

The Draft Yarra Strategic Plan

Bruce Lindsay

17 March 2020

- › What does the YSP do? What must the YSP include? How must it be prepared?
- › Making a submissions and attending the planning panel
- › The YSP is a different type of strategic planning task
- › The problem of abstraction
- › Draft identifies some important, high-level actions

Yarra Strategic Plan

- › YSP is a strategic framework plan that must be prepared under the *Yarra River Protection (wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017*

Yarra Strategic Plan

- › It is the operational centrepiece of the new legal regime that applies to the Yarra River corridor

Yarra Strategic Plan

- › The YSP must be prepared by a 'lead agency' (Melbourne Water) and it must respond to and include matters set out in section 20–21 of the Act.

Yarra Strategic Plan

- › Within the YSP, there must be, among other things, a ‘long-term community vision’, a Land Use Framework Plan, a decision-making framework, and performance objectives.

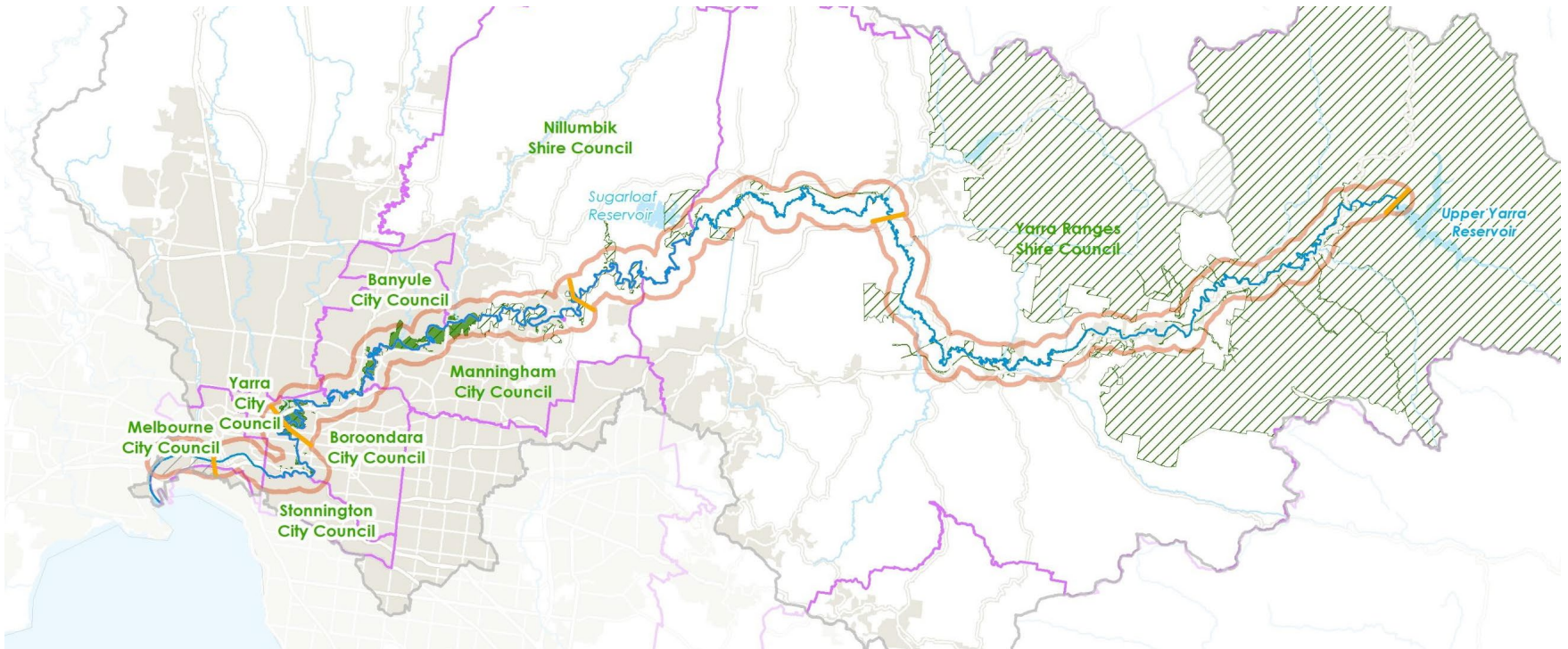
Yarra Strategic Plan

- › In preparing the YSP, the lead agency must to into account the ‘Yarra protection principles’ (Part 2), consider other relevant laws and policies, and achieve best practice in public participation.

Yarra Strategic Plan

- › The YSP applies to ‘Yarra River land’ (ie public lands along the river corridor) and other designated land in the ‘YSP area’ (currently up to 1 km from the river bank).

Yarra Strategic Plan

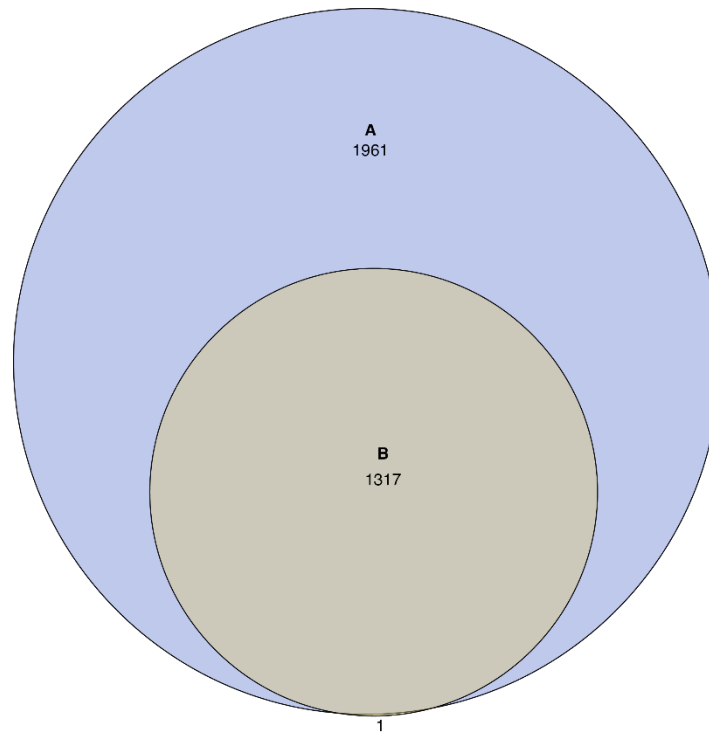


Yarra Strategic Plan

- › YSP must identify any content binding on council and/or public agencies (currently none) – otherwise those bodies must have regard to it in their decision-making

The LUFP and the YSP

- › Land Use Framework Plan is embedded within the YSP.



Building on the Draft YSP

- › LUFZ analogous to a form of ‘master plan’ for use, development and protection of land in the river corridor

Building on the Draft YSP

- › Only submissions on LUFP *not incorporated into a final YSP* by Lead Agency will go to a planning panel.

Building on the Draft YSP

- Consider, in your submissions, those matters that concern land use, development or protection
- Consider also whether you want to make submission or presentation to the planning panel, as well as an initial submission on the whole YSP.

Building on the Draft YSP

- Panel hearings intended to commence late May

A new and different type of planning task

- › YSP is a distinctive form of plan, to be made with unique intentions and considerations in mind:

A new and different type of planning task

- › Overarching intention of the legislation (including the plan) is to achieve a living and healthy river: *Preamble*

A new and different type of planning task

- › Current trajectory of river health is static or declining: *State of the Yarra and its Parklands Report (2018)*

A new and different type of planning task

- › Main concerns are ecological, cultural and social, and amenity outcomes. These are reflected in the proposed performance objectives.

A new and different type of planning task

- › YSP is premised on a form of integrated planning (land–use, water, biodiversity, amenity, culture, etc), leading to trajectories of improvement in river health

A new and different type of planning task

- › If conflicts between objectives and intentions, these should be resolved in favour of 'river health' outcomes, especially ecological and cultural health.

The Draft YSP

- › The problem of scale and discretion

The Draft YSP

- › The actions, strategies, objectives and directions set out in the Draft YSP are often high-level, abstract, and vague.

The Draft YSP

- › In general, the YSP lacks SMART characteristics ('specific, measurable, attributable, responsive and time-bound')

The Draft YSP

- › The effect would be to confer a great deal (excessive?) discretion on various public actors – councils and government agencies – to formulate and implement measures intended to meet 10-year performance objectives (which are themselves relatively vague).

The Draft YSP

- › The technical, scientific, and ‘best available information’ underpinning the YSP is not always clear

The Draft YSP

- › In short, it is difficult to discern, in the Draft YSP, a clearly organised method by which a 10-year trajectory toward ‘river health’ (meeting performance objectives) is to be achieved.

Building on the Draft YSP

- › The Draft YSP does contain actions and intentions that could represent useful platforms for more detailed measures or programs.

Building on the Draft YSP

› For example:

- Restoration and reconnectedness of wetlands in the 'lower rural reach' or in suburban parklands
- Identification and restoration of certain habitat corridors
- Apply integrated water management (IWM) principles to all development
- Performance objectives that include trajectories of improvement

Building on the Draft YSP

- › Little in the Draft YSP to explain how these things will be achieved or what the River Corridor is intended to look like after the 10-year timeframe.

Submissions

› Your submissions should include:

- Background and interests of your organisation (or you individually)
- The content or issues of particular concern to you
- What you want to see the YSP achieve over its 10 year horizon?
- Your opinions on the current content of the Draft YSP, whether these measures would likely achieve outcomes you want to see, and/or what further detail or direction or input you think the Plan needs in order to achieve those outcomes.
- Opinions or knowledge of matters not currently covered in the Draft YSP that you think are important.
- Any further information or knowledge that might provide useful contribution to the planning process

Submissions

- › Be mindful of scale, and target input and ideas to SMART measures that are appropriate to a 10-year timeframe

Submissions

- › Make a written submission either via the online form provided by DELWP: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/help-us-shape-final-10-year-strategic-plan-yarra-river>, or according to your own style, or both.