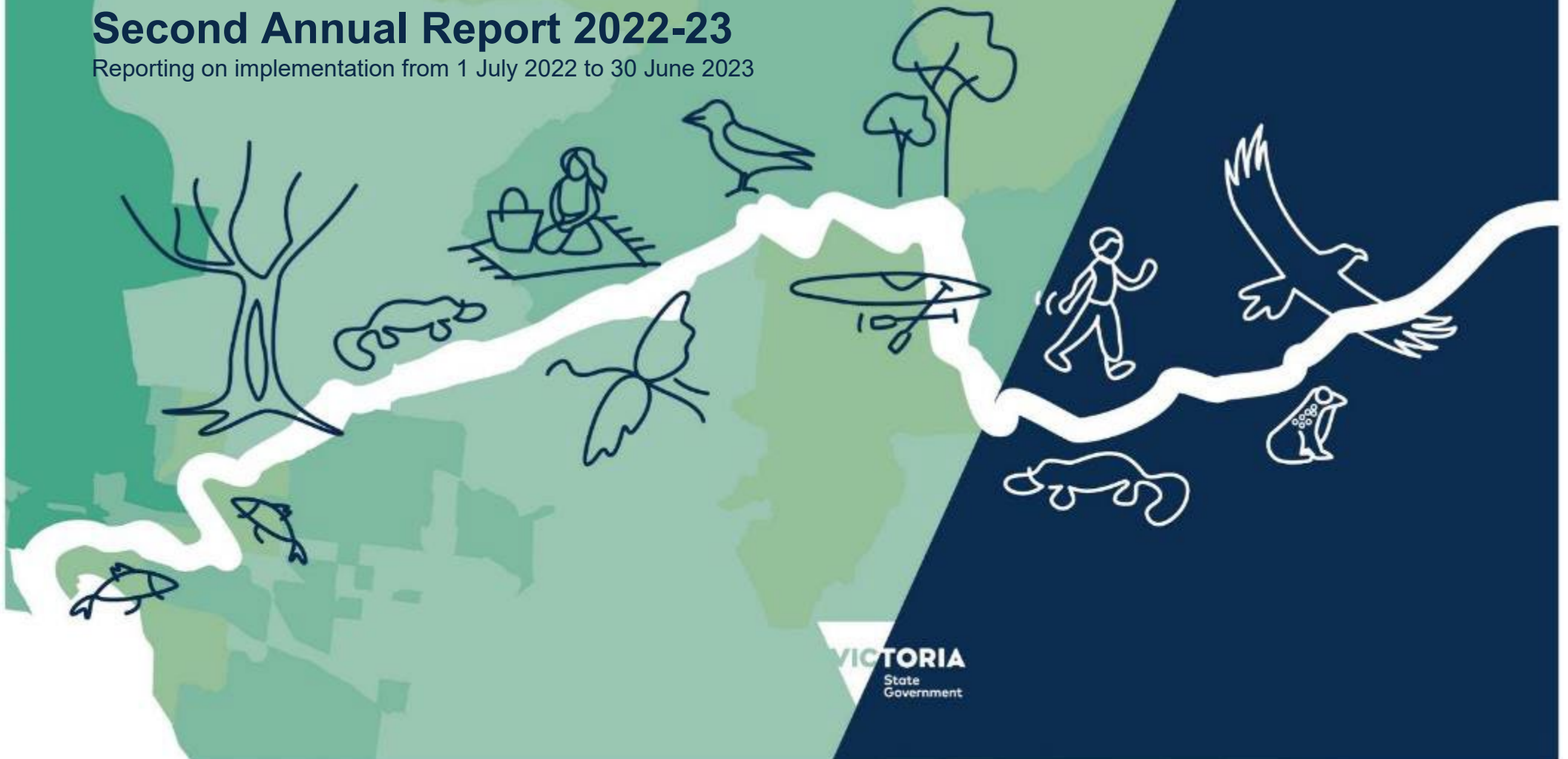


BURNDAP BIRRARUNG BURNDAP UMARKOO

YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

Second Annual Report 2022-23

Reporting on implementation from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters.

We acknowledge and pay our respects specifically to the Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, the Traditional Owners of the land through which the Birrarung flows.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and to the ongoing living culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that this publication contains reference to deceased persons.

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 Yarra is good for all).



Contents

Summary	4
About the Plan and its implementation	7
Implementation priorities in 2022-23	10
Status of Actions	25
Status of Activities	31
Next steps	36
Attachment 1 – Yarra Collaboration Committee meetings and events	38
Attachment 2 – Response to Birrarung Council’s 2022 annual report	39
Attachment 3 – Activities progress tracker.....	43



Summary

The Yarra Strategic Plan – Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo 2022–2032 (the Plan) puts the interests of the river and its lands at the heart of future land use planning and decision-making. It sets out an ambitious and transformative shift for collaborative governance between government agencies and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. This transformation is focussed on ensuring the Birrarung and its lands are managed and protected as one living and integrated natural entity.

Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo brings together statutory planning and land and waterway management, setting out directions for future land use and development. It takes an integrated approach – across portfolios, across agencies and across the landscape – a plan that drives holistic governance without borders. The Plan identifies actions for the river corridor, enables long-term collaborative management between agencies and Traditional Owners, and guides local planning.

This report has been prepared by Melbourne Water as lead agency for implementation, with input from the Yarra Collaboration Committee. This is the second annual report on implementation, covering the period from July 2022 to June 2023. After being launched in February 2022, implementation has continued to lay the foundation for bringing to life the Plan’s 50-year community vision for the Birrarung.

Birrarung Council 2022 report

Birrarung Council’s first annual report advising on the implementation of the Plan was tabled in Parliament in February 2023. The Council noted that there had been a strong start to implementation. The report also acknowledged the importance of our initial focus on setting up processes for implementation, but suggested an increased focus is required on the Plan’s actions as outlined in Part 1 of the Plan.

The Council noted the need for extra progress on actions pertaining to the Birrarung’s parklands and development of a bicultural approach to net gain and embedding it in the Plan’s decision-making framework.

The Council was pleased to see actions progressing on billabong restoration, habitat and fauna protection; and highlighted progress in land acquisition to extend the park network.

The Council noted that Traditional Owner involvement in decision-making is critical. Reconciliation action plans are a start, but partnership agreements are what’s needed, specifically in parklands and waterway management. Council highlighted the need to address the imbalance between agency resourcing and Traditional Owners to enable true partnership as envisioned by the Act and the Plan.

The Minister for Water, the Hon. Harriet Shing, wrote to Melbourne Water as the lead agency and the Yarra Collaboration Committee in February 2023 noting the outcomes of the Council’s support and encouraging progress in the key areas identified.

Responding to the Birrarung Council report

Significant work has been undertaken in 2022-23 to respond to the Birrarung Council’s report and the expectations of the Minister for Water.

The implementation planning process undertaken by the Yarra Collaboration Committee addressed the issues and concerns raised by the Birrarung Council, resulting in the 2022-2025 three-year implementation plan. We are progressing short term outcomes whilst continuing to build momentum towards transformational change in managing the Birrarung.

There has been progress in the short-term actions from Part 1 of the Plan, with four delivered, nine in progress, and nine now in the planning phase. The new transformative projects set out in our three-year implementation plan will see those nine actions in planning progressing as intended.

The decision-making framework will be further developed and embedded, including the reframed concept of net gain. This involves moving beyond compensation for environmental harm; instead adopting a multi-dimensional

approach of restorative ecology, healing Country and scientific assessment; enabling positive benefits for the river and its lands through our operations.

Collaboration is improving. In the current Activities Schedule, 82% of the 165 activities are collaborative. Last year, 66% of the 88 activities listed in the Activities Schedule were collaborative.

Organisational commitment to implementation and collaborative governance was demonstrated through executive management attendance at the Celebration and Launch of the Plan in October 2022 at Federation Square, and at the Executive Forum at Birrarung Park, Templestowe in June 2023. Both events were attended by the Minister for Water and had strong ceremonial and cultural connection with Wurundjeri and Bunurong.

Highlights from reporting period July 2022 to June 2023

Significant progress has been achieved over the past year, including:

- discussions on potential sites for capturing and treating stormwater to improve water quality (Action 1) and opportunities for stormwater management and litter reduction campaigns (Action 2)
- support to local councils through grants, guidance and tools to improve management of onsite wastewater systems (Action 5)
- adopting landscape scale approach to management of wetlands and billabongs (Action 7), to prioritise billabongs and wetlands watering and restoration works (Action 6)
- enhancing and sharing knowledge of the Birrarung's culturally important landscapes (Actions 9, 15, 16 and 19)
- incentives for land managers to restore landscape functions (Action 13)
- continued program of cultural values assessments (Action 26), with a broader program of assessments to support parklands planning (Actions 29 and 30) and cultural education programs (Actions 24 and 25)
- Lower Yarra River management committee (Action 38) continuing to guide commercial berthing (Action 36), safer water use, and investment and maintenance of river related infrastructure (Action 37).

- five priority projects identified in the Plan are continuing to contribute to the performance objectives, demonstrating a shift in collaborative management and partnerships with Traditional Owners
- preparing a three-year implementation plan to support transformative change and further delivery of actions.

Three-year implementation plan 2023-25

The three-year implementation plan was developed by the Yarra Collaboration Committee and is strongly aligned to addressing the Birrarung Council's report recommendations. It will deliver the following six outcomes:

- 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
- commitments set out in the Plan on track and delivered within agreed timeframes.

To support the four new transformative projects the State Government announced funding of \$1.65 million, which is in addition to the \$2.7 million funding already provided for the five priority projects.

In addition to implementation planning, there has been a focus on fostering cultural safety and building the cultural competence of the Yarra Collaboration Committee. This included the committee undertaking on-Country cultural awareness training provided by the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

We have built a strong foundation from which implementation will continue.

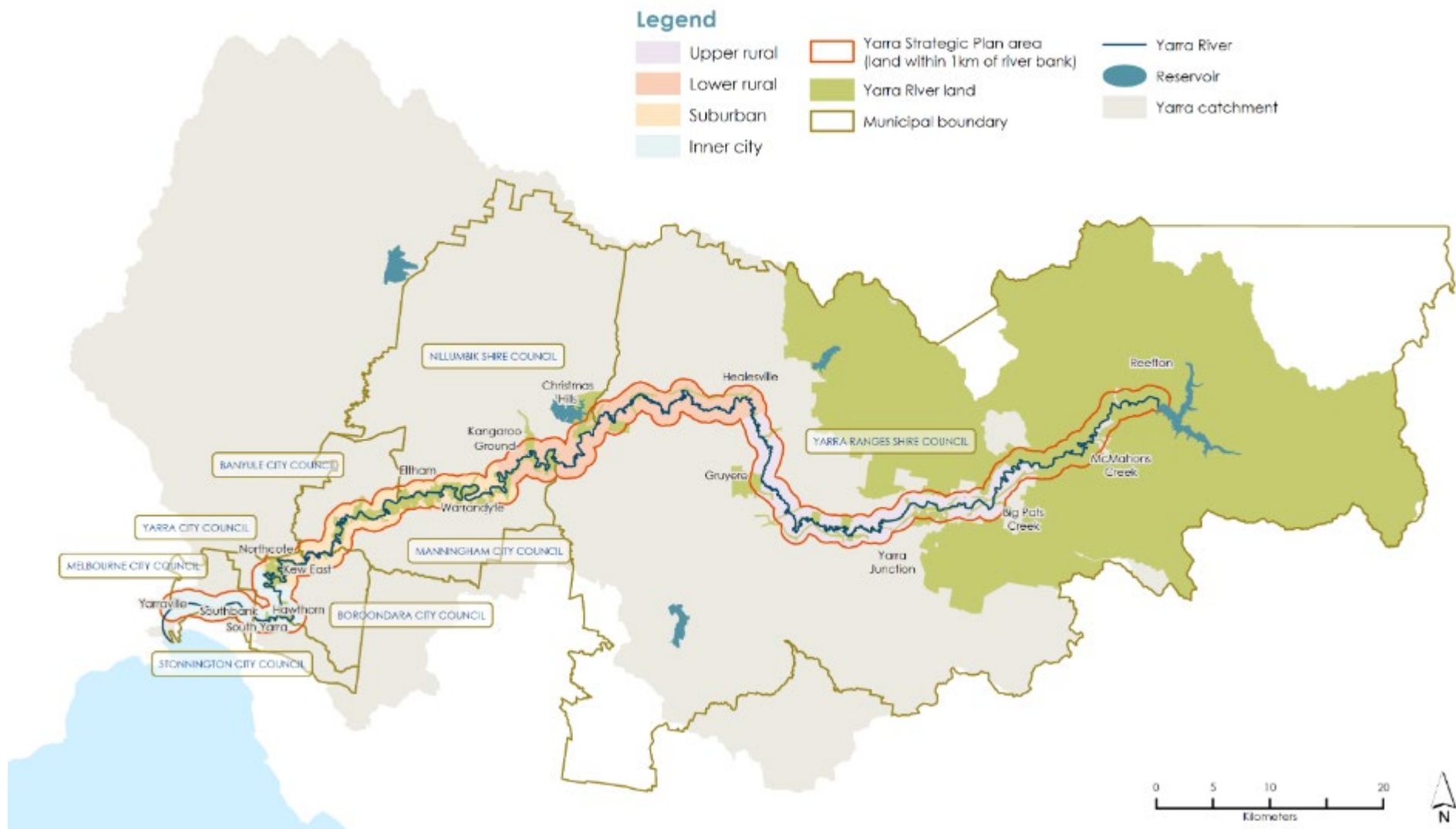


Figure 1 Map of Yarra Strategic Plan area showing Yarra River land

About the Plan and its implementation

Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo is a whole-of-government initiative, co-designed with the Traditional Owners of the Birrarung and the responsible public entities. As a 10-year plan, it provides an overarching policy and planning framework in relation to the Yarra River and land in its vicinity. Importantly the Plan sets out a collaborative governance structure for the river, with state and local government agencies working with Traditional Owners to put the interests of the river and its lands at the heart of decision-making.

The Traditional Owners, Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people 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. The Act and the Plan return to this holistic view – requiring focus, care and reverence across all reaches of the river. Agreement to collaborate in decision-making, align investment in activities, and to use statutory planning mechanisms, including the land use framework, supports this holistic view of the river as one living and integrated natural entity.

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

The responsible public entities and six committees of management for Yarra River land¹ endorsed the Plan in 2021, which was approved by the Minister for Water, and became operational in February 2022.

The responsible public entities continue to meet their own obligations and operational requirements, while collaborating with other entities in delivering Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo.

We, the Woi-wurrung, the First People, and the Birrarung, belong to this Country. This Country, and the Birrarung are part of us.



The Birrarung is alive, has a heart, a spirit and is part of our Dreaming. We have lived with and known the Birrarung since the beginning. We will always know the Birrarung.

Bunjil, the great Eagle, the creator spirit, made the land, the sky, the sea, the rivers, flora and fauna, the lore. He made Kulin from the earth. Bunjil gave Waa, the crow, the responsibility of Protector. Bunjil's brother, Palliyang, the Bat, created Bagarook, women, from the water.

Since our beginning it has been known that we have an obligation to keep the Birrarung alive and healthy—for all generations to come.

Preamble of the Wilip-gin Birrarung murrion Act 2017

¹ Yarra River land includes the bed, soil and banks, and selected Crown and state government-owned land parcels within 500 metres of a bank of the river as mapped in Figure 1. Yarra River land does not include private land.

Reporting requirements

Under the *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017* (the Act), Melbourne Water reports annually to the Birrarung Council on implementation of the Plan. The Birrarung Council, as the ‘voice of the River’, then provides their assessment on implementation to the Minister for Water. Both reports are tabled in Parliament.

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

Melbourne Water, as lead agency, prepares the annual report using information provided by each of the responsible public entities. The annual report and supporting information from responsible public entities is provided to the Birrarung Council to assist them in their reporting to the Minister for Water on implementation of the Plan.

Traditional Owner Partnerships

There are two registered Aboriginal parties recognised under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* covering Country that the Birrarung flows through. The **Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation** (WWCHAC) cover the majority of the Yarra, Birrarung, from the mountains to the city. The **Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation** (BLCAC) covers the lower part of the Yarra estuary from the city out to Narrm (Port Phillip Bay)².

Acknowledging and empowering the role of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong people as custodians of the river and its lands, with a self-determined role in planning and decision making on their Country is a core

element of the Plan’s implementation. Development of this role is informed and directed by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

In addition to project delivery, during 2022-23 there has been an effort to improve cultural safety and building the cultural competence of the Yarra Collaboration Committee. This included the committee undertaking on-Country cultural awareness training provided by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, and inviting Elders to participate in our implementation planning workshops.

Responsible public entities

The Act lists government agencies and local councils as responsible public entities, each having land management responsibilities for Yarra River land. The list of responsible public entities includes:

- Banyule City Council
- Boroondara City Council
- Manningham City Council
- Melbourne City Council
- Nillumbik Shire Council
- Stonnington City Council
- Yarra City Council
- Yarra Ranges Shire Council
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
- Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)
- Melbourne Water
- Parks Victoria
- Victorian Planning Authority
- VicTrack

² Further detail on Victoria’s statewide appointed Registered Aboriginal Parties can be found online at [Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council](#)

Yarra Collaboration Committee

The Yarra Collaboration Committee is comprised of representatives from the 14 responsible public entities, as listed in the Act, together with representatives from Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Corporations and an independent chair.

The committee is crucial in providing strategic and operational advice for implementing the Plan. It is the mechanism for collaborative governance and is considered one of the most innovative features of the Plan. In addition, it is the vehicle for ensuring collaboration and coordination across all stakeholders.

The committee continued to hold online meetings at 2-monthly intervals throughout the year, with two additional in-person workshops to support development of the three-year implementation plan. A high level of attendance and participation allowed the committee to continue to perform to a high standard. Dr Jane Doolan continued in her role as the independent chair of the committee.

Dates for each of the meetings and workshops, and key outcomes are listed in **Attachment 1**.

Knowledge exchange

Members of the Yarra Collaboration Committee have indicated that the committee is meeting collaboration and knowledge exchange expectations. The regular meetings have assisted in knowledge exchange and sharing experiences and opportunities. In addition, members have reported on the progress of priority projects and challenges faced in delivering them.

The regular meetings have also provided a forum for the exchange of information on projects and initiatives of relevance to the river. For example, Melbourne City have provided regular updates on the Greenline Project, a transformational project that presents a new vision for the north bank of the Yarra River - Birrarung.



Members of Yarra Collaboration Committee participated in cultural awareness training provided by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, February 2023

Implementation priorities in 2022-23

The second year of implementation has continued to build a strong foundation to delivering the Plan's actions and embedding new business processes that enable a shift towards collaborative governance and protection of the river as one living and integrated natural entity.

During 2022-23 we have:

- continued to deliver the Plan's actions through ongoing implementation planning, which includes preparing a three-year implementation plan that will support transformative change and further delivery of actions
- strengthened partnerships with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, as Traditional Owners of the Birrarung with a self-determined role in governance
- improved cultural competence within the Yarra Collaboration Committee
- continued to operationalise the Plan across government agencies and local councils, strengthening organisational commitment and alignment with the protection principles and intent of the Act
- further developed the monitoring and evaluation framework, including detailed mapping of indicators against existing data sources and clarifying the connection between reporting, monitoring and evaluation processes
- listened to the Birrarung Council and responded to recommendations in their 2022 Annual Report to the Minister, including through incorporating feedback into the three-year implementation planning process.

Birrarung Council's first annual report

The Birrarung Council's first Annual Report (released in February 2023) acknowledged a strong start to implementation, with the focus on setting up processes during the first year. With this done, their expectation is to see significant progress against the actions, especially the short-term (1-3 year) actions; and to see change across the Plan's four performance objectives.

Birrarung Council was pleased to see actions progressing on billabong restoration, habitat and fauna protection; and highlighted progress in, but stressed the significance of land acquisition to extend the park network.

Birrarung Council believe that how parties work together is just as important as what they do. They want to see an increased number of collaborative projects being proposed and implemented.

Birrarung Council was concerned that half the short-term actions had not commenced, and highlighted the lack of progress on actions associated with park management. Similarly, Council expected more progress on action 12, including the development of a bicultural approach to net gain and embedding within the decision-making framework.

Birrarung Council suggested that Traditional Owner involvement in decision-making is lacking across responsible public entities. They recognise that reconciliation action plans are a start, but partnership agreements are what's needed, specifically in parklands and waterway management.

Birrarung Council highlighted the imbalance between agency resourcing and that of Traditional Owners, which they suggest works against true partnership as envisioned by the Act. Expectations on Traditional Owners are significant and resourcing constraints will become an increasing issue as implementation accelerates.

The Minister for Water, the Hon. Harriet Shing, wrote to Melbourne Water as the lead agency and the Yarra Collaboration Committee in February 2023 noting the outcomes of the Council's support and encouraging progress in the key areas identified.

Responding to the Birrarung Council's assessment

We have used the Birrarung Council's Annual Report to inform directions and discussions through the Yarra Collaboration Committee and individual organisations. We have strengthened our relationships with Traditional Owner Corporations, and are confident of building a partnership approach with them that will deliver on the intent of the Plan.

The three-year implementation planning process undertaken by the Yarra Collaboration Committee responds directly to the issues and concerns raised by the Birrarung Council through progressing short term outcomes set out in the Plan whilst continuing to build momentum towards the transformational change required by the Act. We are confident that our annual implementation planning process will continue to collaboratively address the focus areas outlined by the Council, and the commitments in the Plan.

The focus of the first and much of the second year has been on establishing processes that will lead to long term changes in the way we manage and protect the Birrarung. This has and will continue to include stronger collaboration and greater involvement of Traditional Owners in decision-making.

Collaboration is improving. In 2022, 66% of the 88 activities listed in the Activities Schedule were collaborative. In the current Activities Schedule, 82% of the 165 activities are collaborative.

As we progress with implementation, our intent is to increase the quality of collaboration between responsible public entities and Traditional Owners. This will be facilitated collectively through the Yarra Collaboration Committee and individually by responsible public entities.

There has also been progress in the short-term actions. Four have been delivered, nine are in progress, and nine are in the planning phase. The new transformative projects identified through the three-year implementation plan will see these actions progressing as intended in the Plan.

Actions that align with our waterways management programs are progressing well. In contrast, actions relating to community behaviour,

cultural diversity and parklands are less well progressed. This is because these actions require higher levels of collaborative planning and time to develop better ways of working.

Some of the actions in the planning phase align with agency strategies and plans at different spatial scales and states of progress. This complexity can make reporting progress difficult, especially using a three-point scale (planning, in progress or delivered). However, we are confident that actions in the planning phase are progressing, and will deliver the expected outcomes over the next few years.

Building community and agency awareness takes time and in some instances is proving to take longer than originally anticipated. For example, actions 2, 3 and 22 involve raising community awareness and communicating a way for people to address the issue. This requires existing knowledge and understanding of the issue to be collated, then working collectively to develop a response that moves the issue from the responsibility of a single entity to a collective model. For example, action 2 (to reduce litter and contamination entering the river) will draw on lessons from a Dandenong Creek collaboration project being undertaken as part of the Healthy Waterways Strategy.

In their conclusion Birrarung Council believe that there has been a good start to implementation. Many actions are progressing, Traditional Owners central role is acknowledged and preparatory work is being done to build collaboration. There is support for the Plan and commitment will continue to build across responsible public entities.

Specific responses to the Council's three strategic outcomes and six directions for the future as set out in their first annual report are provided in **Attachment 2**.

Priority projects

Progress continued on the five priority projects listed in the Plan. These projects exemplify modern river and land use management, and partnership with the Traditional Owners. They contribute to the 10-year performance objectives, recognise and celebrate Aboriginal heritage, knowledge and cultural values, while delivering a range of benefits to realise the protection of the river as one living and integrated natural entity.

These priority projects represent a shift toward collaborative management between agencies and partnership with the Traditional Owners and are on track to deliver significant change across the Birrarung.

The current priority projects are:

- Birrarung Trial Floating Wetlands – trials of constructed floating wetlands and riparian habitat in the city, led by the Melbourne City Council.
- Polystyrene Pollution Program – informing pollution reduction strategies and efforts, led by the Yarra Riverkeeper Association.
- Birrarung Rangers Project – a self-determined, capacity building and employment program for Traditional Owners along the Yarra River led by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.
- Yering Billabongs Project – restoration and reconnection of wetlands and billabongs in the rural floodplain at Yering, led by Yarra Ranges Council.
- Yarra Flats Project – involves environmental watering and restoration of remnant billabongs in the suburban reach, led by Melbourne Water.

Birrarung Trial Floating Wetlands

Achieved to date	Floating wetlands installed at three locations, wildlife monitoring and community engagement commenced
Upcoming milestone	Continuing maintenance, monitoring and public education
Estimated delivery	Installation complete. Monitoring and evaluation (2024-25)

Led by Melbourne City Council, this project provides a key opportunity to reintroduce wetlands to the city river, and to gain further knowledge of the plant and animal life these wetlands could support. It will inform future opportunities to improve the health of the river system and the experience of our city landscapes.

Installation of the wetlands commenced at the Victoria Harbour and Yarra's Edge locations in December 2022, followed by completion of the Turning Basin wetlands in March 2023.

Guided public walking tours with the specialist contractors, ecologist and design team have been undertaken in partnership with Open House Melbourne. A self-guided tour brochure is also in development.

Melbourne University are undertaking ecological monitoring of the wetlands and the public can record wildlife observations via the i-naturalist app.

<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/building-and-development/shaping-the-city/city-projects/Pages/birrarung-trial-floating-wetlands.aspx>



Floating wetlands, preparation prior to installation



Floating wetlands moored in the Turning Basin, adjacent Melbourne Aquarium

Polystyrene Pollution Program

Achieved to date	Building evidence base, mapping of source pathways, and roundtable deliberation
Upcoming milestone	Industry engagement and education
Estimated delivery	Ongoing

Led by the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, the project is building a stronger evidence base for polystyrene pollution to inform education and engagement programs targeted at both community and industry.

Research undertaken by the Yarra Riverkeeper Association demonstrates that polystyrene is the most significant component of macro litter in the Yarra. Based on Bandalong litter trap quantification, an estimated 380 million pieces enter the river every year. Residential construction, white

goods, market, and manufacturing industries contribute significantly to polystyrene pollution, with the construction industry the largest contributor.

Eliminating the flow of polystyrene needs targeted and concerted action. Representatives from agencies and local councils, together with industry representatives, participated in the first roundtable session in April 2023. Discussion focused on who can influence practice at each point in the polystyrene pathway, from manufacture to use on construction sites and disposal of waste. The roundtable made a first call on strategies that might influence policies and practices, and which organisations might contribute. Participants were introduced to a conversation-based inquiry process through which they can test for openings to change business-as-usual, and find more people who want to be part of eliminating polystyrene pollution.

The riverkeeper will run a second roundtable in late 2023 to continue the conversation with industry and regulators on ways to eliminate this source of pollution to the river.



Polystyrene left up against fence, shavings over the pavement. A clear example of inadequate containment (Yarra Riverkeeper Association)

Birrarung Rangers

Achieved to date	Project plan released, and resourcing for phase 1 initiated
Upcoming milestone	Engaging waterway specialist and technical lead
Estimated delivery	Ongoing

The Birrarung Ranger project, led by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, is an exciting initiative that aims to support the existing Narrap Unit Ranger program expand its capacity and capabilities in waterway monitoring, management and planning. The Corporation has identified this priority project as a strong opportunity to build on the successes of the current Narrap Unit Ranger program.

Phase 1 is focused on supporting and achieving the following actions:

- Position Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as decision-makers and delivery agents on Country
- Enhance the capacity and capabilities of WWCHAC to monitor the health of waterway systems and manage Country
- Enhance the skills and capabilities of the Narrap Rangers in waterway monitoring and assessments through a tailored training program
- Plan and undertake comprehensive assessments across the catchment to monitor the health of systems and places, and develop reports to outline findings and recommendations for future management
- Examine where opportunities may exist to reintroduce and restore native plants, birds and animals into the Yarra catchment, including species that are important to Wurundjeri as totems, seasonal indicators and resources required for ceremony and other uses
- Develop the mechanisms necessary for the Corporation to participate in, inform and influence Birrarung management, cultural practice and activities
- Establish and embed partnership protocols with relevant agencies.

Initially, the project is employing a dedicated Waterway Specialist and Technical Lead (ecologist/scientist) to focus on achieving the outcomes of the initial implementation plan. They will be supported by existing staff in the Narrap Unit to identify, source and secure pipeline funding for following phases, and develop a business strategy.



Narrap Team Leader Damien Nicholson, holding a yuk (short-finned eel) at Bolin Bolin billabong

Yering Billabongs

Achieved to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional design for re-engaging floodplains and billabongs • Landscape designs • Cultural values assessment • Confirm land management arrangements • Flora and fauna survey • Eel eDNA monitoring by Narrap
Upcoming milestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned burn • Planning application approval (YRC) • Diversion application approval (MW) • Undertake tender to select contractors to complete on ground works
Estimated delivery	June 2024

The Yering Billabongs project sees the 100-hectare Crown land reserve on the Yarra River floodplain at Yering returned to public management and restored to functional billabongs. A shallow meadow will be created across the landscape that will hold water for four months of the year, providing natural habitat and water quality treatment, while also improving habitat connectivity to the neighbouring Spadoni's Reserve.

Led by Yarra Ranges Council, in partnership with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Melbourne Water and Zoos Victoria this legacy project sets a leading example of the commitment, collaboration and shared management with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people that the Plan seeks to achieve.

Key aspects of the project delivery include floodplain restoration, a firestick project, delivery of interpretive signage to share stories and Aboriginal cultural site history and protection of the river's iconic and endangered biodiversity, such as the nationally significant, Buxton Gum.

Key outcomes of this priority project include:

- enhanced environmental, cultural and landscape value associated with reengaged billabong systems
- improved understanding of the tangible and intangible cultural values of the area and supporting Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to improve cultural awareness within the community through interpretive signage
- improved water quality entering the Yarra River; benefiting aquatic recreation, fishing and downstream water users
- increased open space available for passive recreation in the Yering/Yarra Glen area
- capacity building for a new Friends of Group through Landcare.



eDNA sampling with Will from Enviro DNA and David and Damien from Narrap team. Photo credit Sarah Gaskill

Yarra Flats

Achieved to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful trial: watering of the billabongs • Detailed designs for constructed wetland
Upcoming milestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental watering of Annulus Billabong (October 2022) • Feasibility study and cost benefit analysis for a permanent watering solution at Annulus Billabong (2023)
Estimated delivery	June 2024

Yarra Flats Park features 85 hectares of pastoral and heritage landscapes, natural bushland, wetlands, abundant birdlife and iconic picnic areas within the close confines of a heavily developed urban area. Of particular significance is the Yarra Flats billabong complex; a landscape that continues to be important for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and features in their dreamtime stories.

Much of this area has been subject to land use change. Together with changes in the wider catchment, these landscapes have experienced significant alterations to their natural water availability and wetting and drying cycles. These alterations have resulted in significant impacts to the cultural, liveability and ecological function of the billabongs.

Led by Melbourne Water, in partnership with Parks Victoria, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Banyule City Council, Friends of Yarra Flats Park and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, this transformative project delivers on the four performance objectives set out in the Plan and, importantly, illustrates the shift towards collaborative governance needed to ensure the long term protection of the Birrarung.

This project will provide a water regime that supports ecological, cultural and social values whilst reducing stormwater pollution to the Yarra (Birrarung) River and Port Phillip Bay. It will deliver:

- new constructed stormwater wetland on Banksia Street Main Drain
- permanent environmental watering solution for Annulus Billabong

- embed opportunities for Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung to continue leading project elements.

The design and investigation tasks showed that the initial design for the Banksia Street wetlands and harvested stormwater transfer pipeline into Annulus Billabong were unlikely to deliver the required water regime to the billabong. The projects has now been separated into two parts (1) improving the water regime of Annulus Billabong and (2) capturing nutrients and sediments in a new constructed wetlands on Banksia Street Main Drain, preventing these pollutants from reaching the river and entering the natural wetlands downstream. Options to harvest stormwater from the constructed wetlands for reuse are also being investigated.



Annulus Billabong with water, September 2022

Three-year Implementation Plan 2023-2025

A key deliverable this year was the preparation of the three-year Implementation Plan 2023-2025, which progresses short term outcomes set out in the Plan whilst continuing to build momentum towards the transformational changes required by the Act.

Development of the implementation plan is a non-statutory commitment set out in the Plan. It has been developed and endorsed by the independently-chaired Yarra Collaboration Committee as an agreed approach to coordinate effort and improve collaboration between agencies and councils across the Yarra Strategic Plan area (Figure 1).

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, evaluation and reporting mechanisms.

The intent is to undertake the implementation planning process every three years, with minor adjustments annually. This will ensure that there is awareness of potential opportunities for scaling up collaboration, new ideas for transformative projects and opportunity to consider inputs such as the Birrarung Council's annual report.

In 2021, as part of the implementation planning, responsible public entities nominated 88 activities and projects either planned or being undertaken that contribute to achievement of the performance objectives. As part of this year's planning process, the Activities Schedule now lists 165 activities. An update on the progress of these 165 activities is provided in **Attachment 3**.

Priorities and outcomes for next three years

The Yarra Collaboration Committee held two workshops to support the implementation planning process. The first in November 2022 identified focus areas for transforming governance, opportunities for scaling up collaboration on common activities, and potential transformative projects.

At the February 2023 workshop, the committee refined the areas for transforming governance and suggested next steps for agencies to progress transformative 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. Additional feedback from the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation was also used to inform development of the three-year implementation plan.



Implementation planning workshop, February 2023

The end point from the implementation planning process was the three-year implementation priorities and outcomes as set out in Figure 2.

At the end of three years, successful implementation will see the following six outcomes:

- 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
- putting the Birrarung at the centre of decision-making through adoption of the decision-making framework, including the principle of net gain
- transformative change strengthened through four new transformative projects
- commitments set out in the Plan on track and delivered within agreed timeframes.

Importantly, an adaptive approach will be adopted, informed by the priorities and self-determination of Wurundjeri and Bunurong and guidance from the Birrarung Council. Normal government protocols and approaches in respect to resourcing and funding will also dictate delivery of these priorities.



Figure 2 Three-year implementation priorities and outcomes

Transformative projects

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 can also demonstrate resilience and adaptation to climate change, and pressures of population growth and urban development.

Through the implementation planning process, the Yarra Collaboration Committee agreed to pursue funding and collaborative delivery for the following four transformative projects:

- **Parklands as a living entity** – setting the foundations for managing parklands as one living and integrated natural entity, including acknowledging, protecting and celebrating the Cultural Landscape of the Birrarung
- **Greening the Birrarung** – identifying opportunities that ‘scale up’ collaboration for collective impact (with an initial focus on vegetation management across councils and agencies)
- **Urban Greening** – progressing urban greening along the inner city reach on public and private land
- **Collaboration Platform** – exploring ways to build our collaborative capacity through sharing knowledge and improving outcomes.

Progress for these transformative projects will be reported on in next year’s annual report.

Decision-making framework

The decision-making framework supports the assessment of projects against criteria based on the protection principles of the Act, aspirations of Traditional Owners, the Yarra River 50-year Community Vision and the Plan’s performance objectives. The criteria and responses to them are set out in a pro-forma that proponents complete, providing both a means for

self-evaluation and mechanism for sharing the decision-process with other parties.

To date there has been limited use of the pro-forma and sharing of outputs from the decision-making framework. Responsible public entities continue to rely on in-house evaluation procedures to support their planning and delivery of projects. While these approaches deliver on part of the decision-making framework, further work is required to embed the decision-making framework and provide consistent application of the Act’s protection principles.

Key elements of the decision-making framework to be developed and embedded over the three years include the application of ‘net gain’ and alignment with the land use framework set out in Part 2 of the Plan. 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.

Monitoring and evaluation framework

The plan for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) for the Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo was reviewed and adjusted this year. Alluvium Consulting Australia Pty Ltd were engaged to review and integrate outputs from the previous monitoring plans and frameworks.

The revised MERI plan integrates the previous work of the lead agency and Birrarung Council, creating a single monitoring and evaluation framework with its core components covering governance, implementation and condition of the Birrarung. The MERI plan clarifies who is responsible for evaluation and reporting progress against the 50-year community vision and the purpose of the various reporting mechanisms.

The updated program logic provides a succinct description (schematic representation) of the Plan from actions through to intermediate outputs and longer term outcomes (the strategic goals and performance objectives).

Reporting of the condition of the Birrarung will continue to be served by broader monitoring and reporting programs, such as State of the Yarra and its Parklands report (to be published in late 2023), and monitoring and reporting for the Healthy Waterways Strategy – Yarra Catchment.

The alignment of the program logic with evaluation type and report focus is shown in Figure 3. Annual reporting and 2-, 5- and 8-year evaluations by the lead agency will inform the Birrarung Council's annual report to the Minister for Water in those years.

While there is a desire to keep the effectiveness of the Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo under continuous review, in practice a period of time is required to allow the actions and activities to take effect. Logic-based evaluation reports are more cost-effective at a frequency of 3 to 5 years.

Revision of the MERI plan was supported by a working group with representatives from the lead agency, DEECA, Birrarung Council, WWCHAC and Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability.

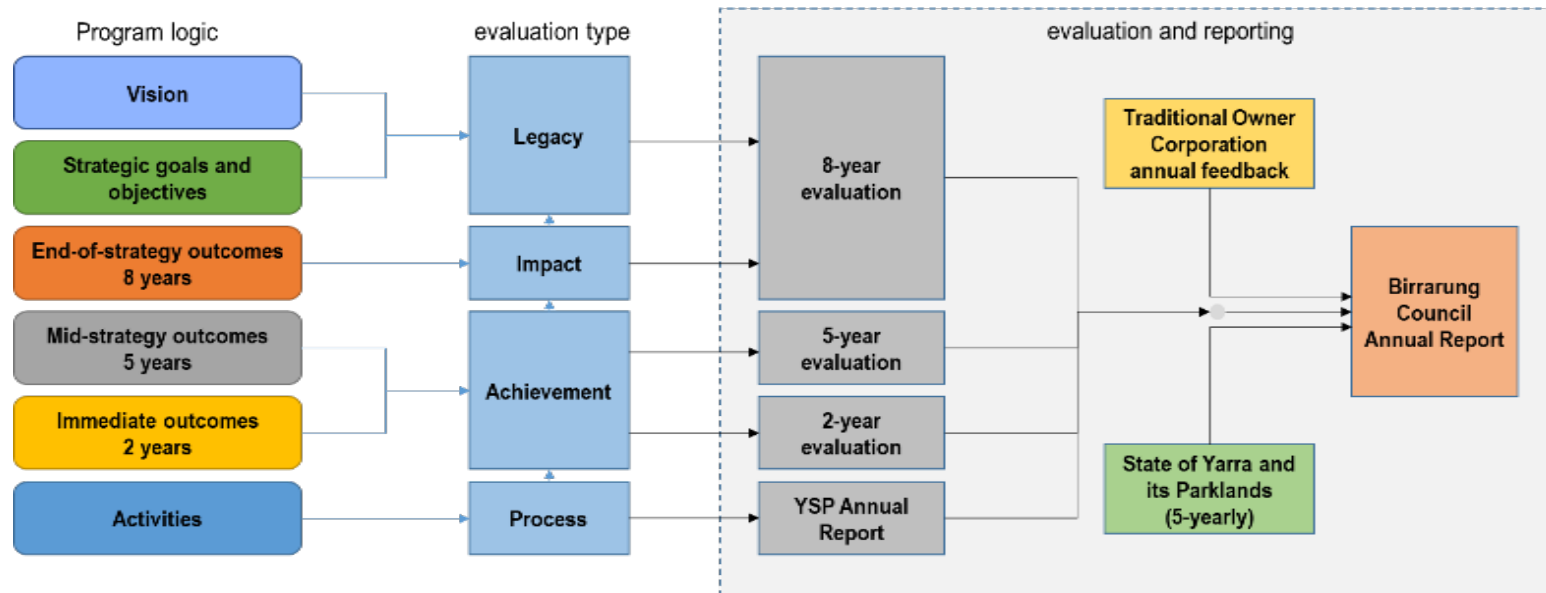


Figure 3 Alignment of program logic with evaluation type and reporting

Organisational commitment

Since endorsing the Plan in 2021, responsible public entities have committed to implementation through ongoing collaboration, knowledge sharing and partnering with Traditional Owners. Their level of commitment varies in response to operational requirements; however, all entities have indicated they will improve organisational commitment to implementation over the coming year.

The Plan is promoted externally by responsible public entities through their websites, social media and by providing printed copies at their offices. Internal communications and governance arrangements are used to increase awareness and commitment to the Plan's across organisations. These range from project control boards and project working groups, to regular items on meeting agendas for management teams to discuss and identify opportunities to deliver on the intent of the Plan.

The Department of Land, Environment, Water and Planning 2021-22 Annual Report, which was tabled in Parliament in September 2022 noted delivery of and implementation of the Plan, including acknowledgement of its significance in the Secretary's message. Similarly, Melbourne Water's annual report included text on implementation and highlights from the year.

As new strategies and operational plans are developed, organisations are ensuring reference is made to the Plan's performance objectives and land use framework, and the protection principles in the Act. For example, Boroondara draft Urban Biodiversity Strategy due for 2024 refers to the Plan giving direction, and similarly for their St James Park Master Plan and Integrated Water Management Plan. Yarra City Integrated Water Management Plan and their Nature Strategy both make reference to the Plan, and their role in implementation.

Organisations are increasingly recognising the River as one living and integrated natural entity from an ecological perspective through their planning and delivery of projects and services. From a cultural perspective, DEECA are leading through the Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap, which recognises waterways across the state as cultural

entities. Others are building awareness of the river's cultural importance through ongoing involvement with Traditional Owners.

Celebration and launch of the Plan

On Wednesday 5 October 2022, the Birrarung Council helped us celebrate the release of the Plan and move to implementation phase. It was an opportunity to reinforce commitment from all stakeholders to collaborate and drive the Plan's outcomes.

The event, held at Federation Square, was a huge success, attended by about 120 people. It was our first in-person meeting since the Plan was approved in February 2022, providing an opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with many of the people who helped develop the Plan.

The event started outside with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony as well as a cultural performance by the Djirri Djirri dancers. Aunty Diane Kerr, Wurundjeri Elder and member of the Birrarung Council provided the Welcome to Country. We paid respect to the passing of Aunty Margaret Gardiner, with a minute's silence. Aunty Margaret was a strong advocate for the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, and a member of the Birrarung Council.



Celebration event, 5 October 2022, Federation Square adjacent to the Birrarung

We heard from the Minister for Water, the Hon. Harriet Shing alongside Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elder Uncle David Wandin and Prof Chris Chesterfield, Chair of the Birrarung Council. The formal proceeding concluded with a Water Ceremony led by Aunty Diane Kerr, Aunty Alice Kolasa and Aunty Georgina Nicholson. We got to touch the Birrarung's water and eucalypt leaves, symbolically reinforcing our commitment to turn our minds towards the river, to respect its iconic status and to manage the Birrarung and its lands as one living and integrated natural entity.

Leaders from all responsible public entities were represented in our inner yarning circle with the Elders and Birrarung Council. The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation were represented, and we had good representation from other agencies, industry groups, and community groups such as the Yarra Riverkeeper Association.

The event provided the opportunity to capture video of Elders and Birrarung Council members explaining the importance of the Plan and what they hope it will achieve.



Minister for Water, the Hon. Harriet Shing addressing the audience at the Celebration and Launch of the Plan, October 2022

Executive Forum at Birrarung Park

The Executive Forum held at Birrarung Park, Templestowe on Friday 16 June 2023 was an opportunity to strengthen the authorising environment behind the Plan and ensure strong progress for the year ahead.

Objectives of the event were to:

- Reinforce Birrarung Council priorities and strengthen commitment of government agencies and local councils to respond in the years ahead
- Deepen executive's understanding of the importance of managing the river and its lands as 'one living and integrated natural entity'
- Highlight importance of partnership agreements with Traditional Owners
- Clarify roles and responsibilities of the Yarra Collaboration Committee
- Outline investment opportunities for Transformative Projects, with the potential for a funding announcement.

The weather was favourable, the sun shone and the natural bush setting at Birrarung Park looked beautiful.

Proceedings began with an introduction and acknowledgements from Melbourne Water Managing Director, Dr Nerina Di Lorenzo and a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony led by Uncle David Wandin, Wurundjeri Elder and Birrarung Council member.

Uncle Dave reminded everyone of the importance of the work that we are doing, using a number of examples including the significance of totem species to outline the connection between Traditional Owners and the river, and the need to care for it to ensure their survival. He reminded us that we are playing the long game, our objective being that future generations can depend upon and enjoy a healthy river.

Uncle Shane Clarke, Bunurong Elder and Birrarung Council member reflected on the need for Traditional Owners to be involved in caring for Country.

The Djirri Djirri dancers followed with the 'welcome' and 'mother tree' dances. Their performance reinforcing the cultural significance of where we

were, the concepts of care and connection as expressed by Uncle Dave and the importance of the future generation learning from their Elders.

Prof Chris Chesterfield, the Chair of the Birrarung Council, followed. His message was that those in attendance represent the leadership that would determine the future of the Yarra River, and that the Act and the Birrarung Council represented a new phase in collaborative governance where Traditional Owners and non-indigenous Victorians are walking together.

Chris highlighted key priorities in the Birrarung Council's annual report – Traditional Owners as decision makers and delivery agents on their Country, and the importance of our collective commitment bringing the energy and momentum needed to achieve good progress on implementation.

Minister Shing spoke of her government's support for what Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo is trying to achieve, the challenges before us, and announced an additional \$1.65 million to put towards the four transformative projects in the 3-year implementation plan.

Chair of the Yarra Collaboration Committee, Dr Jane Doolan gave a pointed call to action – describing the great value that those on the committee bring, the importance of their role in driving implementation and for them to be supported, resourced and given the space to progress the work in the Plan.

Dr Nerina Di Lorenzo, then described Melbourne Water's dual role as lead agency and responsible public entity and need for all public entities to step back and look at their projects through a new lens of collaboration. She spoke of the necessity for executives across the agencies and councils to empower their staff to 'walk together' with our Traditional Owner partners.

The proceedings were closed with Uncle Dave leading a Water Ceremony as a symbol of our collective commitment to implementation of the Plan. He provided two types of water that people could dip their gum leaf into then touch it to their lips – bottled water and water from the Birrarung – and asking us to think about the significance of the choice we made.

Reflecting on the event, all objectives were achieved. There was a prominent Traditional Owner voice, feedback suggested that the executives found the event inspiring and being on Country contributed significantly to

this outcome. Hearing from the Minister and her government's commitment to the Plan was well received. Thought will be given to hosting similar events as it maintains awareness of the Act and the Plan and need for continued resourcing of staff to contribute to its implementation.



Hon. Harriet Shing and Bunurong Elder, Uncle Shane Clark participating in water ceremony led by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elder, Uncle David Wandin at Executive Forum, Birrarung Park, Templestowe, 16 June 2023

Status of Actions

Part 1 – collaborative actions

The four performance objectives set out in Part 1 of the Plan are supported by a series of 40 actions to be carried out over the life of the Plan. Table 1 provides a summary of the status of these actions across the four performance objectives.

Significant progress has been achieved over the past two years through a combination of initiatives. Many of the actions align with other strategies and plans such as the Regional Catchment Strategy, Healthy Waterways Strategy, and Integrated Water Management Forum Yarra Catchment. The five priority projects in the Plan and more recently the Yarra Collaboration Committee’s planning for new transformative projects has also contributed to progress of actions.

Highlights of progress with actions includes:

- Discussions on potential sites for capturing and treating stormwater through natural systems, improving water quality in the river (Action 1) and opportunities for stormwater management and litter reduction campaigns (Action 2).
- DEECA’s Onsite Domestic Wastewater Management (ODWM) steering committee is continuing to support local councils through grants, guidance and tools to improve management of onsite wastewater systems (Action 5).
- Implementing with partners a landscape scale approach to management of wetlands and billabongs in the Lower Yarra (Action 7), which has led to prioritising billabongs and wetlands watering and restoration works (Action 6).
- Enhancing our knowledge of the Birrarung’s culturally important landscapes through continued studies and sharing of research outputs (Actions 9, 15, 16 and 19); a highlight being the on-Country knowledge sharing days with Traditional Owners.

- Providing incentives through a range of programs to land managers to restore landscape functions (Action 13); includes Melbourne Water’s Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways program, Land Care grants from DEECA, and local council programs such as Yarra Ranges Ribbons of Green program.
- Cultural values assessments have been undertaken at Yering Billabongs and Brushy Creek (Action 26), with a broader program of assessments to be developed in support of parklands planning (Actions 29 and 30) and cultural education programs (Actions 24 and 25).
- The Lower Yarra River management committee (Action 38) is continuing to guide commercial berthing (Action 36), safer water use, and investment and maintenance of river related infrastructure (Action 37). Their Lower Yarra River Activity Study has been completed and the Yarra River Waterway Rule review is in progress.

Actions in the plan are categorised into short, medium and long term actions. As a result, some actions are planned to be undertaken in the middle to later phase of this 10-year plan. Whilst nine of the 22 short-term actions are still in the planning phase, we are confident that these will be progressed next year. Further detail on the status of the 40 actions and their timeframe is provided in Table 3.

Table 1: Summary of action status across performance objectives

Performance Objective	Number of actions	Delivered	In progress	Planning
1: Healthy river and lands	23	2	14	7
2: Culturally diverse	5	0	1	4
3: Quality parklands	10	2	3	5
4: Protecting landscapes	2	0	1	1
Totals	40	4	19	17

Part 2 – land use framework

The Plan's land use framework in Part 2 of the Plan, provides broad direction and guidance for future land use and development on both public and private land, delivering on the performance objectives in Part 1.

After the restructure of Victorian Government departments in January 2023, responsibility for implementing the land use framework was transferred to the Planning Unit within the newly formed Department of Transport and Planning. Budget allocation was announced in the May 2023 budget to support resourcing of the Water Unit. When implemented, this will allow implementation of the land use framework to be continued.

Implementing the framework

The planning scheme amendment to give effect to the land use framework includes updating Clause 12.03-1R 'Yarra River Protection' of the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP), translating relevant land use directions into planning schemes, and having Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo referenced as a background document.

Further contributing to implementation of the land use framework, is the Yarra River – Bulleen Precinct Land Use Framework Plan, which brings to life the community's vision for a healthy river and environment, a thriving arts and cultural scene, and connected people and places. The plan aligns with the broader land use framework established in Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo, while providing a more detailed framework for future land use and development through this iconic part of the river's suburban reach.

The land use framework was given strong effect through planning scheme amendment VC197, which introduced permanent and consistent planning overlays to manage development and protect the Yarra's landscape within the urban areas; prescribing maximum building heights and minimum development setbacks, together with tougher vegetation removal controls for new development.

An issue of concern raised with the Yarra Collaboration Committee has been the limitation of the new controls in guiding development of high rise buildings in Abbotsford and Richmond. Developments approved within

Comprehensive Development Zone and prior to approval of VC197, pose a threat to the visual amenity of the river. There is also concern with limited treatment and management of stormwater and overshadowing of the river. Further clarity on these development controls and legacy approvals will be sought in 2023-24.

Additional planning related actions

The land use framework includes a further four land use planning related actions to be delivered through a program of state-led projects in partnership with the Yarra Collaboration Committee. As indicated in Table 2, these actions are in the process of being scoped and considered for future resourcing.

Table 2: Land use planning related actions to support implementation of the land use framework over the next 10 years

Planning related action	Description
1. Planning controls from Warrandyte to Warburton	Using a landscape assessment approach, investigate development of new controls to streamline planning protections for the lower and upper rural reaches between Warrandyte and Warburton.
2. Coordinated approach to landscape design and native planting	Prepare guidelines for landscape design and native planting at the river's interface to deliver on the requirements of the planning controls.
3. Strengthening protections of heritage values	Investigate new or amended planning mechanisms to protect sites of significance and protect Aboriginal tangible and intangible cultural values and other cultural and heritage values.
4. Strengthening protections for riparian and biodiversity values	Investigate new or amended planning mechanisms to provide protection for the four 'new areas for protection' identified in the Plan. Depending on the outcome, consider other areas of high biodiversity value requiring protection.

Action Tracker

Table 3: Action Tracker, showing the status of actions and nominated lead organisation (note: action text has been shortened for ease of reporting)

Action	Status	Timeframe	Coord Agency	Status comment
Performance objective 1: A healthy river and lands				
Water quality				
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...	in progress	4-7 yrs	MW	Potential sites being discussed with Banyule and Yarra Ranges Councils
2 Implement a Yarra-specific stormwater awareness and behaviour change campaign targeted at reducing litter and contamination entering the Yarra River.	planning	1-3 yrs	MW	Draw on YRKA litter project, lessons from Dandenong Creek program, and MW stormwater education program
3 Increase education, awareness and regulatory compliance to reduce pesticides and chemicals entering the river...	planning	1-3 yrs	MW	Aligns with action for middle Yarra catchment in Drinking Water Quality Strategy, outcome from Watts River ICM project and Rural Land program
4 Develop the integrated water management plan (including bicultural approaches) for the Yarra Catchment...	delivered	1-3 yrs	DEECA	Yarra Catchment IWM plan completed, and associated Action Plan under development
5 Develop an integrated program to improve management of domestic wastewater in non-sewered areas (includes places serviced by septic tanks)...	in progress	4-7 yrs	DEECA	Supported by Onsite Wastewater Steering Committee activities, and programs with YVW and local councils
Billabongs and wetlands				
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.	in progress	1-3 yrs	MW	Mapping of wetlands completed. Investigations into Alphington and Wilsons complement existing studies. Bolin Bolin solution delivered. Annulus and Banyule solution under investigation. Working with rural land owners to improve wetlands
7 Work with partners, primarily Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, VEWH and Parks Victoria, to implement a landscape scale approach to improving wetlands and billabongs for the Lower Yarra billabongs...	delivered	1-3 yrs	MW	Methodology developed and being delivered to influence watering plans
8 Support the aspirations of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people to pursue water justice for their people and Country...	in progress	1-3 yrs	WWCHAC	Transfer of former Amcor allocation being discussed as initial step
9 Work with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to enhance knowledge, monitor and understand ecological change in prioritised Lower Yarra billabongs which have received environmental water.	in progress	1-3 yrs	MW	Monitoring undertaken to assess benefits of seasonal watering and influence watering plans; includes vegetation, birds, frogs, eels and water level/quality. Work further supported through an ARC grant

Action	Status	Timeframe	Coord Agency	Status comment
Habitat connectivity				
10 Undertake vegetation works to strengthen terrestrial and aquatic habitat corridors to improve biodiversity...	in progress	4-7 yrs	MW	Significant investment by agencies and councils, revegetation and maintenance programs align with HWS priorities Aligns with Greenline Project, trial floating wetlands and Gardens 4 Wildlife programs - will accelerate through Urban Greening Transformative Project Aligns with RCS - creating spatial layers for ecosystem units, allow prioritising and selection of biodiversity management methods for land managers MW incentive program for stream frontage and rural land, DEECA funding landcare, and Yarra4Life collaborative support Aligns with HWS & RCS performance objectives Assessments undertaken for Yarra Flats billabongs, and for Greenline Project Being undertaken by Narrap Rangers on mid-Yarra billabongs, capacity improvement through Birrarung Rangers project
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...	in progress	1-3 yrs	MW	
12 Follow the goals and principles as set out in Protecting Victoria's Environmental Biodiversity 2037 for habitat and species conservation planning.	in progress	1-10 yrs	MW	
13 Explore and support the use of incentive mechanisms to build skills, knowledge and capacity in restoring landscape function...	in progress	4-7 yrs	MW	
14 Promote the use of conservation covenants to protect priority conservation values on private land as well as enhancing habitat connectivity...	planning	4-7 yrs	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...	in progress	4-7 yrs	MW	
16 Develop and pilot Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung flora and fauna assessments as critical planning tools for future management of the catchment...	in progress	1-3 yrs	WWCHAC	
Native Fish				
17 Invest in habitat restoration and environmental watering to: increase native fish, ..., and improve opportunities for recreational fishing and cultural practices...	in progress	1-3 yrs	MW	Monitoring indicates fishways improving connectivity for migratory species, plus billabong watering to support eel migration Links to action 17, scope to be developed with VFA and industry groups Working with ARI researchers, aspects covered by environmental water program
18 Work in partnership with angling groups to develop and implement a community education program on protection of native fish...	planning	8-10 yrs	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...	in progress	8-10 yrs	WWCHAC	
Pest plants and animals				
20 Adopt a multi-agency collaboration and investment approach to management of invasive animals and plants...	in progress	4-7 yrs	DEECA	Peri Urban Deer Control Strategy working group is progressing activities that align with this action. Other pest control programs undertaken by Councils, with agencies support
21 Build capacity of the Wurundjeri Narrap team to manage and eradicate deer...	planning	1-3 yrs	WWCHAC	

Action	Status	Timeframe	Coord Agency	Status comment
Climate change				
22 Deliver an interactive education program along the river corridor to enhance awareness and understanding around climate change and adaptive capacity...	planning	1-3 yrs	MW	Dependent on outcomes of action 23
23 Map key risks to the Yarra for climate change and develop a climate change adaptation and resilience action plan...	planning	1-3 yrs	DEECA	Aligns with CC Adaptation Strategy for Greater Melb and HWS RPO-10
Performance objective 2: A culturally diverse river corridor				
Cultural heritage				
24 Develop, or where existing, enhance interpretive and educational programs for sites that have...	planning	4-7 yrs	MW	Scope to be developed in consultation with TOs
25 Deliver interactive educational programs that include storytelling about the rich culture and heritage of the Yarra River...	planning	4-7 yrs	MW	
26 Support a program of cultural value studies by the Traditional Owners for the Yarra...	in progress	1-3 yrs	WWCHAC	Bulleen–Banyule Flats and Healesville studies completed, Brushy Creek in progress, Greenline being scoped
27 Explore with the Traditional Owners, the possibility of registering the Yarra as a cultural landscape.	planning	4-7 yrs	WWCHAC	Links to action 26 – scope to be developed in consultation with TOs
28 Develop a holistic heritage assessment to understand historic heritage values...	planning	4-7 yrs	DTP	
Performance objective 3: Quality parklands for a growing population				
Park management				
29 Plan, design, and manage the river parklands as one living and integrated natural entity...	in progress	1-3 yrs	PV	Parklands transformative project - initial planning undertaken to develop scope
30 Develop, with Traditional Owners, a consistent conservation, cultural and visitation brand identity for the Yarra and its parklands...	planning	1-3 yrs	PV	Aligns with Parklands transformative project
31 Establish formalised partnership agreements (including resourcing) with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung CHAC and TOs to manage the parklands...	planning	1-3 yrs	PV	Aligns with Parklands transformative project
32 Investigate locations and options for improved access to the Yarra and its parklands...	planning	4-7 yrs	PV	Aligns with parklands transformative project MW have investigated canoe launching
33 Investigate opportunities to improve and extend the area of parklands and deliver on priorities for acquisition...	in progress	8-10 yrs	DEECA	Some gaps in the suburban reach align with existing PAOs. Further investigation underway to extend the parklands along the entire reach.

Action	Status	Timeframe	Coord Agency	Status comment
Park infrastructure				
34 Conduct a strategic assessment of infrastructure and services in the Yarra's parklands...	planning	1-3 yrs	PV	Aligns with Parklands transformative project
35 Consider green infrastructure investment and solutions at the local and landscape scale within parklands...	planning	1-3 yrs	PV	
River activation				
36 Develop a 10-year berthing strategy for the lower Yarra River.	delivered	1-3 yrs	PV	Strategy developed and being implemented
37 Investment in a comprehensive dredging operation and ongoing maintenance dredging of the river to ensure boats and vessels can move safely...	in progress	4-7 yrs	PV	Program developed and being implemented
38 Establish a Lower Yarra River management committee to guide commercial berthing, events and activation...	delivered	1-3 yrs	PV	Committee established in Jun'22
Performance objective 4: Protecting the natural beauty of the Yarra River corridor				
Landscapes and views				
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.	in progress	1-3 yrs	DTP	YSP on track to be recognised in VPP by end 2023
40 Set land use planning goals and monitor changes in land use...	planning	8-10 yrs	DTP	Project yet to be fully scoped

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), Victoria Planning Policy (VPP)

Status of Activities

The Activities Schedule initially developed in 2022 was revised this year through the implementation planning process. There are now 165 activities (projects, maintenance, campaigns and other initiatives) that have been listed by responsible public entities as contributing to the performance objectives. These are listed in the Activities Schedule (**Attachment 3**).

As shown in Table 4, 72% of activities listed are in progress, and these will be mostly delivered over the next few years. This includes the five priority projects.

The lower rural reach has the lowest number of projects listed (12), contrasting with the suburban reach which has the most (66). The balancing of investment in activities along the river is reviewed by the Yarra Collaboration Committee as part of the implementation planning process. Interestingly, the number of activities listed has doubled, but the proportion of activities across reaches is comparable with what was reported in 2022.

Alignment of activities against the Plan’s performance objectives shows that 64% of activities contribute to performance objective one, a healthy river and lands (Figure 4). Further planning between partners is required to increase the number of activities that contribute to performance objective two, a culturally diverse river corridor.

The 165 activities are listed in **Attachment 3**, together with a brief description, their status and collaboration partners.

Table 4: Summary of activity status across reaches

Reach	Number of activities	Delivered	In progress	Planned	Idea
Upper rural	21	-	10	11	-
Lower rural	12	-	8	3	1
Suburban	66	4	48	9	5
Inner city	46	1	35	5	5
Whole of river	20	-	17	3	-
Totals	165	5 (3%)	118 (72%)	31 (19%)	11 (7%)

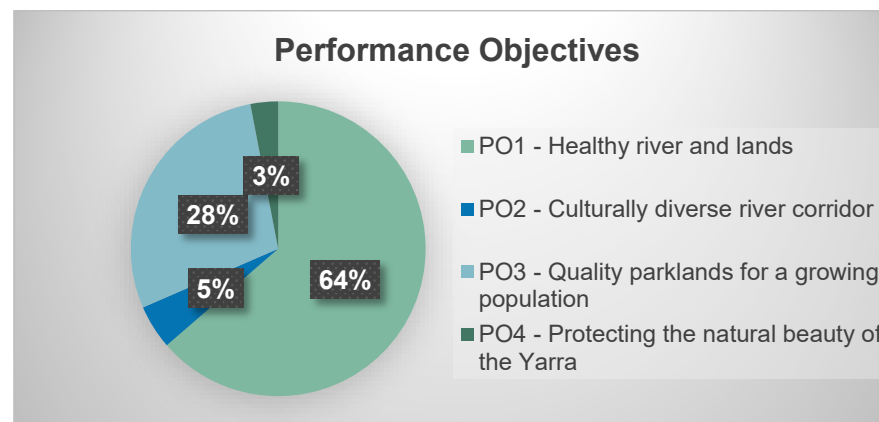


Figure 4 Graph showing alignment of activities against the four performance objectives

Highlights from 2022-23

Seasonal Watering

The 2022-23 Seasonal Watering Plan³ for the Yarra River aligns with Actions 6, 7, 8 and 9 under performance objective 1 (healthy river and lands).

Rainfall in 2022-23 was above the long-term average, and tributary inflows significantly contributed to flows throughout the year, allowing the river's many billabongs to be inundated and the seasonal watering plan to be delivered in full (Figure 5).

Water was delivered to Annulus Billabong for the third year in a row, supporting growth of threatened wetland plant species and providing habitat for frogs, waterbugs and birds. Completed reengagement works at Bolin Bolin billabong meant that the Birrarung flowed into the wetland – a great success for this important location.

In October 2022, high flows resulted in all billabongs becoming engaged and full (Figure 6). For some, this was the first time in over 10 years.

Lower Yarra billabongs monitoring includes assessing vegetation response to the environmental watering at significant billabongs, including Annulus and Bolin Bolin. This collaborative monitoring program, being undertaken by the Wurundjeri Narrap Team, University of Melbourne and Melbourne Water, is contributing to a shared understanding of these wetland systems.

The 'on-Country' knowledge day held with the Narrap Team, researchers and project partners, allowed discussion of findings and opportunities for Traditional Owner led research topics. This resulted in the proposal for 20 eels from Bolin Bolin to be tagged and tracked to help understand their movements and how to support their incredible life cycle.



Inlet channel at Bolin Bolin, August 2022



Satellite false colour imagery (17/10/2022) highlighting inundation (dark blue) of wetlands between Yering Gorge and Woori Yallock

³ The Seasonal Watering Plan, issued by Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH) in July each year, guides environmental watering decisions in the Yarra.

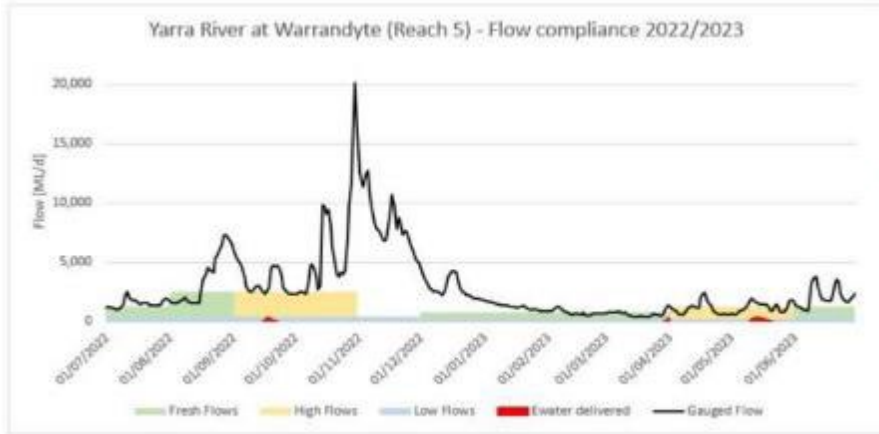


Figure 5 Yarra River flows at Warrandyte showing good variation and meeting environmental requirements

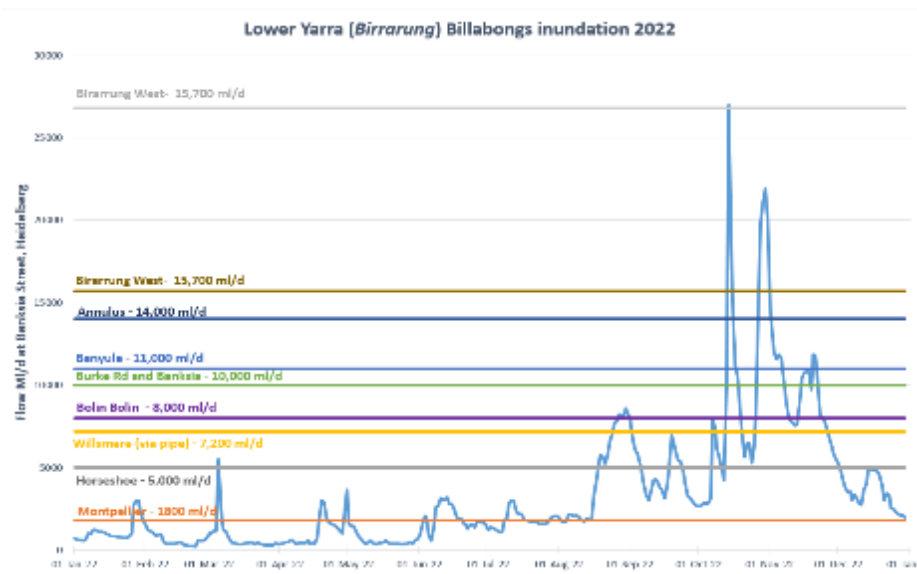


Figure 6 Lower Yarra (Birraring) flow rates and levels required for billabongs inundation

Further highlights from this year’s program included development of a conceptual model for two lower Birrarung billabongs, Alphington wetland and Wilsons Reserve, produced with partners to enhance and share knowledge. Further up the Birrarung (Yarra Glen to Healesville), billabongs were mapped to identify capacities and commence to flow river levels. This continues to build knowledge of the systems.

Melbourne Water is working with the WWCHAC and the BLCAC to increase Traditional Owners’ involvement and self-determination in the planning and delivery of water for the environment. The intent is for Traditional Owners to be active partners in the planning, delivery and monitoring of all works and deliveries of water for the environment associated with Birrarung (Yarra River), the Plenty River and Yarra billabongs, including the environmental watering program on their Country. An example of this input, was for the Seasonal Watering Plan for the Yarra, to include a watering event for Bolin Bolin designed to support an eel escape.

Greenline Project: Revitalising the north bank

The Greenline Project led by Melbourne City Council, is a transformational project that presents a new vision for the north bank of the Yarra River - Birrarung. It will create 4km of interconnected promenades, parks, open spaces, Australian native planting, cultural activations and environmental renewal between Birrarung Marr and the Bolte Bridge.

The project is underpinned by policies and strategies prepared by Council and the State Government. These reference Traditional Owner culture and heritage together with community aspirations to improve the health and wellbeing of the river, with new promenades, public space, and improved connections. The Greenline Project is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, and engagement with Traditional Owners is ongoing throughout the project.

A draft master plan to guide the design and delivery along the length of the north bank has been prepared and feedback from the community and stakeholders sought to inform the final master plan in late 2023.

The project has strong in principle support from stakeholders and the community. Precinct planning for the broader project scope is underway and will guide staged delivery across five precincts. Realising the project will require collaboration and investment for multiple stakeholders, land managers and government agencies along the river.

The first project (Site 1) is planned for the river edge at Birrarung Marr and works are anticipated to commence in 2024.

<https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greenline-project>

Birrarung Marr Precinct - Flinders Walk



Artists impression of the Flinders Walk section of the Greenline Project (used for consultation only) (Project lead: Melbourne City Council)

Lower Yarra River Activity report

The Lower Yarra River Activity Report, was led by Parks Victoria in collaboration with the Lower Yarra River Management Committee (Action 38). The report provides insights and recommendations based on a study of commercial and recreational usage trends and activities on the Lower Yarra (between its mouth and Dights Falls in Abbotsford) and Maribyrnong Rivers (between its confluence with the Yarra River and Canning Street Bridge).

The study has highlighted ongoing competing demands between users of the waterways where some stretches of the waterways are reaching capacity. Congestion on the Yarra River through the city has been highlighted as an ongoing issue where commercial and recreational use along with on-water events such as Moomba intersect and require strategic management to ensure fair and equitable use.

The report highlights and recommends the need to plan for improved management of the waterways in the short and long term to provide improved access to the rivers, manage their use to ensure safety and equity for river users, protect Traditional Owner values and influence more environmentally sustainable outcomes.

Implementation of the report outcomes will contribute to the delivery of the Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo by providing key data, insights and planning into the development of Action 29.

Onsite Domestic Wastewater Management

During 2022-2023, the Onsite Domestic Wastewater Management (ODWM) steering committee continued to contribute to projects, guidance and tools aimed at improving the management of onsite wastewater systems (contributes to Action 5). In the Yarra region, grants were provided for the following council projects:

- Banyule is updating the data records of onsite wastewater systems, which will inform development of a targeted maintenance and monitoring program
- Manningham is updating the risk assessment in its management plan to inform and develop risk evaluation and treatment plans

- Nillumbik is reviewing and updating onsite wastewater system data to inform its management plan
- Yarra Ranges is developing an ODWM education program for property owners and installers of wastewater treatment systems.

The committee has contributed to the development of new state-wide guidance, which includes a reference document covering matters related to onsite wastewater management systems and guidelines to assist councils with developing and implementing onsite wastewater management plans.

The committee has also contributed to the development of tools to assist the sector. These include e-learning modules for council staff, a communication pack for councils to use in their education programs, and a collection of studies to encourage collaboration between water corporations and councils who are managing onsite wastewater systems.

Yarra Valley Water is continuing with their Community Sewerage Projects, making sewerage services available to customers previously reliant on septic tanks. Planning has been completed for all remaining unsewered properties with a forward program of works scheduled for completion by 2040. One of the highlights from last year was the concept design for a new sewerage service for 1100 properties in Park Orchards and Ringwood North, with construction to be completed by 2028.

It is expected that water quality in tributaries of the Yarra, such as Hoddles, Woori Yallock and Mullum Mullum Creeks, will improve as more home owners take up the opportunity to connect to sewer networks that have been made available through the Community Sewerage Program.

Incentive programs

In 2022-23 Melbourne Water continued to provide funding for land improvements in the Yarra Strategic Plan area through their incentives program Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways. This included funding of \$138,664 for an additional 30 projects delivering 45 hectares of land improvements.

Other opportunities for land managers to restore landscape functions includes Land Care grants from DEECA, and local council programs such

as Yarra Ranges Ribbons of Green program. These incentive programs contribute to performance objective 1 (healthy rivers and land), and to Actions 10 and 13.

Over the past few years the bushlands team at Yarra Ranges Council has developed upon a collaborative partnership with Melbourne Water, co-creating an innovative multi-year grant. Co-investment from both Council and Melbourne Water has delivered conservation management activities along priority waterways in the Yarra catchment as highlighted in the Healthy Waterways Strategy.

In 2022-23 \$661,000 was invested through the partnership to maintain existing bushland values and expand vegetation extent through significant revegetation and engagement with community. These works extend to assisting threatened species, flora and fauna monitoring, reducing erosion, stormwater management and limiting pollutants within waterways. The program has grown from an initial two year project in 2020-21 and works are underway to expand the current program further.



Community planting day at Seville

Next steps

The first two years of implementation has built a strong foundation for delivering the Plan's performance objectives and embedding business processes that enable collaborative governance, resourcing Traditional Owners as decision makers and delivery agents, and protecting the river as one living and integrated natural entity.

Strengthening community engagement

The success of Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo is dependent on having commitment to its implementation and the support of the community.

During the Plan's development there was significant effort in communication and engagement activities, with over 120,000 touch points achieved through community events, social media posts, website visits and targeted consultation. This built a strong foundation but we need ongoing commitment and community support for the duration of the Plan.

We want more people to 'love' the Birrarung

The lead agency with support of the Yarra Collaboration Committee will develop and implement a communication and engagement strategy that:

- enables the lead agency and responsible public entities to position and promote the Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo while delivering on their obligations
- provides overarching strategic context, purpose and objectives for all communications and engagement activities to cascade from
- provides consistent understanding and approach for engaging with Traditional Owners (which will be guided by WWCHAC engagement protocols, and similar when developed by BLCAC)
- identifies those people who live and work on the Birrarung and outlines an approach to raising awareness and where possible facilitating their involvement in implementation.

Year ahead

In the year ahead the focus will be on:

- collaborative planning and delivery of four new transformative projects:
 1. Managing parklands as a living entity in a cultural landscape
 2. Greening the Birrarung by scaling up revegetation to deliver greater outcomes
 3. Urban greening in the inner city reach
 4. Collaboration platform to share knowledge and improve outcomes
- ensuring the decision making framework and other shared tools and protocols are actively used to guide planning and delivery of activities
- further exploring the application of 'net gain' and alignment with the land use framework
- strengthening partnerships with Traditional Owners, and exploring sustainable funding models for participation and capacity building
- continuing to foster cultural safety and building the cultural competence of the Yarra Collaboration Committee
- continuing to work with the Birrarung Council and responding to any recommendations in their 2023 Report
- reviewing recommendations set out in the 2023 State of the Yarra and its Parklands report
- continuing to deliver the Plan's actions, ensuring all short-term actions are in progress and scoping of mid-term actions completed.



Attachment 1 – Yarra Collaboration Committee meetings and events

Meeting/event date	Key outcomes
19 Jul 2022 Meeting #29	MERI plan and annual reporting requirements Scope for implementation planning process Planning for celebration event for release of YSP
12 Sep 2022 Meeting #30	Annual Report – confirm suitability to submit Celebration event – update Implementation planning process –set the scene for identifying projects
5 Oct 2022 Launch/Celebration Event with Birrarung Council	Minister for Water and Birrarung Council to reinforce commitment to collaborate and drive outcomes To celebrate the release of the Plan and move to implementation phase
16 Nov 2022, #31 Implementation Planning Workshop (in-person)	Identified potential ‘transformative’ projects to collaborate on over the next five years Identified how local projects can deliver higher impact and agreed on strategies to support collaboration and delivery of outcomes over the next 12 months
9 Feb 2023 Implementation Planning Workshop (in-person)	Identified potential ‘transformative’ projects to collaborate on over the next five years Identified how local projects can deliver higher impact and agreed on strategies to support collaboration and delivery

Meeting/event date	Key outcomes
14 Mar 2023 Meeting #32	Discussed Birrarung Council's Annual Report and confirmed areas to address in coming year Confirmed high level priorities and outcomes for next 3 years Initial planning for Executive Forum
17 Apr 2023 Meeting #33	Update from Yarra Riverkeeper Association Discussed draft Implementation Plan, and confirmed priorities and next steps Update on YCC Executive Forum
Executive Forum 16 Jun 2023 Birrarung Park, Templestowe	Attended by Minister for Water, Birrarung Council, and Executives from RPEs Opportunity to strengthen authorising environment behind the plan, reinforce commitment and ensure strong progress for year ahead. Traditional Owners shared insights and importance of managing the river and its lands as ‘one living and integrated natural entity’
21 Jun 2023 Meeting #34	Reflection on the Executive Forum Outline of Parks Victoria's Landscape-scale management planning process Update on review of monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement plan

Attachment 2 – Response to Birrarung Council’s 2022 annual report

The Birrarung Council’s first Annual Report on implementation was prepared for the Minister for Water, the Hon. Harriet Shing in October 2022. The report included expectations for strategic outcomes and areas of focus for implementation over the coming year and beyond, if Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo is to realise its potential. The following table provides an outline of how each of these outcomes and directions of focus have been responded to. Of the 22 directions suggested by the Birrarung Council, five have been achieved, eight partly achieved, three are in progress and six are planned.

Strategic outcome / area of focus	Response	Achievement	Planned
Strategic Outcome 1: Traditional Owners are decision-makers and delivery agents on their Country alongside state and local authorities Intermediate outcomes to assess progress against this strategic outcome are:			
1. Partnership Agreements between RPEs and Traditional Owners are established and embedded	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 of 14 RPEs have Reconciliation Action Plans in place, and 1 in prep. VicTrack and VPA don’t have RAPs or equivalent 7 of 14 RPEs have or are planning for partnership agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> progressing partnership agreements with WWCHAC and BLCAC
2. There is dedicated resourcing to support participation and capacity building of Traditional Owners	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> support varies across RPEs, with most providing financial support for Elder participation in events and Narrap for NRM projects direct funding provided for engagement, partnership and project delivery funding to WWCHAC to engage officer to support BBBU implementation (commencing Sep 2023) Birrarung Rangers project plan approved and funding provided to establish program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sharing process knowledge in developing partnerships across RPEs (encouraging and learning from others) continuing to fund Elders participation and support staff in facilitating engagement with RPEs funding capacity building and exploring models for longer term funding
Strategic Outcome 2: Sustained cross organisational collaborative planning and management Intermediate outcomes to assess progress against this strategic outcome are:			
3. An increased number of collaborative projects proposed and implemented	Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> current Activities Schedule, 82% of 165 activities are collaborative, in comparison last year, 66% of 88 activities were collaborative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> four new transformative projects will promote collaborative planning and management
4. Increased collaboration between YCC parties, both RPEs and Traditional Owners	Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RPEs self-evaluation (Question 11) indicates moderate or better collaboration between RPEs and Traditional Owners, an improvement in comparison to 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> publicising outcomes from the Yarra Flats and Yering Billabongs priority projects will promote benefits of collaboration

Strategic Outcome 3: Organisational practice reflects a sustained commitment to implement BBBU			
Intermediate outcomes to assess progress against this strategic outcome are:			
5. Organisation's role and progress in supporting BBBU implementation is reported in formal and informal communications	Partially achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> most RPEs reference BBBU on their websites, and in recently published strategies, exceptions DTP and VicTrack (Question 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase number of documents referring to BBBU performance objectives and protection principles
6. BBBU decision-making framework (DMF) and other shared tools and protocols are actively used to guide planning and action	Planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 of 14 RPEs indicated considering the protection principles in planning activities but limited use of DMF (Question 9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> raise awareness and promote DMF and tools across RPEs
Direction 1: Commitment to BBBU – expect to see commitment building as it moves into its second year. As commitment varies across RPEs, there are some practical strategies that can be used to build that commitment within each agency. We advocate the following actions for the future:			
7. Every RPE should make clear statements in their internal and outward facing communications about their role in BBBU	Partially achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 of 14 RPEs reference BBBU on corporate websites and in recently published strategies, exceptions are DTP and VicTrack (Question 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase number of documents referring to BBBU performance objectives and protection principles
8. RPEs should use mechanisms such as including BBBU goals and activities in key planning, strategy and policy documents, in agendas for meetings of senior decision makers, and in reporting, action and risk registers	Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RPEs are referencing BBBU when developing IWM, Biodiversity and Open Space strategies, and implementation of RAPs participation through YCC and attendance at BBBU events has enabled more frequent briefings of executives and senior managers across RPEs (Question 8) Lead agency has instigated 6-monthly meetings with individual RPEs, attended by YCC rep and senior manager (exception DTP Transport) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use transformative projects to reach further into organisations, raising awareness of BBBU and change in line with the Act and Plan Lead agency continue holding 6-monthly meetings with individual RPEs
Direction 2: Partnerships with Traditional Owners – to accelerate the development of mature partnerships, we propose that:			
9. By June 30 2023 all agencies should have a Reconciliation Action Plan in place and be actively using this as a basis to work with Traditional Owners. All RPEs should also be actively working on a Partnership Agreement, if they do not already have one in place.	Partially achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 of 14 RPEs have reconciliation action plans in place, and 1 in prep. VicTrack and VPA don't have RAPs or equivalent (Question 18) 7 of 14 RPEs have or are planning for partnership agreements with WWCHAC or BLCAC (Question 18) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> progressing development of partnership agreements sharing experience in developing partnership agreements (encouraging and learning from others)
10. RPEs should work towards real integration between plans with Traditional Owners and resulting actions, so that RAPs and Partnership Agreements serve as a genuine basis for change going forward.	Partially achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RPEs consider inclusion of Traditional Owner science and culture in projects, but limited resources for Traditional Owners (Question 14) RPEs indicate quality of projects improving through inclusion of Traditional Owner science and culture (Question 15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to plan and work towards real integration with Traditional Owners and promote outcomes (value of partnerships)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrap team are a significant supplier for NRM projects, billabong restorations are an exemplar 	
11. To start to address the imbalance in resourcing between RPEs and Traditional Owners: All parties work together to identify possible ways that resourcing needs can be better met. This may include funding, in kind support, providing or sharing training opportunities, and providing data and information.	Partially achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> as indicated above (Strategic Outcome 1) some resourcing to support participation and capacity building of Traditional Owners has been provided 3-year implementation plan identifies sustainable resourcing and support for Traditional Owners as a barrier that needs to be overcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> exploring sustainable funding models for longer term funding for corporations to participate in the BBBU
Direction 3: Collaboration – in addition to the collaboration that will grow as projects progress, the YCC can play an important role in helping build collaboration:			
12. YCC forum to serve as learning exchange, with frank discussion by members about what has worked and what hasn't, to accelerate progress to collaborative stewardship. YCC members should also share their ideas for growing organisational commitment.	Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YCC provides a great network of organisations willing to share advice and learnings; regular engagement keeps BBBU front of mind (Question 7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> exploring potential use of a platform to facilitate higher levels of collaboration between RPEs, Traditional Owners and community based organisations
13. Melbourne Water, as Lead Agency, should continue working to support Traditional Owner participation in YCC	Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead Agency and DEECA have funded engagement of BBBU officer by WWCHAC Lead Agency is participating in formal quarterly reviews with WWCHAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead agency to identify ongoing funding for BBBU liaison officer Lead agency to develop reporting template to assist review process
Direction 4: Land use decision making and planning:			
14. DELWP should make progress to incorporate land use framework into local and state planning policy a priority	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DTP have indicated the land use framework will be recognised in planning policy in late 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> further implementation of land use framework in planning processes
Direction 5: Decision Making Framework and net gain: The Birrarung Council will be looking to see progress on the action relating to net gain over the next 12 months and a reframed approach to net gain embedded in the DMF in the near future. Progress over the next 12 months on these fronts can be better achieved by the following:			
15. Melbourne Water, as Lead Agency working through the YCC, should remind RPEs about the need to embed the DMF into activity planning	Partially achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMF use has been discussed at YCC meetings, but further guidance is required to integrate it with in-house processes for planning and approval of activities (Question 9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue to explore and develop guidance for embedding the DMF
16. All RPEs should start using the DMF across projects, as intended under BBBU	Partially achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> some RPEs are using DMF pro-forma on selected projects to guide discussions, but most rely on in-house processes aligning with principles (Question 9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue to explore and develop guidance for embedding the DMF

17. Concept of net gain should be used in the DMF to be applied by RPEs undertaking projects affecting the River, particularly for transformational projects	Planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early discussions exploring the consideration of assessing net gain in application of the DMF have been held 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue to explore and develop guidance for applying the concept of net gain
Direction 6: Birrarung Parklands - BBBU includes a vision developed by the YCC and 10 actions related to the Yarra parkland. Progressing these actions will be critical to realising the Community Vision and the goals of the Act. Our ideas represent a more ambitious agenda for the parkland, which we encourage all those involved in River management to consider, but in the near term the focus should be on:			
18. Creating a stronger identity for the Parkland locally, nationally and internationally	Planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> creating a stronger identify for parklands will be considered as part of the Parklands transformative project 	
19. Formalising a role for Traditional Owners in the planning and management of the Parklands corridor	Planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explore as part of Parklands transformative project, and development of partnership with Traditional Owners 	
20. Integrating and aligning investment and management of lands in Parklands corridor to enhance use and enjoyment of the Parkland and the conservation of the environment consistent with the status of the River as a 'living entity'	Planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explore as part of Parklands transformative project 	
21. Acquiring and reconnecting the existing nominated land parcels along the Birrarung River corridor and integrating place-based stories and culture into low-impact infrastructure and design that enables net gain for the River	Partly achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> additional land has been purchased for parklands but consideration of other aspects requires further planning 	
22. Creating ecological net gain for the Birrarung including a 'Special Landscape Overlay' within the state planning scheme	Planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explore as part of Parklands transformative project 	

Attachment 3 – Activities progress tracker

The following table sets out activities and projects nominated by responsible public entities for 2022-25 that contribute to the performance objectives. This is not a complete list of works occurring in the Yarra River corridor, as it does not include works associated with major infrastructure (eg North East Link road project, Hawthorn to Richmond Sewer replacement), and much of the maintenance and minor improvement works that occur within the parklands. Similarly, the list does not provide a comprehensive list of research projects, many of which will inform actions in Part 1 of 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
8	Banyule Council	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	Banyule Council	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

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
10	Banyule Council	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	Banyule Council	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	Banyule Council	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	Banyule Council	Alan Noy wetland watering	Trial watering of a small wetland from Banyule Swamp for habitat improvement	Suburban		2023	In progress
14	Banyule Council	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	Banyule Council	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	Banyule Council	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	Banyule Council	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	Banyule Council	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
19	Banyule Council	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	Banyule Council	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

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
21	Boroondara Council	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	Boroondara Council	Freeway Golf Course reconfiguration	Works to redesign the course in response to North East Link land acquisition.	Suburban	nil	2022	In progress
23	Boroondara Council	Willsmere Park Pavilion	Construction of new sports pavilion in Willsmere Park.	Suburban	nil	2022	In progress
24	Boroondara Council	Hays Paddock pathways	Renewal and extension of granitic pathways in Hays Paddock.	Suburban	nil	2022	In progress
25	Boroondara Council	Hays Paddock Playground	Renewal and upgrade of playground at Hays Paddock, a highly valued all access play space.	Suburban	nil	2022	In progress
26	Boroondara Council	Walmer St Bridge	Renewal and upgrade of Boroondara section of the Walmer St Bridge.	Inner city	Yarra Council, DEECA	2022	In progress
27	Boroondara Council	Boroondara Integrated Water Management Plan	Renewal of Council's Integrated Water Management Plan.	Suburban	Melb Water	2023	In progress
28	Boroondara Council	Boroondara Biodiversity Strategy	Develop Council's Biodiversity Strategy.	Suburban		2023	In progress
29	Boroondara Council	Boroondara Parks maintenance	Mowing and vegetation maintenance in parks within Yarra River lands.	Suburban	nil	2023	In progress
30	DEECA	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
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

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
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
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 Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung CHAC 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

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
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
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	Bunurong, 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	Wurundjeri	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

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
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
55	Manningham Council	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	Manningham Council	Main Yarra Trail Extension to Warrandyte	Extending Manningham's shared trail network between Mullum Mullum trail and Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte, to improve recreational opportunities (ie walking, cycling and jogging).	Suburban	DTP, community	2022	In progress
57	Manningham Council	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	Manningham Council	Community Education	Community Education program, including Waterwatch program	Suburban	Melb Water	2022	In progress
59	Manningham Council	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	Manningham Council	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	Manningham Council	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	Melb Water	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	Priority Project: 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
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

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
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
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

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
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
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

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
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 Warrantdyte. 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	Priority project - 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
101	Melbourne City Council	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	Melbourne City Council	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	Melbourne City Council	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

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
104	Melbourne City Council	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	Nillumbik Council	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	Nillumbik Council	Urban Canopy Strategy	Strategy to inform future action and investment for protection and enhancement of Nillumbik's urban tree canopy.	Suburban		2023	In progress
107	Nillumbik Council	Biodiversity Strategy	Develop new strategy; includes data collection, analysis and consultation. Nillumbik 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	Parks Victoria	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	Parks Victoria	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	Parks Victoria	Management of Herring Island	Recurrent expenditure on the management of Herring Island.	Inner city		2022	In progress
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

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
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	Planned
121	Parks Victoria	Herring Island visitor experience planning	Develop a plan for the operation of Herring Island.	Inner city	MW, DEECA, Friends groups	2023	Planned
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	Planned
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	Planned
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

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
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 Collaboration members	2023	Idea
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 Collaboration 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

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
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	Toorong Wetlands, Malvern	Construct new wetlands in Toorong Park, adjacent Gardiners Ck	Inner city	MW	2023	In progress
146	Stonnington Council	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	Transport	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	Nillumbik, Manningham, Melb Water	2022	In progress
148	Transport	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	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	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	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	Birrarung Rangers	Priority Project - 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

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
151	Yarra City Council	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	Yarra City Council	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	Yarra City Council	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	Yarra City Council	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 Australia	2023	In progress
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 Botanica, 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	Priority Project - restoration of 100 ha of floodplain to functional billabongs and wetlands. Led by Yarra Ranges Council, the project will reconnect the floodplain by creating ephemeral and semi-permanent water bodies to mimic natural habitats and provide water quality treatment for flows from Olinda Creek, Stringybark Creek and Muddy Creek, while also 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 Australia	2022	In progress

ID	Lead organisation	Activity	Description	Reach	Partners	Year listed	Status
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
164	Yarra Riverkeeper Assoc	Polystyrene in the Yarra River	Priority project - assessing the relative contribution of polystyrene in the river from industries. Includes building a stronger evidence-based-understanding of litter sources, creating educational material for community and business on the extent and impact of polystyrene pollution, improving engagement with communities, and building an open-source interactive polystyrene pollution layer for the Yarra Atlas.	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

© Copyright September 2023 Melbourne Water Corporation All rights reserved.

Disclaimer: This publication may be of assistance to you, but Melbourne Water and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability or any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.



<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/about/strategies-and-reports/yarra-strategic-plan-burndap-birrarung-burndap-umarkoo>