

Healthy, Protected and Enhanced: Natural Environment Policy



Photo by Agathe Marty

Yarra Greens Policies
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We recognise urban ecology and biodiversity for its inherent value, as well as the role it plays in cooling the city, providing recreational space, growing food and allowing residents and visitors to connect with nature. We will ensure that our waterways, parks, gardens and open spaces are protected and enhanced.

We will work to improve urban biodiversity, increase native nature refuge areas, create spaces for food growing and enhance Yarra's tree canopy.

We commit to:

Biodiversity

- Incorporate Indigenous knowledge into land management practices.
- Ensure that Yarra becomes a national leader in protecting and enhancing urban biodiversity.
- Resource and promote Council's Environment Community Advisory Committee.
- Implement, fund and monitor the Nature Strategy, including ensuring funding for rewilding and vulnerable species protection.
- Protect, enhance and increase areas of native vegetation.
- Increase the footprint of nature refuge areas in Yarra.
- Work with other councils to expand the Metropolitan Urban Forest and connect up wildlife corridors.

- Maintain and increase wildlife habitat on public land.
- Encourage residents to maintain and increase wildlife habitat on their properties.
- Review and update the Urban Wildlife Management Plan and align it with Yarra's Nature Strategy.
- Protect and restore the Yarra River, including supporting the Yarra River Strategic Plan.
- Protect and restore the Merri and Darebin Creek waterways and other natural habitats.
- Work with to the State Government to protect native and endangered species and key pollinators, including flying foxes and microbats, birds and bees in Yarra.
- Support best practice research and citizen science in Council's urban ecology programs.

Open space and city greening

- Increase the amount, quality and typologies of open space.
- Support the Open Space levy as a means to implement the Open Space Strategy.
- Champion the Open Space Strategy, including the possibility of purchasing land in areas with a severe lack of open space, especially in Collingwood and Cremorne.
- Increase city greening on public land and council properties through increased street trees, gardens, urban planting, green walls, and green roofs where appropriate.
- Encourage residents and businesses to implement and maintain gardens, green roofs and green walls, in particular in densely populated areas where the urban heat island effect is intensifying.
- Organise community development programmes which support residents to value and retain private open space for gardens, shade, growing food and permeability.
- Ensure there is a net increase in the urban tree canopy in Yarra.
- Implement the Urban Forest Strategy prioritising areas with low tree canopy.
- Expand the Significant Tree Register, including by consulting with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Water management

- Promote efficient management of water in Yarra through the increased use of recycled water and stormwater and minimised waste water discharge.
- Include water sensitive urban design in revised Local Area Placemaking Schemes.

- Ensure water sensitive urban design is included in all streetscape master plans and upgrades, and pursue waterway flood mitigation projects in parks.
- Expand the harvesting of storm water for Council's open space use and expand existing capacity.
- Ensure best practice targets and associated actions are incorporated into the Integrated Water Management Plan and that this plan is funded each year.
- Initiate and support community clean up activity, including rubbish collection at the Merri and Darebin Creeks and at the the Yarra River, including by supporting the Yarra Riverkeeper Association and the Friends of Merri Creek clean up events.

Local food

- Facilitate and encourage residents and businesses to grow food locally, including on public land.
- Expand and encourage home garden networks in Yarra.
- Build up the number of neighbour-initiated community gardens in Yarra, including in laneway and vacant sites.
- Expand funding for urban agriculture projects through the Community Grants Program, for example for the development of seed libraries.
- Support local organisations that increase food security, support urban food production, community gardens and local food networks.



To find out how you can get involved in with your local greens community, or to read our other policies, please visit:

greens.org.au/vic/lga/yarra

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