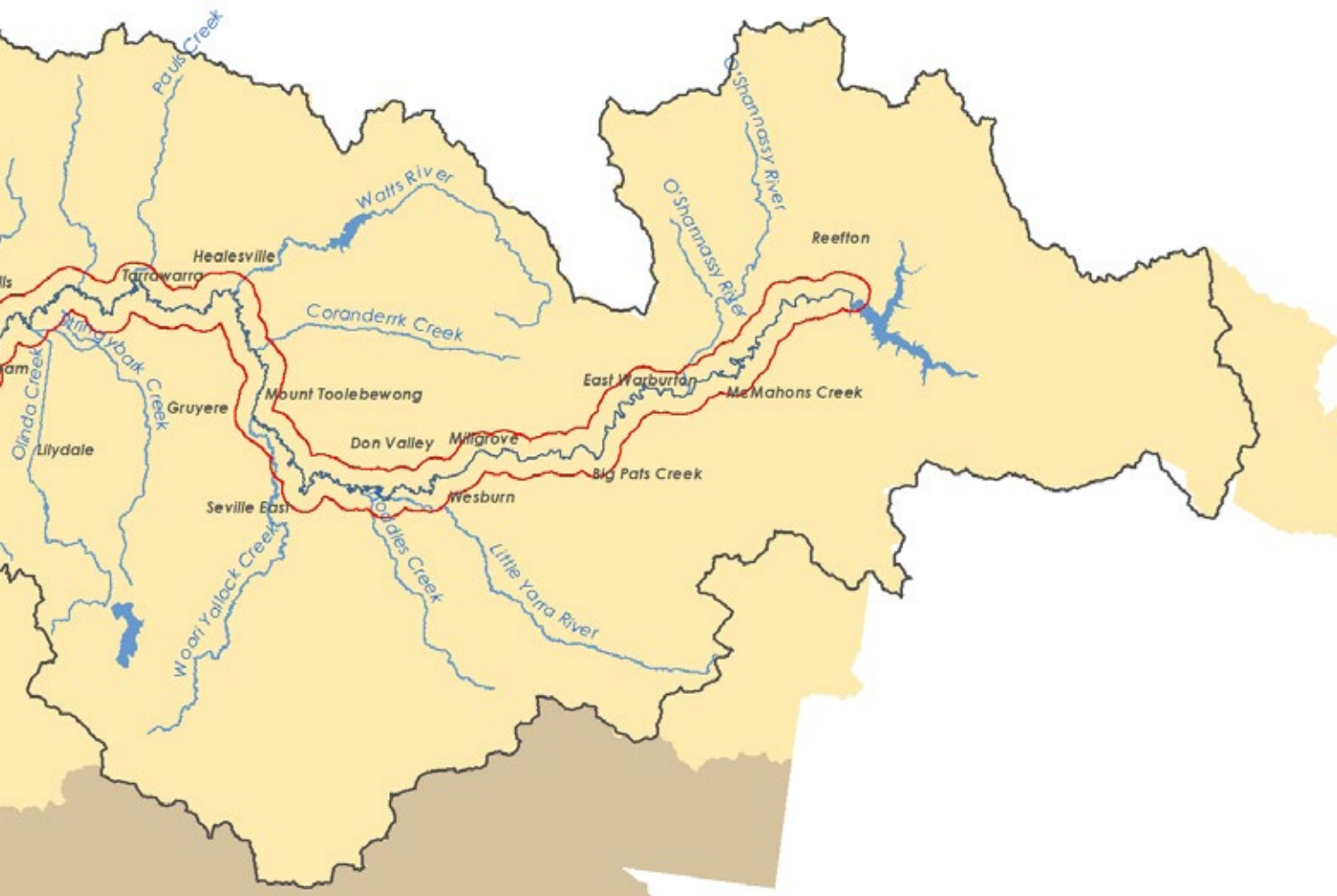







APPENDIX A —
Map showing Registered Aboriginal
Party (RAP) boundaries for
Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural
Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
and Bunurong Land Council
Aboriginal Corporation

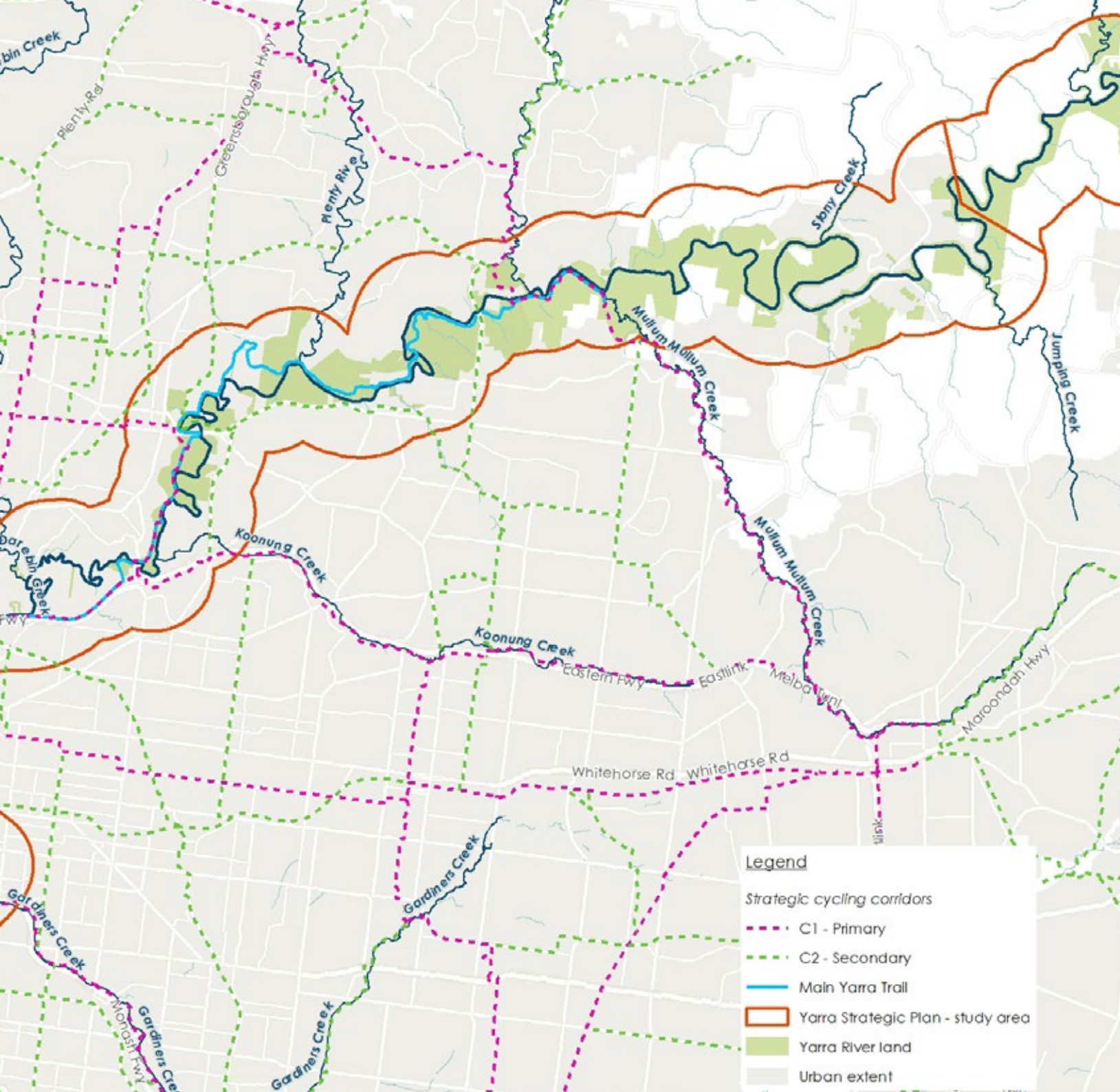




Legend

-  Yarra River
-  Yarra Strategic Plan area
-  Yarra catchment
-  RAP area for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (as at 1 July 2021)
-  RAP area for Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (as at 1 July 2021). The RAP boundary extends into Port Phillip Bay.





Legend

- Strategic cycling corridors
- C1 - Primary
- C2 - Secondary
- Main Yarra Trail
- Yarra Strategic Plan - study area
- Yarra River land
- Urban extent

APPENDIX C —

Community and partner input

In 2017, Melbourne Water was appointed to lead the development of the Yarra Strategic Plan and the Yarra River 50 Year Community Vision. An initial step in developing the project was forming the Yarra Collaboration Committee, which included representatives from the 15 state and local government authorities with responsibilities to care for the river, and representatives of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.

Melbourne Water, in collaboration with the Yarra Collaboration Committee, designed and implemented a detailed four-phase engagement strategy (see **Figure 5**). Further information about the engagement strategy is available on the 'Imagine the Yarra' website (<http://www.imaginetheyarra.com.au>).

Development of the plan has been informed by community feedback, background studies, and complementary strategies and policies already in operation for the Yarra River.

During phase 1 of the engagement strategy, the Yarra River Community Assembly was formed to write the vision for the Yarra. The assembly was made up of 24 people, drawn from communities along the length of the river. The assembly took the findings from the broad community engagement and drafted the vision that sits at the heart of this plan. Members of the assembly came together again in phase 3 and phase 4 to test whether the directions of the draft plan aligned with their vision for the Yarra. At each step, and each iteration of the plan, the assembly's feedback has been incorporated.

The draft Yarra Strategic Plan was released for comment in January 2020. Feedback was gathered using a range of methods, including face-to-face meetings, pop-up events, focus groups and online engagement reaching more than 120,000 community members. Over 300 conversations, together with discussions from focus groups, online survey responses, and 138 written submissions, have contributed to finalising the plan.

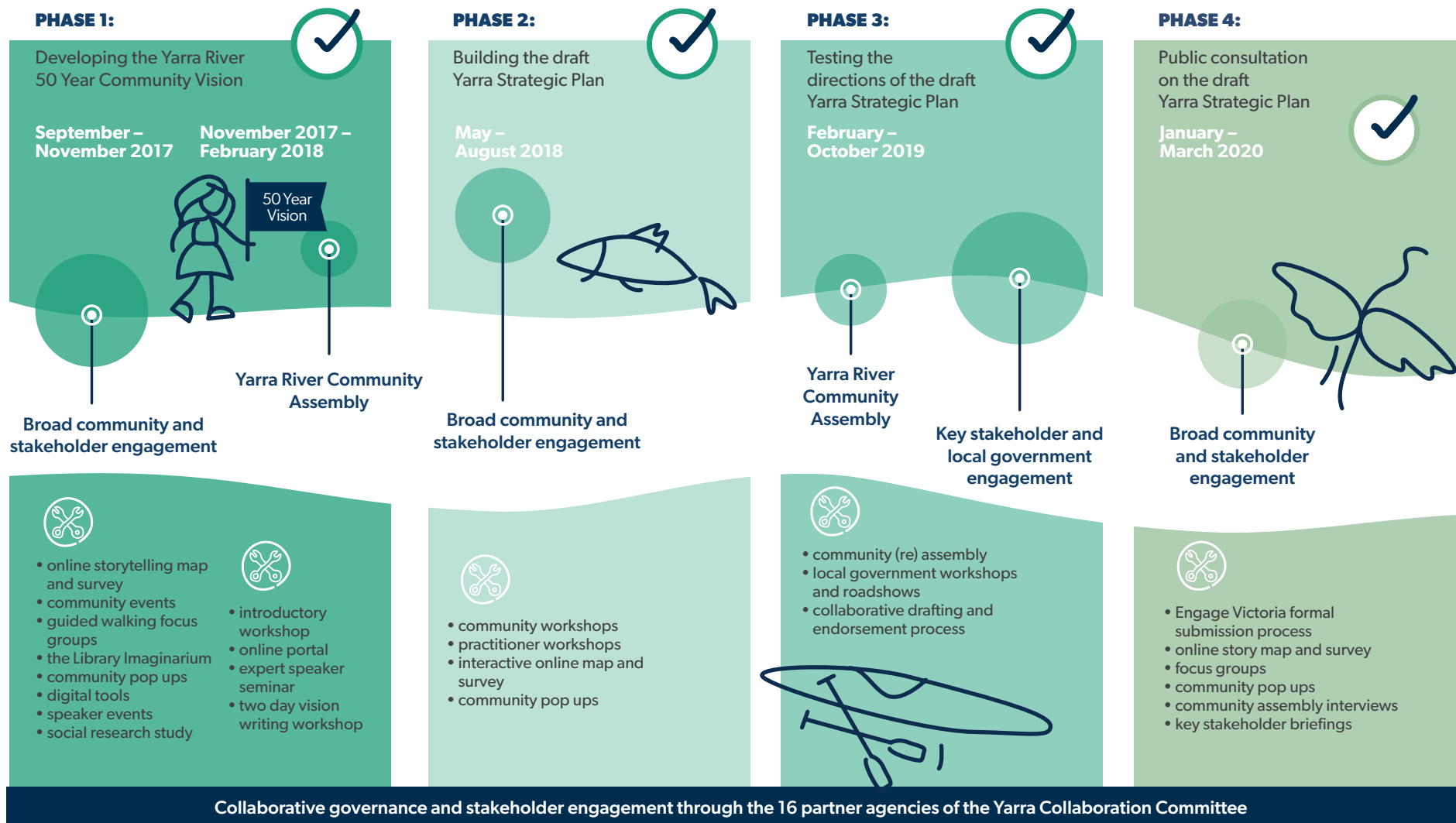


FIGURE 5. Yarra Strategic Plan four-phase engagement strategy

APPENDIX D — Implementation and monitoring of the plan

Implementation of the plan

The Yarra Strategic Plan will come into operation after its approval by the Minister for Water. The state and local government authorities involved in co-designing the plan, in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, will continue to collaborate and work together, with the community, to implement the plan.

An initial 12-month implementation plan has been developed to accompany the Yarra Strategic Plan. The implementation plan:

- incorporates planned and funded projects nominated by responsible public entities that align with the four performance objectives. These projects include capital works, investigations, management plans and strategies, as well as on-ground works and maintenance
- includes funded **priority projects** to quickly begin implementing changes for the river
- draws upon the **decision-making framework** to guide the development and investment in priority and transformative projects
- takes into account existing and relevant strategies and policies (see list available in the documents library on the Imagine the Yarra website).

This 12-month implementation plan will be followed by a rolling three-year implementation plan. The three-year implementation plan will align with the *Healthy Waterways Strategy*, the *Melbourne Open Space Strategy* and the State of the Yarra Parklands Report framework and preparation of local government Council Plans (see **Figure 6**).

The Act specifies that the responsible public entities, which includes organisations represented on the Yarra Collaboration Committee, must report to the lead agency on the implementation of the Yarra Strategic Plan (section 43.1). Based on the information provided, the lead agency

will prepare an annual report for the Birrarung Council, after which it will be provided to the Minister for Water and tabled before each house of parliament.

Responsible public entities will report to the lead agency on activities outlined in the implementation plan. The annual report will represent the individual and collective contributions to the outcomes of the Yarra Strategic Plan. This reporting framework will ensure that projects affecting Yarra River land are examined by the Birrarung Council, and decision-making is balanced with an appropriate accountability mechanism through annual reporting to the Victorian Parliament.

Lead implementing agency

The Minister for Water will nominate one responsible public entity as the lead agency for implementing the plan. The lead agency will:

- enable the Yarra Collaboration Committee to implement the decision-making framework and deliver actions to achieve the 10-year performance objectives
- prepare the three-year rolling implementation plan in partnership with the Yarra Collaboration Committee
- coordinate the preparation of a consolidated annual report, which will outline progress towards delivering the community vision. The report will be developed using information provided by each responsible public entity. They will then submit the report to the Birrarung Council.

The Birrarung Council – the independent voice of the river

In 2018, the Victorian Government established the Birrarung Council as the independent voice of the river. The council is made up of experts in environmental, legal, planning, landscape and public administration, and

includes Elders of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. Together the council ensure the ongoing protection of the river and deliver on key priorities under the *Water for Victoria plan* and the *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017*.

The Birrarung Council will review and respond to the annual report, which will outline progress in implementing the plan and the community vision. To ensure appropriate accountability, the Birrarung Council's report will be delivered to the Minister for Water, to be tabled in parliament.

Partnering with recognised Traditional Owners

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

It is also important that responsible public entities have in place a Reconciliation Action Plan or mutually agreed alternative agreement that builds a collaborative relationship with the recognised Traditional Owners in planning, decision-making, programs and services across all areas of their organisation. This includes in respect to management of Yarra River lands and projects that may impact Yarra River lands on their Country.

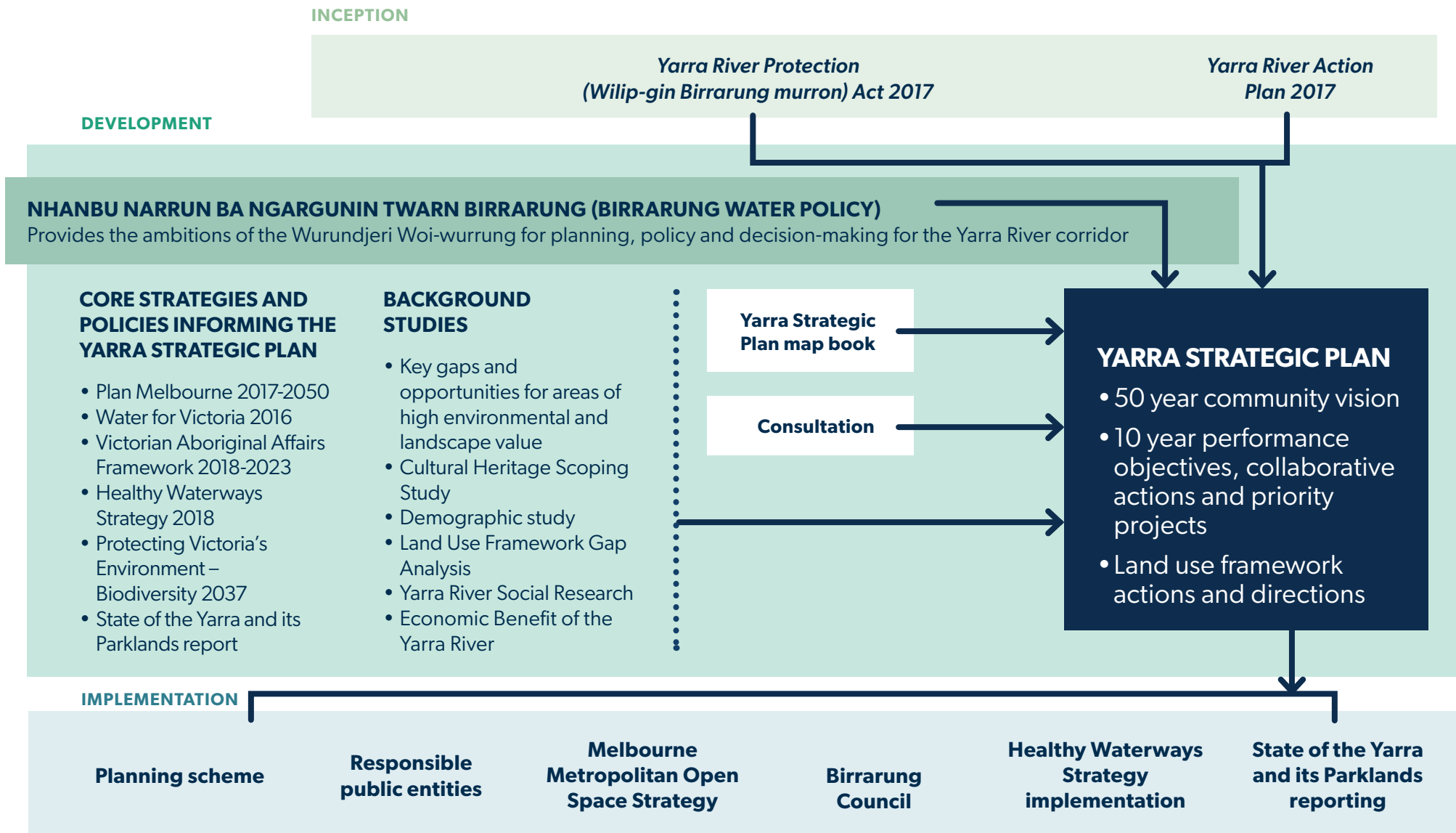


FIGURE 6. Policies and plans that inform development and implementation of the Yarra Strategic Plan

Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) plan

To be consistent with the approach and principles of the international standard ISO 14001 for environmental management systems, regular evaluation of the Yarra Strategic Plan will be required to refine and improve its implementation. This will be achieved through preparation of a monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) plan to assess the impact, appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency and legacy of the Yarra Strategic Plan.

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

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

The MERI will provide:

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

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

The MERI, which is to be developed in the first year of implementing the plan will be updated on a rolling three-year basis to align with the rolling three-year implementation plans.





Credit: Melbourne Water,
Abbotsford

APPENDIX E — Decision-making framework

The Yarra Strategic Plan includes a decision-making framework that may be used by responsible public entities to facilitate transparent and coordinated decision-making, including with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Traditional Owners, for activities that affect Yarra River land or when performing a function or duty or exercising power that may affect Yarra River land on their Country.

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

As shown in **Figure 7**, there are three levels of activities and projects for decision-making – routine business activities, local projects and transformative projects.

Note: On Yarra River land on which Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation is the recognised Traditional Owner, no projects or activities may take place without their involvement in the decision-making process. All agreements and proposals will be discussed with the Wurundjeri Water Unit in the first instance. This includes agreements and proposals relating to funding, intellectual property and research, planning scheme amendments, cultural heritage management plans (CHMPs) and on-ground works.

Transformative projects are those larger integrated projects with higher aspirations of delivering transformational change in the river corridor. It was recognised through the consultation process that continuing to deliver routine business activities and local projects is unlikely to be sufficient for protection of the Yarra, given the pressures of population growth, urban development and climate change.

By their nature these transformative projects will require higher levels of collaboration and resourcing to achieve the desired outcomes. Transformative projects will involve multiple partners working across the corridor collectively aiming to address gaps identified by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation on their Country, Yarra Collaboration Committee, Birrarung Council, key stakeholders and the community.

Local projects are projects identified in various strategies and plans that align with the Yarra Strategic Plan. Some will be contingent upon additional funding through government programs or collaborative arrangements with other authorities and groups. Local projects will aim for innovation or incremental improvement in delivering (extent, quality or quantity) outcomes and will have local importance, as opposed to providing whole of corridor benefit. It is envisaged that these projects will be more effective with a collaborative approach, for example, involving both public and private landholders in planning and implementing a pest control program.

Routine business activities are those activities authorities undertake as part of their normal business that impact Yarra River land, for example, maintenance works for parklands and reserves. Authorities will adopt a continuous improvement cycle in planning and delivering these routine business activities to allow incremental improvement and alignment with the Yarra Strategic Plan.

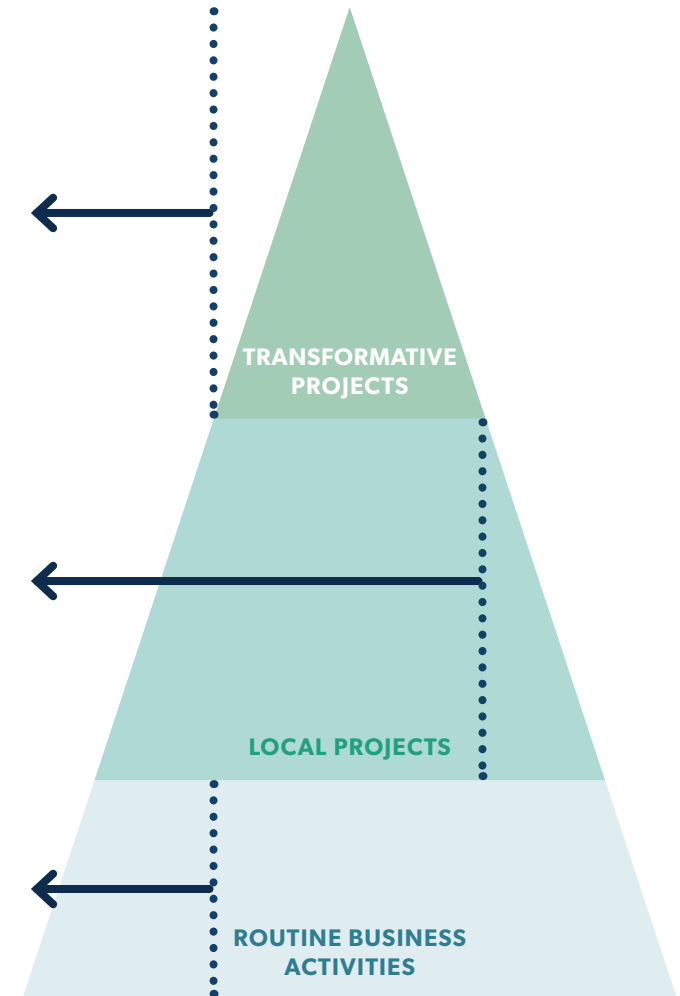


FIGURE 7. Multi-levelled approach to decision making for activities and projects on Yarra River land

There will be occasions when projects with the potential to affect Yarra River lands are put forward by organisations that are not part of the Yarra Collaboration Committee. Assessment of these '**external projects**' against the protection principles will provide a basis for discussion and negotiation with proponents and a process for ensuring alignment with the Yarra Strategic Plan.

Decision-making will be guided through an assessment process that evaluates projects, programs and activities against criteria based on the protection principles of the Act, aspirations of Traditional Owners, the Yarra River 50 year Community Vision and the performance objectives driving the plan. The rigour and effort involved in decision-making will be proportionate to the nature of the activities, scope of potential outcomes and environmental risks involved. The assessment process and decisions arising from it will be auditable to ensure transparency and consistency in the process.

Local projects will be nominated by responsible public entities to be included in the implementation plan. Having been checked against the protection principles of the Act, the entity will provide details of the project to the Yarra Collaboration Committee to identify opportunities to work together, increase net gain and confirm Traditional Owner partnerships.

Transformative projects will also be prioritised through the implementation planning process, which will be done in collaboration with committee members. Again, the committee will identify opportunities to increase net gain and confirm Traditional Owner partnerships, as well as required funding and potential leads for these projects.

A flowchart summarising the process for decision-making is set out in **Figure 8**.

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

Given the Act and the strategic plan are relatively new pieces of legislation the decision-making framework will be trialled over the first year of implementation to test and adapt the assessment process. After this, it will be evaluated and adjusted to match the needs of the responsible public entities, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation on their Country. This period of testing will ensure that alignment in decision-making can be managed with available resources, and that the benefits outweigh the costs.

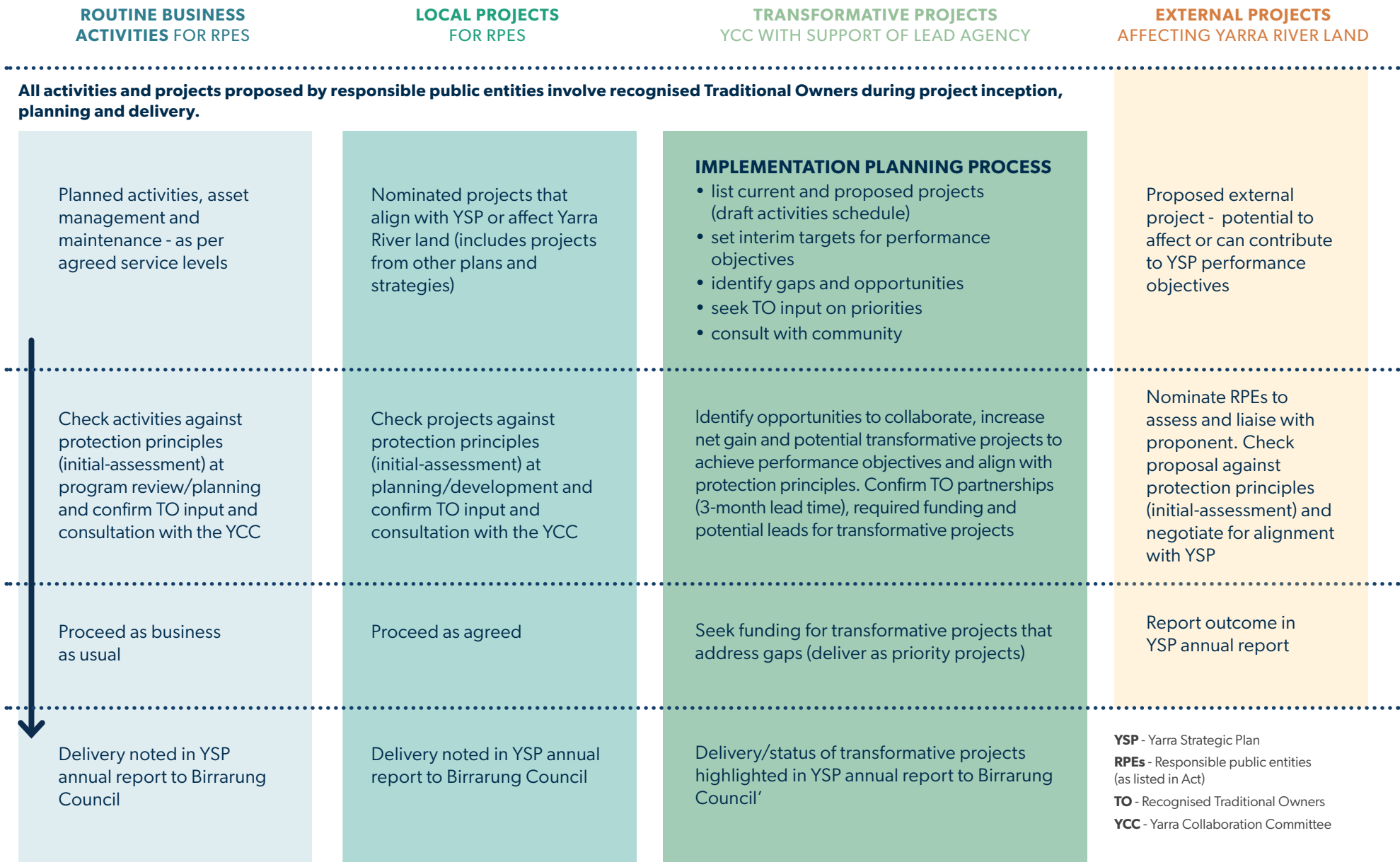


FIGURE 8. Work flow for implementing decision-making for activities and projects on Yarra River land

APPENDIX F — Environmental net gain

The Act’s protection principles state that there should be a net gain for the environment in the area of Yarra River land arising out of any individual action or policy that has an environmental impact on Yarra River land.

Under the state’s *Biodiversity 2037* policy, the government is committed to achieving an overall ‘net gain’, expressed as an improvement in the overall extent and condition of native habitats across terrestrial, waterway and marine environments.

Not all habitats or vegetation types will need to be improved or increased to achieve this goal, but overall gains will need to outweigh losses. The most important places to achieve gains and to avoid losses are locations with higher relative contribution to biodiversity benefit.

As part of this plan’s decision-making framework, changes in native vegetation will be used as an indicator to assess environmental net gain. Native vegetation as an indicator of environmental condition is relatively easy to conceptualise and standard methods for its assessment and use in net gain accounting have been well tested. However, more comprehensive assessment methods tailored to specific landscapes and activities are being developed as part of the implementation of *Biodiversity 2037*. Ideally, these will resolve some of the complexities of applying environmental net gain in aquatic environments and in urban settings, and can be adopted during the implementation of this Plan.

The Birrarung Council is supporting research for an approach to assess environmental net gain for the Yarra that goes beyond native vegetation indicators. It is expected that outcomes from this research will inform future policy and management decision-making.

This new approach to net gain will look at using restoration ecology principles to generate future ecosystem health that is feasible and realistic. However, this will apply to the cultural landscape, as understood by the Traditional Owners as well as to the physical landscape. This broader understanding of net gain will focus on the health of Country plus the health of connection to Country. The work will investigate measuring net gain through ecological, cultural and social indicators.

Environmental net gain under current state policy is estimated by predicting the difference in native vegetation extent and quality due to actions (improvement and maintenance) against a ‘do nothing’ scenario (<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation>). Trained assessors predict gain scores for habitat using models that link management actions to either an improvement or maintenance gain score. The value of each improvement and maintenance gain score is conditional on the current condition of a site and rate of degradation.

Figure 9 illustrates concepts of maintenance and improvement gains for habitat condition over time. Without maintenance, habitat condition deteriorates over time.

The *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DELWP 2017) included in all local planning

schemes in Victoria are collectively referred to as the native vegetation removal regulations. These guidelines set out how native vegetation removal is assessed and describes how offsets are secured. When native vegetation removal is approved, an offset must be secured in accordance with the guidelines. The conditions of approval will specify the offset requirements and that the offset must be secured before native vegetation is removed.

The objective for the regulation of native vegetation clearing is to ensure that there is no ‘net loss’ to biodiversity as a result of the permitted clearing. This is achieved by applying the three-step approach: avoid, minimise and offset.

The process for assessing environmental net gain will be adjusted and outlined in the implementation plan as state policy evolves.

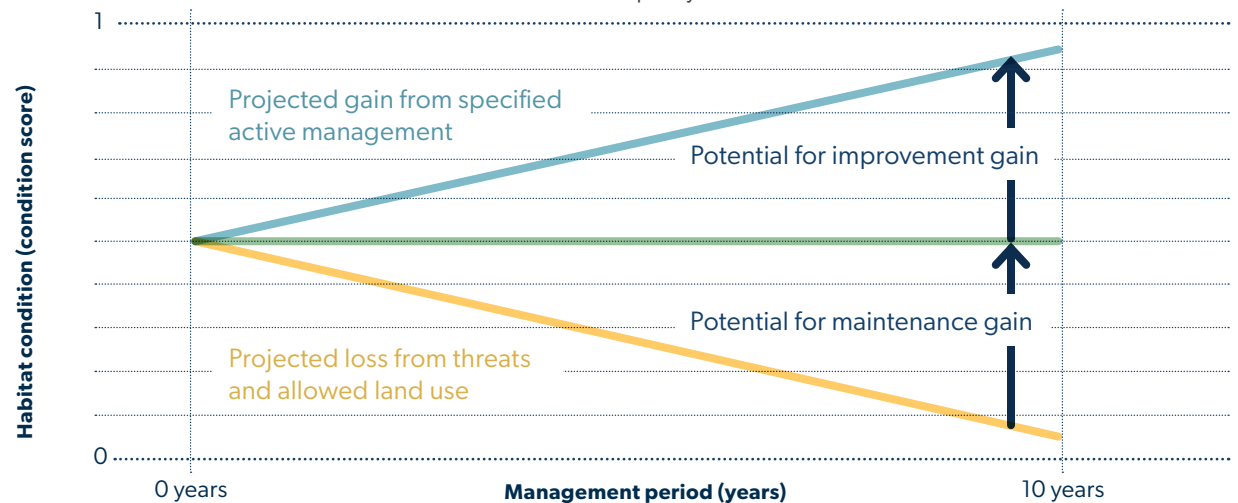


FIGURE 9. Conceptual model of habitat condition with maintenance and improvement gains over time

APPENDIX G —

List of actions

	Action	Responsibilities and timeframes
Performance Objective 1 - A healthy river and lands		
Stormwater and litter		
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use stormwater for urban greening, protecting and enhancing the environment • identify opportunities where potable water is being used for watering purposes, and can be substituted with suitably treated stormwater. 	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, Melbourne Water and local government medium term (4-7 years)
2.	Implement a Yarra-specific stormwater awareness and behaviour change campaign targeted at reducing litter and contamination entering the Yarra River.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and local government short term (1-3 years)
3.	Increase education, awareness and regulatory compliance to reduce pesticides and chemicals entering the river (including the impacts of agricultural runoff on water quality in the upper and lower rural reaches).	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria short term (1-3 years)
4.	Develop the integrated water management plan (including bicultural approaches) for the Yarra Catchment to optimise water cycle planning and reduce stormwater pollution into the river.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, Melbourne Water, local government, Parks Victoria, Transport Victoria short term (1-3 years)

For each action, roles and responsibilities for RPE participation will be agreed through the Yarra Collaboration Committee, including appointment of a lead organisation. The current order of listing does not reflect the level of involvement.

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

Funding proposals for actions to be implemented on areas with a recognised Traditional Owner group will include resourcing for that Traditional Owner group to participate.

DELWP is working with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to develop a business case outlining options for partnerships and resourcing the Water Unit to enable implementation of the actions in the plan.

	Action	Responsibilities and timeframes
Septic tanks		
5.	<p>Develop an integrated program to improve management of domestic wastewater in non-sewered areas (includes places serviced by septic tanks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> investigate the extent and location of wastewater pollution in the Yarra River and its tributaries to guide future projects and actions develop and implement programs (education, compliance and infrastructure improvements) to target areas where domestic wastewater has the greatest impact on water quality. 	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, Melbourne Water, Yarra Ranges Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, Manningham City Council</p> <p>medium term (4-7 years)</p>
Billabongs and wetlands		
6.	<p>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.</p>	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, local government, DELWP and Melbourne Water</p> <p>medium term (4-7 years)</p>
7.	<p>Work with partners, primarily Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and Parks Victoria, to implement a landscape scale approach to improving the condition of wetlands and billabongs for the Lower Yarra billabongs. This must include the prioritisation of wetlands for water regime management and delivery of environmental water and cultural flows.</p>	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, local government, Parks Victoria, DELWP and Melbourne Water</p> <p>short term (1-3 years)</p>
8.	<p>Support the aspirations of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people to pursue water justice for their people and Country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deliver water justice through water rights, participation in water management, and broader water and policy reform (as per the definition of water justice identified in the National Cultural Flows Research Project 2020) deliver options to support water rights for the Birrarung such as the possibility of the reallocation of the former Amcor entitlement. 	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, local government, DELWP and Melbourne Water</p> <p>short term (1-3 years)</p>
9.	<p>Work with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to enhance knowledge, monitor and understand ecological change in prioritised Lower Yarra billabongs which have received environmental water.</p> <p>Includes working with partners, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, North East Link and Transport for Victoria to protect the water levels in the Bolin Bolin billabongs from the impacts of potential groundwater drawdown. The North East Link Project, in accordance with its environmental performance requirements, is required to design the project to mitigate the changes to groundwater levels in the billabongs including undertaking pre-construction, construction and post construction groundwater monitoring.</p>	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, local government, DELWP and Melbourne Water</p> <p>short term (1-3 years)</p>

	Action	Responsibilities and timeframes
Habitat connectivity		
10.	<p>Undertake vegetation works to strengthen terrestrial and aquatic habitat corridors to improve biodiversity. Revegetation should include species identified as culturally important to the Traditional Owners and where feasible works should be delivered by Traditional Owners groups. Priority areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarra Junction to Healesville billabongs and wetlands • Healesville to Yering billabongs and wetlands • Yering to Warrandyte landscape protection • Kinglake to Yarra biodiversity corridor 	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and local government. medium term (4-7 years)</p>
11.	<p>Increase and enhance the extent and quality of urban greening in the inner city reach on public and private land downstream of Gardiners Creek to combat air and noise pollution, create habitat for local wildlife and reinvigorate local communities appreciation of nature and the environment.</p>	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, local government, DELWP and Melbourne Water short term (1-3 years)</p>
12.	<p>Follow the goals and principles as set out in <i>Protecting Victoria's Environmental Biodiversity 2037</i> for habitat and species conservation planning. This includes using associated decision support tools, <i>Nature Print</i> and <i>Strategic Management Prospects</i> as an addendum to the plan's decision-making framework, and incorporating environmental net gain when planning for whole of river biodiversity outcomes.</p> <p>DELWP and Wurundjeri Water Unit will work together to develop a bicultural approach to assessing net gain on their Country, considering cultural values and practices. They will explore ways to integrate this approach to support the Birrarung as a single living entity. Resourcing to be provided for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung participation.</p>	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and local government (ongoing)</p>
13.	<p>Explore and support the use of incentive mechanisms to build skills, knowledge and capacity in restoring landscape function, protecting biodiversity, increasing nutrient and water cycling and building soil carbon for resilient enterprises that can mitigate climate-related pressures.</p>	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and local government medium term (4-7 years)</p>
14.	<p>Promote the use of conservation covenants to protect priority conservation values on private land as well as enhancing habitat connectivity and, where possible, incorporating Traditional Owner aspirations and involvement.</p>	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP and Trust for Nature medium term (4-7 years)</p>
15.	<p>Plan and undertake terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna assessments to ascertain where opportunities exist to reintroduce and restore native plants and animals, including species that are important to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung as totems, seasonal indicators and resources required for ceremony and other uses. Selection of plants and planting methods will also consider impacts of climate change and opportunity to increase resilience.</p>	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation medium term (4-7 years)</p>
16.	<p>Provide resourcing to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to develop and pilot flora and fauna assessments as critical planning tools for future management of the catchment. This will require external agencies providing access to relevant data.</p>	<p>Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation short term, (1-3 years)</p>

	Action	Responsibilities and timeframes
Native fish		
17.	Invest in habitat restoration and environmental watering to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase native fish in the Yarra River, its tributaries and billabongs support a healthy ecosystem improve opportunities for recreational fishing and cultural practices. 	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, local government, DELWP and Melbourne Water short term (1-3 years)
18.	Work in partnership with angling groups to develop and implement a community education program on protection of native fish (especially for Macquarie perch and other threatened species). This will include promoting bag limits and areas where the taking of native fish is prohibited and increasing participation in monitoring and assessment programs.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, Melbourne Water long term (8-10 years)
19.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to lead and explore the feasibility of research projects identifying current extents, habitat needs, and best practice recovery programs for culturally valued freshwater aquatic species, which are in decline in the greater Melbourne region. This includes species such as river blackfish, freshwater crayfish, and short-finned eel.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Arthur Rylah Institute, DELWP, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and local government long term (8-10 years)
Pest plants and animals		
20.	Adopt a multi-agency collaboration and investment approach to management of invasive animals and plants in the Yarra corridor including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> quantify and measure numbers and impact of invasive animals and plants evaluate the effectiveness of existing control programs coordinate the delivery of new programs and projects to control and eradicate where possible invasive animals and plants in the Yarra corridor set targets for control programs over the next 10 years and monitor progress towards their achievement. 	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and local government medium term (4-7 years)
21 .	Build capacity of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap ('Country') team to manage and eradicate deer in the Yarra catchment.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, Melbourne Water, local government and Parks Victoria short term (1-3 years)

	Action	Responsibilities and timeframes
Climate change		
22.	Deliver an interactive education program along the river corridor to enhance awareness and understanding around climate change and adaptive capacity of the river.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, local government and Parks Victoria short term (1-3 years)
23.	Map key risks to the Yarra for climate change and develop a climate change adaptation and resilience action plan. The plan will inform responses to extreme weather events including, heat waves, drought, flood and fire, and promote land management approaches such as cultural burning to mitigate risks and assist recovery.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, local government and Parks Victoria short term (1-3 years)
Performance Objective 2 - A culturally diverse corridor		
Aboriginal cultural heritage		
24.	Develop, or where existing, enhance interpretive and educational programs for sites that have Aboriginal cultural heritage values and historic heritage values. Potential sites are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collingwood Children’s Farm • Dights Falls and Merri Creek confluence • Bolin Bolin Billabong • Brushy Creek confluence 	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Collingwood Children’s Farm, local government and Parks Victoria medium term (4-7 years)
25.	Deliver interactive educational programs (e.g. signage, and smart device application) that include storytelling about the rich culture and heritage of the Yarra River. Indigenous cultural intellectual property agreements must be in place for use of Traditional Owner intellectual property and programs.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, local government and Parks Victoria medium term (4-7 years)
26.	Support a program of cultural value studies by the Traditional Owners for the Yarra – Birrarung and its lands.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, local government and Parks Victoria short term (1-3 years)
27.	Explore with the Traditional Owners, the possibility of registering the Yarra as a cultural landscape.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, local government and Parks Victoria medium term (4-7 years)
Historic cultural heritage		
28.	Develop a holistic heritage assessment to understand historic heritage values using the Yarra River (Birrarung) Cultural Heritage Scoping Study thematic framework.	DELWP, local government, Museum Victoria, National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and Parks Victoria medium term (4-7 years)

	Action	Responsibilities and timeframes
Performance objective 3: Quality parklands for a growing population		
Caring for Country and co-governance of the Parklands with Traditional Owners		
29.	Plan, design, and manage the river parklands as one living and integrated natural entity, ensuring that all parklands are managed to a consistently high standard and celebrate the relationship between the river and its parklands.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, local government, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and relevant Committees of Management short term (1-3 years)
30.	Develop, with Traditional Owners, a consistent conservation, cultural and visitation brand identity for the Yarra and its parklands to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embed in the community, recognition of the parklands and river as one living and integrated natural entity • celebrate the nurturing relationship between the Yarra’s parklands and the community • encourage proactive behaviour to protect and nourish the Yarra and its parklands • support national and international recognition of, and investment in, the Yarra’s parklands. 	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, local government and Parks Victoria short term (1-3 years)
31.	Establish formalised partnership agreements (including resourcing) with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to manage parklands on their Country, respectively.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, Department of Transport, local government and Parks Victoria short term (1-3 years)
Balancing access and conservation		
32.	Investigate locations and options for improved access to the Yarra and its parklands that enable outstanding nature and culture based experiences while conserving the high biodiversity, cultural and landscape values that the community wish to protect. This includes identifying and mapping locations and options for improved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on-water experience for kayak/canoe and boating access points at key locations (giving consideration to health and safety and being fit-for-purpose) • signage and information for on-water journeys • bicycle and pedestrian trail experiences • experience and connection to nature for recreational and leisure pursuits. <p>Assist Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to undertake cultural heritage assessments on any Crown land river frontages with grazing licences that are identified for camping. The <i>Land (Regulated Watercourse Land) Regulations 2021</i> only allow camping in designated sites on licensed Crown land river frontages following assessments by DELWP and recognised Traditional Owners.</p>	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, local government and Parks Victoria medium term (4 -8 years)

	Action	Responsibilities and timeframes
Expanding the parkland network		
33.	Over the next 10 years, the state government to investigate opportunities to improve and extend the area of parklands and deliver on priorities for acquisition.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and DELWP long term (8-10 years)
Infrastructure and services		
34.	Conduct a strategic assessment of infrastructure and services in the Yarra's parklands to ensure they are contemporary, inclusive and provide multiple benefits, while respecting and protecting the conservation and cultural values of the parklands and the river.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Victoria short term (1-3 years)
35.	Consider green infrastructure investment and solutions at the local and landscape scale within parklands. Examples include constructed wetlands for stormwater treatment and creating habitat, placement of trees to improve visual aesthetics and amenity, permeable surfaces to increase groundwater recharge, and rain gardens to manage run-off from hard surfaces.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, local government and Parks Victoria short term (1-3 years)
36.	Develop a 10-year berthing strategy for the lower Yarra River.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, local government and Parks Victoria short term (1-3 years)
37.	Ensure access and egress for vessels to priority berthing sites along the inner city reach of the Yarra River through investment in a comprehensive dredging operation and ongoing maintenance dredging of the river to ensure boats and vessels can move safely along the river to maintain its status as a tourism precinct.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Victoria medium term (4 – 7 years)
38.	Establish a Lower Yarra River management committee to guide commercial berthing, events and activation, and river infrastructure development and improvement. The committee's main objectives would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> driving the development of a 10-year berthing strategy for the lower Yarra River (from Dights Falls to the Port of Melbourne) including options for commercial berthing, events and activation, and infrastructure investment ensure activities and safe waterway usage is reflected in Yarra River waterway rules driving the alignment of Parks Victoria and Melbourne City Council annual works programs overseeing the implementation of the outcomes of the Yarra Strategic Plan for the lower Yarra River. 	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Parks Victoria and local government short term (1-3 years)





	Action	Responsibilities and timeframes
Performance objective 4 - Protecting the natural beauty of the Yarra River corridor		
Protect 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.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP and local government short term (1– 3 years)
Monitor changes in land use		
40.	Set land use planning goals and monitor changes in land use using satellite imagery, geospatial and remote sensing techniques and cultural practices and knowledge.	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP, Victorian Planning Authority and local government long term (8-10 years)

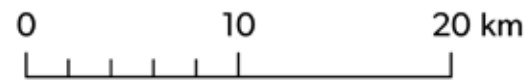
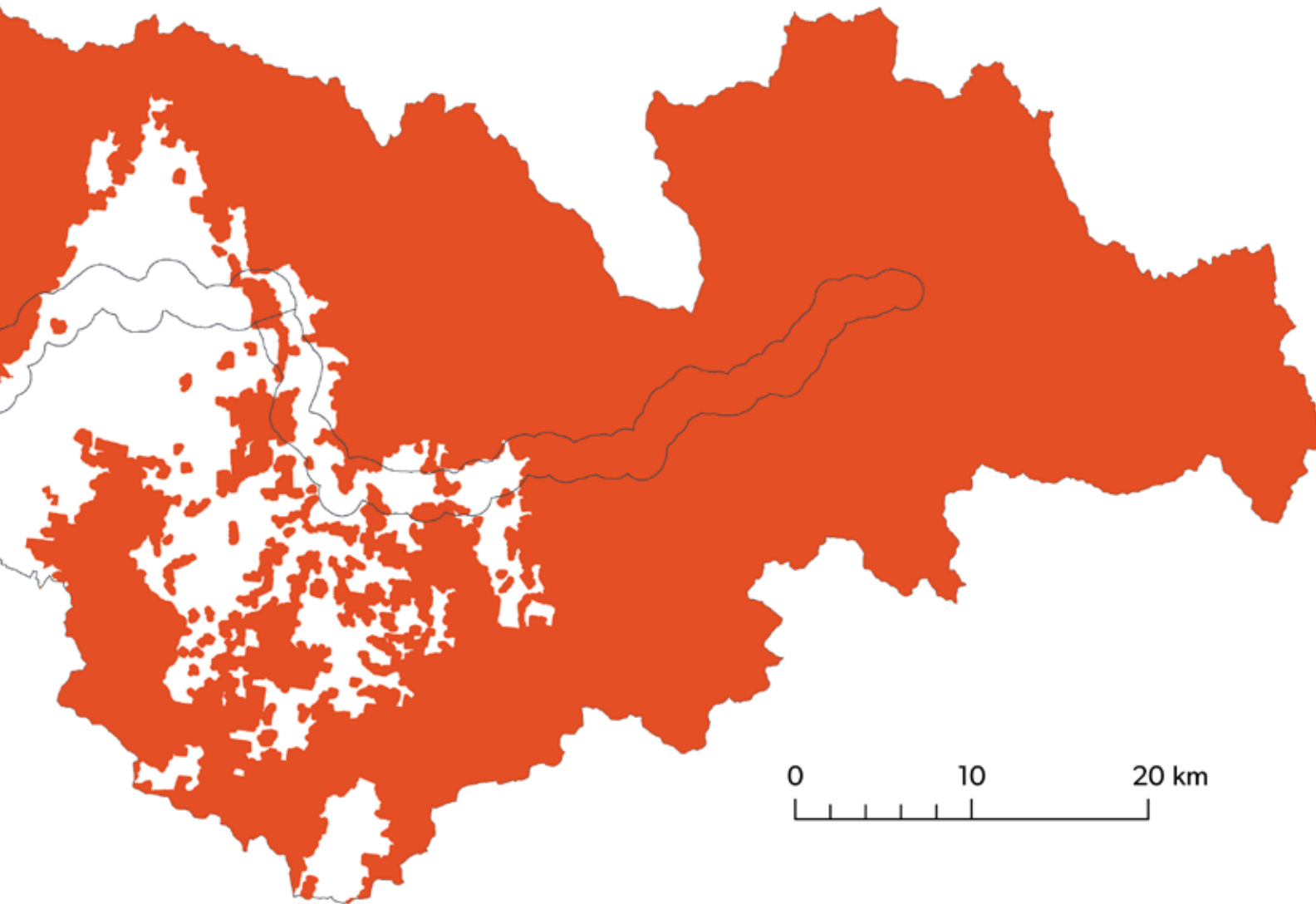
APPENDIX H — Map of Yarra Catchment showing Bushfire Management Overlay

Bushfire Management Overlay: Planning scheme overlay applied to areas where there is potential for extreme bushfire behaviour including crown fire, extreme ember attack and radiant heat. Sourced from the Victorian Government, in partnership with the CFA and CSIRO



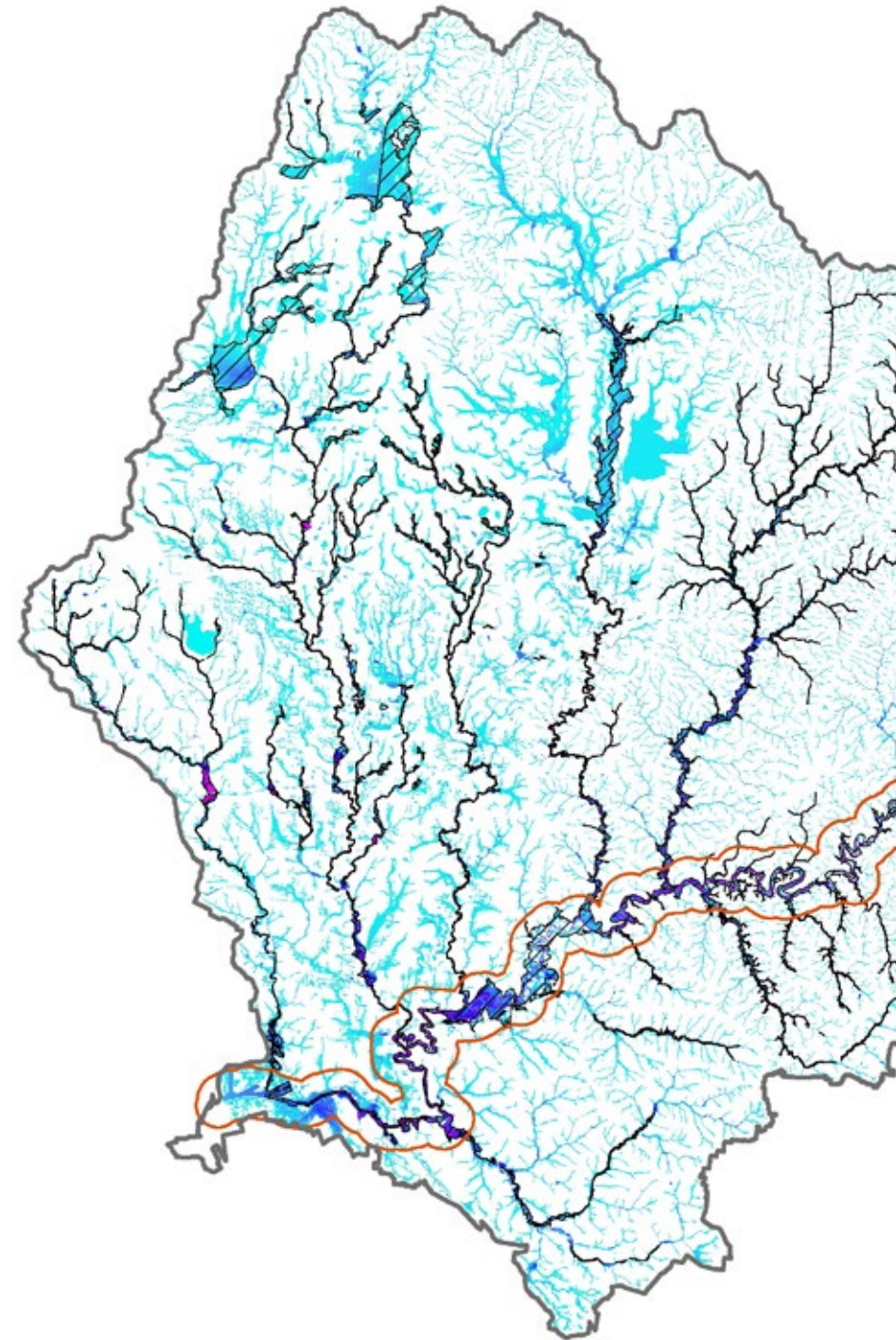
Legend

-  Bushfire management overlay
-  Yarra catchment
-  Yarra River
-  Yarra Strategic Plan area

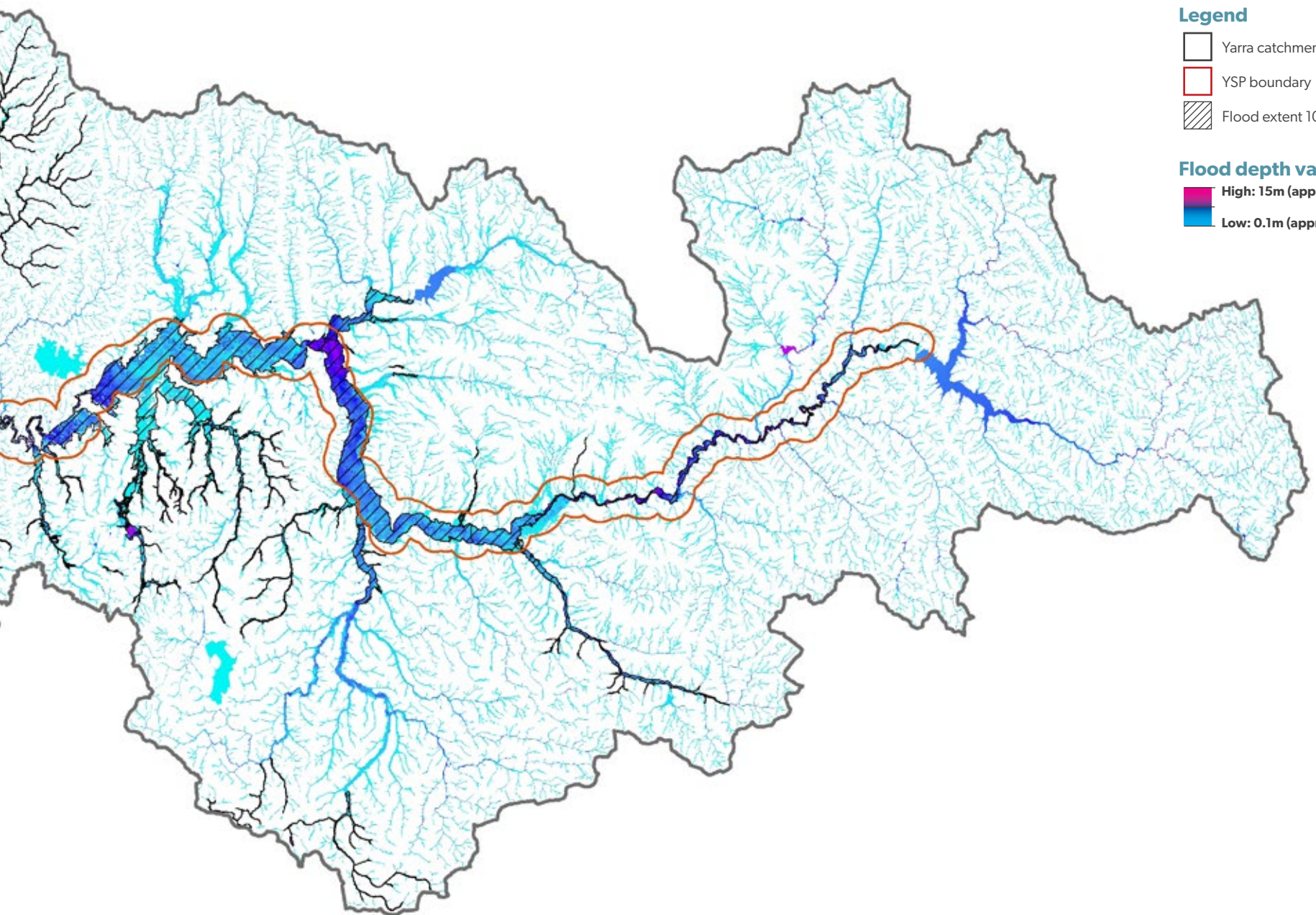


APPENDIX I — Map of Yarra Catchment showing land prone to flooding




Flood Risk Overlay: Areas prone to flooding under a climate change scenario with a projected increase in rainfall intensity of 18.5% by 2100. This is one form of flood risk modelling and should not be used for detailed mapping and planning purposes.



Note: This map is based on outputs from catchment modelling of potential flooding under climate change scenarios, undertaken for Melbourne Water.



Legend

-  Yarra catchment
-  YSP boundary
-  Flood extent 100yr Waterways

Flood depth value

-  High: 15m (approx)
-  Low: 0.1m (approx)

GLOSSARY

Aboriginal cultural heritage	Knowledge and lore, practices and people, objects and places that are valued, culturally meaningful and connected to identity and Country.
Amenity	Aspects of rivers or landscapes that enhance community wellbeing. Depends on factors such as the cleanliness of the waterway and surrounds, the ability to access the waterway, and the quality and extent of open space.
Best practice	Combination of techniques, processes or technologies used in an industry or activity that have been shown by research and experience to produce optimal results and that is established or proposed as a standard suitable for widespread adoption.
Billabong	A 'billabong' is a waterbody left behind following a change in river course; it is a type of wetland usually still connected to the river and periodically flooded. They can be wet for 3-4 months of the year, followed by a drying period, which is just as important for their ecological health.
Birrarung	Woi-wurrung language word for the Yarra River, meaning 'river of mists and shadows'.

Bushfire Management Overlay	Applies to land that may be significantly affected by a bushfire. Triggers the need for a planning permit for certain developments and requires new developments to include appropriate bushfire protection measures.
Confluence	The point where a tributary joins a larger river (called the main stem) or where two streams meet to become the source of a river of a new name.
Coordinated decision-making	Refers to decisions being made through a committee process, such as that used for the Yarra Collaboration Committee. This reduces duplication, allows consensus between organisations, supports setting of priorities, and facilitates decision-making for the whole of the river, rather than for a single entity or location.
Country	Aboriginal culture revolves around relationships to the land and water. Country is both a place of belonging and a way of believing.
Covenant	Statutory agreement that is included on a land title to stipulate a behaviour which the landowner must perform, such as protecting native vegetation.

Cultural flows	Water entitlements owned by Traditional Owner groups that can be released to improve the spiritual, cultural, environmental, social and economic conditions of those groups.
Cultural heritage	Legacy of physical artefacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations (refers to both Indigenous and postcolonial heritage).
Elder	Someone who has gained recognition as a custodian of knowledge and lore, and who has permission to disclose knowledge and beliefs on behalf of Aboriginal people.
Environmental flows / environmental water / water for the environment	Water managed and allocated to improve or maintain the health of rivers and wetlands – including the plants and animals that depend on them.

Environmental net gain	Environmental net gain is an outcome where overall gains for the environment are greater than overall losses and where individual losses are avoided. Environmental net gain aims to improve extent and quality of native vegetation and create habitat for increased biodiversity.
Environmental Significance Overlay	A planning control ensures that the development of land does not affect identified environmental values and qualities of an area.
Interpretive signage	Helps to create a narrative for a place. Aims to generate a positive user experience by educating its audience on aspects of historical, heritage or environmental importance.
Invasive species	Species occurring as a result of human activities, beyond its normal distribution, which threatens environmental, agricultural or other social resources by the damage it causes. Includes diseases, fungi, parasites, feral animals, insects and weeds.
Key views	Views and viewsheds that provide a sense of place and connection with Yarra River land from and to surrounding areas.
Kulin	The Kulin Nation is made up of five language groups: Boonwurrung (Boon-wur-rung), Dja Dja Wurrung (Jar-Jar-Wur-rung), Taungurung (Tung-ger-rung), Wathaurung (Wath-er-rung), Woi-wurrung (Woy-wur-rung), commonly known as Wurundjeri.

Liveability	Reflects the wellbeing of a community, and the many characteristics that make a place somewhere people want to live. A liveable city or region meets the basic social, environmental and economic needs of its people. It also addresses community values and preferences for amenity, wellbeing and a sense of place.
New area for protection	Area not covered by existing statutory protections. Identified to realise Traditional Owners' aspirations, the community's vision and deliver on the requirements of the Act. Safeguards against future pressures and to ensure the Yarra River is respected as a sacred natural entity.
Open space	Publicly owned land that is set aside primarily for recreation, nature conservation, passive outdoor enjoyment and public gatherings. This includes public parks, gardens, reserves, waterways, publicly owned forecourts and squares.
Planning controls	Standards and restrictions for new development. They may apply to a location (suburb, street or single lot), particular types of development (dwellings, villas) or a component of the development (provision of car parking, control of stormwater).
Planning Policy Framework	The State Planning Policy Framework is a key part of the planning system and the Victoria Planning Provisions. It sets the key policy direction for state planning issues.

Planning scheme	Sets out policies and provisions for the use and development of land. Covers each local council area in Victoria and some special planning areas.
Recognised Traditional Owner group	Refers to groups that have been recognised through a legal process as the right group to speak with about land and waters within a specific area. Traditional Owners can be formally recognised under various Acts (<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> , the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> and/or the <i>Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010</i>) which is typically accompanied by the appointment of a corporate entity to perform the functions under the relevant Act.
Responsible public entities	An organisation or body providing services to the public on behalf of the government or another public entity. As defined in section 3 of the Act, this includes Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority ⁹ , Victorian Planning Authority, Head, Transport for Victoria and VicTrack, any committees of management for declared Yarra River land, any Traditional Owner Management Boards and the following local councils: Banyule, Boroondara, Manningham, Melbourne, Nillumbik, Stonnington, Yarra and Yarra Ranges.
Riparian	Land or vegetation that adjoins a river, creek, estuary, wetland or lake.

Septic tank	Underground chamber through which domestic wastewater flows for basic treatment. Homes that are not connected to a reticulated sewage system rely on a septic system to treat sewage on-site.
Setback	Minimum distance that a building or structure must be set back from a street, river or other stream, shore or floodplain, or any other place which is deemed to need protection.
Significant place	Identified to celebrate its regional significance. Contributes to biodiversity, improves the parklands network and access to the Yarra River, protects cultural heritage and expands activation options that embrace and respect the Yarra.
Stormwater	Rainwater that runs off land and moves away from the area where it originally falls.
Transport infrastructure	The plan includes 'agreed strategic transport infrastructure'. This refers to (current, future, planned or potential) transport related (rail, road, boat, bike and pedestrian) projects nominated by the Department of Transport, and referenced in the text and shown on maps in the plan. This infrastructure is to be considered in planning any future activities on Yarra River land. The department may also nominate additional projects through the implementation planning process.

Tributary	A stream or river that flows into a larger waterway.
Urban forest	Comprises all of the trees and other vegetation within urban areas – including vegetation in parks, waterways, streets, private gardens, green walls, balconies and roofs. In addition to providing critical ecosystem services such as air and water filtration, cooling and habitat, urban forests provide a connection to nature often perceived to be missing in urban areas.
Urban growth boundary (UGB)	Applies around the urban areas of Metropolitan Melbourne. Directs urban growth to areas best able to be supplied with appropriate infrastructure and services and protect other valuable peri-urban land (and environmental features) from urban development pressures.
Wastewater	Water that has had its quality affected by human influence, deriving from industrial, domestic, agricultural or commercial activities.
Waterway condition / waterway health	Overall state of key features and processes that underpin functioning waterway ecosystems; such as, species and communities, habitat, connectivity, water quality, riparian vegetation, physical form, nutrient cycling and carbon storage.

Waterways	Rivers, creeks and streams, their associated estuaries and floodplains (including floodplain wetlands) and non-riverine wetlands.
Wetlands	Inland, standing, shallow bodies of water, which may be permanent or temporary, fresh or saline. Wetlands' are areas of permanent or temporary inundation supporting plants and animals that require wet conditions to complete their life cycle: they do not need to be inundated by river flooding but can receive water from drains, tributaries, local rainfall runoff and groundwater.
Yarra protection principles	Outlined in the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017</i> .
Yarra River land	As defined in section 3 of the Act, this includes the Yarra River's bed, soil and banks as well as publicly managed land within 500 metres of a bank of the river.
Yarra Strategic Plan area	Yarra River land and land of any kind that is located within one kilometre of a bank of the Yarra River.

ENDNOTES

1. Bowler, JM 1966, *Port Philip Survey, 1957–1963: The Geology and Geomorphology*, Memoirs of the National Museum of Victoria, NO 27 – 1966, Melbourne.
2. There are two registered Aboriginal parties recognised under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* that cover Country that the Yarra River flows through. Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation cover the majority of the Yarra, Birrarung, from the city to the mountains. Downstream of the city, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation have been recently recognised as the registered Aboriginal party for this Country. Bunurong Country covers the lower reaches of the Yarra estuary out to Narrm (Port Phillip Bay).
3. Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability 2018, *State of the Yarra and its Parklands*, State of Victoria, Melbourne, accessed 15 July 2020: <https://www.ces.vic.gov.au/reports/state-yarra-and-its-parklands-2018>
4. The area covered by the plan includes Crown land along the Yarra River that is mostly reserved under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, including several metropolitan parks, as well as parts of the Yarra Ranges National Park and Warrandyte State Park under the *National Parks Act 1975*. The area also includes land owned and managed by various municipalities. The river between Warburton and Warrandyte is recognised as a heritage river under the *Heritage Rivers Act 1992*. Various entities are responsible for managing the land, including DELWP, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Yarra Ranges Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, Manningham City Council, Boroondara City Council, Banyule City Council, Stonnington City Council, Yarra City Council and Melbourne City Council.
5. The Yarra Strategic Plan complies with the requirements outlined in Section 45 of the *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017*, which dictate that the plan must not be inconsistent with the other Acts, purposes of reservation, management plans and accepted recommendations that apply to the land covered by the plan.
6. Excluded land includes the Port of Melbourne (as defined in the *Port Management Act 1995*), and any land within a special water supply catchment area listed in Schedule 5 of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.
7. Where Crown land parcels abutting the river extend beyond the 500 metres covered by the declaration, the entire parcel has been declared as Yarra River land.
8. Land excluded from the Yarra River land declaration is defined as i) the Port of Melbourne (as defined in the *Port Management Act 1995*), ii) any land within a special water supply catchment area listed in Schedule 5 of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, iii) land that is owned by a municipal council. Yarra River land can be added to or removed on the recommendation of the Minister, by order published in the *Government Gazette*. The associated maps lodged in the Central Plan Office provide the most up to date and correct record of Yarra River land.
9. The 15 state and local government authorities with management responsibilities along the river corridor are referred to in the *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017* as responsible public entities. As of 1 January 2022 Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority has been integrated into Melbourne Water. Any action or responsibility allocated to them as a responsible public entity is now the responsibility of Melbourne Water.
10. Melbourne Water 2018, *Co-Designed Catchment Program for the Yarra Catchment*, for implementing the Healthy Waterways Strategy, Victorian State Government, Melbourne.
11. Otto K 2009, *Yarra, A Diverting History of Melbourne's Murky River*, Text Publishing, Melbourne.
12. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2019, *Victoria's Climate Science Report 2019*, Melbourne, Victoria.
13. Hull W 1859, *Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Aborigines, 1858-9 (Victoria)*, Committee of the Legislative Council on the Aborigines, Government of Australia, Melbourne.
14. Ganesharajah, Cynthia 2009, *Indigenous Health and Wellbeing: The Importance of Country*, Native Title Research Unit, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra, accessed 25 March 2020: https://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/products/report_research_outputs/ganesharajah-2009-indigenous-health-wellbeing-importance-country.pdf
15. Melbourne Water 2018, 'Yarra Strategic Plan Map Book (September 2018), which informed drafting of the Yarra Strategic Plan.
16. Clark ID and Kostanski LM 2006, *An Indigenous History of Stonnington*, A Report to the City of Stonnington, School of Business, University of Ballarat.

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