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### **Submission to Future Melbourne Committee**

City of Melbourne, Council Meeting Room, Melbourne Town Hall Administration Building  
3 Dec 2019, 5.30pm – Meeting No.69  
Agenda Item 6.5 Yarra River - Birrarung Strategy

Southbank Residents Association supports this strategy with great enthusiasm.

The Yarra river is a defining part of Southbank. It plays an integral role with its connection to the residents, yet the river, and what it offers, has often been an overlooked asset that has always had so much potential.

We are delighted that through this strategy the river might finally be getting the attention it deserves.

However, we are concerned that in the officers' covering report to Future Melbourne Committee that Southbank Residents Association was part of the stakeholder consultation. We don't recall being consulted on this strategy. In fact owing to lack of engagement from council officers we missed making a submission to the draft strategy at this meeting in April, in the same way the Yarra River Business Association did. When we saw the item on the agenda of that meeting, owing to the size of the document from the breadth of the strategy, we did not have adequate time to make an informed submission. However it would have been desirable for officers' to have reached out to SRA in the interim. We didn't get any advance notice that the strategy was complete and when it was expected to be heard at FMC. This is in stark contrast to the recent C308 amendment where officer communication and consultation was to be commended.

In any case, this is a thorough strategy and we sincerely hope it is the start of much needed momentum for river activation and appreciation.

Southbank Residents Association thanks the officers for their efforts with producing what we consider a sound strategy.

Tony Penna  
President  
Southbank Residents Association