



Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo – Yarra Strategic Plan – Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan 2022-2032

Final

March 2024

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Abbreviations

BLCAC	Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (commenced 1 Jan 2023)
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (ceased 31 Dec 2022)
DPC	Department of Premier and Cabinet
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning (commenced 1 Jan 2023 with inclusion of Planning)
EPA	Environment Protection Authority Victoria
GIS	Geographic information systems
HWS	Healthy Waterways Strategy (published in 2018)
MERI	Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement
RPE	Responsible public entity (as defined in the Act)
VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
WWCHAC	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
YCC	Yarra Collaboration Committee
YSP	Yarra Strategic Plan

Terminology

Evaluation	Evaluation refers to the process of data and information collection and analysis to make judgements about the merit, worth or value of a program. Often evaluation is focused on understanding the impact or effectiveness over time.
Key evaluation questions (KEQs)	KEQs function as high level research questions that should be addressed through evaluation data collection and therefore influence the methodology required for data collection. KEQs also provide a structure for reporting.
Measures	The term ‘measure’ refers to any data or information source that would be used to measure a change in the condition, state, behaviour, and management actions. Here, measures include what others may term indicators, targets, characteristics, and/or parameters. Measures are typically linked to a data collection ‘method’ (sometimes multiple methods) to collect the data or information required to understand the result. A different or similar analytical ‘method’ may also be required to analyse the data for evaluation.
Outcomes	Outcomes generally are the intermediate and long term results of the activities or initiatives. Outcomes describe the changes in the biophysical environment and/or capacity that is expected if the program is successful.
Program logic	Program logic describes the expected cause and effect linkages between activities, planning and other initiatives and the identified outcomes. The program logic model used in this framework is based on the program logic models described in the Australian Government MERI strategy for NRM.

1 Introduction

This document presents a plan for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) for the *Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo – Yarra Strategic Plan – 2022-2032*.

1.1 Background

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

Melbourne Water was appointed by the Minister for Water to fulfil the function of lead agency as defined by the Yarra Act, principally to facilitate implementation of the BBBU/YSP, which includes monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Melbourne Water is supported in this role by the Yarra Collaboration Committee (YCC), which includes representatives of Traditional Owners and RPEs.

The Birrarung Council is a statutory body created by the Yarra Act, with members appointed by the Minister for Water. The council advises the Minister and advocates for protection and wellbeing of the Birrarung. It is independent of the public entities that manage the river. The council serves as a ‘voice for the river’, with responsibilities to report on the implementation of the BBBU/YSP.

The BBBU/YSP is implemented in conjunction with other Yarra-relevant policies, plans and strategies made under various statutes such as the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Environment Protection Act 2017* and the *Water Act 1989* (this includes the Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018 and Biodiversity 2037).

1.2 Legislative requirements

The legislative reporting requirements for the BBBU/YSP are defined by:

- *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murron) Act 2017* (the Yarra Act)
- *Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Act 2003* (the CES Act)
- *Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo – Yarra Strategic Plan 2022–2032* as approved in February 2022.

The Yarra Act (section 43) says that RPEs must prepare a report on their implementation of the BBBU/YSP over the reporting period (defined as 12 months); and provide that report to the lead agency. In turn, the lead agency (under section 44) must prepare an annual report for the Birrarung Council to assist them in reporting (under section 57) to the Minister on implementation. The Council’s report must be submitted to the Minister by 31 October, and then be tabled in Parliament together with the lead agency’s annual report within 7 sitting days.

The CES Act (section 8) requires the Commissioner to prepare a report on the environmental condition of Yarra River land and how it has changed since the last report. Their report must be prepared at intervals not exceeding five years. Their first report was prepared in 2018 and their second report in 2023.

Non-legislative requirements, as defined in the BBBU/YSP Appendix D, include developing and implementing a MERI plan. This includes setting out key performance indicators (KPIs) and key evaluation questions (KEQs) to monitor progress towards meeting the intentions of the 50-year Community Vision, the Yarra Act and the four performance objectives in the BBBU/YSP. The MERI plan should also support reporting progress against actions set out in Part 1 and Part 2 of the BBBU/YSP.

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of this MERI plan is to:

- provide the framework for collection and analysis of information needed to assess achievement, impact and legacy of the BBBU/YSP
- guide and facilitate provision of data and information for annual reporting and 3-yearly evaluation to support continuous improvement, which includes updating the 3-year rolling implementation plan
- ensure, through reporting of outcomes, that activities and projects impacting Yarra River land align with the 19 Yarra protection principles (set out in the Yarra Act).

The key audiences for the MERI plan are representatives from the Traditional Owner Corporations and RPEs that contribute to implementation and associated monitoring, evaluation and reporting. In addition the Birrarung Council, have an interest in ensuring that the MERI plan is designed to support their functions and reporting requirements.

1.4 Scope

The lead agency prepared an initial MERI plan, which was approved by the Yarra Collaboration Committee in June 2022. In parallel, Birrarung Council engaged Monash Sustainable Development Institute (MSDI) to assist them in developing a monitoring and evaluation framework to articulate strategic outcomes considered necessary to deliver on the intent of the BBBU/YSP and the Yarra Act.

This MERI plan integrates the previous work of the lead agency and Birrarung Council, creating a single framework with its core component covering governance, implementation and condition of the Birrarung. The new 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.

Having an integrated framework does not undermine the importance of independence in executing the reporting by the various groups, but ensures all products work together to realise a transformative shift in management of the Birrarung.

Reporting of the condition of the Birrarung will continue to be served by broader monitoring and reporting programs, such as that undertaken for the Healthy Waterways Strategy – Yarra Catchment. The BBBU/YSP does not cover the spatial extent of the Yarra River catchment, but does consider activities in the broader catchment that have the potential to impact on the river.

Ultimate responsibility for delivery of this MERI plan lies with Melbourne Water as the lead agency. However, its success is dependent on the cooperation of RPEs and other government agencies such as EPA Victoria,

retail water corporations, Victorian Fisheries Authority, and First Peoples – State Relations (group within Department of Premier and Cabinet). These government agencies collectively hold data and information of relevance to monitoring, evaluating and reporting for the BBBU/YSP.

Development of this MERI plan has been supported by the MERF working group, which included representatives from the lead agency, DEECA, Birrarung Council, WWCHAC and Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability. Alluvium Consulting Australia Pty Ltd were engaged to review and integrate outputs from the previous monitoring plans and frameworks.

1.5 Timing

The BBBU/YSP became operational in February 2022. The first annual report, covering the period from February to 30 June 2022, was submitted to the Birrarung Council in September 2022. Future annual reports will cover the period from 1 July to 30 June, and be submitted to the Birrarung Council by 15 September.

Figure 1 shows how the implementation of the MERI plan aligns with the timing of annual reports, evaluation reporting, State of the Yarra and its parklands reporting, and Healthy Waterways Strategy mid-term review and final 10 year review and refresh.

Section 42 of the Act states that the lead agency must ensure that no later than 10 years after commencement, the long-term community vision is reviewed and a new BBBU/YSP prepared. This process, which would be informed by the third 3-year evaluation report, would need to commence in 2030 to allow sufficient time to prepare a new plan.

The BBBU/YSP operates over a ten year timeframe, however many activities and drivers of change were already occurring or commenced prior to the plan’s commencement in February 2022. This makes it difficult to identify ‘day zero’ for monitoring and evaluating progress. Instead, available time series data can be used to create a baseline (or reference point) from which to measure change, or to better understand potential rates of change over time.

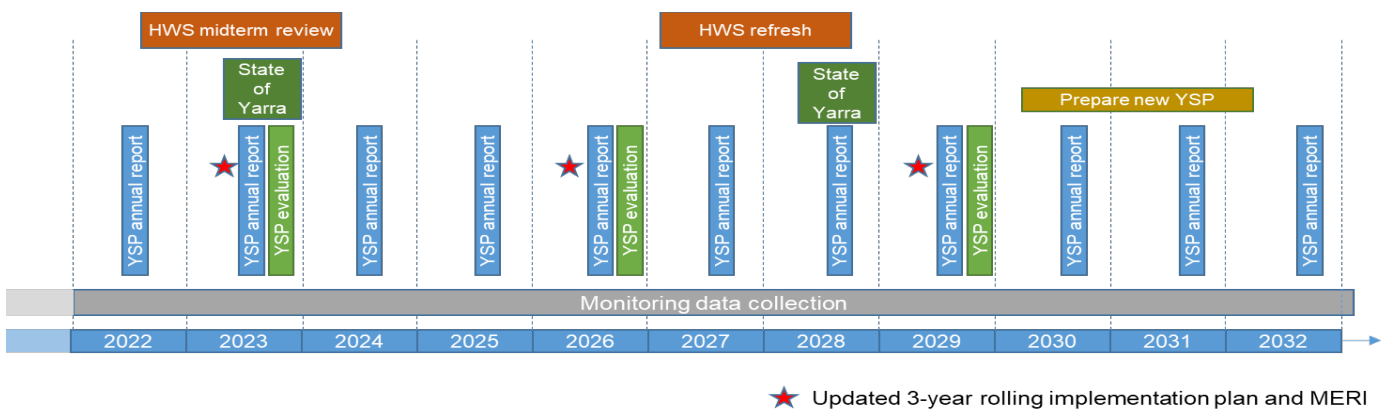


Figure 1: Timeline for implementation of the YSP MERI

1.6 Assumptions

Design and implementation of the MERI plan is based on the following assumptions:

- Activities undertaken by RPEs will contribute towards the long-term community vision and strategic goals and performance objectives set out in the program logic. RPEs will have in place monitoring and reporting processes to track the delivery of these activities and their outcomes.
- Indicators for environmental condition are unlikely to be insightful given the shortened-time frame for change to occur in response to actions. Over the longer term it is hoped that these indicators will move in a positive direction in response to the activities being undertaken.
- Where longer term data sets are available they may provide an opportunity to detect changes in trends sooner. For example the EPA's Water Quality Index has sampling data for the Yarra River going back to 2000. So for water quality even though the YSP is only for 2022 onwards using the available time-series data may be useful for evaluation and continual improvement in implementation of the plan.
- The indicators selected will be sufficient to show that implementation of the BBBU/YSP is changing the way we manage and protect the Birrarung. The MERI is not designed to provide a comprehensive assessment of the condition of the Birrarung and all its values. Instead a selection of indicators will show whether change is occurring in response to the suite of changes associated with the activities and decisions made by RPEs.
- Net gain is a concept that will be further developed under Action 12, with the intent to move beyond native vegetation indicators and offsets. It is expected that assessment of net gain will support decision-making and approval processes for individual activities, as opposed to providing a holistic assessment of the BBBU/YSP.

2 Program Logic

The program logic provides a succinct description (schematic representation) of the BBBU/YSP. It links actions through intermediate outputs to longer term outcomes (the strategic goals and performance objectives). The program logic also provides the basis for evaluating implementation by identifying outcomes where evaluation will be most important, and informing the development of meaningful evaluation questions.

The program logic as set out in Figure 2, has been developed as follows:

- The **Community Vision** sits at the top of the program logic, as it was the basis for development of the BBBU/YSP.
- The **Strategic Goals** are based on outputs from the Birrarung Council's monitoring and evaluation framework and the 10-year performance objectives in the BBBU/YSP.
- The **Outcomes** are either end-of-strategy (8 years), mid-strategy (5 years), or immediate (2 years), reflecting the time period over which change is expected to be achieved. Those outcomes with red outlines have come through from the Birrarung Council's framework, and those with blue outlines are derived from the success measures set out in the BBBU/YSP. Additional outcomes for planning controls (green outline) and tangible values (purple outlines) were added through the review process.
- The **Activities** reflect recommendations made by the Birrarung Council (yellow outlines) in their first annual report, the BBBU/YSP actions under each of the performance objectives (blue outlines) and for planning control actions (green outline) added through the review and integration process.

It is acknowledged that the Program Logic is not a full representation of the desired outcomes or timing of outcomes for the BBBU/YSP, but is sufficient as a basis for the design of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework.

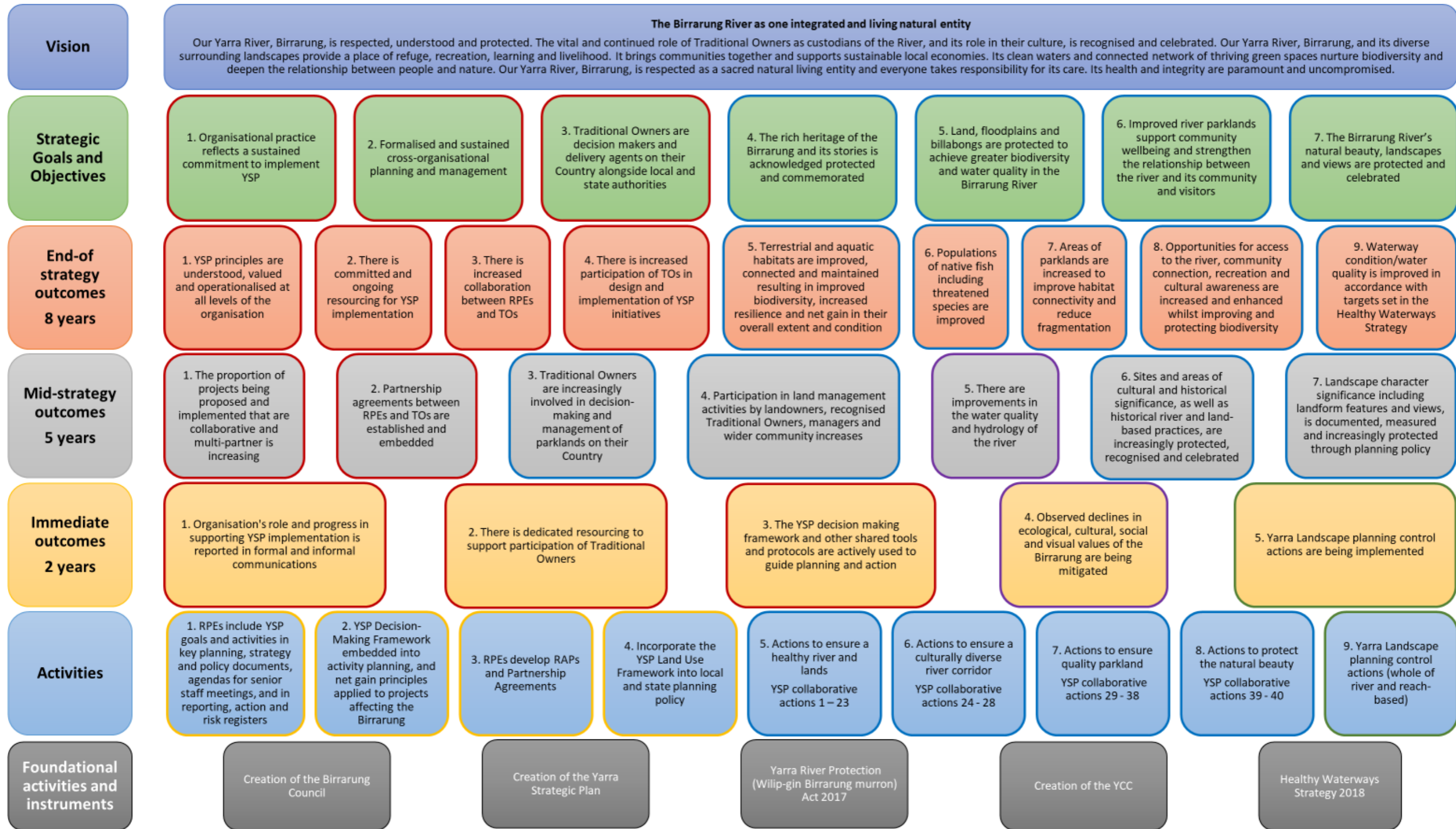


Figure 2. Program Logic

The program logic integrates outputs from the Birrarung Council's monitoring and evaluation framework (red outlined boxes), performance objectives and actions in Part 1 (blue outlined boxes) and Part 2 of the BBBU/YSP (green outlined boxes), the Birrarung Council first annual report (yellow outlined boxes), and outputs from the MERF working group (purple outlined boxes).

3 Evaluation Framework

The evaluation framework (Table 1) is based on the program logic. Each of the seven strategic goals and performance objectives can be evaluated through assessment of outcomes at various points throughout the 10-year period; immediate outcomes (2 years), mid-strategy (5 years) and end-of-strategy (8 years).

The evaluation framework identifies indicators and information (data) sources to evaluate and report progress towards achieving the desired outcomes of the BBBU/YSP. The information sources are a combination of BBBU/YSP related activities and other programs that monitor and evaluate the condition (or 'state') of the Birrarung.

The Birrarung Council's annual Evaluation Survey for RPEs and Traditional Owner Corporations, which commenced in 2022, is a major source of data for evaluating the BBBU/YSP. The survey questions were reviewed and adjusted to align with the evaluation framework presented in this MERI plan. The survey focuses on the first three strategic goals and associated outcomes set out in the program logic.

Other sources of data to support evaluation can be drawn from the systems and processes established for tracking progress with implementation of the BBBU/YSP Actions (Actions Tracker) and the activities listed by RPEs (3-year Activities Schedule), which collectively contribute to achieving the BBBU/YSP performance objectives.

Other key sources of data for evaluation are the Healthy Waterways Strategy annual reporting, and mid-term and final reviews that analyse data and evaluate the effect of management programs on environmental and social conditions for waterways within the Yarra catchment.

The State of the Yarra and its Parklands report (5-yearly) provides a consolidated understanding of the condition of the Yarra using publicly available information from a range of programs, including the Healthy Waterways Strategy and other state-based monitoring and reporting programs.

It is expected that YCC members will assist with identifying and sourcing relevant data from their organisations to support the evaluation process. Arrangements and commitments for data governance and administration will remain with the data custodians.

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Table 1 Evaluation framework, matching strategic goals and outcomes to information

Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
SG01 – Organisational practice reflects a sustained commitment to implement YSP (KEQ 5.1)	EOS1 – YSP principles are understood, valued and operationalised at all levels of the organisation (KEQ 4.1)	Relevant corporate documentation for RPEs references the protection principles and vision, and demonstrates commitment to implementation	Evaluation Survey - Q1 Does all relevant corporate documentation refer to the Yarra Strategic Plan or the Yarra protection principles, thereby demonstrating an organisational commitment to implementation?	RPE has relevant corporate documentation that references the protection principles and vision	Good = RPE has all relevant documents referencing the YSP Fair = RPE has some documents referencing the YSP Poor = RPE has no documents referencing the YSP
		Operational and organisational processes and systems reflect the protection principles and support implementation	Evaluation Survey – Q2 Do your organisation’s operational or organisational processes and systems for undertaking activities in the Yarra Strategic Plan area reflect the Yarra Protection Principles, thereby supporting implementation?	RPE has operational and organisational processes and systems that reflect the protection principles	Good = RPE has processes and systems that reflect the protection principles Fair = RPE is developing processes and systems that reflect the protection principles Poor = RPE has no processes and systems that reflect the protection principles
		Decision-making processes and systems recognise the River as one living and integrated natural entity	Evaluation Survey – Q3 Is your organisation recognising the River as one living and integrated natural entity?	RPE is recognising the River as one living and integrated natural entity through decision-making processes and systems	Good = RPE recognises the river as one living and integrated natural entity through decision-making processes and systems Fair = RPE is starting to recognise the river as one living and integrated natural entity through decision-making processes and systems

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
					Poor = RPE is not recognising the River as one living and integrated natural entity through decision-making processes and systems
	EOS2 – There is committed and ongoing resourcing for YSP implementation (KEQ 4.2)	Budget allocated to activities within the YSP area that contribute to the performance objectives	Activities Tracker – lists and includes forecasted expenditure for activities undertaken by RPEs in the YSP area.	RPE has ongoing investment in activities that contribute to the performance objectives	Good = RPE has significant ongoing investment in the YSP Fair = RPE has minor ongoing investment in the YSP Poor = RPE has no ongoing investment in the YSP
		Continuous improvement in organisational commitment	Evaluation Survey – Q5 Is there anything that your organisation will do differently in the year ahead to grow organisational commitment to the Yarra Strategic Plan outcomes? Evaluation Survey – Q6 Is additional support needed to help your organisation improve its commitment to the Yarra Strategic Plan? If so, what exactly?	RPE show continuous improvement in organisational commitment to implementation	Good = RPE is improving their organisation's commitment to the YSP Fair = RPE is looking to improve their organisation's commitment to the YSP Poor = RPE is not looking to improve their organisation's commitment to the YSP
	IO1 – Organisation's role and progress in supporting YSP	Internal and external communications promoting the YSP and	Evaluation Survey – Q4 Please list the communication pieces over the last 12 months in which your organisation's role in	RPE is communicating YSP outcomes through various	Good = RPE is communicating YSP outcomes through multiple channels

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
	implementation is reported in formal and informal communications (KEQ 2.1)	sharing the organisation's contribution to implementation	supporting implementation of the YSP was reported.	channels on multiple occasions	Fair = RPE is communicating YSP outcomes on limited occasions Poor = RPE is not communicating YSP outcomes
SG02 – Formalised and sustained cross-organisational collaborative planning and management (KEQ 5.2)	EOS3 – There is increased collaboration between RPEs and Traditional Owners (KEQ 4.3)	Participation of RPEs and Traditional Owners in YCC forums	Evaluation Survey – Q7 How well is the Yarra Collaboration Committee (YCC) supporting implementation of the Yarra Strategic Plan in terms of collaboration, knowledge exchange and sharing of work and opportunities? Evaluation Survey – Q8 Please assess your organisation's participation and contribution to the YCC over the last year? Also covered through Q11, Q12, Q13 below	RPE actively participates in YCC and gets value out of their participation	Good = RPE participates actively in the majority of YCC meetings and events Fair = RPE participates in some YCC meetings and events Poor = RPE is absent from most YCC meetings and events
	MS1 – The proportion of projects being proposed and implemented that are collaborative and multi-partner is increasing (KEQ 3.1)	Proportion of projects co-funded, co-designed and implemented by RPEs & Traditional Owners	Activities Tracker – lists activities undertaken by RPEs that are co-funded, co-designed and co-delivered.	Proportion of activities that are co-funded, co-designed and co-delivered is increasing	Good = more than 70% of listed activities are co-funded, co-designed and co-delivered Fair = more than 30% of listed activities are co-funded, co-designed and co-delivered Poor = less than 30% of listed activities are co-funded, co-designed and co-delivered

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
		Quality of collaboration in YSP implementation	<p>Evaluation Survey – Q11a When considering all of your organisations' activities within the YSP area, how would you rate the quality of collaboration with Traditional Owner corporations?</p> <p>Q11b When considering all of your organisations' activities within the YSP area, how would you rate the quality of collaboration with other responsible public entities?</p>	RPE is collaborating extensively with other RPEs and Traditional Owner corporations	<p>Good = RPE has extensive levels of collaboration</p> <p>Fair = RPE has moderate levels of collaboration</p> <p>Poor = RPE has minimal levels of collaboration</p>
		Continuous improvement in collaboration	<p>Evaluation Survey – Q12a Do you think the quality of collaboration with Traditional Owner corporations is improving?</p> <p>Q12b Do you think the quality of collaboration with other responsible public entities is improving?</p> <p>Evaluation Survey – Q13a Is there anything that your organisation could do differently in the year ahead to improve the extent and quality of collaboration with Traditional Owner corporations?</p>	RPE shows continuous improvement in their collaboration with other RPEs and Traditional Owner corporations	<p>Good = RPE is improving their organisation's level of collaboration</p> <p>Fair = RPE is looking to improve their organisation's level of collaboration</p> <p>Poor = RPE is not looking to improve their organisation's level of collaboration</p>

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
			Q13b Is there anything that your organisation could do differently in the year ahead to improve the extent and quality of collaboration with other responsible public entities?		
	IO3 – The YSP decision-making framework and other shared tools and protocols are actively used to guide planning and action (KEQ 2.3)	Use of the YSP decision-making framework	Evaluation Survey – Q9 Has your organisation embedded the decision-making framework into your planning and delivery of activities? Evaluation Survey – Q10 How often did you use the decision-making framework on YSP-related projects in the last 12 months?	RPE is using the decision-making framework to guide their planning and activities	Good = RPE is using the decision-making framework for most activities Fair = RPE is using the decision-making framework for some activities Poor = RPE is not using the decision-making framework
SGO3 – Traditional Owners are decision makers and delivery agents on their Country alongside local and state authorities (KEQ 5.3)	EOS4 – There is increased participation of Traditional Owner’s in design and implementation of YSP initiatives (KEQ 4.4)	Traditional Owner participation in YSP activities at different stages	Activities Tracker – lists activities undertaken by RPEs that include Traditional Owners as partners.	RPE is supporting Traditional Owner participation in YSP activities	Good = RPE is supporting Traditional Owner participation in most activities Fair = RPE is supporting Traditional Owner participation in some activities Poor = RPE is not supporting Traditional Owner participation
		Knowledge sharing to facilitate Traditional Owner participation in decision-making and delivery	Evaluation Survey – Q14 When considering projects in the YSP area that your organisation proposed or implemented, how	RPE is embracing the inclusion of Traditional Owner science and culture in their activities	Good = RPE is embracing the inclusion of Traditional Owner science and culture in most of their activities

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
			<p>often was Traditional Owner science and culture considered?</p> <p>Survey – Q15 How do you think the quality of projects proposed and delivered through the YSP implementation is improving through inclusion of Traditional Owner science and culture?</p>		<p>Fair = RPE is considering the inclusion of Traditional Owner science and culture in some of their activities</p> <p>Poor = RPE is not considering the inclusion of Traditional Owner science and culture in their activities</p>
		<p>Knowledge and resource sharing activities supporting and nurturing partnerships with Traditional Owners</p>	<p>Evaluation Survey – Q16 Please describe the support your organisation has provided over the last 12 months to nurture partnerships with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC) and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC)</p>	<p>RPE is supporting knowledge and resource sharing activities with Traditional Owners</p>	<p>Good = RPE is providing substantial support for knowledge and resource sharing activities</p> <p>Fair = RPE is providing some support for knowledge and resource sharing activities</p> <p>Poor = RPE is providing no support for knowledge and resource sharing activities</p>
	<p>MS2 – Partnership agreements between RPEs and Traditional Owners are established and embedded (KEQ 3.2)</p>	<p>Partnership agreements with Traditional Owners and/or Reconciliation Action Plans</p>	<p>Evaluation Survey – Q18 Please list any Reconciliation Action Plans, partnership agreements and other formal agreements in place (or in preparation) between your organisation and either WWCHAC or BLCAC, that contribute to the YSP.</p>	<p>RPE has partnership agreements with Traditional Owners and Reconciliation Action Plan for the organisation</p>	<p>Good = RPE has partnership agreements with Traditional Owners and Reconciliation Action Plan for the organisation in place</p> <p>Fair = RPE is developing partnership agreements with Traditional Owners and Reconciliation Action Plan for the organisation</p>

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
					Poor = RPE has no partnership agreements or Reconciliation Action Plan for the organisation
	MS3 – Traditional Owners are increasingly involved in decision-making and management of parklands on their Country (KEQ 3.3)	Partnership agreements with Traditional Owners involving management of parklands	Evaluation Survey – Q18 Please list any Reconciliation Action Plans, partnership agreements and other formal agreements in place (or in preparation) between your organisation and either WWCHAC or BLCAC, that contribute to the YSP.	RPE has partnership agreements with Traditional Owners for parklands management (or land management activities)	Good = RPE has partnership agreements with Traditional Owners for parklands management Fair = RPE is developing partnership agreements with Traditional Owners for parklands management Poor = RPE has no partnership agreements with Traditional Owners for parklands management
	IO2 – There is dedicated resourcing to support the participation of Traditional Owners (KEQ 2.2)	Resourcing in support of Traditional Owner participation	Evaluation Survey – Q17 Please provide an overall assessment of support from your organisation to Traditional Owner Corporations to participate in YSP activities.	RPE has made available resourcing for Traditional Owners to develop capacity for YSP activities	Good = RPE has made available substantial resources to develop capacity for YSP activities Fair = RPE has made available some resources to develop capacity for YSP activities Poor = RPE has not made available resources to develop capacity for YSP activities

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
		Continuous improvement in capacity building and participation	Evaluation Survey – Q19 Is there anything that your organisation could do differently in the year ahead to better support Traditional Owner Corporations in capacity building and participation in YSP related activities?	RPE shows continuous improvement in support for capacity building and participation	Good = RPE is improving their organisation's level of support Fair = RPE is looking to improve their organisation's level of support Poor = RPE is not looking to improve their organisation's level of support
SG04 – The rich heritage of the Birrarung and its stories is acknowledged, protected and commemorated (KEQ 5.4)	MS6 - Sites and areas of cultural and historical significance, as well as historical river and land-based practices, are increasingly protected, recognised and celebrated (KEQ 3.6)	Spatial coverage and completeness of cultural value studies	Traditional Owner Corporations – Cultural value studies and other Traditional Owner developed Country management plans.	Coverage of cultural values assessments within Yarra Strategic Plan area is sufficient	Good = program of cultural values assessments is exceeding expectations Fair = program of cultural values assessments is meeting expectations Poor = program of cultural values assessments is not meeting expectations
		Aboriginal cultural heritage place registrations	Information Systems – place registrations stored in ACHRIS, which can be searched for the YSP area.	Number of place registrations stored in ACHRIS is increasing annually from 179 in 2018	Good = additional place registrations have been entered and information provided to relevant organisations Fair = planning to enter additional place registrations Poor = no increase in number of place registrations

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
		Interpretive sites installed and educational programs provided	Lead Agency – progress in delivering Action 24 (interpretive sites) and Action 25 (educational programs).	Number of interpretive sites installed and educational programs provided is increasing annually	<p>Good = additional interpretive sites installed or educational programs have been provided</p> <p>Fair = additional interpretive sites installed or educational programs are planned</p> <p>Poor = no additional interpretive sites installed or educational programs planned or provided</p>
		Holistic heritage assessment reports	Lead Agency – progress in delivering Action 28 (holistic heritage assessments).	Number of holistic heritage assessment reports provided is increasing annually	<p>Good = additional holistic heritage assessment reports have been provided</p> <p>Fair = additional holistic heritage assessment reports are planned</p> <p>Poor = no additional holistic heritage assessment reports planned or provided</p>
		Heritage overlays or other mechanisms used to protect sites of significance	Local Councils as planning authority – knowledge of recent changes to planning protection mechanisms for heritage values.	Number of sites protected by heritage overlays or other mechanisms are increasing annually	<p>Good = additional sites protected by heritage overlay</p> <p>Fair = additional sites protected by heritage overlay are planned</p> <p>Poor = no additional sites protected by heritage overlays</p>

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
SG05 – Land, floodplains and billabongs are protected to achieve greater biodiversity and water quality in the Birrarung (KEQ 5.5)	EOS5 - Terrestrial and aquatic habitats are improved, connected and maintained resulting in improved biodiversity, increased resilience and net gain in their overall extent and condition (KEQ 4.5)	Riparian vegetation extent and quality for HWS Yarra sub-catchments	HWS reporting for Yarra sub-catchments, lower, middle and upper rural – vegetation extent and quality based on remote sensing data and field surveys (mapping).	HWS performance indicator for all three sub-catchments are on track – rivers vegetation extent and quality	Good = performance indicators for all three sub-catchments are on track Fair = performance indicators for one or two sub-catchments are on track Poor = performance indicators for all three sub-catchments are off track
		Wetland buffer condition for HWS priority wetlands	HWS reporting for 11 priority wetlands along Yarra River – condition score based on average width of buffer and the percentage of the wetland perimeter with a buffer.	HWS performance indicator for Yarra wetlands are on track	Good = performance indicator on track for most wetlands Fair = performance indicators for half the wetlands on track Poor = performance indicators for half wetlands is off track
		Macroinvertebrates LUMaR index for HWS Yarra sub-catchments – lower, middle and upper	HWS mid and end of strategy reporting for LUMaR (land use macroinvertebrate response) index, which combines an observed/expected ratio of macroinvertebrate families with taxon-sensitivity weightings, from available sampling.	HWS performance indicators for Yarra sub-catchment is improving	Good = LUMaR index is improving across sub-catchments Fair = LUMaR index is stable across sub-catchments Poor = LUMaR index is declining across sub-catchments
		Platypus occurrence (Yarra River main stem)	HWS mid and end of strategy reporting for platypus – based on observation data, eDNA surveys and live trapping where available.	HWS performance indicator for health of platypus community in the Yarra	Good = health of platypus community is improving

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
				River mainstem are improving	Fair = health of platypus community is stable Poor = health of platypus community is declining
		Healthy Country assessments and reports undertaken by Traditional Owners	Traditional Owner Corporations – outputs from Healthy Country assessments and reports undertaken by Traditional Owners.	Healthy Country assessments being used to show improvement in Country	Good = Healthy Country assessments show improvement in Country Fair = Healthy Country assessments undertaken but improvement not evident Poor = no evidence of improvement in Country
	EOS6 - Populations of native fish including threatened species are improved (KEQ 4.6)	Native fish populations	HWS mid and end of strategy reporting for fish based on catch surveys, monitoring of 15 priority species at 12 fixed locations in Yarra (includes river blackfish).	HWS performance indicator for health of native fish population in the Yarra River is improving	Good = health of native fish population is improving Fair = health of native fish population is stable Poor = health of native fish population is declining
	EOS9 - Waterway condition/water quality is improved in accordance with targets set in Healthy	Stormwater – volume harvested and infiltrated	HWS mid and end of strategy reporting for Yarra sub-catchments – based on calculating increase in impervious area and volume of stormwater runoff from subdivisions, and volume harvested and infiltrated through new projects to offset impact	HWS performance indicator for volume of stormwater harvested and infiltrated in the Yarra catchment is improving	Good = volume of stormwater harvested and infiltrated is improving Fair = volume of stormwater harvested and infiltrated is stable Poor = volume of stormwater harvested and infiltrated is declining

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
	Waterways Strategy (KEQ 4.9)				
	MS5 - There are improvements in the water quality and hydrology of the river. (KEQ 3.5)	Water quality index (as designed for Yarra and Bays Report Card)	MW/EPA ambient water quality monitoring program – multiple parameters used for water quality index at 4 Yarra River sites – Kew, Warrandyte, Healesville and Yarra Junction – published annually.	Trend in water quality index at 4 sites – Kew, Warrandyte, Healesville and Yarra Junction – is improving	Good = water quality at 4 sites is improving Fair = water quality at 4 sites is stable Poor = water quality at 4 sites is declining
		Water for the environment – volume available and compliance with seasonal watering plan	VEWH seasonal watering plan – includes performance and watering outcomes over previous 12-18 months from February.	Seasonal watering plan is delivered as planned	Good = seasonal watering plan is delivered in full Fair = seasonal watering plan is mostly delivered as planned Poor = seasonal watering plan is not delivered as planned
	IO4 - Observed declines in ecological, cultural, social and visual values of the Birrarung are being mitigated. (KEQ 2.4)	Healthy Country assessments and reports undertaken by Traditional Owners inform Country (land management) plans	Traditional Owner Corporations – outputs from Healthy Country assessments and reports undertaken by Traditional Owners.	Healthy Country assessments are increasingly informing Country (land management) plans for Yarra River land	Good = Healthy Country assessments are being used to develop Country plans Fair = planning for Healthy Country assessments is in progress Poor = no progress with Healthy Country assessments
	MS4 - Participation in land management	Participation rates in grants programs and area	HWS reporting for Yarra catchment – MWs incentives program Liveable Communities,	Participation rates in grants programs and area of land	Good = participation rates are improving Fair = participation rates are stable

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
	activities by landowners, recognised Traditional Owners and general public increases. (KEQ 3.4)	of land improved (hectares)	Liveable Waterways includes numbers of applicants, participation and area of land improved. Data from the grants database can be extracted annually for YSP area, or for sub- catchments.	improved (hectares) is increasing in comparison to previous year	Poor = participation rates are declining
		Traditional Owners participation score by self-assessment for land management	Traditional Owner Corporations – self assessment as recorded in their evaluation survey	Traditional Owners self-assessed score for participation in land management is improving	Good = Traditional Owners have a maximum level of participation in land management Fair = Traditional Owners have a moderate level of participation in land management Poor = Traditional Owners have a minimum level of participation in land management
SG06 – Improved river parklands support community wellbeing and strengthen the relationship between the river	EOS7 - Areas of parklands are increased to improve habitat connectivity and reduce fragmentation (KEQ 4.7)	Area of habitat protected and restored on Yarra River land	Information Systems – area of parkland compiled from data held by DEECA, local councils and Parks Victoria. Improvements in connectivity (in terms biodiversity) dependent on studies associated with land acquisition and revegetation projects.	Habitat protection and restoration is improving connectivity and reducing fragmentation based on 2018 numbers	Good = area of protected and restored habitat is increasing Fair = area of protected and restored habitat is stable Poor = area of protected and restored habitat is declining

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
and its community and visitors (KEQ 5.6)	EOS8 - Opportunities for access to the river, community connection, recreation and cultural awareness are increased and enhanced whilst improving and protecting biodiversity (KEQ 4.8)	New and upgraded access to the river protects biodiversity	Lead Agency – progress in delivering Action 32, baseline measures of river access, community connection, recreation and cultural awareness, and opportunities for improvement.	Post construction assessments of new and upgraded access to the river show that impact to biodiversity is minimised	Good = post construction assessments of new and upgraded access show that impact to biodiversity is minimal Fair = post construction assessments of new and upgraded access show that impact to biodiversity is moderate Poor = post construction assessments of new and upgraded access show continuing impact to biodiversity
		Public's perception of access and wellbeing	MW Community Perceptions of Waterways study – provides satisfaction scores for access, connection and infrastructure associated with waterways in the Yarra catchment (but not individual parks).	Satisfaction scores for access, connection and infrastructure associated with waterways are improving	Good = satisfaction scores are improving Fair = satisfaction scores are stable Poor = satisfaction scores are declining
		Traditional Owners access for cultural practice	Traditional Owner Corporations – self assessment as recorded in their evaluation survey	Traditional Owners self-assessed score for access to the river for cultural practice is improving	Good = Traditional Owners have a maximum level of access for cultural practice Fair = Traditional Owners have a moderate level of access for cultural practice

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
					Poor = Traditional Owners have a minimum level of access for cultural practice
	MS3 - Traditional Owners are increasingly involved in decision-making and management of parklands on their Country (KEQ 3.3)	Partnership arrangements with Traditional Owners involving management of parklands	Traditional Owner Corporations – self assessment as recorded in their evaluation survey	Number of projects that Traditional Owner are leading or partnering on in the management of parklands is increasing	Good = Number of projects is increasing Fair = Number of projects is stable Poor = Number of projects is decreasing
SG07 – The Birrarung’s natural beauty, landscapes and views are protected and celebrated (KEQ 5.7)	MS7 - Landscape character significance including landform features and views, is documented, measured and increasingly protected through planning policy. (KEQ 3.7)	Awareness of significant landscapes, landform features and views	Planning will report progress on mapping of significant landscapes, landform features and views. The 2018 baseline mapping of significant landscapes, landform features and views should be updated in 2024.	Evidence shows that significant landscapes, landform features and views are continuing to be protected from development	Good = Significant features and views continue to be protected, and are enhanced by approved developments Fair = Significant features and views continue to be protected, with minor impact from approved developments Poor = Significant features and views continue to be protected, with moderate impact from approved developments
	IO5 - Yarra landscape planning control actions being	Incorporation of the YSP as background document in local and state planning policy and alignment of	Lead Agency – progress in delivering Action 39, implementing land use framework.	The YSP is incorporated as background document in local and state planning policy and planning	Good = YSP is incorporated as background document and planning

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Strategic Goal	Outcome	Performance Indicator	Information source	Measure of success	Rubric
	implemented (KEQ 2.5)	planning schemes to the land use framework		schemes are incrementally aligned to the land use framework	schemes amendments for land use framework approved Fair = YSP is incorporated as background document and planning schemes amendments for land use framework planned Poor = No progress on planning schemes amendments

Note: Measures of success and rubrics will benefit from further testing and for those measures requiring a subjective assessment additional guidance may be required. As such the contents of this table should be considered as work in progress.

4 Key evaluation questions

Evaluation refers to the analysis of data and information to make judgements about the merit, worth or value of a project, program, strategy, policy or intervention. For the BBBU/YSP, evaluation focuses on *process, achievement, impact and legacy*.

Evaluation will occur at periodic intervals throughout the life of the BBBU/YSP (Figure 1). The first evaluation (2 years) focuses on progress towards achievement of activities and immediate outcomes in the program logic. The second evaluation (5 years) focuses on progress towards achievement of the mid-strategy outcomes. The final evaluation (8 years) focuses on the realisation or otherwise of the end-of-strategy outcomes, along with lessons to be applied to the development of the next strategic plan.

Progress towards the community vision (50 years) will be reflected in the degree of achievement of the plan's strategic goals and performance objectives. As such, formal reporting on progress towards the community vision will be done as part of the final evaluation (8 years) through the 'legacy' key evaluation questions that consider the achievements or otherwise of the plan's strategic goals and performance objectives.

In addition, the 5-yearly 'State of the Yarra and its Parklands' in 2028 will provide an additional opportunity to evaluate progress towards some of the longer-term outcomes of the BBBU/YSP and progress towards the 50-year community vision.

The 'key evaluation questions' (KEQs) set out in Table 2 guide the evaluation process, setting boundaries and providing structure for evaluation. The questions are categorised into four broad areas: process, achievement, impact and legacy.

The KEQs can be linked back to the strategic goals and outcomes set out in the evaluation framework (Table 1). The framework also provides performance indicators and measures of success for the strategic goals and outcomes.

For each evaluation question, the available data will be analysed against the expected response. In some cases, this will involve comparison to a 'baseline' of existing data and/or it may involve comparison to a 'trigger level' or threshold of concern. The rubrics set out in Table 1 provide a simplified process for reporting against the strategic goals and outcomes.

Table 2 Key evaluation questions for evaluation of the BBBU/YSP

Type of question	Potential KEQ	Sub evaluation questions
<p>Process</p> <p><i>Evaluation of the extent to which the YSP actions have been achieved.</i></p>	<p>KEQ 1. Were relevant YSP activities and actions undertaken?</p>	<p>KEQ 1.1. To what extent were the YSP actions and activities delivered as per the implementation plan?</p>
<p>Achievement</p> <p><i>Evaluation of the contribution the YSP has made towards the Immediate and Mid strategy Outcomes.</i></p>	<p>KEQ 2. Have the Immediate outcomes been achieved?</p>	<p>KEQ 2.1 Are organisation’s role and progress in supporting YSP implementation reported in formal and informal communications?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 2.2 Is there dedicated resourcing to support the participation of Traditional Owners?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 2.3 Is the YSP decision making framework and other shared tools and protocols actively used to guide planning and action?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 2.4 Are observed declines in ecological, cultural, social and visual values of the Birrarung being mitigated?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 2.5 Are the Yarra landscape planning control actions being implemented?</p>
	<p>KEQ 3. Have the Mid-strategy outcomes been achieved?</p>	<p>KEQ 3.1 Is the proportion of projects being proposed and implemented that are collaborative and multi-partner increasing?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 3.2 Have partnership agreements between RPEs and Traditional Owners been established and embedded?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 3.3 Are Traditional Owners increasingly involved in decision making and management of parklands on their Country?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 3.4 Has participation in land management activities by land owners, recognised Traditional Owners and wider community increased?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 3.5 Have there been improvements in the water quality and hydrology of the river?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 3.6 Are sites and areas of cultural and historic significance, and historical river and land-based practises, increasingly protected, recognised and celebrated?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 3.7 Are landscape charter significance including landform features and views documented, measured and increasingly protected through planning policy?</p>
<p>Impact</p> <p><i>Evaluation of the contribution the YSP has made towards the End-of-Strategy Outcomes</i></p>	<p>KEQ 4. Have the End-of - Strategy Outcomes been realised?</p>	<p>KEQ 4.1 Are the YSP principles understood, valued and operationalised at all levels of the organisation?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 4.2 Is there commitment and ongoing resourcing for YSP implementation?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 4.3 Is there increased collaboration between RPEs and Traditional Owners?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 4.4 Has the participation of Traditional Owners in the design and implementation of YSP initiatives increased?</p> <hr/> <p>KEQ 4.5 Have terrestrial and aquatic habitats been improved, connected and maintained resulting in improved biodiversity, increased resilience and net gain in their overall extent and condition?</p>

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Type of question	Potential KEQ	Sub evaluation questions
		KEQ 4.6 Have populations of native fish including threatened species improved?
		KEQ 4.7 Have areas of parklands increased to improve habitat connectivity and reduce fragmentation?
		KEQ 4.8 Have opportunities for access to the river, community connection, recreation and cultural awareness been increased and enhanced whilst improving and protecting biodiversity?
		KEQ 4.9 Has waterway condition/water quality improved in accordance with targets set in the Healthy Waterways Strategy?
Legacy <i>Evaluate the legacy of the YSP. Have the Strategic goals and objectives been delivered? Has progress been made towards the Vision?</i>	KEQ 5. Have the Strategic Goals and Objectives been achieved?	KEQ 5.1 Have organisational practices changed to reflect a sustained commitment to implementing the YSP? KEQ 5.2 Has cross-organisational collaborative planning and management been formalised and sustained? KEQ 5.3 Are Traditional Owners decision-makers and delivery agents on their Country, alongside local and state authorities? KEQ 5.4 Is the rich heritage of the Birrarung and its stories acknowledged, protected and commemorated? KEQ 5.5 Are land, floodplains and billabongs protected to achieve greater biodiversity and water quality in the Birrarung? KEQ 5.6 Have improved river parklands supported community wellbeing and strengthened the relationship between the river and its community and visitors? KEQ 5.7 Has the Birrarung's natural beauty, landscapes and views been protected and celebrated?
	KEQ6. Are we on track to meet the 50-year Community Vision?	KEQ 6.1 To what extent have Strategic Goals and Objectives been realised? KEQ 6.2 Is the Birrarung seen as being managed as one integrated and natural living entity? KEQ 6.3 Are the community satisfied with management of the Birrarung?

5 Reporting

The BBBU/YSP adopts an adaptive management approach, which involves multiple learning ‘loops’. Implementation planning processes are adjusted annually to improve implementation in line with annual reporting. Further adjustment can occur following the 2-, 5- and 8-yearly evaluations. The strategy assumptions, models (such as the program logic), and the BBBU/YSP design can be re-evaluated following the 8-year end-of-strategy evaluation.

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.

While there is a desire to keep the effectiveness of the BBBU/YSP 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.

In addition, the Commissioner for the Environment conducts ‘State of the Yarra and its Parklands’ reporting every 5 years. This information is a key piece for understanding the longer term outcomes from the BBBU/YSP.

Some stakeholders are likely to seek summary reports, such as a webpage progress report (dashboard), with interest pieces or case studies. It is important to provide reports suitable for this broader audience. However, this kind of reporting does not amount to an investigative evaluation (although it may be underpinned by one). The rubrics presented in Table 1, may be appropriate for development of summary reports.

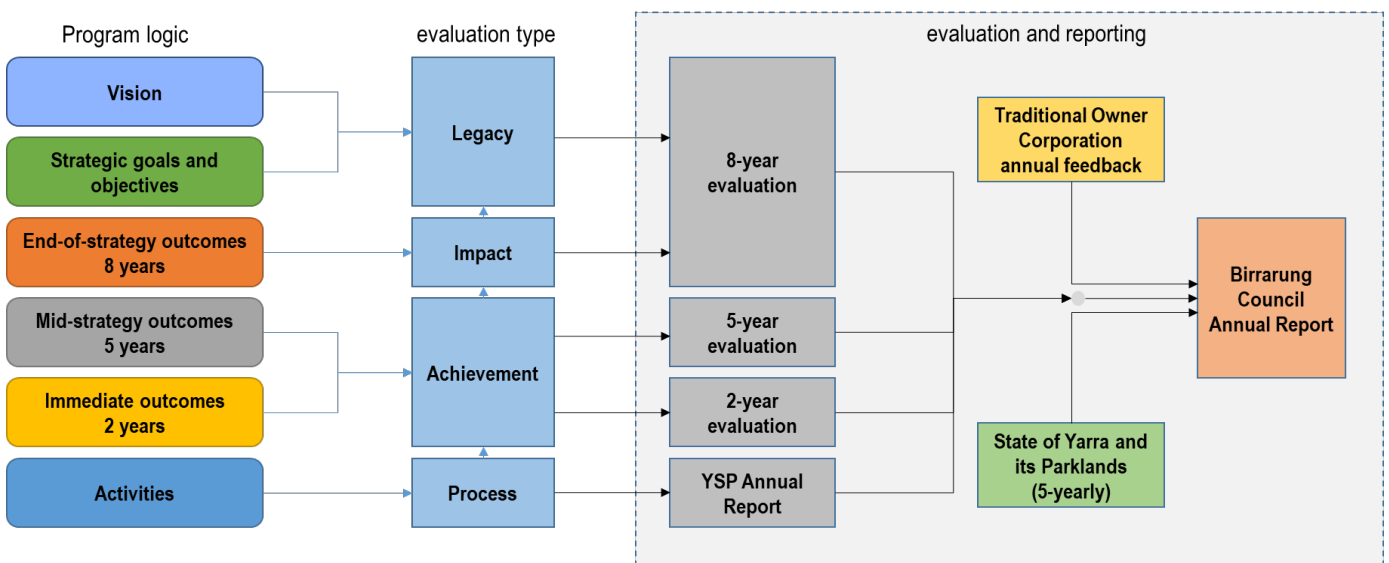


Figure 3 Alignment of program logic with evaluation type and reporting

5.1 Annual reporting

Annual reporting by the lead agency does not in itself indicate that the BBBU/YSP is achieving its outcomes, but is important for public accountability and to maintain momentum. It also provides one source of data for evaluation.

The Annual Report will be compiled by the lead agency. Content is drawn from information and knowledge gained through the YCC, progress reporting of actions, and the annual evaluation survey responses from RPEs and Traditional Owner Corporations. Information provided by RPEs includes progress on their activities as listed in the Activities Schedule, partnership arrangements with Traditional Owners, use of the decision-making framework, and alignment of their business with the intent of the BBBU/YSP. An outline of the content for the BBBU/YSP Annual Report is set out in Table 3.

Table 3 Structure for BBBU/YSP Annual Report

Purpose:	To demonstrate program accountability and report on progress to Birrarung Council, Traditional Owners and RPEs, and to inform ongoing implementation of the YSP.
Audience:	Birrarung Council, Traditional Owners, RPEs and other organisations undertaking activities (and subsequently to the Minister and Parliament as an attachment to the Birrarung Council's annual report)
Frequency:	Annual – submit to Birrarung Council by mid-September
Content:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. About the Plan and its implementation 2. Implementation priorities in past year <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Addressing issues raised by Birrarung Council b. Progress with transformative projects c. Indicators of organisational commitment and collaboration d. Use of the decision-making framework 3. Status of Actions – Part 1 and Part 2 (set out in BBBU/YSP) 4. Status of Activities – operations of RPEs (as per Activities Schedule), with highlights of progress and issues managed 5. Next steps – areas for improvement.
Publish:	Word and PDF downloadable from Melbourne Water website after tabling in Parliament.

The timeline for preparing the BBBU/YSP annual report is shown in Figure 4. The process commences with the evaluation survey being sent to RPEs in mid to late June, for response by third week of July. Their responses inform the draft annual report, which is circulated to YCC members for review in early August. Based on their feedback, the report is updated and reissued to YCC members for a final review and

organisational approval. YCC members are asked, as part of the second review, to confirm that the report is acceptable for submitting to the Birrarung Council and for tabling in Parliament.

The BBBU/YSP Project Team works closely with the Traditional Owner Corporations, DEECA and the Birrarung Council through this process to ensure awareness of data being provided, progress with compiling the report and any issues emerging.

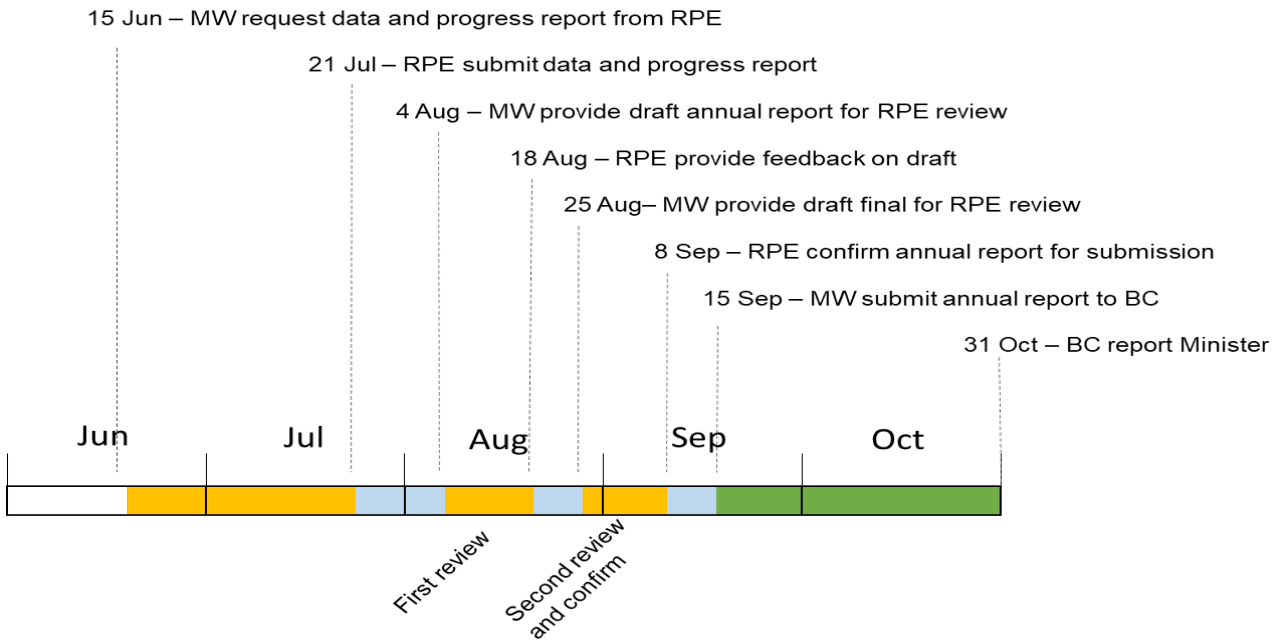


Figure 4: Timeline for preparing BBBU/YSP Annual Report

5.2 Linking reporting to improvement

The YCC and Melbourne Water as the lead agency will use the monitoring, evaluation and reporting to improve implementation of the BBBU/YSP over time. The continued operation of the YCC within its current governance framework, together with support from Traditional Owner Corporations and individual RPEs allows adaptive management to be a feature of the BBBU/YSP implementation.

Where annual reporting and feedback from the Birrarung Council reveals an area requiring improvement, the lead agency and YCC members will identify how improvements might be gained. Reporting improvements in implementation and delivery to the community can be provided through the annual report and other communication channels.

5.3 Reporting for Traditional Owner outcomes

5.3.1 Context

The BBBU/YSP provides a commitment to enable Traditional Owners to practice their customs and land management practices on their Country. This commitment requires RPEs to strengthen their engagement with and support for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

Caring for Country is an important land and water justice aspiration for Traditional Owners, which will be supported by actively including the Traditional Owner Corporations in developing and implementing BBBU/YSP actions on their Country, including implementing the land use framework.

A reporting process is required to support and track participation by Traditional Owner Corporations in implementing the BBBU/YSP. This process involves customising metrics based on the relevant outcomes set out in the program logic, together with more frequent indicators related to participation in the governance and day-to-day implementation led by the lead agency.

5.3.2 Outcomes, indicators and data sources

The alignment of performance indicators with Traditional Owner outcomes from the program logic are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Traditional Owner outcomes and performance indicators

Outcome	Performance indicator
EOS3 – There is increased collaboration between RPEs and Traditional Owners	Participation of RPEs and Traditional Owners in YCC forums
EOS4 – There is increased participation of Traditional Owners in design and implementation of YSP initiatives	Participation in decision-making Participation in knowledge and resource sharing
MS2 – Partnership agreements between RPEs and Traditional Owners are established and embedded	Progress with reconciliation action plans and partnership agreements
MS3 – Traditional Owners are increasingly involved in decision-making and management of parklands on their Country	Progress with partnership agreements for land management (e.g., parks)
IO2 – There is dedicated resourcing to support participation of Traditional Owners	Dedicated resourcing to support participation

Outcome	Performance indicator
MS6 – Sites and areas of cultural and historical significance, as well as historical river and land-based practices, are increasingly protected, recognised and celebrated	Spatial coverage and completeness of cultural values studies
EOS5 and IO4 – Terrestrial and aquatic habitats are improved, connected and maintained resulting in improved biodiversity, increased resilience and net gain in their overall extent and condition. Observed declines in ecological, cultural, social and visual values of the Birrarung are being mitigated	Spatial coverage and completeness of healthy Country assessments
EOS8 – Opportunities for access to the river, community connection, recreation and cultural awareness are increased and enhanced whilst improving and protecting biodiversity	Availability of land and water for cultural practices

Sources of data for reporting include:

- Annual evaluation surveys as completed by RPEs and Traditional Owner Corporations
- Data derived from the Actions Tracker and Activities Schedule (both documents are live lists regularly updated by RPEs)
- Updates provided by Traditional Owner Corporations covering progress with development of partnership agreements, participation in decision-making and attendance at BBBU related activities
- Other system derived metrics associated with cultural heritage.

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Document history

Date	Reviewed/ Actioned By	Version	Action
20/7/23	R Molloy, Implementation Lead	1	Draft for comment by MERF Review working group
12/9/23	R Molloy, Implementation Lead	2	Draft Final awaiting approval to publish by Yarra Collaboration Committee
8/3/24	R Molloy, Implementation Lead	3	Included revisions for Traditional Owner outcomes reporting