



Waterways and catchments

Yarra Ranges Council has commenced a comprehensive and transparent planning, consultation and assessment process for the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination through an Environment Effects Statement (EES).

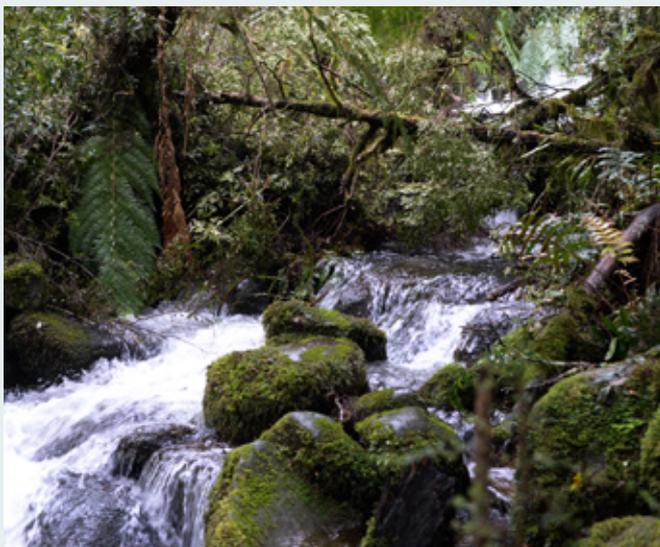
Delivering a world-class mountain bike destination in the heart of the Yarra Ranges would generate tourism, economic and jobs growth and provide a positive community connection with the significant environmental and heritage values in the region.

Protecting the area's natural and cultural environment and minimising potential impacts is central to the project's development.

The EES for the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination will assess the project's environmental effects in four key areas, including waterways and catchments

The EES Scoping Requirements sets the following evaluation objective:

Maintain the functions and values of groundwater, surface water and floodplain environments and minimise effects on water quality and beneficial uses.



Work to date to understand waterways and catchment values

The Warburton Mountain Bike Destination has been in development since it was first raised in 2010 by local riders.

Over several years and stages of investigations and design, Council has undertaken a feasibility study, detailed planning work, technical investigations and community consultation to inform the project's design and Master Plan.

The following assessments of the project's effects in relation to waterways have been prepared since 2013 to help guide the project's development and have been publicly available for consultation:

- Surface water and geotechnical assessment
- Environmental risk assessment
- Endorsed ecological protocols
- Bushfire management statement and plan (draft)
- Construction environment management plan (draft)
- Operations, weed and maintenance plan (draft)

The project site covers a large area with varying elevation (from 150 to 1250 metres) within Melbourne Water's Yarra River Upper (Rural) sub-catchment, the Little Yarra Water Supply Protection Area and the Don River Water Supply Protection Area.

A surface water and geotechnical impact assessment undertaken during project development found that the proposed design would require 164 crossings of waterways, including a bridge for bicycles to cross the Yarra River.



Sensitive design development

The project is being developed in partnership with Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and with input from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Melbourne Water and the Upper Yarra Community Enterprise.

Since 2016, each of these organisations and other key stakeholders have provided direct input to the development of the project, identified sensitive areas through a step-by-step design process and advised on field studies and other technical investigations.

The project team has been working closely with Melbourne Water to ensure waterway protection and have incorporated standards and controls to mitigate possible impacts on water catchments, including:

- Applying Melbourne Water guidelines for works on waterways
- A “no wet wheels” approach has been implemented during the project’s design to minimise erosion and impacts to water quality
- Elevated structures, including boardwalks and low-level bridges, will be used to minimise impacts on waterways and boggy areas
- Avoiding changes to surface water flows
- Crossing waterways at the narrowest practical location
- Avoiding running trails parallel to waterways, within 20m.

EES assessment of effects on waterways and catchments

The study of the project’s effects on waterways and catchments will be conducted by specialists in hydrology and water quality, using research, field studies and consultation with stakeholders.

The EES will consider potential waterway and catchment impacts including any changes to water quality, water level, temperature or flow paths, and potential effects related to erosion, sedimentation and landform stability.

Mitigation measures will be developed to avoid and minimise potential impacts where feasible, with input from the Technical Reference Group.

More information on the assessment requirements relating to waterways and catchments is available in the EES Scoping Requirements.

www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/browse-projects/projects/warburton-mountain-bike-destination

Find out more and stay involved

Community input is an important part of the EES process and the project’s continued development.

- 🌐 Sign up for project updates, find the latest information or ask a question on our website rideyarraranges.com.au
- ✉ mtb.planning@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
- ☎ 1300 368 333

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