

Tuesday, 30 June 2015

Andrew Kelly
Riverkeeper
Yarra Riverkeeper Association Inc.,
P.O. Box 210, Fitzroy VIC 3065

Dear Andrew

At its recent Committee meeting Stormwater Victoria considered how it might support the Yarra River Keepers recent request to provide support for its Yarra campaign.

After considering the information provided we were happy to provide qualified support. We recognise that there is an important 'urban planning' dimension that is needed to protect the Yarra, its environs and vistas for the long term benefit and enjoyment of Melbournians, but see a much broader scope as being required.

In particular, the health of the Yarra is impacted directly on the many developments that occur in its watersheds. Managing the impact of urban runoff is recognised internationally as a fundamental tenet to achieving long term outcomes, and we believe that our input is best targeted at ensuring these considerations remain at the forefront.

We see an important distinction between managing development to achieve improvement in the quality, frequency and timing of urban runoff; done appropriately this will also serve a water resource outcome (e.g. through stormwater and rainwater harvesting), and improve amenity (e.g. through management of flooding and building communities able to enjoy natural assets) and improve resilience in the face of climate change.

Separately, we have also been approached to provide views on how we could contribute to reviewing the State Environment Protection Policies relating to water. This too is an area we see as being intrinsically linked to managing urban growth and a instilling a 'catchment ethos' to waterway protection.

With these factors in mind we would be interested in working with Yarra River Keepers to ensure future initiatives aimed at protecting the Yarra are well framed to ensure a strong and meaningful outcome.

Please feel free to contact me directly via president@stormwatervictoria.com.au or 0488 659 446 to discuss this future collaboration.

Yours faithfully,



Ralf Pfeleiderer
President