

Nillumbik Shire Council
Green Wedge Management Plan
Summary of key findings from wider community engagement
28 May – 13 July 2018

This attachment summarises the results from the 736 completed surveys (including youth survey) and ten workshops held through the course of the six week community engagement period from 28 May until 13 July 2018 to inform the review of the Green Wedge Management Plan.

Where five or more similar responses were received, variations in response greater than ten per cent between survey respondents residing in rural areas (275) compared to those residing in urban areas (246) are highlighted. Not all survey respondents disclosed their place of residence.

What do you like/love about the Green Wedge?

- Space, peace, healthy 'feel'
- Natural environment, wildlife
- Community
- Recreation and leisure activities
- Lifestyle

The current challenges experienced in the Green Wedge

- Travel and transport issues
- Over development and population pressures
 - Urban residents cited *overdevelopment and population growth* as a challenge more so than rural residents.
- Bushfire
 - Rural residents cited *bushfire* as a challenge more so than urban residents.
- Social disharmony
- Environmental degradation, weeds
- Over regulation and lack of landowner autonomy
- Cost of living
 - Rural residents cited *cost of living pressures* as a challenge more so than urban residents

Future challenges facing the Green Wedge

As above, and in addition

- Lack of business and job opportunities
- Climate change
- Inappropriate development
- Lack of regulation (contradicting views of over regulation)
 - Rural residents cited the need for *additional Green Wedge protection* more so than urban residents

The future opportunities for the Green Wedge

- Promotion of the area for health and wellbeing, and environmental understanding
 - Urban residents cited opportunity for the Green Wedge to *support enhanced health and wellbeing* more so than rural residents
- Keeping the Green Wedge as it is
- Improving facilities and services
- Community building and support for community groups
 - Rural residents cited opportunity for *community building* more so than urban residents
- Protection of the environment
- Promoting tourism
- Supporting small business
- Simplifying, improving the planning processes

Of the 418 additional survey comments provided, nearly 300 highlighted the desire for positive planning to shape the future management of the Green Wedge, to maintain the Green Wedge as it is, and protect the Green Wedge from development.