

Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo Yarra Strategic Plan

Implementation Plan 2022



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Document History

Date	Reviewed/ Actioned By	Version	Action
18/6/21	YSP Project Team	9	Circulated to YCC for comment
28/8/21	YSP Project Team	10	Updated activities schedule
7/4/22	YSP Project Team	11	Updated post YSP approval and YCC consultation Circulated to YCC for review prior to approval
17/5/22	R Molloy	12	Edits in response to YCC feedback
18/5/22	G Bain	13	Review and approval for release to YCC
17/6/22	R Molloy	14	Edits in response to YCC feedback

1 Introduction and Purpose

Development and implementation of the Yarra Strategic Plan – Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo (the Plan) is a requirement of the *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017* (the Act). The Plan is a whole-of-government initiative, co-designed with the responsible public entities (RPEs), as listed in the Act, and Traditional Owners of the Birrarung.

Representatives from these groups form the Yarra Collaboration Committee (or YCC), which oversees implementation of the Plan and ensures works on Yarra River land are aligned through the application of the Plan’s decision-making framework.

Implementing the actions and land-use directions in the Plan will bring to life the 50 year community vision for the Yarra and deliver on the Birrarung Water Policy, *Nhanbu narrun ba ngargunin twarn Birrarung – Ancient Spirit and Lore of the Yarra* articulated by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.

The Plan will be implemented in conjunction with other Yarra-relevant policies, plans and strategies made under relevant statutes such as the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Environment Protection Act 2017* and the *Water Act 1989*.

1.1 Implementation Plan 2022

A key objective of the Implementation Plan 2022 is to embed the Yarra Strategic Plan in business processes for RPEs and other organisations with interests in management of the Yarra. Tasks include:

- establishing governance arrangements
- facilitating use of the decision-making framework
- compiling the activities schedule
- preparing and initiating the monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) plan.

Implementation Plan 2022 includes an Activities Schedule (in section 7) listing planned and funded projects being undertaken by RPEs that contribute to the Plan’s performance objectives. This includes the priority projects identified in the Plan.

The lead agency will coordinate and track progress of the 40 actions listed in Part 1 of the Plan, and DELWP Planning will coordinate implementation of the land use framework and associated actions as set out in Part 2 of the Plan.

1.2 Collaborative management

The collaborative nature of the YCC during development of the Plan exemplified the type of transformational change the Plan is seeking, which is to ‘manage the river without borders’, and as ‘one living and integrated natural entity’.

Underpinning this shift to collaborative management is the Plan’s decision-making framework which:

1. Ensures activities and decision-making are consistent with the Act and aligned with the intent of the Plan.
2. Embeds the role of Traditional Owners as custodians of the Yarra through partnership, representation and involvement in planning and decision-making.
3. Enables the development and prioritisation of projects that lead to positive and transformational change and the delivery of the Yarra 50-year community vision.

More detail on the decision-making framework is provided in section 4.

1.3 Structure of the Yarra Strategic Plan

The Plan has two parts: Part 1 – working together to achieve the community vision, and Part 2 – the land use framework (see Figure 1).

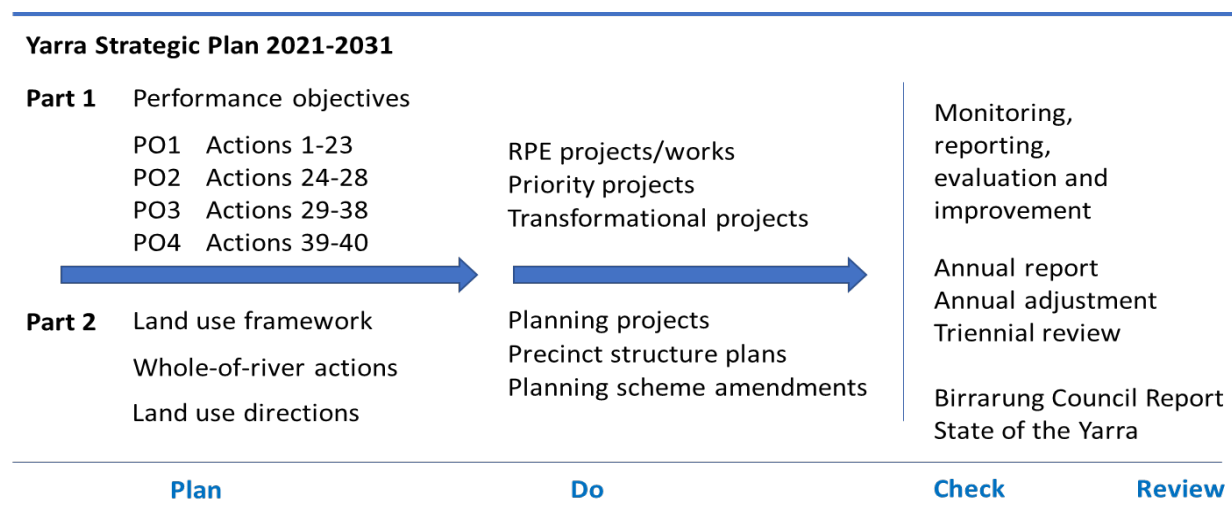


Figure 1 Implementing the Yarra Strategic Plan

Part 1 has four performance objectives representing the change the community is seeking for the Yarra over the next 10 years. These performance objectives are supported by a series of 40 actions to be carried out over the next 10 years. There are also five priority projects to immediately begin the work of the Plan.

The four performance objectives will be achieved through:

- implementing programs, projects and activities, as proposed by RPEs
- investment in priority projects by the government
- collaborative efforts and opportunistic funding for transformative projects.

As a starting point for implementation, members of the YCC have listed activities and projects being undertaken in 2021/22 (as listed in section 7) that contribute to the performance objectives. Through the implementation planning process (described in section 3) the YCC will identify and address any gaps to achieve the performance objectives.

Part 2, the land use framework, includes whole-of-river actions and a series of land use directions that collectively set and guide consistent planning controls for future land use and development across the river’s four ‘reaches’: upper rural, lower rural, suburban and inner city. For each of the four reaches, there are significant places and new areas for protection identified and described with related opportunities for future projects. These align with other plans and strategies, and the performance objectives in Part 1.

1.4 Implementing Part 1 actions

The 40 actions in Part 1 of the Plan will be implemented through collaborative arrangements with RPEs and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. These actions are listed in Appendix G of the Plan, together with potential partners and time frames that need to be confirmed with the YCC.

As noted in Appendix G, decisions about the implementation and timing of actions and projects will be made in line with normal government policy and budget processes. The government will continue its commitment to rigorous decision-making about initiatives that require funding, statutory amendments or new regulations in line with its economic and fiscal strategy, including the government's long-term financial management objectives. In particular, projects requiring budget funding will be assessed against budget capacity, with business cases and cost–benefit analyses being applied in accordance with government policy.

1.5 Implementing the land use framework and whole-of-river actions

The land use framework in Part 2 of the Plan will be given effect in planning schemes through a staged amendment process, which DELWP Planning will lead in consultation with councils and the YCC.

The initial task will be to update Clause 12.03-1R 'Yarra River Protection' of the Planning Policy Framework found in the Victoria Planning Provisions, to make the Yarra Strategic Plan a background document.

In addition, four whole-of-river planning actions will be implemented.

1. New controls (planning protections) from Warrandyte to Warburton
2. Coordinated approach to landscape design and native planting
3. Strengthening the protection of the Yarra River's heritage values
4. Strengthening protections for riparian and biodiversity values.

Where implementation of land use framework directions require additional strategic work to be undertaken, further planning scheme amendments will be progressed once relevant strategic and technical work is complete.

2 Governance

As per section 4(1) of the Act, the Minister for Water appoints a lead agency for the purposes of the Act, which includes leading implementation of the Plan. Their activities will be overseen by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), and the authorising environment provided by the Yarra Collaboration Committee.

The governance arrangements allow for the implementation plan to be a live document, with annual adjustments and full update and revision prepared on a three-yearly basis. This will be supported through regular evaluation and reporting.

Of note is that each RPE will continue to operate independently meeting their own obligations and operational requirements, and collaborating with other entities in delivering on the Plan.

Figure 2 illustrates the governance arrangement for implementing the Plan, figure 3 the annual planning and reporting cycle, and table 1 outlines roles and responsibilities.

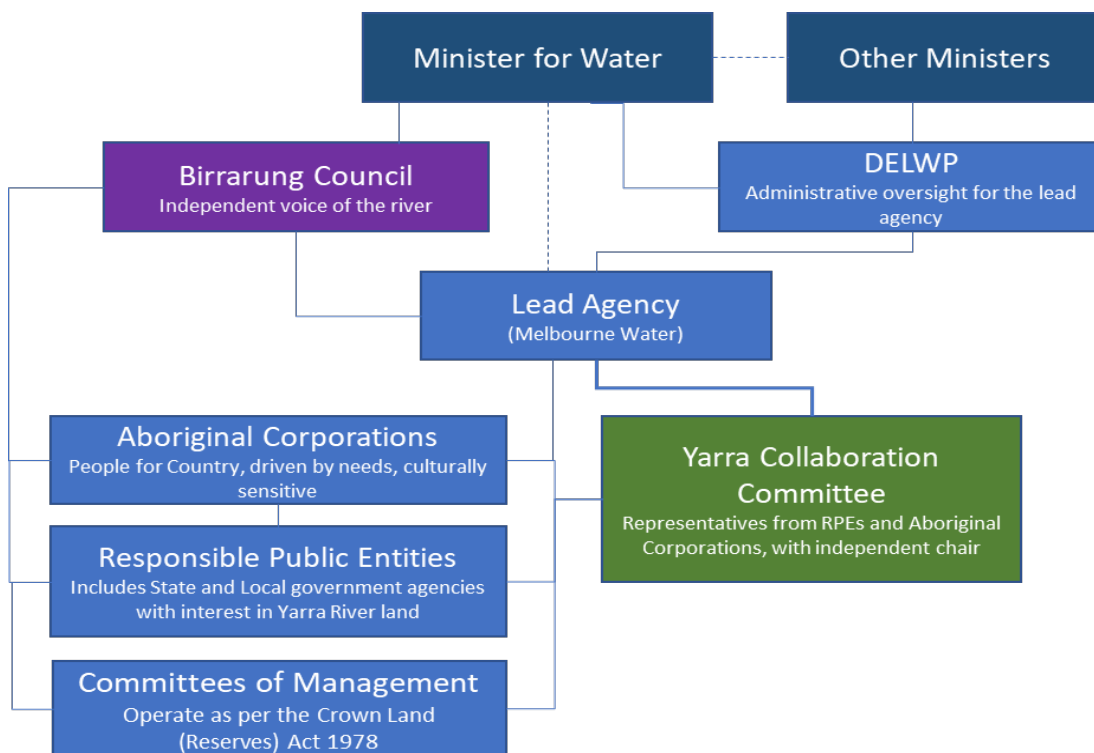


Figure 2 Governance structure for implementing the Yarra Strategic Plan

2.1 Annual Planning and Reporting Cycle

An annual report for the implementation of the Yarra Strategic Plan will be prepared by the lead agency with input from each of the RPEs. This report will be provided to the Birrarung Council to inform their review and advice to the Minister on implementation of the Plan. The report from the Birrarung Council to the Minister will be tabled in Parliament together with the Yarra Strategic Plan implementation annual report (as per section 57 3b).

To contribute to evaluation of the Plan, the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability will prepare a 5-yearly report on the condition of Yarra River land and how the environmental condition

has changed since the last report. The last report was published in 2018, and the next report is due in 2023.

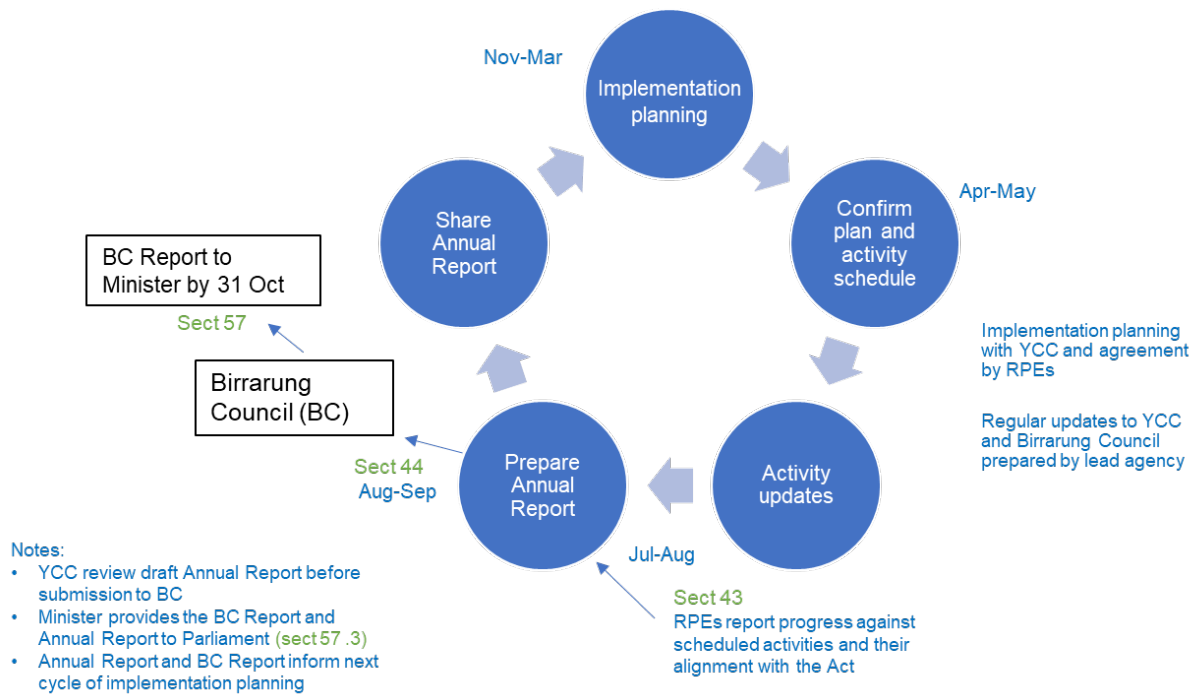


Figure 3 Annual planning and reporting cycle

2.2 Forward Planner

The lead agency will prepare a YSP Forward Planner for the year ahead. The planner, which aligns with the annual planning and reporting cycle, sets out dates and requirements for future planning, reporting, funding opportunities and decision points.

The aim of the planner is to support YCC members in coordinating their own organisational briefing and approval processes, providing them with a level of certainty needed to participate in the implementation of the YSP.

2.3 Roles and responsibilities

The following table presents roles and responsibilities for entities involved in the implementation of the Plan.

Table 1. Roles and responsibilities

Entity	Function	Membership	Operation
Yarra Collaboration Committee (YCC)	Provides a forum to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oversee and provide strategic and operational advice • inform and agree on the rolling 3-year implementation plan • support partnerships with the Traditional Owners • oversee and review the use of the decision-making framework 	Representatives from RPEs and Aboriginal Corporations and an independent chairperson.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets 6 times per year to facilitate regular reporting and sharing of information. • Items for discussion or decision informed by background papers issued by the lead agency. • Option to use working groups for project or issue based planning and investigation, with reporting back to the YCC.

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Entity	Function	Membership	Operation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote and facilitate collaboration and alignment of activities and projects • provide strategic advice on community engagement and reporting • provide advice on key risks and opportunities, including effective governance for implementation. • provide mechanism for members to highlight expectations and concerns with progress in implementation. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members will maintain internal briefing and approval processes to inform discussions and decisions at YCC meetings. • Members will act as conduits into their organisations to support knowledge sharing, collaboration and if required dispute resolution.
<p>Lead agency (Melbourne Water) appointed by the Minister for Water under the Act</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate YCC and coordinate implementation of the YSP. • Support YCC in compiling the activity schedule, including gap analysis and identifying project opportunities to fill those gaps. • Track and measure progress, and provide regular updates to the YCC and key stakeholders. • Lead/champion funding submissions, bids and play a key role in the identification of opportunities and identify where collaborative effort is required. • Facilitate consistent application of the decision-making framework, maintaining records and contributing statistics for the annual report and maintaining an auditable process. • Collate and publish the annual report. 	<p>Melbourne Water as lead agency will be represented by a small coordination team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and secretariat support for the YCC – includes setting agendas, briefing papers, meetings and minutes. • Maintain the YSP Forward Planner, providing an outlook for future planning, reporting, funding opportunities and decision points for noting by YCC members. • Establish and maintain records on the decision-making framework. • Provide briefings for member organisations to facilitate discussions and inform planning outside of YCC meetings.
<p>Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) as nominated government department for implementation of the Act</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DELWP W&C provides administrative oversight of the lead agency for implementation. • DELWP W&C facilitates and raises awareness of funding opportunities and requirements. • DELWP Planning will coordinate incorporation of the land use framework into planning policy. 		<p>Operates under the direction of the Department Secretary</p>
<p>Local municipal councils –</p> <p>Banyule Boroondara Manningham Melbourne Nillumbik Stonnington Yarra City Yarra Ranges</p>	<p>As RPEs local councils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not act inconsistently with directions in the land use framework, and will have regard to the Yarra protection principles when performing its own work and making decisions that affect Yarra River land. • Collaborate in delivering the YSP actions and priority projects where they relate to their remit and function and where resourcing is available. • Form partnerships with other RPEs, identify funding and opportunities, and drive the implementation strategically. • Share annual programs of activities and projects, and participate in implementation planning. 	<p>Councils will have staff on the YCC that have awareness of the intent of the YSP, understanding of the roles and responsibilities as a representative of an RPE, and can participate in discussions and decisions at YCC meetings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council representatives will participate in YCC activities – attend meetings, review briefing papers, provide comment on reports, and participate in discussions and decisions. • Council representatives will keep their executive leadership briefed on issues and progress, and in regard to issues, have authority to represent council's position for discussions and decisions. • Council representatives will champion the YSP and drive its implementation.

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Entity	Function	Membership	Operation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit implementation reports to the lead agency to inform an annual report to the Birrarung Council. 		
<p>State government authorities –</p> <p>DELWP Melb Water Parks Victoria VPA Transport VicTrack</p>	<p>As RPEs, State government authorities will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not act inconsistently with directions in the land use framework, and will have regard to the Yarra protection principles when performing its own work and making decisions that affect Yarra River land. • Collaborate in delivering the YSP actions and priority projects where they relate to their remit and function and where resourcing is available. • Share annual programs of activities and projects, and participate in implementation planning through representation on the YCC. • Submit implementation reports to the lead agency to inform an annual report to the Birrarung Council. 	<p>State government authorities will have staff on the YCC that have awareness of the intent of the YSP, understanding of the roles and responsibilities as a representative of an RPE, and can participate in discussions and decisions at YCC meetings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority representatives will participate in YCC activities – attend meetings, review briefing papers, provide comment on reports, and participate in discussions and decisions. • Authority representatives will keep their executive leadership briefed on issues and progress, and in regard to issues, have authority to represent authority's position for discussions and decisions. • Authority representatives will champion the YSP and drive its implementation.
<p>Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) for lands through which the Yarra flows</p>	<p>Represent the RAP in the implementation of the Plan – the manner in which this will be achieved is part of developing a self-determined process for involvement.</p>	<p>The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation will be represented on the YCC.</p>	<p>Note: Roles and responsibilities for RAPs are the subject of ongoing discussion and confirmation with these corporations.</p>
<p>Committees of management for Yarra River land</p>	<p>Committees of management will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not act inconsistently with directions in the land use framework, and will have regard to the Yarra protection principles when performing its own work and making decisions that affect Yarra River land. • Provide information to the lead agency for activities and projects that affect Yarra River land to inform an annual report to the Birrarung Council. 	<p>Committees of management will operate as per the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i></p>	<p>Committees of management will operate independently of the YCC, and liaise with the lead agency in respect of implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Their relationship with DELWP as a committee of management for Crown land does not change.</p>
<p>Birrarung Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent voice of the Yarra, providing advice to the Government on the implementation of the Act. • Advise the Minister (sect 48.1.a) on the implementation of the YSP in contributing to the protection and improvement of Yarra River land, and the environmental, cultural and heritage values, including the waterway health of the river. • Advocate for protection and preservation of the Yarra River (sect 48.1.b). 	<p>Appointed by the Minister for Water</p>	<p>Provide report to the Minister on implementation of the YSP by 31 October each year, to be tabled in parliament together with the YSP annual report prepared by the lead agency (sect 57.3.b).</p> <p>Operates independently of the YCC, but is provided regular briefings on progress by the lead agency.</p>

Entity	Function	Membership	Operation
Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on the condition of Yarra River land and how the environmental condition has changed since the last report. 	Authorisation is through the <i>Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Act 2003</i> .	Condition report is prepared at intervals not exceeding 5 years (next due in 2023).

3 Implementation planning

The activities schedule (section 7) is fundamental for implementing the Plan. It is a living document that sets out the projects and activities to be undertaken in support of the Plan’s performance objectives.

Figure 4 illustrates the process for implementation planning that will be undertaken annually to update the Activities Schedule and YSP Prospectus.

Each year RPEs will provide the lead agency with their planned projects and activities for the next three years, with emphasis and increased detail on those that occur in the next year. These projects and activities will be attributed to the relevant performance objectives and actions in the Plan. This will allow analysis of potential gaps in coverage across the four performance objectives and spatially along the length of the river.

The preliminary analysis will be shared with the YCC, and discussion facilitated to resolve any potential gaps, overlaps and opportunities for collaboration. This process of analysis and exploration will also be informed by community input obtained through targeted consultation.

Where gaps have been identified, options to address them will be explored. The focus will be on identifying those transformative projects – whole of river and multi-agency – that will help make a step-change towards achieving the community vision. This may involve setting out the scope and timing of potential projects to be considered for implementation in later years, or when additional funding or other avenues for undertaking projects becomes available.

Those activities that can’t be funded immediately, will be included in the YSP Prospectus. Those that can be undertaken within the remit of agencies current operations will be included on the Activities Schedule. In some circumstances, projects may be listed with a caveat “subject to funding approval”.

Having a prospectus of worthy projects will allow RPEs to be ready to apply for funding when it becomes available. There might be times when State or Federal governments are looking to invest in projects of a specific type or for delivery of a specific outcome. A similar model is successfully used by catchment management authorities for their regional catchment strategies.

When the YCC is satisfied that the schedule of projects and activities is sufficiently robust and achievable, it will be presented to the RPEs for confirmation prior to being made publicly available.

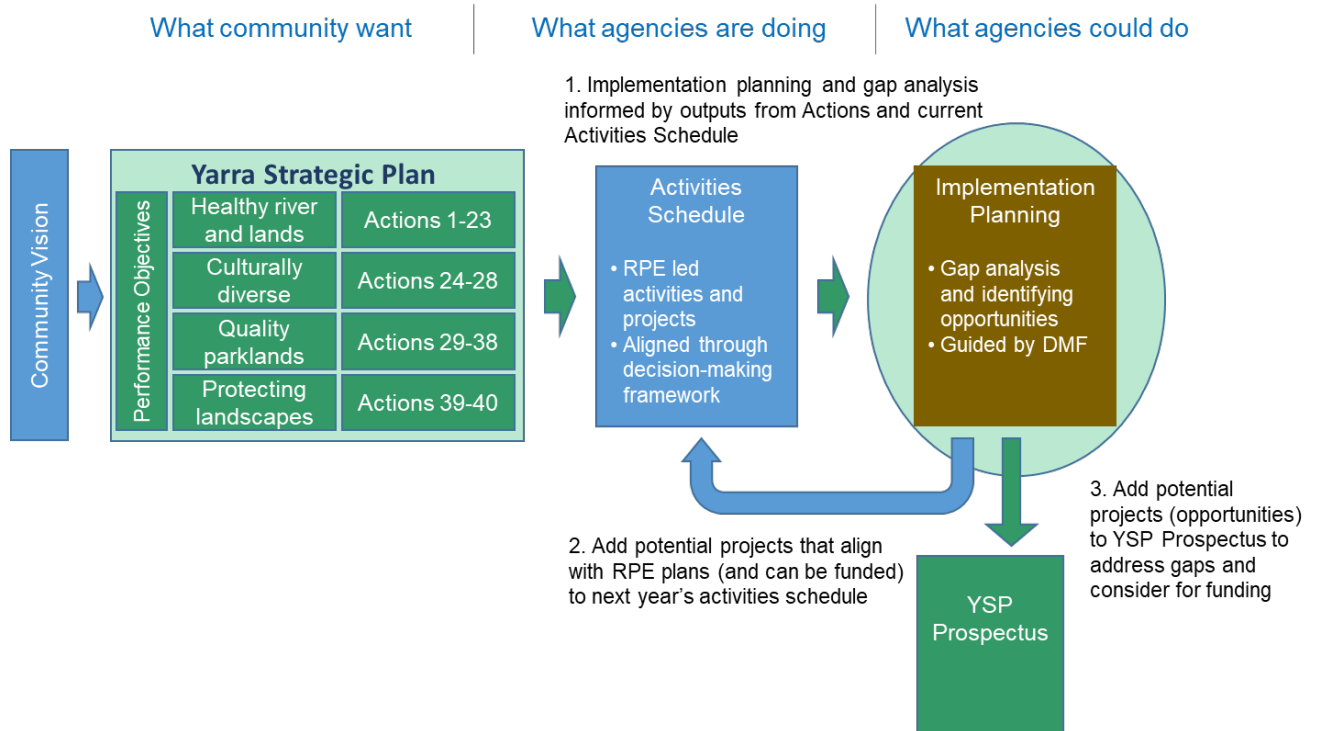


Figure 4 Implementation planning process to identify new and potential projects that contribute to the performance objectives and align with the intent of the Yarra Strategic Plan

4 Decision-making framework

The decision-making framework facilitates transparent and coordinated decision-making by RPEs, including with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Traditional Owners, for activities that affect Yarra River land or when performing a function or duty or exercising power that may affect Yarra River land on their Country.

The decision-making framework ensures activities and decision-making are consistent with the Act and aligned with delivery of the Plan. It embeds the role of Traditional Owners as custodians of the Yarra River through partnership, representation and involvement in planning and decision-making. The framework also enables the development and prioritisation of projects that lead to positive and transformational change and the delivery of the Yarra River 50 year Community Vision, emphasising environmental net gain and aligning with *Nhanbu narrun ba ngargunin twarn Birrarung (Ancient Spirit and Lore of the Yarra)*.

Programs, projects and activities that affect Yarra River land are assessed against criteria based on the protection principles of the Act, aspirations of Traditional Owners, the Yarra River 50 year Community Vision and the performance objectives driving the Plan. The criteria and responses to them are set out in the pro-forma (see attachment 1), providing an auditable record to ensure alignment and to support annual reporting.

The rigour and effort involved in decision-making will be proportionate to the nature of the activities, scope of potential outcomes and environmental risks involved. There are three levels of activities and projects for applying the framework – transformative projects, local projects and routine business activities. Further definition of the three levels is provided in Appendix E of the Plan.

4.1 Implementing the decision-making framework

The lead agency with the support of the YCC will oversee application of the decision-making framework, providing advice on its application if required. Use of the decision-making framework during development of the Plan has been limited, but with the Plan being operational, it is expected that RPEs will apply the decision-making framework for future activities that impact Yarra River land.

The YCC will assist in decision-making under the following circumstances:

- Project proponents want the YCC to support a proposal that does not align fully with the assessment criteria but may have sufficient benefits to warrant doing.
- A significant number of people or groups are likely to have strong or competing views on the project and support from the YCC is critical to funding approval.
- The project is considered to be transformative and YCC support will assist funding approval in a competitive process.
- Information for a proposed project is considered insufficient in terms of its impact or benefit, and discussion with the YCC can confirm alignment with the Plan or alternatively identify additional requirements.
- Analysis of alternatives/options to enhance a project requires consensus prior to further development of the project proposal.

For routine business activities (includes asset management and maintenance), RPEs undertake assessments using the assessment tool (see **attachment 1**). Where routine business activities are outlined in a plan or strategy, this document (and its actions) can be attested to in the whole. This approach aims to minimise administrative burden and allow for operational autonomy, while providing transparency to the impacts of routine business activities.

With regards to local and transformative projects, the lead agency will meet with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation on their Country respectively and the YCC, to review and provide guidance on the application of the assessment tool and prioritise and support those proposals that seek state or federal funding.

For efficiency, proponents will seek advice and discuss their initial-assessment with the lead agency. For those proposals requiring deliberation, the lead agency will provide the YCC with a briefing paper to support a decision, including proposed recommendation, copy of initial-assessment and supporting information provided by the proponent.

The decision-making framework is not required to be used for declared projects within the meaning of the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009*. However, declared projects will follow statutory planning procedures and undertake appropriate assessments as determined by the Planning Minister.

4.2 Partnering with recognised Traditional Owners

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation have their own governance structures and ways of making decisions. They must be respected, and timelines must incorporate these governance structures and ways of making decisions. Any recognised Traditional Owners with an interest in a Yarra River land related project, program and/or initiative on their Country must be included and engaged with, and only that recognised Traditional Owner group has the right to speak for their Country that has been formally recognised (*Right people for Country*).

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation have indicated that for projects on Yarra River land where they are the recognised Traditional Owner, all activities require their involvement in the decision-making process. Proponents must discuss all agreements and proposals with the Wurundjeri Water Unit in the first instance. This includes agreements and proposals relating to funding, intellectual property and research, planning scheme amendments, cultural heritage management plans (CHMPs) and on-ground works.

The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation will confirm their self-determined level of involvement in implementing the Plan and undertaking any relevant actions and projects on their Country.

4.3 Alignment of decision-making

The following steps will be taken to ensure routine business activities and local projects align with the Plan's 10-year performance objectives, the 50 year Community Vision, aspirations of Traditional Owners and the protection principles of the Act.

Steps to ensure alignment of decision making:

1. RPEs through the implementation planning process will list their multi-year rolling programs of activities and local projects.
2. RPEs will indicate how their projects contribute to the 10-year performance objectives, achieve benefits for the broader community and address impacts of climate change and population growth – these assessments will use a combination of quantitative and qualitative indicators. They will also indicate how Traditional Owners have been involved in planning and development of projects, which is a criteria that must be met to demonstrate alignment with the Plan.
3. The lead agency will maintain a record of RPEs assessments, which will contribute to statistics in the annual report. These records will also support an auditing process.
4. As the activities schedule is assembled, the lead agency will check to ensure activities and projects align with the Plan. Key gaps in meeting the vision and performance objectives will be identified and discussed with recognised Traditional Owners and relevant organisations to identify additional projects that could be undertaken to fill these gaps.
5. The lead agency will present the draft activities schedule to the YCC for checking against the vision and performance objectives and to acknowledge any gaps that have been identified and opportunities taken to fill those gaps. The activities schedule will then be submitted to the YCC for approval and implementation.

As indicated in the Plan, the decision-making framework will be trialled over the first year of implementation. This will provide an opportunity to evaluate its benefit and make adjustments to match the needs of RPEs and recognised Traditional Owners. This period of testing will ensure that alignment in decision-making can be managed with available resources, and that the benefit outweighs the cost, especially for routine business activities that will form the bulk of activities undertaken on Yarra River land.

5 Resourcing

The lead agency will coordinate the implementation of the Plan and provide secretariat support for the YCC. The lead agency will be aware of current and planned activities and be able to collate information for the annual report and provide regular briefings to key stakeholders. The lead agency will provide sufficient resources (ie allocate staff) to lead/champion implementation of the Plan and play a key role in the identification of opportunities and identify where collaborative effort is required.

It is expected that state and local authorities, industry and community organisations will identify future activities and projects that align with the Plan and their own organisational objectives, and where mutually beneficial collaborate with other organisations. These organisations will define the budget required, seek funding and independently manage the delivery of activities, while still recognising that these activities and projects will contribute to the performance objectives and community vision set out in the Plan.

To maximise alignment with the Plan, the lead agency will be available to facilitate collaborative planning of projects and coordinate funding applications. However, each organisation will be responsible for having in place appropriate project management and quality assurance procedures and reporting processes to provide progress updates to the lead agency in line with the Plan's planning and reporting cycle (Figure 3).

6 Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) plan

The lead agency with support of the YCC will prepare and implement a monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) plan, to assess the impact, appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency and legacy of the Plan.

The MERI will build on the success measures presented in Part 1 of the Plan. It will detail key performance indicators (KPIs) and key evaluation questions (KEQs) to monitor progress towards meeting the intentions of the 50 Year Community Vision, the *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017* and the four performance objectives in the Plan. The MERI also allows for reporting progress against actions set out in Part 1 and Part 2 of the Plan, and against the activities and projects in the Activities Schedule.

The lead agency will address KPIs and KEQs by collecting and analysing project-level data (reported by project leads) as well as collecting information through fit-for-purpose monitoring and evaluation activities.

The MERI will provide:

- a simple program logic that provides a succinct description of the program and elements that will be monitored, evaluated and reported on
- long and short-term targets that are specific, time-bound and measurable to improve knowledge and measure progress
- KPIs and KEQs for each performance objective within the plan
- a set of standard output measures, reflecting the activities to be delivered and reported on
- alignment with the *State of the Yarra and its Parklands* reporting framework and the MERI plans for the *Healthy Waterways Strategy*, *Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan* and the *Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy*.

The targets contained in the MERI will provide an accurate ongoing measure and record of efforts to coordinate investment in the Yarra River corridor and comprehensive information to the Birrarung Council and the community about how well the Yarra is being managed.

The MERI will be updated on a rolling three-year basis to align with the rolling three-year implementation plans.

6.1 Birrarung Council Monitoring & evaluation framework

The Birrarung Council is required, under Section 57 of *The Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017*, to report to the Minister for Water on the implementation of the Yarra Strategic Plan by responsible public entities (RPEs) on or before 31 October each year. The Minister is then required to table this report in Parliament within seven sitting days.

The Act also sets out the responsibilities of the lead agency and RPEs in relation to reporting on the Plan. Under Section 43 of the Act, each RPE is to prepare a report on its implementation of the YSP for the lead agency. In turn, under Section 44 of the Act, the lead agency (Melbourne Water) must prepare an annual report from the information provided to it, and give the report to the Birrarung Council to assist it with its functions under section 57(1).

The Birrarung Council’s monitoring and evaluation framework sets out key evaluation questions, and the data needed to answer them, so they can report meaningfully on implementation to the Minister and Parliament. The framework was developed in collaboration with the YCC, to ensure the data sought is relevant, meaningful, available or obtainable, and reliable.

The data collected using this framework will allow the Council to advise the Minister on the Plan’s implementation in terms of:

- progress on actions to be delivered
- whether actions collectively are helping meet performance objectives
- progress in applying the tools and guidelines such as the decision-making framework and land use framework
- the degree of change in factors which are required to deliver the new governance model envisaged in the Plan (which may include such things as collaborations, Traditional Owner partnerships, behaviours etc).

The Council is aware that the reporting function must not be overly burdensome for entities, and that the resulting assessment must be easy to understand and apply as part of positive change.

Importantly, the data collected will not only be used for reporting to the Minister and the Parliament, but that each entity’s results can be compiled, analysed then provided back to them to assist in their continuous improvement. The Birrarung Council will also share material with the Environmental Sustainability Commissioner as appropriate to support their reporting of the condition of the Yarra River and its parklands.

Table 2. Who needs to monitor and report on the Yarra River and why

Institution	Requirement for M&R	Scale	Timeframe
YSP implementation - with Traditional Owner input across all reporting			
Birrarung Council (BC)	• Legislative requirement to report to Minister and Parliament on implementation of YSP by RPE	Yarra River Corridor	Annual
MW (as Lead Agency)	• Legislative requirement - prepare an annual report for the BC, to assist BC in preparing its own report on the YSP. MW report to be tabled with BC report	Yarra River Corridor	Annual

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how the Plan is operating to enable ongoing review with RPEs and continuous improvement 		
RPEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To report on their action under the YSP to MW as lead agency 	Areas of operation	Annual
Environmental condition of the Yarra - with Traditional Owner input across all reporting			
MW (as RPE - statutory waterway manager)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To report on the environmental condition of the Yarra as part of the implementation of Healthy Waterways Strategy 	Yarra and Tributaries	Annual
Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative requirement to report on environmental condition of the Yarra River and its Parklands 	Yarra River Corridor	5 years

7 Activities Schedule

The following table sets out proposed projects and activities as nominated by RPEs for 2021/22. The schedule lists activities and projects that have commenced or plan to be commenced subject to approval and funding during the current financial year.

This is not a complete list of works occurring in the Yarra River corridor, as it does not include works associated with major infrastructure (eg North East Link road project, Hawthorn to Richmond Sewer Replacement and Upper Yarra Reservoir Dam upgrade). Similarly the list does not provide a comprehensive list of research projects, many of which will inform actions in Part 1 of the Plan.

	Project/Activity	Description	Location	Reach	Primary PO#	YSP Action#	Lead agency	Project partners
1	Banyule IWM projects	Stormwater harvesting, wetland and WSUD construction and maintenance (multiple sites).	Banyule	Suburban	PO1		Banyule Council	WWCHAC
2	Banyule Billabongs Environmental Water project	Environmental water for Banyule billabong.	Viewbank	Suburban	PO1	6	Banyule Council	Melb Water, WWCHAC, Parks Victoria
3	Boroondara revegetation and weed control	Revegetation and weed control to biodiversity sites and remnant bushland along the Yarra River including Chandler Park, Yarra Flats Reserve and Freeway Golf Course.	Balwyn North to Hawthorn	Suburban	PO1	10	Boroondara Council	
4	Integrated Water Management Grants program	Competitive IWM grants process (\$7.1M available) to help the water sector, local governments and Traditional Owners work together to better plan, manage and deliver urban water projects across Melbourne. The 2021-22 competitive funding round closed in December 2021.	Metro Melbourne	All reaches	PO1		DELWP	Yarra IWM Forum Partners
5	Stream Frontage management program	Works on public land, dependent on landholder responses and site needs, often delivered via Melbourne Water stream frontage management program.	Yarra Valley	Upper rural	PO1	10	DELWP	Melb Water
6	Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area 10 year Plan	A management plan for public land in the Yellingbo conservation area. The Yellingbo conservation area is a network of public land reserves ranging from Upper Yarra Valley to Dandenong Ranges	Yellingbo	Upper rural	PO1		DELWP	Parks Victoria, Melb Water

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	Project/Activity	Description	Location	Reach	Primary PO#	YSP Action#	Lead agency	Project partners
7	Options for increasing requirements for rainwater tanks and maintenance	DELWP is assessing the options for increasing requirements for rainwater tanks in the National Construction Code and improving their maintenance, which has amongst other things, the potential to keep significant amounts of stormwater out of waterways, including the Yarra.	State-wide	All reaches	PO1		DELWP	VBA, Better Regulation Victoria (DTF).
8	Stormwater management and IWM education	DELWP and Clearwater are collaborating to educate the industry on stormwater management and Integrated Water Management, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Updates to the Online Navigator Tool Resource Portal, which guides planning system users on the stormwater planning requirements in the VPP. · Training sessions on stormwater management, and new training and communications tools, such as IWM video. 	Yarra River	All reaches	PO1		DELWP	Clearwater
9	Exploring stormwater flow reduction regulatory options	Examining costs and benefits of incorporating aspects of the stormwater flow standards from the EPA Urban Stormwater Management Guidance (July 2021) into other regulatory frameworks, eg VPP.	Yarra River	All reaches	PO1		DELWP	Melb Water, EPA, Local Government
10	Yarra Catchment IWM Action Plan	The Action Plan will provide an agreed list of priority actions that will help the Yarra Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forum progress towards the Yarra Catchment IWM targets.	Yarra River	All reaches	PO1	4	DELWP	Yarra IWM Forum Partners
11	Managing Environmental Impacts of Domestic Wastewater	In response to the 2018 VAGO audit recommendations in 'Managing the Environmental Impacts of Domestic Wastewater', DELWP and EPA are reviewing the regulatory framework for managing on-site wastewater management systems (OWMS). In line with Environment Protection Regulations 2021, EPA is developing a toolkit for local government, setting out the new laws for OWMS and enforcement.	State-wide	All reaches	PO1		DELWP	EPA
12	Grants funding for water-related priority projects	Funding for existing and new projects (\$1.7 million available from 2021 – 2024)	Yarra River	All reaches	PO1		DELWP	Multiple

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	Project/Activity	Description	Location	Reach	Primary PO#	YSP Action#	Lead agency	Project partners
13	Care for your Yarra	Digital platform connecting skilled volunteers with on-demand needs from Friends Groups and local communities within the Yarra Catchment area. In addition to coordinating a growing volunteer workforce will enable training in specific issues and activities before an on-ground training session.	Yarra River	All reaches	PO1		DELWP	Yarra Riverkeeper
14	Westerfolds Grassland Conservation	Includes weed management, furthers the species diversity of the area and repairs fencing to control rabbits. Additionally, volunteers will receive professional training in weed identification and removal, contributing to the ongoing management of the site.	Templestowe	Suburban	PO1		DELWP	Yarra Riverkeeper
15	Fitzsimons Lane Upgrade of Intersections	Fitzsimons Lane intersection upgrades in Eltham and Templestowe - roads project to improve traffic flow and safety for commuters, includes drainage and revegetation works impacting Diamond Creek and the Yarra River.	Eltham and Templestowe	Suburban	PO1		Major Road Projects Victoria	Nillumbik Council, Manningham Council, Melb Water
16	Floatlands	Priority project - A trial of floating wetlands in the central city area of the river. Given the innovative nature of the floating vegetation concept, the trial will assess viability at a larger scale.	Central city	Inner city	PO1		Melbourne City Council	DELWP
17	Yarra4Life	Environmental program to improve, increase and protect habitat for native animals including the Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum. Includes long-term goal of habitat link from Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve north to Yarra Ranges National Park.	Yarra Valley	Lower rural and upper rural	PO1	10, 13	Melbourne Water	Community & agencies
18	Yering Gorge to Yarra Junction Integrated Catchment Management Project	Use of integrated catchment management principles to address threatening processes - working across the landscape with private and public land managers, Traditional Owners and broader community to achieve multiple benefits including biodiversity, threatened species recovery, sustainable agriculture, improved water quality and river health, and supporting Traditional Owner aspirations and community empowerment.	Yarra Valley	Lower rural and upper rural	PO1	10, 13	Melb Water	Community & agencies

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	Project/Activity	Description	Location	Reach	Primary PO#	YSP Action#	Lead agency	Project partners
19	Weed control and revegetation works along the Yarra River	Enhancing a degraded section of the river between Dights Falls and Andrews Reserve, with a focus on weed control and revegetation to increase natural values and provide habitat.	Abbotsford	Inner city	PO1	10	Melb Water	Parks Victoria
20	Sugarloaf Adaptive Deer Management 2021-23	Intensive management program (eradication) to protect drinking water quality and biodiversity values at Sugarloaf Reservoir. The reservoir, which is fenced off, is within the Kinglake-Yarra biodiversity corridor.	Christmas Hills	Lower rural	PO1	20	Melb Water	
21	Melbourne Water Maintenance Program	Recurrent expenditure on maintenance of Yarra River through programmed maintenance eg weed control, debris removal, litter management.	Yarra River	All reaches	PO1	10	Melb Water	
22	Bolin Bolin billabong restoration	Delivering the long term watering solution at Bolin Bolin. Working on Country with Narrap team.	Bulleen	Suburban	PO1	6	Melb Water	WWCHAC, Parks Vic, VEWH, Manningham Council
23	Lower Yarra Landscape Approach to billabongs	Implementing the landscape scale approach to billabongs management framework for the Lower Yarra.	Lower Yarra River	Suburban	PO1	7	Melb Water	WWCHAC, Parks Vic, VEWH, Manningham Council, Riverkeeper, Banyule Council
24	Delivering environmental water to the Yarra River	Delivering the Seasonal Watering Plan 2020/21 for the Yarra River.	Yarra River	All reaches	PO1	17	Melb Water	VEWH
25	Monitoring the lower Yarra billabongs	Ecological monitoring program for the Lower Yarra Billabongs - vegetation, frogs and water quality. Working with Melbourne University and Narrap team.	Lower Yarra River	Suburban	PO1	9	Melb Water	Melbourne University, WWCHAC
26	Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways Program	Funding program for projects and longer-term partnerships that provide value by aligning with at least one of the following themes - Connected habitat and catchments, Integrated water management enablers, Science, innovation and technology, and Liveable Cities.	Metro Melbourne	All reaches	PO1	13	Melb Water	Councils, Community Groups, Agencies, Private landholders

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	Project/Activity	Description	Location	Reach	Primary PO#	YSP Action#	Lead agency	Project partners
27	Upper Yarra weed management	Weed and willow control along multiple reaches of the river between Dee River and Woori Yallock Creek, and additional weed control between Don Road, Launching Place and the Warramate Hills NCR.	Dee River to Woori Yallock Creek	Upper rural	PO1	20	Melb Water	
28	Yarra Flats	Priority Project - trial watering of Annulus and Banksia Street billabongs and design of an onsite stormwater treatment wetland to supply water to the billabongs and provide improved community access.	Lower Yarra River	Suburban	PO1		Melb Water	WWCHAC, DELWP, Parks Vic, Banyule Council, VEWH
29	Yarra River cleaning and maintenance - litter	Annual litter removal program.	Lower Yarra River	Inner city	PO1		Parks Victoria	DELWP
30	Lower Yarra Litter Improvement	New litter management funding, litter traps, techniques, and innovations.	Lower Yarra River	Inner city	PO1	2	Parks Victoria	Federal, DELWP
31	Regenerating Burnley Harbour for a Healthy Bay	Involves removing rubbish and invasive weeds, bank stabilisation and revegetation. Also provides engagement and awareness amongst local groups.	Burnley Harbour	Inner city	PO1		DELWP	Yarra Riverkeeper,
32	Freshwater mussels research	Wurundjeri Woi wurrung led project to understand the distribution, ecology and threats to freshwater mussels. It is part of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Umalek Murrup Ngark Yaluk Ba Bik project with its objective of further involving Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people in waterway research and restoration, and a long-term aim of reintroducing freshwater mussels into waterways.	Lower Yarra River	Suburban	PO1	19	WWCHAC	Melb Water, Arthur Rylar Institute
33	Birrarung Rangers	Priority Project - provides ongoing involvement of Traditional Owners in the day-to-day management of the Yarra River, Birrarung, strengthening connection to Country.	Yarra River	All reaches	PO1		WWCHAC	DELWP, Melb Water
34	Yarra City Council bushland maintenance	Bushland maintenance, covers weed control in 34 bushland sites (approx. 35ha) across Yarra City Council.	Alphington to Richmond	Suburban and inner city	PO1	10	Yarra City Council	community
35	Yarra City Council EVC revegetation program for waterways	EVC revegetation program along waterways, aims to plant 20,000 local provenance plants in line with EVC density benchmarks.	Alphington to Richmond	Suburban and inner city	PO1	10	Yarra City Council	community

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	Project/Activity	Description	Location	Reach	Primary PO#	YSP Action#	Lead agency	Project partners
36	Yering billabongs	Priority Project - restoration of 100 ha of floodplain to functional billabongs and wetlands. Led by Yarra Ranges Council, the project will reconnect the floodplain by creating ephemeral and semi-permanent water bodies to mimic natural habitats and provide water quality treatment for flows from Olinda Creek, Stringybark Creek and Muddy Creek, while also extending Spadoni's Reserve.	Yering	Lower rural	PO1		Yarra Ranges Council	DELWP, Melb Water, WWCHAC
37	Polystyrene in the Yarra River	Priority project - assessing the relative contribution of polystyrene in the river from industries. Includes building a stronger evidence-based-understanding of litter sources, creating educational material for community and business on the extent and impact of polystyrene pollution, improving engagement with communities, and building an open-source interactive polystyrene pollution layer for the Yarra Atlas.	Central city	Inner city	PO1		Yarra Riverkeeper	DELWP
38	Peri-urban deer control plan	Plan to reduce impacts to biodiversity, water, agriculture and Traditional Owner values through delivery of education, monitoring and deer control activities across the peri-urban area, including Yarra River land and catchment.	Peri-urban areas	Upper rural, lower rural and suburban	PO1		DELWP	Parks Victoria, Councils, Melb Water, Traditional Owners, private landholders
39	Deliver options to support water rights for the Birrarung.	Investigate the possibility of the reallocation of the former Amcor entitlement	Yarra River	All reaches	PO2	8	DELWP	WWCHAC
40	Brushy Creek cultural values mapping project	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation second phase of Birrarung cultural mapping at the Brushy Creek confluence. Funding and in-kind officer support provided by DELWP.	Brushy Creek	Suburban	PO2		WWCHAC	DELWP
41	Heidelberg Activity Centre Structure Plan	Preparing a new Structure Plan for the Heidelberg Activity Centre	Heidelberg	Suburban	PO3		Banyule Council	
42	Heidelberg Park Masterplan	Developing Heidelberg Park Masterplan.	Heidelberg	Suburban	PO3	29	Banyule Council	Melb Water, Parks Vic, VicRoads, DELWP, Warrigal Conservation Society and

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	Project/Activity	Description	Location	Reach	Primary PO#	YSP Action#	Lead agency	Project partners
								Banyule Bicycle Users Group
43	Parks Maintenance - Mowing	Parks maintenance and mowing, including: Wilson's Reserve, Burke Rd North, The Boulevard, Warringal Parklands and Banyule Flats Reserve.	Ivanhoe to Viewbank	Suburban	PO3	29	Banyule Council	
44	Heidelberg Yarra Street Bridge	New bridge at end of Yarra Street in Heidelberg to connect across the Yarra River from Main Yarra Trail to Heide Museum of Modern Art in Bulleen.	Heidelberg	Suburban	PO3		Banyule Council	NEL (uncommitted)
45	On road bicycle route on Yarra Street, Heidelberg	On-road bike path connection from proposed Yarra Street Bridge to access Heidelberg Activity Centre and Train Station	Heidelberg	Suburban	PO3		Banyule Council	NEL (uncommitted)
46	Main Yarra Trail upgrade	1. Improve trail connection under Banksia Street which is currently poorly provided with a very steep winding path from road level to river level. 2. Provide a new shared user path between Banksia Street and Burke Road (see Council's concept design). 3. Provide a short cut path on south side of Banyule wetlands.	Heidelberg	Suburban	PO3		Banyule Council	NEL (uncommitted)
47	Concept Design for Bike Path	Concept design for bike path between Banksia Street and Burke Road North.	Heidelberg	Suburban	PO3		Banyule Council	
48	Disc Golf Project – Warringal Park	Investigate options for a 9-hole disc golf course at Warringal Park.	Heidelberg	Suburban	PO3		Banyule Council	
49	Hawthorn Rowing Ramp	Refurbishment of the Hawthorn rowing ramp adjacent Hawthorn Rowing Club.	Hawthorn	Inner city	PO3		Boroondara Council	
50	Freeway Golf Course	Completion of course reconfiguration works.	Balwyn North	Suburban	PO3		Boroondara Council	NEL
51	Willsmere Park	Construction of new sports pavilion.	Kew East	Suburban	PO3		Boroondara Council	
52	Hays Paddock	Design for renewal of playground, and upgrade and extension of path network	Kew East	Suburban	PO3		Boroondara Council	

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	Project/Activity	Description	Location	Reach	Primary PO#	YSP Action#	Lead agency	Project partners
53	Fairview Park and Wallen Reserve	Install solar lighting along pathway	Hawthorn	Inner City	PO3		Boroondara Council	
54	Walmer St bridge	Renewal of the Boroondara section of the Walmer St bridge	Kew	Inner City	PO3		Boroondara Council	
55	Acquisition of public land	Five land parcels purchased for inclusion in the Yarra Valley Parklands, as part of the proactive acquisition program with a Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO).	Yarra River	Suburban	PO3	33	DELWP	Parks Vic, Councils
56	Open Space for Everyone 2021 - activities relevant to YSP	1) preparing metropolitan wide open space investment plan to guide 30-year investment priorities 2) investigating new governance models for managing public open space, including involvement of Traditional Owners more effectively 3) reviewing Design Guidelines for public open space to engage a broader cross section of the community 4) investigating shared use of public land agreements to optimise use of existing open space.	Metro Melbourne	All reaches	PO3		DELWP	State and local government agencies and Traditional Owners
57	Land and asset issues management – suburban and inner city reach	Includes clarifying an ongoing asset manager for Fairfield pipe bridge and for public reserve abutting the Alphington Paper Mill development; and managing potential implications for adjacent public land associated with re-development works at the Collingwood Children’s Farm.	Fairfield, Alphington, Collingwood	Suburban and inner city	PO3		DELWP	Yarra Valley Water, Parks Vic, Yarra Council, Collingwood Children’s Farm
58	Main Yarra Trail - Gipps St steps	Replace with all abilities access and improve bike access	Abbotsford	Inner city	PO3		Parks Victoria	Yarra City Council, DELWP
59	Wonguim Wilam Park – new playspace	Wonguim Wilam park (formerly Lions Park, Warrandyte) - substantial playspace expansion and upgrade of this popular park in central Warrandyte.	Warrandyte	Suburban	PO3		DELWP	Manningham Council
60	Upper Yarra Reservoir Park Revitalisation	Creating a variety of active and passive play areas for local residents and visitors to this popular camping spot.	Upper Yarra Reservoir, Reefton	Upper rural	PO3		DELWP	Yarra Ranges Council, Parks Vic, Melb Water
61	Alphington Park	New playground to expand the age range that the playspace is suitable for.	Alphington Park, View St, Fairfield	Suburban	PO3		DELWP	Yarra City Council

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	Project/Activity	Description	Location	Reach	Primary PO#	YSP Action#	Lead agency	Project partners
62	Shared Trail at Launching Place	South bank of Yarra at Launching Place, links to Warburton Rail Trail. Two phase construction. Community consultation on phase 1 delayed by COVID 19	Launching Place	Upper rural	PO3	32(?)	DELWP	Yarra Ranges Council, Parks Vic, Melb Water
63	Warrandyte Lions Park Redevelopment (now known as Wonguim Wilam Park)	Upgrade of community space with additional picnic facilities and seating, improved path layout and connection to the river, natural landscaping and art/heritage interpretation elements, and car park redesign to improve functionality.	Warrandyte	Suburban	PO3		Manningham Council	Lions Club, VicRoads, DELWP
64	Main Yarra Trail Extension to Warrandyte	Extending the shared trail network between the Mullum Mullum trail and Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte, to improve recreational opportunities (ie walking, cycling and jogging).	Warrandyte	Suburban	PO3		Manningham Council	
65	North East Link related projects	Planning for recreational facilities and improved pedestrian and cycling opportunities as a result of the NELP.	Bulleen	Suburban	PO3		Manningham Council	NELP
66	Enterprize Park upgrade	Enterprize Park, located on the north bank, between the Aquarium and Queens Bridge is being upgraded with lawn areas expanded by approximately 1,000 sqm, and views and physical connectivity between park and river strengthened.	Central city	Inner city	PO3	35	Melbourne City Council	Traditional Owners
67	Southbank Promenade upgrade	Revitalising section of Southbank Promenade between Princes Bridge and Evan Walker Bridge, addressing a number of amenity and safety issues. This project will inform future stages of works along the promenade.	Southbank	Inner city	PO3		Melbourne City Council	
68	Southbank Boulevard - public space revitalisation	Transformation will add 2.5ha of public spaces and neighbourhood parks in Southbank, Melbourne's most densely populated suburb. Completed sections include the roadway, super tram stop and Arts Gateway open space. Works are underway on the Civic Space located in front of the ABC Southbank Centre.	Southbank	Inner city	PO3		Melbourne City Council	
69	Greenline Northbank	Multi-year program to revitalise Northbank environment public realm between Birrarung Marr and North Wharf	Northbank	Inner city	PO3		Melbourne City Council	
70	Seafarers Rest Park	Creating a new public park at Seafarers Rest in Docklands following Riverlee development completion.	Northbank	Inner city	PO3		Melbourne City Council	

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	Project/Activity	Description	Location	Reach	Primary PO#	YSP Action#	Lead agency	Project partners
71	Launching Place Kayak Launch	Install a kayak launch on the Yarra River at Launching Place, immediately upstream of the Don Road bridge.	Launching Place	Upper rural	PO3		Melbourne Water	Yarra Ranges Council
72	Herring Island	Recurrent expenditure on the management of Herring Island.	Herring Island, Richmond	Inner city	PO3		Parks Victoria	
73	Yarra Bend Park	Recurrent expenditure on the management of Yarra Bend Park.	Yarra Bend Park, Kew and Fairfield	Suburban	PO3		Parks Victoria	
74	Warrandyte State Park	Recurrent expenditure on the management of Warrandyte State Park.	Warrandyte	Suburban	PO3		Parks Victoria	
75	Sugarloaf Reservoir Park	Recurrent expenditure on the management of Sugarloaf Reservoir Park.	Christmas Hills	Lower rural	PO3		Parks Victoria	
76	Yarra Ranges National Park	Recurrent expenditure on the management of Yarra Ranges NP.	Yarra Ranges NP, McMahons Creek	Upper rural	PO3		Parks Victoria	
77	Yarra Valley Parklands	Recurrent expenditure on the management of Yarra Valley Parklands - includes Bolin Bolin, Banyule Flats, Banksia Park, Yarra Flats, Viewbank Park, Birrarung Park, Westerfolds Park, Candlebark Park, Tikalara Park, Sweeney Flat, Laughing Waters Park, Pound Bend and Longridge.	Bulleen to Warrandyte	Suburban	PO3		Parks Victoria	
78	Fairlea Reserve Netball Courts and Pavilions Project	Construction of netball courts and pavilions - includes landscaping, bike racks, pedestrian pathways and increased car parking capacity.	Yarra Bend Park - Fairlea Precinct	Suburban	PO3		Parks Victoria	Sport and Recreation Victoria, Netball Victoria, Yarra City Council
79	Yarra River Management	Recurrent expenditure on the management of Yarra River.	Lower Yarra River	Inner city	PO3		Parks Victoria	
80	Haining Farm Development	Recurrent expenditure on the management of Haining Farm.	Launching Place	Upper rural	PO3		Parks Victoria	
81	Thomas Oval Dog Park, South Yarra	Provide a dog-friendly park on underutilised land at Thomas Oval (Williams Road and Alexandra Avenue, South Yarra) -	South Yarra	Inner city	PO3		Stonnington Council	DELWP

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	Project/Activity	Description	Location	Reach	Primary PO#	YSP Action#	Lead agency	Project partners
		funding under the Government's Local Parks (dog parks) Program						
82	Launching Place Walking Trail	Develop walking trails in Launching Place.	Launching Place	Upper rural	PO3		Yarra Ranges Council	Melbourne Water, DELWP
83	Warburton Recreation Reserve Master Plan	Developing master plan to upgrade sports pavilion and refurbish the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail historic turntable.	Warburton	Upper rural	PO3		Yarra Ranges Council	
84	Yarra Valley Trail (Stage 1B)	This stage will feature new bridges to replace the heritage bridges that were destroyed in the 2009 Black Saturday fires as well as a new bridge over the Yarra River.	Yarra Valley	Lower rural	PO3		Yarra Ranges Council	DELWP, Federal & State Gov, Melb Water, DoT, VicTrack, Yarra Valley Railways, Rail Trails Australia
85	Millgrove River Walk	The proposed walking track will provide a safe walking course for recreational and education purposes on the Yarra River bank and a widening of River Road.	Millgrove	Upper rural	PO3		Yarra Ranges Council	Dept of Premier and Cabinet
86	Planning scheme amendment for Yarra Strategic Plan	Planning scheme amendment to give further statutory effect to the land use framework plan in Part 2 of the Yarra Strategic Plan - DELWP is preparing the amendment for 2022.	Yarra River	All reaches	PO4	-	DELWP	Local councils
87	Yarra River land declarations	Yarra River land updated in September 2021, adding five new parcels and removing parcels gazetted in error. Preliminary work on Yarra River land declarations for the inner city reach in progress.	Yarra River	All reaches	PO4	-	DELWP	Parks Victoria
88	Yarra River – Bulleen Precinct Land Use Framework Plan	Being finalised and anticipated to be publicly released in early 2022.	Bulleen	Suburban	PO4		DELWP	WWCHAC, Transport (MTIA)
89	Updated coastal hazard overlay content in planning schemes	Amendment VC171 (gazetted 6 September 2021) implemented the state Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 and updated coastal hazard overlay content in planning schemes.	Yarra Estuary	Inner City	PO4		DELWP	Melb Water

Attachment 1 – Decision-Making Framework

Alignment Assessment for projects, programs and policies affecting Yarra River land

This pro-forma is used to assess and evaluate projects, programs and policies, which if implemented have the potential to affect Yarra River land. The assessment is against a set of criteria that draws on the protection principles of the Act, aspirations of Traditional Owners, the Yarra River 50 year Community Vision and the four performance objectives driving the Yarra Strategic Plan.

The proforma is in two parts. In part 1, the criteria is drawn directly from the Act's protection principles, and in part 2 the criteria covers project funding, delivery aspects and effectiveness.

Where the criteria are not met, proponents must consider options to enhance or amend the project to achieve alignment. Projects that don't align or have poor alignment will trigger discussion by the YCC to reach a satisfactory resolution. Poor alignment will also effect funding viability of projects.

Proponents that receive a negative rating for any criteria must explain the reason for this rating and potential mitigation measures.

Part 1 – Alignment with protection principles of the Act

Proponents must rate proposed projects against the following criteria. Where projects don't align or have poor alignment with the criteria, additional information describing the nature and extent of non-alignment must be provided. Not all criteria will be relevant to all projects; however those criteria related to the 'general' protection principles are considered to be mandatory.

Protection principles	Assessment	Comments
General principles		
Proposal is based on integrated environmental, social and cultural considerations in order to improve public health, wellbeing and environmental benefit. *	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1)	
Proposal considers best available information to avoid possible serious or irreversible damage from climate change. *	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1)	
Public health and wellbeing are enhanced by the proposal.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (-2)	
Score for general principles	/ 3	
Environmental principles		
Measures have been put in place to mitigate any potential threats of environmental damage from the proposal. (Lack of scientific certainty is not a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation or for failing to assess the risk-weighted consequences of options.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (-1) <input type="checkbox"/> NA (0)	
Biodiversity and ecological integrity is maintained or enhanced in ways that are proportionate to the significance of the environmental risks and consequences being addressed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (-1) <input type="checkbox"/> NA (0)	
Impacts on different segments of the environment have been considered. Best practical outcomes should be sought if approaches to managing impacts on one segment of the environment have potential impacts on another.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (-1) <input type="checkbox"/> NA (0)	
Proposal provides a net gain for the environment (better than 'no net loss' to biodiversity). See attachment 3.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (-1)	

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Protection principles	Assessment	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> NA (0)	
Score for environmental principles	/ 4	
Social principles		
For the benefit of the community, parklands are improved and amenity is enhanced, including protection of natural features, landscape and views.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (-1) <input type="checkbox"/> NA (0)	
Community has/will be consulted (community plays an essential role for protection or improvement and promotion of Yarra River land).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (-1) <input type="checkbox"/> NA (0)	
Score for social principles	/ 2	
Recreational principles		
Where possible, community access and enjoyment of the river will be protected and enhanced through design and management of the project/proposal. (Project aims for compatible multiple uses, optimising community benefit of public open space.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (-1) <input type="checkbox"/> NA (0)	
Public open space will be used for recreational and community purposes that are within the capacity of that space in order to sustain natural processes and not diminish the potential of that open space to meet long-term aspirations of the community.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (-1) <input type="checkbox"/> NA (0)	
Score for recreational principles	/ 2	
Cultural principles		
Aboriginal cultural values, heritage and knowledge of Yarra River land are acknowledged, reflected and protected in the proposal.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1)	
The role of Traditional Owners as custodians have and will continue to be acknowledged through partnership, representation and involvement in the proposal.*	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (-1)	
The cultural diversity and heritage of post-European settlement communities are recognised and protected.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (-1) <input type="checkbox"/> NA (0)	
Score for cultural principles	/ 3	
Management principles		
For policy and programs, coordination is occurring between all (relevant) levels of government and government agencies. * Ensuring holistic management of the corridor including consultation with Traditional Owners is foundational to achieving the Yarra Strategic Plan. Coordination should be with all parties with an interest in the land parcel.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1)	List partners involved
Best practicable measures available have/are being used in proposal design.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1)	
Proposal demonstrates continuous improvement and extends beyond compliance with relevant laws and requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (-1)	

Protection principles	Assessment	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> NA (0)	
Score for management principles	/ 3	
TOTAL	/ 17	

* These criteria are considered mandatory for all projects. Those that don't align should be re-scoped.

Part 2 – Funding consideration and assessment of broader alignment

Alignment with protection principles of the Act is the gateway or first 'hurdle' that projects or proposals need to get through. For those projects that align with the protection principles, consideration for viability of funding, delivery and effectiveness should be assessed using the following criteria.

Where the assessment criteria is not met, proponents must provide a comment as to why this shouldn't affect YCC advocacy for potential funding.

Funding criteria	Assessment	Comments
Does the project have defined deliverables, timeline and costings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Is this project dependent on receiving additional funding beyond what has been approved in budgets (or investment plans) of the responsible public entities supporting the project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Does the project demonstrate partnership with Traditional Owners groups, including shared decision-making?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Does the project align to the aspirations of the Birrarung Water Policy (<i>Nhanbu narrun ba ngargunin twarn Birrarung</i>), Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Aboriginal Heritage Corporation partnership protocols (see attachment 2) and consider broader Traditional Owner objectives?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Does the project align to the aspirations of the 50 Year Community Vision and reach specific visions?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Does this project have the ability to create transformative change across the whole-of-river corridor?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Does this project contribute to one or more of the Yarra Strategic Plan 10-year performance objectives?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Has a cost-benefit analysis been undertaken for this proposal and shown that the project will provide a positive benefit?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Attachment 2 – Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (draft) partnership protocols for implementing the Yarra Strategic Plan

The decision-making framework embodies the following protocols to protect Country and ensure ongoing cycles of involvement between responsible public entities and recognised Traditional Owners. The protocols:

- (1) Support responsible public entities in developing their understanding of the rights and responsibilities of Traditional Owners to Country (land and water).
- (2) Demonstrate to responsible public entities and the broader community the value of Traditional Owner inclusion and participation.
- (3) Support the Traditional Owners to further engage with the community it represents including providing culturally relevant employment opportunities.
- (4) Further develop and consolidate cultural, environmental, social, political and economic relationships with water.

The protocols were developed by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation as the recognised Registered Aboriginal Party through which a majority of the Yarra, Birrarung flows (January 2021).

The Corporation have a unique organisational structure that operates from a model of consensus and representative decision making. Three families are represented within the Corporation and are given equal voice at each level of decision making. There is a requirement to engage with representatives from each family group on projects unless otherwise directed by the Corporation.

As per the Corporation's Narrap (Country) Plan, engagement reflects the need for the Corporation to participate across all levels of activity in respect to cultural, natural resources and land use planning in a supported and culturally respectful manner. Three main levels of engagement identified within the Narrap Plan are interlinked elements that fit together:

1. **Policy** - direct engagement in policy development with the State of Victoria for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country
2. **Program Partnership** - leadership, partner, informed recipient with relevant government agencies, NGOs, research institutions etc. in an ongoing and meaningful manner. This includes the responsible public entities named in the *Yarra Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017*.
3. **On ground presence** - Caring for Country actions that include restoration, rehabilitation, protection, research, education, assessments and knowledge gathering. In some instances there will be differences between the Corporation and State which need to be acknowledged and managed.

[In implementing the decision-making framework:](#)

The Act is informed by a suite of principles including: general, environmental, social, recreational, cultural and management principles. *All* of these principles have relevance to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. Responsible public entities engaging with the Corporation are to provide a written statement detailing how proposed projects are aligned with each of these principles.

1. Responsible public entities will work with the Corporation in a way which is respectful of the organisational capacity, respects cultural integrity and facilitates the retention of Cultural Knowledge as owned by the Corporation.
2. No agreement will be signed without a clause stating that Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural and ecological knowledge remains the property of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.
3. Researching, identifying and filling gaps in current legislation and policy regarding the recognition of species, places, view lines and other expressions of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural value. This includes waterway naming, consideration of species as having cultural heritage value, and the development of practice notes to protect intangible place-based values.
4. It is expected that responsible public entities will comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. In addition there is growing recognition that the current extent of the Cultural Heritage Sensitivity layer does not indicate the lack of cultural material and that consultation about development and land use change is an area of ongoing refinement. Responsible public entities will assist with the appropriate cultural surveys and Cultural Heritage compliance processes above and beyond the current extents of the Cultural Heritage Sensitivity layer where the Corporation deems it appropriate. This includes: support in waterway naming, implementation of notes into the Planning Scheme, early inclusion in the form of Cultural Values studies for regions, and recognition of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung rights to water.
5. Responsible public entities will support Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people in active participation around changes to Country via planning processes, and support the Corporation design and achieve good water policy.

For responsible public entities responding specifically to the Yarra Strategic Plan areas of delineation, engagement with the Corporation should commence immediately at the project proposal stage. The Corporation will assist in the development of the project from the point of proposal, ongoing development and where appropriate implementation.

1. The appropriate point of contact is the Corporation's Water Unit, where project proposals will be discussed with the responsible public entities and then developed collaboratively.
2. If the project is deemed to be of a certain scale and/or scope, the Water Unit will refer the co-designed project to an internal reference group with whom the responsible public entity will collaborate with in an ongoing capacity.
3. Responsible public entities are asked to allow a minimum of three months for the initial appointment to meet with the Water Unit, with ongoing collaboration being determined by the availability of a relevant internal reference group.
4. If the scale and/or scope of the project is deemed of such significance as to require further examination, the project may be referred to the Corporation's Board of Directors for consideration. Projects elevated to the Board will require greater lead time for assessment and deliberation. Consultation with the Corporation will incur associated costs for cultural and professional expertise. If out of session Board sessions are required, fees to convene the Board will also be incurred.

Operating outside the Yarra Strategic Plan areas of delineation

For responsible public entities operating outside the Yarra Strategic Plan areas of delineation (as described by *Nhanbu narrun ba ngargunin twarn Birrarung*):

1. It is expected that responsible public entities who have oversight of, or any intersection with state or other agents managing or determining policies and practices that impact on, or relate to Naarm (Port Phillip Bay), engage with the Corporation at the commencement of project proposals. The Corporation expects to be involved in the development of projects and where appropriate implementation of on ground works. For projects currently in train responsible public entities either directly or indirectly involved should contact the Corporation's CEO to make a time to meet with representatives of the Corporation.
2. It is expected that responsible public entities support the active participation in policy and legislative processes with regards to impacts on land, water, and sea Country as outlined in the Narrap Plan and other Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung policy documents. This includes identifying and implementing strategies that support direct input into planning, heritage and environmental policy systems by the Corporation on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country. Country is contiguous and cultural values are not bounded by modern land tenure boundaries.
3. Compliance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* is expected, as too is support in expanding the Cultural Sensitivity Model. The Corporation seek to incorporate areas of Country where it is known that Cultural Heritage material occurs.

Attachment 3 – Terms of Reference for Yarra Collaboration Committee (YCC)

Purpose

The Yarra Collaboration Committee (YCC) provides strategic and operational advice to support the implementation of Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo – Yarra Strategic Plan. The committee works in a collaborative manner, ensuring all parties and the community have the opportunity to contribute to delivery of the performance objectives in the plan, and achieving the community's vision for the Yarra River and its parklands.

Background

- The *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017* (the Act) requires the development and implementation of a Yarra Strategic Plan (YSP) as an overarching policy and planning framework in relation to the Yarra River and land in its vicinity.
- The Act calls for a long-term community vision that identifies the community's 'values, priorities and preferences' for managing the Yarra; with the YSP providing the overarching policy and planning framework to bring that vision to life.
- The Act sets out 19 protection principles to which responsible public entities (as listed in the Act) must have regard to. This includes that the role of Traditional Owners as custodians of Yarra River land be acknowledged through partnership, representation and involvement in policy planning and decision-making. The principles also require that there is coordination between all levels of government and government agencies when designing policies and programs and making decisions in relations to Yarra River land.
- The Yarra Collaboration Committee (YCC), comprising representatives of the responsible public entities and Traditional Owners, was initially established in 2017 to support the lead agency in developing the Community Vision and YSP.
- Melbourne Water, having been appointed as the lead agency for development of the YSP under the Act, will continue as lead agency for its implementation.
- The responsible public entities and six committees of management for Yarra River land, endorsed the YSP, which was subsequently approved by the Minister for Water in February 2022 for implementation.
- The YSP aims to bring to the fore cultural land and water management practices, while acknowledging the close cultural and spiritual connection the Traditional Owners maintain with the Birrarung and its parklands. Traditional Owners will, as self-determined, hold a place in the governance throughout the YSP's implementation, and act as planners, decision makers and delivery agents on their Country alongside state and local government agencies.

Role and function

- The YCC provides a forum to oversee and provide strategic and operational advice on the implementation of the YSP in line with the Yarra protection principles and in managing the river and its parklands as one living and integrated natural entity.
- The YCC provides a forum through which partnerships with the Traditional Owner's will be formed and championed; 'walking together' in implementing the YSP and its actions.
- The YCC has the responsibility to inform and agree to the rolling 3-year implementation plan, and to ensure that there are processes in place to engage with and coordinate input from agencies, the community and stakeholders.
- The YCC provides a forum to discuss and provide advice on key risks and opportunities for implementing the YSP, including engagement, effective governance and trade-off processes.

- The YCC provides a forum to discuss and provide advice on achieving the YSP's performance objectives and resulting actions, by all relevant agencies.
- The YCC provides a forum to oversee and review the use of the decision-making framework (as outlined in the YSP) when determining projects and activities that will contribute to the YSP's actions and performance objectives.
- The YCC provides a forum to discuss and provide advice and leadership in monitoring and evaluating the YSP, including contributions to the annual report and identifying improvements.
- The YCC will operate from February 2022 to June 2024, at which time the committee's role will be reviewed in order to support the ongoing implementation of the YSP.

Governance and decision-making

- Discussions will be moderated by an independent Chair of the YCC.
- Decisions will be made by consensus. All efforts will be made by the chair to enable the committee to reach a consensus.
- Where consensus cannot be reached the chair will make the final decision, based on a majority. All member positions will be noted.
- The decision-making framework in the YSP must be applied where applicable.
- Items for discussion and decision by the YCC will be informed by consultation and engagement, and will include specialist input where applicable.

Membership

- The group will include representation from the responsible public entities listed in the Act, together with representatives from the two Registered Aboriginal Parties recognised under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* that cover Country that the Yarra River flows through. Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation cover the majority of the Yarra, Birrarung, from the city to the mountains. Downstream of the city, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation are recognised as the Registered Aboriginal Party covering the lower reaches of the Yarra estuary out to Narrm (Port Phillip Bay).
- It is preferable that members are of an executive level in their respective organisations, or be suitable appointed delegates. This is to facilitate authoritative decision-making and strategic advice on behalf of their respective organisations.

Key responsibilities – YCC members

- Attend regular YCC meetings and review associated briefing papers.
- Nominate a proxy who can attend meetings in their place when needed.
- Provide constructive and informed advice on issues raised during and (where required) outside the meetings.
- Respect the views of all YCC members.
- Communicate and champion the YSP within their own organisations, and with stakeholders and community.
- Undertake sufficient consultation within their own organisation to gain their organisation's authority in respect to decision-making. If they cannot gain the authority to make decisions, then it is expected that members outline the process and time required to support decision-making by the YCC.
- To be a primary contact for liaison with the lead agency (Melbourne Water), the YCC Chair, and Birrarung Council.

Additional key responsibilities – Chairperson

- Facilitate meetings in a timely manner, capture views of all members and remain outcomes focused.
- Strive to enable the committee to reach consensus on decisions.
- Actively engage with YCC members during and outside meetings to resolve issues.

Key responsibilities – Secretariat (Melbourne Water)

- Appoint the independent Chair of the YCC.
- Melbourne Water YCC representative to act as Deputy Chairperson.
- Provide administrative support to the YCC, including organising meetings, taking minutes, and circulating associated documents in a timely manner. It is expected that agenda and associated papers will be sent at least one week prior to meetings, and that at least 6 weeks' notice be given for key decisions.
- Report to YCC on how the committee's advice and decisions have shaped YSP outcomes.
- To support the YCC members to carry out their role through the provision of information and briefings as required.

End