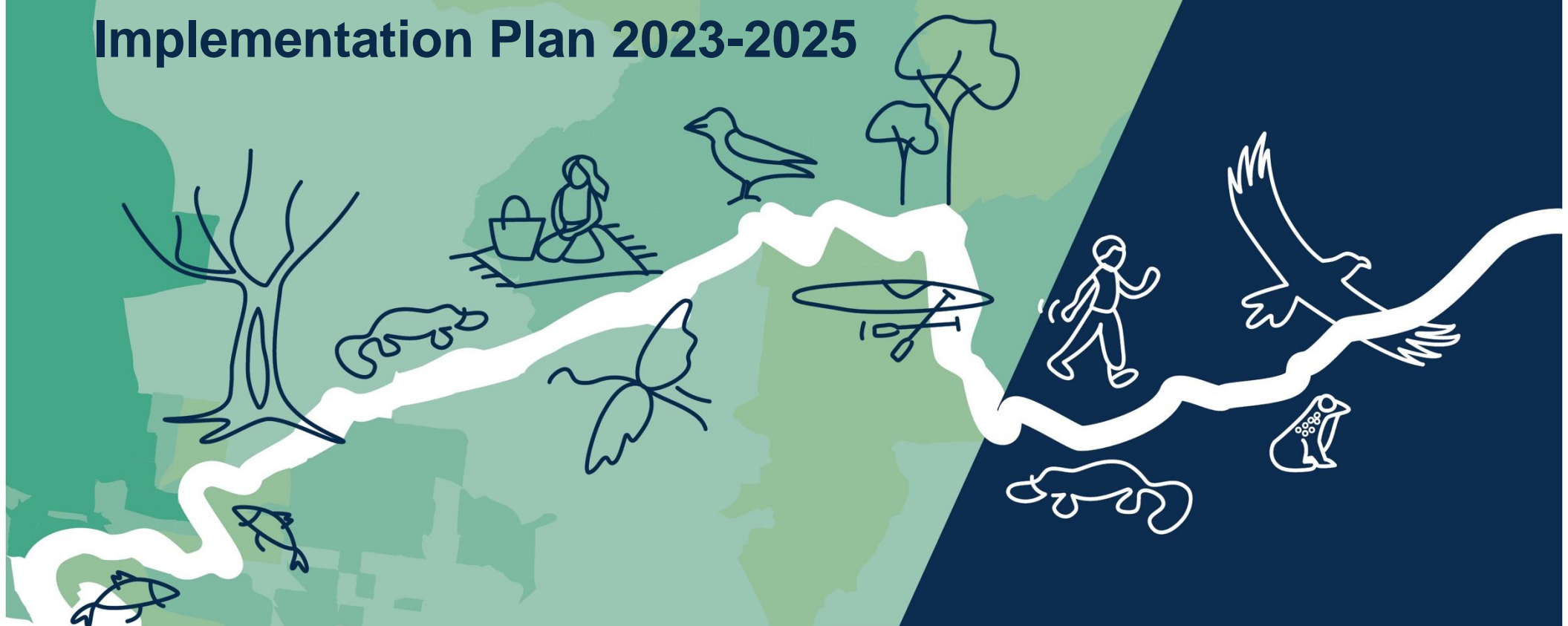


# BURNDAP BIRRARUNG BURNDAP UMARKOO YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

## Implementation Plan 2023-2025



Last updated  
11 December 2023

## Acknowledgement of Country

The Yarra Collaboration Committee acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung and Bunurong Peoples as the Traditional Owners of the land through which the Birrarung flows.

We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present, and we acknowledge that they have never ceded their sovereign rights to lands and waters. We recognise their unbroken connection to Country, we celebrate their culture and history, and we honour their rights as custodians for the River and its lands.

## Yarra River 50 Year Community Vision

*Our Yarra River, Birrarung, is recognised around the world as an iconic example of a nurturing relationship between a river and its community.*

*Flowing from source to sea, it is the resilient lifeblood of past, present and future generations of Victorians. It connects and enriches our flourishing city, suburbs, regions and beyond.*

*Our Yarra River, Birrarung, its essential role in our lives and its rich history, are respected, understood and protected. It has cared for us for thousands of years and will for thousands to come.*

*The vital and continued role of Traditional Owners as custodians of the River, and its role in their culture, is recognised and celebrated.*

*Our Yarra River, Birrarung, and its diverse surrounding landscapes provide a place of refuge, recreation, learning and livelihood. It brings communities together and supports sustainable local economies.*

*Its clean waters and connected network of thriving green spaces nurture biodiversity, and deepen the relationship between people and nature.*

*Our Yarra River, Birrarung, is respected as a sacred natural living entity and everyone takes responsibility for its care. Its health and integrity are paramount and uncompromised.*

*'Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo' (what is good for the Birrarung is good for all).*



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Transforming collaborative governance

Introduction of the *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murron) Act 2017* (the Act) represented a significant step change in how we respect, care for and manage the Birrarung in partnership with Traditional Owners.

The Act required the development of a 50-year Community Vision and the Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo – Yarra Strategic Plan 2022-2032 (the Plan). The Act and the Plan represent a collective commitment by government agencies to rethink how we manage the river and its lands with Traditional Owners as decision makers and partners on their Country, and to deliver on the community vision.

Development of the three-year implementation plan is a non-statutory commitment set out in the Plan. It has been developed and approved by the Yarra Collaboration Committee as an agreed approach for implementing the Plan, coordinating effort across agencies and improving collaboration in activities across the Yarra Strategic Plan area (Figure 1).

By the end of the 10-year Plan, our commitment to collaborate in decision-making, align investment in activities and use the land use framework, will enable two core outcomes:

1. Traditional Owners as decision makers and delivery agents on their Country, alongside state and local government agencies
2. The Birrarung being managed and protected as one living and integrated natural entity.

This three-year implementation plan (2023-2025) progresses short term outcomes set out in the Plan whilst continuing to build momentum towards the transformational changes required by the Act. It will deliver the following six outcomes over the three years:

- commitments set out in the Plan on track and delivered within agreed timeframes Wurundjeri and Bunurong resourced as decision makers and delivery agents across key initiatives
- collaboration leading to greater collective impact on key initiatives
- commitment to implementing the Plan across all levels of government and with the support of the community
- Birrarung at the centre of decision-making through adoption of the decision-making framework, including the principle of net gain
- transformative change strengthened by four new transformative projects.

This three-year implementation plan supports delivery of the Plan by:

- identifying priorities against each of the six outcomes
- nominating coordinating agencies for each of the Plan's actions
- outlining governance arrangements and the role of the Yarra Collaboration Committee
- ensuring that Traditional Owner Corporations are suitably resourced, engaged early and involved in decision-making
- building a three-year Activities Schedule<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Implementing agencies have listed activities being undertaken or planned that contribute to the performance objectives in the Plan. The collated list is referred to as the Activities Schedule.

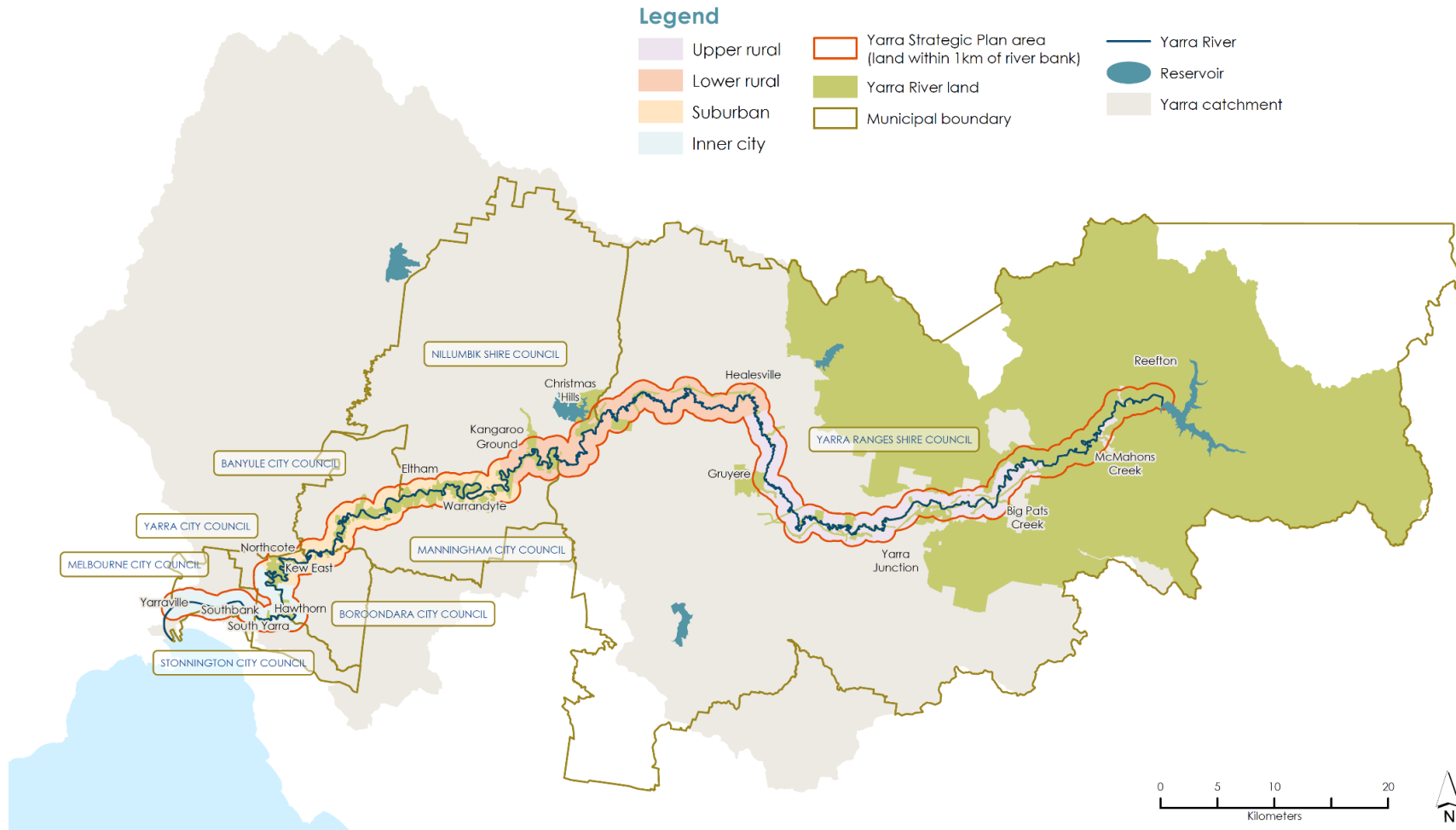


Figure 1 Map of Yarra Strategic Plan area showing Yarra River land

## 1.2 Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo

The Plan is a whole-of-government initiative, co-designed with the Traditional Owners and responsible public entities (RPEs) as listed in the Act. It was approved by the Minister for Water, and became operational on 24 February 2022. The Minister also confirmed that Melbourne Water would continue as the Lead Agency for implementation of the Plan.

As a 10-year plan, it provides an overarching policy and planning framework in relation to the Yarra River and land in its vicinity. The Plan's focus is the main stem of the river from Upper Yarra Dam to Port Phillip Bay (Figure 1).

The Plan, which is comprised of two parts, promotes collaborative governance to manage and protect the river through shared decision-making and aligned investment.

**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.

**Part 2**, the land use framework, includes a series of land use directions to guide consistent planning for future land use and development along the river's four 'reaches'. The framework includes significant places and areas for protection, together with potential opportunities for supporting activities that were identified through community consultation. These opportunities align with other plans and strategies, and performance objectives in Part 1.

## 1.3 Responsible public entities (RPEs)

The six government agencies and eight local councils listed as responsible public entities (RPEs) in the Act, have through their endorsement of the Plan, committed to:

- have regard to Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo and the Yarra protection principles<sup>2</sup> when performing their work and making decisions that affect Yarra River land
- collaborate in delivering the Plan's actions and transformative projects where they relate to their remit and function and where resourcing is available
- share annual programs of activities and participate in the implementation planning process
- submit reports to the Lead Agency to inform an annual report on implementation of the Plan.

Representatives from the 14 RPEs together with representatives from Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Corporations and an independent chair form the Yarra Collaboration Committee.

## 1.4 Implementation planning

The implementation planning process is the primary process to drive collaborative governance and achieve the intent of the Act and the Plan. The process occurs on a three-yearly basis with annual adjustments to ensure the implementation plan remains current.

The planning process facilitates collaboration in how we invest and deliver activities along the Birrarung. It allows the Yarra Collaboration Committee to understand and identify collectively:

1. 'transformative projects' – activities that deliver multiple performance objectives, demonstrate significant collaboration across organisations, deliver outstanding value for the entire river corridor and represent an enduring change from the status quo
2. 'local projects' – activities that deliver innovation or incremental improvement (extent, quality or quantity) of mostly local benefit; and

<sup>2</sup> The Act lists 19 Yarra protection principles across the themes of general, environmental, social, recreational, cultural and management.

which may be more effective with a collaborative approach, allowing delivery of better outcomes

3. 'routine' or 'business as usual' – activities such as habitat improvement, maintenance and asset replacement, generally planned and delivered as programs to agreed standards.

Undertaking this planning process enables the committee to:

- strengthen collaborative planning and governance
- provide the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Aboriginal Corporations the opportunity to identify activities for their involvement and decision making
- estimate collective investment (annual \$ value) in managing and protecting the river and its lands

- establish a repeatable process for identifying transformative projects and enhancing collaboration with Traditional Owners and across agencies.

A comprehensive process was established in 2022 to inform this three-year implementation plan (Figure 2). In between these years, a simplified process will operate, with the objective to identify any refinements for implementation and update the Activities Schedule. The objective being to understand level of investment in the corridor, opportunities for scaling up collaboration and potential ideas for transformative projects.

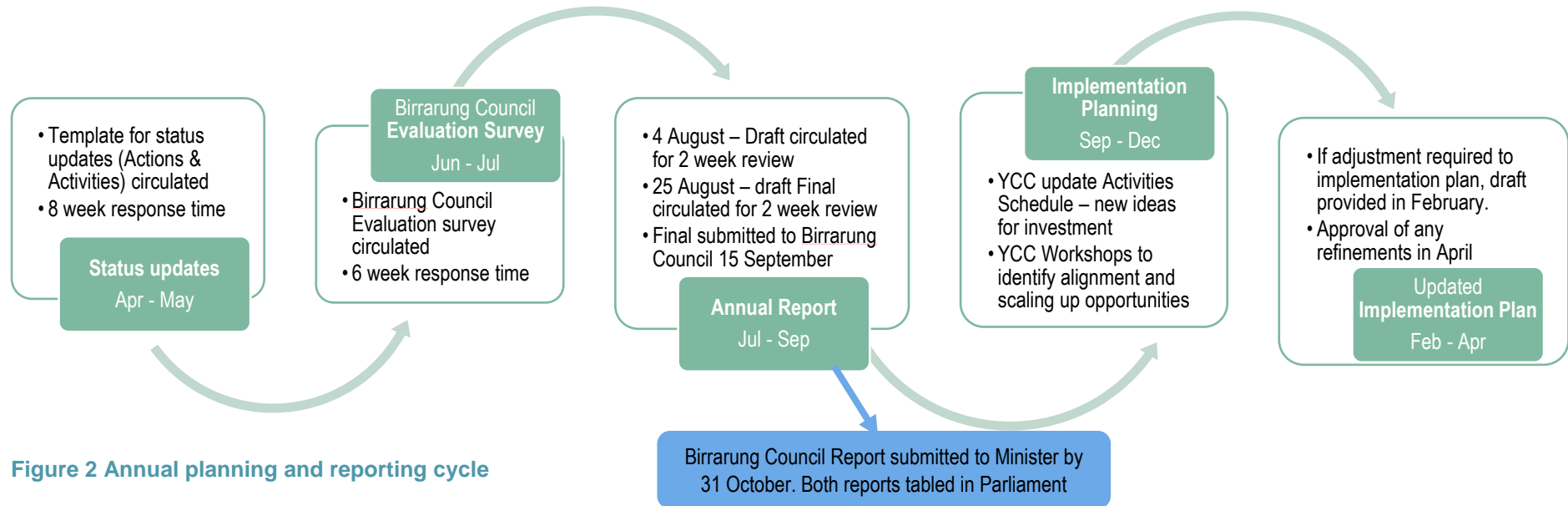


Figure 2 Annual planning and reporting cycle

6.

Implementation Plan 2023-2025

## 2 Priorities and outcomes for next three years

### 2.1 Setting the scene

The Yarra Collaboration Committee, with support of the Melbourne Water Project Team, undertook the implementation planning process between September 2022 and March 2023. A brief summary of the process and outcomes is provided below.

The priorities for the next three-years are informed by four elements as shown in Figure 3.

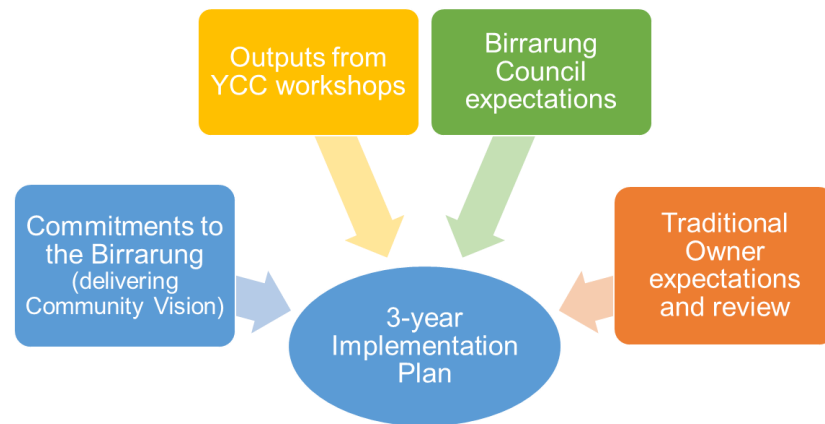


Figure 3 Process inputs for informing the 3-year Implementation Plan

The implementation plan is the mechanism for delivering on the commitments to the Birrarung as set out in the Plan. This includes transformative changes to how the Birrarung is managed and protected through collaboration and working with Traditional Owners; the actions in Part 1 and Part 2 of the Plan; governance, and monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

Ongoing community support for the Plan is also a key to its success. The Birrarung Council provides the community with an assurance that RPEs are implementing the plan to deliver on the community vision. However, community support for the Plan also depends upon RPEs maintaining open channels of communication for community representatives to inform or be involved in implementation where possible.

As part of the implementation planning process, the Yarra Collaboration Committee held two workshops. Outputs from the November 2022 workshop included areas for scaling up of collaboration, transformative projects, and focus areas for transforming governance. At the February 2023 workshop, the committee refined the areas for work on transforming governance and suggested next steps to progress specific projects and actions.

The Birrarung Council's expectations of key priorities for implementation, as presented in their 2022 annual report, were another input to the planning process. This included the need to improve partnerships with Traditional Owners and self-determination; and managing parklands as one living and integrated natural entity.

Additional feedback from the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation was also used to inform development of the implementation plan.

The end point from the process was the three-year implementation priorities and outcomes set out in the following sections and illustrated in Figure 4, which have informed this implementation plan.



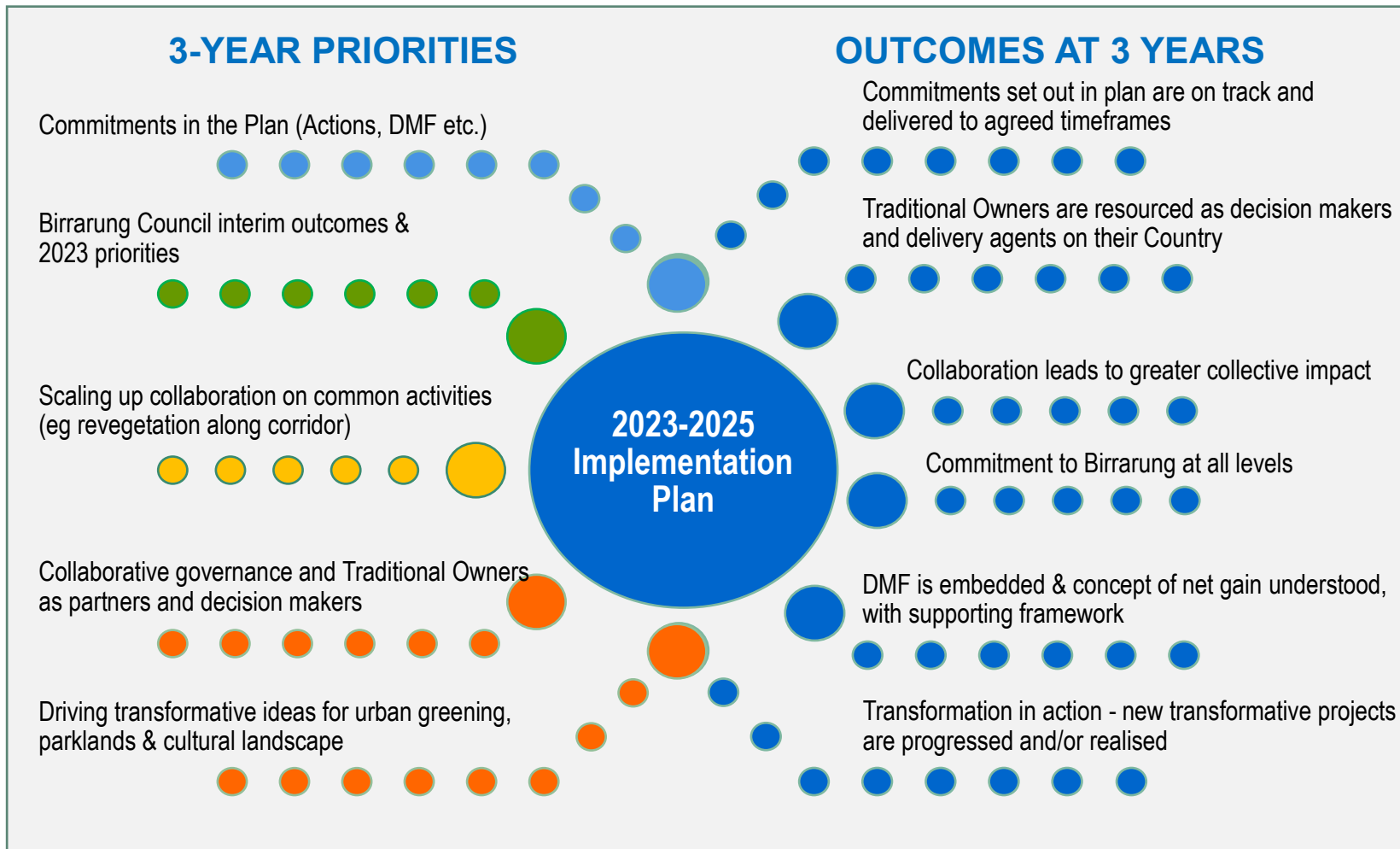


Figure 4 Three-year implementation priorities and outcomes

## 2.2 Focus areas

The following section sets out six focus areas for implementation over the three-year period from July 2022 to June 2025. These focus areas are informed by the priorities and outcomes developed through the implementation planning process (illustrated in Figure 4). Importantly, an adaptive approach will be adopted, informed by the priorities and self-determination of Traditional Owners. Normal government protocols and approaches in respect to resourcing and funding will also dictate activities in these focus areas.

### 2.2.1 Commitments set out in the Plan are on track and delivered

The four performance objectives set out in Part 1 of the Plan are supported by a series of 40 actions, which are categorised into short, medium and long term actions. Those actions planned to be undertaken in the short to medium term will be the focus of implementation over the next three years.

The 40 actions in Part 1 of the Plan are implemented through collaborative arrangements with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, and relevant RPEs. These actions and their nominated coordinating agency are set out in Section 4 of this document. Further information on the actions, including partner organisations, is available in Part 1 and Appendix G of the Plan.

The land use framework set out in Part 2 of the Plan, provides broad direction for future land use and development along the Birrarung. By guiding land use and development on both public and private land, the Birrarung and its values can be protected, which delivers on the performance objectives in Part 1.

RPEs have listed activities being undertaken or planned that contribute to the performance objectives. The collated lists, referred to as the **Activities Schedule** (reproduced in section 5), includes routine business, local projects and transformative (priority) projects; including the five priority projects committed to in Part 1 of the Plan.

The Lead Agency with support of the YCC and Birrarung Council have developed a **monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework (MERF)** that addresses the legislative requirements of the Act. This includes the requirement of the Birrarung Council to report to the Minister for Water by 31 October each year on the implementation of the Plan by RPEs. The Minister is required to table the Birrarung Council report together with the Lead Agency report on implementation in Parliament within seven sitting days of receiving them. The MERF is published as a separate document on the Melbourne Water website.

Focus area	2023 Milestones	2024 Milestones	2025 Milestones
<b>Part 1 Actions</b> – Part 1 has four performance objectives representing the change the community is seeking for the Birrarung over the next 10 years. These performance objectives are supported by a series of 40 actions set out in the Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All short-term actions in progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning for mid-term actions commenced with project plans complete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All short-term actions delivered</li> <li>High level planning for long-term actions commenced with project plans complete</li> </ul>

Focus area	2023 Milestones	2024 Milestones	2025 Milestones
<p><b>Part 2 Actions</b> – the planning scheme amendment giving effect to the land use framework (i.e. referencing the Plan as a background document in the Victoria Planning Policy) has been prepared and will be considered by the Minister for Planning in due course. Once approved the land use directions within the framework can be translated into local planning schemes through a staged amendment process, led by the State in consultation with councils and the YCC.</p> <p>Implementing the land use framework includes a further four land use planning related actions (set out on page 71 of the Plan) to be delivered through a program of state-led projects in partnership with local councils. These actions will be scoped and considered for future resourcing by the Planning group within Department of Transport and Planning (DTP).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan recognised in State planning policy</li> <li>Land use planning related actions scoped</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scoping completed for translating land use directions into local planning schemes</li> <li>Scoping completed for whole-of-river planning actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole-of-river planning actions commenced</li> <li>Local planning scheme amendments drafted</li> </ul>
<p><b>Monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework (MERF)</b> – provides framework for reporting progress of activities and actions being undertaken by RPEs, and evaluating how they contribute to the performance objectives and deliver on the community vision and priorities across the whole-of-river and four reaches.</p> <p>Importantly, the MERF delivers on the legislative requirements for monitoring and reporting as set out in the Act. This includes alignment with the Birrarung Council’s annual evaluation of implementation, and the Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment’s 5-yearly reporting of the State of the Yarra and its Parklands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MERF review undertaken to ensure legislative requirements are being addressed</li> <li>First evaluation report (as defined in the MERF) completed</li> <li>State of the Yarra and its Parklands 2023 published</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual adjustments made to the implementation plan (if required)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual adjustments made to the implementation plan (if required)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Annual Reporting</b> – RPEs prepare a report on their implementation of the Plan for the Lead Agency (this includes completing the annual evaluation survey developed by the Birrarung Council). The Lead Agency uses the collated information to prepare a consolidated annual report for the Birrarung Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual report</li> </ul>

**Role of Traditional Owners:**

Traditional Owners will self-determine their involvement in focus areas giving consideration to delivery approach, priorities and timing.

**Role of the Lead Agency:**

The Lead Agency coordinates implementation of the Plan and provides secretariat support for the YCC. This includes maintaining an awareness of current and planned activities along the Birrarung, and implementation of the MERF to support annual reporting and the implementation planning process.

Based on information from coordinating agencies, the Lead Agency tracks progress of actions, and (when requested) assists coordinating agencies in planning and delivery of these actions. They also coordinate updates to the Activities Schedule, which informs annual reporting and the implementation planning process.

**Role of RPEs:**

RPEs collaborate in delivering the Plan's actions and transformative projects where they relate to their remit and function and where resourcing is available. They share annual programs of activities, participate in implementation planning, and submit implementation reports to the Lead Agency for annual reporting.

Each RPE is responsible for having in place appropriate project management and quality assurance procedures and reporting processes to ensure successful delivery of their nominated activities and any actions they are participating in that contribute to the Plan's performance objectives.

RPEs will identify future activities and projects that align with the Plan and their own organisational objectives, and opportunities for collaboration with other organisations where it is in the best interests of the river and community. They will define the budget required, seek funding and independently manage the delivery of activities, while recognising that these activities contribute to the performance objectives and community vision set out in the Plan.

## 2.2.2 Traditional Owners are resourced as decision makers and delivery agents

Acknowledging and empowering the role of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples as custodians of the river and its lands, with a self-determined role in planning and decision making on their Country is central to implementing the Plan. This is reflected through one of the core outcomes of the Plan, to ensure that Traditional Owners are resourced as decision makers and delivery agents on their Country. However, uncertainty of ongoing funding to enable Traditional Owner participation in implementing the Plan presents a significant challenge to Traditional Owners and to delivering expected outcomes.

This shift in planning and decision making with Traditional Owners requires RPEs to rethink and rework standard operating procedures, timeframes, funding and governance approaches. There is also a need to consider cultural safety and competence when working with Traditional Owners and their representatives.

While transformative in its intent, the Plan sets significant new commitments for the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Corporations. Some access to funding, staff and facilities, networking and partnerships have materialised through early implementation, however a sustainable funding model is required.

There are a variety of types of resourcing that can support and empower Traditional Owners, including:

- direct funding of the corporations to support organisational capacity building
- education and training opportunities to help with skill development
- providing specialist skills for a project, such as a hydrologist to help with a cultural values study
- secondments into Traditional Owner organisations
- information tools or data or access to specialised information or databases
- sharing project tools such as geographic information systems (GIS) to map and analyse data.

Addressing these barriers – in partnership with Traditional Owners – will enable Traditional Owners to be resourced as decision makers and delivery agents across key initiatives on their Country, building for long term change.

Focus area	2023 Milestones	2024 Milestones	2025 Milestones
<p><b>Resourcing options</b> – the Lead Agency (with support of RPEs) will work with Traditional Owners to identify a suite of resourcing options to support their self-determined role as decision-makers and delivery agents on their Country. Funding of resourcing options will be explored with Traditional Owners, YCC and individual RPEs, giving consideration to budgeting processes and pricing control mechanisms required of RPEs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and scope resourcing options and fill immediate gaps where possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in partnership with Traditional Owners and RPEs to identify opportunities to pool resources and support for Traditional Owners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have in place long-term resourcing arrangements to enable Traditional Owners to actively participate across implementation initiatives</li> </ul>
<p><b>Coordinated engagement</b> – the Lead Agency (with support of RPEs) will work with Traditional Owners to trial and adopt self-determined engagement protocols for RPEs that ensure timely and coordinated requests for relevant projects; enabling Traditional Owners the ability to prioritise and self-determine levels of involvement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional Owners introduce and pilot engagement protocols</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement protocols are embedded across RPEs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback from Traditional Owners confirms that projects and timeframes are enabling meaningful engagement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Review YCC governance</b> – the Lead Agency (with support of RPEs) will work alongside Traditional Owners to ensure the governance approach established by the YCC sets a leading example for cultural safety and competence and transforming collaborative governance for the Birrarung.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a review of the YCC governance approach, with a view to 'Walk Country Together'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes to YCC governance are embedded with 6-monthly review with Traditional Owners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes to YCC governance are embedded with 6-monthly review with Traditional Owners</li> </ul>

**Role of Traditional Owners:**

Traditional Owners will self-determine their involvement in focus areas giving consideration to delivery approach, priorities and timing.

**Role of the Lead Agency:**

The Lead Agency will work alongside Traditional Owners to understand barriers and priorities for resourcing and to facilitate improved processes between Traditional Owners and RPEs that address resourcing requirements.

**Role of RPEs:**

RPEs will take an active role in understanding the level and nature of support needed for Traditional Owners and where they can play a stronger role in identifying opportunities to work with Traditional Owners as decision-makers and delivery agents.

### 2.2.3 Collaboration leads to greater collective impact on key initiatives

To achieve the intent of the Plan and deliver on its commitments there is a need for collaborative governance that operates across and beyond boundaries. It's estimated that upwards of \$100 million will be spent by RPEs in the corridor over the next three years, with a significant proportion of this spent on revegetation and habitat improvement. By leveraging these existing commitments and aligning activities, greater collective impact and holistic management of the Birrarung will follow.

The Yarra Collaboration Committee is well positioned to explore the use of tools and digital technologies to support and improve collaboration across organisations. There is also value in sharing and learning from successful collaborations.

Focus area	2023 Milestones	2024 Milestones	2025 Milestones
<p><b>Transformative Project: Greening the Birrarung</b> – the Lead Agency (with support of Traditional Owners and RPEs) will explore opportunities to coordinate the significant investment in revegetation and habitat improvements and maintenance along the Birrarung and its tributaries. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering a coordinated and collaborative effort of up to 100ha of revegetation and habitat improvements</li> <li>Aligned programming, standards, climate resilience and community engagement approaches</li> <li>Integration of cultural approaches to revegetation and maintenance, including identification of culturally significant species</li> <li>Seed and plant procurement and maintenance via partnerships with Traditional Owners and engaged community groups</li> <li>Creation of a visual identity for Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo related activities along the corridor</li> <li>Promoting community awareness of the river and the collective and collaborative investment in greening the Birrarung.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree design and process for achieving coordinated revegetation and habitat programs</li> <li>Baseline research collated/conducted to ensure revegetation approach is evidence-based</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree a visual identity for activity along the Birrarung</li> <li>Pilots for coordinated and collaborative delivery of revegetation and maintenance along the corridor</li> <li>Exploration with Traditional Owners on cultural approaches to revegetation and opportunities to deliver on-ground works</li> <li>Early successes promoted with community via RPE channels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinated and collaborative delivery fully implemented</li> <li>Next 3-year implementation planning cycle reflects aligned investment and planning across organisational boundaries</li> <li>Traditional Owner aspirations incorporated into delivery</li> </ul>



Focus area	2023 Milestones	2024 Milestones	2025 Milestones
<p><b>Transformative Project: Collaboration platform</b> – the Lead Agency (with support of Traditional Owners and RPEs) will explore the creation of a digital collaboration platform to inform planning and implementation; enabling Traditional Owners and RPEs to align projects and/or programs along the corridor.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Functional requirements and scope confirmed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborative platform built and trialled (dependent on feasibility)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaboration platform, populated and opportunities for ‘scaling up’ identified</li> </ul>

**Role of Traditional Owners:**

Traditional Owners will self-determine their involvement in focus areas giving consideration to delivery approach, priorities and timing.

**Role of the Lead Agency:**

The Lead Agency will be the coordinating agency for these activities, in collaboration with Traditional Owners and RPEs. As part of this role, Melbourne Water will pursue and coordinate seed funding and support alignment of activities. The extent to which this focus area can be delivered will be dependent on the availability of funding and resourcing committed by Traditional Owners, RPEs and other parties.

**Role of RPEs:**

RPEs will actively inform the process and seek opportunities to embed aligned programs. In line with delivering greater collective impact from existing and future expenditure, funding for delivery of the revegetation and habitat works will continue to come from each organisation.

### 2.2.4 Commitment to the Birrarung at all levels

The success of the Plan is dependent on having commitment to its implementation across all levels of government and the support of the community. There was a significant effort in engagement activities for developing the Plan between 2017 and 2020. An estimated 120,000 touch points were achieved through social media posts, visitors to the website, community events, targeted consultation and written submissions. This together with the commitment by RPEs expressed through their endorsement of the Plan in 2021 has built a strong foundation for implementation. However, that commitment from RPEs and community support need to be expressed through continued engagement in implementing the Plan and showing 'love' for the river.

Commitment to the Birrarung at all levels will be established through knowledge exchange between RPEs – of approaches, planning of projects, supporting higher-level involvement, and achieving buy-in across all levels of organisations – for implementing the Plan and adopting a collaborative delivery model aligned to the Yarra protection principles.

Organisational support from RPEs provides an authorising environment for the YCC to facilitate change needed to ensure the river is protected as one living and integrated natural entity. This commitment from RPEs provides the courage to make decisions for the best interest of the river. Similarly, ongoing support from the community, through shared knowledge and involvement in activities is critical for decision-making. As previously stated, the Lead Agency and RPEs must maintain open channels of communication for community representatives to inform or be involved in implementation where possible.

Implementation of the Plan will be supported through development and implementation of a communications and engagement strategy that will:

- enable the Lead Agency, Melbourne Water, and responsible public entities (RPEs) to position and promote the Plan while delivering on their obligations
- provide overarching strategic context, purpose and objectives that all communications and engagement activities linked to the Plan cascade from
- provide a consistent understanding and approach for engaging and working through communications with Traditional Owners (which will be guided by their engagement protocols)
- identify those people who live and work on the Birrarung and outline an approach to raising awareness and where possible facilitating their involvement in implementation of the Plan.

Focus area	2023 Milestones	2024 Milestones	2025 Milestones
<b>Communication and engagement</b> – the Lead Agency will seek support from YCC members to deliver a mix of communication and engagement activities that support and raise awareness of activities, show how they contribute to the performance objectives, deliver on the community vision, and allow community involvement in activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a Communication and Engagement Strategy</li> <li>• Community event(s) held</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication and engagement activities delivered as outlined in the Comms and Engagement Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications and engagement activities delivered as outlined in the Comms and Engagement Strategy</li> </ul>

Focus area	2023 Milestones	2024 Milestones	2025 Milestones
<p><b>Executive engagement</b> – through a mix of activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>YCC Executive Forum</b> – the Lead Agency will organise forums with executives from each RPE to strengthen awareness of the Plan and create an authorising environment for organisational change and collaborative co-delivery.</li> <li>• <b>Burndap Birrarung Tour</b> – the Lead Agency will organise on-Country tour of selected sites for RPE executives together with Elders and members of the Birrarung Council, and other dignitaries with interest in management of the Birrarung.</li> <li>• <b>Executive briefings</b> – will be provided by YCC members as part of their internal governance to keep their leadership briefed on issues and progress at strategic points throughout the year; and in regard to issues, give YCC members authority to represent RPE's position for discussions and decisions at YCC meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive forum scheduled for June</li> <li>• Internal governance processes established within each RPE, ensuring executives are briefed (at least 6-monthly)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive forum held</li> <li>• Tour attended by executives</li> <li>• Executives briefed biannually</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive forum held</li> <li>• Tour attended by executives</li> <li>• Executives briefed biannually</li> </ul>
<p><b>One-on-one briefings</b> – the Lead Agency will organise briefings (at least 6-monthly) with individual YCC members and relevant managers to share feedback, discuss progress, and identify opportunities for alignment and collaboration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-on-one briefings held</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-on-one briefings held</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-on-one briefings held</li> </ul>

**Role of Traditional Owners:**

Traditional Owners will self-determine their involvement in focus areas giving consideration to delivery approach, priorities and timing.

**Role of the Lead Agency:**

The Lead Agency will be the coordinating agency for associated activities, in collaboration with Traditional Owners, RPEs and external stakeholders. As part of this role, Melbourne Water will draft the scope for engagement activities, facilitate input and support from partners and arrange logistics.

**Role of RPEs:**

RPEs will demonstrate organisational commitment to the Birrarung and the Plan's implementation across all levels and aspects of their operations. This will be achieved by having activities and events attended by executives, and internal governance processes in place authorising YCC members to contribute to collaborative planning of activities.



## 2.2.5 Birrarung at the centre of decision making through adoption of the decision-making framework

The decision-making framework is designed to facilitate 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.

Use of the decision-making framework ensures activities and decisions are consistent with the protection principles of the Act and aligned with delivery of the Plan. It embeds the role of Traditional Owners as custodians of the Birrarung 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 50-year Community Vision, emphasising environmental net gain and aligning with *Nhanbu narrun ba ngargunin twarn Birrarung*<sup>3</sup>.

Key elements of the decision-making framework to be developed and embedded include the application of 'net gain' and alignment with the land use framework. The intention is to apply a net gain approach through land management activities and land development that goes beyond compensation for environmental harm; instead adopting a multi-dimensional approach of restorative ecology, healing Country and scientific assessment. Applying net gain allows positive benefits for the river and its lands.

The YCC may assist in decision-making when:

- proponents want the YCC to support a proposal that does not fully align with the assessment criteria but may have sufficient benefits to warrant doing
- significant numbers of people or groups have strong or competing views on the project and advocacy from the YCC may support funding approval
- a project is considered to be transformative and YCC advocacy may assist 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 proposal.

For those proposals requiring deliberation, the YCC will be provided with a briefing paper to support a decision, including proposed recommendation, copy of initial-assessment and supporting information provided by the proponent.

<sup>3</sup> *Nhanbu narrun ba ngargunin twarn Birrarung - Ancient Spirit & Lore of the Yarra*, prepared by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, defines their ambitions for planning, policy and decision-making for the Birrarung.

RPEs are guided in their decision-making for all projects through use of the assessment tool (see **attachment 1**). Where routine business activities (includes asset management and maintenance) are outlined in a program, plan or strategy, the activities can be attested to in the whole. The aim being to minimise administrative burden and allow for operational autonomy, while providing transparency to the impacts of routine business activities.

The Lead Agency will work with the Wurundjeri and Bunurong Corporations to embed their preferred engagement protocols with RPEs (refer to Section 2.2.2). The intent is to enable Traditional Owners to have early input and to inform scope and application of the decision-making framework.

A sustainable funding model will enable Traditional Owners to meaningfully contribute and self-determine where and how they would like their involvement in decision-making to occur. There are over 160 activities on the Activities Schedule, all of which could potentially involve Traditional Owners in decision-making. Traditional Owners have been involved in some of these activities, but their capacity to provide meaningful input can be limited by lack of resources, ready access to subject matter experts, and time to adequately consult with Elders. Options to rectify this issue will be explored with the Wurundjeri and Bunurong Corporations and RPEs. For example RPEs could choose to make an annual contribution to support dedicated resourcing to enable adoption of the decision-making framework.

Focus area	2023 Milestones	2024 Milestones	2025 Milestones
<p><b>Decision-making framework (DMF)</b> – the Lead Agency will coordinate the following steps to embed the DMF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establish working group to oversee adoption of the DMF across all activities</li> <li>• trial and test assessment tool to confirm suitability across a range of activities and organisations</li> <li>• develop guidance material for RPEs to support adoption</li> <li>• set measurable targets for implementing the DMF, then work with individuals to embed its use in their organisation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refine DMF and processes for embedding</li> <li>• Prepare guidance material for RPEs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMF is embedded and concept of net gain understood, with supporting framework in place across most RPEs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All RPEs are applying the DMF to planning and operational activities within the YSP area</li> </ul>

<p><b>Net gain</b> – the Lead Agency will coordinate the following steps to support adoption of a ‘net gain’ approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establish working group to review objectives and approach as reframed by the Birrarung Council</li> <li>• explore the approach and evaluate suitability across a range of activities and organisations</li> <li>• develop guidance material for RPEs to support adoption</li> <li>• set measurable targets for applying net gain across RPE activities, then work with individuals to embed its application.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope for net gain agreed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approach for applying net gain agreed</li> <li>• Guidance material for RPEs produced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net gain approach adopted by all RPEs</li> <li>• Outcomes of net gain reported to the Birrarung Council</li> </ul>
<p><b>Traditional Owner engagement and resourcing to support involvement in decision-making:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Lead Agency will work with the Wurundjeri and Bunurong Corporations to develop and embed their preferred engagement protocols with RPEs.</li> <li>• the Lead Agency and RPEs will work with the Wurundjeri and Bunurong Corporations to identify a sustainable funding model that enables their meaningful and self-determined involvement in decision-making. This will include exploring and testing options for short and long-term funding from RPEs and other sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore and agree preferred engagement and resourcing approach to support Traditional Owner participation in decision-making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed new resourcing and coordinated engagement approach</li> <li>• Secure dedicated funding to support each Corporation’s participation in decision-making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate and adjust coordinated resourcing and engagement approach</li> <li>• Secure sustainable funding to support each Corporation’s participation in decision-making</li> </ul>

**Role of Traditional Owners:**

Traditional Owners will self-determine their involvement in focus areas giving consideration to delivery approach, priorities and timing.

**Role of the Lead Agency:**

The Lead Agency with the support of the YCC oversees application of the decision-making framework, providing advice and guidance on its application to RPEs. This includes coordinating the development and application of net gain and alignment with the land use framework.

**Role of RPEs:**

RPEs will develop internal processes to embed the decision-making framework and record outcomes. Further, to enable adoption and meaningful engagement with Traditional Owners, each RPE will investigate options to enable dedicated resourcing to support the application of the decision-making framework within each corporation.





## 2.2.6 Transformation in action: new projects realised

Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo seeks to achieve transformation in the way we look after the Birrarung. Opportunities for transformation cross organisational boundaries, and through transformative projects we have the potential to build stronger connection and relationships with the Birrarung; leaving a legacy and long-lasting impact, particularly in relation to the community vision and increasing the involvement of Traditional Owners in decision-making. Transformative projects will demonstrate resilience and adaptation to climate change, pressures of population growth and urban development.

The implementation planning process undertaken by the YCC allows gaps in transformative activities to be identified, and options explored to address these gaps. This involves setting out the scope and timing of potential projects to be considered for implementation now or in later years when resourcing or other avenues for undertaking these projects becomes available.

Through the implementation planning process, the YCC agreed to pursue funding and collaborative delivery for the following areas:

- Setting foundations for managing parklands as a living and integrated natural entity, whilst acknowledging, protecting and commemorating the Cultural Landscape of the Birrarung
- Opportunities that 'scale up' collaboration for collective impact (with an initial focus on vegetation management)
- Progressing urban greening along the inner city reach on public and private land
- Exploring ways to build our collaborative capacity through a collaboration platform.

Based on these priorities, four new transformative projects are outlined below<sup>4</sup>. Funding and delivery will be pursued as part of this three-year implementation plan, noting that additional transformative projects and funding may eventuate in this time.

### **Role of Traditional Owners:**

Traditional Owners will self-determine their involvement in transformative projects giving consideration to delivery approach, priorities and timing.

### **Role of the Lead Agency:**

The Lead Agency facilitates the development of transformative projects in collaboration with Traditional Owners and RPEs, including identifying opportunities for additional funding. They will also oversee establishment of working groups and reporting for each transformative project.

### **Role of RPEs:**

<sup>4</sup> Note – scope and budget for the projects outlined are subject to change to align with YCC expectations and alignment to funding opportunities.

RPEs will collaborate in developing the scope and delivery of transformative projects, where they relate to their remit and function and where resourcing is available.

**Transformative Project: Managing parklands as a living entity within a cultural landscape**

**LOCATION:**

The concept is whole-of-river, but selected areas will be used as pilots for adopting this new approach to parklands management and cultural connection.

**INDICATIVE SCOPE:**

Working with Wurundjeri and Bunurong Corporations, Parks Victoria, local councils and government and non-government agencies to identify a location to pilot new approaches to plan, design and manage the river parklands as one living and integrated natural entity and connect the broader community to the cultural landscape of the Birrarung. Further scoping and place-based considerations will inform the overall direction. Opportunities could include:

- Exploring management arrangements that informs how the corridor of parks, reserves and open spaces can reinforce and celebrate the relationship between the river and its parklands
- Developing a consistent conversation, cultural and visitation identity for the Birrarung and its parklands
- Investing in the management and/or protection of any culturally significant features of the area
- Investigating opportunities to connect the broader community with the cultural landscape and story of the Birrarung and its parklands, where deemed appropriate by Traditional Owners.

**INDICATIVE FUNDING NEEDS:**

Item	Estimate
Resourcing (1 FTE <sup>5</sup> over 2 years)	\$200,000
Research and supporting investigations	\$150,000
Cultural values assessment (initial coordination)	\$50,000
Concept designs etc.	\$75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$475,000</b>

**MILESTONES:**

Year 1: Establish project working group to develop project scope and principles for collaboration

Year 2: Research and supporting investigations completed; consultation with community commenced

Year 3: Concept communicated and investment plans developed

<sup>5</sup> Note – this FTE can be split across multiple organisations if needed. Further testing and consultation to inform the resourcing requirements are required.

## Transformative Project: Greening the Birrarung by scaling up revegetation to deliver greater outcomes

### LOCATION:

Birrarung corridor, including lower reaches of Yarra River tributaries (includes Gardiners, Merri, Koonung, Darebin and Diamond creeks).

### INDICATIVE SCOPE:

Local council, government agencies and community groups invest annually in revegetation and maintenance works, increasing critical habitat along the Birrarung and its tributaries. Much of this work is delivered as discrete activities along the corridor and while providing habitat and biodiversity value in their immediate location, greater impact and multiple outcomes, such as habitat connectivity and cultural connection, could be achieved through coordinated investment.

The Lead Agency (with support of Wurundjeri and Bunurong Corporations and RPEs) will explore opportunities to coordinate the significant investment in revegetation and habitat maintenance and improvements along the Birrarung and its tributaries. The scope of this transformative project includes:

- Delivering a coordinated and collaborative effort of up to 100ha of revegetation and habitat improvements
- Aligning programming, standards, climate resilience and community engagement approaches
- Analysing available data to identify current status of vegetation, proposed and potential sites for works, and management arrangements
- Integrating cultural approaches to revegetation and maintenance, including use of cultural burning and identification of culturally significant species
- Procuring seed and plant stock and planting and maintenance services via partnership with Traditional Owners and engaged community groups
- Creating a visual identity for Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo related activities along the corridor
- Promoting community awareness of the river and the collective and collaborative investment in greening the Birrarung
- Conducting baseline research to ensure approach to revegetation and habitat creation is evidence-based and measurable.

### INDICATIVE FUNDING NEEDS:

Item	Estimate
Resource (0.5 FTE over 2 years)	\$100,000
Develop visual identity	\$75,000
New standards etc.	\$50,000
Baseline research	\$75,000

### MILESTONES:

Year 1: Develop process for achieving coordinated and collaborative programs agreed; and baseline research conducted

Year 2: Visual identity agreed, pilots for coordinated and collaborative delivery commenced; and opportunities for cultural approaches to revegetation explored with Traditional Owners

Year 3: Early successes promoted with community; coordinated and collaborative delivery fully implemented; Traditional Owner aspirations incorporated into delivery; and next 3-year

Total	\$300,000
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**Transformative Project: Urban Greening in the inner city reach**

**LOCATION:**

Neighbourhoods within the inner city reach of the Birrarung corridor.

**INDICATIVE SCOPE:**

This transformative project will increase and enhance the extent and quality of urban greening on public and private land, in partnership with Traditional Owners, local councils within the inner city reach, Parks Victoria, DEECA and Melbourne Water. The project can be delivered through two initiatives – ‘green corridors of life’ and ‘nature in the neighbourhood’. These programs are being trialled by Yarra City Council and with additional investment can be expanded across neighbouring councils. The aim being to combat air and noise pollution, create habitat for local wildlife and reinvigorate local communities appreciation of nature and the environment. The project can:

- Strengthen habitat connections from the river to nearby parklands, including connections to Darling Gardens, Como Park, Thomas Oval, Barkly Gardens, Edinburgh Gardens and St James Park, and to the lower reaches of Gardiners Creek and Merri Creek
- Deliver extensive planning of up to 30 hectares and upgrading rest areas along the Main Yarra Trail from Punt Road through to Dights Falls
- Enhance revegetation on private property to support habitat links and amenity of the inner city urban environment
- Enhance native vegetation and habitat on private property through the development of landscape plans to support planning permits
- Provide gardening guidance as a key strategy for increasing native vegetation and habitat on private property for the inner city. This will be achieved through revising and rewriting the 2001 book ‘Gardening with Native Plants in Yarra: A home gardeners guide to protecting our natural heritage’. The book will also be used as a guide for landscape plans as a requirement of planning permits.

Resources are required to support on ground works, the communication program, community facilitation, revision and publishing of gardening guidance, and project coordination. This project aligns with Action 11.

**INDICATIVE FUNDING NEEDS:**

Item	Estimate
Resource (0.5 FTE over 2 years)	\$100,000
Communication program	\$200,000

**MILESTONES:**

Year 1: Establish project working group and collaborative programs agreed; and baseline research conducted
Year 2: Communication program launched, and greening programs commenced
Year 3: Early successes promoted with community

Total	\$300,000
Revegetation works	\$1-1.5 million

**Transformative Project:** Collaboration platform – sharing knowledge, improving outcomes

**LOCATION:**

Online

**INDICATIVE SCOPE:**

If we know what others are doing, where and when, we are more likely to collaborate, combine resources and share knowledge for better outcomes. Creation of a digital collaboration platform can inform planning and implementation of collaborative projects; enabling Wurundjeri and Bunurong Corporations and RPEs to align investment in projects and/or programs along the corridor.

The Lead Agency (with support of Wurundjeri and Bunurong Corporations and RPEs) will explore the creation of a digital collaboration platform to support holistic management of the Birrarung to guide:

- implementation planning and opportunities to ‘scale up’ projects, across boundaries and deliver greater collective impact
- enable Wurundjeri and Bunurong Corporations and RPEs to instigate collaboration, independent of the Lead Agency
- provide a spatial representation of activities happening throughout the corridor to manage and protect the Birrarung
- provide a platform for annual reporting and estimates of annual expenditure within the corridor.

The project would involve consultation to confirm scope and develop functional design; then a feasibility assessment, before proceeding with building, testing and launching a platform. A working group, drawn from the YCC, would be established to oversee the project.

**INDICATIVE FUNDING NEEDS:**

Item	Estimate
Resource (0.5 FTE over 2 years)	\$100,000
Design and build digital platform <sup>6</sup>	\$50,000 - \$100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,000 - \$200,000</b>

**MILESTONES:**

Year 1: Functional requirements and scope confirmed

Year 2: Collaborative platform built and trialed (dependent on feasibility)

Year 3: Collaboration platform, populated and opportunities for ‘scaling up’ identified

<sup>6</sup> Estimate for developing the digital platform will be informed by the functional design, and whether an existing platform can be adapted, or if a new platform is required.



### 3 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 are overseen by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), and the authorising environment provided by the Yarra Collaboration Committee (YCC).

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.

Each responsible public entity continues to operate independently meeting their own obligations and operational requirements, and collaborating with other entities in delivering on the Plan.

Figure 4 illustrates the governance arrangement for implementing the Plan, figure 5 the annual planning and reporting cycle; and roles and responsibilities for the various parties are set in **attachment 3**.

#### 3.1 Birrarung Council

The Birrarung Council has been appointed to provide independent advice to the Victorian Government on, and advocate for, protecting and improving the Birrarung.

The Council provides an annual report to Minister on implementation of the Plan by 31 October each year, to be tabled in parliament together with the annual report prepared by the Lead Agency.

As an independent and authentic voice of the Birrarung, the Council champions the interests of the river as one living and integrated natural entity, guided by the voice and knowledge of Traditional Owners as the custodians of the river and its lands.<sup>7</sup>

The Council also use their annual reporting process to provide directions an areas of focus for implementation of the Plan, which subsequently feeds into the implementation planning process.

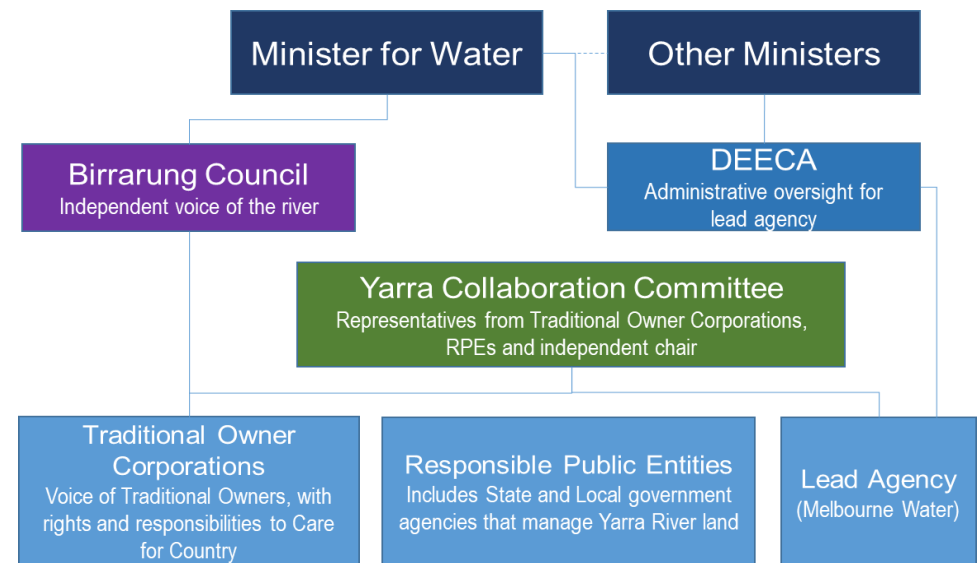


Figure 5 Governance structure

<sup>7</sup> Birrarung Council mission statement <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/birrarung-council/about-us/about-the-council>



### 3.2 Partnering with Traditional Owners

The Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples, have always considered the Birrarung to be the lifeblood of Country. It flows across organisational boundaries, encompassing the land and waters of the river as well as its unique ecosystems. Within the 10-year life of the Plan, we will return to this holistic view – with focus, care and reverence across all reaches of the river.

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation have their own governance structures and decision-making processes. They must be respected, and timelines must incorporate these governance structures and decision-making processes.

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 planning and decision-making process. Proponents must discuss all agreements and proposals with the Wurundjeri Water Program 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 in due course confirm their self-determined level of involvement in implementing the Plan and undertaking any relevant actions and projects on their Country.

### 3.3 Yarra Collaboration Committee

Representatives from Wurundjeri and Bunurong Corporations together with representatives of the RPEs form the Yarra Collaboration Committee, which oversees implementation of the Plan. The committee's terms of reference is provided in **attachment 2**.

The committee provides strategic and operational advice, and is the vehicle for ensuring collaboration and coordination across all stakeholders. Operating under formal arrangements, the committee presents items for discussion or decisions informed by background papers issued by the Lead Agency.

### 3.4 Annual planning and reporting cycle

The Annual Report for implementation is prepared by the Lead Agency with input from RPEs (as per section 43 and 44 of the Act), and is provided to the Birrarung Council to inform their review and advice to the Minister on implementation of the Plan. The Birrarung Council's report to the Minister is tabled in Parliament together with the annual report prepared by the Lead Agency (as per section 57 3b of the Act).

The purpose of the Annual Report is to report progress, demonstrate accountability and inform ongoing implementation of the Plan. The Annual Report is supported by the monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework that considers the achievement, impact and legacy of the Plan in relation to collaborative governance, organisational commitment, custodianship and delivery of the Plans four performance objectives.

## 4 Actions List

Table 1 provides a list of the 40 actions from Part 1 of the Plan, their status as at 30 June 2022, and the nominated agency for their coordination. These actions are implemented through collaborative arrangements with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, RPEs and other stakeholders.

Actions are categorised into short, medium and long term actions. For this 3-year implementation plan, as a minimum, the target is to deliver all short-term actions, commence medium-term actions, and have completed project plans for the long-term actions.

Decisions about the implementation, investment and timing of actions and associated activities are made in line with normal government policy and budget processes. The government is committed 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.

**Table 1: List of Actions from Part 1 of the Plan, together with nominated timeframe and coordinating agency**

Action	Timeframe	Status	Coordinating Agency
<b>Performance objective 1: A healthy river and lands</b>			
<b>Water quality</b>			
1 Develop a place-based pilot project (in an area where stormwater is threatening Yarra health and amenity) to explore innovative re-use of stormwater: use stormwater for urban greening, protecting and enhancing the environment, identify opportunities where potable water is being used for watering purposes, and can be substituted with suitably treated stormwater.	4-7 yrs	in progress	MW
2 Implement a Yarra-specific stormwater awareness and behaviour change campaign targeted at reducing litter and contamination entering the Yarra River.	1-3 yrs	planning	MW
3 Increase education, awareness and regulatory compliance to reduce pesticides and chemicals entering the river (including the impacts of agricultural runoff on water quality in the upper and lower rural reaches).	1-3 yrs	planning	MW
4 Develop the integrated water management plan (including bicultural approaches) for the Yarra Catchment to optimise water cycle planning and reduce stormwater pollution into the river.	1-3 yrs	delivered	DEECA
5 Develop an integrated program to improve management of domestic wastewater in non-sewered areas (includes places serviced by septic tanks): investigate the extent and location of wastewater pollution in the Yarra River and its tributaries to guide future projects and actions, develop and implement programs (education, compliance and infrastructure improvements) to target areas where domestic wastewater has the greatest impact on water quality.	4-7 yrs	in progress	DEECA
<b>Billabongs and wetlands</b>			

Action	Timeframe	Status	Coordinating Agency
6 Investigate options to restore billabongs and wetlands on private and public land by using water for the environment to mimic natural water cycles and undertaking complementary land and water management works.	1-3 yrs	in progress	MW
7 Work with partners, primarily Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, VEWH and Parks Victoria, to implement a landscape scale approach to improving the condition of wetlands and billabongs for the Lower Yarra billabongs. This must include the prioritisation of wetlands for water regime management and delivery of environmental water and cultural flows.	1-3 yrs	delivered	MW
8 Support the aspirations of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people to pursue water justice for their people and Country: deliver water justice through water rights, participation in water management, and broader water and policy reform (as per the definition of water justice identified in the <i>National Cultural Flows Research Project 2020</i> ), deliver options to support water rights for the Birrarung such as the possibility of the reallocation of the former Amcor entitlement.	1-3 yrs	in progress	WWCHAC
9 Work with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to enhance knowledge, monitor and understand ecological change in prioritised Lower Yarra billabongs which have received environmental water.	1-3 yrs	in progress	MW
<b>Habitat connectivity</b>			
10 Undertake vegetation works to strengthen terrestrial and aquatic habitat corridors to improve biodiversity. Revegetation should include species identified as culturally important to the Traditional Owners and where feasible works should be delivered by Traditional Owner groups. Priority areas include: Yarra Junction to Healesville billabongs and wetlands, Healesville to Yering billabongs and wetlands, Yering to Warrandyte landscape protection, Kinglake to Yarra biodiversity corridor.	4-7 yrs	in progress	MW
11 Increase and enhance the extent and quality of urban greening in the inner city reach on public and private land downstream of Gardiners Creek to combat air and noise pollution, create habitat for local wildlife and reinvigorate local communities' appreciation for nature and the environment.	1-3 yrs	in progress	MW
12 Follow the goals and principles as set out in Protecting Victoria's Environmental Biodiversity 2037 for habitat and species conservation planning. This includes using associated decision support tools, Nature Print and Strategic Management Prospects as an addendum to the plan's decision-making framework, and incorporating environmental net gain when planning for whole of river biodiversity outcomes. DEECA and Wurundjeri Water Program will work together to develop a bicultural approach to assessing net gain on their Country, considering cultural values and practices. They will explore ways to integrate this approach to support the Birrarung as a single living entity. Resourcing to be provided for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung participation.	1-10 yrs	in progress	MW
13 Explore and support the use of incentive mechanisms to build skills, knowledge and capacity in restoring landscape function protecting biodiversity, increasing nutrient and water cycling and building soil carbon for resilient enterprises that can mitigate climate-related pressures.	4-7 yrs	in progress	MW
14 Promote the use of conservation covenants to protect priority conservation values on private land as well as enhancing habitat connectivity and, where possible, incorporating Traditional Owner aspirations and involvement.	4-7 yrs	planning	DEECA
15 Plan and undertake terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna assessments to ascertain where opportunities exist to reintroduce and restore native plants and animals, including species that are important to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung as totems, seasonal indicators and resources	4-7 yrs	in progress	MW

Action	Timeframe	Status	Coordinating Agency
required for ceremony and other uses. Selection of plants and planting methods will also consider impacts of climate change and opportunity to increase resilience.			
16 Develop and pilot Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung flora and fauna assessments as critical planning tools for future management of the catchment. This will require external agencies providing access to relevant data.	1-3 yrs	in progress	WWCHAC
<b>Native Fish</b>			
17 Invest in habitat restoration and environmental watering to: increase native fish in the Yarra River, its tributaries and billabongs, support a healthy ecosystem, and improve opportunities for recreational fishing and cultural practices.	1-3 yrs	in progress	MW
18 Work in partnership with angling groups to develop and implement a community education program on protection of native fish (especially for Macquarie perch and other threatened species). This will include promoting bag limits and areas where the taking of native fish is prohibited and increasing participation in monitoring and assessment programs.	8-10 yrs	planning	DEECA
19 Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung CHAC to lead and explore the feasibility of research projects identifying current extents, habitat needs, and best practice recovery programs for culturally valued freshwater aquatic species, which are in decline in the greater Melbourne region. This includes species such as river blackfish, freshwater crayfish and short-finned eel.	8-10 yrs	in progress	WWCHAC
<b>Pest plants and animals</b>			
20 Adopt a multi-agency collaboration and investment approach to management of invasive animals and plants in the Yarra corridor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• quantify and measure numbers and impact of invasive animals and plants</li> <li>• evaluate the effectiveness of existing control programs</li> <li>• coordinate the delivery of new programs and projects to control and eradicate where possible invasive animals and plants in the Yarra corridor</li> <li>• set targets for control programs over the next 10 years and monitor progress towards their achievement.</li> </ul>	4-7 yrs	in progress	DEECA
21 Build capacity of the Wurundjeri Narrap team to manage and eradicate deer in the Yarra catchment.	1-3 yrs	planning	WWCHAC
<b>Climate change</b>			
22 Deliver an interactive education program along the river corridor to enhance awareness and understanding around climate change and adaptive capacity of the river.	1-3 yrs	planning	MW
23 Map key risks to the Yarra for climate change and develop a climate change adaptation and resilience action plan. The plan will inform responses to extreme weather events including, heat waves, drought, flood and fire, and promote land management approaches such as cultural burning to mitigate risks and assist recovery.	1-3 yrs	planning	DEECA
<b>Performance objective 2: A culturally diverse river corridor</b>			
<b>Cultural heritage</b>			

Action	Timeframe	Status	Coordinating Agency
24 Develop, or where existing, enhance interpretive and educational programs for sites that have Aboriginal cultural heritage values and historic heritage values. Potential sites are: Collingwood Children’s Farm, Dights Falls and Merri Creek confluence, Bolin Bolin Billabong, and Brushy Creek confluence.	4-7 yrs	planning	MW
25 Deliver interactive educational programs that include storytelling about the rich culture and heritage of the Yarra River. Indigenous cultural intellectual property agreements must be put in place for use of Traditional Owner intellectual property and programs.	4-7 yrs	planning	MW
26 Support a program of cultural value studies by the Traditional Owners for the Yarra, Birrarung, and its lands.	1-3 yrs	in progress	WWCHAC
27 Explore with the Traditional Owners, the possibility of registering the Yarra as a cultural landscape.	4-7 yrs	planning	WWCHAC
28 Develop a holistic heritage assessment to understand historic heritage values using the Yarra River (Birrarung) Cultural Heritage Scoping Study thematic framework.	4-7 yrs	planning	DTP
<b>Performance objective 3: Quality parklands for a growing population</b>			
<b>Park management</b>			
29 Plan, design, and manage the river parklands as one living and integrated natural entity, ensuring that all parklands are managed to a consistently high standard and celebrate the relationship between the river and its parklands.	1-3 yrs	in progress	PV
30 Develop, with Traditional Owners, a consistent conservation, cultural and visitation brand identity for the Yarra and its parklands to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• embed in the community, recognition of the parklands and river as one living and integrated natural entity</li> <li>• celebrate the nurturing relationship between the Yarra’s parklands and the community</li> <li>• encourage proactive behaviour to protect and nourish the Yarra and its parklands</li> <li>• support national and international recognition of, and investment in, the Yarra’s parklands.</li> </ul>	1-3 yrs	planning	PV
31 Establish formalised partnership agreements (including resourcing) with Wurundjeri Woi- wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to manage parklands on their Country, respectively.	1-3 yrs	planning	PV
32 Investigate locations and options for improved access to the Yarra and its parklands that enable outstanding nature and culture based experiences while conserving the high biodiversity, cultural and landscape values that the community wish to protect. This includes identifying and mapping locations and options for improved: on-water experience for kayak/canoe and boating access points at key locations (giving consideration to health and safety and being fit-for-purpose), signage and information for on-water journeys, bicycle and pedestrian trail experiences, experience and connection to nature for recreational and leisure pursuits.	4-7 yrs	planning	PV
33 Over the next 10 years, the State government to investigate opportunities to improve and extend the area of parklands and deliver on priorities for acquisition.	8-10 yrs	in progress	DEECA
<b>Park infrastructure</b>			

Action	Timeframe	Status	Coordinating Agency
34 Conduct a strategic assessment of infrastructure and services in the Yarra's parklands to ensure they are contemporary, inclusive and provide multiple benefits, while respecting and protecting the conservation and cultural values of the parklands and the river.	1-3 yrs	planning	PV
35 Consider green infrastructure investment and solutions at the local and landscape scale within parklands. Examples include constructed wetlands for stormwater treatment and creating habitat, placement of trees to improve visual aesthetics and amenity, permeable surfaces to increase groundwater recharge, and rain gardens to manage run-off from hard surfaces.	1-3 yrs	planning	PV
<b>River activation</b>			
36 Develop a 10-year berthing strategy for the lower Yarra River.	1-3 yrs	delivered	PV
37 Ensure access and egress for vessels to priority berthing sites along the inner city reach of the Yarra River through investment in a comprehensive dredging operation and ongoing maintenance dredging of the river to ensure boats and vessels can move safely...	4-7 yrs	in progress	PV
38 Establish a Lower Yarra River management committee to guide commercial berthing, events and activation, and river infrastructure development and improvement. The committee's main objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drive the development of a 10-year berthing strategy for the lower Yarra River (from Dights Falls to the Port of Melbourne) including options for commercial berthing, events and activation, and infrastructure investment</li> <li>• ensure activities and safe waterway usage is reflected in Yarra River waterway rules</li> <li>• drive the alignment of Parks Victoria and Melbourne City Council annual works programs</li> <li>• oversee the implementation of the outcomes of the Yarra Strategic Plan for the lower Yarra River.</li> </ul>	1-3 yrs	delivered	PV
<b>Performance objective 4: Protecting the natural beauty of the Yarra River corridor</b>			
<b>Landscapes and views</b>			
39 Protect the river's landscapes and views through improved planning and management of the river corridor and incorporation of the Yarra Strategic Plan land use framework into local and state planning policy.	1-3 yrs	in progress	DTP
40 Set land use planning goals and monitor changes in land use using satellite imagery, geospatial and remote sensing techniques and cultural practices and knowledge.	8-10 yrs	planning	DTP

Coordinating Agency abbreviations: Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Melbourne Water (MW), Parks Victoria (PV), Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC).

Other abbreviations: Integrated Water Management (IWM), Healthy Waterways Strategy (HWS), Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS), Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI), Climate Change (CC), Traditional Owners (TO), Planning Scheme (PS), Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH)

## 5 Activities Schedule

The following table, referred to as the **Activities Schedule** is a compilation of activities (projects and programs) nominated by RPEs for the next three years. The schedule lists activities that have commenced or plan to be commenced subject to approval and funding availability. The listed activities represent a collective investment of \$107 million over three years. It was last updated in June 2023.

This is not a complete list of works occurring along the Birrarung, as it does not include works associated with major infrastructure (eg North East Link road project) and privately owned development. Similarly the list does not include all research projects and strategic plans, many of which will contribute to the performance objectives in the Plan.

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
1	Banyule Council	Banyule IWM projects	Investigations to support stormwater harvesting, wetland and WSUD construction and maintenance (multiple sites) to improve water quality.	Suburban	MW	2022	In progress
2	Banyule Council	Realtime Industrial Pollution monitoring, Heidelberg West Business Park	Remote sensor program monitoring industrial pollution in Heidelberg West Business Park, draining to Darebin Creek and then Yarra River. Provides real-time dashboard with alerts for Banyule and EPA to monitor and act on industrial discharges (VOCs).	Suburban	EPA	2023	In progress
3	Banyule Council	Heidelberg Structure Plan Planning Scheme Amendment	The Heidelberg Structure Plan has been completed and Planning Scheme Amendment underway to implement the Structure Plan into Banyule Planning Scheme. Completion expected by early 2024.	Suburban	Community, DEECA	2022	In progress
4	Banyule Council	Heidelberg Park Masterplan	Developing Heidelberg Park Masterplan.	Suburban		2022	Delivered
5	Banyule Council	Parks Maintenance	Parks maintenance and mowing, including: Wilson's Reserve, Burke Rd North, The Boulevard, Warringal Parklands and Banyule Flats Reserve.	Suburban		2022	In progress
6	Banyule Council	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 (dependent on bridge construction).	Suburban	DTP	2022	Planned
7	Banyule Council	Main Yarra Trail upgrade	1. Improve trail connection under Banksia Street, currently poorly provided with very steep winding path from road level to river level. 2. Provide new shared user path between Banksia Street and Burke Road (see Council's concept design). 3. Provide short cut path on south side of Banyule wetlands.	Suburban	MW, PV	2022	Planned

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
8	<b>Banyule Council</b>	Banyule Flats Habitat Restoration Projects	Warringal Conservation Society/ BMU - Building on Habitat Link Plantings, Banyule Swamp drainline Sth to River, Billabong Sth to River	Suburban	MW, PV, WWCHAC, Friends	2023	In progress
9	<b>Banyule Council</b>	Threatened species program	Revegetation around significant species, such as Powerful Owl. Council's Bushland Management team with Wurundjeri Narrap team to revegetate key habitat on Council land and potentially partner with Parks Victoria on key sites.	Suburban	Banyule, Narrap (Wurundjeri)	2023	Idea
10	<b>Banyule Council</b>	Banyule Heritage Strategy	Current Heritage Strategy is being reviewed and updated. Adoption of the new Strategy is expected for end 2023. Concurrent to this, Banyule is embarking on a significant piece of work with our Traditional Owner groups to develop a comprehensive Self-Determination Strategy. Detailed actions relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage will be fully explored & addressed as part of that project.	Suburban	WWCHAC	2023	In progress
11	<b>Banyule Council</b>	Cultural walks	Culture awareness walks at Banyule Flats and eventually partnering for a series of cultural awareness walks with Nillumbik, Manningham and Wurundjeri as part of the Spring Outdoors Program.	Suburban	Nillumbik, Manningham, Wurundjeri	2023	Planned
12	<b>Banyule Council</b>	Kulin Nations Even Seasons project	Educating and celebrating the community about the seven seasons; tell signs of the seasons, which includes elements of the Birrarung.	Suburban	WWCHAC	2023	Planned
13	<b>Banyule Council</b>	Alan Noy wetland watering	Trial watering of a small wetland from Banyule Swamp for habitat improvement	Suburban		2023	In progress
14	<b>Banyule Council</b>	Species Monitoring Programs	Monitoring of key species through sound monitoring program to capture Powerful Owl movement through the Birrarung corridor. This monitoring program will be in partnership with Council, Community and Wurundjeri Narrap Team.	Suburban	Community (WCS), Banyule, WWCHAC Narrap	2023	Idea
15	<b>Banyule Council</b>	Pest animal management	Control of Fox and Rabbit populations annual program within priority Biodiversity sites across Banyule Billabong and Swamp and Warringal Swamp	Suburban	Contractor Supply	2023	In progress
16	<b>Banyule Council</b>	Banyule Flats ecological and cultural land management	A program to build relationships between the Narrap team, Banyule Bushcrew and Environmental Operations teams to build understandings of ecological and cultural land management in Banyule Flats including Banyule Swamp and Banyule Billabong	Suburban	WWCHAC Narrap	2023	In progress
17	<b>Banyule Council</b>	Biodiversity Planting with Warringal Conservation Society	Expansion on Habitat plantings with species enrichment shrub layer throughout reserve based on drainlines leading to Yarra from wetlands.	Suburban		2023	Idea
18	<b>Banyule Council</b>	Urban Forest - operational	Management of trees including risk assessment, audits, burning, removal and creation of habitat trees (16009 trees in the 1km buffer from the river maintained at \$37 a tree)	Suburban		2023	In progress



ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
19	<b>Banyule Council</b>	Storm water reduction street tree treatment	Future WSUD for street trees, to reduce stormwater going to river and assist establishing and maintaining the urban forest particularly for climate change. Early pilot is partially funded in draft Urban Forest Strategy which will monitor the additional growth of trees and quantify the water that is diverted from storm water. Initial funding is for the trial of 20 sites each year.	Suburban	potentially water authorities and universities	2023	Idea
20	<b>Banyule Council</b>	Darebin Creek Management Committee	Both Darebin Creek and Plenty River run into the Yarra River. Banyule Council is a key member of Darebin Creek Management Committee, the Committee responsible for coordination of works along Darebin Creek.	Suburban	Darebin, Yarra, Whittlesea Councils	2023	In progress
21	<b>Boroondara Council</b>	Boroondara revegetation and weed control	Revegetation and weed control to biodiversity sites and remnant bushland along the river including Chandler Park, Yarra Flats Reserve and Freeway Golf Course.	Suburban	Melb Water, DEECA	2022	In progress
22	<b>Boroondara Council</b>	Freeway Golf Course reconfiguration	Works to redesign the course in response to North East Link land acquisition.	Suburban	nil	2022	In progress
23	<b>Boroondara Council</b>	Willsmere Park Pavilion	Construction of new sports pavilion in Willsmere Park.	Suburban	nil	2022	In progress
24	<b>Boroondara Council</b>	Hays Paddock pathways	Renewal and extension of granitic pathways in Hays Paddock.	Suburban	nil	2022	In progress
25	<b>Boroondara Council</b>	Hays Paddock Playground	Renewal and upgrade of playground at Hays Paddock, a highly valued all access play space.	Suburban	nil	2022	In progress
26	<b>Boroondara Council</b>	Walmer St Bridge	Renewal and upgrade of Boroondara section of the Walmer St Bridge.	Inner city	Yarra Council, DEECA	2022	In progress
27	<b>Boroondara Council</b>	Boroondara Integrated Water Management Plan	Renewal of Council's Integrated Water Management Plan.	Suburban	Melb Water	2023	In progress
28	<b>Boroondara Council</b>	Boroondara Biodiversity Strategy	Develop Council's Biodiversity Strategy.	Suburban		2023	In progress
29	<b>Boroondara Council</b>	Boroondara Parks maintenance	Mowing and vegetation maintenance in parks within Yarra River lands.	Suburban	nil	2023	In progress
30	<b>DEECA</b>	Integrated Water Management Grants - Yarra Catchment	Integrated Water Management Grants process to help the water sector, local governments and Traditional Owners work together to better plan, manage and deliver urban water projects across Melbourne, which includes the Yarra Catchment. From the 2021-22 round (closed 13 December 2021), Yarra City received funding for a stormwater harvesting system for Curtain Square in North Carlton, which will provide indirect benefits for water quality in the Yarra. The project continues into 2023-24.	Inner city	Yarra City	2022	In progress

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
31	DEECA	Open Space for Everyone 2021	Actions relevant to YSP: 1) preparing metropolitan wide open space investment plan to guide 30 year investment priorities 2) investigating governance models for managing public open space, including support for involvement of Traditional Owners 3) review of Planning Practice Note 70, guiding development of open space strategies by local government 4) review of funding models for open space	Whole of river	Traditional Owners, State and local government agencies	2022	In progress
32	DEECA	Options for increasing requirements for rainwater tanks and maintenance	Assessing options for increasing requirements for rainwater tanks in the National Construction Code and improving their maintenance, which has potential to improve household efficiency, lower water bills and keep significant amounts of stormwater out of waterways, including the Yarra.	Whole of river	VBA, Better Regulation Victoria (DTF).	2022	In progress
33	DEECA	Exploring stormwater flow reduction regulatory options	Examining costs and benefits of incorporating aspect of stormwater flow standards from EPA Urban Stormwater Management Guidance (July 2021) into other regulatory frameworks, eg VPP.	Whole of river	Melb Water, EPA, Local Government	2022	In progress
34	DEECA	Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Action Plan	Provide an agreed list of priority actions that will help the Yarra Integrated Water Management Forum progress towards catchment targets.	Whole of river	Yarra IWM Forum Partners	2022	In progress
35	DEECA	Managing Environmental Impacts of Domestic Wastewater	Working with EPA to implement regulatory framework for managing On-site Wastewater Management Systems (OWMS). EPA developed toolkit for local government, sets out the new laws for OWMS that councils can enforce.	Whole of river	EPA, Councils, YVW	2022	In progress
36	DEECA	Care for your Yarra	Digital platform connecting skilled volunteers with on-demand needs from Friends Groups and local communities. Supports online training in specific issues and activities before on-ground training sessions.	Whole of river	Yarra Riverkeeper	2022	In progress
37	DEECA	Westerfolds Grassland Conservation	Weed management, further species diversity and repair fencing to control rabbit inundation. Additionally, volunteers receive extensive professional training in weed identification and removal, contributing to the ongoing management of the site.	Suburban	Yarra Riverkeeper	2022	In progress
38	DEECA	Regenerating Burnley Harbour for a Healthy Bay	Removing significant rubbish build up, invasive weed species and bank stabilisation. Revegetation of selective species. This project will be conducted by contractors and incorporate a community event to provide engagement and awareness amongst the local groups while performing citizen science.	Inner city	Yarra Riverkeeper	2022	In progress

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
39	DEECA	Peri-urban Deer Control Plan	Reduce impacts to biodiversity, water, agriculture and Traditional Owner values through delivery of education, monitoring and deer control activities across peri-urban area. Water supply networks are a focus, with efforts likely to occur around waterways, to reduce deer impacts on water quality and improve habitat for aquatic species, including LGAs within the Yarra River corridor.	Whole of river	Parks Victoria, Councils, Melbourne Water, Traditional Owners, private landholders	2022	In progress
40	DEECA	Deliver options to support water rights for the Birrarung	DEECA is supporting WWCHAC in progressing transfer of 1.4 GL of water from the Yarra River to WWCHAC within the existing entitlement framework. This is consistent with Water is Life Aboriginal Access to Water Roadmap.	Whole of river	Wurundjeri	2022	In progress
41	DEECA	Brushy Creek cultural values mapping project	Funding and in-kind officer support - towards WWCHAC second phase of the (Brushy Creek) cultural values mapping project	Suburban	Wurundjeri, DEECA	2022	In progress
42	DEECA	Acquisition of public land	Land acquisition strategies are being developed for Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO), includes parcels in Lower Yarra, Warrandyte State Park and Yarra Valley Parklands. To date, 7 parcels purchased for inclusion in Lower Yarra (1) and Yarra Valley Parklands (6) as part of this proactive acquisition program.	Suburban	Parks Victoria, Councils	2022	In progress
43	DEECA	Alphington Park - new playspace	New playground will expand age range suitability.	Suburban	Yarra City Council	2022	Delivered
44	DEECA	Shared trail at Launching Place	South bank of Yarra at Launching Place, links to Warburton Rail Trail. Two phase construction.	Upper rural	Yarra Ranges Council, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water	2022	Planned
45	DEECA	Yarra River land declarations	Rectifying identified issues with Yarra River land declarations, and to declare additional lands in the inner city reach. This project will support all 4 performance objectives.	Whole of river	Parks Victoria	2022	In progress
46	DEECA	Reducing microplastics in Melbourne's rivers and Port Phillip Bay	The Yarra Riverkeeper Association will install 5 Microplastic litter traps in the lower Yarra River, estimated to remove a minimum of 25-50 million microplastics from the river annually.	Inner city	Melbourne City, Stonnington	2023	In progress
47	DEECA	Birrarung-Bolin Framework Plan	Delivery of short term actions within the Plan TBC. This will address multiple performance objectives.	Suburban	Wurundjeri	2023	Planned

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
48	DEECA	Onsite Domestic Wastewater Management (ODWM) grants program	DEECA grants to councils to improve management of ODWM systems, include: - Banyule CC to update ODWM data records and develop targeted program to improve maintenance and monitoring of septic tanks - Manningham CC to identify and assess risks of onsite wastewater systems to human health and environment and develop risk evaluation and treatment plans - Nillumbik SC to review and update ODWM data to improve risk assessments - Yarra Ranges SC to create online and printed materials as a part of its ODWM education program for property owners and installers of wastewater treatment systems.	Whole of river	Banyule CC Manningham CC Nillumbik SC Yarra Ranges SC	2023	In progress
49	DEECA	Water opportunities for Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	In line with Central Gippsland Region SWS action 6-7, evaluate opportunities and ways to give water back to BLCAC, including working with the Melbourne City Council and Royal Botanic Gardens to review the water entitlements given to them by Amcor for public use.	Whole of river	BLCAC, Melbourne City Council	2023	Planned
50	DEECA	Water opportunities for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	In line with Central Gippsland Region SWS action 6-7, evaluate opportunities and ways to give water to WWCHAC, including working with the Melbourne City Council and Royal Botanic Gardens to review water entitlements given to them by Amcor for public use.	Whole of river	WWCHAC, Melbourne City Council	2023	Planned
51	DEECA	Investigating optimisation of Yarra system passing flow arrangements	In line with Action 4-11 of the Central and Gippsland SWS, investigate optimisation of passing flow arrangements for the Yarra system at Watts River below Maroondah Reservoir to identify opportunities to increase the benefits of passing flows for all users without reducing the reliability of existing entitlements.	Whole of river	Melb Water, VEWH, WWCHAC, BLCAC	2023	Planned
52	DTP	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 Plan. This project will support all 4 performance objectives.	Whole of river	Local Council	2022	In progress
53	DTP	Final Yarra River – Bulleen Precinct Land Use Framework Plan	Brings to life a vision for a healthy river and environment, a thriving arts and cultural scene and connected people and places. Aligns with 50-year Community Vision, while providing a more detailed framework for future land use and development through this iconic part of the river's suburban reach. This activity contributes to a number of performance objectives.	Suburban	Wurundjeri, Transport (MTIA), Parks Victoria	2022	In progress
54	Manningham Council	Banksia Park Bridge/Heidelberg Yarra Street	New bridge at end of Yarra Street in Heidelberg to connect across the Yarra River from Main Yarra Trail to Banksia Park and Heide Museum of Modern Art in Bulleen.	Suburban	Banyule Council, DEECA, Parks Victoria	2022	In progress

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
55	<b>Manningham Council</b>	wonguim wilam (formerly Lions Park) upgrade	Upgrade of park precinct at Warrandyte River Reserve with an all abilities park, picnic facilities and landscaping. Opened Sep'22.	Suburban	Lions Club, VicRoads, DEECA	2022	Delivered
56	<b>Manningham Council</b>	Main Yarra Trail Extension to Warrandyte	Extending Manningham's shared trail network between Mullum Mullum trail and Taroon Avenue, Warrandyte, to improve recreational opportunities (ie walking, cycling and jogging).	Suburban	DTP, community	2022	In progress
57	<b>Manningham Council</b>	Integrated Water Management Strategy	Development of an Integrated Water Management Strategy for the City of Manningham, aligns with DEECA Yarra Catchment IWM Plan indicators, measures and targets.	Suburban	Yarra Valley Water, Melb Water	2023	In progress
58	<b>Manningham Council</b>	Community Education	Community Education program, including Waterwatch program	Suburban	Melb Water	2022	In progress
59	<b>Manningham Council</b>	Birrarung Bridge Feasibility Study	Feasibility study for a shared use pedestrian bridge across the Yarra River in Birrarung Park to connect to Plenty River Trail in Banyule.	Suburban	Manningham Council, Banyule Council, DEECA, Parks Victoria	2022	Planned
60	<b>Manningham Council</b>	Riverflow Peace Community Raingarden Project	Warrandyte Uniting Church - Construction of raingarden and dry creek bed. Includes community engagement and education, with aim to improve community understanding and knowledge about simple opportunities to preserve the natural environment and adapt to climate change. Completion of the project celebrated with a Wurundjeri smoking ceremony.	Suburban	Warrandyte Uniting Church, Bendigo Bank, Manningham Council	2022	Delivered
61	<b>Manningham Council</b>	Park and bushland maintenance / revegetation works along Yarra River	Parks maintenance and mowing for various parks, including Warrandyte Reserve and Warrandyte Walk - along the river and within 1km - also includes Committee of Management areas for Crown land reserves	Suburban	Melb Water, DEECA	2022	In progress
62	<b>Melb Water</b>	Yarra4Life	Collaborative environmental program in Yarra Valley to improve, increase and protect habitat for native animals, including Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum. Contributes to long-term goal of habitat link from Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve north to Yarra Ranges National Park.	Upper rural	Agencies, TOs, industry and community	2022	In progress

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
63	Melb Water	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, TOs and broader community to achieve multiple benefits including biodiversity, threatened species recovery, sustainable agriculture, improved water quality and river health, and supporting TO aspirations and community empowerment.	Lower rural	Agencies, TOs, industry and community	2022	In progress
64	Melb Water	Sugarloaf Southern Toadlet Habitat Project	Deer and weed control program to protect biodiversity values for Southern toadlet and drinking water quality at Sugarloaf Reservoir. The reservoir, which is fenced off, is within the Kinglake-Yarra biodiversity corridor.	Lower rural	PV, Nillumbik, WWCHAC	2022	In progress
65	Melb Water	Delivering environmental water to the Yarra River	Delivering the Seasonal Watering Plan 2022-23 for the Yarra River.	Whole of river	VEWH, TOs, DEECA	2022	In progress
66	Melb Water	Monitoring Lower Yarra billabongs	Ecological monitoring program for the Lower Yarra Billabongs - vegetation, frogs and water quality. Working with Melbourne University and Narrap team.	Suburban	Banyule, Manningham, WWCHAC, PV, DEECA	2022	In progress
67	Melb Water	Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways Program	Funding program for projects and longer-term partnerships that provide value to Melbourne Water, our customers, partners and community 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.	Whole of river	Agencies, TOs, industry and community	2022	In progress
68	Melb Water	Upper Yarra waterway restoration and weed control	Weed and willow control along multiple reaches of the river between Don River and Maroondah Highway	Upper rural	Yarra Ranges, PV, DEECA, WCHAC	2022	Planned
69	Melb Water	Yarra Flats	<b>Priority Project:</b> Annulus and Banksia Street billabongs, design of an onsite stormwater treatment wetland to supply water to the billabongs and provide improved community access. Design and construction of an onsite stormwater treatment wetland to supply water to the Banksia billabongs and provide improved community access.	Suburban	Banyule, Manningham, WWCHAC, PV, DEECA	2022	In progress
70	Melb Water	EcoVineyards - Yarra Valley	Program to increase land area dedicated to enhancing functional biodiversity in and around vineyards, including use of multi-species ground cover plants and soil remediation practices.	Lower rural	Retallack Viticulture, Wine Australia (investor), Wine Yarra Valley	2023	In progress

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
71	Melb Water	Alphington and Wilsons Reserve billabongs conceptual models	Developing conceptual models and management objectives for Alphington and Wilsons Reserve billabongs - feeds into landscape scale approach for lower Yarra billabongs	Suburban	Wurundjeri, Banyule, Friends Groups, VEWH. PV	2023	In progress
72	Melb Water	Lower Yarra - monitoring vegetation responses to spring high flow	Project by Jacobs to establish a monitoring methodology and appropriateness of the current spring high environmental flow recommendation.	Suburban	VEWH	2023	In progress
73	Melb Water	Lower Yarra - monitoring eel movements in relation to flow	Project by ARI to determine appropriate flow regime to initiate eel migration journey.	Suburban	ARI, Wurundjeri Narrap Unit, VEWH	2023	In progress
74	Melb Water	Reconnecting Banyule billabong	Scoping options to reconnect Banyule billabong to deliver long-term watering solution. Includes two observation boreholes to understand groundwater connection.	Suburban	Wurundjeri, Banyule, Friends Groups, VEWH. PV	2023	In progress
75	Melb Water	Cement Creek Boardwalk and Vegetation Improvement	Includes vegetation establishment and installing path and boardwalk along Cement Creek, East Warburton in Yarra Ranges National Park.	Upper rural	Yarra Ranges, PV, DEECA, WCHAC	2023	Planned
76	Melb Water	Upper Yarra Vegetation Condition Assessments	Undertake inventory of values and threats (IVT) assessment as part of addressing vegetation establishment targets in Healthy Waterways Strategy.	Upper rural	Yarra Ranges, PV, DEECA, WCHAC	2023	Planned
77	Melb Water	Yarra River Habitat Improvement - Fitzsimmons Lane to Warrandyte	Contributes to key objectives in Healthy Waterways Strategy and improves habitat for local key fauna.	Suburban	Melb Water, PV, WWCHAC, Manningham City Council, Banyule councils	2023	In progress
78	Melb Water	Yarra River Habitat Improvement - Banksia St to Fitzsimmons Lane	Contributes to key objectives in Healthy Waterways Strategy and improves habitat for local key fauna. Includes enhancement of aquatic vegetation for waterbirds, rakali and platypus; with over 20,000 plants to be installed as part of the works.	Suburban	Melb Water, PV, WWCHAC, Manningham City Council, Banyule councils	2023	In progress
79	Melb Water	Yarra River Habitat Improvement - Dights Falls to Banksia St	Contributes to key objectives in Healthy Waterways Strategy and improves habitat for local key fauna. Includes enhancement of aquatic vegetation for waterbirds, rakali and platypus; with over 20,000 plants to be installed as part of the works.	Suburban	Melb Water, PV, WWCHAC, City of Yarra, Banyule, Boroondara councils	2023	In progress

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
80	Melb Water	Yarra Estuary Habitat Improvement Works	Contributes to key objectives in Healthy Waterways Strategy, provides habitat for local key fauna. Includes enhancement of aquatic vegetation for waterbirds, rakali and platypus; with over 7000 plants to be installed as part of the works.	Inner city	Melb Water, PV, WWCHAC, Boroondara City Council, City of Yarra councils	2023	Planned
81	Melb Water	Yarra Inflatable Regatta - December 2023	Melbourne Water is major partner of Yarra and Maribyrnong Inflatable Regattas. For the Yarra, a 2 km float downstream, disembarking for the after party with live music, drinks and food. Launch at Hawthorn Rowing Club.	Inner city	External Partner	2023	In progress
82	Melb Water	Diamond Creek Lower Habitat Improvement	Contributes to objectives in Healthy Waterways Strategy and improves habitat for local key fauna, with a large focus to enhance aquatic vegetation for waterbirds, rakali, and platypus. Includes installation of over 5,500 plants.	Suburban	Nillumbik	2023	In progress
83	Melb Water	Candlebark Park Recreational Paddling Access	Construction of on-water access structure enabling safer access for recreational paddlers. Part of Westerfolds Park Regional Paddling Centre and will increase river usage and appreciation of waterway values.	Suburban	Melb Water, Manningham	2023	Planned
84	Melb Water	Pridmore and Fairview Parks - water access and bank stabilisation	Two sites that could contribute to water access and physical form - bank stabilisation in Pridmore and Fairview Parks, Hawthorn	Inner city	Boroondara	2023	Idea
85	Melb Water	Middle Yarra Habitat Improvement	Addresses vegetation establishment targets in Healthy Waterways Strategy.	Suburban	Yarra Ranges, PV, DEECA, WCHAC	2023	In progress
86	Melb Water	Upper Yarra Deer Control	Pest control leading to vegetation maintenance and establishment - contributes to Healthy Waterways Strategy objectives.	Upper rural	Yarra Ranges, PV, DEECA, WCHAC	2023	In progress
87	Melb Water	Lower Brushy Creek Habitat Improvement	Contributes to objectives in Healthy Waterways Strategy and improves habitat for local key fauna, with a large focus to enhance aquatic vegetation for waterbirds, rakali, and platypus. Includes removal of large woody weed species.	Lower rural	Manningham	2023	In progress
88	Melb Water	Sugarloaf Carbon Forest	Consider establishing a forest (for carbon credits under the Commonwealth scheme) on previously grazed land within the Sugarloaf Reservoir property, south of Muir Road.	Lower rural	TBC	2023	Idea
89	Melb Water	YCA Implementation - Yarra River and Woori Yallock Creek	Addresses vegetation establishment targets in Healthy Waterways Strategy.	Upper rural	Yarra Ranges, PV, DEECA, WCHAC	2023	In progress
90	Melb Water	Glenview Road, Yarra Glen riparian corridor enhancement	Addresses vegetation establishment targets in Healthy Waterways Strategy.	Upper rural	Yarra Ranges, PV, DEECA, WCHAC	2023	In progress



ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
91	Melb Water	Domaine Chandon Billabong Restoration	Addresses vegetation establishment targets in Healthy Waterways Strategy.	Upper rural	Land Owner	2023	Planned
92	Melb Water	Yarra River - Warramate Hills NCR to Healesville vegetation management	Addresses vegetation establishment targets in Healthy Waterways Strategy.	Upper rural	Yarra Ranges, PV, DEECA, WCHAC	2023	Planned
93	Melb Water	Little Yarra River - Tarrango to Warburton vegetation management	Addresses vegetation establishment targets in Healthy Waterways Strategy.	Upper rural	Yarra Ranges, PV, DEECA, WCHAC	2023	Planned
94	Melb Water	Yarra River - Station Road to Don Road vegetation improvement	Addresses vegetation establishment targets in Healthy Waterways Strategy.	Upper rural	Yarra Ranges, PV, DEECA, WCHAC	2023	Planned
95	Melb Water	YCAII- Implementation Yarra River and Woori Yallock Creek	Addresses vegetation establishment targets in Healthy Waterways Strategy.	Upper rural	Yarra Ranges, PV, DEECA, WCHAC	2023	In progress
96	Melb Water	Watts River Sub-Catchment ICM Plan (Pilot)	This pilot is to understand and demonstrate the value and benefits that can be unlocked for partners, communities and natural assets through a collaborative and coordinated approach to integrated catchment management planning.	Upper rural	Yarra Ranges, PV, DEECA, WCHAC	2023	In progress
97	Melb Water	Waterways Preventative Maintenance Programs	Waterways Preventative Maintenance (PM) programs (undertaken annually through operation expenditure) for reaches and tributaries outside capital project areas. Includes weed control, vegetation management and monitoring.	Whole of river	Councils, PV	2023	In progress
	Melb Water	Yarra River - KGR to Brushy Creek	Addresses vegetation establishment and maintenance targets in Healthy Waterways Strategy.	Suburban	PV, landowners	2023	Planned
98	Melb Water	Yarra River Safety Signage Plan	Developing signage plan with Manningham and potentially other councils in 2023/24, following a drowning at Warrandyte. Focus on improving warnings system for public and making people more aware of dangers. Note there's an enquiry looking into this at the moment; the project will bring in any recommendations arising from this.	Suburban	Councils, PV	2023	Idea
99	Melb Water	Lower Yarra Platypus Management Guidelines	Development of strategic Platypus management guidelines, integrating waterway managers in the lower Yarra region by setting out management and monitoring practices, and direction into where to target platypus management actions.	Suburban	Banyule, Yarra City, Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Boroondara	2023	In progress
100	Melbourne City Council	Birrarung Floating Wetlands Trial	<b>Priority project</b> - trial of floating wetlands in central Melbourne area of the river. Given the innovative nature of floating vegetation concept, a trial will be run to assess future applications on a bigger scale.	Inner city	DEECA, Uni Melb	2022	In progress

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
101	<b>Melbourne City Council</b>	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. Early works package began in Apr'22 and is expected to be completed by 2023.	Inner city	State	2022	In progress
102	<b>Melbourne City Council</b>	Southbank Boulevard - public space revitalisation	Transformation will add 2.5ha of public spaces and neighbourhood parks in Southbank, Melbourne's most densely populated suburb. The current phase is complete between St Kilda Road and City Road. Planning is underway for the remaining section between City Road and Queensbridge Square.	Inner city	State	2022	In progress
103	<b>Melbourne City Council</b>	Greenline Project: Revitalising the north bank of the Yarra River – Birrarung	Multi-year program to revitalise Northbank environment public realm between Birrarung Marr and North Wharf	Inner city	State	2022	In progress
104	<b>Melbourne City Council</b>	Seafarers Rest Park	New public park located on north bank between The Mission to Seafarers heritage building and the Seafarers Bridge, will increase pedestrian and bicycle access, retain and enhance existing trees, and protect neighbouring heritage sites. Park construction and completion is planned for 2024.	Inner city	State	2022	In progress
105	<b>Nilumbik Council</b>	Parks and reserves maintenance	Parks and reserves maintenance - includes Eltham Lower Park and Linister Farm, and significant area of bushland reserves along the river and its tributaries	Suburban		2023	In progress
106	<b>Nilumbik Council</b>	Urban Canopy Strategy	Strategy to inform future action and investment for protection and enhancement of Nilumbik's urban tree canopy.	Suburban		2023	In progress
107	<b>Nilumbik Council</b>	Biodiversity Strategy	Develop new strategy; includes data collection, analysis and consultation. Nilumbik has over 1,000 indigenous flora species, 64 of which are listed as significant, 300 indigenous fauna species, 63 of which are listed as significant; including the Brush-tailed Phascogale, Lace Monitor, Common Dunnart, Sugar Glider, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Eltham Copper Butterfly and Platypus. The Shire also supports resident populations of several threatened bird species such as Powerful Owl and Barking Owl.	Lower rural		2023	In progress
108	<b>Parks Victoria</b>	Yarra River cleaning and maintenance - litter	Removal of floating litter from the lower Yarra River, using PV staff, P&E and floating litter traps.	Inner city		2022	In progress
109	<b>Parks Victoria</b>	Gipps Street Ramp - Main Yarra Trail	The Main Yarra Trail currently comes to an abrupt barrier at the steep steps at Gipps Street in Abbotsford. Constructing an elevated, curling walkway will improve how cyclists, people with prams and people with accessibility requirements can continue their journey along the trail.	Inner city	Yarra City, DEECA	2022	In progress
110	<b>Parks Victoria</b>	Management of Herring Island	Recurrent expenditure on the management of Herring Island.	Inner city		2022	In progress

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
111	Parks Victoria	Management of Yarra Bend Park	Recurrent expenditure on the management of Yarra Bend Park.	Suburban		2022	In progress
112	Parks Victoria	Management of Warrandyte State Park	Recurrent expenditure on the management of Warrandyte State Park.	Suburban		2022	In progress
113	Parks Victoria	Management of Sugarloaf Reservoir Park.	Recurrent expenditure on the management of Sugarloaf Reservoir Park.	Lower rural		2022	In progress
114	Parks Victoria	Management of Yarra Ranges NP	Recurrent expenditure on management of Yarra Ranges NP.	Upper rural		2022	In progress
115	Parks Victoria	Management of Yarra Valley Parklands	Recurrent expenditure on 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.	Suburban		2022	In progress
116	Parks Victoria	Fairlea Reserve Netball Courts and Pavilions Project	Construction of netball courts and pavilions - includes landscaping, bike racks, pedestrian pathways and increased car parking capacity.	Suburban	Yarra City, DEECA	2022	Delivered
117	Parks Victoria	Lower Yarra River dredging program	Dredging to maintain navigable access to key destinations along the lower Yarra River	Inner city	DEECA - funding	2022	In progress
118	Parks Victoria	Warburton Redwoods Tree-Based Activation EOI	Prospective EOI seeking operators for a tree-based activation of the Cement Creek Redwoods	Suburban	Yarra Ranges Shire	2023	Planned
119	Parks Victoria	Yarra Ranges Deer Control - Warramate Hills NCR	Aerial monitoring of deer population to form basis of future control program (if required). This reserve borders the Yarra River, hence reserve vegetation quality directly impacts the Yarra River.	Lower rural	DEECA, Yarra Ranges	2023	Planned
120	Parks Victoria	Southern Fall of Donna Buang Deer Control Implementation plan	Develop deer control implementation plan for southern Fall of Mt Donna Buang. This 2000Ha area contains 13 major waterways, totalling 25km in length which contribute to the Yarra River catchment.	Upper rural	MW, Yarra Ranges, Mt Toolbewong and district Landcare	2023	Delivered
121	Parks Victoria	Herring Island visitor experience planning	Develop a plan for the operation of Herring Island	Inner city	MW, DEECA, Friends groups	2023	In progress

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
122	Parks Victoria	Yarra Bend Grey Headed Flying Fox program	Conservation and enhancement of GHFF colony and environs including species heat stress event management	Suburban	MW, DEECA, Zoos Victoria, Wildlife Victoria	2023	In progress
123	Parks Victoria	Pest plant and animal programs (ongoing) North East Melbourne footprint	Fox, rabbit and weed control works as part of annual programs	Lower Rural	MW, DEECA, Friends groups	2023	In progress
124	Parks Victoria	Middle Yarra Deer Control	Use of professional contractors to reduce numbers of deer at priority sites and thus reduce environmental impacts of the current deer population. This program will complement other invasive species programs in parks and surrounding private land, in addition to Melbourne Water's deer control program at Sugarloaf Reservoir.	Lower rural	DEECA, WWCHAC, Manningham, Nillumbik, Middle Yarra Landcare Network	2023	In progress
125	Parks Victoria	Lower Yarra River Activation Plan	Developing a plan for sustainable activation of the lower Yarra River. Informed by current River Activity and Use Study (Alluvium Aug-Feb'23).	Inner city	DEECA - funding	2023	In progress
126	Stonnington Council	Thomas Oval Dog Park, South Yarra	Construct dog-friendly park at Thomas Oval - funding under Government's Local Parks (dog parks) Program. Construction Apr'22 to Oct'22.	Inner city	DEECA	2022	Delivered
127	Stonnington Council	Grange Road Wetlands Sediment and Vegetation Management	Involves removal of sediment build-up and overgrown vegetation at Grange Road Wetlands on edge of Yarra River, South Yarra.	Inner city	DEECA	2023	In progress
128	Stonnington Council	Main Yarra Trail (Stonnington) Planting Plan	Planting plan of between 2000 and 4000 tube stock per year for next 5 year along the Main Yarra Trail from Punt Rd to Grange Rd wetlands, with option to incorporate additional seating areas along the trail.	Inner city	MW	2023	Idea
129	Stonnington Council	Thermal imagery and vegetation mapping	Thermal imagery and heat and vegetation mapping for considering solutions to climate risks/impacts in the public and private realms.	Inner city	DEECA, other councils	2023	In progress
130	Stonnington Council	Nesting boxes trial	Installing and monitoring habitat nesting box models in key biodiversity sites along the Yarra and Gardiners Creek over 12 month period.	Inner city	Friends	2023	Idea
131	Stonnington Council	Climate Watch Trail upgrades and engagement	New engagement signage required + development of a revised engagement strategy and associated events/comms.	Inner city	Climate Watch	2023	In progress
132	Stonnington Council	Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration Cultural Values study	In partnership with Wurundjeri, investigating cultural values along the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) corridor.	Inner city	WWCHAC and Gardiners Creek Regional Collab members	2023	Idea

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
133	Stonnington Council	Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration Data Strategy development	Strategy to guide collection, analysis and governance of data related to waterway health, biodiversity, land-use, stormwater, etc. for the Gardiners Creek catchment. Will inform project prioritisation and scoping.	Inner city	Gardiners Creek Regional Collab members	2023	Idea
134	Stonnington Council	Como Park stormwater harvesting rectification and future works	Stormwater harvesting, storage and irrigation system has been offline for approx.. 5 years and is undergoing works to bring back functionality. Anticipating excess water to facilitate further urban greening.	Inner city		2023	In progress
135	Stonnington Council	Chapel Street Transformation	Masterplan to revitalise Chapel precinct. Includes climate resilience component, integrating: WSUD/IWM assets/principles, biodiversity, cultural values, etc.	Inner city		2023	In progress
136	Stonnington Council	Urban Forest Strategy renewal	Renewing strategic approach to increasing canopy cover, improving, protecting and creating new habitat, improving biodiversity, enhancing cooling.	Inner city		2023	In progress
137	Stonnington Council	Open Space Strategy development	Replaces Stonnington's previous Public Realm Strategy. Includes consultant fees, community consultation and TO engagement.	Inner city		2023	In progress
138	Stonnington Council	Integrated Water Management Plan	Develop IWM plan - includes expert review, community consultation and TO engagement.	Inner city		2023	In progress
139	Stonnington Council	Urban Biodiversity Action Plan	Develop strategic document - includes expert review, community consultation and TO engagement, plus additional FTE.	Inner city		2023	In progress
140	Stonnington Council	Naturestrip Guidelines	Develop Naturestrip Guidelines - includes expert review, community consultation and TO engagement, plus additional FTE.	Inner city		2023	In progress
141	Stonnington Council	Council-wide flood mapping	Mapping 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 year floods at mesh block level for whole municipality to inform future planning and planning scheme amendments.	Inner city	MW	2023	In progress
142	Stonnington Council	Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) Program	GPT audit, strategy and installation = x 4 or 5 including at Como Park.	Inner city	MW	2023	In progress
143	Stonnington Council	Stormwater quality monitoring	Initial program of grab sampling and continuous monitoring at 6 sites (5 in Gardiners Ck catchment, 1 in Yarra catchment) to measure E.Coli, P, N, HFM, TSS and turbidity – assessing performance of wetlands and GPTs/general condition of stormwater. Would like to expand/continue into an ongoing annual program.	Inner city	MW	2023	In progress
144	Stonnington Council	Stormwater harvesting (multiple sites)	Construct stormwater harvesting and storage assets to support irrigation of x3 recreational open space areas – Gardiners Creek Catchment.	Inner city	MW	2023	Planned
145	Stonnington Council	Tooronga Wetlands, Malvern	Construct new wetlands in Tooronga Park, adjacent Gardiners Ck	Inner city	MW	2023	In progress

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
146	<b>Stonnington Council</b>	Gardiners Creek Revegetation and habitat creation	Broad scope/timeframe as per Gardiners Creek Masterplan	Inner city	Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration members, Friends Groups, Yarra Riverkeeper	2023	Planned
147	<b>Transport</b>	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. Included relocation of the iconic River Peel structure to Candlebark Park.	Suburban	Nilumbik, Manningham, Melb Water	2022	In progress
148	<b>Transport</b>	North East Link related projects	Planning for recreational facilities and improved pedestrian and cycling opportunities as a result of the North East Link project. Planning scheme amendment for Templestowe Road soccer facility approved.	Suburban	Banyule, Boroondara, Manningham, Melb Water, Parks Vic, WWCHAC	2022	In progress
149	<b>WWCHAC</b>	Freshwater mussels research	Wurundjeri Woi wurrung led project to understand the distribution, ecology and threats to freshwater mussels. It forms 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.	Whole of river	Melb Water, Arthur Rylar Institute	2022	In progress
150	<b>WWCHAC</b>	Birrarung Rangers	<b>Priority Project</b> - provides ongoing involvement of Traditional Owners in day-to-day management of the Birrarung, strengthening connection to Country.	Whole of river	DEECA, Melb Water	2022	In progress
151	<b>Yarra City Council</b>	Yarra City bushland maintenance	Bushland maintenance, covers weed control in 36 bushland sites (approx. 38ha) across City of Yarra.	Inner city	Felix Botanica	2022	In progress
152	<b>Yarra City Council</b>	Yarra City EVC revegetation program for waterways	EVC revegetation program along waterways, aims to plant 12,000 local provenance plants in line with EVC density benchmarks.	Inner city	Felix Botanica, community, MCMC	2022	In progress
153	<b>Yarra City Council</b>	Narrap Female Ranger Trainee Initiative	Supporting the Narrap team in development of long term employment pathway for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung women participating in NRM programs as well as first nations agriculture projects	Inner city	Collingwood Children's Farm, Narrap Team	2023	In progress
154	<b>Yarra City Council</b>	Cultural Burning	Autumn cultural burn in endangered Plains Grassy Woodland EVC in Burnley Park to heal country, in conjunction with Wurundjeri Narrap Team. Includes pre and post-burn habitat hectare assessments.	Inner city	Narrap Team, Felix Botanica, Eco Logical Aust	2023	In progress

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
155	Yarra City Council	Grey-headed Flying-fox Habitat Enhancement Project	Plant 100 advanced local provenance trees (6 species) in open space park and reserves adjacent to waterways to provide winter/spring foraging opportunities for the Yarra Bend GHFF colony.	Inner city	Felix Botancia, Friends of Bushcare and Bats	2023	In progress
156	Yarra City Council	Direct Seedling	Implement 2000m2 of spring direct seeding in Yarra River land to reinstate endangered Plain Grassy Woodland and Escarpment Shrubland EVCs.	Inner city	Felix Botanica	2023	In progress
157	Yarra City Council	Gardens 4 Wildlife	Implement Yarra's Pilot Gardens for Wildlife Program to include 25 households in 2022/23, 60 households in 2023/24 and 100 households in 2024/25	Inner city	Yarra residents, Felix Botanica, VINC	2023	In progress
158	Yarra Ranges Council	Yering billabongs	<b>Priority Project</b> - 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 connecting to habitat in Spadoni's Reserve.	Lower rural	DEECA, Melb Water, WWCHAC	2022	In progress
159	Yarra Ranges Council	Yarra Valley Trail - Stage 1A, 1B & 2A, and Northern Loop	Stage 1A Stage 1B features new bridges to replace the heritage bridges destroyed in 2009 Black Saturday fires as well as a new bridge over the Yarra River. Stage 2A includes 40km of trail to link Lilydale, Yarra Glen, Healesville and join into the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail Northern Loop - 10.7km trail circuit north of Yarra Glen, connecting the Yarra Valley Trail to the Yarra Glen Station Trail Node	Lower rural	DEECA, Federal & State Gov, Melb Water, Dept of Transport, VicTrack, Yarra Valley Railways, Rail Trails Aust	2022	In progress
160	Yarra Ranges Council	Millgrove River Walk	Walking track to provide a safe walking course for recreational and education purposes on the Yarra River bank and a widening of River Road. Awarded and construction to commence Sept 2022.	Upper rural	Dept of Premier and Cabinet	2022	In progress
161	Yarra Ranges Council	Indigenous Heritage Visibility	Infrastructure to create visibility for Indigenous cultural heritage in culturally significant council reserves	Upper rural	WWCHAC	2023	In progress
162	Yarra Ranges Council	Warburton Urban Design Framework	Develop and action Warburton Urban Design framework in conjunction with Place Plan	Upper rural		2023	In progress
163	Yarra Ranges Council	Warburton Mountain Bike Destination	Development of over 100km of mountain bike trails in the hills surrounding Warburton	Upper rural	DEECA, PV, MW	2023	Planned

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
164	Yarra Riverkeeper Assoc	Polystyrene in the Yarra River	<b>Priority project</b> - 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.	Whole of river	DEECA	2022	In progress
165	Yarra Valley Water	Habitat Restoration at Upper Yarra Treatment Plant	Feasibility study indicates site suitable for habitat restoration (and carbon offset) for lowland Leadbeater's Possum and Helmeted Honeyeater. Links with upstream work at Haining Farm and creek frontage restoration works. Detailed design includes planting, water regime and fire mitigation. Construction stage includes on-ground revegetation works, follow-up monitoring and delivery of an education and cultural program.	Upper rural	Melb Water, DEECA, WCHAC	2023	In progress

Organisation abbreviations: Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Melbourne Water (MW), Parks Victoria (PV), Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC), Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC), Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH), Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI)

Other abbreviations: Integrated Water Management (IWM), Healthy Waterways Strategy (HWS), Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS), Climate Change (CC), Traditional Owners (TO), Planning Scheme (PS)



# Attachment 1 – Decision-Making Framework – Assessment tool

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 Burndap Birrarung brundap umarkoo (the Plan).

The proforma is in four parts. Part 1 is for inclusion of the proposal details; Part 2 covers the assessment criteria drawn from the Act's protection principles; Part 3 covers viability of project funding, delivery aspects and effectiveness to deliver on the intent of the Act and Plan; and Part 4 provides a recommendation for next steps.

Where the criteria are not met, proponents will need to consider options to enhance or amend the proposal to achieve alignment.

## Part 1 – Proposal details

<b>Proposal name</b>			
<b>Proponent</b>	Organisation: Contact:		
<b>Proposal description</b>			
<b>Proposal type</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> On-ground works/outcomes (tangible) <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy/policy (leads to change in management) <input type="checkbox"/> Research/monitoring (improves knowledge) <input type="checkbox"/> Education/behaviour (supports change)		
<b>Location/Reach</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Inner city <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Lower rural <input type="checkbox"/> Upper rural <input type="checkbox"/> Whole of river	<b>Country</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Wurundjeri <input type="checkbox"/> Bunurong <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Project dependent
<b>Relationship to river</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yarra River land <input type="checkbox"/> Direct (within 1 km buffer) <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect (outside 1 km buffer, but may affect Yarra River land)		

## Part 2 – Alignment with protection principles of the Act

Proponents must rate the proposal against the following criteria drawn from the Yarra protection principles of the Act. 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.

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

Protection principles	Assessment	Comments
<b>General principles</b>		
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)	
Proposal ensures environmental, social and cultural benefits are maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1)	
Score for general principles	/ 4	
<b>Environmental principles</b>		
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)	

<b>Protection principles</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Proposal provides a net gain for the environment within the river corridor.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (-1) <input type="checkbox"/> NA (0)	
Score for environmental principles	/ 4	
<b>Social principles</b>		
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	
<b>Recreational principles</b>		
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	
<b>Cultural principles</b>		
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)	

Protection principles	Assessment	Comments
Score for cultural principles	/ 3	
<b>Management principles</b>		
For policy and programs, coordination is occurring between all (relevant) levels of government and government agencies. *	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (+1)	List agencies 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) <input type="checkbox"/> NA (0)	
Score for management principles	/ 3	
TOTAL	/ 18	

\* These criteria are considered mandatory for all projects. Those components that don't align should be adjusted.

### Part 3 – Assessment of broader alignment

Alignment with protection principles of the Act is the gateway or first 'hurdle' that proposals need to get through. A further requirement is consideration of the aspirations of Traditional Owners, the Yarra River 50-year Community Vision and the four performance objectives driving the Plan. There is also a need to consider viability of funding, delivery and effectiveness.

Where the assessment criteria is not met, proponents must provide a comment as to why this shouldn't affect the Yarra Collaboration Committee's advocacy for the proposal.

Further 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

partnership protocols and broader Traditional Owner objectives?		
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 risk analysis been undertaken covering environmental, social, cultural and economic values?	<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	

## Part 4 – Recommendation

<b>Issues for consideration:</b>	1.	
<b>Should the proposal be referred to Yarra Collaboration Committee for discussion?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	R
<b>Recommendation</b>		

<b>Pro-forma completed by</b>	
<b>Pro-forma reviewed by</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

# Attachment 2 – Terms of Reference for Yarra Collaboration Committee (YCC)

Last updated 11 December 2023

## Purpose

The Yarra Collaboration Committee 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 murron) Act 2017* (the Act) requires the development and implementation of a Yarra Strategic Plan as an overarching policy and planning framework in relation to the Yarra River and land in its vicinity.
- The Yarra Strategic Plan has been named, Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo (BBBU), which in Woi-wurrung language means 'what's good for the Birrarung is good for all' (and is the final line in the Community Vision).
- The Act calls for a long-term community vision that identifies the community's 'values, priorities and preferences' for managing the Yarra; with the BBBU 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 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 Owner Corporations, was initially established in 2017 to support the Lead Agency in developing the Community Vision and BBBU.
- Melbourne Water, having been appointed as the Lead Agency for development of the BBBU 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 BBBU, which was subsequently approved by the Minister for Water in February 2022 for implementation.
- The BBBU 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 BBBU's implementation, and act as planners, decision makers and delivery agents on their Country alongside state and local government agencies.

- At times, the YCC may invite external participants to attend meetings in the continued pursuit of achieving the performance objectives identified in the BBBU. To clarify the role of these participants, responsibilities and expectations have been outlined for partners (as defined within the BBBU), associates and working groups that may be invited or requested to participate in YCC meetings and planning activities.

## Role and function

- The YCC provides a forum to oversee and provide strategic and operational advice on the implementation of the BBBU 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 Corporations will be formed and championed; 'walking together' in implementing the BBBU and its actions.
- The YCC has the responsibility to inform and agree to the rolling 3-year implementation plan, and to facilitate processes to engage with and coordinate input from partners, the community and other stakeholders.
- The YCC provides a forum to discuss and provide advice on key risks and opportunities for implementing the BBBU, including engagement, effective governance and trade-off processes.
- The YCC provides a forum to discuss and provide advice on achieving the BBBU'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 BBBU) when determining projects and activities that will contribute to the BBBU's actions and performance objectives.
- The YCC provides a forum to discuss and provide advice and leadership in monitoring and evaluating the BBBU, including contributions to the annual report and identifying improvements for implementation.
- 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 BBBU.

## Governance and decision-making

- Discussions will be moderated by an independent Chair of the YCC, or Deputy Chair where appropriate.
- 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 BBBU 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 committee includes 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 Birrarung (Yarra River) flows through. Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation cover the majority of the Birrarung, from the mountains to the city. The

Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation are recognised as the Registered Aboriginal Party covering the lower part 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 BBBU within their own organisations, and with stakeholders and community. This includes influencing transformative change to align with the goals outlined in the BBBU and aspirations and values of Traditional Owners.
- 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.
- Provide updates on actions and activities being undertaken by their organisation, including identifying representatives to share learnings and achievements identified through the planning, delivery, maintenance and monitoring of actions and activities.

## 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 progress actions, resolve issues and support transformation in management of the Birrarung by responsible public entities.

## Key Responsibilities – Lead Agency (Melbourne Water)

- 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 BBBU outcomes.
- Appoint the independent Chair of the YCC.
- Melbourne Water YCC representative to act as Deputy Chairperson.



- Provide support to YCC members championing the delivery of actions and activities contributing towards the achievement of the performance objectives. This can extend to working through aligned opportunities or common barriers that responsible public entities may be identifying and encountering.
- Organise invitations for external participants to attend YCC meetings as required.

## Partners

As identified in the BBBU, there are key partners in addition to the members of the YCC that have input to managing the Birrarung. These include:

- Victorian Environmental Water Holder
- Environment Protection Authority
- Victorian Fisheries Authority
- Water Retailers, including Yarra Valley Water, South East Water and Greater Western Water (*all of whom operate within the Yarra corridor*)
- Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

In recognising the role that key partners play to the contribution of achieving the outcomes, we acknowledge that for the times when they attend YCC meetings, the expectations and responsibilities of these representatives are as follows:

- Present on a topic or attend a meeting to participate in discussion for which they have been identified as having specialised knowledge or an aligned interest to that of the YCC.
- Communicate and champion the BBBU within their own organisations, and with stakeholders and community. This includes influencing transformative change to align with the goals outlined in the BBBU and aspirations and values of Traditional Owners.
- Participate in the discussion for which they have been invited, provide suggestions for recommendations and outcomes and if invited participate in the development of initiatives and delivery of actions in collaboration with responsible public entities.

## Associates

On occasion there will be specialists or representatives from external organisations invited to attend YCC meetings. These organisations will be referred to as 'associates', and for example, could include community based non-government organisations with an interest in implementing the BBBU.

In recognising the important role that associates play to the contribution of achieving the BBBU outcomes, they may be invited to present on a topic and participate in discussion for which they have been identified as having specialised knowledge or an aligned interest to that of the YCC.

Associates participation in YCC meetings will be restricted to the item(s) to which they have been invited. They can participate in discussion, provide suggestions for recommendations, however they will not have decision making powers.

## Working Groups (Reference Groups or Advisory Committees)

As collaboration is likely to involve more than just the organisations represented on the YCC, there may be a need to establish working groups to assist in delivering priority projects and transformative change. These working groups may be strategic in nature, so as to further inform how we achieve the performance objectives and implement transformative change.

Working Groups may be established to:

- Develop and manage projects, programs or advocacy initiatives that include organisations external to the YCC member organisations.
- Provide project, program or initiative communication and reporting to the YCC.
- Make recommendations to the YCC for consideration and approval as required.
- The Lead Agency or appointed YCC coordinating representative will coordinate the relationship between the working group and the YCC.

## Definitions

To ensure consistent understanding of the differing levels of consent or agreement, the following definitions will apply:

- **Acceptance.** This will be for agreement from the YCC members themselves. This is to recognise that there is a level of authority given to the YCC members representing their organisations. Acceptance will be to seek acknowledgement on documents or actions that will primarily be used within or to influence YCC meetings and outcomes.
- **Endorsement.** This is to acknowledge that YCC members may require discussions with direct managers and executives following the tabling of information seeking endorsement. Endorsement is generally to recognise that there will be actions or documents that require partner organisations to commit resources for their implementation and delivery.
- **Approval.** Where approval is being sought by the YCC, there is awareness and acknowledgement by partner organisations for the release of information for public viewing. This may involve Executive sign-off or an understanding that the YCC member has the authority to approve documents, for which the Lead Agency will proceed with sharing of information beyond YCC member organisations.

## Attachment 3 –Roles and responsibilities

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

**Table 1. Roles and responsibilities**

Entity	Function	Membership	Operation
<b>Yarra Collaboration Committee (YCC)</b>	<p>Provides a forum to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• oversee and provide strategic and operational advice</li> <li>• inform and agree on the rolling 3-year implementation plan</li> <li>• support partnerships with the Traditional Owners</li> <li>• oversee and review the use of the decision-making framework</li> <li>• promote and facilitate collaboration and alignment of activities and projects</li> <li>• provide strategic advice on community engagement and reporting</li> <li>• provide advice on key risks and opportunities, including effective governance for implementation.</li> <li>• provide mechanism for members to highlight expectations and concerns with progress in implementation.</li> </ul>	Representatives from RPEs and Aboriginal Corporations and an independent chairperson.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meets bi-monthly to facilitate regular reporting and sharing of information.</li> <li>• Items for discussion or decision informed by background papers issued by Lead Agency.</li> <li>• Option to use working groups for project or issue based planning and investigation, with reporting back to the YCC.</li> <li>• Members will maintain internal briefing and approval processes to inform discussions and decisions at YCC meetings.</li> <li>• Members will act as conduits into their organisations to support knowledge sharing, collaboration and if required dispute resolution.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead Agency (Melbourne Water)</b> appointed by the Minister for Water under the Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate YCC and coordinate implementation of the YSP.</li> <li>• Support YCC in compiling the activity schedule, including gap analysis and identifying project opportunities to fill those gaps.</li> <li>• Track and measure progress, and provide regular updates to YCC and key stakeholders.</li> <li>• Lead/champion funding submissions, and play a key role in identifying opportunities and where collaborative effort is required.</li> <li>• Facilitate consistent application of decision-making framework, maintaining records and contributing statistics for the annual report.</li> <li>• Collate and publish the annual report.</li> </ul>	Melbourne Water as Lead Agency will be represented by a small project team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination and secretariat support for YCC – includes setting agendas, briefing papers, meetings and minutes.</li> <li>• Maintain YSP Forward Planner, providing an outlook for future planning, reporting, funding opportunities and decision points for YCC members.</li> <li>• Establish and maintain records on decision-making framework.</li> <li>• Provide briefings for member organisations to facilitate discussions and inform planning outside of YCC meetings.</li> </ul>

Entity	Function	Membership	Operation
<p><b>Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)</b> as nominated government department for implementation of the Act</p>	<p>DEECA Water &amp; Catchment provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative oversight of the Lead Agency for implementation</li> <li>• Facilitates and raises awareness of funding opportunities and requirements</li> <li>• Ensures alignment with other government policy, including incorporation of the land use framework into planning policy.</li> </ul>	<p>DEECA Water &amp; Catchment represented by a small project team</p>	<p>Operates under the direction of the Department Secretary</p>
<p><b>Local municipal councils –</b></p> <p>Banyule Boroondara Manningham Melbourne Nillumbik Stonnington Yarra City Yarra Ranges</p>	<p>As responsible public entities local councils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Collaborate in delivering YSP actions and transformative projects where they relate to their remit and function and where resourcing is available.</li> <li>• Form partnerships with other agencies, identify funding and opportunities, and drive implementation strategically.</li> <li>• Share annual programs of activities and projects, and participate in implementation planning.</li> <li>• Submit implementation reports to the Lead Agency to inform an annual report to Birrarung Council.</li> </ul>	<p>Council nominated representative (and proxy) that can participate in discussions and decisions at YCC meetings on their Council's behalf.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council representatives will participate in YCC activities – attend meetings, review briefing papers, provide comment on reports, and participate in discussions and decisions.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Council representatives will champion the YSP and drive its implementation both internally and externally.</li> </ul>
<p><b>State government agencies –</b></p> <p>DEECA Melb Water Parks Victoria VPA DTP VicTrack</p>	<p>As responsible public entities, State government agencies will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not act inconsistently with directions in the land use framework, and will have regard to Yarra protection principles when performing its own work and making decisions that affect Yarra River land.</li> <li>• Collaborate in delivering YSP actions and transformative projects where they relate to their remit and function and where resourcing is available.</li> <li>• Share annual programs of activities and projects, and participate in implementation planning.</li> <li>• Submit implementation reports to the Lead Agency to inform an annual report to Birrarung Council.</li> </ul>	<p>State government agency nominated representative (and proxy) that can participate in discussions and decisions at YCC meetings on their agency's behalf.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agency representatives will participate in YCC activities – attend meetings, review briefing papers, provide comment on reports, and participate in discussions and decisions.</li> <li>• Agency representatives will keep their executive leadership briefed on issues and progress, and in regard to issues, have authority to represent agency's position for discussions and decisions.</li> <li>• Agency representatives will champion the YSP and drive its implementation both internally and externally.</li> </ul>

Entity	Function	Membership	Operation
<p><b>Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP)</b> for lands through which the Yarra flows</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represent the RAP in implementing the Plan – the manner in which this will be achieved is part of a self-determined process for involvement.</li> </ul>	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation will be represented on the YCC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representatives will participate in YCC activities – attend meetings, review briefing papers, provide comment on reports, and participate in discussions and decisions.</li> <li>• Representatives will keep their executive leadership briefed on issues and progress; and in regard to issues, have authority to represent the Corporation’s position for discussions and decisions.</li> <li>• Representatives will champion the BBBU/YSP and drive its implementation both internally and externally.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Birrarung Council</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent voice of the Yarra, providing advice to the Government on the implementation of the Act.</li> <li>• Advise the Minister (sect 48.1.a) on implementation of the YSP in contributing to the protection and improvement of Yarra River land, and environmental, cultural and heritage values, including waterway health.</li> <li>• Advocate for protection and preservation of the Yarra River (sect 48.1.b of the Act).</li> </ul>	<p>Appointed by the Minister for Water</p>	<p>Provide report to Minister on implementation of the YSP by 31 October each year, to be tabled in parliament together with annual report prepared by Lead Agency (sect 57.3.b).</p> <p>Operates independently of YCC, but is provided regular briefings on progress by Lead Agency.</p> <p>Through their annual reporting provides directions and aspects for focus in implementing the Plan.</p>