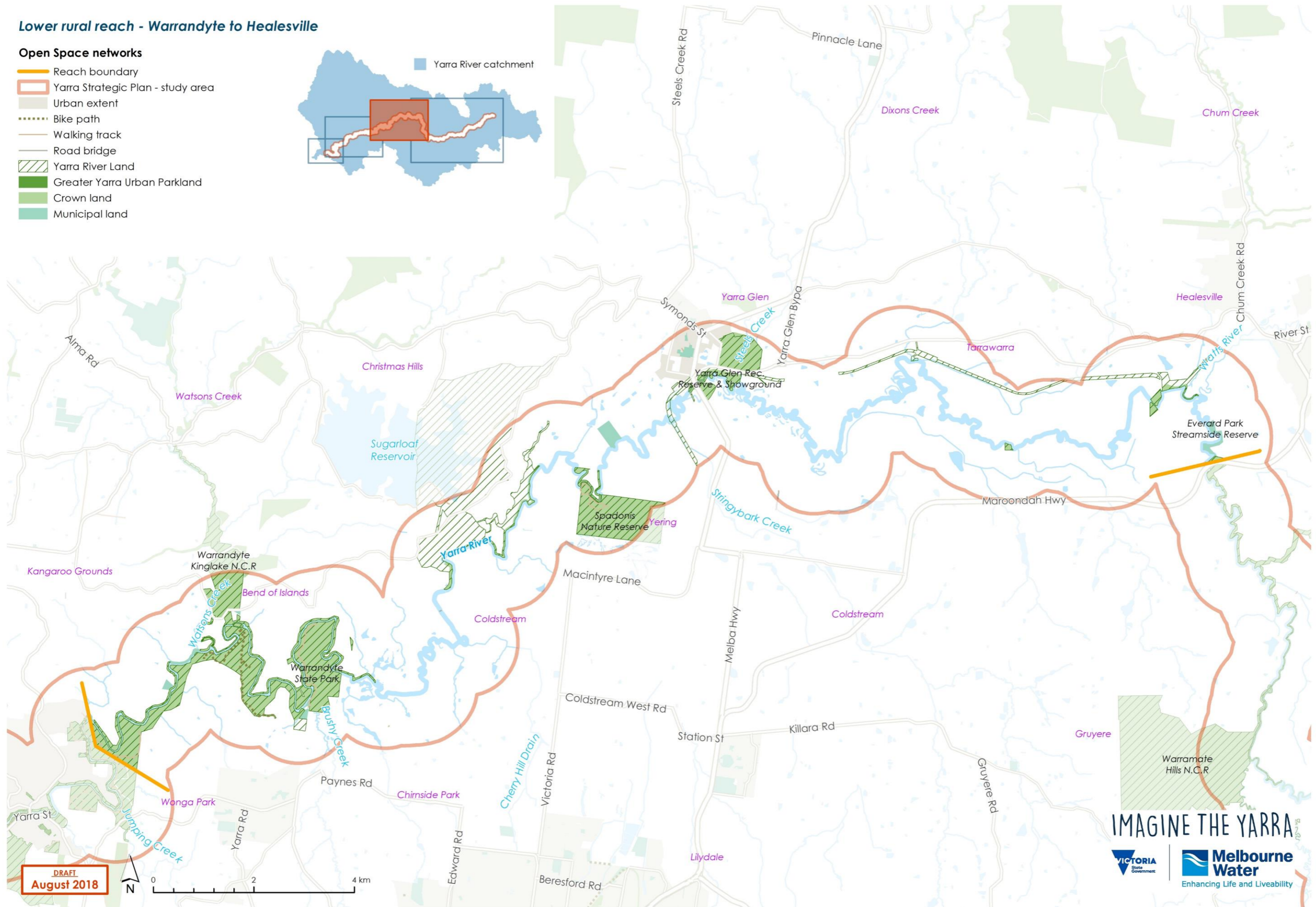
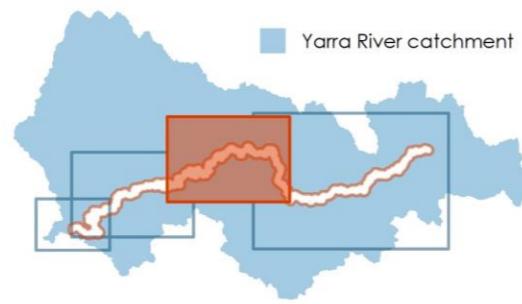
#### Warrandyte State Park

The closest state park to Melbourne, Warrandyte is a haven for picnickers, bushwalkers, canoeists and birdwatchers. The lightly wooded landscape is dominated by the Yarra River as it winds through the Warrandyte Gorge.

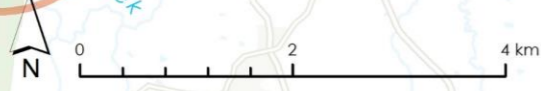
**Lower rural reach - Warrandyte to Healesville**

**Open Space networks**

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Urban extent
-  Bike path
-  Walking track
-  Road bridge
-  Yarra River Land
-  Greater Yarra Urban Parkland
-  Crown land
-  Municipal land



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Map 11 - Open space networks in the lower rural reach

## Access networks

The Yarra Strategic Plan will consider all the ways in which people access the river and the areas along the river. This includes walking, cycling, on-water transport (paddling, motorboats), public transport and vehicle access. The extensive parklands along parts of the river also often provide direct access to the water.

The plan will also consider areas where limiting access is suitable in order to protect the natural environment.

Access networks through the river corridor in the lower rural reach are more limited than the downstream reaches. There are only localised tracks and trails through a limited number of parklands and some off-road trails may be unmapped.

Map 12 shows tracks and trails, gaps in trails, public transport, on-water access and carparks in the lower rural reach.

### Tracks and trails in the lower rural reach

#### Market Garden Track and Lucerne Paddock Track

The Market Garden Track is a gated fire management track through the Yarra Brae section of the Warrandyte State Park. It meets the Lucerne Paddock Track at Bend of Isles on the Yarra River.

### Gaps in trails in the lower rural reach

Areas highlighted in green represent gaps in track and trail access to the river. The map shows that there are significant gaps in access to the river in the lower rural reach. Only areas such as Warrandyte State Park and Spadonis Nature Reserve have mapped tracks which allow access to the river.

### Public transport in the lower rural reach

There is limited public transport access to the river. Healesville may be accessed via a metro bus service from Lilydale. The Yarra Valley Tourist Railway operates between Lilydale Station and Healesville via Yarra Glen.

### On-water access in the lower rural reach

In certain sections of the river, there is informal access for recreational water uses – only one formal boat ramp exists in this reach at Mt Lofty in Wonga Park.

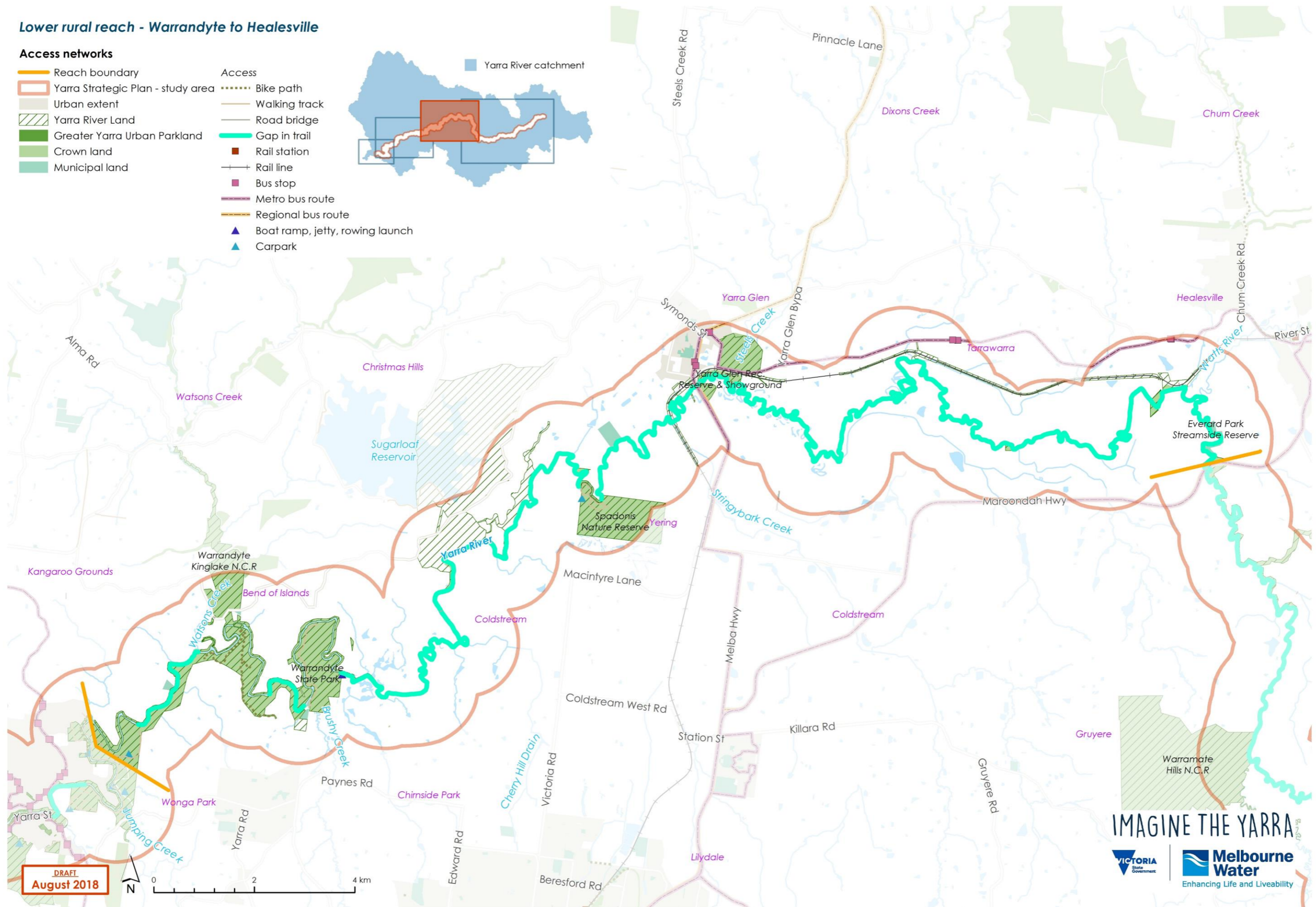
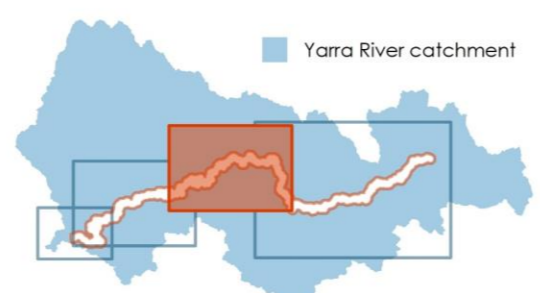
### Carparks in the lower rural reach

Carparks have been identified at Spadonis Reserve and Stanbrae Reserve.

## Lower rural reach - Warrandyte to Healesville

### Access networks

- Reach boundary
  - Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
  - Urban extent
  - Yarra River Land
  - Greater Yarra Urban Parkland
  - Crown land
  - Municipal land
- 
- Access**
  - Bike path
  - Walking track
  - Road bridge
  - Gap in trail
  - Rail station
  - Rail line
  - Bus stop
  - Metro bus route
  - Regional bus route
  - Boat ramp, jetty, rowing launch
  - Carpark



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Map 12 - Access networks in the lower rural reach

## Tourism, activities and events

There are many different ways in which people like to experience the Yarra River.

In the year ending March 2018, 1.1 million people visited the Yarra Valley, which represents 4% of all visitors to Victoria. This is a 23% increase from the previous year. This shows that the Yarra Valley is a tourism hot spot for Victoria and provides significant contributions to the economy.

Map 13 shows community activities and key tourist destinations in the lower rural reach.

### Community activities in the lower rural reach

Community activities include cultural events, festivals, markets and sports events in the river corridor. Examples in the lower rural reach are Wonga Park Farmers Market, Yarra Valley Farmers Market and Healesville Organic Farmers Market.

### Key tourist destinations in the lower rural reach

Activities, wineries, natural features and key precincts in the corridor that are tourist destinations have been identified using Council data and research.

#### Activities

- Gardiners Run Golf Course
- Lilydale-Warburton Rail Trail
- Yarra Valley Dairy
- Yarra Valley Racing
- Hot Air Ballooning

- Yarra Valley Chocolaterie
- Tarrawarra Abbey
- TarraWarra Museum of Art
- Yarra Valley Railway
- Silvermist Studio

#### Natural features

- Yering Gorge Bushland Reserve
- Alowyn Gardens
- Lubra Bend Garden
- Maroondah Reservoir Park








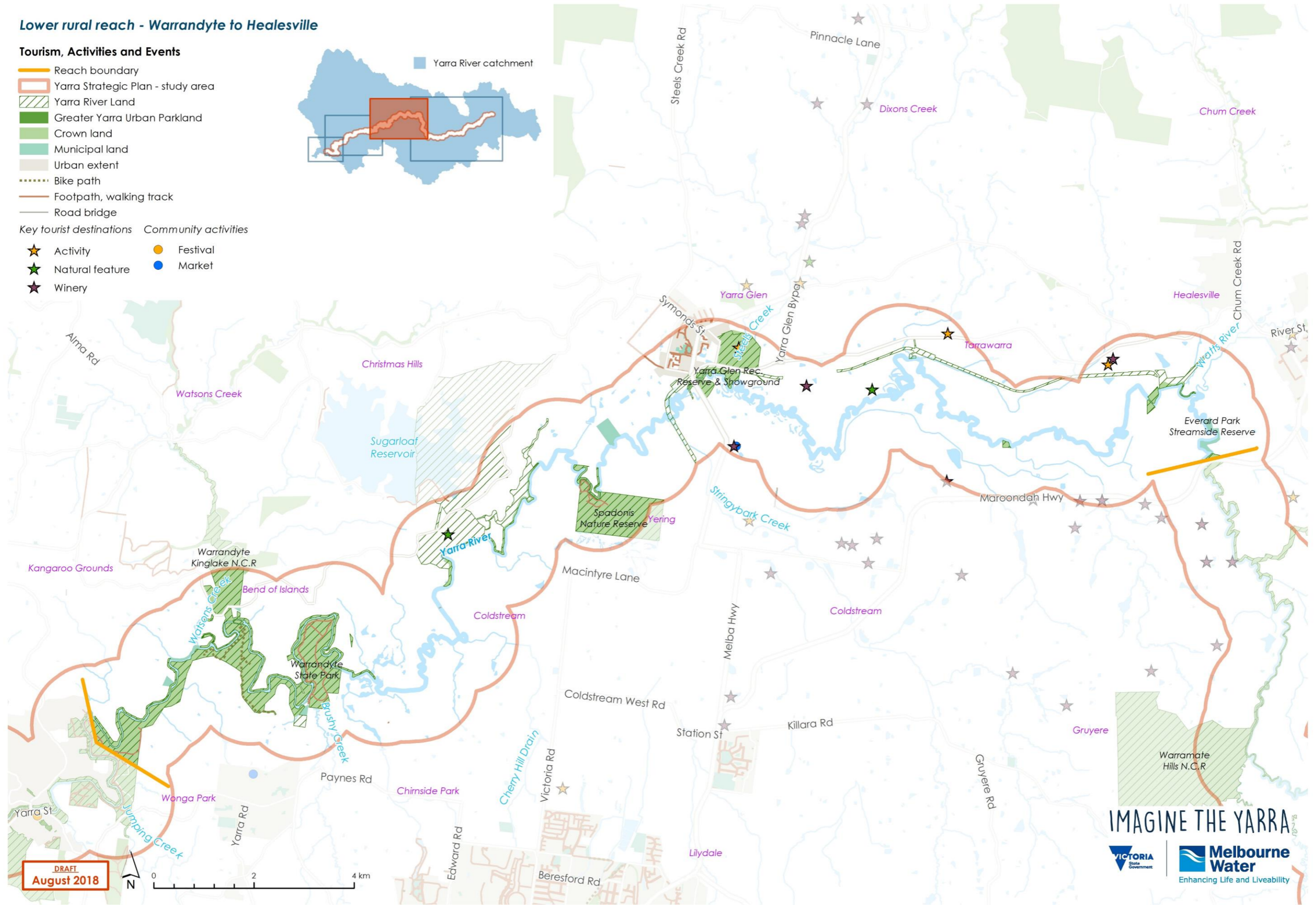
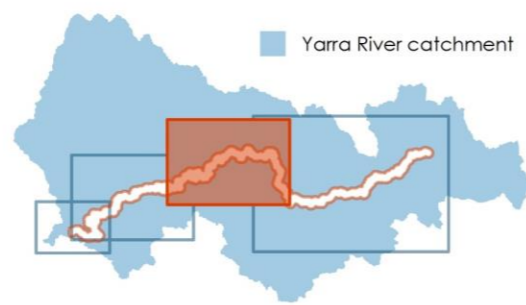
**Lower rural reach - Warrandyte to Healesville**

**Tourism, Activities and Events**

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Yarra River Land
-  Greater Yarra Urban Parkland
-  Crown land
-  Municipal land
-  Urban extent
-  Bike path
-  Footpath, walking track
-  Road bridge

**Key tourist destinations**    **Community activities**

-  Activity
-  Festival
-  Natural feature
-  Market
-  Winery



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Map 13 - Tourism, activities and events in the lower rural reach

## River health and amenity

Part of the Yarra Strategic Plan is to identify areas of high environmental value to be protected. The priority areas shown on the adjacent map are drawn from the *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)*.

Community input to the *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* has been invaluable in creating collective targets and performance objectives. Visit <https://yoursay.melbournwater.com.au/Yarra-catchment> for more information.

Map 14 shows priority stormwater sub-catchments, 10 year priority vegetation areas and the Environmental Significance Overlay in the lower rural reach.

### Healthy Waterways Strategy

An example of the performance objectives that are being developed for the *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* include:

- Reduce impacts of stormwater on waterways; focus on urban growth and rural townships
- Improve condition and extent of riparian vegetation in rural and urban areas by protecting high quality vegetation, managing threats and building resilience
- Improve environmental flows and protect drought refuges in the context of climate change
- Reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from rural land and areas of urban development; ensure no net increase in nutrient and sediment loads to protect the health of Port Phillip Bay
- Traditional Owners are supported to recognise, protect and promote intangible and tangible cultural values and to have a role in protecting and improving waterways
- Address significant risks to values from pollution (water quality) from emerging contaminants of concern such as microplastics, pesticides and pharmaceuticals.

### Priority stormwater sub-catchments in the lower rural reach

The *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* has identified priority areas for stormwater harvesting and infiltration. In the lower rural reach this includes areas of Healesville and Yarra Glen.

### 10 year priority vegetation

The *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* has identified priority areas to establish and maintain vegetated buffers on waterways. The Yarra River and its tributaries have all been identified as priorities.

### Environmental Significance Overlay

The Environmental Significance Overlay is applied to places with particular environmental value. Many of these places are of intrinsic importance to the health of the Yarra River and its catchment.




### Environmentally significant areas in the lower rural reach

- Clifford Park/Bend of Islands
- Coldstream West Billabong
- Eucalyptus crenulata stand (Yering)
- Eucalyptus yarraensis stands (Coldstream, Yarra Glen districts)
- Everard Park
- Henley Road to Watsons Creek
- Spadonis Reserve
- Stane Brae/Blue Tongue Bend
- Sugarloaf Reservoir
- Watsons Creek Catchment and Yarra Ridge (east of Skyline Road)
- Yarra River and Little Yarra River Corridor
- Yering Flats
- Yering Gorge



More information on planning scheme overlays can be found at [planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/)

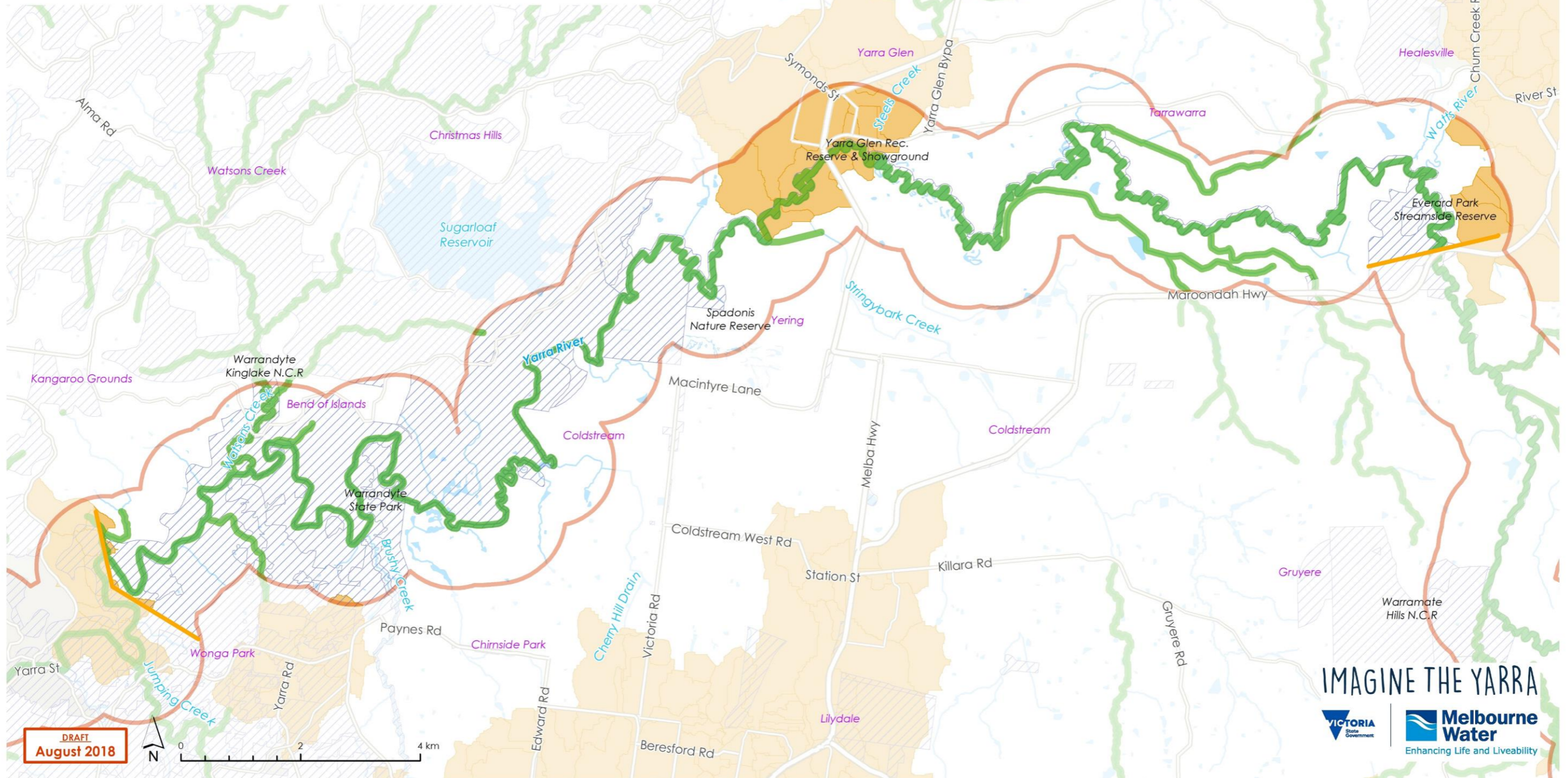
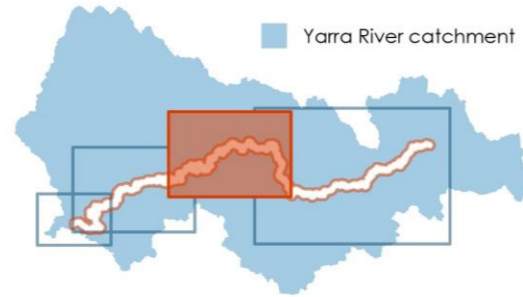
**Lower rural reach - Warrandyte to Healesville**

**River health and amenity**

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Urban extent

**Environmental values**

-  10 year priority vegetation
-  Environmental Significance Overlay
-  Priority Stormwater Subcatchment



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Map 14 - River health and amenity in the lower rural reach

## Heritage Overlay and Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Sensitivity

Culture and heritage considers the way in which people have related to the river and its landscapes over time. It includes the relationship of Traditional Owners to the land and the river, which spans tens of thousands of years.

It also considers the river's role in shaping the history of Melbourne and surrounding rural areas since the time of settlement.

Map 15 shows the Heritage Overlay, Victorian Heritage Register, areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity, Heritage Rivers and some key sites of cultural heritage importance in the lower rural reach.

### Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity are registered Aboriginal cultural heritage places. They include landforms and land categories that are regarded as containing Aboriginal cultural heritage.

All land within 200m of the banks of rivers and larger watercourses is designated as places of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity. This reflects the importance that water plays in Aboriginal cultural heritage and practice, both historically and contemporarily.

The designation of cultural sensitivity means that a permit and cultural heritage management plan are required for proposals that disturb the ground in these areas.

<https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/>

### Victorian Heritage Register

The Victorian Heritage Register lists the State's most significant heritage places, objects and historic shipwrecks protected under the *Heritage Act 1995*.

Heritage places or objects listed on the Victorian Heritage Register are important to understanding the history of Victoria and designated to be of State level significance.

Heritage Victoria, the State Government heritage authority, is responsible for issuing permits to modify these heritage places.

<https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/about-heritage-in-victoria/heritage-in-victoria>

### Heritage Overlay

The Heritage Overlay is applied to places that have been identified as having heritage significance. It can be applied to buildings, trees, gardens or infrastructure (such as bridges). The Heritage Overlay requires that a permit is obtained to demolish or modify the heritage place. Most of these places have been identified as having heritage significance through a Council heritage study.

More information on planning scheme overlays can be found at [planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/)

### Heritage Rivers

This reach has a large section declared as a Heritage River at Warrandyte and several small sections also with this designation leading towards Healesville. Heritage rivers or particular parts of rivers and river catchment areas in Victoria were designated where there was considered to be significant nature conservation, recreation, scenic or cultural heritage attributes.

### Indicative sites in the lower rural reach

The indicative sites shown on the map and listed in the table below are representative examples of the different types of sites that have been identified as significant in the river's history within the lower rural reach. They mostly represent different periods in the river's colonial heritage and include sites related to farming, landscapes and trees, transport and tourism, and water supply.











Site ID	Site Name	Period
74	Neil Douglas and Helen (Abbie) Heathcote house	1970s
75	Burns house ('Kangaroo')	c.1970s
76	Sugarloaf Reservoir	
77	Yering Station camping site	
78	Yering Station	c.1850s
79	Gulf Station	c.1840s
80	Yarra Glen to Healesville narrow gauge railway	
81	The Elms slab cottage	c.1840+
82	Notre Dame Abbey, Tarrawarra	c.1918; 1957+
83	Balance, Yeringberg	1860s+

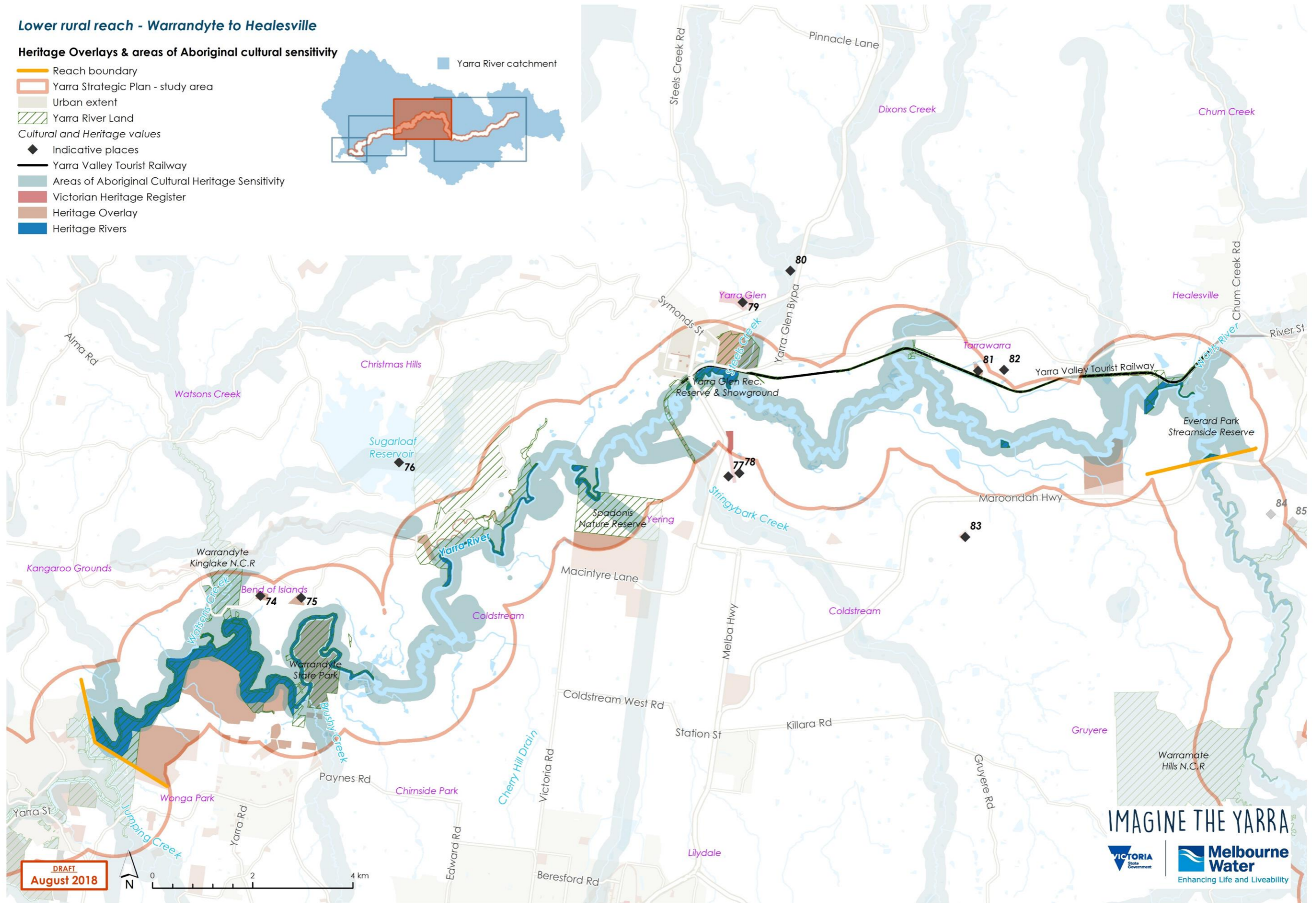
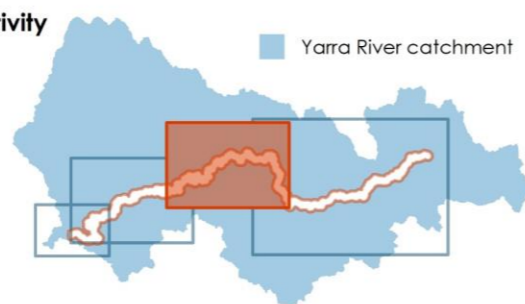
There are recorded sites of Aboriginal heritage in this reach, which include camping sites, artefact scatters and scarred trees.

The Yarra Valley Tourist Railway reservation is located on the former Lilydale to Healesville line. Several historic timber trestle bridges remain today.

**Lower rural reach - Warrandyte to Healesville**

**Heritage Overlays & areas of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity**

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Urban extent
-  Yarra River Land
- Cultural and Heritage values**
-  Indicative places
-  Yarra Valley Tourist Railway
-  Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
-  Victorian Heritage Register
-  Heritage Overlay
-  Heritage Rivers



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Map 15 - Heritage overlays and areas of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity in the lower rural reach





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# Suburban reach



## Land use and development

The Yarra River begins its journey in the forested upper reaches of the Baw Baw plateau in the Great Dividing Range east of Melbourne, and flows approximately 240 kilometres to its mouth at Port Phillip Bay.

Along the way the Yarra River traverses a rich variety of landscapes. This includes the Yarra Ranges National Park, the agricultural region of the Yarra Valley, the network of parklands and conservation areas that line the river through Melbourne's eastern residential suburbs, industrial areas along the inner city river flats, Melbourne's CBD, Docklands, and the Port.

Map 16 shows the character types that form the landscapes of the suburban reach as well as areas for urban renewal and activity centres.

### Character Types

The different ways in which land is used and developed with buildings, or retains its natural features, create a distinctive character for each area along the river corridor.

The map shows the different character types within this reach, which have the following key features.

#### Character types in the suburban reach

##### Rural environment character type

This character type comprises the various pastoral areas along the river corridor. It includes areas of cleared farmland, interspersed with heavy vegetation of mature native trees and understorey planting, particularly along the river and other waterway corridors. Buildings are mostly obscured from view from the river. In the suburban reach this includes areas around Warrandyte, North Warrandyte, Templestowe and Lower Plenty.

##### Warrandyte township character type

The historic Warrandyte township is small activity centre of buildings and recreational spaces at the river's edge.

##### Bush residential character type

The bush residential character comprises low density residential areas within a distinctly bushy and 'natural' setting. This includes areas located around Warrandyte and North Warrandyte, Templestowe and Lower Plenty.

##### Parklands and recreation character type

The parklands and recreation character type includes open spaces and recreation reserves that have a more formal landscape. In the suburban reach this character type is made up of Westerfolds Park, Birrarung Park, Banyule Flats Reserve, Yarra Flats and Yarra Bend Park.

It also includes the many golf courses which have been developed on the river's floodplain, which also support high recreational and environmental values.

##### Leafy suburban character type

Characterised by low density suburban development, these areas display a strong tree canopy across most neighbourhoods and well-developed understorey planting. While the river's environment has been substantially modified in these areas, the predominant leafy green character of these residential neighbourhoods, set among the extensive areas of parkland, are respectful of the river's natural landscape, given this urban context.

Viewbank, Heidelberg, Templestowe Lower, Bulleen, Ivanhoe, Alphington and Kew are all included in this character type.

##### Yarra River conservation character type

From Warrandyte to Templestowe, large areas of State and National Park have seen the conservation of natural bushland along the river corridor. These conservation areas are interspersed with low density rural landholdings which retain a strong bush character.

This character type also includes the low-lying wetland areas of Banyule Flats, Yarra Flats and the Bolin Bolin Billablong, all of which have extremely high conservation and cultural values. These places serve as invaluable refuges for wildlife within the built-up suburban environment.

##### Areas for urban renewal

Areas with the potential for urban revitalisation or renewal that may interface with, influence or be influenced by the Yarra River have been identified. These are places which are either underutilised or present a poor interface with the river that could be improved.

Urban renewal areas represent a significant opportunity to revitalise areas adjacent to or within proximity to the Yarra River, acknowledging the river's role as a centrepiece in the history and continued success of Melbourne. They are also key opportunities to facilitate future growth.

Within the suburban reach, the industrial area at the river's edge at Banksia Street in Bulleen presents a significant opportunity to improve this interface with the river and the adjoining parklands.

##### Activity centres

Activity centres are hubs where people shop, work, meet, relax and often live. Activity centres need to be well connected by all forms of transport and provide a broad range of goods and services focusing on mixed-use development including retail, commercial and residential. They usually feature a higher density of development and are the focus for increased growth and change under the State Government's metropolitan strategy *Plan Melbourne*.

Within the suburban reach, there are two major activity centres:

- Heidelberg major activity centre, the eastern most part of which lies adjacent to the parkland corridor of the Yarra River.
- Kew Junction major activity centre, which lies approximately 1 kilometre from the river.

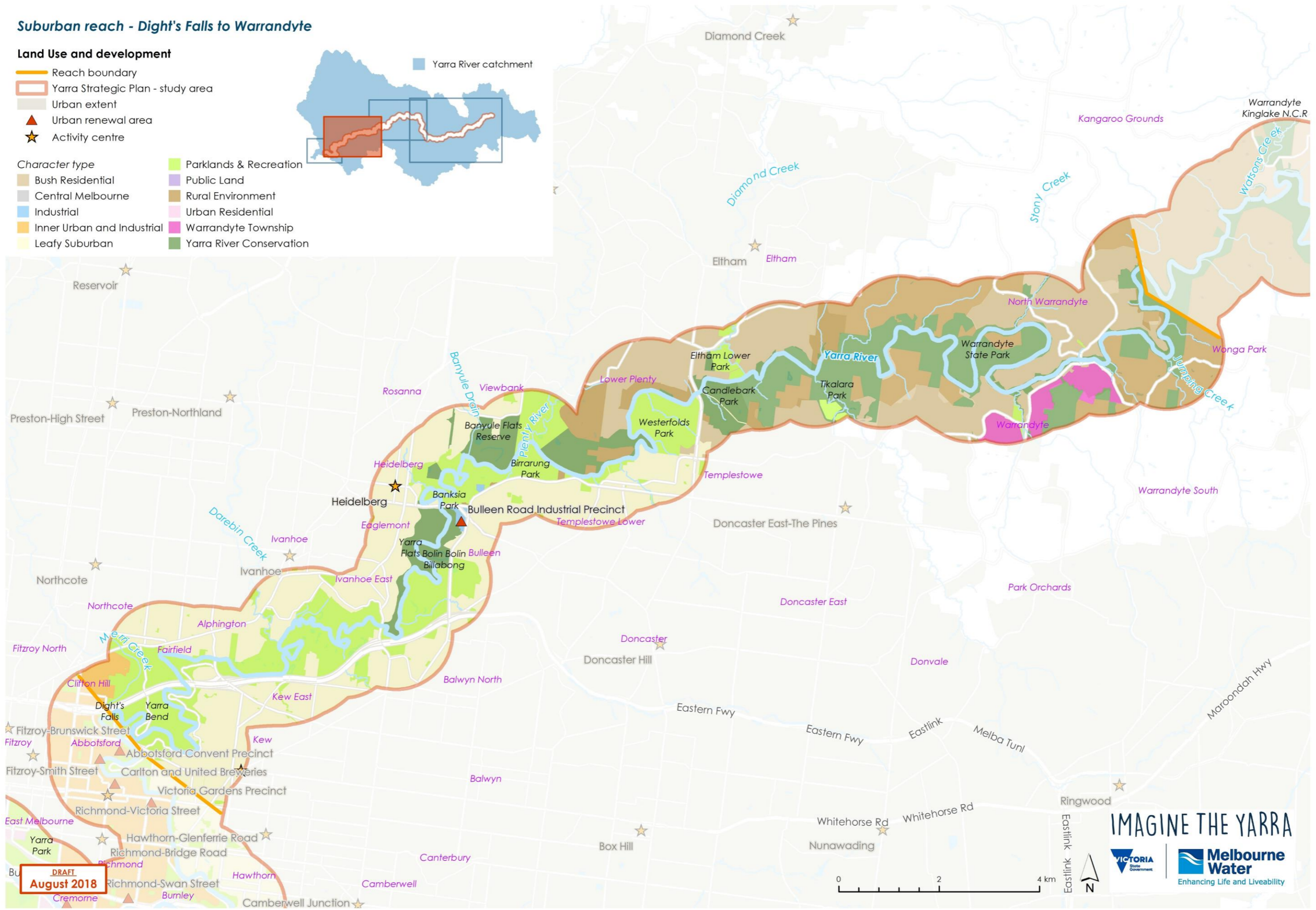
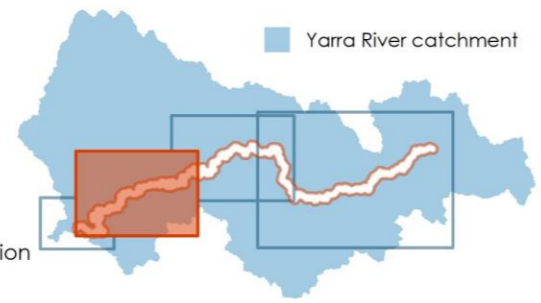


**Suburban reach - Dight's Falls to Warrandyte**

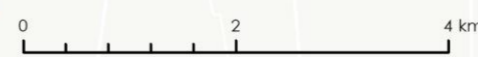
**Land Use and development**

- Reach boundary
- Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
- Urban extent
- Urban renewal area
- Activity centre

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Parklands & Recreation     | Public Land              |
| Bush Residential           | Rural Environment        |
| Central Melbourne          | Urban Residential        |
| Industrial                 | Warrandyte Township      |
| Inner Urban and Industrial | Yarra River Conservation |
| Leafy Suburban             |                          |



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Map 16 - Land use and development in the suburban reach

## Landscapes and views

The Yarra River is defined by a striking range of different landscapes as it journeys from its source to Port Phillip Bay. Some of these have been formally identified as significant landscapes and are protected in the Planning Scheme.

The Yarra Strategic Plan will identify significant views along the river corridor. Views are an important aspect of how the river is experienced and appreciated.

Landscapes of the suburban reach are defined by the near-continuous network of open spaces and parklands that line the river's banks from Warrandyte into the city.

Map 17 shows the Significant Landscape Overlay, Environmental Significance Overlay, Vegetation Protection Overlay and views in the suburban reach.

### Significant Landscape Overlay

The Significant Landscape Overlay is applied to landscapes that have identified scenic and cultural value. Large areas of the Yarra River's landscape are protected through this overlay.

For most places within this overlay area, a permit is required to construct a building or remove vegetation. This is to ensure the impact of future development on the scenic value of the landscape is taken into consideration

### Significant landscapes in the suburban reach

#### Yarra River Corridor Environs

The Yarra River corridor links parklands and reserves into a near continuous vegetated landscape that provides a highly valued, secluded natural environment. It contains some of the most valued flora, fauna, geological and geomorphological assets in metropolitan Melbourne.

#### Bush residential areas

These areas have a natural bush setting, where native vegetation dominates the skyline and gardens are mostly indigenous and native plantings combined with remnant vegetation. Buildings in these areas are sited so as to minimise disruption to the land form and to native vegetation and are generally obscured from the street.

#### Low density residential areas

Key elements of the landscape include the natural character, native and exotic vegetation, panoramic views and watercourses. The visual impacts of housing and development are softened by vegetation cover.

#### Watercourse areas

The rivers and creeks are of visual, landscape, environmental, heritage and recreational significance. Watercourses are important natural assets, creating a sense of remoteness and providing habitat for wildlife.

### Vegetation Protection Overlay

The Vegetation Protection Overlay is applied to places where significant trees or groups of vegetation exist. Much of this vegetation is important to the health of the Yarra River and its catchment.

### Significant vegetation in the suburban reach

The Vegetation Protection Overlay in the suburban reach covers areas such as Heidelberg, Eaglemont, Ivanhoe, Ivanhoe East and the Plenty River. Vegetation is an integral part of the character of these predominantly residential areas. It provides habitat for birds and other wildlife and links these areas to the Yarra River corridor.

### Environmental Significance Overlay

The Environmental Significance Overlay is applied to places with particular environmental value. Many of these places are of intrinsic importance to the health of the Yarra River and its catchment.

### Environmentally significant areas in the suburban reach

- Bailey Billabong
- Banyule Flats
- Black Flat
- Bolin Bolin Billabong
- Candlebark Park
- Darebin Parklands
- Hays Paddock
- Jumping Creek
- Koonung Creek
- Laughing Waters
- Longridge Farm
- Mullum Confluence
- Naughton Avenue, Warrandyte
- Plenty River
- Pound Bend
- Ruffey Creek
- Warrandyte State Park
- Warringal Swamplands
- Westerfolds Park
- Willesmere Lagoon
- Yarra Bend Park

More information on planning scheme overlays can be found at [planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/)

### Views

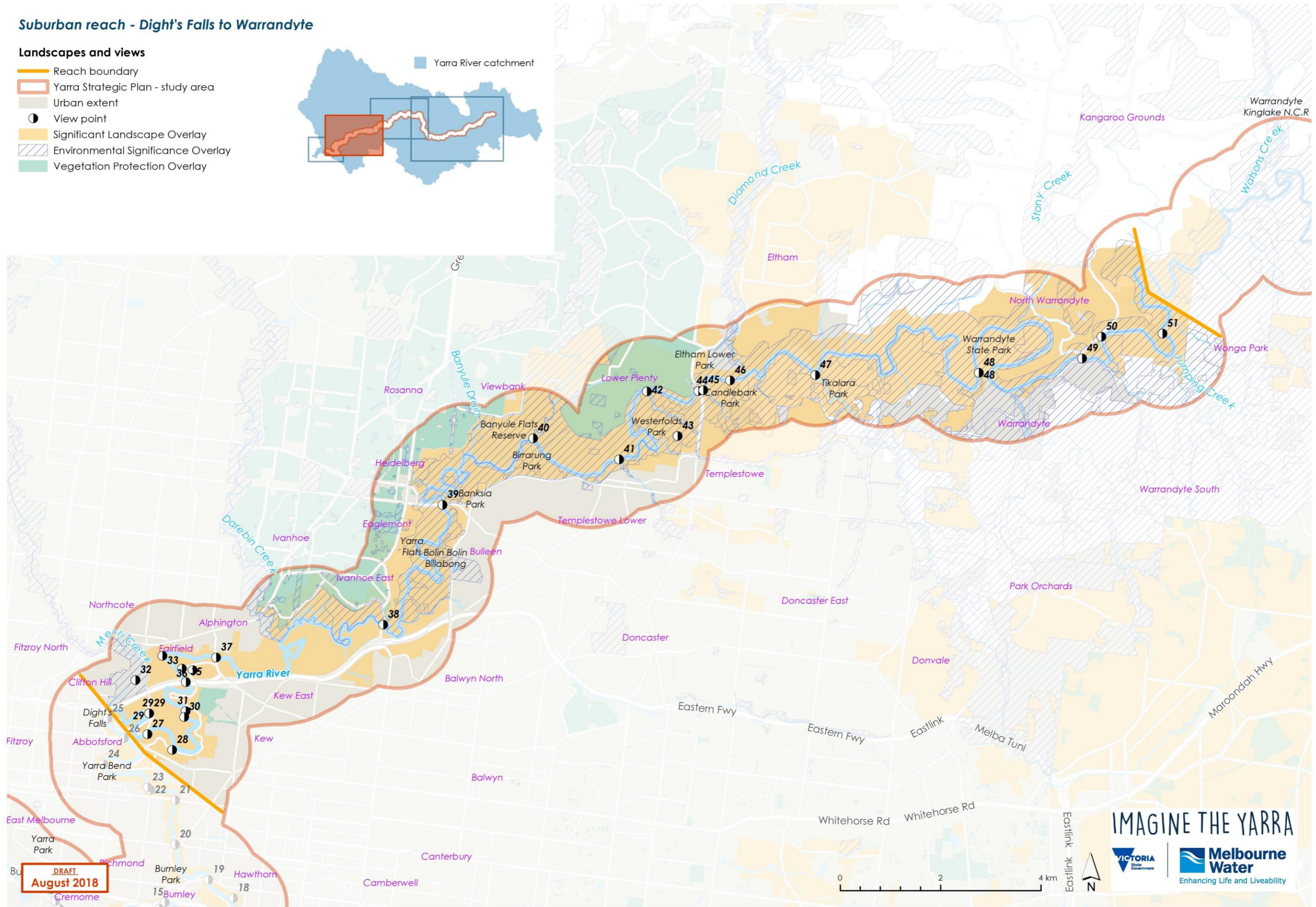
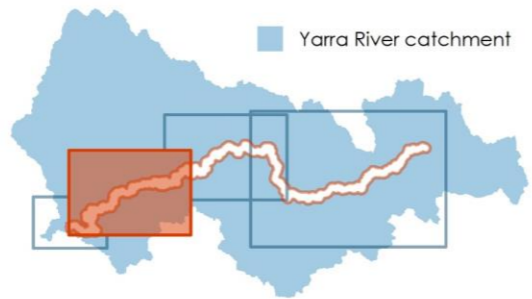
Viewpoints along the river corridor that offer a special place to experience the river have been identified. These places include viewing platforms, lookout points and other key locations.

ID	View name
27	Kanes Bridge Viewing Platform
28	Caratis Christi Lookout
29	Yarra Bend Park - Loop Area Golf House Lookout
30	Bellbird River Lookout / Pier
31	Grey Headed Flying Fox Viewing Platform - Bellbird
32	Merri Creek Lookout
33	Fairfield Pipe Bridge
34	Wurundjeri Spur Lookout
35	Eastern Freeway Bridge
36	Unknown
37	Chandler Highway Bridge
38	Burke Road Bridge
39	Banksia Street
40	Yarra River and Plenty River Confluence
41	Finns Reserve suspension bridge
42	Westerfolds western-most Rapids Observation
43	Manor House Viewing Platform
44	Fitzsimons Lane
45	Westerfolds - Candle Bark Park River Lookout
46	Diamond Creek Trail pedestrian bridge
47	Tikalara Park viewing platform
48	Pound Bend Reserve - Tunnel Viewing Lookout
49	Kangaroo Ground-Warrandyte Road
50	100 Steps Lookout Platform
51	Jumping Creek Reserve Viewing Platform

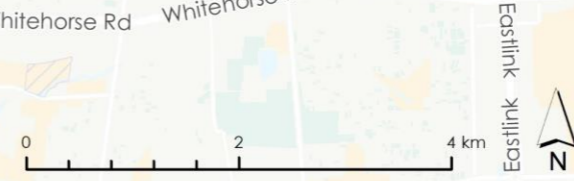
**Suburban reach - Dight's Falls to Warrandyte**

**Landscapes and views**

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Urban extent
-  View point
-  Significant Landscape Overlay
-  Environmental Significance Overlay
-  Vegetation Protection Overlay



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Map 17 - Landscapes and views in the suburban reach

## Open space networks

There are 7,795 hectares of diverse parklands and public open spaces along the Yarra River.

Within the suburban reach, there are 2128 hectares of parks and open spaces. This includes bushland parks, landscaped areas, playgrounds, sporting facilities, golf courses, conservation areas and the Warrandyte State Park.

Map 18 shows parklands, tracks and trails, and Yarra River Land in the suburban reach.

### Yarra River Land

Yarra River Land is the Yarra River, including its bed, soil and banks, as well as publicly managed land within 500m of a bank of the river. Areas of Yarra River Land in the suburban reach include all of the extensive parkland along the river such as Warrandyte State Park and Westerfolds Park.

### Greater Yarra Urban Parklands

The Greater Yarra Urban Parklands includes Yarra River land that is used as public open space or as a park, and is within a municipal council district between Punt Road in South Yarra and the urban growth boundary in Warrandyte.

### Tracks and trails in the suburban reach

#### Main Yarra Trail

Main Yarra Trail is a 33km shared use path which follows the Yarra River from Westerfolds Park in Templestowe to Southbank in the CBD.

#### Koonung Creek Trail

Koonung Creek Trail is a shared use path which has good connections to on-road paths, and links directly to the Main Yarra Trail and the EastLink Trail.

#### Diamond Creek Trail

Diamond Creek Trail is a shared use path which follows Diamond Creek to Eltham, where it joins the Main Yarra Trail.

### Parklands in the suburban reach

#### Warrandyte State Park

The closest state park to Melbourne, Warrandyte is a haven for picnickers, bushwalkers, canoeists and birdwatchers. The lightly wooded landscape is dominated by the Yarra River as it winds through the Warrandyte Gorge.

#### Tikalara Park

Tikalara Park is located where the Mullum Mullum Creek and the Yarra River join. The reserve provides flora and fauna, sport, informal recreation, linear park and unstructured nature play.

#### Candlebark Park

Candlebark Park is at the western boundary of the Yarra Valley Parklands conservation zone and is an important environmental link between Warrandyte and the Lower Yarra area.

#### Westerfolds Park

Situated beside the Yarra River in Templestowe, Westerfolds Park offers over 120 hectares of bushland and parkland perfect for picnicking, cycling, walking and canoeing.

#### Banyule Flats Reserve

Banyule Flats Reserve is located in Viewbank. The 46.47 hectare reserve is bordered by the Yarra River to the south and connects to the Yarra Valley Parklands on its eastern boundary and Warringal Parklands on its western boundary.

#### Warringal Parklands

Warringal Parklands is located in Heidelberg and is approximately 35.50 hectares in size. The parklands provide a multitude of sporting and recreational facilities for walkers, cyclists, dog owners, bird watchers and families.

#### Banksia Park

Banksia Park contains open space, playgrounds and picnic areas making it a popular location for families, cyclists, joggers and walkers.

#### Bulleen Park

Bulleen Park provides a combination of sport and recreation opportunities, including football, soccer, cricket and archery, and a high quality bushland reserve with walking trails which connect to the river.

#### Yarra Bend Park and Studley Park

Yarra Bend Park and Studley Park form the largest area of natural bushland near the heart of Melbourne. The parks feature steep river escarpments, open woodlands, playing fields and golf courses, as well as the historic Studley Park and Fairfield Boathouses.

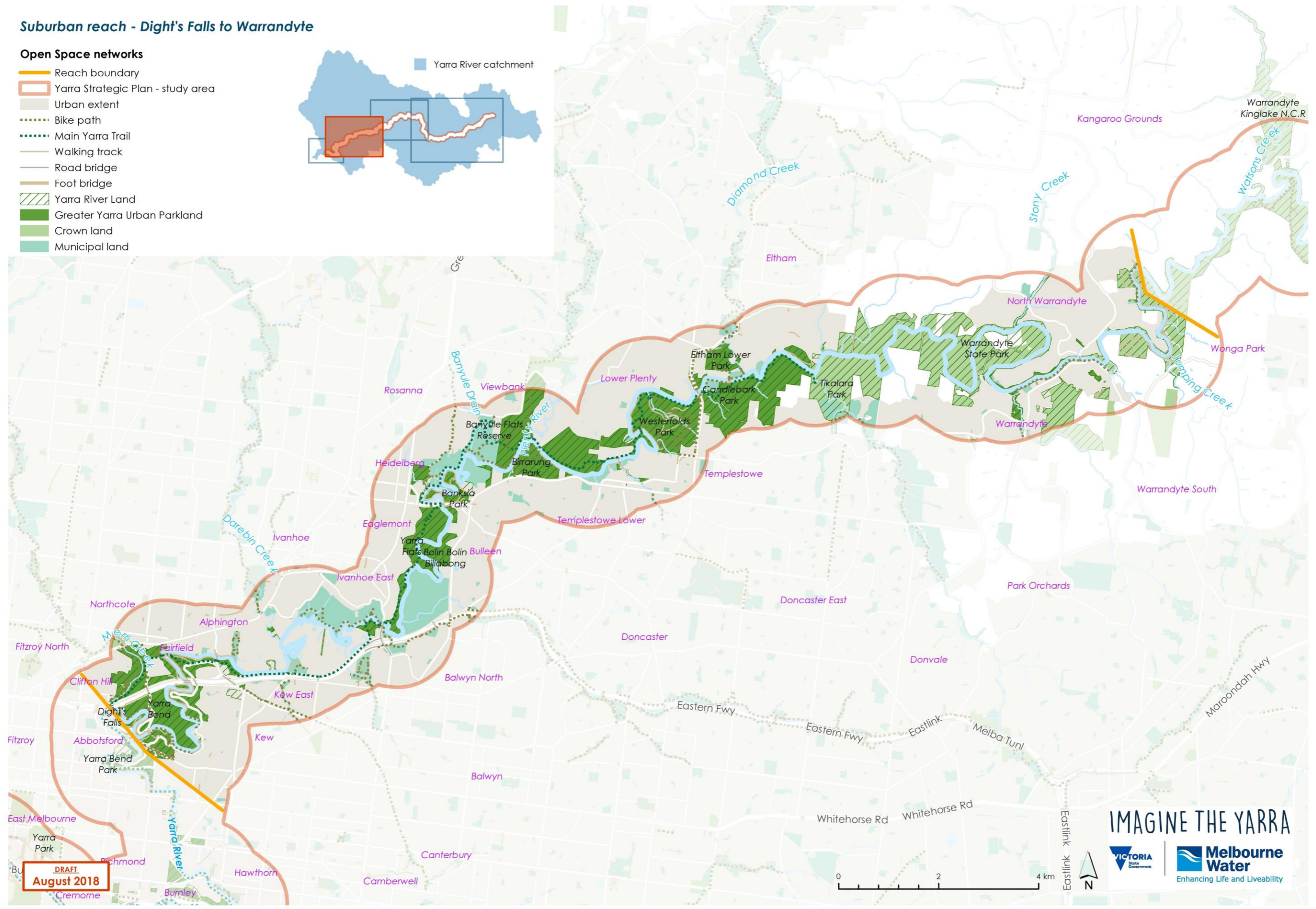
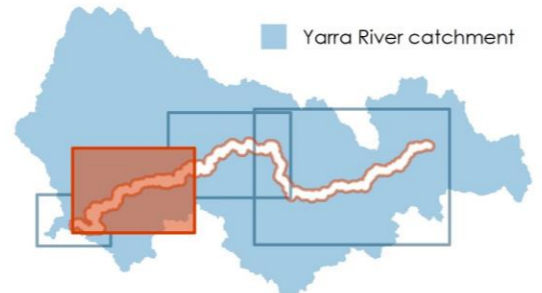
#### Golf courses

The river's floodplains between Rosanna and Alphington have been developed into many golf courses. These are important recreational areas and an integral part of the linked parklands in the suburban reach, contributing to its high landscape and environmental values.

**Suburban reach - Dight's Falls to Warrandyte**

**Open Space networks**

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Urban extent
-  Bike path
-  Main Yarra Trail
-  Walking track
-  Road bridge
-  Foot bridge
-  Yarra River Land
-  Greater Yarra Urban Parkland
-  Crown land
-  Municipal land



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Map 18 - Open space networks in the suburban reach

## Access networks

The Yarra Strategic Plan will consider all the ways in which people access the river and the areas along the river. This includes walking, cycling, on-water transport (paddling, motorboats), public transport and vehicle access. The extensive parklands along parts of the river also often provide direct access to the water.

The plan will also consider areas where limiting access is suitable in order to protect the natural environment.

In the suburban reach, the parklands and recreation spaces along the river are linked through an almost continuous network of shared trails providing a high level of access to the river.

Map 19 shows tracks and trails, gaps in trails, public transport, on-water access and carparks in the suburban reach.

### Tracks and trails in the suburban reach

#### Main Yarra Trail

Main Yarra Trail is a 33km shared use path which follows the Yarra River from Westerfolds Park in Templestowe to Southbank in the CBD.

#### Koonung Creek Trail

Koonung Creek Trail is a shared use path which has good connections to on-road paths, and links directly to the Main Yarra Trail and the EastLink Trail.

#### Diamond Creek Trail

Diamond Creek Trail is a shared use path which follows Diamond Creek to Eltham, where it joins the Main Yarra Trail.

### Gaps in trails in the suburban reach

Areas highlighted in green represent gaps in track and trail access to the river. There are few gaps in trails in the suburban reach, most notably in Warrandyte State Park and Tikalara Park.

### Public transport in the suburban reach

Public transport networks are in close proximity to the river closer to central Melbourne, becoming more sparse towards the edge of the suburban area. The majority of the reach is well serviced by metro bus routes and the Hurstbridge metro train line runs close to the river corridor for much of its length.

### On-water access in the suburban reach

There are several formalised on-water access points for paddling. These can be found at locations such as Pound Bend, Westerfolds Park and Bellbird Park.

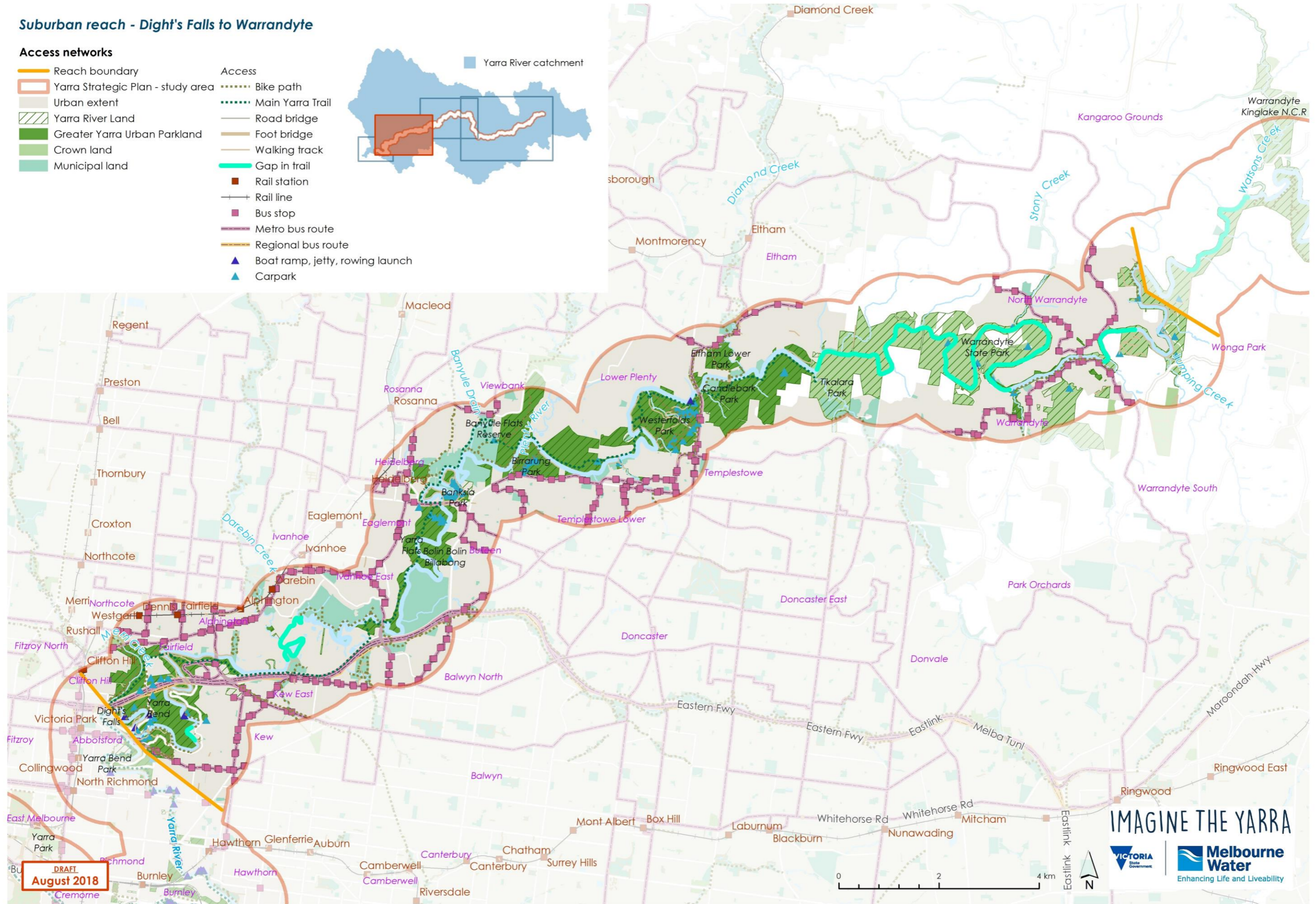
### Carparks in the suburban reach

Over 90 carparks have been identified throughout the suburban reach. These are clustered at locations such as Westerfolds Park, Banksia Park and Yarra Bend Park.

# Suburban reach - Dight's Falls to Warrandyte

## Access networks

- Reach boundary
  - Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
  - Urban extent
  - Yarra River Land
  - Greater Yarra Urban Parkland
  - Crown land
  - Municipal land
- Access**
- Bike path
  - Main Yarra Trail
  - Road bridge
  - Foot bridge
  - Walking track
  - Gap in trail
  - Rail station
  - Rail line
  - Bus stop
  - Metro bus route
  - Regional bus route
  - Boat ramp, jetty, rowing launch
  - Carpark



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Map 19 - Access networks in the suburban reach

## **Tourism, activities and events**

There are many different ways in which people like to experience the Yarra River.

in 2016-17 tourism was estimated to be worth \$15.7 billion to Melbourne's economy. The Yarra River is a centrepiece of Melbourne, and provides a backdrop to many tourist destinations.

Map 20 shows community activities and key tourist destinations in the suburban reach.

### **Community activities in the suburban reach**

Community activities include cultural events, festivals, markets and sports events in the river corridor. Examples of events in the suburban reach include the Warrandyte Festival, Twilight Sounds and Kids Arty Farty Fest at Sills Bend in Heidelberg.

### **Key tourist destinations in the suburban reach**

Activities, wineries, natural features and key precincts in the corridor that are tourist destinations have been identified using Council data and research.

- Heide Museum of Modern Art
- Rob Dolan Wines

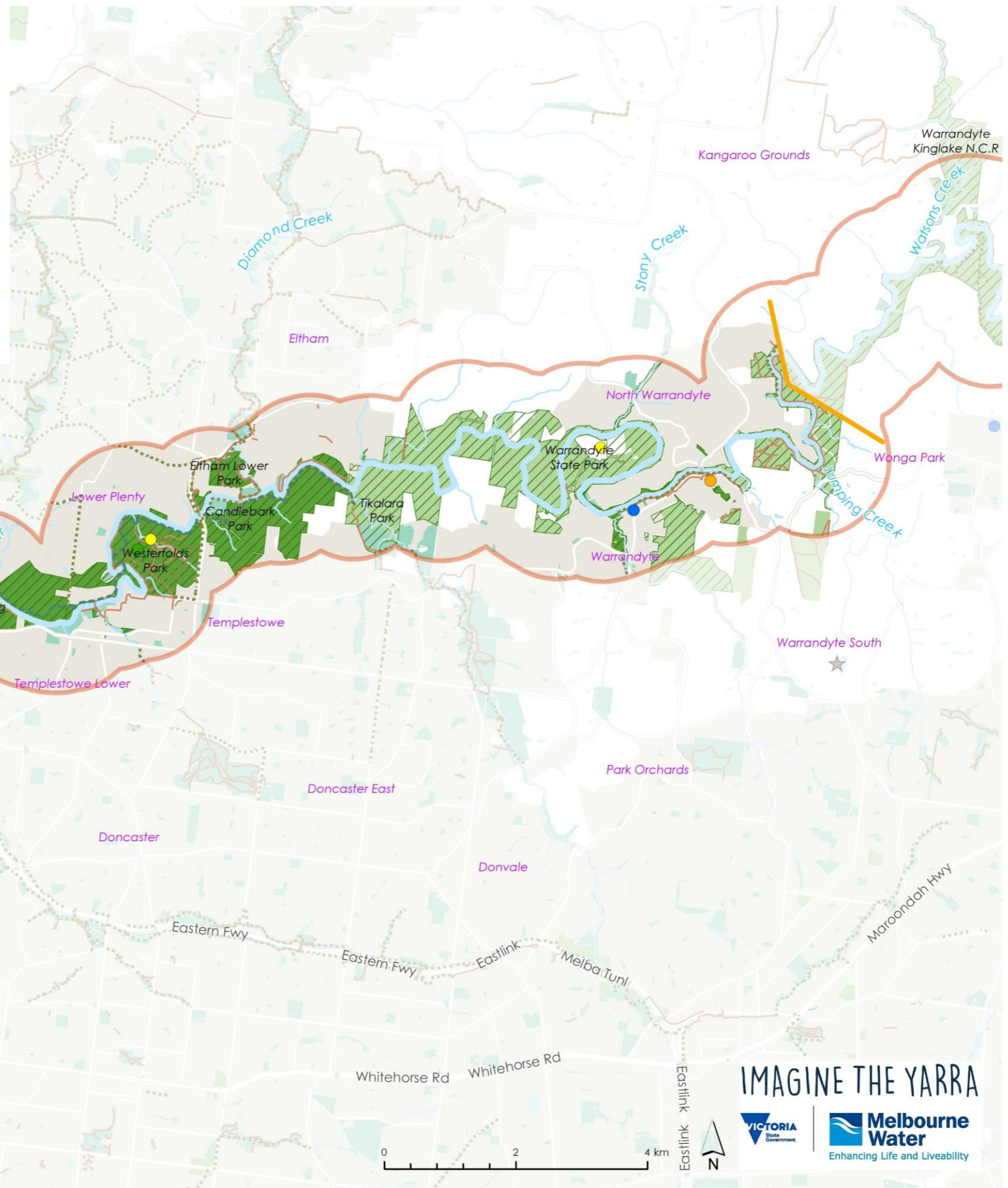
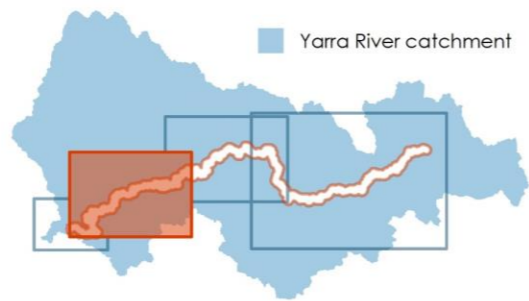


### Suburban reach - Dight's Falls to Warrandyte

#### Tourism, Activities and Events

- Reach boundary
- Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
- Urban extent
- Yarra River Land
- Greater Yarra Urban Parkland
- Crown land
- Municipal land
- Urban extent
- Bike path
- Main Yarra Trail
- Walking track
- Road bridge
- Foot bridge

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Key tourist destinations</b> | <b>Community activities</b> |
| Activity                        | Environment                 |
| Natural feature                 | Festival                    |
| Winery                          | Market                      |
|                                 | Sport                       |



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Map 20 - Tourism, activities and events in the suburban reach

## River health and amenity

Part of the Yarra Strategic Plan is to identify areas of high environmental value to be protected. The priority areas shown on the adjacent map are drawn from the *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)*.

Community input to the *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* has been invaluable in creating collective targets and performance objectives. Visit <https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/Yarra-catchment> for more information.

Map 21 shows priority stormwater sub-catchments, 10 year priority vegetation areas and the Environmental Significance Overlay in the suburban reach.

### Healthy Waterways Strategy

An example of the performance objectives that are being developed for the *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* include:

- Reduce impacts of stormwater on waterways; focus on urban growth and rural townships
- Improve condition and extent of riparian vegetation in rural and urban areas by protecting high quality vegetation, managing threats and building resilience
- Improve environmental flows and protect drought refuges in the context of climate change
- Reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from rural land and areas of urban development; ensure no net increase in nutrient and sediment loads to protect the health of Port Phillip Bay
- Traditional Owners are supported to recognise, protect and promote intangible and tangible cultural values and to have a role in protecting and improving waterways
- Address significant risks to values from pollution (water quality) from emerging contaminants of concern such as microplastics, pesticides and pharmaceuticals.

### Priority stormwater sub-catchments in the suburban reach

The *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* has identified priority areas for stormwater harvesting and infiltration. In the suburban reach this includes areas of North Warrandyte and Kangaroo Ground.

### 10 year priority vegetation

The *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* has identified priority areas to establish and maintain vegetated buffers on waterways. The Yarra River and its tributaries have all been identified as priorities.

### Environmental Significance Overlay

The Environmental Significance Overlay is applied to places with particular environmental value. Many of these places are of intrinsic importance to the health of the Yarra River and its catchment.

### Environmentally significant areas in the suburban reach

- Bailey Billabong
- Banyule Flats
- Black Flat
- Bolin Bolin Billabong
- Candlebark Park
- Darebin Parklands
- Hays Paddock
- Jumping Creek
- Koonung Creek
- Laughing Waters
- Longridge Farm
- Mullum Confluence
- Naughton Avenue, Warrandyte
- Plenty River

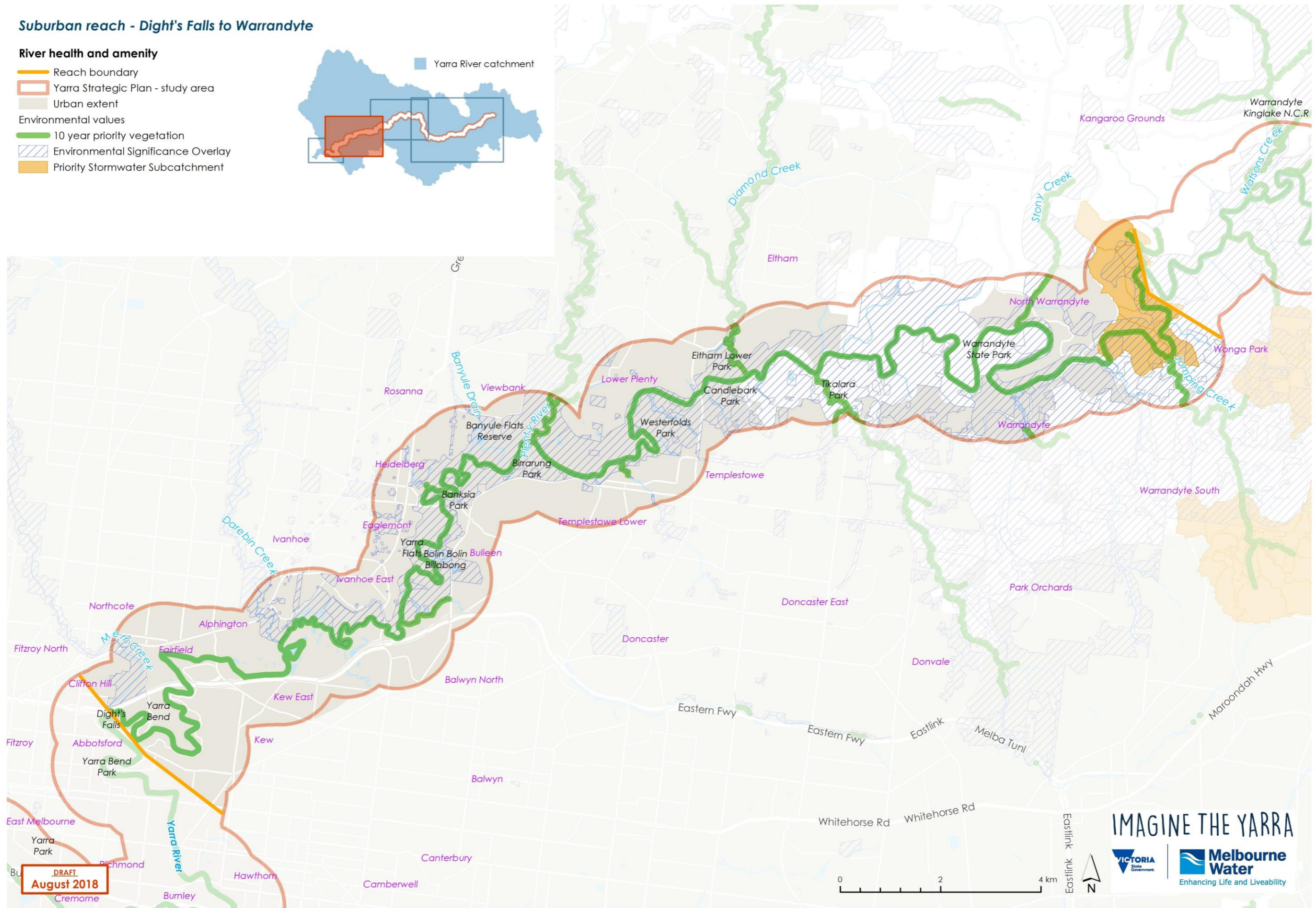
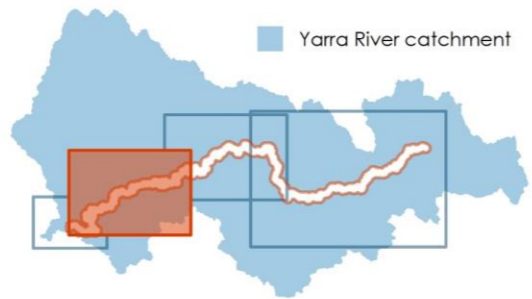
- Pound Bend
- Ruffey Creek
- Warrandyte State Park
- Warringal Swamplands
- Westerfolds Park
- Willesmere Lagoon
- Yarra Bend Park

More information on planning scheme overlays can be found at [planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/)

**Suburban reach - Dight's Falls to Warrandyte**

**River health and amenity**

- Reach boundary
- Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
- Urban extent
- Environmental values
- 10 year priority vegetation
- Environmental Significance Overlay
- Priority Stormwater Subcatchment



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Map 21 - River health and amenity in the suburban reach

## Heritage Overlays and Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Sensitivity

Culture and heritage considers the way in which people have related to the river and its landscapes over time. It includes the relationship of Traditional Owners to the land and the river, which spans tens of thousands of years.

It also considers the river's role in shaping the history of Melbourne and surrounding rural areas since the time of settlement.

Map 22 shows the Heritage Overlay, Victorian Heritage Register, Heritage Rivers, areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity and some key sites of cultural heritage importance in the suburban reach.

### Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity are registered Aboriginal cultural heritage places. They include landforms and land categories that are regarded as containing Aboriginal cultural heritage.

All land within 200m of the banks of rivers and larger watercourses is designated as places of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity. This reflects the importance that water plays in Aboriginal cultural heritage and practice, both historically and contemporarily.

The designation of cultural sensitivity means that a permit and cultural heritage management plan are required for proposals that disturb the ground in these areas.

<https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/>

### Victorian Heritage Register

The Victorian Heritage Register lists the State's most significant heritage places, objects and historic shipwrecks protected under the *Heritage Act 1995*. Heritage places or objects listed on the Victorian Heritage Register are important to understanding the history of Victoria and designated to be of State level significance.

Heritage Victoria, the State Government heritage authority, is responsible for issuing permits to modify these heritage places.

<https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/about-heritage-in-victoria/heritage-in-victoria>

### Heritage Overlay

The Heritage Overlay is applied to places that have been identified as having heritage significance. It can be applied to buildings, trees, gardens or infrastructure (such as bridges). The Heritage Overlay requires that a permit is obtained to demolish or modify the heritage place. Most of these places have been identified as having heritage significance through a Council heritage study.

More information on planning scheme overlays can be found at [planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/)

This is an area of extensive river floodplains and remnant billabongs co-existing with residential areas. Banyule and its suburbs are particularly close in their proximity and relationship to the river. In Nillumbik and Manningham there are several sites of early farming properties. The sites of the Yarra Protectorate, Native Police Corps headquarters and associated Aboriginal burials at Yarra Bend Park mark significant post-contact Aboriginal places in metropolitan Melbourne.

Sites that lend themselves to rich narratives, further interpretation and storytelling about the Yarra include Bolin Bolin Billabong and the confluence of the Merri and Mullum Mullum Creeks with the Yarra River.

### Indicative sites in the suburban reach

The indicative sites shown on the map and listed in the table below are representative examples of the different types of sites that have been identified as significant in the river's history. They mostly represent different periods in the river's colonial heritage.

There are numerous sites included in the Heritage Overlay, reflecting the historic significance of the river in






the expansion of Melbourne's suburbs and the extensive heritage studies which have been undertaken by local councils and Parks Victoria for these areas.

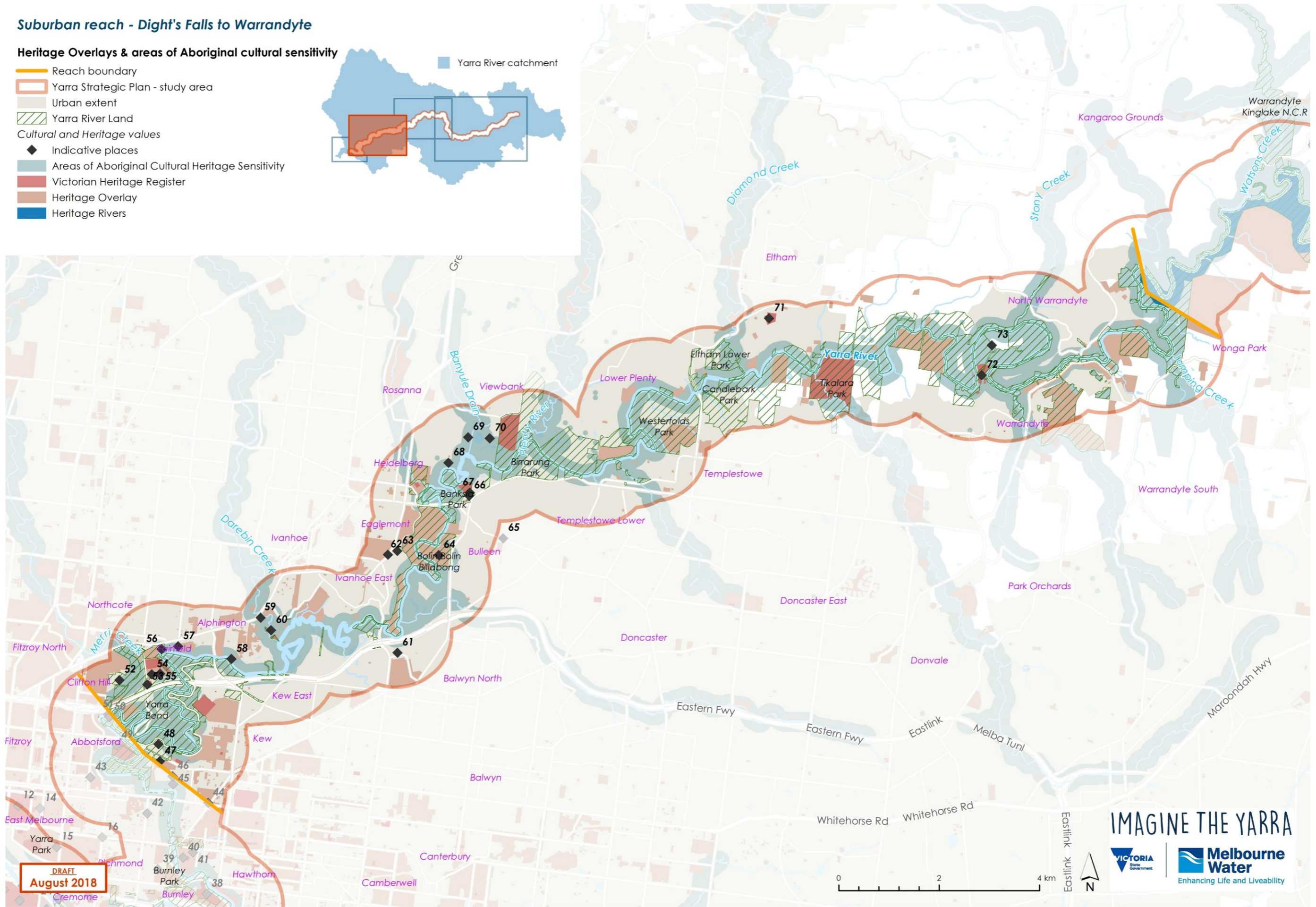
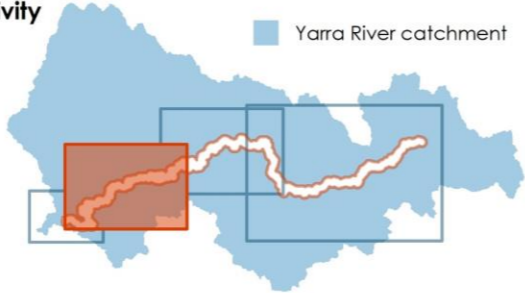
The indicative sites include recreational sites, residential areas and farming complexes.

Site ID	Site Name	Period
47	John Wren house, Xavier	1857
48	Studley Park	
52	Quarries Park	
53	Fairlea Women's Prison	
54	Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum	1848
55	Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital	c.1900s
56	Fairfield Boathouse	
57	Yarra Bend Golf Club House	c.1920s
58	Alphington Swimming Pool	1920s
59	Tower Hotel	
60	Napier Waller house	
61	The Boulevard	c.1933
62	Mount Eagle Estate	c.1912
63	Snelleman House	c.1950s
64	Bolin Bolin billabong,	
65	Boral brickyard	c.1880s
66	Canoe tree at Heide	
67	Heide I and Heide II	c.1940s
68	Warringal Parklands	
69	Banyule Homestead	1840s
70	Banyule Flats Reserve	
71	Monsalvat	1930s
72	Pound Bend tunnel	c.1860s
73	Warrandyte State Park	[1975]

**Suburban reach - Dight's Falls to Warrandyte**

**Heritage Overlays & areas of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity**

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Urban extent
-  Yarra River Land
- Cultural and Heritage values**
-  Indicative places
-  Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
-  Victorian Heritage Register
-  Heritage Overlay
-  Heritage Rivers



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Map 22 - Heritage overlays and areas of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity in the suburban reach





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## Inner city reach



## Land use and development

The Yarra River begins its journey in the forested upper reaches of the Baw Baw plateau in the Great Dividing Range east of Melbourne, and flows approximately 240 kilometres to its mouth at Port Phillip Bay.

Along the way the Yarra River traverses a rich variety of landscapes. This includes the Yarra Ranges National Park, the agricultural region of the Yarra Valley, the network of parklands and conservation areas that line the river through Melbourne's eastern residential suburbs, industrial areas along the inner city river flats, Melbourne's CBD, Docklands, and the Port.

Map 23 shows the character types that comprise the landscapes in the inner city reach as well as areas for urban renewal and activity centres.

### Character Types in the inner city reach

The different ways in which land is used and developed, or retains its natural features, create a distinctive character for each area along the river corridor.

Map 23 shows the different character types within this reach, which have the following key features.

#### Parklands and recreation

The parklands and recreation character type includes open spaces and recreation reserves that have a more formal landscape. In the inner city reach this includes Studley Park, Burnley Park, the Royal Botanical Gardens and Fitzroy Gardens.

#### Leafy suburban

These areas are characterised by suburban development set amongst a strong tree canopy. While the river's environment has been substantially modified, the predominant leafy character of the residential neighbourhoods are respectful of the river's natural landscape. Locations such as Kew, Hawthorn and Toorak are included in this character type.

#### Inner urban and industrial

This character type comprises the intensely developed urban areas for industrial and associated uses, which were developed on the low-lying land of the river flats. Many of the industrial and commercial areas are undergoing redevelopment and transitioning to higher density residential. A high level of vegetation cover on the river banks screens views to buildings from the river in some locations, while in other places buildings are highly visible from the river. This character type applies to Abbotsford, Richmond and Cremorne, as well as areas that adjoin the CityLink freeway in Richmond and Burnley.

#### Urban residential

This character type comprises urban residential neighbourhoods in the inner city reach between Grange Road and Punt Road. Land is used for private dwellings which are mostly set within formal streetscapes. There is a higher density of development, including recent high-rise development around South Yarra. Substantial vegetation exists within this character type and there is a visible tree canopy in many streets.

#### Central Melbourne

Within the CBD, the river is an iconic focal point of Melbourne. Its banks are lined with tall buildings and pedestrian promenades on the north and south banks. In this character type the river is channelised and much wider and deeper than in any other location. There is minimal planting or ecological features. Paths used for commuting and recreation are near continuous along both banks of the river. The river and its open spaces are a major drawcard for tourists.

#### Fishermans Bend

Fishermans Bend is an industrial area undergoing rapid transformation into a mixed use precinct. Future planning for this precinct includes a range of development densities and architectural styles. There will be an integrated approach to landscaping and public space as well highly developed active transport networks.

#### Docklands

Docklands is a working dock and industrial area with large sections having been transformed into a high density, high rise apartment precinct.

#### Areas for urban renewal

Areas with the potential for urban revitalisation or renewal that may interface with the Yarra River have been identified. These are places which are either underutilised or present a poor interface with the river that could be improved. Urban renewal areas represent a significant opportunity to revitalise areas within close proximity of the Yarra River, acknowledging the river's role as a centrepiece of Melbourne. Within the inner city reach there are numerous urban renewal sites close to the river which include:

- Fishermans Bend
- Docklands
- Southbank
- Burnley Street industrial precinct
- Victoria Gardens precinct
- Cremorne, Balmain, Dover Streets project
- Carlton and United Breweries site
- Abbotsford industrial precinct at Nicholson Street

#### Activity centres

Activity centres are hubs where people shop, work, meet, relax and often live. Activity centres need to be well connected by all forms of transport and provide a broad range of goods and services focusing on mixed-use development including retail, commercial and residential. They usually feature a higher density of development and are the focus for increased growth and change under the State Government's metropolitan strategy *Plan Melbourne*. Major activity centres in the inner city reach are:

- Richmond-Swan Street major activity centre
- Richmond-Victoria Street major activity centre
- South Melbourne major activity centre
- Toorak Village major activity centre
- Melbourne City Central major activity centre



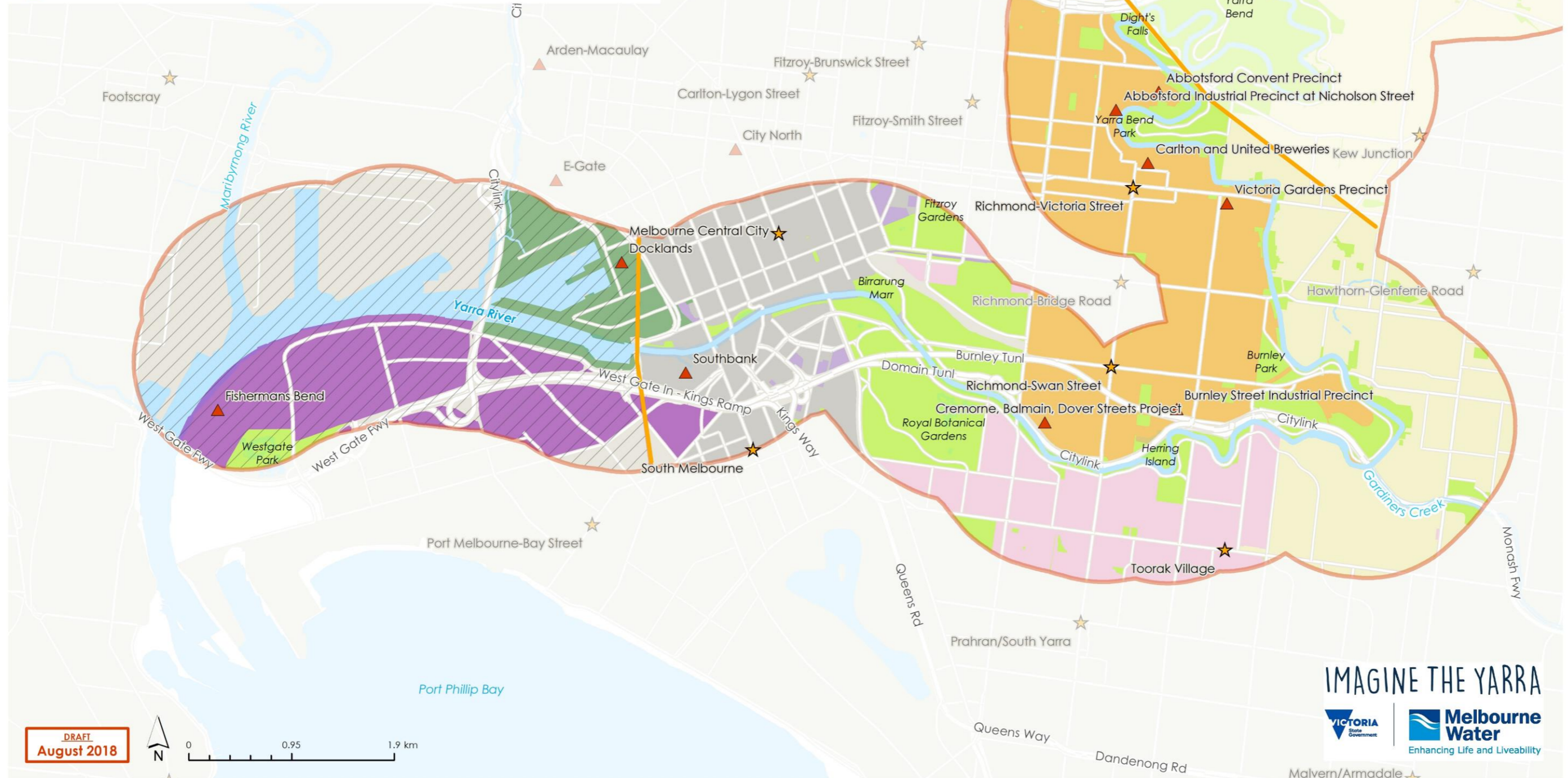
### Inner city reach - Webb Bridge to Dight's Falls

#### Land Use and development

- Reach boundary
- Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
- Outside of focus area
- Urban extent
- Urban renewal area
- Activity centre

#### Character type

- Central Melbourne
- Docklands
- Fishermans Bend urban renewal precinct
- Inner Urban and Industrial
- Leafy Suburban
- Parklands & Recreation
- Public Land
- Urban Residential



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Map 23 - Land use and development in the inner-city reach

## Landscapes and views

The Yarra River is defined by a striking range of different landscapes as it journeys from its source to Port Phillip Bay. Some of these have been formally identified as significant landscapes and are protected in the Planning Scheme.

The Yarra Strategic Plan will identify significant views along the river corridor. Views are an important aspect of how the river is experienced and appreciated.

Landscapes of the inner city reach are defined by the intensive development of central Melbourne, interspersed with pockets of parks and gardens.

Map 24 shows the Significant Landscape Overlay, Environmental Significance Overlay and views in the inner city reach.

### Significant Landscape Overlay

The Significant Landscape Overlay is applied to landscapes that have identified scenic and cultural value. Large areas of the Yarra River's landscape are protected through this overlay.

For most places within this overlay area, a permit is required to construct a building or remove vegetation.

This is to ensure the impact of future development on the scenic value of the landscape is taken into consideration.

### Significant landscapes in the inner city reach

#### Yarra River Corridor Environs

The Yarra River corridor links parklands and reserves into a near continuous vegetated landscape that provides a highly valued, secluded natural environment. It contains some of the most valued flora, fauna, geological and geomorphological assets in metropolitan Melbourne.

### Environmental Significance Overlay

The Environmental Significance Overlay is applied to places with particular environmental value. Many of these places are of intrinsic importance to the health of the Yarra River and its catchment.

### Environmentally significant areas in the inner city reach

- Dights Falls
- Yarra Bend Park

More information on planning scheme overlays can be found at [planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/)

### Views

Viewpoints along the river corridor which offer a special place to experience the river have been identified. These places include viewing platforms, lookout points and other key locations.

The waterway itself and the recreational trails that run alongside the river corridor provide opportunities to experience dynamic views of the river – views that can be obtained while moving through the river's landscapes.

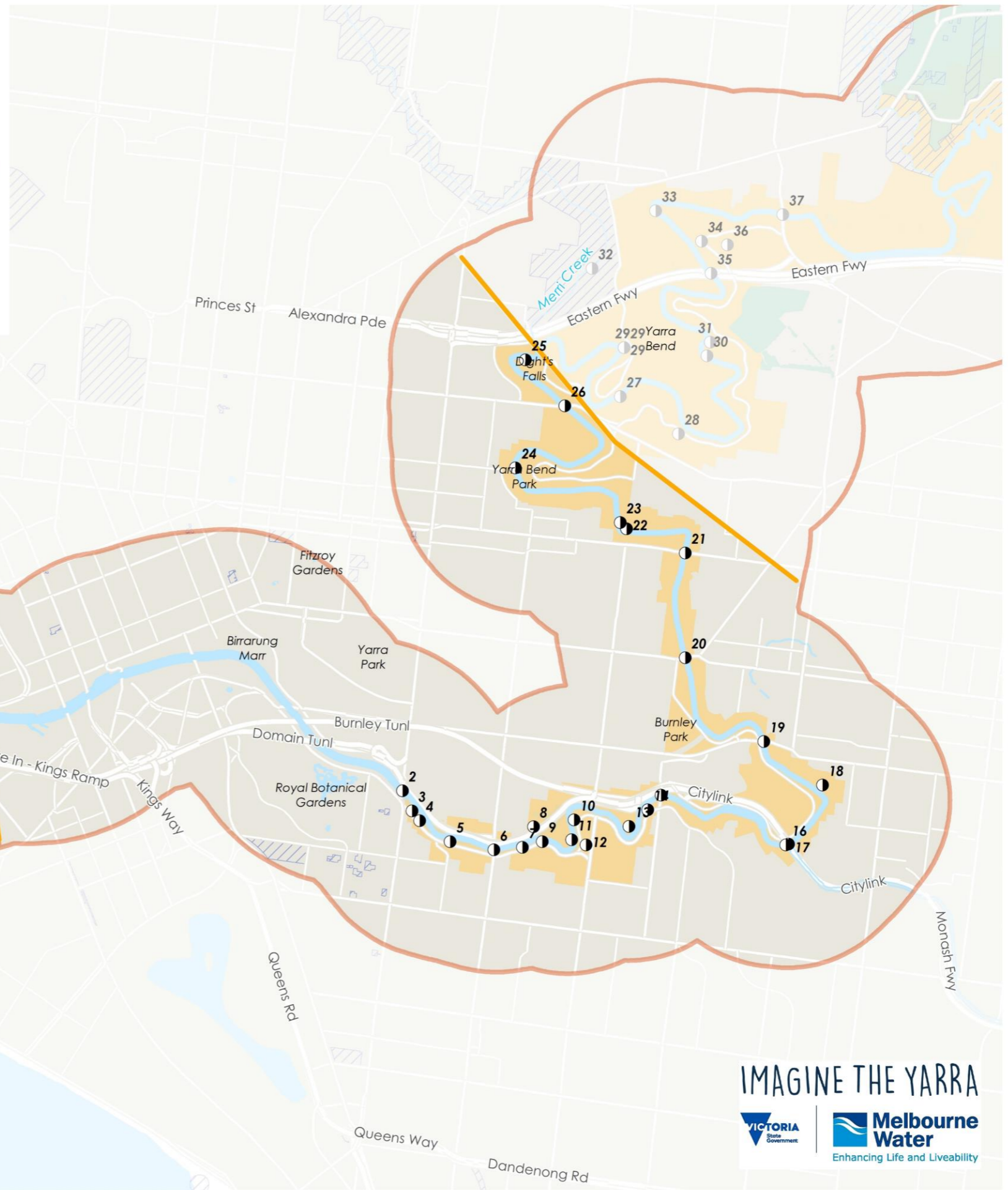
ID	View name
1	Viewing Platform - section of old Westgate Bridge
2	Hoddle Bridge
3	Yarra River Frontage - Stonnington
4	Yarra River Frontage - Stonnington
5	Yarra River Frontage - Stonnington
6	Church Street Bridge
7	Yarra River Frontage - Stonnington
8	Richmond Park
9	Yarra River Frontage - Stonnington
10	Yarra River Reserve
11	Herring Island Viewing Platform

12	Como Park North
13	Loys Paddock Reserve
14	Yarra River Frontage - Stonnington
15	Macrobertson Bridge
16	Gardiners Creek Bridge
17	Gardiners Creek Bridge
18	Fairview Park
19	Wallen Road Bridge
20	Hawthorn Bridge
21	Victoria Bridge
22	Dickinsons Res Walmer St wetland foot bridge/board walk
23	Dickinson Res - Willow Landing
24	Collins Bridge
25	Yarra Bend Park - Upper Loop Area - Dights Falls
26	Johnston Street Bridge

**Inner city reach - Webb Bridge to Dight's Falls**

**Landscapes and views**

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Outside of focus area
-  Urban extent
-  View point
-  Significant Landscape Overlay
-  Environmental Significance Overlay
-  Vegetation Protection Overlay



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Map 24 - Landscapes and views in the inner-city reach

## Open space networks

There are 7,795 hectares of diverse parklands and public open spaces along the Yarra River.

Within the inner city reach, this includes 403 hectares of open space that comprise landscaped areas, playgrounds, sporting facilities, the Royal Botanic Gardens, bike trails and linear parklands.

Map 25 shows parklands, tracks and trails and Yarra River Land in the inner city reach.

### Yarra River Land

Yarra River Land is the Yarra River, including its bed, soil and banks, as well as publicly managed land within 500m of a bank of the river. Examples of areas of Yarra River Land in the inner reach include Yarra Bend Park and Herring Island.

### Greater Yarra Urban Parklands

The Greater Yarra Urban Parklands includes Yarra River land that is used as public open space or as a park, and is within a municipal council district between Punt Road in South Yarra and the urban growth boundary in Warrandyte.

### Tracks and trails in the inner city reach

#### Main Yarra Trail

Main Yarra Trail is a 33km shared use path which follows the Yarra River from Westerfolds Park in Templestowe to Southbank in the CBD.

#### Gardiners Creek Trail

Gardiners Creek Trail is a 17km shared use path that runs along Gardiners Creek and joins with the Main Yarra Trail.

#### Capital City Trail

Capital City Trail is 29km long and follows the route of the old Inner Circle Railway through Royal Park before heading back along Moonee Ponds Creek, past the Polly Woodside Maritime Museum and Melbourne Exhibition Centre back to Southbank.

### Parklands in the inner city reach

#### Yarra Bend Park

Yarra Bend Park is the largest area of natural bushland near the heart of Melbourne. The park features steep river escarpments, open woodlands, playing fields and golf courses.

#### Dights Falls

Dights Falls is an artificial weir built on a natural rock bar across the Yarra. The park is well known for its rocky escarpments that show the mudstone and sandstone sediments which form the bedrock of Melbourne.

#### Burnley Park

Burnley Park is around six hectares in size and features a sporting oval, barbecues, picnic tables and playground.

#### Herring Island

Accessible only by boat, Herring Island is a haven for nature and art lovers alike. Environmental sculptures made from natural materials reflect the island's tranquil setting.

#### MCG precinct

The MCG precinct includes a number of major sports facilities set within extensive parklands.

#### Birrarung Mar

Birrarung Marr is on the Yarra River's north bank next to Federation Square and incorporates three terraces of contrasting grass and sand which are designed to connect the culture and environment of the Yarra.

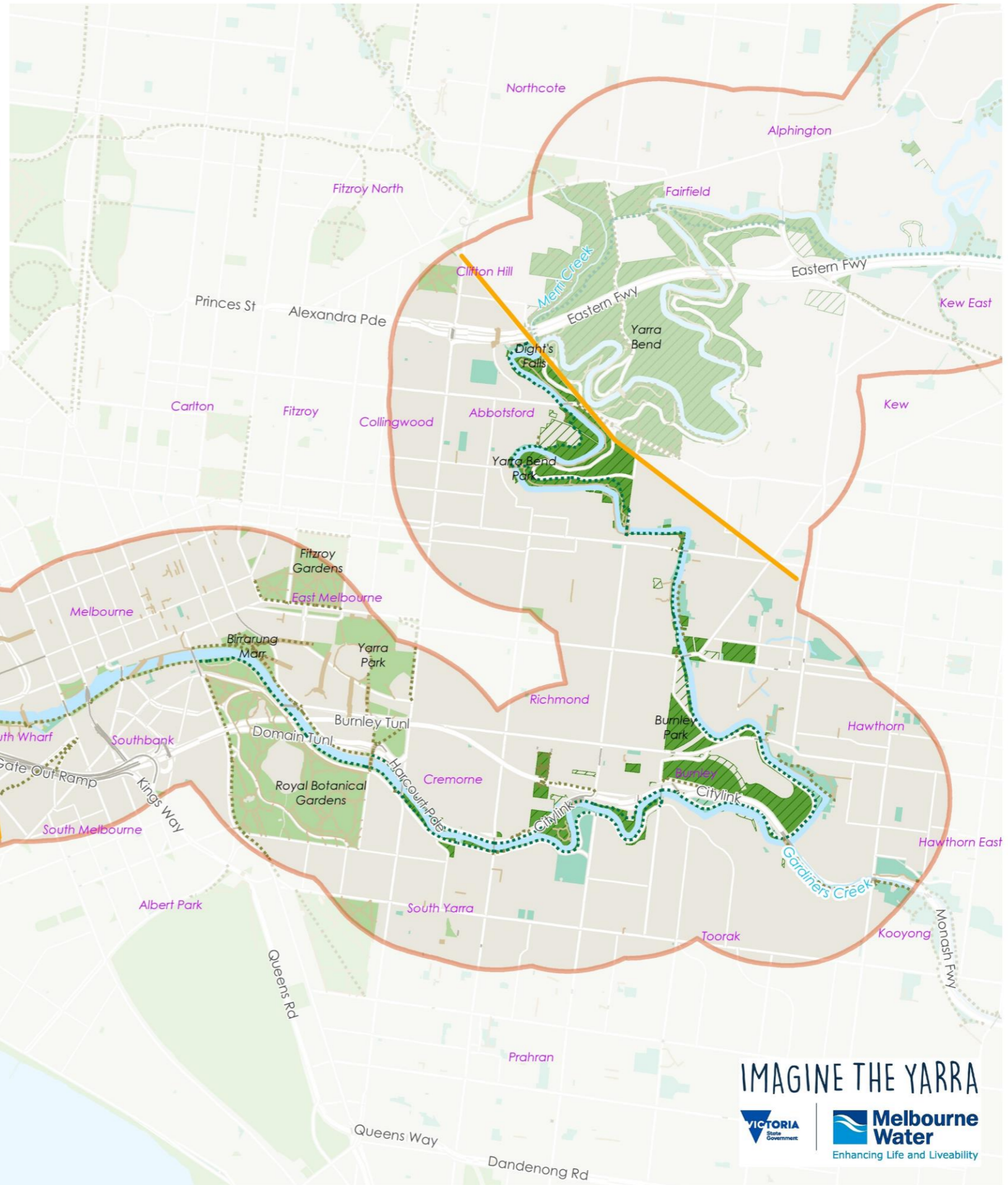
#### Royal Botanical Gardens and Domain

The Royal Botanical Gardens and Domain are highly significant formalised gardens which date from the early days of Melbourne's settlement. They are also of high significance to Traditional Owners. The lake in the Botanical Gardens was formerly a meander of the Yarra River.

### Inner city reach - Webb Bridge to Dight's Falls

#### Open Space networks

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Outside of focus area
-  Urban extent
-  Bike path
-  Main Yarra Trail
-  Walking track
-  Road bridge
-  Foot bridge
-  Yarra River Land
-  Greater Yarra Urban Parkland
-  Crown land
-  Municipal land



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Map 25 - Open space networks in the inner-city reach

## Access networks

The Yarra Strategic Plan will consider all the ways in which people access the river and the areas along the river. This includes walking, cycling, on-water transport (paddling, motorboats), public transport and vehicle access. The extensive parklands along parts of the river also often provide direct access to the water.

The plan will also consider areas where limiting access is suitable in order to protect the natural environment.

Within the inner city reach there is a high density of shared trail access to and along the river.

Map 26 shows tracks and trails, gaps in trails, public transport and on-water access in the inner city reach.

### Tracks and trails in the inner city reach

#### Main Yarra Trail

Main Yarra Trail is a 33km shared use path which follows the Yarra River from Westerfolds Park in Templestowe to Southbank in the CBD.

#### Gardiners Creek Trail

Gardiners Creek Trail is a 17km shared use path that runs along Gardiners Creek and joins with the Main Yarra Trail.

#### Capital City Trail

Capital City Trail is 29km long and follows the route of the old Inner Circle Railway through Royal Park before heading back along Moonee Ponds Creek, past the Polly Woodside Maritime Museum and Melbourne Exhibition Centre back to Southbank.

### Gaps in trails in the inner city reach

Areas highlighted in green represent gaps in track and trail access to the river. The map shows that there are almost no gaps in the inner city reach as walking and bike paths are so prevalent.

### Public transport in the inner city reach







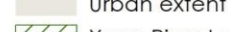
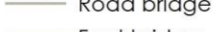
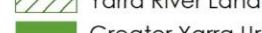
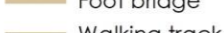
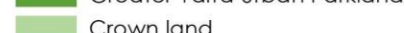
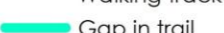

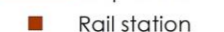

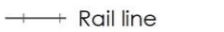

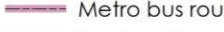
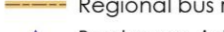
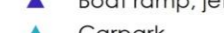
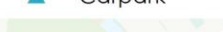

There are numerous access points for public transport in close proximity to the river in the inner city reach. The map shows the high density of metro bus and train networks with stops and stations close to the river.

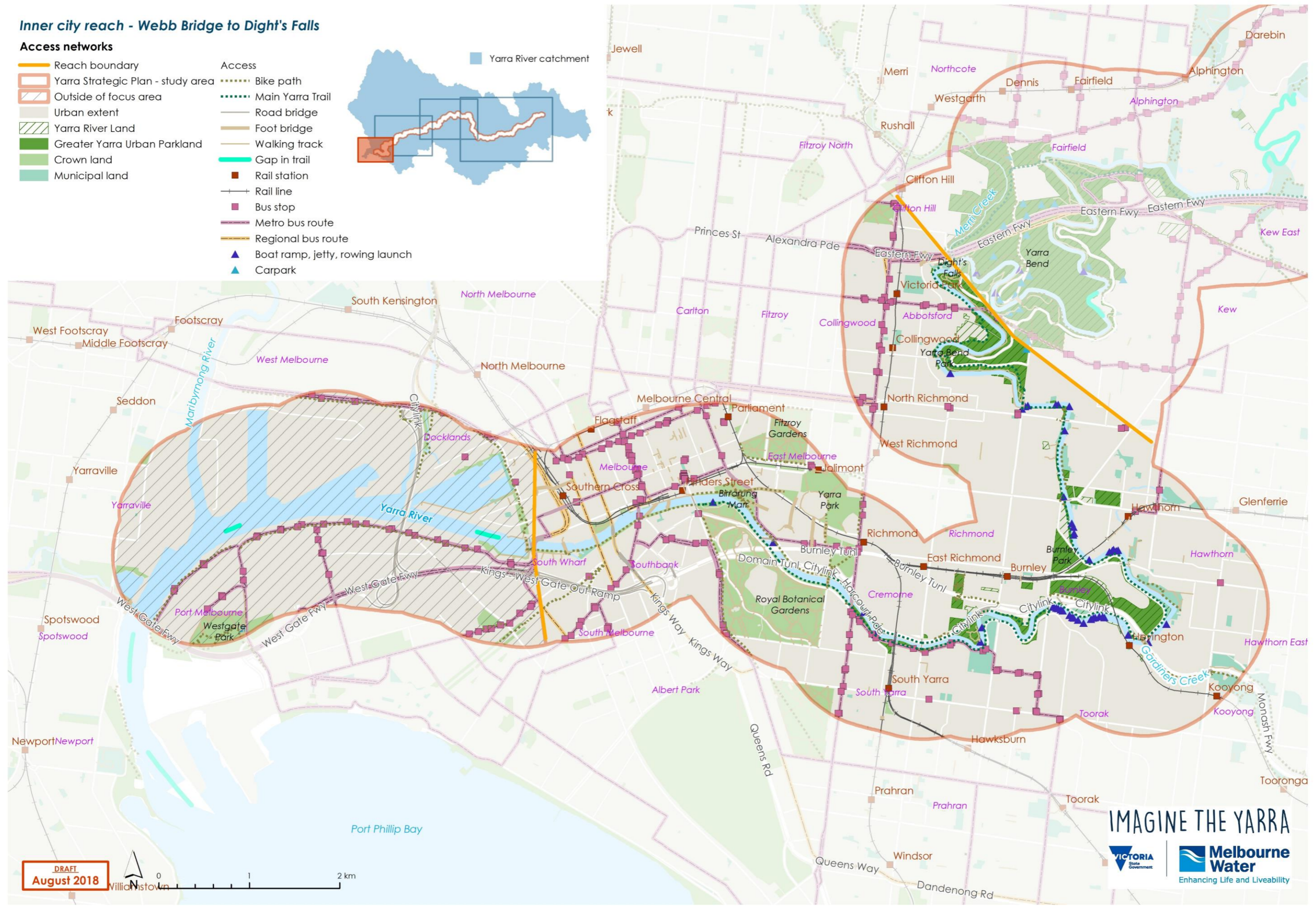
### On-water access in the inner city reach

On-water access in the inner city reach includes ramps, jetties and launch sites for motorised craft and paddling. 46 of these have been identified and are shown on map 26.

### Inner city reach - Webb Bridge to Dight's Falls

#### Access networks

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Reach boundary                    |  Access                          |
|  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area |  Bike path                       |
|  Outside of focus area             |  Main Yarra Trail                |
|  Urban extent                      |  Road bridge                     |
|  Yarra River Land                  |  Foot bridge                     |
|  Greater Yarra Urban Parkland      |  Walking track                   |
|  Crown land                        |  Gap in trail                    |
|  Municipal land                    |  Rail station                    |
|   |  Rail line                       |
|   |  Bus stop                        |
|   |  Metro bus route                 |
|   |  Regional bus route              |
|   |  Boat ramp, jetty, rowing launch |
|   |  Carpark                         |



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Map 26 - Access networks in the inner-city reach

## Tourism, activities and events

There are many different ways in which people like to experience the Yarra River.

In 2016-17 tourism was estimated to be worth \$15.7 billion to Melbourne's economy. The Yarra River is a centrepiece of Melbourne, and provides a backdrop to many tourist destinations.

Map 27 shows community events and key tourist destinations in the inner city reach.

### Community activities in the inner city reach

Community activities include cultural events, festivals, markets and sports events in the river corridor. Examples of events in the inner city reach include White Night, Inflatable Regatta and Moomba. Many riverside events are also concentrated in the Melbourne area that celebrate sport, culture and food. Birrarung Marr, Southbank Promenade and South Wharf are host to numerous markets, festivals and holiday celebrations throughout the year.

### Key tourist destinations in the inner city reach

Activities, wineries, natural features and key precincts in the corridor that are tourist destinations have been identified using council data and research.

#### Activities

- Herring Island
- Abbotsford Convent
- Collingwood Children's Farm

#### Natural features

- Alexandra Gardens
- Royal Botanic Gardens
- Dights Falls



### Inner city reach - Webb Bridge to Dight's Falls

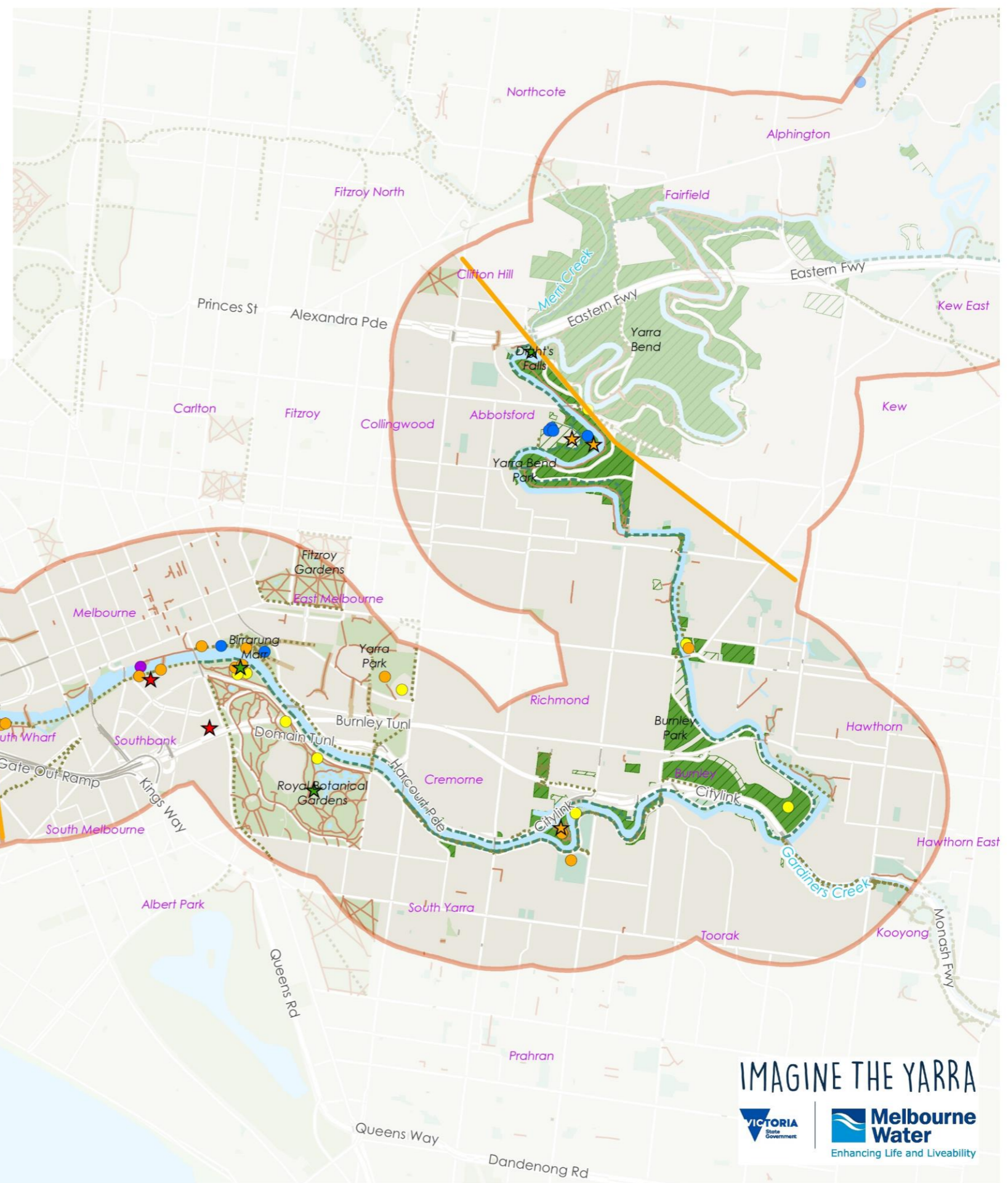
#### Tourism, Activities and Events

- Reach boundary
- Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
- Outside of focus area
- Yarra River Land
- Greater Yarra Urban Parkland
- Crown land
- Municipal land
- Urban extent
- Bike path
- Main Yarra Trail
- Walking track
- Road bridge
- Foot bridge



#### Key tourist destinations Community activities

- |                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Activity        | Cultural |
| Key precinct    | Festival |
| Natural feature | Market   |
|                 | Sport    |



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Map 27 - Tourism, activities and events in the inner-city reach

## River health and amenity

Part of the Yarra Strategic Plan is to identify areas of high environmental value to be protected. The priority areas shown on the adjacent map are drawn from the *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)*.

Community input to the *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* has been invaluable in creating collective targets and performance objectives. Visit <https://yoursay.melbournwater.com.au/Yarra-catchment> for more information.

Map 28 shows 10 year priority vegetation areas and the Environmental Significance Overlay in the inner city reach.

### Healthy Waterways Strategy

An example of the performance objectives that are being developed for the *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* include:

- Reduce impacts of stormwater on waterways; focus on urban growth and rural townships
- Improve condition and extent of riparian vegetation in rural and urban areas by protecting high quality vegetation, managing threats and building resilience
- Improve environmental flows and protect drought refuges in the context of climate change
- Reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from rural land and areas of urban development; ensure no net increase in nutrient and sediment loads to protect the health of Port Phillip Bay
- Traditional Owners are supported to recognise, protect and promote intangible and tangible cultural values and to have a role in protecting and improving waterways
- Address significant risks to values from pollution (water quality) from emerging contaminants of concern such as microplastics, pesticides and pharmaceuticals.

### 10 year priority vegetation

The *Draft Healthy Waterways Strategy (2018-2028)* has identified priority areas to establish and maintain vegetated buffers on waterways. The Yarra River and its tributaries have all been identified as priorities.

### Environmental Significance Overlay

The Environmental Significance Overlay is applied to places with particular environmental value. Many of these places are of intrinsic importance to the health of the Yarra River and its catchment.

### Environmentally significant areas in the inner city reach

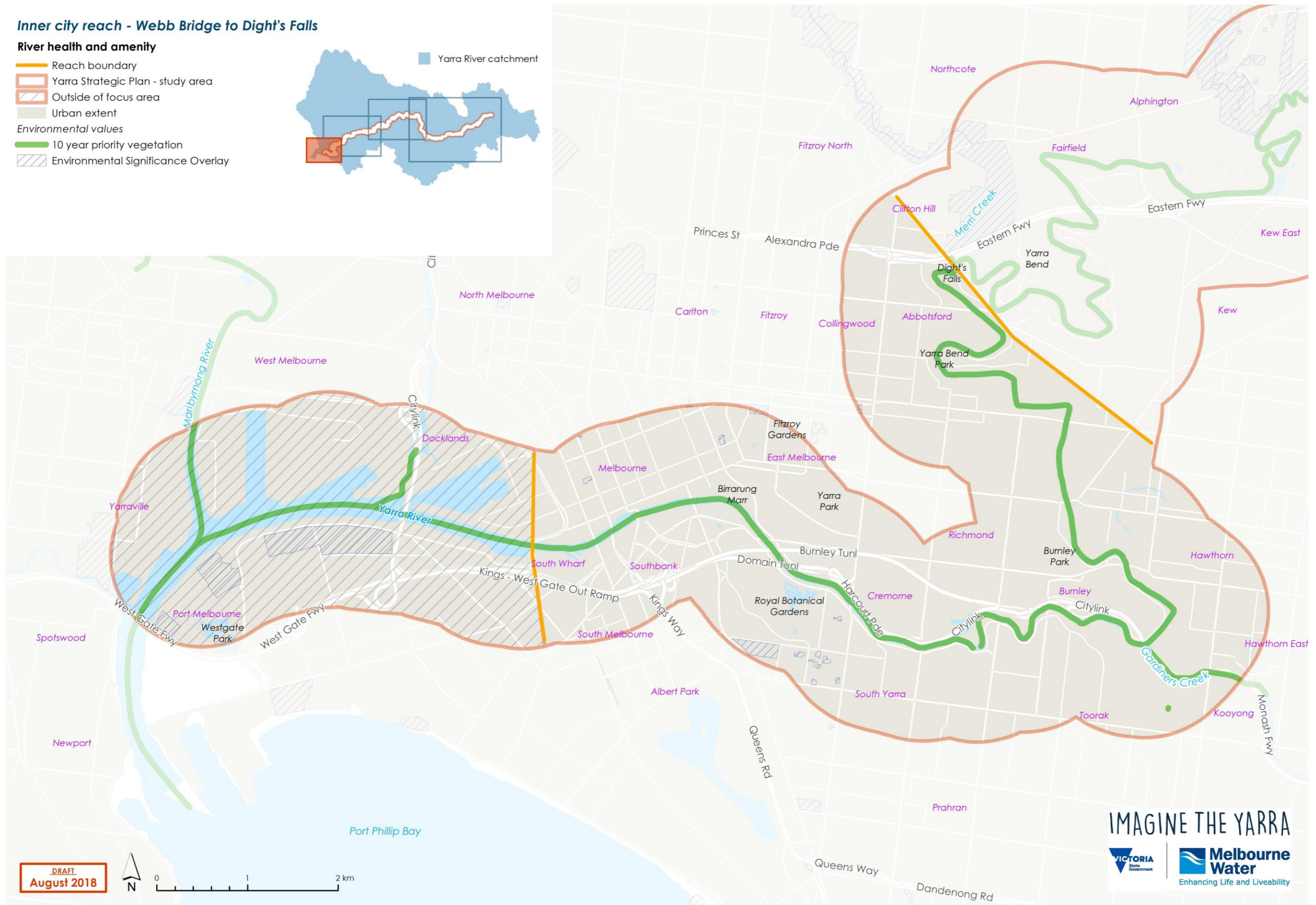
- Dights Falls
- Yarra Bend Park

More information on planning scheme overlays can be found at [planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/)

### Inner city reach - Webb Bridge to Dight's Falls

#### River health and amenity

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Outside of focus area
-  Urban extent
- Environmental values**
-  10 year priority vegetation
-  Environmental Significance Overlay



Map 28 - River health and amenity in the inner-city reach

## Heritage Overlays and Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Sensitivity

Culture and heritage considers the way in which people have related to the river and its landscapes over time. It includes the relationship of Traditional Owners to the land and the river, which spans tens of thousands of years.

It also considers the river's role in shaping the history of Melbourne and surrounding rural areas since the time of settlement.

Map 29 shows the Heritage Overlay, Victorian Heritage Register, areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity and some key sites of cultural heritage importance in the inner city reach.

### Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity are registered Aboriginal cultural heritage places. They include landforms and land categories that are regarded as containing Aboriginal cultural heritage.

All land within 200m of the banks of rivers and larger watercourses is designated as places of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity. This reflects the importance that water plays in Aboriginal cultural heritage and practice, both historically and contemporarily.

The designation of cultural sensitivity means that a permit and cultural heritage management plan are required for proposals that disturb the ground in these areas.

<https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/>

### Victorian Heritage Register

The Victorian Heritage Register lists the State's most significant heritage places, objects and historic shipwrecks protected under the *Heritage Act 1995*. Heritage places or objects listed on the Victorian Heritage Register are important to understanding the history of Victoria and designated to be of State level significance.

Heritage Victoria, the State Government heritage authority, is responsible for issuing permits to modify these heritage places.

<https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/about-heritage-in-victoria/heritage-in-victoria>

### Heritage Overlay

The Heritage Overlay is applied to places that have been identified as having heritage significance. It can be applied to buildings, trees, gardens or infrastructure (such as bridges). The Heritage Overlay requires that a permit is obtained to demolish or modify the heritage place. Most of these places have been identified as having heritage significance through a Council heritage study.

More information on planning scheme overlays can be found at [planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/)

### Indicative sites in the inner city reach

The indicative sites shown on the map and listed in the table are representative examples of the different types of sites that have been identified as significant in the river's history. They mostly represent different periods in the river's colonial heritage.

There are numerous sites of post-settlement heritage included within the Heritage Overlay, reflecting the historic significance of this part of the river in Melbourne's formation, and the extensive historical research and surveys that have been undertaken in these locations. These sites are very diverse in theme, place type and period, and include parklands, industrial sites, private houses and institutions.

This reach is notable for the two major river diversions that altered the course of the Yarra at Coode Island and at the Royal Botanic Gardens and Alexandra Avenue.

The Abbotsford Convent is a site of National significance that has a rich narrative around the river for both Traditional Owner and non-Traditional Owner communities and could provide opportunities for further interpretation and storytelling about the Yarra.

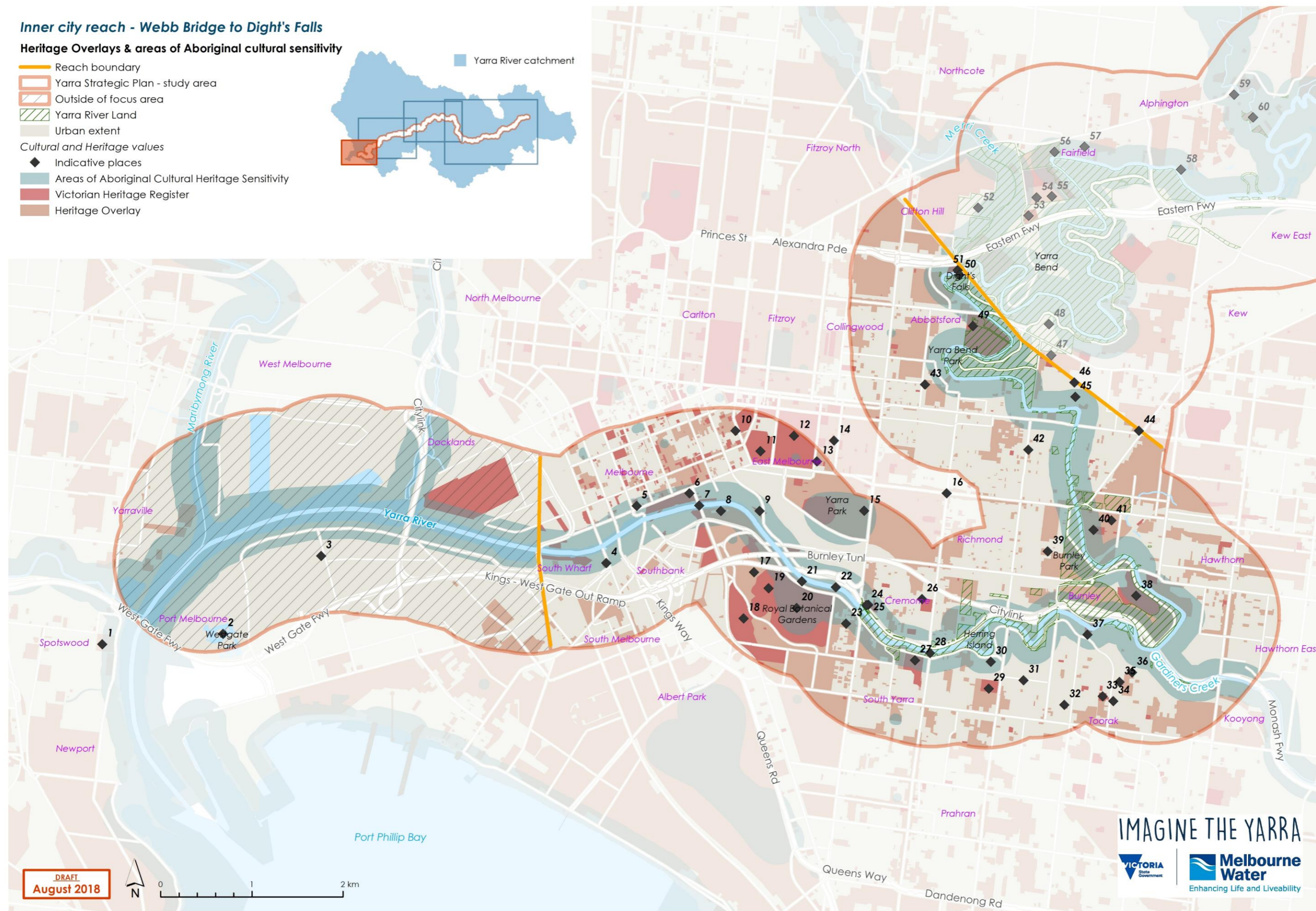
The confluence of the Merri Creek with the Yarra River is highly significant for Traditional Owners and has potential for further interpretation of Aboriginal stories and places. The site of the original falls, near Queen Street bridge, is also highly significant for Traditional Owners.

There are many sites of Aboriginal heritage recorded in this reach, due to the high number of Cultural Heritage Management Plans having been undertaken in the development process. Sites include artefact scatters and scarred trees.

**Inner city reach - Webb Bridge to Dight's Falls**

**Heritage Overlays & areas of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity**

-  Reach boundary
-  Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
-  Outside of focus area
-  Yarra River Land
-  Urban extent
- Cultural and Heritage values**
-  Indicative places
-  Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
-  Victorian Heritage Register
-  Heritage Overlay



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Map 29 - Heritage overlays and areas of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity in the inner-city reach

Site ID	Site Name	Period
1	Spotswood Pumping Station	c.1891
2	West Gate Park	1984
3	General Motors Holden	1930s
4	Robur Tea Building	c.1880s
5	Customs House	c.1856
6	Flinders Street Station	
7	Princes Bridge	1888
8	Boat sheds, Yarra Bank	
9	Speakers' Corner	c.1890s+
10	Windsor Hotel former hydraulic lift	c.1880s
11	Treasury Gardens	1860s
12	Fitzroy Gardens	
13	Mosspennoch	C.1870s-80s
14	Little Parndon	c.1860s
15	Yarra Park	all
16	Racecourse public housing estate	1942
17	Domain Parklands	
18	Shrine of Remembrance	
19	Government House	1873-76
20	Royal Botanic Gardens	
21	Alexandra Avenue	
22	Morrell Bridge	1899
23	Robin Boyd House	c.1950
24	Nylex sign	c.1950s
25	Factory on Gough Street	c.1920s

26	Bryant and May industrial complex	c.1900s
27	Melbourne Boys' High School	c.1918
28	Church Street Bridge	1924
29	Como House	1850s+
30	Como Park	
31	42 Wallace Ave, Toorak	c.1930s
32	Trawalla	c.1870s
33	Toorak House	c.1850
34	22 St Georges Road, Toorak	1937
35	Illawarra	c.1870s
36	Sherren House, St Catherine's School	
37	Edzell	c.1890s
38	Burnley College of Horticulture	
39	Wertheim Piano Factory	c.1910
40	Invergowrie	1846
41	1 Shakespeare Grove, Hawthorn	c.1880s
42	Doonside industrial precinct	1930s
43	Denton Hat Mills	C1886
44	Kew Tram Depot	
45	McIntyre House	1950s
46	Studley Park residential estate	c.1950s-60s
49	Convent of the Good Shepherd	c.1860s
50	Dights Mill	1837
51	Dights Falls	1802+