

Media Release

The Hon Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning
Minister for Housing



Monday, 22 June 2020

PERMANENTLY PROTECTING OUR ICONIC YARRA RIVER

The Victorian Government is ensuring our iconic Yarra River remains protected from inappropriate development by introducing permanent planning controls to protect the river's banks and improve water quality.

The permanent controls will be applied along a 240 kilometre stretch of the river between Richmond and Warrandyte, setting tougher rules to prevent overshadowing.

This follows interim measures introduced three years ago to streamline planning controls and replace a patchwork of controls that differed between councils.

The permanent controls impose mandatory height limits for new developments and apply minimum setbacks to protect the river's natural landscape, environment and character.

The Government will finalise the controls in partnership with the relevant councils – Banyule, Boroondara, Manningham, Nillumbik, Stonnington and Yarra – as well as Melbourne Water.

The planning controls strongly align with the draft *Yarra Strategic Plan* which aims to bring agencies together to give effect to the community's long-term vision for the Yarra and support its collaborative management.

The plan recognises the Yarra's management in one area has a flow-on effect to other parts of the river and is critical for ensuring government's protection of the natural beauty of the entire river corridor.

Community consultation and recommendations from an independent expert panel will be used to inform the final *Yarra Strategic Plan* which is due to be released later in the year.

For more information, visit: planning.vic.gov.au/yarra-river-controls

Quotes attributable to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne

"The Yarra River has an important place in the hearts of Victorians and that's why it's important these controls remain in place permanently to safeguard its future."

"These controls will ensure future developments don't compromise the beauty of our iconic river."

Quote attributable to Minister for Water Lisa Neville

"The Yarra River is the lifeblood of Melbourne and these controls will protect our most cherished waterway for generations to enjoy."

Quote attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"Our iconic Yarra river is a vital part of Melbourne's natural environment and these controls will mean its natural landscape gets the care and protection it deserves."