



Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Volume 4

Email submissions

281 - 513



nillumbik.vic.gov.au

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From: [Arthur Korf](#)
To: [Nichole Johnson](#)
Cc: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Draft Green Wedge Management Plan -58-94 Bishop Ave, Diamond creek
Date: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 4:21:15 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
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Hi Nicole, thank you for returning the call and your efforts thus far.

Unfortunately I am unable to use that mail link and will email in this manner and hopefully you can pass it on or reference it accordingly as feedback/submission.

Please ensure that you reply having noted my submission due to this varied submission process.

Dear Nicole/GWMP,

I am the owner of [REDACTED], Diamond Creek and we are directly located on the edge of the residential aspect of Area C.

We are most disappointed by the process thus far are engaging further legal opinion for a number of reasons that were discussed in a meeting with the Mayor and Geoff Lawlor.

Basically we are extremely concerned that the process was described as a Committee being set up to review the GW and what we discovered was a Community group made of activists who harassed and railroaded the entire process to suit their objectives. Council has been negligent of its administration of a fair and reasonable process. It was not random, not chaired and council needs to provide minutes and under the freedom of information act provide information as to how this all unfolded in such a flawed process.

It has been noted that the process was not random and that positions on this citizens jury were transferable and flawed from day 1. Random selection, it was most definitely not. Who out of the 40 were representative of the GW owners? A hand full if lucky and they were bullied out of the process. Surely Council would have facilitated a proper process. What would the media think of all of this, bullying, harassment, corruption and who knows what else we will uncover before September, 2019 ?

We had a representative attend these meetings until she was forced to leave and not allowed to re-enter discussions. The meeting was never chaired by any person and was a free for all from the usual groups,

hell bent on GW owners providing parklands of no value and rubbish disposal areas surrounded by dirt roads full of health hazards (Legal action pending).

She is on record saying she was subjected to harassment and bullying from activists who were more concerned with their ongoing agendas than following a logical planning process which is long overdue.

In effect it was a rehashing of C81 & C 101 and not an independent planning process. Over the many years we have had numerous panels and expert opinion reporting mentioning the various options and yet Nillumbik looks the other way, nothing to see here.

It was sold to us from Mr Lawlor that he was undertaking an independent planning process and whilst I believe that he has tried, he too has succumbed to the activists who have no planning intentions.

In effect we owners on the hard edge cannot run any type of activity due to the close proximity

to urban housing and due to the layers upon layers of control by Council over the years. The earth is shallow, animal controls exist and other than dumping grounds the land is useless other than the tokenistic 'lungs of Melbourne tag.' Meanwhile those that live in the GW are subjected to a dust bowl existence with no roads other than dirt roads maintained by council using harmful substances. The local water ways are also contaminated if you care to look.

Can someone tell me "what is the land useful for other than open spaces at no cost to council or those around?" If those that want the GW kept this way, they should pay or Council can contribute accordingly.

In the meeting at Council, we discussed the following options:-

In particular we are proposing the following for our 20 acres situated adjacent to the Residential area.

- That every area of the GW be looked at specifically and in particular the Hard Edge area which provides the most challenging interface with Residential housing bordering Acreage of no use other than oxygen.
- A fanning approach in terms of land sizes with a change in the Schedule reflecting smaller more manageable and useful lot sizes closer to the hard edge and larger deeper into the GW. Basically a horses for courses approach is needed.
- Roads be our responsibility (Road Scheme) assuming we can create smaller lots under a new schedule.
- Less Layers of council control so that our land can be useful and to have some value moving forwards as opposed to a diminishing value.
- In our particular Area C the average lot size is 2 HA (88%) and the minimum is 8HA which is an anomaly when using blanket decision for the entire GW. A reduction in sizes via Schedule changes is a must at a minimum.
- Nillumbik Council in 2003 examination of Area C specified it be included with the UGB so our suggestions are feasible in that it is a compromise for GW owners on the hard edge, activists and thousands of road users.
- Smaller lots have worked well in the Plenty area. In particular similarly located land at 1 ACRE in existing zoning have worked exceptionally well for all groups.
- Proximity to existing infrastructure lends itself to smaller lots in our case, schools, railway, bus, major roads. Basically a few hundred meters to Major activity centre.
- No pastoral hope as most of our 20Acres is cleared and has no value from a pastoral sense and any chance of going towards this was squashed by Council when the previous owner applied for a greenhouse and was refused a permit.
- No environmental impact as per previous studies undertaken.
- Livestock is not optional due to proximity to residential as we border numerous homes.
- More Urban fringe than Rural, a buffering approach will work in so many ways. Consider the minority report as it was more unbiased and reflective of what I'm hoping was the overall objective of this process.
- Health benefits with the creation of new roads.
- Great opportunity to move forward and appease all groups including local GW owners, council and Nillumbik residents.
- Suggestions of amalgamation of blocks is ludicrous and so far-fetched it borders on stupidity.
- Existing Sewer and storm water availability and proximity.
- Logic needs to prevail, schedule changes a must. It's time to make a difference and not fall back to the past and not rely those that dare to consider change.

Thanking you once again and apologies for the above.

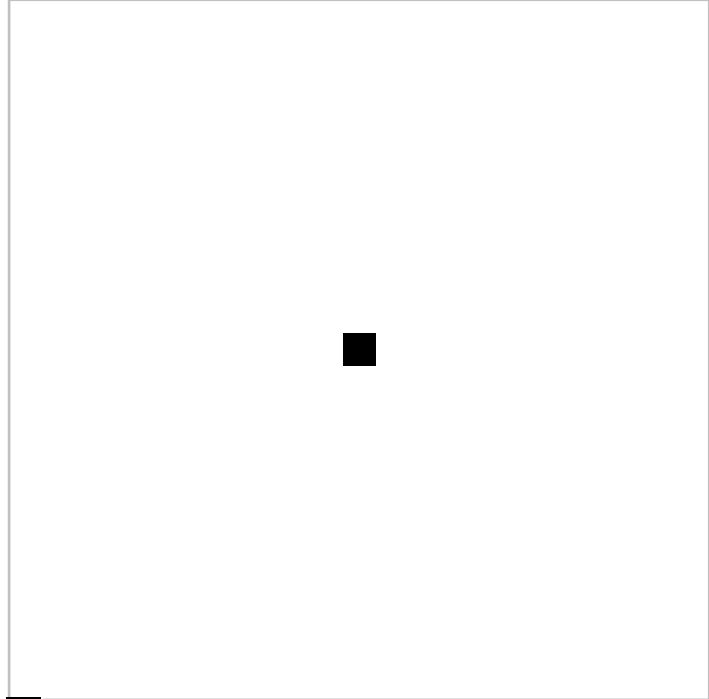
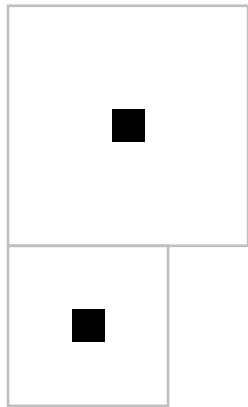
It's just that the entire process has been so pathetic and it's a shame that we need to drag council thru the mud so to speak with correspondence like this and/or future litigation.

Arthur Korf

[REDACTED]

Arthur Korf
MANAGER

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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From: Nichole Johnson [mailto:Nichole.Johnson@nillumbik.vic.gov.au]

Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 1:44 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Hi Arthur,

Further to our conversation regarding completing feedback form for Draft Green Wedge Management Plan please see below link to the Participate Nillumbik site. Scroll to the bottom and press on click here to give your feedback.

<https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gwmp>

Enjoy your holiday.

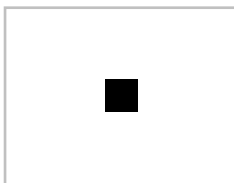
Kind regards

Nichole

Nichole Johnson
Coordinator Strategic Projects
Strategic Planning

Nichole.Johnson@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

03 9433 3134 | 0438 384 183



Nillumbik Shire Council


Civic Drive (PO Box 476) Greensborough Victoria 3088

03 9433 3111 | nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

nillumbik.vic.gov.au |

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05.07.19

Att: GWMP Project Team
PO Box 476
Greensborough
3088

Dear Councillor(s),

I live in North Warrandyte in the beautiful shire of Nillumbik. Our one acre property borders on the green wedge and we have lived here now for 34 years.

I am writing this to let you know how much I, and my family love and appreciate the natural beauty and diversity of this shire, regarding it as a privilege to live here.

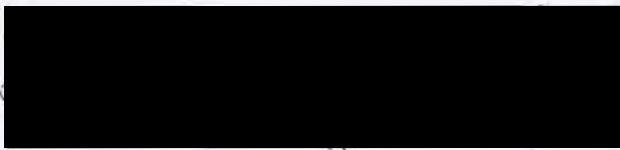
I am aware that the green wedge in this shire is the most intact of the mere 12 that surround our metropolitan area. The significance of this fact I think means as a council and as residents, there is more reason to protect our natural heritage.

Thus I write to implore you and your team to refrain from allowing any further development and/or any further land clearing which will destroy the environment in this precious green wedge.

Our children and grandchildren deserve to be able to live amongst and enjoy the benefits of this extraordinary bio-diverse ecology that is inherently providing a system that, if not protected, will never be the same again. Our climate is warming and without the forests and abundance of trees to provide a cooling effect on the land and ourselves we may all expire from the heat. Heaven (and you as councilors) please forbid!!

With Kind regards,

Diana Loftus-Hills



From: [Nichole Johnson](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: FW: Consultation with Nillumbik regarding Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Tuesday, 9 July 2019 3:50:17 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

From: Catherine La Puma [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2019 3:10 PM
To: Nichole Johnson <Nichole.Johnson@nillumbik.vic.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Consultation with Nillumbik regarding Green Wedge Management Plan

Hi Nichole,

The Elders are happy with the consultation that has occurred with Gail and Julieanne, and have no extra comments to make on the Green Wedge Management Plan. My one note is that the Wurundjeri Corporation name need to be updated within the document.

Kind regards,

Catherine La Puma
Acting Heritage Unit Manager
Cultural Heritage Unit
Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
1st Floor Providence Building | Abbotsford Convent
1 St Heliers Street | Abbotsford VIC 3067

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [christine.w](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: green wedges management plan
Date: Thursday, 11 July 2019 6:21:33 PM

I would like to see much much more emphasis placed on protecting the fragile natural bushland, the protection and encouragement of diversity of indigenous plants, waterways and animals.

I would like to have my rates spent to ensure our shire does its very best to prioritise the absolute importance of environmental healing and maintenance- not just for our shire, but to do what we can for our earth

yours with passion
Christine Wright

From: [Joy Flannagan](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Green Wedge
Date: Sunday, 14 July 2019 9:40:47 PM

Submission on Council's Draft GWMP

I am a resident of the Bend of Islands and a member of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA).

The draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form. It totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, while advocating the undermining of the current conservation zones.

I consider that it is particularly important that there is a general revision of the draft to incorporate the following issues.

- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, states its first priority for Green Wedges: ***'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'*** (Refer Appendix 1 of Council's draft GWMP)

The Draft GWMP, in its entirety, should have this priority as the main focus.

- The overriding response from Council's Community Survey (Aug 2018) and its Community Panel (Nov. 2018) was that Nillumbik **residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge**; and they want it to be maintained, protected and enhanced. Council's Draft GWMP will not achieve this.
- The GWMP needs to more strongly acknowledge the importance of ALL indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it THROUGHOUT the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what ecosystems provide; developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent); address the climate change and extinction crises, and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the Actions and all other aspects of the Draft GWMP, without compromise.
- The natural environment continues to decline everywhere – In Nillumbik and globally. Maintaining a "Business as Usual" trajectory is not good enough. Declines in biodiversity are at critical levels, and there is urgent need for action by all levels of government and society. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) states that, *"The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global"*.
- The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play; so that we can be part of the solution, acting locally to address global problems. We're a relatively affluent population. Nillumbik is the perfect place to start turning things around. If not here and now, where and when?
- The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge. However, there has been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.
- The Draft GWMP proposes changes to how land within the Green Wedge can be used on the rural side of the UGB and around our rural townships. This has the

potential to erode the values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundary. **The UGB must be treated as a hard boundary.**

- We need a Green Wedge Management Plan that places the Green Wedge environment, biodiversity, and their restoration as the main priority in a way that fits the 21st century challenges facing us, for our children, and our children's children.
- The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail – much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed about the piggery etc proposed for next door.
- Nillumbik leaders should explain that "the right to farm" comes with an obligation on the owner to not degrade the land during his/her brief period of stewardship. Stewardship simply means that after an owner's (brief) tenure the land and its waterways will be passed on in a better state. For agricultural land this means with soil erosion and pest invasion controlled; for bush properties, biodiversity has been improved. Nillumbik Landcare Network have produced a document on the Culture of Community Custodianship of Land which explains this concept.
- Horses and other hard-hoofed animals have a negative impact on the environment – none of Australia's native animals have hard hooves. Impacts on habitats include erosion, water quality degradation, damage to flora, and spreading of weeds. Actions must be implemented to prevent these impacts. These must include education of the equine sector and other graziers. There needs to be greater understanding and responsible ownership of animals, ensuring that animals do not enter waterways and are not allowed to graze in the bush. This focus on environmental care must also be reflected in the proposed Nillumbik Equine Strategy.
- Achieving community engagement by playing down or ignoring the GW residents' responsibilities for environmental protection is self-defeating. This will result in a diminished GW that does not meet the aspirations of the majority of the local community or Victoria's desired planning outcomes for the Green Wedges.
- Responsible Leadership would have a separate section dealing with climate change mitigation in accordance with the precautionary principle.
- (O3.1) While it is important to protect our "valuable" biodiversity and habitats, this skirts around the importance of "less valuable" or, more accurately, "less intact or disturbed" habitats that make up the entire biodiversity map for the shire. For example, the "vulnerable" Ecological Vegetation Class - Valley Grassy Forest is often degraded within Nillumbik due to its grassy understory lending itself to being readily-available grazing land. This does NOT negate the importance of these otherwise "less valuable" habitats.

I request that Council considers these issues and revises the Draft GWMP to included appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge.

Regards,

Joy Flannagan



From: [Gay Chatfield](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Message
Date: Monday, 15 July 2019 3:18:38 PM

I DO NOT support the draft Green Wedges Management Plan due to the lack of priority for the environmental protection. I would like to see the following added as the number 1. priority for our shire: Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation."This would align the GWMP to the outcome of the extensive community engagement process held in 2018.
Concerned Resident

From: [Sue Aldred](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: submission to 2019 Draft GWMP
Date: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 1:20:08 PM
Attachments: [Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.docx](#)

Dear Sir/Madam,

please find attached my submission to the draft GWMP. I would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt.

Kind regards

Sue Aldred



Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan July 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft plan. I acknowledge the hard work and community input that has gone into the process to date and congratulate all involved.

As you can see from the roles listed at the end of this submission, I have had the opportunity to shape and comment on Green Wedge (GW) policy for some years. As you can also imagine, I have taken many hours in responding to many reports and policies over the years, usually in an unpaid capacity. In the 20+ years I have lived in the GW there have been a constant procession of threats to the integrity of our environment; that is, our specific part of the Green Wedge of Melbourne. I have felt, and continue to feel, increasingly overwhelmed and often discouraged about the constant erosion of the environmental values of the GW. It should be a given that the GW exists to benefit us all and that we need to protect its entirety as an accepted part of the privilege of living here. I have taken the option here to comment on the text as it flows, rather than as a whole, thus offering input in direct response to items that were of note to me as I read.

The prime message of this draft plan seems to me to be:

'how can we USE the Green Wedge?'

rather than:

'This is a precious environmental resource that needs to be cherished for future generations - how can we best protect and enhance it?'

I find this worrying. The GW is not only a *'place to live, work and play'*, it is a sanctuary and habitat for native flora and fauna and an invaluable carbon sink for Melbourne and Victoria as a whole. This role and environmental service needs to be acknowledged in any discussion of climate change. Council, along with other interface Shires, should be lobbying to Federal and State Government in dollar terms for the environmental service provided by the GW.

If agriculture in the GW is to be a *'given'* then it must be undertaken sustainably with a view to soil enrichment, mixed cropping and appropriate levels and types of livestock.

Any recreational activity based in the GW must also be sustainable and not lead to damage of the environment – any increase in the number and scope of trail bike and horse riding tracks, especially in sensitive bushland, must be avoided. Tracks should be as low impact technically and aesthetically as possible, not open to abuse and misuse by motorised bikes and not used as an excuse to clear vegetation.

Regular monitoring and evaluation is crucial, especially with regard to the appropriate use of rural living properties. Many have developed as dumping ground for old cars, outdated

and unused machines, stockpiles of building materials and more. All this misuse leads to soil compaction, tree damage, understorey reduction, reduced habitat and loss of local amenity. The GW, nor its rural properties, is not a dumping ground.

The GW is valued for all the things mentioned in the draft – but it is especially valued for its **trees**. Conservation should be first and foremost in every statement of this Plan.

The GW and industries seem to me to be strange bedfellows.

P11 – dot point 5 should be placed first up at 1.

P11 – local roads and management thereof – speeding, hooning and throwing of rubbish from vehicles are increasing and are a huge challenge and concern to rural landowners. Increased traffic at the weekends from motorbikes and cycles are a real safety concern and lead to disturbance of wildlife and loss of local amenity due to the noise from unregulated motor cycles. GW roads are not playgrounds.

Any consultation on land management should involve the Wurundjeri people, for example Uncle Dave Wandin, and should be done so at community group and individual property level.

P11 – poor land management is mentioned again here – this needs more enforcement, especially with regard to overstocking, erosion and weed infestations, the dumping of materials, large machines and multiple containers on rural properties. There is often scope for unregistered domestic rental of outbuildings. There is poor control of dogs and cats and feral animals pose a huge management problem for landowners.

Planning processes are there for a reason. All Councils are criticised for this, not just Nillumbik. Council should be upholding State Planning Frameworks with goodwill.

P11 – if Council is to take a lead then it needs to employ more high quality environmental staff to assist landowners in managing their properties appropriately.

P11 - 5 key moves for the Shire

1. There is already comprehensive information in the community – eg, CERAP, Landcare & Department of the Environment publications; and indeed existing Council publications.
2. Don't use bushfire mitigation as an excuse to reduce valuable forest.
3. Landcare, Friends Groups and others already fill this niche. Post-2009 bushfires, the cross agency group NERWG was highly effective in engaging and educating landowners. Those with the expertise and collaborative approach still exist in the community.
4. There is an inherent danger in over-developing our rural townships. The reason people like them is because they are the way they are.
5. The NEROC report, the more recent ABZECO study have all done an excellent job in stocktaking. What we need is action to preserve, not another report.

As landowners many of us are fully aware of the pests we need to manage (eg foxes, rabbits, deer, pigs, goats, feral cats and dogs, Indian mynahs, rats, mice). More support would be welcomed with this and robust lobbying to State Government to get deer declared a feral pest.

P23 – The State Planning Policy Framework is not, and should not be perceived as, a challenge (or as implied, an imposition to) Council. It is simply a set of rules to be followed, rules we need to preserve the GW.

P23 – Municipal Road Management Plan – sealing of roads, while reducing dust and run-off, also leads to increased traffic volume and speed as well as increased roadkill. I find it astounding that the default speed limit of rural roads is 100kph. Roadsides are also deteriorating due to rubbish and noxious weeds.

Actions:

A1.1 – use existing networks of Landcare and community groups

A1.5 – there is a danger in townships losing their unique identity

A1.6 – any amalgamation should be geared towards government purchase rather than the building of additional houses in bushland

A1.9 – set sensible speed and traffic weight limits for rural collector roads

A2.3 – ensure trails are not abused and do not lead to unnecessary loss of vegetation

A2.7 – what TYPE of prohibited use???

P30 - Bushfire – There needs to be greater education around bushfire. All plants burn. Grass burns. Fuel loads and their types are poorly understood by most people. A culture of blame and anti-environment has developed, especially in areas affected by Black Saturday. The St Andrews pilot has been a poorly facilitated, jargon-laden, simplistic approach dominated by a few individuals.

A3.5 – roadside management plan – there needs to be less wholesale slashing on rural roads as it spreads weeds and leads to erosion. It needs a targeted, on the ground approach.

A3.5 – I would like here to express my concern at the loss of so many experienced environment staff from Council in the last few years.

A3.10 – not only light-spill from (for example) Council streetlights – private tennis courts, basketball courts and totally unnecessary outside lighting are all contributing to light-spill and should be controlled in rural areas. Light-spill adversely affects nocturnal birds and animals.

A3.12 – Council needs to work with Melbourne Water and the State Government to reduce the amount of water removed by private interests from the headwaters of the Diamond Creek catchment.

04.2 – the ‘right’ to farm? On an established farm yes, however the right also comes with responsibilities. The right to farm is not the right to clear land carte blanche.

04.5 – I would be interested to hear what ‘new type of visitor experience’ is envisaged.

04.6 – home business – only if this does not impact on neighbours – and bearing in mind that neighbours in rural living zones can share a street too. There should be no adverse

aesthetic impact, no noise, no increased parking, mass storage of materials etc – all this affects the environment as a whole (eg soil compression, tree damage, animal disturbance).

Goal 5

Zoning – I do not feel 'further examination' is warranted. Instead of further examination, we need to consolidate the excellent work already being undertaken by Landcare, Friends Groups, Melbourne Water and other agencies as well as building on, and in some cases reactivating, projects that have stalled. Accepting the Zoning as it stands gives certainty for the future, for the community, for future Councils and their Officers and for our landscape as a whole – otherwise known as our environment*.

Sue Aldred

Co-founder, Friends of Swipers Gully; Founder, Stringybark Community Nursery; Past President, St Andrews Landcare; Past President Wadambuk St Andrews Community Centre 2009-2016; Member of post-bushfire cross-agency group, NERWG (with Parks Vic, Council, Melbourne Water, Landcare, DELP, CFA, Conservation Volunteers); Co-author, St Andrews CERAP; Past President, Friends of Nillumbik; Community member of 2010 GWMP group.

***Environment - noun**

1. the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates.

Landscape - noun

1. all the visible features of an area of land, often considered in terms of their aesthetic appeal.

Landscape – verb

1. make (a garden or other area of ground) more attractive by altering the existing design, adding ornamental features, and planting trees and shrubs.
"the site has been tastefully landscaped"

From: [Tom Boschma](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Council's draft GWMP
Date: Thursday, 18 July 2019 9:55:04 PM

Dear Council members,

You should be informed of my disappointment at the draft GWMP and the threat it creates to the precious and increasingly scarce natural habitat in Nillumbik.

I have lived with my family in Nillumbik for over 30 years. The kids went to school here. My wife and I work here- but now my Grandchildren are threatened with the exploitation of the land we live in - because of short sighted decisions by policy makers.

There is nothing inevitable about this 'growth' inspired 'draft'- we do not need to do it. Is this really your vision of 'progress' ? To gradually fritter away the very thing that makes Nillumbik special? Is it progress to turn Nillumbik into suburbia? Why do we have to grow? What is wrong with Nillumbik today that we need to make it 'better' tomorrow? If you think that the 'draft' is progress, then I think you should not be a leaders in our community.

As a landholder in Nillumbik (along Stoney Creek- a wildlife 'link') I care for the land and try to protect it from invasions of many species, including a long list of plants, birds and mammals that were introduced by well meaning people who messed with our fragile land in the arrogance of thinking they had the right to 'improve' the land. Can't we learn from that? Do you really think that further man made meddling with the land will actually improve anything- other than short term financial gain and power of developers and council.

Specifically I make the following response to the 'Draft'

- The 'draft' GWMP does not support the current Rural Conservation Zones and should be amended to pledge such support.
 - The 'draft' GWMP erodes away the vision and sensible goals of the current GWMP 2010-2025, and should be amended in line with that plan.
 - The 'draft' GWMP needs to support a vision where where our local environment is to be nurtured and protected by prioritizing it above the temptation to grab short term advantage for a few. That should be the leadership role of a visionary council committee.
- Kindly distribute these requests to your council committee.

Many thanks,
Tom Boschma,

[REDACTED]

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Margo van der Voort



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

I feel deeply shocked after having studied the draft outline of the GWMP.

Having lived the now World Heritage area the Blue Mountains for 16 years, I was attracted to move to this Green Wedge area because of the conservation values that the local people held dear and lived. I had the privilege to be invited into the Bend of Islands Environmental Living Zone and I thrived there on how the residents care for the land, preserved land for wildlife and carried out bush regeneration and protection of local flora and fauna as well as living in an intentional community.

I learned to love the Green Wedge and have worked to protect it and I will do so into the future. But I believe some councillors on the Nillumbik council clearly have other ideas and do not carry the same beliefs and passion for preserving the Green Wedge and being good stewards for it. Residential development might be more on their minds, selling off council reserves, important green spaces for pets and families with children, increasing tourist traffic everywhere killing wildlife in droves. Kangaroos, Wallabies, Wombats, Birds, Snakes, Blue Tongue Lizards don't stand a chance with 24 hours traffic activity and the increase of heavy trucks roaring day and night through the valleys and hill sides is just horrendous. My quite 'village' of Hurstbridge is not quiet anymore. My dogs don't want to go near Main street because of traffic and truck movements. More bitumen is now covering the walk ways and every week a tree is removed quietly but surely.

Fergusons paddock and the new storm water collection lakes and surroundings are being moved and moved again as if they are golf courses. As a result the local wood ducks, kangaroos and other grazers see their green food moved so short there's nothing to peck at. Add to that spraying with round up glyphosate and the disaster for them is complete, they move elsewhere.

The Diamond Creek has turned into a trickle and was completely dry at the end of last Summer. You could get a good picture then of all the pollution and debris that is suffocating the base of it. Near Monash Bridge in Hurstbridge car tires are lining the banks of the creek and no Platypus has been seen for many years.

Our Green Wedge around Hurstbridge, Wattle Glen is degrading rapidly and urban sprawl is chipping away at vital land for wildlife. The new housing estate at Diamond Creek is shocking too! Residential houses right under a high voltage powerline! And wasn't there an old gold mine there? Have any soil testing been done to detect harmful toxins and pollutants to prevent residents contracting 'mysterious' illnesses? Has the soil been rehabilitated? Detoxed?

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Same with the 'community land' at the Hurstbridge hub where the former Highschool once stood. This land is polluted with rubble, wiring, iron, pvc piping and much more. It's all nicely grassed over and looks sort of 'beautiful' but you only have to scratch under the surface to uncover tons of non biodegradable matter left there which toxicity will seep deeper into the groundwater and eventually will end up in the Diamond Creek.

These are just a few of the issues I'm observing on my daily walks enjoying the still rich birdlife although most smaller birds are gone!

Horrendous pollution from careless visitors are strewn everywhere, aluminium cans, bottles, chip packets, plastic galore, a deep layer of litter is forming and it's unstoppable it seems. More tourist you want to attract to this area via Artisan Hills and more vineyards? This is the fall out, they leave layers of litter behind!

I am often in despair when I observe the demise of what once was the Green Wedge.

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I DO NOT support the draft GWMP because I believe it should have a more measurable focus on environmental protection and the draft does not state this strongly enough, despite it being a Strategic Focus for the Shire. The State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', says the first priority for the Green Wedge is to 'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.' We need to enhance and gain; business as usual is not good enough. It is essential that appropriate resources are allocated to the enforcement of policy standards. Nillumbik's Biodiversity Report outlines the ongoing loss of native vegetation and part of the problem is inadequate enforcement. The impact of invasive species - flora and fauna - is significant and this must be better addressed.

I worry that the use of stocktakes and studies [see A3.1, p32] that describe some areas of vegetation as more significant or valuable could lead to more stress on the environment. There is already pressure on the ecosystems from disturbance and mismanagement. The plan needs to be holistic, not looking and making decisions on little patches here and there - a bit land clearing and /or grazing here and there leave our flora and fauna vulnerable to ever-increasing stress and disappearance. For this reason, I do not support the draft GWMP.

I feel and fear that there is nothing more important to address with our GWMP than climate change mitigation. The plan must inform all objectives and actions such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy. Throughout the draft, there is no mention of strong leadership in this regard. Because of that, I do not support the draft GWMP. The community as a whole must come together to ensure

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

serious action is taken to mitigate climate change and draw down carbon emissions. This is a top priority for how we live together as a community - our collective wellbeing depends on it, as does the environment.

Margo van der Voort

From: [Elizabeth Doig](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on the draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019
Date: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 9:50:07 PM

I wish to make a submission in response to the council's draft Green Wedge Management Plan. I am extremely concerned that the proposed plan involves weakening the green wedge environmental protection safeguards to such an extent that the present value of our Nillumbik Green Wedge will be completely eroded. Because Council's draft advocates the undermining of the current Rural Conservation Zones, and totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, the current draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form.

The overriding GWMP response from Council's Community Survey (Aug 2018) and its Community Panel (Nov. 2018) was that Nillumbik residents cherish the high environmental values of the green wedge; and they want it to be maintained, protected and enhanced. Council's draft will not achieve this.

In Appendix 1 of Council's draft GWMP is a quote from Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, for the first priority for the green wedge: 'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.' The draft GWMP ignores this priority.

The GWMP needs to properly discuss the values and needs of the environment, such as the importance of indigenous vegetation; habitat for wildlife and connectivity; biodiversity; ecosystem services; a 'systems view' (that all is interdependent); the global climate change and biodiversity extinction crisis and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society.

The GWMP needs to reaffirm the shire's conservation role. The council "Business as Usual" approach is not good enough. This municipality is in a position to be a world leader in taking a strong environmental stand to protect our unique and precious natural environment.

Council's draft is in denial that the natural environment continues to decline everywhere – In Nillumbik and globally. Maintaining a "Business as Usual" trajectory is not good enough.

The 2019 Victorian State of the Environment Report paints a bleak outlook for the state's native plants and animals. It outlines concerns about the impact on biodiversity of horses, grazing and bushfire protection on private land. It states that more private land needs to be conserved, and it calls attention to the two global crises of climate change and biodiversity extinction.

The Urban Growth Boundary is supported. However, the Council's draft presses the state government to change the zone, or the zone's uses, on the rural side of the UGB and around our rural townships (Land Use Planning page 40 and A5.7). This has the potential to ruin the entrances to the Green Wedge, would degrade green wedge amenity and start increasing the size of our rural townships.

Council's draft argues that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required. In order that landowners can be consulted that a piggery, for example, may be about to start up next door, the need for a permit in this zone should remain.

We need a Green Wedge Management Plan that places the green wedge environment, biodiversity, and their restoration as the main priority in a way that fits the 21st century challenges facing us, for our children, and our children's children.

Council's draft GWMP is so poorly framed, and so thoroughly fails the basics of what's required, that the GWMP 2010-2025 with all its objectives and actions, needs to be reinstated.

Elizabeth Doig


From: [Adrian Leenaerts](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on the Green Wedge Management Plan Draft 2019
Date: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 11:12:54 AM
Attachments: [Submission on the Green Wedge Management Plan Draft 2019.docx](#)

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to submit the following in response to council's request for public submissions on the Green Wedge Management Plan draft 2019.

Thank you,
Adrian Leenaerts

Submission on the Green Wedge Management Plan draft 2019

It is disappointing that the present councillors consider that Nillumbik ratepayers would be satisfied with such a mealy-mouthed version of an important document. Council's draft makes a farce of the expensive and exhausting process to prepare this document and seriously dilutes the thrust of the Community Panel which unequivocally states that the majority of Nillumbik residents want the Green Wedge to be protected from inappropriate development and from further encroachment of the urban growth boundary.

This document is put forward under the title of a plan, on closer scrutiny it is found to be a collection of sentiments, platitudes and lip-service and provides very little guidance to protect the Green Wedge.

There is no actual plan indicating what procedures will be put in place, or what will be done by council to actively promote and protect the Green Wedge, what timelines have been established, what finances will be set aside, how the council will measure its achievements, what improvements in regulatory protections will be instigated, how many species and quantities of native flora will be planted and maintained by council. These are the issues that one expects to find in a plan. When, where, how, who, how much, where. Where are the details people need in order to follow a plan.

The Principles and goals are too vague and non-committal. The document needs to set Targets and describe in much greater detail what actions will be taken to protect native vegetation and fauna across the Shire. The goals do not pass the SMART test normally used to assess the veracity of goals ie are they **Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely**. Blind Freddy can see they do not comply with any of these criteria.

Do councillors not understand that Australia is the world leader in species extinction? Protection of the Shire's habitat is vital to preserve our unique species. People choose to live in Nillumbik because of its natural beauty and the lifestyle of living in the Green Wedge. They are not pleased or fooled by statements like 'living in the landscape' and other thinly veiled attempts to erode the amenity and integrity of the Green Wedge.

Nillumbik Shire has a long and proud reputation as a caring community committed to preserving the Green Wedge. There is a generation of children in schools currently being taught the significance of the environment to our everyday lives and the importance of acting locally. These are our children and grand children, the people who will bear the thrust of climate change and extinction of species. Shire residents are relying on Nillumbik council to act locally in the thrust to conserve the delicate biodiversity we live in and to turn around the rate of species loss and to demonstrate to the Commonwealth government that strong policies and action needs to be undertaken now.

The Green Wedge Management Plan is a document legislated by the State Government in efforts to halt species extinction and stop the destruction of the natural homes of the State's plants and animals.

It is aimed locally at councils in the Green Wedge because they are the remaining councils in Victoria that have this special opportunity to effectively control what flora and fauna will remain for future generations. The first priority of the State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050' for the Green Wedge, is to *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'* Needless to say, this version of the Green Wedge Management Plan does not meet these requirements and needs a more honest and sincere approach.

Adrian Leenaerts

From: [Paul Northey](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: The draft proposal is unacceptable
Date: Thursday, 25 July 2019 10:39:56 PM

Sir,

The draft Green Wedge proposal plan is an unacceptable departure . We must continue to protect the green wedge. This proposal does not do that.

Paul Northey



From: [Debra Redmond](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Cc: [Chris James](#)
Subject: Green Waste Management Plan July 2019
Date: Monday, 29 July 2019 3:48:49 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[Green Waste Management Plan Letter 26 July 19.pdf](#)

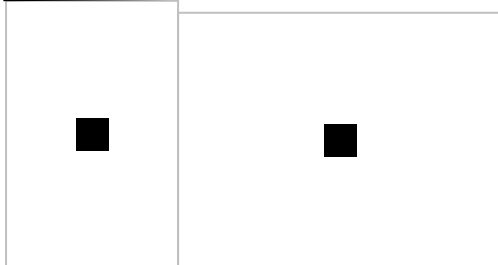
Dear Nichole Johnson,

Please see attached letter in relation to the Green Waste Management Plan from Chris James, Executive Director, NORTH Link.

Kind regards

 | NORTH Link
Technology Enterprise Centre, Building 1, Suite 4
La Trobe University, 2 Research Avenue, Bundoora 3086

P 
 | **W** www.melbournenorth.com.au www.nbaa.com.au



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26 July 2019

Cr Karen Egan
Mayor
Nillumbik Shire Council
PO Box 176
GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

Dear Cr Egan

I write in support of the Nillumbik Shire Council Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

NORTH Link is a strong regional partnership of industry, education, health and local government, established in 1995, that plays an integral role across northern metropolitan Melbourne. It comprises local councils (the cities of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland and Whittlesea and the shires of Mitchell and Nillumbik), local tertiary education institutions such as La Trobe University and industry including Melbourne Airport, Northern Hospital, DPV Health and the Melbourne Market Authority.

Economic development of the north is the key focus. NORTH Link communicates regularly with local businesses and community organisations of all sizes. The range of activities undertaken by NORTH Link demonstrates its commitment to assisting businesses and driving growth across one of Australia's fastest growing regions.

We note and support the statement on page 5 of the Plan that says, "Opportunities to grow agriculture, tourism, recreation and local jobs will be actively sought in a sensitive manner to create greater economic vitality and jobs for our community, foster new skills and build local capability."

NORTH Link supports the continued maintenance of the Green Wedge but believes it is possible to both preserve environmental values and foster environmentally sensitive economic opportunities for the region and its inhabitants.

Nillumbik is in the strong position of being close to a major growing urban population base but at the same time being relatively well protected from urban encroachment.

Appropriate tourism opportunities encompassing nature-based activity, food and beverage and arts and culture can be developed to foster employment opportunities for the residents of Nillumbik and Melbourne's North.

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www.nbaa.com.au

ABN 23 226 473 941

The Draft Plan aligns with the NORTH Link Regional Investment Attraction Strategy and Prospectus, which identifies the Visitor Economy as a key growth sector for Melbourne’s North, with “enormous untapped potential”.

This includes “a heritage arts scene based in the North East, which includes the Heidelberg, Heide and Montsalvat schools of artists along the Yarra River...”

The Strategy also makes the point that visitors need to be anchored in the region “to encourage higher tourism yield via overnight stays and spending on restaurant, entertainment, transport and tourism items”.

Food and beverage and nature-based tourism is also seen as important, with the Strategy noting that “artisan food producers, including primary producers, wineries and craft breweries, can provide a more genuine tourism experience where visitors can meet the producers as opposed to the ‘corporate feel’ of other winery regions.

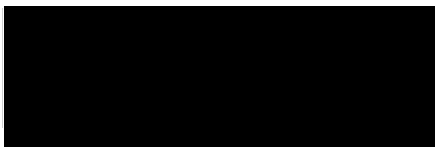
Significant economic and community assets across Melbourne’s North can also be leveraged:

- The presence of over 400 food and beverage manufacturers turning over \$1 million or more in Melbourne’s North operating under the auspices of the Melbourne’s North Food Group. These may provide markets for selected food producers.
- The Plan correctly identifies Professional Services as a key industry sector with a shortfall of local jobs as well as the large number of home-based businesses – the Melbourne Innovation Centre, Victoria’s leading incubator and co-working space provider has a major operation at Greensborough and could be interested in delivering services to support these businesses.
- Individual choice stemming from the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme provides an opportunity for smaller providers in the Nillumbik region to become providers to clients, underpinning a health and wellness sector.

Overall, Nillumbik Shire has most of its working residents travelling a reasonable distance outside the Shire for work, one of the highest escape spends in Victoria and a minimal night-time economy. It is important to bring economy activity back into the Shire and, for this reason, we endorse the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

I am available on telephone  if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Chris James
Executive Director

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Title: - Submission on Draft GWMP 2019
Date: Monday, 29 July 2019 4:46:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[2019-07-11 GWMP Submission N & J Taylor.doc](#)

Please find attached my Submission on Draft GWMP
2019.

Regards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Submission on Council's Draft GWMP

I am a resident of the Bend of Islands and a member of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA).

The draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form. It totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, while advocating undermining of the current conservation zones.

I consider that it is particularly important that there is a general revision of the draft to incorporate the following issues.

Introduction

- The Draft GWMP has a consistent serious deficiency, running throughout the whole of the document, that means it will not achieve the **Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas**.

The **Plan Melbourne 2017-2050** defines its 1st desired outcome as **Environmental and biodiversity assets**, including *forests and grasslands* and clearly calls for the protection and enhancement of these. This is obviously the highest priority of **Plan Melbourne 2017-2050**, and shows that the green wedges should have strong environmental protection to preserve and enhance their natural environments for the benefit of all Melbournians into the future.

The stated aim of this outcome is *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'*

There is a worrying lack of emphasis on the protection and enhancement of the **Environmental and biodiversity assets** in the current Draft GWMP and a major rewrite is required to ensure that this outcome is clearly articulated, emphasised and supported.

- The current declines in biodiversity to critical levels, and the need for strong environmental action by all levels of government and society, has recently come to the fore on many fronts: -
 - **The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**
 - *"The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide."*
 - *"it is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global".*
 - **The 2018 State of the Environment report for Victoria**
 - 26% of Biodiversity indicators are in poor condition and will remain so without intervention.

The current Draft GWMP opens the way for Nillumbik to do the opposite and allow the further decline of its natural environment, the very asset that make it so suitable for a green wedge.

- The main overriding message from the Panel Report is that Nillumbik residents cherish the high environmental values of the GW and they want it to be maintained, protected and enhanced. This strong message is not carried through in any way in the current GWMP draft.

Vision

- Environmental protection and reinvigoration must be central to the Vision for the Green Wedge. The draft does not state this clearly enough. Appendix 1 of Council's draft quotes the State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', where the first priority for the Green Wedge is to ***'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'***
- Council's initial community engagement clearly demonstrated that the large majority of Nillumbik **residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge** and want it maintained, protected and enhanced. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the Community's position.

- To be consistent with the Victorian Biodiversity Strategy this GWMP should be aiming to make Nillumbik's rural landscapes healthier. I.e. "By 2037 Nillumbik's natural environment is healthy"
- The last GWMP Vision included the following and they should be reinstated into this draft GWMP without all the current compromises and contradictions:

"In 2030, management of the Nillumbik Green Wedge will lead the way in economic, environmental and social sustainability.

The Green Wedge will be secure and will be valued by the local and wider Melbourne community for its natural and cultural values. The future of the Nillumbik Green Wedge is one in which:

- natural and cultural values are conserved and enhanced
- bush and rural landscapes are conserved and enhanced
- the economic future is sound
- communities are strong, connected and supported and are knowledgeable about the Nillumbik Green Wedge
- local identity and diversity are respected and nurtured."
- Since the last GWMP was written Climate Change and Biodiversity issues have become more critical, not less, eg: bees, Nillumbik orchids and frogs, but this draft has no actual initiatives to improve.
- The Victorian Green Wedge Planning Zones are aimed at conserving the natural environment of the Green Wedge and this plan should be supporting the zones not trying to undermine the RCZ and its conservation responsibilities as this draft does.
- The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play; that we can be part of the solution - actively seeking local solutions to global problems. We're a relatively affluent population. Nillumbik really is the perfect place to start turning things around. If not here and now, when and where else?

Five Key Moves.

- Each of the 'Five Key Moves' contain potentially useful ideas depending on how they are applied, and there needs to be much greater emphasis on the care of the natural environment.
- The document needs to describe in much greater detail the ACTIONS to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, ensuring the protection of ALL native vegetation and fauna across the Shire.
- Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term.
- The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge. However, there has been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.
- Certainly, Key Move 2 should be deleted in its entirety as it has the completely wrong sets of priorities and emphases.
- There are no commitments to actually addressing the environmental issues of Climate change and Biodiversity which featured as action in the last GWMP.
 - **Manningham Council**, in their GWMP background said, "*The main focus of the Green Wedge Strategy 2004 was the protection of biodiversity, sustainable management of public and private land, environmental education and community engagement and empowerment.*" And, that was 15 years ago! Nothing like this for Nillumbik.

- In the *Four Theme Approach of the Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan 2011-2021...* “Part 2 of this plan has been grouped into the four themes of the *Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy* (PPWCMA 2004) – Land, Biodiversity, Water and People.” Nothing like this for Nillumbik.
- **Mornington Peninsula** Green Wedge Management Plan 1 April 2019
“*Highlights the relationship between the Green Wedge Management Plan and the State Biodiversity Strategy with particular emphasis on increasing habitat areas and biolinks.*” **Nothing like this in Nillumbik draft plan.**
- Rather than having an exemplar GWMP for other Councils to follow, Nillumbik now has a Draft GWMP with little or no priority for enhancing biodiversity or the natural environment of the Green Wedge

Principles

- Each Principle is a very broad statement and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment.
- The Principles need to reflect the community’s commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The plan must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised in keeping with the State Government’s policies *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* and *Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037*, which is ‘Victoria’s plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.’
- The outlined Principles contain potentially useful ideas but there needs to be greater emphasis on the protection of the environment. For example, the principle that says, ‘The green wedge is a changing environment and home to many people. Change will be managed to conserve its values and with a focus on long-term stewardship.’ could read, “The green wedge is a changing environment and home to many people. Change will be managed to conserve its **biodiversity and environmental** values and with a focus on long-term stewardship.”
- These Principles almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to ‘*Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.*’ (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- The problem is not what is written in the GWMP draft, but what is omitted.
- An additional principle should be added, at the top of the list, as follows –
Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity
The decline in biodiversity must be reversed and the effects of Climate Change must be addressed so that we maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.
- The ‘**Sustainability and the precautionary principle**’ has been taken from the previous GWMP and then watered down. The principle from the previous GWMP should be reinstated as supported by the Community Panel.

Goal 1

- The thrust of Goal 1, to engage the community, is important but must be framed in the context of the environmental protection aim as stated in 1994 when the Local Government Review Board declared that the new Shire of Nillumbik was to be a **conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus.**
- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to ‘*Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats*

and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation. (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)

- The tone and wording of parts of the Goal 1 are too ambiguous and can be interpreted as an opportunity to ignore, water-down or override the environmental protection responsibilities of those who live in the GW.
- The vast majority of the stated objectives and key actions are applicable to a well thought out plan for 'any rural municipality'. Whilst they are obviously required for Nillumbik's rural areas, they do not specifically relate to the special aspects associated with the GW. The mixing of the 'general rural' and 'specific GW' issues makes the GWMP draft complex and confused. In some instances, it could be interpreted that the GW is being blamed for many problems that are common to most rural communities.
- The thrust of Goal 1, to engage the community, is important but needs to be explained in the context of the environmental protection aims. The importance of the role of the community for stewardship of the land needs to be clearly stated and emphasised. 'How can we maintain and improve the environment', not 'What can we get out of the land'.

For example, Objective 01.1 could be: -

Enable our people to take greater shared responsibility for the future of our green wedge, to ensure that we enhance biodiversity and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.

- Achieving community engagement by playing down or ignoring the GW residents' responsibilities for environmental protection is self-defeating. This will result in a diminished GW that does not meet the aspirations of the majority of the local community or Victoria's desired planning outcomes for the Green Wedges.
- The tone of 'how can we change the GW planning provisions' should be refocused to 'how can we develop smart solutions, consistent with the current GW planning provisions and boundary'. A1.6 is a good example of this. A1.7 needs a similar approach to solve the problem without diminishing the GW or its boundary.
- Comments on specific points:
Objectives O1.3, O1.6 & O1.7 and Actions A1.4, A1.5, A1.8, A1.9, A1.10 & A1.11 apply to any rural area, whether it is a GW or not. They certainly should be in the Council Plan, but don't need to be specifically spelt out 'part of' the GWMP, other than as a reference to acknowledge that they apply to the GW.

Goal 2

- In order to better manage the natural environment of the Shire, greater dialogue must be generated and maintained with the Traditional Custodians of the area. This is vital for the health of the whole community and the environment in which we live. A Key Action of Goal 2 must focus on this.
- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- Studies show that the natural environment, "the bush", has a positive influence on the mental and physical health for regular visitors to, and residents of, the bush. This needs (with the evidence) to be reflected in the Key Actions.
- The preamble finishes with a paragraph on the iconic nature of mudbrick dwellings to Nillumbik and laments that the number of new such dwellings has 'fallen away'. Doing something about this needs to be a **Key action** if Council is sincere about their comments of importance.

- Why no mention of Council Open Studios and Artisan Hills providing opportunities in the Green Wedge?
- People are important and a healthy environment helps people to be healthy, but the natural environment should not be compromised.

Goal 3

- The GWMP needs to more strongly acknowledge the importance of ALL indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it THROUGHOUT the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what ecosystems provide; developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent); address the climate change and extinction crises, and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the Actions and all other aspects of the plan, without compromise.
- Goal 3 repeatedly uses the language of 'balance', and this needs to be amended as it indicates that our thinking is oppositional. It implies that there is a need to trade-off environmental health against other considerations, while international, national, and state government reports indicate that we must prioritise the health of our environment. For example, A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.
- The use of stocktakes and studies [see A3.1, p32] that describe some areas of vegetation as more significant or valuable than others is alarming as it can lead to greater degradation of the environment which is already under pressure. The majority of the Shire's ecosystems are already 'disturbed' because of mismanagement, and this means we must change our ways. Every Objective and Action ought to aim for preservation and reinvigoration of the environment. One of the greatest threats to the Shire is 'death by a thousand cuts', where bit by bit land clearing and grazing leave our flora and fauna vulnerable to ever increasing stress and disappearance. In turn this also places greater pressure on our community's overall well-being.
- An additional Action must be to undertake a massive public education campaign about biodiversity, the value of ecosystems, care for natural landscapes, bushfire risk reduction through understanding the ancient role of fire in the landscape, the significance of the Green Wedge, climate change and their interdependence.
- It is inappropriate to clump biodiversity with other seemingly conflicting/opposing activities. Biodiversity protection is paramount and clearly an intention of the Green Wedge Management Plan process, thus, Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement should be a Goal of its own.
- In an appendix to THIS draft plan (Appendix 1), Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, which provides the desired planning outcomes for Green Wedges and peri-urban areas, has the directive to "Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species, and achieve a Net Gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation." This draft plan does not provide sufficient emphasis on biodiversity protection, which should be the primary Objective of this Draft Plan.
- (O3.1) While it is important to protect our "valuable" biodiversity and habitats, this skirts around the importance of "less valuable" or, more accurately, "less intact or disturbed" habitats that make up the entire biodiversity map for the shire. For example, the "vulnerable" Ecological Vegetation Class - Valley Grassy Forest is often degraded within Nillumbik due to its grassy understory lending itself to being readily-available grazing land. This does NOT negate the importance of these otherwise "less valuable" habitats.
- It is important to consider vital faunal corridors, which may or may not be currently vegetated OR may support less "valuable" (read: less intact or degraded) habitats. We need to acknowledge that our

natural environment is already highly fragmented, so these important corridors may exist, or need to be created, across landscapes that do not contain so-called “valuable” biodiversity and habitats.

- (A3.12) Amenity has no place when considering waterway health. This is not an area in which “balance” is appropriate and wording for this should be “Review current water extraction and diversion practices, including use of dams and bores, in light of inadequate environmental flows due to reduced rain fall and climate change impacts”.
- It makes environmental sense to extend and improve the Green Wedge ESOs and the GWMP must say that is the intent of the ‘review’ (A3.2)
- Waterways, particularly Nillumbik rivers and creeks that feed the Yarra, must have water. It is not a balance; it is a priority (A3.12)
- The GWMP should undertake a massive public education campaign about biodiversity, ecosystem services, natural landscapes, the Green Wedge, climate change and their interdependences

Goal 4

- This section must clearly focus on overall environmental protection. Economic activities must be assessed and altered in response to latest science and the urgent need for environmental protections. This must be reflected in the title of the Goal, the Actions, and throughout the plan, for example, ‘A prosperous **eco-friendly Green Wedge** economy’.
- Support for local agriculture is important but must always provide for the continuing health of the environment. New systems that respect and promote regenerative farming, Indigenous knowledge, and value indigenous flora and fauna must be encouraged.
- The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of ‘cleared land’ needs greater detail – much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed about the piggery etc proposed for next door.
- This draft must mention the fact that tourism developments in the Green Wedge need to be “in conjunction” with agricultural uses, as stated in Section 55 of the planning scheme. This clause of the planning scheme decreases the likelihood of inappropriate development.
- Horses and other hard-hoofed animals have a negative impact on the environment – none of Australia’s native animals have hard hooves. Impacts on habitats include erosion, water quality degradation, damage to flora, and spreading of weeds. Actions must be implemented to prevent these impacts. These must include education of the equine sector and other graziers. There needs to be greater understanding and responsible ownership of animals, ensuring that animals do not enter waterways and are not allowed to graze in the bush. This focus on environmental care must also be reflected in the proposed Nillumbik Equine Strategy.
- Change the goal to: “A prosperous **Green Wedge** economy”
The goal was designed for the whole of Nillumbik in the Council Plan, so that the wording throughout this section is very general and needs to be re-focused to what is specific to the GW in terms of environmental context and eco-friendly economic activities.
- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *‘Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- Economic activities must have a net positive impact on the Green Wedge natural environment.

- Economic activities in the Green Wedge must be compatible with the Vision of the GWMP: “to enhance the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Shire.”
- Rather than the GW environment being an afterthought this plan should learn from the first GWMP: *“The GWMP supports economic activity suited to the Green Wedge: activity that does not have a negative impact on its environmental values and characteristic landscapes. This is in accordance with the Council Plan 2009–2013 and Melbourne 2030.”*

Goal 5

- This draft plan suggests the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) is too restrictive of farming practices and this zoning should only be applied to land with higher conservation values. This suggestion puts at serious risk flora and fauna across a significant proportion of the Shire, whether as single trees in paddocks or scattered pockets of remnant bush. These are all vital and in need of greater care and protection, not less.
- This Goal in its entirety must place much greater emphasis on the need to ‘Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.’ (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050).
- Key Action A5.6 and A5.7 [page 40 of the draft] propose changes to how land within the Green Wedge can be used. This has the potential to erode the values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundary. The UGB must be treated as a hard boundary.
- The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play; that we can be part of the solution, acting locally to address global problems. We're a relatively affluent population. Nillumbik is the perfect place to start turning things around. If not here and now, where and when?
- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *‘Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- This Goal title, “Responsible leadership’ is taken from the Council Plan that covers the whole shire, to take these Goal names and apply them to GWMP, for one part of the shire, makes no sense.
- Council first says it will work with ‘both sides’, but it should first reference the science and government policy on the values and threats to agriculture and the environment and the ideal way that they can coexist for the betterment of both.
- Nillumbik leaders should explain that “the right to farm” comes with an obligation on the owner to not degrade the land during his/her brief period of stewardship. Stewardship simply means that after an owner’s (brief) tenure the land and its waterways will be passed on in a better state. For agricultural land this means with soil erosion and pest invasion controlled; for bush properties, biodiversity has been improved. Nillumbik Landcare Network have produced a document on the Culture of Community Custodianship of Land which explains this concept.
- Council should call on advice of experts in related fields and the requirements of relevant state policies such as Practice Note 31 and the recent DELWP report on Protecting Melbourne’s strategic agricultural land.
- Responsible Leadership would have a separate section dealing with climate change mitigation in accordance with the precautionary principle.
- The UGB is a hard boundary and should be kept that way as. A5.7 may lead to a push for a buffer zone on the rural side of the UGB. This should be rejected.

- The Victorian Green Wedge Planning Zones are aimed at conserving the natural environment of the Green Wedge and this GWMP draft should be supporting the zones not trying to undermine the RCZ and its conservation responsibilities as this draft does. (A5.6 and A5.7)
- With the scenario of polarised views coming from landowners/stewards 'responsible' Council Leadership would have listed and described the landowners' frustrations. Eg: A list of practices beneficial to farming that it is claimed to have been thwarted by the current zoning. This would enable some appreciation by others of Council's GWMP main plan change.

Other Comments

- The strongest message from the initial community consultation and the Panel Report is that Nillumbik residents and the population of wider Melbourne cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it to be maintained, protected and reinvigorated. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this.
- There is a worrying lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shire's biodiversity in all its forms and varying quality. Clearly defined actions need to be included which will address this problem to ensure the long-term health of the Green Wedge.
- Declines in biodiversity are at critical levels, and there is urgent need for action by all levels of government and society. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) states that, "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global".
- The impact of invasive species – flora and fauna – is significant and this must be better addressed.
- The Green Wedge Management Plan must reaffirm the Shire's conservation role.
- The draft speaks of polarised and diverse views and how conversations must be respectful and robust. It is vital that this is the case, and is supported by current science, particularly in relation to the need for environmental repair and preservation. It is necessary that we uphold the highest of professional standards throughout the Shire and its Leadership.
- The vast majority of the stated objectives and key actions are applicable to a well thought out plan for any 'rural municipality'. Whilst they are obviously required for Nillumbik's rural areas, they do not specifically relate to the special aspects associated with the GW. The mixing of the 'general rural' and 'specific GW' issues makes the GWMP draft complex and confused. It could be interpreted the GW is being blamed for many problems that are common to most rural communities.
- The last GWMP had positive Environment Strategies that have disappeared from this Council plan and should be reinstated:

Environment Strategies from the previous 2010-2025 GWMP (for reference/use)

1. Identify and manage biodiversity at a landscape scale for conservation.
2. Support the participation of rural landholders and communities in conserving biodiversity.
3. Discourage further rural residential development of undersized allotments in the Green Wedge.
4. Pursue the protection and restoration of significant sites and wildlife corridors.
5. Ensure land use and development is addressed in the context of its potential effect on the wider catchment.
6. Conserve biodiversity by implementing sustainable land use planning and encouraging sustainable land management.
7. Minimise the impact of pest plants and animals.

8. Identify, document and protect the character of the diverse landscapes of the Green Wedge.
9. Adopt best practice on a local basis to address climate change.

I request that Council considers these issues and revises the Draft GWMP to included appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge.

Regards,

Name

Address

Note: I wish my submission to be 'anonymous' if it is published.

From: [Isabelle Jamieson](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Objection to Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 8:40:02 PM

To the Nillumbik Council,

I DO NOT support the draft Green Wedge Management Plan due to the lack of priority for environmental protection. I would like to see the following added as the number one priority for our shire; 'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation'. This would align the GWMP to the outcome of the extensive community engagement process held in 2018.

Thank you for taking the concerns of this Eltham resident into consideration.

Isabelle

From: [Ross & Cric Henry](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: GWMP Submission
Date: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 7:23:21 AM

Submission on Council's Draft GWMP 2019

We have lived in the Bend of Islands for 40 years and are long term members of the Bend of Islands Conservation association (BICA)

We are very concerned that the Draft GWMP 2019 does not yet emphasis the importance of the Conservation principles of the Green Wedge. This is contrary to the Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, which states its first priority for Green Wedges as: ***'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'*** (Refer Appendix 1 of Council's draft GWMP 2019). This is the most important issue. If the Plan does not encourage awareness & the appreciation of the protection of the biodiversity of our area, it will not take the community with it. Council needs to take the lead to guide the community in conservation of flora & fauna in the Green Wedge.

The natural environment is being degraded everywhere. We, as residents, who have been attracted to live in a very special area of Victoria and Australia, should set the example for other communities to follow on in conservation. If we don't, who will?

As an indication of how hard it is to maintain our special area, the current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail, than in the new draft, the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the Green Wedge. However, there has been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP 2019 does not achieve this.

What is also especially concerning is that the Draft GWMP 2019 proposes changes to how land within the Green Wedge can be used on the rural side of the Urban Growth Boundary and around our rural townships. This has the potential to erode the conservation values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundary. Also farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) should always require a permit. We need to ensure that the particular present conditions of the property are fully determined and the proposed impacts assessed, irrespective of the history of use. Also neighbours need to be informed and have an opportunity to comment.

The Plan needs to admit that there are considerable adverse impact that horses have on the natural environment. We need to set environmental controls and no-go areas to allow horse riding to co-exist with our special landscape.

We are also concerned that the Council's Draft GWMP 2019 Plan does not address the impacts of Climate Change & the need to conserve & protect the biodiversity of our natural plant communities locally as well as globally to counteract this. Plants are vital in taking up carbon emissions of industry & vehicular traffic. So the conservation of Nillumbik's natural plant communities is helping preserve our planet.

We request that Council consider the above issues. We believe they are at the core of the retention and of the Green Wedge integrity. Nillumbik we suggest is and should remain, a leader in the conservation of the environment and the biodiversity of the Green Wedge and this Plan should reflect this.

Yours Sincerely,

Name: *Ross & Christine Henry*

Address: [REDACTED]

From: [Nan Oates](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission :Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 2:58:04 PM
Attachments: [Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.doc](#)

Attached is my submission to the draft green Wedge Management Plan June 2019
Could you please acknowledge receipt of this email
Nan Oates

Submission

Draft for Consultation Green Wedge Management Plan

June 2019

Nan Oates

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

General Comments

I am disappointed in this draft plan. It lacks any specific details on who and how the vision, principles and key goals are to be addressed. It is very repetitive, long winded and extremely vague in outlining any specific actions. It makes no mention of the fact that the prime function of our Green Wedge is to: **“Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and achieve a net gain on the quality and quantity of native vegetation.”**

Instead, its focus is a people centred approach, both in relation to addressing the opportunities and the challenges in managing our Green Wedge. The challenges make no mention of the original aim relating to the health and sustainability of the Green Wedge, but concentrates on population growth, transport, fire risk, and the financial pressures of land management and ‘unfair’ planning processes. I also disagree with the summary statement of the Vision where it states living **in** the landscape, rather than living **with** the landscape. The other statement which disturbs me is the Principle regarding managing change for future benefit.

Our Green Wedge is a **treasure** and it is a privilege to live here, in contrast to some of our neighbouring municipalities in the north with their conveyor belt production lines of new housing estates.

I do not agree with the Vision for Nillumbik’s Green Wedge.

Goal 1. Engaged Connected Communities

I do not support Goal 1.

One of the strengths of Nillumbik and its small townships is the history of its early settlement and the fact that so many of the original communities which developed following the gold rush era now have fourth and fifth generations of those families still in their districts. These same families have added strength and depth to those original settlements within that landscape, which newer settlements cannot. In addition, it is heartening to see that we are connecting more closely with the local aboriginal culture and learning so much from them in relation to managing our bushland and agricultural areas.

We already have a plethora of community groups covering many aspects of living with the Green Wedge, such as Landcare Groups, Friends of Groups, Men’s Sheds, Community Fireguard, Living and Learning Centres and others such as Rotary.

Regarding population growth and economic development I believe it would be unwise to manage changes in land use and changed zoning to accommodate these additional pressures and be quite detrimental to the health and diversity of the Green Wedge. Nibbling away at the urban growth boundary and the Green Wedge landscape for additional land for housing or economic benefit would mean its loss forever.

Transport is now a major issue for the smaller townships and having a circuit transport from Hurstbridge railway station to the outer townships would assist immeasurably in maintaining community connections. In particular for elderly residents of our smaller townships access to the larger townships of Hurstbridge and Diamond Creek is difficult if you no longer drive and/or need to access medical facilities or premises where you may have to leave your vehicle for several hours for mechanical care.

Lack of a circuit bus service to Hurstbridge railway station is also a problem for families with teenage children requiring transport to various sporting or social activities. I know of many families who have moved to from the outer townships of Nillumbik for this reason.

Goal 2. Active and Creative people

I am neutral on supporting Goal 2.

Nillumbik already has a multitude of active and creative people who work in close harmony with our Green Wedge, especially Landcare and Friends of Groups and the artist community. We have abundant community facilities for open space and recreation plus walking and hiking trails but more interpretive signage and promotion of the Green Wedge's diversity and ecological values would be helpful. In addition, more promotion and support on how the aboriginal communities lived in and managed this land originally. We have so much to learn from them.

Goal 3. Safe and healthy Environment

I strongly do not support Goal 3

Climate change and its impacts is one of the unknowns regarding health and sustainability of the Green Wedge, both for its ecology and agricultural pursuits. It is, as this plan states a significant asset for Nillumbik and hopefully offers a buffer for any climate change impacts on the Green Wedge, in particular the risk of bushfires. However it needs to be kept in mind that severe weather extremes are very often unrecognised until they happen. Residents therefore must accept some responsibility for their own safety. The CFA have provided clear guidance on balancing the management of vegetation and identification of fuel loads on properties.

There are already existing community groups involved in fire safety, health and well being, and liveability. Working with aboriginal groups in trialling mosaic cool burns of native vegetation, also warrants consideration. These last two very dry autumn and winter seasons have severely impacted our native fauna, and in particular kangaroos, the rise of feral deer numbers, and rampant growth of pest plants.

Goal 4. A prosperous economy

I do not support Goal 4.

This goal is almost entirely focussed on the agricultural pursuits, professional services and tourism in the Green Wedge. I do not support the development of an Equine focus in this management plan. I would far prefer any such resources be directed into more diversity and ecological pursuits, possibly a focus on eco-tourism rather than just undirected tourism.

Road traffic is a growing issue and our major roads are always busy. Now that St Andrews Market has become a popular tourist destination, the traffic and parking issues are severe. The Market these days is no longer just displaying the produce and arts and crafts of our local community and in so doing has lost much of its original soul. Another tourism and traffic issue are cyclists. At weekends the major roads such as Heidelberg-Kinglake Rd and Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Road are a nightmare with the number of cyclists on these narrow and winding roads, especially since VicRoads erected the metal and wire roadside barriers.

Encouraging tourism will only exacerbate these issues.

Goal 5. Responsible leadership

I strongly do not support this Goal

I don't believe that it is necessary to change the current land use zones and the Urban Growth Boundary. These have been the foundation of the Green Wedge, its stability and diversity

Concluding comments

The Green Wedge land management strategies must be developed in the context of its diverse ecosystems and the two global crises of climate change and loss of species biodiversity. These days, our natural environments are constantly being pushed back.

Instead of treating vegetation as something that increases the fire risk, it should be looked at in the context of fresh air, healthy soils, water quality, microclimates, shade, habitat, biodiversity and dynamic ecosystems.

From: [Greg Champion](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Strong disapproval of 2019 Draft GWMP
Date: Thursday, 1 August 2019 5:33:22 AM

Council's Draft totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP,

and advocates for 'land use' zoning changes and for the undermining of the current application of the Rural Conservation Zone.

The Draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form.

Greg Champion

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Robert Joynt](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to Council's draft GWMP
Date: Thursday, 1 August 2019 9:13:42 PM

Dear GWMP team,

Submission to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Wattle Glen is great place to live with its small community and great natural environment. I worry that the Council's proposed GWMP is pushing for this to be changed because Wattle Glen is close the Urban Growth Boundary. Furthermore, the Council draft does not recognize how much residents want our treed Green Wedge to remain in the face of threatened development – whether that be through more housing or the lack of initiatives in the Council draft GWMP to protect and enhance our Green Wedge biodiversity.

So, like the Wattle Glen Residents Association advocate, the draft GWMP should:

1. Not change any of the uses for Rural Conservation zoned land along the Urban Growth Boundary and around townships. EG: by allowing subdivision in vacant rural land between Mannish Rd and Clarke Ave, Wattle Glen and also on the west side of the Diamond Creek in Wattle Glen.
2. Lead the way environmentally. In contrast, Council's Draft fails to adequately respond to threats such as climate change and biodiversity loss.

Therefore, I submit that:

Because Council's Draft advocates the undermining of the current Rural Conservation Zone, and totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, the Council Draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Joynt



From: [Scott Tunaley](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the draft GWMP
Date: Saturday, 3 August 2019 10:42:34 AM

Dear GWMP team,

Re: Submission to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan

The reason why I live here is because Wattle Glen is great place to live with its small community and great natural environment. I worry that the Council's proposed GWMP is pushing for this to be changed because Wattle Glen is close the Urban Growth Boundary and because the Council draft is not recognizing how much residents do not want our treed Green Wedge changed in the name of more development – whether that be more housing or through the lack of initiatives in the Council draft GWMP to protect and enhance our Green Wedge biodiversity. I encourage development in areas such as removal of the level crossing in Diamond Creek and development around that with improvement in train services to accommodate this.

So, as the Wattle Glen Residents Association advocate, the draft GWMP should:

1. Not change any of the uses for Rural Conservation zoned land along the Urban Growth Boundary and around townships. EG: as we have in Wattle Glen with vacant rural land between Mannish Rd and Clarke Ave and also on the west side of the Diamond Creek in Wattle Glen.
2. Council's Draft appears as a massive failure in anticipating climate change and biodiversity extinction - and Nillumbik, the "Green Wedge Shire", should have a GWMP that leads the way environmentally.
3. There are already traffic issues through Diamond Creek and a poor train service. Further residential development will put more stress on roads as well as our environment.

Therefore, I submit that:

Because Council's Draft advocates the undermining of the current Rural Conservation Zone, and totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, the Council Draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form.

Yours sincerely,

Name: Dr Scott Tunaley

Address: 

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From: [Peter and Liz Mildenhall](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Cc: [Jane Ashton](#); [Secretary BICA Committee](#)
Subject: GWMP submission
Date: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:23:38 PM

Submission on Nillumbik Council's Draft GWMP 2019

We have lived in the Bend of Islands for 30 years and are long term members of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA) and of the Christmas Hills Fire Brigade. We love where we live and take very seriously our responsibilities as custodians of this significant area.

We are very concerned that the Draft GWMP 2019 does not emphasise the importance of the conservation principles of the Green Wedge. The problem in this Draft GWMP is that the conservation of the environment has been omitted. We are concerned that despite all the time that has gone into consultation there are suggestions and an ill feeling that the process has not been open and truly representative of the panel majority. We are perplexed and angry that what is before us now has the effect of weakening our original Green Wedge Management Plan and weakening the panel report.

To us, the Draft GWMP seems contrary to the Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, which states its first priority for Green Wedges as: ***'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'*** (Refer Appendix 1 of Council's draft GWMP 2019). This is **the most** important issue. If the Plan does not encourage awareness and the appreciation of the protection and importantly, the enhancement of the biodiversity of our area, it will not take the community with it.

The natural environment is being degraded everywhere. We, as residents, who have been attracted to live in a very special area of Victoria and Australia, should set the example for other communities to follow. If we don't, who will? Nillumbik Shire Council was once a leader in this area.

As an indication of how hard it is to maintain our special area, the current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail, than in the new draft, the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the Green Wedge. However, there has been consistent net loss of vegetation. We note a recent report in **The Age Monday July 29** that indicates a net loss of tree cover in Nillumbik Shire between 2014 -2018 of close to 1%! We should be demonstrating a net gain not a loss and showing the way as a 'Green Wedge' municipality.

Any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the details, actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP 2019 does not achieve this.

What is also especially concerning is that the Draft GWMP 2019 proposes changes to how land within the Green Wedge can be used on the rural side of the Urban Growth Boundary and around our rural townships. This has the potential to erode the conservation values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundary. Also farming in the Rural Conservation

Zone (RCZ) should always require a permit. We need to ensure that the particular present conditions of the property are fully determined and the proposed impacts assessed, irrespective of the history of use. Also neighbours need to be informed and have an opportunity to comment.

The Plan needs to admit that there are considerable adverse impacts that horses have on the natural environment. We need to set environmental controls and no-go areas to allow horse riding to co-exist with our special landscape. We are regular walkers on the many trails in the Shire and note the negative impact unauthorised horse use can have on our bushland with weed spread and hoof damage. We recognise the importance of horse trails along and beside some of our bush roads and tracks but their access to wildlife corridors and intact native bush areas needs to be watched.

We are also concerned that the Council's Draft GWMP 2019 Plan does not address the impacts of broader climate change and the need to conserve and protect the biodiversity of our natural plant communities locally as well as globally to counteract this. Plants are vital in taking up carbon emissions of industry and vehicular traffic. As one of the areas that act as 'lungs of Melbourne' we have a special role in maintaining and enhancing the conservation of Nillumbik's natural plant communities to help preserve Greater Melbourne's liveability, much less impact on the broader planet.

We request that Council consider the above issues. We believe they are at the core of the Green Wedge integrity. Nillumbik we suggest is and should remain, a leader in the conservation of the environment and the biodiversity of the Green Wedge and this Plan should reflect this.

Yours Sincerely,

Liz and Peter Mildenhall

[Redacted signature block]

Duplicate: refer submission 169

From: [Colleen Hackett](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft GWMP
Date: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:46:42 PM

Submission to Draft GWMP 2019

To whom it may concern,

I am bitterly disappointed with this long awaited and expensive Draft GWMP into which the community has put so much effort. Council appears to have listened selectively to two vocal lobby groups, a minority group of rural landowners and the equestrian lobby.

I wish to make it quite clear that I am a rural landowner and neither of these groups represents me.

Vision? No this is NOT a vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge. It is lengthy, vague and repetitive, poorly organized and includes no real protections for the environment. It does not follow the guidelines of State Govt's Practice Note 31 despite protestations to the contrary belatedly published by NSC.

It is hard to believe that the community consultation, carried out before the flawed Panel process began, has been so ***comprehensively ignored***. Community responses overwhelmingly supported protection of the Nillumbik environment, its creatures and plants. Almost every submission extolled its virtues, citing it as the main reason why we live in Nillumbik and why we love it.

Clearly this Draft GWMP is not in accord with the State Govt's Plan Melbourne 2017 - 2050. Significantly, the first priority for Melbourne's Green Wedges is to "***Maintain and enhance the biodiversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.***" The Draft GWMP, in that it proposes clearing of roadside vegetation for bushfire mitigation and Trails is at odds with this objective. It also contradicts Council's Climate Change Action Plan in which Action 1 states, "Maintain quality indigenous vegetation in Council reserves including parks, roadsides and streetscapes consistent with the Tree Policy to:-

- * act as a carbon sink
- * provide habitat for indigenous fauna
- * provide a tree canopy to protect against the heat island effect."

It also contradicts the Climate Change Action Plan in planning to extract and divert stream water, effectively stealing from the environment. If this is not the intention of the relevant action in the GWMP then this needs to be clearly stated!

I cannot accept a Draft GWMP that does not take climate change into account and so wantonly ignores the well documented decline in biodiversity. A timely article by Adam Carey in the Age on Mon 29th July 2019 (based on a Report from RMIT's Centre for Urban Research) gives evidence-based claims of significant tree loss in Melbourne's suburbs and surrounds. Nillumbik is losing trees (and therefore habitat) and it is embarrassing that growth corridors like Melton, Whittlesea and Wyndham have increased their canopy cover (for various reasons) whilst Nillumbik's is declining.

Nor can I support a so called "vision" that ignored so many of the Majority Recommendations of the Community Panel of 42 randomly selected people and includes so much of the wishes of a small minority group of disgruntled Panelists and their managers **outside** the Panel (and even more, an updated version of the Minority report

being accepted well after the end of the Panel process). This expensive, pseudo 'consultation' is now being regarded by many in the community as farcical and Council bending to their wishes as scandalous.

Recently a post about the Green Wedge elicited a diatribe on a local Community Facebook page. This rant, allegedly by a person represented by the minority group of landowners, listed all the problems besetting her, including being unable to obtain assistance with care of her elderly mother. Significantly, the bottom line was clearly stated and I quote, "***And if I want to subdivide my block because my health (primarily), time, & finances don't allow me to manage it, then I should be allowed to do that too!***"

This I believe is the hidden agenda of many of the minority group of landowners, their subdivision aspirations. Their representatives on the Community Panel were a group of five with views so extreme that they were unable to convince the moderate Panelists to include them in the Majority Recommendations. The full text of the diatribe referred to above is given at the end of this submission.(1.)

Below I comment on selected specific aspects of the Draft Plan.

Managing what is valuable to us.

Here the Plan says, "Rural landowners work to manage their properties" but this is an over generalization. The reality on the ground is that many landowners do not "manage" their land. Some have overstocked and their land is subject to shocking erosion and polluting run offs into creeks. Some green wedge properties are used like rubbish dumps and some house large trucks and equipment. Building and demolition rubble adorns others. This is what "self regulation" leads to. People calling for no regulations are in some instances hiding their non compliant usage of their land including illegal second dwellings. Because Nillumbik Council does little in the way of enforcement this is what happens. In the meantime the loss of habitat caused means biodiversity is in decline and species endangered or extinct. How will the Draft GWMP address these problems? What specific actions will be taken?

Challenges.

Why is climate change not included here? ***Why is there no mention of the environment in the ideas on the best way to manage the green wedge when it is given as one of our "opportunities" suggesting exploitation.*** This is the "Green Wedge Shire with conservation of the environment as its strategic focus". How is this focus demonstrated in this Draft GWMP?

Five key moves.

I disagree with the five key moves to support delivery of the Draft GWMP. They sound good but are vague and include little detail as to their implementation. The current GWMP gives much greater detail and should be referred to. I would like to see far greater stress placed on protection of the environment. What specific actions will be taken to improve biodiversity in the shire? The decline in biodiversity dictates that stronger and consistent commitment to effective environmental protection is essential. The lack of detail regarding resources, roles and responsibilities and measurable outcomes has to be addressed.

Principles.

I do not support the principles proposed to guide implementation of the plan. Again, they sound good but are very general and nebulous with no detail being supplied to explain how these extremely broad principles will be applied. Again how will the decline in biodiversity be arrested? These principles must be rewritten to show clearly how they will be applied to ensure the protection of the environment and improvement in biodiversity outcomes.

Goals.

I cannot support goals that are full of motherhood statements that are vague, and meaningless without adequate detail on how they will be achieved. “Engaged and connected”? What? Council has alienated large sections of the community by firstly, employing an urban Planner with no experience in Green Wedge Management to oversee the writing of the Draft GWMP and then taking over the task himself.

Council has further alienated large sections of the community by ignoring 50% of the Majority Panel Recommendations as explained above. This entire process appears to be an exercise in how to set sections of the community against each other instead of uniting people around a common goal.

That common goal could be mitigating climate change in ways that will not only conserve the environment and reverse biodiversity decline but have a profound effect on the health and wellbeing of Nillumbik people. The connection between these things is undeniable.

Mitigating climate change will also help the economic health of Nillumbik. An increasingly diminishing habitat will not draw visitors to our shire.

Why has current, scientific knowledge, widely accepted globally, been ignored?

Small lots.

I support the consolidation of small lots and oppose the clearing of bushland habitat for development. Much hobby farming is destructive of biodiversity with the introduction of more domestic (potentially feral) animals and proliferation of weeds. A note on “process” in relation to small lots is included at the end of this submission.(2.)

Residential development.

I support the preference of the State Govt. for residential development to occur in the urban townships and I strongly oppose “accommodating different family generations on rural allotments” as it goes against the *Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission’s Recommendations*. Putting more families at risk in bushfire prone areas beggars belief. Have the lessons of Black Saturday been forgotten? This selfish and short sighted demand of a small minority of rural landholders ignores health and safety of human beings, biodiversity decline, environmental considerations and the interests of future generations.

Buffer Zones.

I strongly oppose buffer zones of small lots which will inevitably reduce rural land, threaten the UGBs and create further problems for rural landowners (though of course some would make windfall gains which is why they are calling for it in the first place). This effectively just furthers the urban sprawl, introduces more domestic (potentially feral) animals and enables further weed proliferation. It leads to further clearing, loss of habitat, greater displacement of animals and increase in roadkill.

Zoning change and Prohibited uses.

Far from being too “restrictive” the Rural Conservation Zone does what it purports to do, conserves the environment and biodiversity as much as possible. I oppose allowing more prohibited uses on any heritage or green wedge land. I oppose any zone changes or prohibited use of RCZ land on the grounds that environmental degradation often ensues. Conservation efforts should not be concentrated on the best preserved land. Effective land management practices must rehabilitate damaged and degraded land wherever possible. All indigenous vegetation is valuable. Any good GWMP must address the decline in biodiversity which incidentally is being given priority in the State Govt’s *Protecting Victoria’s Environment - Biodiversity 2037*.

Health and Safety.

I take it that “safe” refers to bushfire mitigation. I repeat, there is no evidence that clearing roadsides mitigates bushfire risk and makes people safer.

If the natural environment is Victoria's biggest tourist attraction, contributing billions of dollars to the economy each year then why isn't it being placed first and foremost in this Plan? Why isn't the Plan talking about mitigating climate change instead of trying to introduce measures which will inevitably lead to more decline in the very values that contribute towards our uniqueness and prosperity?

Under "objectives" of this goal could you please amend 03.3 to read, "Reduce the number and impacts of bushfire incidents ***please God?***" Under "key actions" for this goal please amend A3.5 (4th dot point) to "Providing rebates for Trust for Nature covenanted land and agricultural land with a land management plan ***that is being actively implemented.***"

Equestrian Strategy.

The ***2019 Victorian State of the Environment Report's*** findings that recreational horses and grazing have a negative impact on biodiversity need to be recognized in the Draft GWMP. Due to being hard hooved and having a tendency to cause erosion, land degradation and weed spread it is highly desirable to restrict this land use near water courses, on steep slopes or in bushland. Any equestrian strategy needs to take this into account.

Horses are NOT agriculture unless they are being farmed for horse meat. They are not workhorses as in the distant past and are no longer used for transportation. As such they are not "heritage" and nor has there been any significant or continuous horse "culture". Rather it is an elitist leisure activity available to relatively few.

Whilst I like horses and support the existing equestrian industry I oppose its expansion as it inevitably leads to further clearing of bushland as people expand their agistment acres to make more money, sometimes overstocking and risking erosion. I would like to see included in "Actions" considerable emphasis placed on rehabilitation of degraded land.

I do not support clearing of roadsides for more Trails.

Otherwise I support genuine and sustainable agriculture. I also support genuinely sustainable tourism.

Responsible leadership.

I see none delivered in a GWMP that does not address the pressing issues of biodiversity decline, climate change and preservation and enhancement of the natural environment. Responsible leadership requires the integrity to appoint the appropriate and experienced Green Wedge Planner to a task such as this. Responsible leadership implies the ability to bring people together in a spirit of cooperation. Responsible leadership means listening to ALL in the community. It also means being able to put your hand up when you have got something wrong.

I would be pleased to receive acknowledgment of receipt of my submission.

Yours truly,
Colleen Hackett

(1.) Facebook post about the Green Wedge.

"About time. Unless you're unfortunate enough to have built, then live in the "green wedge", areas, you really have NO idea of how frustrating it is & how restrictive it is. We pay to build our homes, to maintain them, to heat them, to cool them & to live in them, so where does ANY council get off on telling you what you can or can't do with your own land? Whilst we don't want to chop every god-damn tree down, in the shire, 91% of green wedge is a ridiculous amount in one lowly shire. There is nothing wrong with development, as long as it's managed properly. In Nillumbik, no-one can ever tell you why you can't cut ONE [REDACTED] tree down, it's just the way it is. What's worse, is when you

can't cut one down that THREE [REDACTED] arborists can't decide on what type of tree it is, whether it is indigenous, or it isn't. No wonder we can't get any decent services in this area. I had to threaten to kill my mother, before they would give me ONE [REDACTED] day of aged care assistance, a few years back. After 30odd years of paying the obscene amount of rates, & we weren't entitled to ONE [REDACTED] HOUR of personal care assistance? This doesn't exist in "normal" councils; you ask for help you get it, because that's what we pay rates for. And having the rubbish collected fortnightly, what's with THAT ridiculous [REDACTED]? I'm all for nature & caring for our environment, but this Green wedge [REDACTED] is over the top & I'm sick of paying for it. If I want to cut down a tree on my land because I genuinely believe it's a danger, then I should be able to do so. If I want to paint my house hot pink, with aqua stripes, then that should be MY decision to make. ***And if I want to subdivide my block because my health (primarily), time, & finances don't allow me to manage it, then I should be allowed to do that too!*** Can't wait to get outta here & live somewhere normal. You can have your stupid green wedge! ”

My Note: This person went on to roundly denounce Council.

(2.) Note on Council's "process" by which the GWMP consultation was managed. At the very first community consultation meeting in Hurstbridge the Council Officer facilitating this GWMP process expressed a view in favor of small lot development. Was this a breach of process? When Cr Clarke was first elected to Council he too spoke in favor of small lot development. Has this been Council Policy all along? Is this what "buffer zones" are all about? This all adds to community speculation that Council is being dictated to by a minority group of rural land owners.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Graham Hackett](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Draft GWMP Submission
Date: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:47:42 PM

Submission to the Draft GWMP 2019

To Whom it may Concern

I have lived in Nillumbik for 65 years and am a third generation resident and landowner of the Shire. The Draft GWMP reveals that Council has listened only to those same rural landowners who stormed the Council Chamber in 2016, some of whom, who could not be accommodated inside the chamber because it was so crowded, were heard just outside the door calling for the lynching of the former Councillors.

This gives us an idea of just how extreme these people are.

Council has ignored many of the Recommendations of the Majority of the Community Panel and listened instead to a minority group of rural landowners who hold the ear of the majority of the Councillors, anecdotally both inside and outside the Council Chamber.

Much of the Draft GWMP is vague, repetitious and full of motherhood statements, patronizing and obfuscating at best.

Interfering with roadside vegetation cannot be supported unless we are dealing with introduced weeds. I oppose horse Trails on roadsides 1000%, having had experience of horses spreading weeds from the roadsides into my property. Generally Nillumbik is the wrong environment for horses. With some background and experience in this subject I would think the thin soils of Nillumbik are unsuited to horses and the result is erosion in many places.

I oppose this GWMP because Climate Change and biodiversity decline are not taken into account.

Land management in Nillumbik is appalling. Looking at the Shire on Google Maps reveals an amazing amount of building rubbish, trucks, machinery, equipment and car bodies and containers and on many properties what is obviously illegal clearing. With Council's access to the more refined Near-maps this is probably well known and is an indictment of their regulations and enforcement policies. Just take a look at the former abattoir site in Gosfield Road, Pantom Hill.

I support retention of the Rural Conservation Zone and the UGBs. I oppose buffer zones and support hard edge green wedge. Any dismemberment of current zones and rules throws open the floodgates to the aspirations of subdividers and developers. Keep residential development within urban boundaries. No rezoning should be supported. The only thing standing between wholesale destruction of the environment is the RCZ which helps to conserve the environment.

Indigenous vegetation is not just gum trees. A rich mosaic of all kinds of trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses are necessary for a quality environment. Similarly faunal biodiversity is not just kangaroos but all indigenous creatures large and small. This must be protected. Damaged and degraded land that is not rehabilitated is lost forever.

This Plan smacks of ideology and needs rewriting with proper input from the wider community taken into account.

I would be obliged if you would acknowledge my submission.

Yours truly,
Graham Hackett

Sent from my iPad

From: [Leon Atkinson](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: gwmp. Draft Document.docx Comments.docx part 2.docx
Date: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:57:22 PM
Attachments: [gwmp. Draft Document.docx](#) [Comments.docx part 2.docx](#)

To whom it may Concern

Please see attached comments and answers to Questions as posed by the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

Prepared by

LM Atkinson

Diamond Creek 308 4/08/2019



Virus-free. www.avast.com

gwmp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Comments on the Nilumbik Shire Draft of the Proposed GWMP

PREPARED BY : L.M. Atkinson 4/08/2019

Subject : Green Wedge Management Plan Draft for Public Comment

These are my Comments.

Foreword: I did not see an overall objective of the new Plan Stated; including where the existing Plan is deficient.

Is there a Possibility that every new Council coming in will feel Fit to revise areas of the Plan they do not agree with. Are there Safe guards to prevent this?

‘ Do you agree with the Vision ?

No. : There is not enough Detail.

Comments

Q. 1 Comments about the Vision.

The Central Theme or Objective of the Plan: Must be to maintain and Enhance the Diversity of Indigenous flora & Fauna throughout the Shire. The Majority of Residents have indicated they support this Goal and cherish the Green Wedge Concept.

Nillumbik is the most intact of the Green Wedges in the State and should remain that way. If the Green Wedge is eroded by Development it can never be brought back.

Principles – Comments On key Actions of Goal 1

The GWMP must reflect the communities commitment and the Stated aim of the Govt. Review Board in 1994. The review Board declared that the Nillumbik Shire and its Green Wedge should be a Conservation Shire.. The new Plan provides an opportunity to reinforce those 1994 Objectives by Maintaining and reinvigorating previously stated Aims.

Goal 2: Active and Creative people

Q TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU SUPPORT THE Key Actions for Goal 2

DO NOT SUPPORT DUE TO LACK OF DETAIL. .

The Draft Plan States Bio Diversity is a Top Priority and Green Space is an important determinant of Health

In order to better promote the Health of the Natural Environment a Greater Dialogue could be established with the Traditional Owners of the Land

Goal 3 : Safe and Healthy Environment I do not support the Objectives of the Plan, due to sparse Detail.

Comments on Goal 3. The Plan needs to strongly emphasise the importance of Maintaining All Indigenous Vegetation within the Shire. There is an Urgent need to Conserve what is left both on Public & Private Land.

. Goal 3 Talks about Balance and implies there is a need to Balance Environmental Health against other competing demands on the Land.

One of the Greatest Threats to the Green Wedge is incremental 'bit by bit' Land Clearing and overgrazing all of which leave our Flora & Fauna Vulnerable to extinction. Not to mention intense Urban Development which will put pressure on the Land but also existing resources of Roads & Public Transport and other services including Schools

. Sometime ago I saw a Proposal by the Diamond Creek Traders Association to have a Super Development from Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge to Yarrambat merging with the Doreen Development. That would be a Death knell to the Green wedge as we know it today. Most residents would not want that.. Fortunately it did not go very far however it does reflect the attitude of some to the Green Wedge Concept. The Proposal I mentioned is obviously motivated by Potential Monetary gain. A massive Public Education needs to be undertaken to Re inforce the Conservation Values of the Green Wedge and its contribution to the Quality of Life in the Shire .

Goal 4 A Prosperous Economy.

To what extent do you support the Aims & Objectives of Goal 4

No, Do not support

The Issue of no permit required on Land that has previously Farmed opens up the possibility of a Noxious Industry being developed next door. Issuing a permit would control the kind of Farming allowed.

. there needs to be a Framework that encourages Sustainable Farming but at the same time recognises the Primary Goal of the Wedge plan i.e. Preservation of the Natural Environment

. Hard Hoofed Animals. ∴ There are no Native Animals in this Country with Hard Hoofs. There needs to be Greater understanding of the impact and Land degradation Hard Hoofed Animals can cause to a Fragile environment. Waterways can also be damaged unless care is taken.. The proposed Equine Management Strategy must inherently reflect the above.

Goal 5 Key Actions of Goal 5. Goals & Objectives

Do not support.

Comments about Objectives or Key Action Plans. The Council should provide free advice to Ratepayers & Residents of the Benefits of Native Flora and the Bird & Insect Life that it supports..

It is important to maintain & enforce the preservation of Native Animal Habitat ..

The Plan must place greater on the need to prevent degradation Of the Natural Environment. However it is often Developers from outside the Shire that cause the most demolition of the Environment. Council needs to strictly control these people with strict rules about Environmental Preservation followed by strict enforcement.

Key Action A5.6 & 5.7[page 40 of the Draft } propose changes to how the Land within the Wedge can be used. This has the potential to erode the Values of the Green Wedge and bring about a spread of Development outside the Urban Growth Boundary.

The UGB must be seen as a Hard Boundary and enforced by Council. That is part of the problem inadequate enforcement.

Other Comments:

Q Do you have other Comments about the GWMP Draft Plan

The Panel Report and The Initial Community Comment Reinforces the Value the Community Places on the Green Wedge the Wider Melbourne Community also place great value on the Preservation of the Green Wedge including its Environmental Value. This message must be taken seriously and be the Foundation of any new GWMP. The Current Draft does not seriously Address this issue.. There is a lack of Detail in the Plan as to how it will reaffirm the Shire's Role in Protecting the Natural Environment inherent within the. The Plan does not Address the Long Term Health of the Green Wedge . There is not enough Detail of how the Shire's Bio Diversity will be Maintained & Enhanced by the Draft GWMP particularly in relation to Dealing with introduced species of Flora & Fauna as well as Environmental Repair of the Green Wedge as it stands today.

Comments Prepared by L. M. Atkinson on the 4th of August 2019

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Resident since Circa 1970

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 4 August 2019 5:49:05 PM
Attachments: [GWMP Submission.docx](#)

Please find attached my submission re the GWMP

Regards

[REDACTED]

Submission on Council's Draft GWMP

I am a member and resident of the Round the Bend Conservation Co-operative in the Bend of Islands and a member of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA).

The draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form. It totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, while advocating the undermining of the current conservation zones.

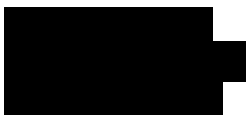
I consider that it is particularly important that there is a general revision of the draft to incorporate the following issues.

- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, states its first priority for Green Wedges: ***'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'*** (Refer Appendix 1 of Council's draft GWMP)
The Draft GWMP, in its entirety, should have this priority as the main focus.
- The overriding response from Council's Community Survey (Aug 2018) and its Community Panel (Nov. 2018) was that Nillumbik **residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge**; and they want it to be maintained, protected and enhanced. Council's Draft GWMP will not achieve this.
- The GWMP needs to more strongly acknowledge the importance of ALL indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it THROUGHOUT the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what ecosystems provide; developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent); address the climate change and extinction crises, and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the Actions and all other aspects of the Draft GWMP, without compromise.
- The natural environment continues to decline everywhere – In Nillumbik and globally. Maintaining a “Business as Usual” trajectory is not good enough. Declines in biodiversity are at critical levels, and there is urgent need for action by all levels of government and society. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) states that, *“The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global”*.
- The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play; so that we can be part of the solution, acting locally to address global problems. We're a relatively affluent population. Nillumbik is the perfect place to start turning things around. If not here and now, where and when?
- The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge. However, there has been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.
- The Draft GWMP proposes changes to how land within the Green Wedge can be used on the rural side of the UGB and around our rural townships. This has the potential to erode the values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundary. **The UGB must be treated as a hard boundary.**

- We need a Green Wedge Management Plan that places the Green Wedge environment, biodiversity, and their restoration as the main priority in a way that fits the 21st century challenges facing us, for our children, and our children's children.
- The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail – much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed about the piggery etc proposed for next door.
- Nillumbik leaders should explain that “the right to farm” comes with an obligation on the owner to not degrade the land during his/her brief period of stewardship. Stewardship simply means that after an owner's (brief) tenure the land and its waterways will be passed on in a better state. For agricultural land this means with soil erosion and pest invasion controlled; for bush properties, biodiversity has been improved. Nillumbik Landcare Network have produced a document on the Culture of Community Custodianship of Land which explains this concept.
- Horses and other hard-hoofed animals have a negative impact on the environment – none of Australia's native animals have hard hooves. Impacts on habitats include erosion, water quality degradation, damage to flora, and spreading of weeds. Actions must be implemented to prevent these impacts. These must include education of the equine sector and other graziers. There needs to be greater understanding and responsible ownership of animals, ensuring that animals do not enter waterways and are not allowed to graze in the bush. This focus on environmental care must also be reflected in the proposed Nillumbik Equine Strategy.
- Achieving community engagement by playing down or ignoring the GW residents' responsibilities for environmental protection is self-defeating. This will result in a diminished GW that does not meet the aspirations of the majority of the local community or Victoria's desired planning outcomes for the Green Wedges.
- Responsible Leadership would have a separate section dealing with climate change mitigation in accordance with the precautionary principle.
- (O3.1) While it is important to protect our “valuable” biodiversity and habitats, this skirts around the importance of “less valuable” or, more accurately, “less intact or disturbed” habitats that make up the entire biodiversity map for the shire. For example, the “vulnerable” Ecological Vegetation Class - Valley Grassy Forest is often degraded within Nillumbik due to its grassy understory lending itself to being readily-available grazing land. This does NOT negate the importance of these otherwise “less valuable” habitats.

I request that Council considers these issues and revises the Draft GWMP to included appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge.

Regards,



Note: I wish my submission to be 'anonymous' if it is published.

From: [Alan Bluhm](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION REGARDING THE CURRENT GWMP DRAFT
Date: Monday, 5 August 2019 1:43:58 PM
Attachments: [SUBMISSION REGARDING THE DRAFT NILLUMBIK GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN.docx](#)

Dear Nillumbik Council,
Draft GWMP Submission attached.
Regards,
Alan Bluhm

SUBMISSION REGARDING THE DRAFT NILLUMBİK GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Alan Bluhm

[REDACTED]
5 August 2019

Dear Nillumbik Council,

Thank you for your efforts with the draft Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan. I have presented my observations of the draft plan below.

The Green wedge was a vital component when Nillumbik was created as a conservation shire. The Draft appears not to reflect this fact. The Green Wedge is one of the unique and important features of outer Melbourne, with a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna. I think it is important, not just for the people of Nillumbik but for Melbourne also, that the importance of keeping the Green Wedge intact is given prominence in this document.

The vast majority of Nillumbik residents have either moved here because of its unique proximity to native flora and fauna or after moving here have learned about it and understood its importance. It is disappointing when reading the draft that it seems not to reflect the majority of views that were represented during the community consultation process. It is puzzling to me that what appeared to be such strong and overwhelming support for the preservation of the Green Wedge in the early stages has somehow resulted in a draft that ignores this.

In every community there are people who want unbridled freedom to do whatever they want on their property and who find powerful and effective ways to lobby councils in order to pursue their individual freedoms at the expense of the wider community and its values. Clearly Councils must find the strength to stand up to this erosion of the community's values, in order to maintain long-term goals as opposed to the short-term goals of the small but loud self-interest lobby. In the case of Nillumbik, I believe it needs to be made clear to everyone in the Management Plan that the Green Wedge is not just about people. In the draft this is not at all clear.

I'm quite concerned about continued loss of large tracts of vegetation in Nillumbik. In my opinion the draft does not contain effective vegetation protections that would bring about a much-needed reversal of this trend. Although "the lungs of Melbourne" has become a hackneyed phrase, it remains an important and apt description of the vegetation that makes up the Green Wedge. We are in grave danger of losing this vital part of nature's process altogether if the Management Plan does not contain explicit policies to prevent gradual erosion of the Green Wedge that will someday add up to become devastation that renders it useless. Maintenance of the Urban Growth Boundary will need to be a conscious part of this vegetation preservation effort. With climate change rapidly becoming evident, never has there been a more important time to preserve what vegetation we still have, to assist with cooling.

Finally, I think the next version of the draft requires more detail about what it is trying to achieve, how it is intended to achieve it, and in what time frame.

Thanks for taking the time to take my concerns on board.

Alan Bluhm

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Draft GWMP 2019
Date: Monday, 5 August 2019 2:59:03 PM
Attachments: [GWMP Submission August 2019.docx](#)

Dear Council,

Please find attached my Submission on the Draft GWMP.

Thank for the opportunity to comment.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

5th August, 2019

Submission Re: DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dear Nillumbik Shire Council,

I am a resident of the Bend of Islands and a member of the Round the Bend Conservation Co-operative and the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA). Nine years ago I commented upon the Draft Green Wedge management Plan & the resulting plan GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in great detail the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge.

This draft GWMP however, is not acceptable in its present form.

It totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the current GWMP, while advocating the undermining of the current conservation zones. Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, states its first priority for Green Wedges are to "Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation." (Refer Appendix 1 of Council's draft GWMP) The Draft GWMP should have this priority as the main focus.

We are living in a world where British MPs have approved a motion to declare an environment and climate emergency and the "Welsh and Scottish governments have both already declared a climate emergency, along with dozens of towns and cities, including Manchester and London", <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48126677> As such, Climate change mitigation must be THE overarching Goal for the GWMP and therefore must inform all objectives and actions such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy. It is imperative that the GWMP include an entire separate section dealing with climate change mitigation in accordance with the precautionary principle.

The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play in being be part of the solution, acting locally to address global problems. This is particularly important as Nillumbik's Green Wedge is the most environmentally intact of Melbourne's Green Wedges and is a significant part of the wider Green Wedge system. Nillumbik's Green Wedge is for the benefit of everyone, whether they live in the area or not. Nillumbik residents expect ALL levels of Government, including Council, to be responsible and show leadership as the natural environment continues to decline everywhere – In Nillumbik and globally. The overriding response from Council's Community Survey (Aug 2018) and its Community Panel (Nov. 2018) was that Nillumbik **residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge**; and they want it to be maintained, protected and enhanced. Council's Draft GWMP will not achieve this.

Declines in biodiversity are at critical levels, and there is urgent need for action by all levels of government and society. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) states that, "*The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global*".

I consider that it is particularly important that there is a general revision of the draft to incorporate the following issues.

- The GWMP needs to more strongly acknowledge the importance of ALL indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it THROUGHOUT the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what ecosystems provide; developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent); address the climate change and extinction crises, and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the Actions and all other aspects of the Draft GWMP, without compromise.

- The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge. However, there has been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.
- The Draft GWMP proposes changes to how land within the Green Wedge can be used on the rural side of the Urban Growth Boundary and around our rural townships. This has the potential to erode the values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundary. **The UGB must be treated as a hard boundary.**
- The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail – much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land.
- Nillumbik leaders should explain that “the right to farm” comes with an obligation on the owner to not degrade the land during his/her brief period of stewardship. Stewardship simply means that after an owner’s (brief) tenure the land and its waterways will be passed on in a better state. For agricultural land this means with soil erosion and pest invasion controlled; for bush properties, biodiversity has been improved. Nillumbik Landcare Network have produced a document on the Culture of Community Custodianship of Land which explains this concept.
- Horses and other hard-hoofed animals have a negative impact on the environment – none of Australia’s native animals have hard hooves. Impacts on habitats include erosion, water quality degradation, damage to flora, and spreading of weeds. Actions must be implemented to prevent these impacts. These must include education of the equine sector and other graziers. There needs to be greater understanding and responsible ownership of animals, ensuring that animals do not enter waterways and are not allowed to graze in the bush. This focus on environmental care must also be reflected in the proposed Nillumbik Equine Strategy.
- Achieving community engagement by playing down or ignoring the Green Wedge’s residents’ responsibilities for environmental protection is self-defeating. This will result in a diminished GW that does not meet the aspirations of the majority of the local community or Victoria’s desired planning outcomes for the Green Wedges.
- (O3.1) While it is important to protect our “valuable” biodiversity and habitats, this skirts around the importance of “less valuable” or, more accurately, “less intact or disturbed” habitats that make up the entire biodiversity map for the shire. For example, the “vulnerable” Ecological Vegetation Class - Valley Grassy Forest is often degraded within Nillumbik due to its grassy understory lending itself to being readily-available grazing land. This does NOT negate the importance of these otherwise “less valuable” habitats.

I request that Council considers these issues and revises the Draft GWMP to included appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge.

Yours faithfully,

██████████

Note: I wish my submission to be 'anonymous' if it is published.

From: [fowler_steed](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Monday, 5 August 2019 3:25:07 PM
Attachments: [NILLUMBIK DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019.docx](#)

Please find submission attached,
Regards,
Eleanor Fowler and Christopher Steed.

NILLUMBIK DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Monday, 5th August, 2019.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to write this submission about Nillumbik's 2019 Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

We support Nillumbik's Green Wedge, along with the local community. This support has been expressed during the recent consultation process and via the Panel process. The Draft Plan does not clearly reflect this support for the Green Wedge. The next stage of the plan needs to show Council developing measurable strategies to strengthen this Plan's support for the environment.

This is the most intact Green Wedge around Melbourne, assisting to reduce air pollution in the city and contributing to mitigation of climate change. We need to play our part in addressing climate change and in protecting our unique biodiversity by supporting the Green Wedge, rather than weakly stating that the Green Wedge is 'about people', implying that urban growth is required.

With increasing population in Melbourne, there will be pressure to allow urban development in this area. The Management Plan needs to clearly reflect a strong commitment to protecting the Green Wedge.

As indicated in the State of the Environment Report, there has been loss of vegetation throughout the Shire. This Plan needs to show how this loss will be reversed.

The Plan must support the Urban Growth Boundary. Any changes in zoning should support the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected.

In summary, we hope the next stage of the review of the Green Wedge Management Plan will demonstrate a strong support for our unique and beautiful area, its flora and fauna and will allow the community to play its part in the mitigation of climate change.

Yours faithfully,

Eleanor Fowler and Christopher Steed.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Lynne Gowty](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: The Green Wedge Shire must be retained
Date: Tuesday, 6 August 2019 9:20:17 AM

Dear Councillors,

1. Nillumbik was set up to be a conservation shire with the GW as its strategic focus.

Environmental protection and reinvigoration must be central to the vision for the Green Wedge but this draft lacks significant detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions and accountability measures to ensure that this will occur.

For example...

- 1) There is a lack of detail as to how the shire's biodiversity will be protected and enhanced. Clearly defined actions such as including 'Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity' as a Principle are needed.
- 2) 'Robust discussions' are mentioned but there is no statement that these and ensuing actions must be based on respected, current scientific knowledge.
- 3) Greater emphasis on care of the natural environment should be included. The current 2010-2025 plan's detail should be used as a basis.
- 4) The Principle statements, aimed at guiding the implementation of the plan, are extremely broad leaving their interpretation and application unclear.

2. Proposed changes to land use adjacent to the Urban Growth Boundary could erode the values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundary of Eltham, Diamond Creek, Research. Details are lacking but the proposal is of particular concern.

3. 'A prosperous **Green Wedge** economy' should be the focus when discussing a prosperous economy. Activities must be assessed and altered in response to the latest science. Local agriculture is important but sustainable practices, climate change mitigation and a healthy Green Wedge are of paramount consideration. Encouragement of this consideration should be stated. If environmental values are not uppermost, agricultural, leisure, economic activities along with the environment will suffer in the long term.

4. Permits should be required to begin farming in the Rural Conservation Zone even on previously cleared land as the proposed use may not be appropriate to the area.

5. Biodiversity and all Green Wedge land is important. Most land is 'disturbed' but should not be allowed to further degrade.

6. Any proposed tourism development must be related to the agricultural uses of the land. This should be clearly stated.

7. An extensive public education program should be conducted regarding biodiversity, ecosystems, bushfire reduction strategies, climate change and their interdependence.

8. 'How can we maintain and reinvigorate the environment?' should be the focus rather than 'What can we get out of the land?'

This is a very serious matter not to be taken lightly. The wish of residents and ratepayers is paramount.

With thanks,

Geraldine McCorkill

From: [Lynne Gowty](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: The Green Wedge Shire must be retained
Date: Tuesday, 6 August 2019 9:20:35 AM

Dear Councillors,

1. Nillumbik was set up to be a conservation shire with the GW as its strategic focus.

Environmental protection and reinvigoration must be central to the vision for the Green Wedge but this draft lacks significant detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions and accountability measures to ensure that this will occur.

For example...

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- 2) 'Robust discussions' are mentioned but there is no statement that these and ensuing actions must be based on respected, current scientific knowledge.
- 3) Greater emphasis on care of the natural environment should be included. The current 2010-2025 plan's detail should be used as a basis.
- 4) The Principle statements, aimed at guiding the implementation of the plan, are extremely broad leaving their interpretation and application unclear.

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4. Permits should be required to begin farming in the Rural Conservation Zone even on previously cleared land as the proposed use may not be appropriate to the area.

5. Biodiversity and all Green Wedge land is important. Most land is 'disturbed' but should not be allowed to further degrade.

6. Any proposed tourism development must be related to the agricultural uses of the land. This should be clearly stated.

7. An extensive public education program should be conducted regarding biodiversity, ecosystems, bushfire reduction strategies, climate change and their interdependence.

8. 'How can we maintain and reinvigorate the environment?' should be the focus rather than 'What can we get out of the land?'

Please note that I have lived in Eltham for over four decades. Over that time I have seen the area gradually becoming more crowded and congested with developments occurring at a faster and faster rate. This must stop now and the remaining green charm of the Nillumbik shire area retained.

Yours Sincerely
Bruce McCorkill

From: [Tristan Barnes](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission regarding Nillumbik's draft green Wedge management plan
Date: Tuesday, 6 August 2019 11:02:40 AM

Tristan Barnes

Address: [REDACTED]

This is a submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019

I just wanted to stress my concerns regarding the current green wedge management plan. I think that it is obvious that the majority of Nillumbik residence live in this area due to the access to the green wedge and the benefits that brings, both to the lifestyle and mental health of the population, as well as to the environment and biodiversity of Nillumbik and Melbourne as a whole.

I am concerned that the green wedge management plan does not reflect community views and does little to protect biodiversity or climate change.

I am also very concerned that the urban growth boundary is not adhered to as a hard boundary. There are numerous examples from around the world of sprawling suburbia has ruined liveability of cities; you only need to look to the west or north of Melbourne for local examples. The rural conservation zoned land must be protected and maintained.

The green wedge is vital to control the climate of a city and Nillumbik's green wedge is the most intact and biodiverse in Melbourne. This is why I and many other's moved here and it is vital that we protect it.

Any plan should demonstrate strong protections for environment.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [John & Sandra Roeg](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: John & Sandra Roeg Green Wedge Submission
Date: Tuesday, 6 August 2019 3:24:03 PM
Attachments: [Green Wedge Submission jon.pdf](#)
[Green Wedge Submission Sandra.pdf](#)

Please find attached X 2 our feedback for the above.
John & Sandra Roeg.

Re: Submission to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Wattle Glen has been a great place to live, with its small community and great natural environment. I worry that the Council's proposed GWMP is pushing for this to be changed because Wattle Glen is close to the Urban Growth Boundary and because the Council draft is not recognizing how much residents do not want our treed Green Wedge changed in the name of more development – whether that be more housing or through the lack of initiatives in the Council draft GWMP to protect and enhance our Green Wedge biodiversity.

So, as the Wattle Glen Residents Association advocate, the draft GWMP should:

1. Not change any of the uses for Rural Conservation zoned land along the Urban Growth Boundary and around townships. EG: as we have in Wattle Glen with vacant rural land between Mannish Rd and Clarke Ave and also on the west side of the Diamond Creek in Wattle Glen.
2. Council's Draft appears as a massive failure in anticipating climate change and biodiversity extinction - and Nillumbik, the "Green Wedge Shire", should have a GWMP that leads the way environmentally.

Therefore, I submit that:

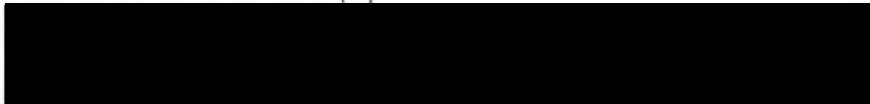
Because Council's Draft advocates the undermining of the current Rural Conservation Zone, and totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, the Council Draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form.

Yours sincerely,

Name:

Sandra Roeg

Address:



Re: Submission to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Wattle Glen has been a great place to live, with its small community and great natural environment. I worry that the Council's proposed GWMP is pushing for this to be changed because Wattle Glen is close to the Urban Growth Boundary and because the Council draft is not recognizing how much residents do not want our treed Green Wedge changed in the name of more development – whether that be more housing or through the lack of initiatives in the Council draft GWMP to protect and enhance our Green Wedge biodiversity.

So, as the Wattle Glen Residents Association advocate, the draft GWMP should:


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2. Council's Draft appears as a massive failure in anticipating climate change and biodiversity extinction - and Nillumbik, the "Green Wedge Shire", should have a GWMP that leads the way environmentally.

Therefore, I submit that:

Because Council's Draft advocates the undermining of the current Rural Conservation Zone, and totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, the Council Draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form.

Yours sincerely,

Name: JOHN ROEG.

Address: 

From: [Carol Bonny](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Carol Bonny GWMP Submission
Date: Tuesday, 6 August 2019 3:10:58 PM
Attachments: [GWMP Submission Carol Bonny.docx](#)

Please find attached my submission re the draft GWMP. Please confirm receipt of my submission.

Regards Carol Bonny



Submission on Council's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

I am a resident of Bend of Islands and a member of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA) since 1992. I support and commend the BICA submission to this draft.

When Nillumbik was created it was defined as the Green Wedge Shire and the Nillumbik community have consistently declared that environment is the first priority for our Green Wedge.

The current GWMP still has years to run. Why are we spending money and time to review a comprehensive and well structured GWMP?

This draft does not specify actions and aims to protect and enhance the environmental values of the shire.

This draft GWMP does not reflect an environmental priority.

This draft contains proposals to change zonings that will undermine the current conservation zones.

I request that there is a comprehensive revision of the draft to incorporate the following issues.

- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, states its first priority for Green Wedges: *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'* (Refer Appendix 1 of Council's draft GWMP)

The Draft GWMP should have this priority as the main focus.

- The overriding response from Council's Community Survey (Aug 2018) and its Community Panel (Nov. 2018) was that Nillumbik residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge; and they want it to be maintained, protected and enhanced.

This Draft GWMP will not achieve this.

- The GWMP needs to acknowledge the importance of **ALL** indigenous vegetation throughout the shire, on private and public land. Only focussing in high value vegetation will eventually result in a loss of biodiversity and eco systems. All indigenous vegetation in the Shire is part of the environmental value of our Green Wedge providing interdependent eco systems and habitat corridors.

This draft should address protection of ALL environmental assets in the Shire addressing bio diversity, eco-systems and environmental wildlife corridors.

- The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 defines how Council and community ensure the protection of our green wedge. The new draft lacks these actions even though Nillumbik has incurred a net loss of vegetation over the last 4 years.

The GWMP must contain actions that address vegetation loss.

- The Draft GWMP proposes changes to land use around our rural townships. This will erode the values of the Green Wedge and eventually increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundary.

This GWMP should reinforce and maintain the existing Urban Growth Boundaries.

- The draft proposes that no permit should be required for farming if land has been previously cleared. A lot of Nillumbik is partly cleared or regenerated landscape that

contains important and significant environmental values that should be protected. Permits are a process that provide council and community a means to identify and protect environmental values and allow **appropriate** agricultural pursuits where suitable. **This GWMP should NOT propose that a no permit approach be applied to farming or agricultural pursuits.**

- Grazing and other hard-hoofed animals have a negative impact on the environment. Impacts including erosion, water quality degradation, damage to flora, and spreading of weeds. Graziers and horse owners need to understand and take responsibility to ensure that animals do not enter waterways and are not allowed to graze in the bush. **This GWMP should define actions to protect the Green wedge from environmental degradation from hard hoof animals.**

I request that Council address these issues and revise the Draft GWMP to included appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge.

Yours sincerely

Carol Bonny

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Alan Thatcher](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Alan Thatcher Submission on the Draft GWMP June 2019
Date: Tuesday, 6 August 2019 10:51:06 PM
Attachments: [NSC - GWMP - Alan Thatcher comments on draft June 2019 \(6.8.19\).docx](#)

Attention: [REDACTED]

Hi Nicole

I have attached my submission to the Draft GWMP. While I have addressed the questions in the feedback form, I am submitting it as an separate file attached file attached to this email. This is because i want to maintain the format that is essential to my presentation of comments. In addition, i have a series of recommendations at the end of my submission.

Can you please acknowledge receipt of this email submission. If there any issues with doing it this way please let me know at the same time.

I appreciate this opportunity to have my say on this most important plan.

.Regards

Alan Thatcher
[REDACTED]

NILLUMBIK DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

COMMENTS ON DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION “GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN” JUNE 2019

ALAN THATCHER

A VISION FOR NILLUMBIK’S GREEN WEDGE AND INTRODUCTION

I do not agree with the thrust of the vision as it is currently formulated.

Vision-comments

1. The vision for Nillumbik’s Green Wedge in the first paragraph on page 5 emphasises that *“Management of the Nillumbik green wedge will lead the way.....”*. The realization of the vision needs to be about both land use planning and management.
2. All future new land use and development in the Green Wedge (with the exception of state-based infrastructure such as roads and airports and the like) will be determined by decisions made as a result of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.
3. *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* provides guidance on directions for future land use planning that should be included in the vision to provide the overall perspective of the Green Wedges for metropolitan Melbourne:
 - *define and protect areas that are strategically important to the metropolitan area and the state, for the environment, biodiversity, landscape, open space. Water, agriculture, tourism, environment, cultural heritage, infrastructure, extractive and other natural resources.*
 - *protect and manage the value of the green wedges consistent with green wedge management plans.*
 - *avoid development in locations where there is a risk to life, property, the natural environment and infrastructure from natural hazards such as bushfire and flooding.*
 - *accommodate additional housing and employment in established towns that have the capacity for growth.*
 - *provide for non-urban breaks between urban areas.*
4. The vision needs to respond to the findings of the extensive community consultation workshops that found that the key findings of what people liked about the Green Wedge were:
 - *Space, peace and wellbeing –this related to how the Green Wedge made people feel, an appreciation of views and fresh air along with the less stressful environment.*
 - *Environment, biodiversity, plants and animals – this related to the importance of the natural environment for plants and animals as well as humans.*
5. Clearly the Nillumbik GWMP must continue to reaffirm the protection and enhancement of the natural environment as central to the vision for the GWMP. One reinforced by the results of the community consultation conducted for the Council.

Introduction-comments

1. The Introduction does talk about the Victorian Government's framework for the green wedges. It does make mention of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme and in particular the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) but does not provide even a brief mention of the objectives and strategies contained in the MSS and their critical importance to future land use planning.
2. The future of the Green Wedge is about the rural areas of the municipality and Clause 21.05-2 contains policies related to decisions about future rural land use and development in the Shire.
3. Land management is very important but planning policy underpins all decisions about future land use and development. The role of the MSS as a vision for the Shire should be clearly recognised in this section. Along with a clear understanding of the purpose of the Green Wedge zones.
4. This lack of recognition of the planning scheme and potential implications for future land use and development is highlighted by the failure to adequately address the steps laid out in Planning Practice Note 31 for the preparation of green wedge management plans.
5. In addition, there is reference to rural living and the reader, unfamiliar with the planning scheme may well, not unreasonably, acquaint 'rural living' with 'rural residential development'.
6. This is clearly exacerbated by the map of Rural Land Uses on page 25 that shows almost all the area of Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) as 'Rural Resident'.
7. It is planning policy that small scale rural residential development is discouraged in the Rural Conservation Zone, and incidentally also from the Green Wedge Zone. In fact there is no mention of rural residential development in the purpose of the Rural Conservation Zone.
8. In this regard, a useful 2008 study done under the auspices of the Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment Management Authority and the then Department of Primary Industries (Victoria) describes the typologies for types of rural landholders in the green wedges:
 - *Amenity lifestyler* - Lifestylers are not dependent on income derived from their farming activities and farm labour is undertaken for enjoyment or to fulfill duty of care obligations. .
 - *Green lifestyler* - The same as amenity lifestyler except for a particular interest in nature conservation.
 - *Part-time farmer* - The scale of farming is intermediate between lifestyler and commercial farmer and captures a range of farmers that are at least partially dependent on farm income or have a strong sense of identity as farmers, or their farm work makes up a substantial proportion of labour activities.
 - *Commercial farmer* - Farmers whose farm activities provide the major or sole income for the household.
 - *Green commercial farmer* - Same as commercial farmers. May use green credentials as marketing e.g. organics, EMS, eco-labeling or landcare.
 - *Hybrid farmer* - Business that combine agriculture with hospitality, tourism or other value adding diversification or vertical integration, for example a vineyard with winery, restaurant, conference centre, bed and breakfast, niche marketers.
9. A common characteristic of all these types of rural uses is that built development should be subordinate to the environmental and/or agricultural values of the land.
10. Application of these types of rural land use would far better describe what is actually happening in the Green Wedge. It will provide much better guidance for future decisions on land use and development to meet the rural purposes of the Green Wedge zones.

11. A key common characteristic of these rural uses is that any form of built form and associated infrastructure is subordinate to rural land use for soil-based agriculture and/or nature conservation.

FIVE KEY MOVES

To what extent do you agree with the Five Key Moves to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

I partially agree with the key moves.

Comments

1. **Key Move 1** - I would have thought for Key Move 1 that here is a lot of existing information out there about all these issues and substantial documentation in existing plans and strategies. For example, the Council's 2009 Community Environment Recovery Plans for Strathewen, St Andrews and Christmas Hills had extensive 'Fact sheets' on a comprehensive range of land management issues.
2. **Key Move 2**. I would have expected that the process for the preparation of the draft revised plan should have made substantial progress in tackling the issues of natural environment and biodiversity values, bushfire risk reduction, economic development, agriculture, economic and community rebuilding post events, human health, well-being and safety and water catchment planning.
3. **Key Move 3**. While there is a diagrammatic section on 'How the GWMP relates to council policy and strategy' on page 15, this provides no useful connection for the reader by way of analysis such as a critical review of their strengths and weaknesses in addressing rural planning and management in issues raised by the Community Panel. This should be done at the start to give a contemporary grounding for issues that will need to be the subject of robust community conversations in Key Move 3
4. **Key Move 4** The link needs to be made to any Settlement Strategy the Council is or may develop. This is really crucial for achieving the aims as set out in Melbourne 2017-2050 to '*accommodate additional housing and employment in established towns that have the capacity for growth*'.
5. **Key Move 5** I refer back to my previous comment about, as a first essential step, to identify and spatially map the different types of rural land uses encompassing *Amenity lifestyle, Green lifestyle, Part-time farmer, Commercial farmer, Green Commercial farmer, and Hybrid farmer*.

PRINCIPLES

I partially agree with the principles that have informed the creation of this plan.

1. While I agree with the Council's need to demonstrate the values stipulated that are basic to good governance and community interaction, the Council also needs to show its leadership for 'future planning and development'. The statement is made that '..the green wedge's overall planning is controlled by the state government' but this overlooks the considerable legislated role of the Council as the Responsible Planning Authority for the Nillumbik Planning Scheme. Indeed when the

process for the review of the GWMP was put forward by Council it clearly articulated the role of this review as a critical step in the subsequent review of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme as whole.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND KEY ACTIONS

I do not agree with Goal 1 as it is currently presented in the explanatory text. .

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities

1. Importantly this Goal recognises that *'At its highest level, all value the sense of community, the landscapes, open space, nature and rural character that defines much of Nillumbik's green wedge.'* This supports the key findings of the wider community engagement and the recommendations from the Community Panel.
2. I support in particular, Key action A1.1 involving the creation of a Green Wedge Conversations program to provide local communities with a forum for people to discuss key issues relating to land management, agriculture, nature conservation and bushfire mitigation is fundamental to the implementation of the GWMP. This would include discussion of investigation of options for consolidation and amalgamation of small lots.
3. The issue of buffers referred to in A1.7 needs to recognise the reported success around the edge of Eltham where the buffer zone is built into the urban area itself. In contrast putting a buffer zone into the Green Wedge would extend the impact of urban development.

Goal 2: Active and creative people

I do not support Goal 2 as it is currently presented in the explanatory text.

1. It is quite unclear what A2.7 means regarding the use of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme particularly what is meant by *'support of adaptive reuse of heritage places and allowing prohibited uses'*. Under the planning scheme a prohibited use in Section 3 Uses of either the Green Wedge Zone or Rural Conservation Zone means that it is not a use that can be entertained for those zones. Any proposal for a change to prohibited uses in a strictly planning scheme context would require an amendment to the planning scheme. Just what 'prohibited' means in the terms of A2.7 is not clear?

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments

I do not support Goal 3 as it is currently presented in the explanatory text.

1. While this goal reinforces the feedback from both the wider community engagement and Community Panel recommendations for protection of the natural environment, I do have major concerns about the potential for different interpretations of the Objective 0.31 to identify, protect and enhance valuable biodiversity and habitats. This in turn is linked to Key action A3.1 which talks about undertaking a stocktake of environmental assets that is then linked to Key Action A3.2 to review the Environment Significance Overlay in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme. Native vegetation is valuable from a whole range of perspectives. The importance of the protection of native vegetation includes:

- Providing the very rural environment so valued by the community that characterizes much of the Green Wedges.
 - The survival of native plant communities and associated habitat.
 - Ameliorating the heat impacts of climate change.
 - Providing linkage or corridors for native fauna to move and hence extend habitat and increase resilience to climate change.
 - Protecting the natural infrastructure of our waterways.
2. The point is that view of biodiversity must not be limited to some national, state or regional measure of plant community or individual species significance but looked at from its collective value to a safe and healthy environment.
 3. The potential impacts of climate change as documented recently in work on Resilient Melbourne highlights the need to protect and enhance tree and shrub cover to ameliorate the impacts of increase global warming and the potential for increasing city temperatures with its resultant impacts on urban communities.

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

I do not support Goal 4 as it is currently presented in the explanatory text.

1. My main concern is that the development of the *Nillumbik Economic Development Strategy*. I note that there is an *Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016*.
2. The development of a new or revised strategy should be part and parcel of the Key moves 2 and 3 where it can be discussed as an integral part of the *Green wedge Conversations* program. Part of the conversation would address the issue of the Council's proposal to advocate for planning and other controls to be altered to allow landholders a right to farm on pre-existing agricultural land and be able to adapt to changing agricultural practice. This appears to be aimed at the Rural Conservation Zone and if allowed to progress would be quite contrary to the purpose of the zone that does provide for agricultural use (subject to permit) that is deemed consistent with conservation of environmental and landscape values.
3. In regard to defining the role of hobby farms, I think that serious consideration should be given to a much more accurate description of agricultural land use as discussed earlier in this submission.

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

I do not support this Goal 5 as currently presented in the explanatory text.

1. The community engagement, as reported, revealed strongly held and polarized views about the value of regulation (planning controls) and enforcement. It distilled the polarized concerns as:
 - a. Many arguing for more regulation and enforcement wanting to be assured that the rural areas would not be urbanised and over-developed. This concern is strongly supported by evidence from other Green Wedges where excessive built form and associated infrastructure is a major and accelerating issue.
 - b. Others concerned at over-regulation and enforcement as being an unreasonable intrusion into everyday life and disempowerment.

2. This issue seemed to be clearly focused on the Rural Conservation Zone and should be the high priority for attention under Key actions: A5.1, A5.2 and A5.3. Action 5.1 can provide the information to enable a sound understanding of the planning system; and, Action 5.2 and Action 5.3, the mechanism to engage the community in a robust discussion through the Green Wedge Conversations program.
3. This goal says that 'The RCZ is intended to support conservation and should only be applied to land for which that is its primary purpose.' Earlier on in Goal 3 the importance of the natural environment as synonymous with Nillumbik is emphasised. The RCZ addresses protection of this natural environment and any move to rezone to GWZ would be retrogressive to the protection of Nillumbik's unique natural environment. The RCZ does not preclude agricultural land use but makes it subject to providing *for an agricultural use consistent with the conservation of environment and landscape of the area*. The Decision guidelines for the RCZ provide the basis for the assessing any application for a new agricultural land use.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council:

1. **Maintain consistency with the original purpose of the Green Wedges.** Melbourne's Green Wedges were born of the vision of the Minister for Local Government, Rupert Hamer, in the 1960's when he directed the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) that '*.....future planning should take full account of the surrounding countryside as a vital part of the metropolitan environment*.'
2. **Protect the Natural Environment as a priority of the GWMP.** Given both the importance of the natural environment to the Melbourne metropolitan area as a whole and the Nillumbik community, as expressed through the consultation process, the Rural Conservation Zone should be maintained as it currently exists. This does not preclude new agricultural land uses but ensures that they are assessed against the overall purpose of the zones to protect conservation values.
3. **Determine Strategic Planning for Green Wedge.** There has been a tendency in discussing the revision of the GWMP for Council to emphasised land management over land use planning. It is clearly the responsibility of the Nillumbik Council as the Responsible Planning Authority to provide leadership on the issue of planning provisions for future land use and development in the Green Wedges. The Council needs to bring along the community in this process. There are very significant proposed changes suggested in the draft GWMP that need to be discussed in detail with the community (such as proposed rezoning of Rural Conservation Zone to Green Wedge Zone and the concept of buffers).
4. **Clarify the identification of rural land uses.** A person unfamiliar with planning could easily misinterpret the area demarcated in Figure 25 as 'Rural Resident' as equating with 'rural residential land use'. This would lead to a major misunderstanding of this area of rural land that actually encompasses the Rural Conservation Zone and the purpose of this zone is overall to protect conservation values and that any proposed rural residential land uses are consistent with this purpose.. Typical rural land uses in the Green Wedge encompass rural lifestyle (hobby farms), green

lifestyle (bush blocks), part-time farming, fully commercial and hybrid farming (e.g. vineyards and wine sales).

5. **Help the community clearly distinguish residential from rural land uses.** This is the role of a Settlement Strategy that plans for housing needs in a given municipality. The use of the description of areas covered by the Rural Conservation Zone as 'Rural Resident' will fuel this confusion. The State Government policy is to *accommodate additional housing and employment in established towns that have the capacity for growth*. While, for example, the Rural Conservation Zone allows the consideration of the use of land for a dwelling, it is not a zone that encourages residential-type development. None of the purposes of either the Rural Conservation Zone or Green Wedge Zone have rural living as a primary purpose.
6. **Ensure that future land use and development to be subordinate to the natural environment and/or agricultural land use.** The excessive bulk and scale of buildings, and associated infrastructure is a major issue for future land use and development across all the Green Wedges. This is a rapidly emerging strategic planning issue in other Green Wedges and needs to be identified in tackling key planning issues for the future of the Nillumbik Green Wedge.
7. **Apply the use of a land management plan.** I am proposing that all future permit applications in the Green Wedge zones be accompanied by a land management plan that would provide documentation of a commitment to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and/or opportunities for soil-based agricultural land use. This plan would basically provide a formal and transparent process for addressing the Decision guidelines as stipulated in the planning provisions for the Green Wedge Zone and Rural Conservation Zone. There already is a version on the Nillumbik Council website.
8. **Implement as a matter of high priority the Green Wedge Conservations Program.** Overall I would have expected that the process for the preparation of the draft revised plan would have made substantial progress in tackling the issues, described in Key Move 2, of natural environment and biodiversity values, bushfire risk reduction, economic development, agriculture, economic and community rebuilding post events, human health, well –being and safety and water catchment planning. As it is all the hard work is still to come and will require significant resourcing if the *Green Wedge Conversations* program is to be a success. Four of the major land use planning issues that will need robust conversation as a matter of high priority are:
 - a. Protection of biodiversity values and maintenance of the Rural Conservation Zone.
 - b. The future of agricultural land use in the Rural Conservation Zone.
 - c. Containing the bulk and scale of future built form and associated infrastructure.
 - d. The proposal for a buffer between urban areas and the Green Wedge.

CONCLUSION

The vision of R.J. Hamer in the 1960's is all the more relevant these days especially with the increasing risk of climate change for rising city temperatures. The maintenance and enhancement of our tree and shrub cover is pivotal both to addressing climate change but also to protecting the environmental values that underpin the sustainable future of the Melbourne.

Green Wedges private land accounts for some 31% of the Melbourne metropolitan area and the future of Melbourne is really is a choice between an urbanised concrete jungle and a liveable city with continued healthy relationship of rural countryside as an integral part of the Melbourne metropolitan area.

Alan Thatcher



6 August 2019

From: [Drusilla Kett](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Drusilla Kett SUBMISSION ON THE GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT 2019
Date: Wednesday, 7 August 2019 12:02:30 AM

ATTENTION: CURRENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NILLUMBIK COUNCIL, 2019.

I would like to **lodge my objection to the proposed changes as outlined in the *Green Wedge Management Plan Draft 2019***.

I strenuously object to the proposed subdivision of the land between Mannish Road and Clarke Avenue (vacant 15 hectares), [REDACTED].

I have witnessed the expansive degradation of the vacant land, whereby bulldozers have cleared all ground cover and understorey vegetation - both indigenous and non-indigenous species - as well as canopy trees in extensive areas. This has resulted in the uniform loss of topsoil, which has consequently led to widespread erosion - clearly visible from any direction. The local fauna has also suffered as a result, due to the loss of habitat and protection from predators. The pod of kangaroos (present for decades) is now forced to find alternative food sources outside of the 15 hectare wedge - their carcasses can often be found opposite the train station in Wattle Glen and even adjacent to Mannish Road, as they forage on roadside vegetation in the warmer months when regular food sources have either been exhausted or removed by human action. The local echidna populations have disappeared since the widespread removal of understorey vegetation, and the local birdlife has also been decimated.

As a result of the clearance of vegetation, the noise levels from nearby arterial roadways has increased, and the rainfall levels have decreased due to local climatic change as a result of the increase in heat and the removal of vegetation which not only absorbs heat, but removes carbon dioxide from the immediate atmosphere.

The environmental reserves surrounding Peppers Paddock would be at risk of degradation and irreversible loss of natural resources were the 15 hectare land to be subdivided. The slope adjacent to this area has already been severely affected by clearing, as is evident when one compares the current vegetated slopes on the southern boundaries to what existed prior to the clearing that occurred more than 12 months ago. The constant burning of cleared vegetation resulted in huge smoke clouds that permeated the local area and adjacent houses for days. During heavy rainfall, the roadside gutters were blocked with the resultant runoff of topsoil and loose vegetation and stones.

Now, the runoff pours across the steep slopes behind Mannish Road, down towards the road, leaving clear gullies in previously vegetated slopes. The topography of the 15 hectares - the steep gradient, the tendency to heavy runoff, the lack of vegetation - should preclude any development whatsoever. This area must be revegetated and preserved to minimise the affects of local climate change and conserve local biodiversity.

Further development in the area for economic gain would not only damage the local environmental aspects, but the cumulative affects on climate change would also be widespread. Biodiversity would be lost and the Green Wedge would cease to exist in these areas. We must minimise urban creep and protect the conservation values that are inherent within the Green Wedge, and have been supported by local populations for decades. To ratify economic development in these areas is to condemn the Nillumbik Shire to a permanent loss of environmental biodiversity and sustainability. To countenance development in areas which have been previously protected is to minimise the importance of the current Rural Conservation Zones and previous efforts to highlight the significance of environmental protection and actions contained within the previous *Green Wedge Management Plan*.

I support the retainment and protection of the current environmental aspects, as outlined within the existing *Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP)*.

The proposed draft of the *Green Wedge Management Plan 2019* is **NOT** acceptable in its current form.

I urge the Nillumbik Council to put environmental conservation and protection ahead of economic gain - for it is an individual that owns the 15 hectares between [REDACTED] his economic gain would be at the expense of the Green Wedge and the local community (and its future generations).

Yours Faithfully,

Drusilla Kett
[REDACTED]

Nillumbik shire

05/08/2019

Submission to The Green wedge management plan

John Egglestone

■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■

I have lived at this address for the last 30 years and in that time a lot has changed. My property is approx. 17 acres or 7 hectares in size. I am bound by one neighbour on the north side, ■■■■■■■■■■ on the south side, and the ■■■■■■■■■■. My property ■■■■■■■■■■ and is directly opposite the entrance to the ■■■■■■■■■■.

This is problem number 1 as our once peaceful and slightly private property is now almost as busy as Bourke st with on average 25 or more cars a day parking randomly out the front of my property. This also leads to people wandering through my property to view kangaroos and look out over the view. It is not uncommon for people to just walk in as if they own the place. I have even had people set up for picnics and BBQs on odd occasions. When asked what they are doing they usually answer “I didn’t know that it was private property” . We, as do most owners of these blocks have to tolerate these types of invasions and also rubbish being dumped in and around our properties. I have even had one guy mowing an area in my property so he could practise his golf putting. I have had many people from properties that overlook mine telling me what I can and can’t do. I have been told that my horses (long gone) were destroying the native Flora and Fauna and that I should not have horses or cattle grazing on my property.

With regards to the sizes or area of most of the properties around the area, they are not viable for grazing of stock, and are not viable for any other agricultural purpose as they are not large enough in area for these purposes, but the other problem is they are too large for a lifestyle block. Without grazing prospects it means these properties need to be slashed, or become a fire hazard. These properties are well within the reach of ALL amenities such as transport, schools shopping centres and much more. They would be better suited to possibly .5 or 1 acre blocks, or even 2 acre blocks, as are on the

Eltham side of Allendale rd. This approach would defiantly benefit the area and also local community as there would be much more greenery promoted by more separate properties. At the moment the entire area is a complete waste. I wouldn't like to see it become a housing estate, however I do believe the land would be better suited for large blocks, rather than the way it is at the moment, which is of no use to anybody.

My property [REDACTED] area so would be even more useless as a rural area. I imagine I will loose a bit of land when this project comes to fruition so my property (already under 8 hectares) will become even smaller than the present regulation stipulates.

I believe this entire area needs some serious consideration to its future with regards to our expanding population and housing requirements. It would also benefit council with regards to rate income.

The future of this area should be decided by the people who live in the area and manage the land in question. One of the earlier surveys was conducted by a company based in Dandenong with a very strong green influence. I tried to be a part of this survey but was refused. Wonder why.

I hope sensible decisions can be achieved and maybe we will all benefit from these

Regards

John Egglestone

From: [Jeff Drummond](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Jeff Drummond GWMP Submission
Date: Wednesday, 7 August 2019 11:57:48 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 6 August 2019 at 3:40:17 pm AEST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: GWMP Submission

SUBMISSION Re DRAFT NILLUMBIK
GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Green Wedge is about
conserving our indigenous environment. NOT just about people and any Plan
must
reflect this.

Innumerable reports confirm that
our most urgent priority it to protect our environment and address climate
change.

The Draft does not do this and
does not reflect the community's views and desires as expressed via the
community consultation process and via the Panel process.

The Draft is confusing and

difficult to read and is not clear on intentions and actions.

The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must only be created within the confines of the zones and overlays currently in place.

There must be no changes to zoning and overlays that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.

The GWMP must conserve the environment of Nillumbik's Green Wedge which is Melbourne's most intact and biodiverse wedge. Nillumbik was established as the Green Wedge Shire with conservation as its strategic focus. The Draft does not reflect this fact.

Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of

vegetation throughout the Shire. The GWMP must include much stronger protections for

vegetation if this is to be reversed. The Draft does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong

commitment to environmental protection.

Jeff Drummond

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EMAIL TO:

gwmp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

From: smashplates@yahoo.com.au
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Dr Lyn Ashby submission on the Green Wedge Management Plan draft 2019
Date: Wednesday, 7 August 2019 1:14:11 PM

A submission on the Green Wedge Management Plan draft 2019 from Dr Lyn Ashby

In summary: The Draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form. It fails in many significant ways to address in useful detail the issues that are claimed to be its concern.

On first quick reading, in general, the draft GWMP 2019, provides a vague, inoffensive vision of how Council might approach Nillumbikshire's many imminent issues of ongoing sustainability and general cultural and environmental wellbeing. However, none of these general statements of vision, principles and key points provide enough detail to positively assess this draft. Much of it reduces to bland wordplay. Is this deliberate? Council needs to work a great deal harder to pinpoint specific ways in which it will achieve its claimed desired outcomes.

In particular, given that it is generally agreed that Nillumbik is essentially the last viable green wedge for the greater urban Metropolitan Melbourne area, this part of the world is of extremely high environmental value, not just for the area enclosed within its boundaries and those who live there, but for the whole Melbourne region. Even though this is the case, the draft GWMP 2019 mentions the environment only in the broadest terms, with no concrete or detailed plans on how to protect, foster and enhance this delicate rural, semi-urban wedge. Oftentimes, the language of the draft is ambiguous and in places even dangerous. What does it mean in detail and practice to state: "The new plan proposes to move the balance of local management approaches more towards leadership and empowerment to achieve its objectives." Or, in Objectives, what is it to "Enable our people to take greater shared responsibility for the future of our green wedge." Nowhere in the draft are such statements fully detailed.

Overall, Council seems to have sidestepped any detailed descriptions of how they will address the outcomes of the community surveys and workshops conducted in the lead up to this draft, which unequivocally described their concerns for the environment. In Appendix 1 of Council's draft GWMP is a quote from Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, for the first priority for the Green Wedge: "Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation." What has happened to such a priority in this draft? Gone? The 2019 Victorian State of the Environment Report presented a bleak outlook for the state's native plants and animals with special concern of the impact on land biodiversity from horses (and other hoofed animals). Why is this not discussed properly in the draft GWMP, given the wedge's vital role in this part of the world. And what of the issues of: bushfire protection on private land, or the general agreement that more private land needs to be conserved; the importance of indigenous vegetation; habitat for wildlife and connectivity? With all this, the draft ignores the two global crises of climate change and biodiversity extinction, and the role that this green wedge can and must play in these crises. These are no longer theoretical issues affecting other, far-away lands. They are here now upon us, with a greater intensity each year. How will we respond, in detail? The need of the GWMP to rise to the challenge of appropriate responses to these issues is real. The council and the community can and must work together in this. But this draft fails in its part of this challenge. The GWMP needs to reaffirm the shire's radical conservation role, for everyone's sake. Do better!

The fact that Council's Draft argues that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) should require no permit, is completely inappropriate and unacceptable, and contradicts many of its other declared principles, such as community consultation and assessment of environmental sustainability. In ways such as this, the Council seems to reveal a deep disdain for the broader community and the needs of the environment. In Nillumbikshire, so-called "greenies" are not a lunatic fringe. They are ordinary, sane

citizens who value the environment and are increasingly understanding the crisis ahead for all of us. And they are significantly gaining in numbers. The sooner Council realises that it must realistically represent these ordinary, sane citizens, above any notion of private development or opportunism with regard to the environment, the better. A genuine cooperative, collaborative approach to ownership and guardianship of the land must be brokered now. This GWMP draft fails utterly to approach this challenge.

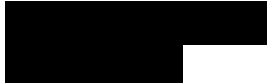
We need a Green Wedge Management Plan that places the Green Wedge environment, biodiversity, and their restoration as the main priority in a way that fits the 21st century challenges facing us, for our children, and our children's children. Council's Draft GWMP is so poorly framed, and thoroughly fails the basics of what's required. Because of this the GWMP 2010-2025 with all its objectives and actions, needs to be reinstated.

Dr Lyn Ashby

From: [Carlota](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Carlota Quinlan Submission on Draft GWMP
Date: Wednesday, 7 August 2019 1:16:12 PM
Attachments: [GWMP CQ submission.docx](#)

Please find attached my personal submission on the draft GWMP.
Please acknowledge receipt of my submission.

Carlota Quinlan



Draft Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan

Submission from Carlota Quinlan

My submission will be short and succinct. Many others I am sure will have covered the same points in much more detail so I will brief.

We are very privileged to live in such a beautiful area of Victoria.

“The Shire of Nillumbik was formed in 1994 with the conservation of the green wedge as its strategic focus. The Nillumbik Green Wedge is distinguished from others **by the quality of its environment and natural bushland**. Above all it is the environmental qualities – the topography, the dense bushland and isolated spaces, the rivers and streams – and the diverse townships that create a sense of place and continue to draw people to settle in Nillumbik.” (Current GWMP)

Conservation of the environment was the key focus in the establishment of Nillumbik as a Green Wedge shire and is what this draft GWMP should also have as its focus. It does not.

- **The process so far has been of much concern.**

Council stated that a panel report written by a certain percentage of panelists would be needed for a report to be accepted and used as recommendation on which to base the draft GWMP. However when 5 panelists with differing views submitted a minority report it was initially referred by council to the further consultation section but then on informal word of mouth advice accepted as equal to the 80% report.

Not only was it accepted but it was used to significantly change the recommendations of the large majority.

Its positioning in the Key Inputs spreadsheet even gives it a central and larger column than the majority panel report.

- **The draft GWMP is unclear and confusing.**

It cannot be easily compared to the original that was being reviewed. The vision, key moves, principles, goals and objectives are broad statements that in the main could apply to anywhere and any community situation and used to justify a range of actions, not all to the benefit of the environment or green wedge as a whole. While some points have merit they need to be qualified in order to be relevant to the Green Wedge.

The ‘tick the boxes’ again are broad statements. Statistics gained from merely ticking a box can be used to support any number of things and be potentially misleading.

- **Residents overwhelmingly want the environment and its protection to be the key focus of a GWMP. This draft fails to do so.**

People-centred statements dominate the plan.

So much so that quotes from the GWMP that appear to be putting community and social needs ahead of environmental needs have been used by some residents in submissions to back a push for subdivisions.

The **Goals of the GWMP are people centred statements:** Engaged connected communities, Active and creative people, Safe and healthy environments, A prosperous economy, Responsible leadership.

There is nothing in those goal statements to indicate they are the goals for the management of a Green Wedge.

- **Biodiversity and protection of the environment**
including all indigenous vegetation on private and public land should be stressed and given a higher priority in the plan.
- **Permits should be required**
to farm in the RCZ even if the land has previously been cleared and farmed at some point in time. Termination of Right of Use should apply as in other planning and zoning situations. The appropriateness of agriculture or a specific type of farming and/or the regeneration of bush may have changed the situation.
- **Any tourism development** in the Green Wedge
MUST be 'in conjunction with' the agricultural use of the land, such as cellar door and farm gate sales, and this should be clearly stated in the GWMP.
- **Rezoning of land from RCZ to GW**
should not occur and would severely compromise the integrity of Nillumbik's Green Wedge. If RCZ land is suitable for farming it can already be granted a permit therefore there should be no need to rezone.
- **The UGB should remain as a solid line with no 'buffer'.**
Blurring of the boundary through zoning changes or changes in land use would only lead to incremental sprawl of development and urban growth into rural land.
- **The draft lacks detail and statements are so broad**
that agreeing with them without qualifying details could lead to actions totally out of keeping with the continuing conservation of our environment and long term health, integrity and sustainability of the Green Wedge.
- **'Robust discussions' should be backed by up to date scientific findings.**
This must be stated.
- The basis for discussions regarding **economic growth** should be how any venture would stack up against the key foci of maintaining and enhancing the environment, biodiversity and sustainability.

This draft GWMP does not provide a satisfactory framework for the ongoing management of Nillumbik's Green Wedge.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: [REDACTED] Submission on Draft GWMP 2019
Date: Wednesday, 7 August 2019 1:55:21 PM
Attachments: [2019-08-07 GWMP Submission - FP.doc](#)
[ATT00001.txt](#)

Please find attached my Submission on Draft GWMP,

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Submission on Council's Draft GWMP

By [REDACTED] 2019-08-07

I have lived in the Bend of Islands for 33 years and for that time I have been a member of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA).

The Draft GWMP is seriously flawed in its present form. It very much plays down the environmental protection and enhancement of the Green Wedge, while opening the way for options to reduce the effectiveness of the current conservation zones.

Nillumbik's residents have been proud of the Shire's role as the 'Green Wedge Shire'. In order for Nillumbik to continue in this role, a general revision of the Draft GWMP is needed to address the following issues.

Introduction

- The Draft GWMP is seriously inconsistent with **Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas.** (Attachment 1 in the Draft)

The 1st desired outcome of **Plan Melbourne 2017-2050** is **Environmental and biodiversity assets**. It clearly calls for the protection and enhancement of these, including *forests and grasslands*. As the first listed outcome, this is obviously the highest priority of **Plan Melbourne 2017-2050**. The intention is for the green wedges to have strong environmental protection to preserve and enhance their natural environments, for the benefit of all Melbournians into the future.

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 clearly defines the aim of this outcome - *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'*

The current Draft GWMP has a worrying lack of emphasis on the protection and enhancement of the **Environmental and biodiversity assets**. To ensure that this outcome is clearly articulated, emphasised and supported, a major refocus of the GWMP is required

- Many recent reports have documented the current declines in biodiversity to critical levels. Strong environmental action, by all levels of government and society, has been called for to reverse pervasive threat.
 - **The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**
 - *"The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide."*
 - *"it is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global"*.
 - **The 2018 State of the Environment report for Victoria**
 - 26% of Biodiversity indicators are in poor condition and will remain so without intervention.

The current Draft GWMP opens the way for Nillumbik to do the opposite and allow the further decline of its natural environment, the very asset that make it so suitable for a green wedge.

- The overwhelming issue from the Panel Report, and associated community feedback, is that Nillumbik residents cherish the high environmental values of the GW and they want it to be maintained, protected and enhanced. It is astounding that this strong message is not effectively incorporated into the current GWMP draft.

The problem is not what is written in the GWMP draft, but what is omitted. I have not used the on-line feedback facility because the dot point options cannot effectively respond to these omissions.

I make the following specific comments for each section of the Draft GWMP: -

Vision

- Protection and enhancement of the environment must be central to the Vision for the Green Wedge. Appendix 1 of Council's draft quotes the State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', where the first priority for the Green Wedge is to **'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'**
Support for this is sadly lacking in the current Draft GWMP's vision.
- Council's initial community engagement clearly demonstrated that the large majority of Nillumbik **residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge** and want it maintained, protected and enhanced. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for this Community's position. It is baffling that Council instigated such a good process to gauge the sentiment of the community, and has now seemingly ignored the major feedback in preparation of the draft.
- The Victorian Green Wedge Planning Zones are designed to conserve the natural environment of the Green Wedge. The GWMP should be supporting the zones, not trying to undermine the RCZ and its conservation responsibilities as this draft does.
- Climate Change and Biodiversity issues have become more critical, since the last GWMP was written, but the current Draft GWMP has no actual initiatives to positively address these issues.
Nillumbik is well placed to take a leading role in adopting local solutions to the global problems of biodiversity decline. Given our relative affluence and strong community sentiment, if we don't do this, how can we expect it to happen anywhere. This is an opportunity for Nillumbik to truly lead.

Five Key Moves.

- There are no commitments to actually addressing the environmental issues of Climate Change and Biodiversity Decline. The new plan must be stronger and clearer, than the existing plan, about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The current Draft GWMP is much weaker on these issues, than the existing plan. This must be remedied.
- The document needs to clearly detail the ACTIONS to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, ensuring the protection of ALL native vegetation and fauna across the Shire. We cannot tolerate further declines.
Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term.

Principles

- These Principles almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to **'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'** (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of Draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- The problem is not what is written in the GWMP draft, but what is omitted.
- An additional principle should be added, at the top of the list, as follows –
Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity
The decline in biodiversity must be reversed and the effects of Climate Change must be addressed so that we maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.
- Most outlined Principles contain potentially useful ideas but there needs to be greater emphasis on the protection of the environment. For example, the principle that says, *'The green wedge is a changing environment and home to many people. Change will be managed to conserve its values and with a focus on long-term stewardship.'*, could read,

*“The green wedge is a changing environment and home to many people. Change will be managed to conserve its **biodiversity and environmental** values and with a focus on long-term stewardship.”*

- The Principles need to also incorporate the State Government’s policies **Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037**, which is ‘Victoria’s plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.’

Goal 1

- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *‘Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of Draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- The tone and wording of parts of the Goal 1 are too ambiguous and can be interpreted as an opportunity to ignore, water-down or override the environmental protection responsibilities of those who live in the GW.
- The vast majority of the stated objectives and key actions are applicable to a well thought out plan for ‘any rural municipality’. Whilst they are obviously required for Nillumbik’s rural areas, they do not specifically relate to the special aspects associated with the GW. The mixing of the ‘general rural’ and ‘specific GW’ issues makes the GWMP draft complex and confused. In some instances, it could be interpreted that the GW is being blamed for many problems that are common to most rural communities.
- The thrust of Goal 1, to engage the community, is important but needs to be explained in the context of the environmental protection aims. The importance of the role of the community for stewardship of the land needs to be clearly stated and emphasised. ‘How can we maintain and improve the environment’, not ‘What can we get out of the land’.

For example, Objective 01.1 could be: -

Enable our people to take greater shared responsibility for the future of our green wedge, to ensure that we enhance biodiversity and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.

- Achieving community engagement by playing down or ignoring the GW residents’ responsibilities for environmental protection is self-defeating. This will result in a diminished GW that does not meet the aspirations of the majority of the local community or Victoria’s desired planning outcomes for the Green Wedges.
- The tone of ‘how can we change the GW planning provisions’ should be refocused to ‘how can we develop smart solutions, consistent with the current GW planning provisions and boundary’. A1.6 is a good example of this. A1.7 needs a similar approach to solve the problem without diminishing the GW or its boundary.

Goal 2

- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *‘Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of Draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- People are important and a healthy environment helps people to be healthy, but the protection of the natural environment should not be compromised. It is not an ‘either/or’ situation. The plan needs to highlight the positive influence of the natural environment on the mental and physical health of residents and regular visitors.

Goal 3

- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *‘Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats*

and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation. (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of Draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)

- While it is important to protect our “valuable” biodiversity and habitats, this skirts around the importance of “less valuable” or, more accurately, “less intact or disturbed” habitats that make up the entire biodiversity map for the shire. For example, faunal corridors will include less “valuable” habitats. The GW’s natural environment is already highly fragmented, so these important corridors may exist, or need to be created, across landscapes that do not contain so-called “valuable” biodiversity and habitats.
- The GWMP should undertake a massive public education campaign about biodiversity, ecosystem services, natural landscapes, the Green Wedge, climate change and their interdependences
- All indigenous vegetation needs to be conserved in the GW, on private and public land, with a clear focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what ecosystems provide; addressing the climate change and extinction crises, and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the Actions and all other aspects of the plan.
- It makes environmental sense to extend and improve the Green Wedge ESOs. The GWMP must say that is the intent of the ‘review’ (A3.2). The previous Abzeco reports to Council are a significant existing resource that should be utilised in any review – most of the work has already been done.
- Waterways, particularly Nillumbik rivers and creeks that feed the Yarra, must have water. It is not a ‘balance’ situation; the needs of the waterways must take priority (A3.12)

Goal 4

- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *‘Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of Draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- Change the goal to: “A prosperous **Green Wedge** economy”
The GWMP should set an environmental context and promote eco-friendly economic activities.
- Support for local agriculture is important but must always provide for the continuing health of the environment.
- Permits to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) are essential to ensure that any agricultural activities respect the environmental qualities of the land. It also ensures residents will be informed about the piggery etc proposed for next door.
- It is important that tourism developments in the GW are required to be “in conjunction” with agricultural uses. This will decrease the likelihood of inappropriate development.
- Actions must be implemented to prevent the negative environmental impacts of horses and other hard-hoofed animals. These must include education of the equine sector and other graziers. There needs to be greater understanding of responsible ownership of animals.

Goal 5

- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *‘Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of Draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- Climate Change and Biodiversity issues have become critical. Nillumbik is well placed to take a leading role in adopting local solutions to the global problems of biodiversity decline. Given our relative affluence and strong community sentiment, if we don’t do this, how can we expect it to happen anywhere. **This is an opportunity for Nillumbik to truly lead.**

- The draft plan suggests the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) is too restrictive of farming practices and this zoning should only be applied to land with higher conservation values. This suggestion puts at serious risk flora and fauna across a significant proportion of the Shire, whether as single trees in paddocks or scattered pockets of remnant bush. These are all vital and in need of greater care and protection, not less. The 'death by a thousand cuts' decline trend cannot be allowed to continue.
- The Draft GWMP should promote, and give clear guidance for, good stewardship by all GW residents. Good stewardship simply means that, after an owner's (brief) tenure, the land and its waterways will be passed on in a better state. For agricultural land this means with soil erosion and pest invasion controlled; for bush properties and portions, biodiversity has been improved. The Nillumbik Landcare Network document on the Culture of Community Custodianship of Land should be referred to and widely promoted.
- The UGB is a hard boundary and should be kept that way as. A5.7 may lead to a push for a buffer zone on the rural side of the UGB. This should be rejected.

Other Comments

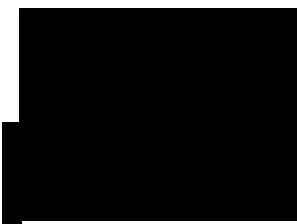
- The strongest message from the initial community consultation and the Panel Report is that Nillumbik residents and the population of wider Melbourne cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it to be maintained, protected and reinvigorated. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this.
- The Green Wedge Management Plan must support the Shire's conservation role. It is this role that sets Nillumbik apart. It is a major reason why many of the residents have chosen to live here.
- There is a worrying lack of detail throughout the current draft regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shire's biodiversity in all its forms and varying quality. This needs to be addressed to ensure the improvement of the long-term health of the Green Wedge.
- The impact of invasive species – flora and fauna – is significant and this must be better addressed with strategies developed and promoted by Council.
- The draft refers to polarised and diverse views and how conversations must be respectful and robust. These must be guided by current science, particularly in relation to the need for environmental protection, repair and preservation.

Conclusion

I request that Council considers the above issues and embarks on a major revision of the Draft GWMP to include appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge. The document needs to be consistent with the relevant State policies and to reflect the clear community desire for environmental protection and enhancement.

There is a great opportunity for Nillumbik to show real leadership, but the current Draft GWMP sadly misses this.

Regards,



Note: I wish my submission to be 'anonymous' if it is published.

From: [Nillumbik Environment Action Group](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: NEAG team SUBMISSION - Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Wednesday, 7 August 2019 2:04:11 PM
Attachments: [NEAG response to draft GWMP final.pdf](#)

Dear Green Wedge Management Plan working group,
Attached please find our submission on the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.
Please send us an email confirming successful receipt and download of the document.
Thank you for your attention,
The NEAG team

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[Nillumbik Environment Action Group](#)

To Nillumbik Shire Council
Submission on the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019
By NEAG [Nillumbik Environment Action Group]

We would like to raise some key points in response to the draft.

GWMP = Green Wedge Management Plan

DP = Draft GWMP [ie the one we are commenting on]

As an active community group that connects with the wider population, we know that our submission reflects not only our core members' concerns, but those of our wider networks and the majority of the community beyond. We can say that with confidence because of the innumerable conversations we have had, and continue to develop, with people of all ages at shopping centres, schools, sporting clubs, men's sheds, church groups, book groups, festivals, markets, and more.

It is also very clearly reflected in the Community Engagement Report that resulted from consultation undertaken by Nillumbik Council. The first key finding of all engagement activities:

The two things the community said they like about the Green Wedge are:

- *Space, peace and wellbeing –this related particularly to how the Green Wedge made people feel, an appreciation of views and fresh air along with the less stressful environment.*
- *Environment, biodiversity, plants and animals –this related to the importance of the natural environment for plants and animals as well as humans.*

The first challenge cited is:

- *Over development and over population –this was a consistent theme with concerns that the population will be increased and the area developed further.*

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

1. Climate change is without question the greatest challenge of our time and therefore must underpin and frame **all** concepts, aims and actions described in the GWMP. WE NEED A STATEMENT OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY AT THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF THE DOCUMENT. (It should bookend all other Council documents as well.) Furthermore, the document must include mitigation plans, i.e. drastic action to reduce carbon emissions, not just odd references to adaptation.
2. As stated by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), 'The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.' The GWMP must acknowledge the Shire's responsibility to act on this. According to the IPBES, 'It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we **start now at every level from local to global.**'
3. There is a concerning lack of regard shown for Indigenous knowledge, history, and presence. What is needed is a broader understanding and solid relationships that can be integrated into all aims and actions. What is required goes far beyond what is currently contained in the DP.
4. The Draft Plan [DP] as a whole lacks the necessary detail to achieve a positive outcome and address the State Government's requirements for the preparation of any new GWMP.
5. The DP lacks an implementation plan, which is also required by the State Government. Planning Practice Note 31 says, 'Each GWMP will set out a series of actions and measures that need to be undertaken, and identify resource requirements, roles and responsibilities, timelines, outcomes and evaluation.'
6. The current GWMP has much greater detail for action, implementation, and accountability and with improvements could well be used as the basis for a revised plan.
7. The DP demonstrates an anthropocentric attitude, which is deeply problematic.
We recommend a broader view respectful of indigenous flora and fauna.

8. Page 3 of the Nillumbik State of the Environment report, 2014, states that, 'the pressure of incremental loss of vegetation is significant'. This has occurred under the current GWMP which has stronger and more clearly stated protections for vegetation than the DP. This fact clearly indicates that any new plan must identify specific and stronger actions to ensure the protection of all native vegetation and to activate revegetation of indigenous flora across the Shire.
9. The initial community consultation - with the community as a whole and then with the Community Panel - gave clear evidence that people prioritise most highly the environmental health of the Green Wedge, and want it protected and reinvigorated. The DP does not reflect the community's concerns and wishes, which must be at its heart.
10. The GWMP must reaffirm the Shire's conservation role, with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus, as declared by the Local Government Review Board in 1994. The DP does not achieve this. For example, if the DP's intentions are to be fulfilled, it would require that land currently zoned RCZ would need to be rezoned to GWZ. See pages 38 to 39 of the DP. This is one example of many that indicates an intention to open up the Green Wedge to more development, and undermine and decrease protection of our native flora and fauna which is the priority of the majority of the population, as illustrated by Council's own community consultation.
11. The DP speaks of robust conversations in the community and within the Council organisation. We believe this is essential if our community is to make **sustainable** and respectful progress. It is also vital to seek out and use rigorous scientific research. Council must demonstrate leadership in this regard and uphold the highest professional standards at all times, no exceptions. There is ongoing conflict over a range of issues within the community. We are extremely disappointed with the process that has produced this DP. It has **not** brought the community together – in fact has led to greater friction and polarisation. If processes such as this are to work in favour of the Strategic Focus – that is, of preserving the Green Wedge and its biodiversity – then the development of new strategies and courses of action must be an immediate priority. This can only be achieved by adopting the highest standards of Governance. This has not been evident throughout this process. The publication on Council's website of a document that included accusations of bullying by unnamed panel members is one example. The Victorian Local Governance Association [VLGA] has published a Good Governance Guide. *Promoting Community Confidence* is the first listed benefit of good Governance [page 9]. Council decisions such as this have eroded our community's confidence. It is also crucial that Council support the broader community to develop better methods of entering difficult conversations and finding effective ways to resolve ongoing problems, without losing sight of the Strategic Focus. These are crucial considerations as we tackle issues such as Melbourne's projected population over the coming decades, extinction and ecological collapse, all in the face of a changing climate.
12. We are truly shocked to read the facts on page 32 of the DP, stating that '**Streamflow has reduced by approximately fifty per cent over the last two decades making critical the task of managing and protecting groundwater and surface waterways to sustain and protect water quality from the negative impacts of sedimentation, reduced flows, effluent and other water pollution.**' The DP does not consistently seek to protect the keystones that ensure water health. This is a serious flaw. Protecting vegetation, improving agricultural practices and reinvigorating the landscape through careful revegetation with indigenous grasses, understorey and trees, must be top priority if we are to have healthy waterways. It is not enough to just *support* other Governmental bodies - much stronger partnerships **MUST** be developed with the specific aim to protect our environment and educate the community, including the Council as a whole organisation. The vital role water plays in supporting all life, and the connection between the health of our biodiversity and our waterways must be understood and respected by all. How we treat the earth is evident in our degraded waterways. 50% reduction in flow is utterly unacceptable, and we can see the harm in our local creeks and billabongs. We have found animals that are sick and dying as a direct result of environmental degradation. The DP also states that '*Our ecosystem and the liveability of the green wedge depends upon maintaining water supply to support every aspect of our natural environment.*' The DP does not define immediate and strong enough action to demonstrate our understanding of this urgent issue.

The current GWMP has much stronger measures than this DP, yet has not been enough to protect our environment. Ongoing loss of vegetation and reduced waterflows are extremely alarming evidence of this.

What are we actually aspiring to with this document? A really healthy and robust biodiverse system or one that is fractured and weakened by ongoing human impacts?

SPECIFIC POINTS

VISION

1. It is crucial that planning focuses on environmental protection and reinvigoration as required by the State Government's Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, where the first listed priority is to *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation'*. This must be made a top priority in the Vision, and reflected throughout the document in all aims and actions.
2. Nillumbik's Green Wedge is the most environmentally intact of Melbourne's Green Wedges. It is a significant part of the city and its overarching plan, which is in place for the benefit of all. This includes the population of greater Melbourne, the flora and fauna that call it home, as well as Nillumbik residents.
This also gives Nillumbik an excellent opportunity to demonstrate leadership in the urgent need for all local councils to ensure the protection of native flora and fauna, as described by the IPBES.
3. The Vision states that 'the management of risk from bushfire and adapting to climate change are also priorities.' This is inadequate. Where is the commitment to mitigation on climate change (the prime cause of higher bushfire risk)? The Shire should lead on **emissions reduction**, not focus solely on adaptation. The Vision needs to be truly visionary and aim much higher. As a higher level document, the GWMP must give direction and include detail. No government plan can ignore our current climate emergency - indeed, a statement about it should bookend the entire document. Fortunately, we have a State Government at the moment that would be open to such an emphasis. Management of risk from bushfire can then be treated as a separate, albeit related, topic (see more on this below, under Principles).
4. Given that the Indigenous people of this land have ensured incredible biodiversity and robust ecosystems for millennia, the Vision should make respectful and strong reference to their wisdom.

FIVE KEY MOVES

The DP contains some potentially worthwhile sentiments but they are so open-ended and without connection to action, that a giant kangaroo - possibly extinct - could hop through the gaps.

We believe there needs to be much clearer description of actions to be taken, timeframes, and accountability. For example, what is a 'comprehensive planning and place management service for the townships'? What is a 'stocktake of environmental assets'? How and by whom is it to be undertaken, using what measures? The current GWMP contains much greater detail, and yet we still have lost vital vegetation. It is clear that more needs to be done, not less, and this must always include the extensive education of the community regarding best environmental practice. For example, the impact of hard hooved animals such as cows, horses, goats and sheep must be recognised and addressed. This must include education of owners of animals to ensure appropriate stocking rates and protection of vegetation – from trees to tiny orchids and mosses; lessening erosion and impact on waterways; ensuring weeds are controlled in environmentally safe ways, etc.

PRINCIPLES

Any new GWMP must have a stronger focus on environmental protection, which in our view calls for an additional specific Principle, for example 'Reinvigoration of biodiversity'.

The final Principle described in the DP 'Sustainability and the precautionary principle' has some excellent propositions that we could be very proud of, but unfortunately what follows in the document is not in line with this ethos. One example can be found in Goal 3 [page 30], headed 'Adapting to a changing climate and our bushfire prone environment'. It is problematic and alarming that the DP claims, 'our biggest

natural threat within the green wedge is bushfire', as opposed to climate change, which has far more wide-reaching and dangerous impacts. Of course they are connected – while bushfire demands our attention year by year, climate change is the number one driver of more frequent and devastating bushfires. It is essential that climate change mitigation is made central to any new GWMP. Its significance demands that it is not only mentioned in relation to other issues such as bushfire.

The way we currently mismanage our vegetation also contributes to bushfire risk. It has been shown that the retention of vegetation reduces the heating and drying of the land and therefore reduces fire risk. This is a global perspective, and the question must always be, 'if not here and now, then where and when?' We need to develop a more sophisticated understanding of fire, its ancient and essential presence in the land, and how we can live with these realities without always defaulting to a view that safety equates to denuding the land. This issue requires the development of a respectful, sophisticated and well-informed community dialogue, enabled and supported by Council.

The Principle talks about 'irreversible harm to the environment and the people who live within it'. It would be positive to change the wording [and therefore our thinking] to be inclusive of ALL life, not just focus on people. Change to 'irreversible harm to the environment and its flora and fauna, and to the people...'

We are deeply concerned about the shift in overall emphasis of this DP, which moves away from environmental care, to a more singular focus on people. This goes against all current research that demonstrates innumerable negative impacts when we take such an approach, including mental ill health, obesity, socio-economic stresses, and so much more. The current GWMP demonstrates much greater attention to the fact that people depend on environmental health, and that the majority of Nillumbik community actually want this to be protected. The DP must be re-written with a very different underlying emphasis. Innumerable international studies demonstrate that the only prosperous way forward, economically and socially, is one founded on a healthy and well cared for environment, resilient and rich in biodiversity. This also ensures our best chance at coping with the continuing challenges of climate change.

GOALS

There are several key points that must be included in all goals and taken into account in the writing of the GWMP. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Environmental protection must frame all perspectives and considerations. This in accordance with the 1994 Local Government Review Board's declaration that the new *Shire of Nillumbik was to be a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus*.
2. Recognition that the Green Wedge is a special area that requires particular care and attention, different to that of urban areas. This requires education and action throughout the Shire, and must include Council taking leadership, with the document demonstrating the priority very clearly.
3. As stated earlier, climate change mitigation must underpin **all** considerations and actions.
4. Also as stated earlier, greater dialogue must be generated and better maintained with the Traditional Custodians of the area.
5. Through the DP, there are concepts such as 'stocktake' and assessment of assets, and placing greater value on some areas of biodiversity above others. These are alarming proposition as they put at risk any vegetation that does not fit measures used. ALL native vegetation throughout the Shire must be protected, whether it is a single tree in a degraded paddock, a narrow area that provides connectivity for fauna, or a robust patch of remnant forest. We cannot afford to lose any more! This 'ethos' must be what we hold at the forefront of our minds when any goals, objectives and actions are developed.
6. All concerns raised above must feed into any economic plan or proposition. While we certainly believe in equity and opportunity for people to generate a fair income, we believe it must not be to the detriment of the Green Wedge environment.
7. The DP uses the word 'stewardship' and we believe this is a critical concept that must be understood and guide the rewriting of this DP for the creation of a GWMP we can all be proud of. You cannot remove or minimise the environment as a key issue and place greater emphasis on people and at the same time talk about stewardship. The community has expressed the desire for a different balance to

be achieved to the one expressed in this DP. Council is therefore presented with an excellent opportunity to provide eager residents with the tools of education and communication to generate excellent outcomes for a healthy, prosperous future with the Green Wedge at the heart.

FINAL COMMENTS

There is ever-growing evidence and action across the globe that points to the same fact, and Nillumbik must be part of the solution. We must all act immediately to ensure the protection of all biodiversity for a safe future. One such example stemming from the 100 Resilient Cities pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation is the Resilient Melbourne project auspiced by the City of Melbourne. Documents describe: *'Changes in urban form, a growing population and climate change – including increasing urban heat – leave Melbourne's greenery vulnerable, and could severely compromise the benefits derived from urban nature like cleaner air and water, reduced heat and habitat for wildlife.'*

Melbourne needs a plan to reverse this current and future decline and sustain Melbourne's liveability for people and nature, across the entire city and its suburbs. Evidence strongly supports that thriving urban nature means healthier urban people.

Living Melbourne: our metropolitan urban forest is that plan. It's a bold new strategy for a greener, more liveable Melbourne into the future. It presents a vision of international significance for its massive scale, its outstanding collaboration, and its use of new and innovative mapping technology.'

NEAG members have spent much time observing our environment, and this amounts to many decades of observation and knowledge. We have consistently noticed and been alarmed by the ongoing reduction in numbers of insects. This is a clear indicator of the larger issues – like a 'canary in a coal mine' - and we must take heed.

This DP has been presented to the community as a product of a **review** process. We are concerned that this implies that the Council can avoid the usual requirements for the inclusion of serious stakeholder input and guidance. This is particularly concerning given this DP bears little resemblance to the current GWMP which was developed over a period of 5 years, with extensive consultation and rigorous processes as expected by State Government.

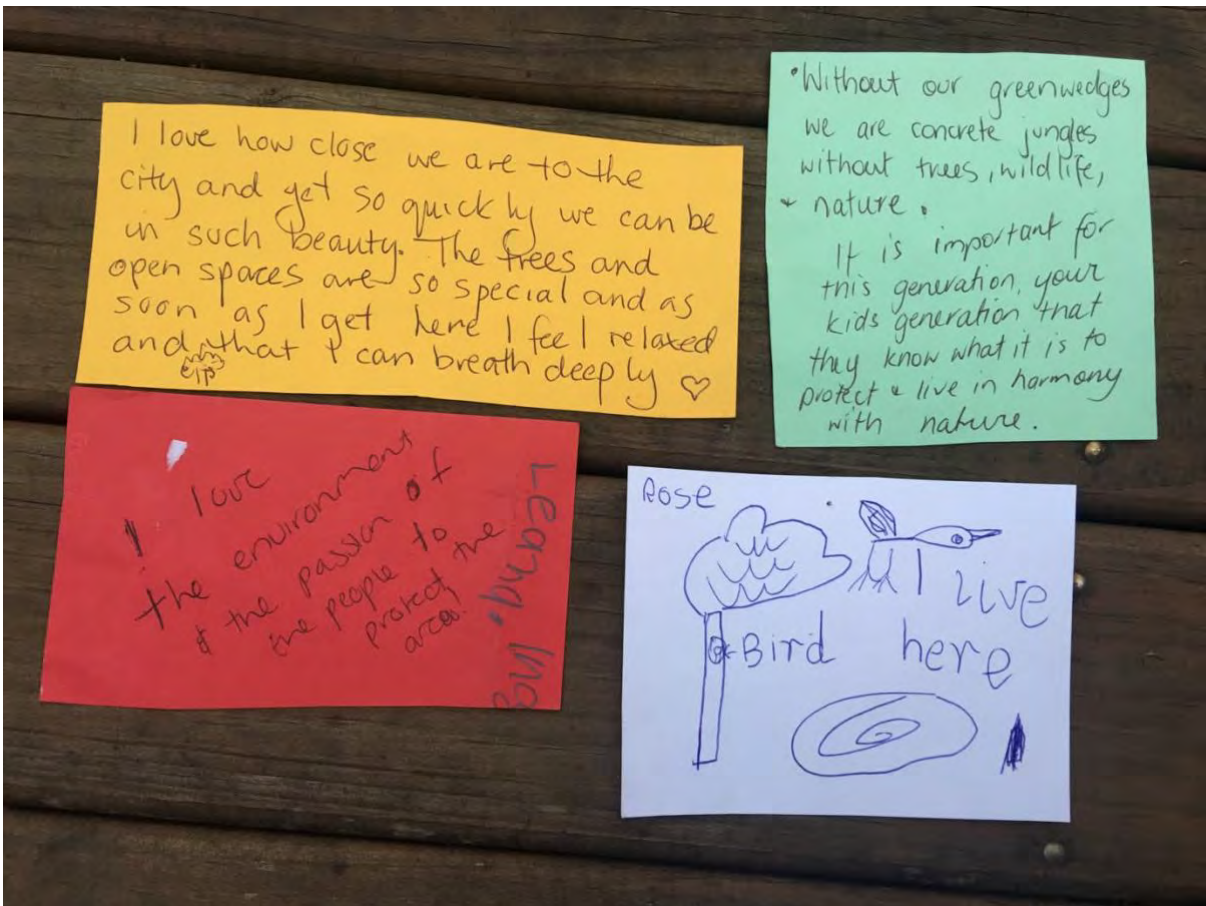
It is important that Council realises the immense resources that have been consumed by this process – not only within its own organisation, but by the community as a whole who have had to work incredibly hard to be heard in order to protect the place they love and care for.

Finally, if anyone suffers from hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia they will not enjoy the document. We would like to see it recast in plain English.

A note on the images below: when invited to share their feelings about our Shire, people's immediate response is consistently focused on their environment and what it offers them. They express a strong connection between wellbeing, a sense of community, and a healthy environment alive with native animals. These are some examples we have gathered during conversations at Council run events:

'Without our Green Wedges we are concrete jungles without trees, wildlife, and nature. It is important for this generation, your kids' generation, that they know what it is to protect and live in harmony with nature.'

'Love the great natural environment that is even more around us here – and it is so close to ... the outskirts of Melbourne. Love feeling closer to nature in Nillumbik – more so than elsewhere in Melbourne.'



From: [Carlota](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Cc: [Eltham Community:](#) [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Attention GWMP Project Team. Submission on Draft GWMP
Date: Thursday, 8 August 2019 3:55:38 PM
Attachments: [ECAG GWMP submission final sent.pdf](#)

From: Carlota [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 6 August 2019 8:20 PM
To: Nillumbik Nillumbik <nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]; Eltham Community <elthamcag@yahoo.com>
Subject: Attention GWMP Project Team. Submission on Draft GWMP

Please find attached Eltham Community Action Group's submission on Nillumbik Shire's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

Please send acknowledgement of receipt of our submission.

ECAG would like to speak at the future Nillumbik meeting in support of our submission. We realise we have to confirm this online.

Kind regards,

Carlota Quinlan

[REDACTED]

Nilumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission from Eltham Community Action Group

Eltham Community Action Group focuses on issues in the Eltham area and those which affect or have the ability to affect Eltham.

Eltham is the Gateway to the Green Wedge Shire.

Most Eltham residents think of themselves as being 'in' the Green Wedge. So **how** the rural part of our Green Wedge Shire is managed and conserved for future generations is of utmost importance to us.

Many people, ourselves included, have found this new draft document confusing. Its layout bears little resemblance to the current GWMP on which we believed it was to be based.

The Draft statements are on the whole generic and so broad that they could apply to many situations. 'Reading between the lines' is often necessary. Many people, even though concerned with the preservation of the Green Wedge, will be unable to find the time to fully research relevant information or even realise the implications of this draft.

The process that resulted in this Draft GWMP is of much concern.

Council's stated intent was that the voice of 80% of the extremely expensive panel process would be the recommendation on which council then based its draft.

That this stated intent was then overturned because of the dissenting voice of just 5 people is of grave concern. The fact that the minority position was given such strong recognition in the draft is also of concern. Even in the Key Inputs spreadsheet the minority report appears to be given more importance than the panel report.

To deal with every point in fine detail would make a lengthy submission. Groups and residents from the northern part of the shire will do that.

In this submission we will instead mainly concentrate on our concerns regarding the change in direction from the current GWMP plan and the thrust of this draft plan.

*The strongest message from the initial community consultation and the panel report was that Nilumbik residents and the population of wider Melbourne cherish the high environmental values of the Nilumbik Green Wedge and want it to be **maintained, protected and reinvigorated**. This message should lay the foundation for any GWMP, but this draft fails to do so.*

We have not completed the 'tick the box' portion of the feedback form as we believe this a simplistic and potentially misleading way of measuring the community's reactions.

Read alone, much that was not intended could be inferred. Simple figures or percentages can minimise informed and/or passionate words.

1. **Nillumbik was set up to be a conservation shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus.**

To achieve that goal, environmental protection and reinvigoration must be central to the vision for the Green Wedge. This draft's lack of significant detail and the omission of significant objectives, relevant actions and accountability measures, means there is little to ensure that this will occur.

For example...

a) There is a lack of detail as to how the shire's biodiversity will be protected and enhanced. Clearly defined actions are needed. One of the underlying principles should be '*Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity.*'

b) 'Robust discussions' are mentioned. These discussions, particularly regarding climate mitigation and environmental repair and preservation, as well as any resulting actions, must be backed up by respected and current scientific knowledge. This is essential but is not mentioned in the draft.

c) Greater emphasis on care of the natural environment should be included. The current 2010-2025 plan's detail should be used as a basis.

d) The Principle statements, aimed at guiding the plan's implementation, are extremely broad leaving their interpretation and application unclear.

2. **Proposed changes to land use adjacent to the Urban Growth Boundary**

could erode the values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundaries of Eltham, Diamond Creek, Research. Details are again lacking but the proposal is of particular concern. *The UGB should remain as a hard line. Land abutting it should not be considered (compromised) as a 'buffer zone*

3. **Zoning changes should not be entertained** and would only weaken the integrity of the Green Wedge. Ours is the most environmentally intact of all Melbourne's Green Wedges and should remain so for the benefit of all Victorians.

The draft suggests that RCZ be redefined to only cover areas of higher conservation values. This would put at risk scattered pockets of remnant bush or sole trees which are actually in greater need of protection.

Most of the land in the GW is zoned RCZ. To rezone some of this land as GW would be a retrograde step. To claim this needs to be done to allow agriculture is erroneous as many agricultural activities can already be carried out in this zone if appropriate and with a permit.

This existing system is necessary both for the long term conservation of the environment, and for shorter term amenity.

All land is, and should be, subject to restrictions, whether it be in the centre of a city, at the seaside or in the country. This is to protect the amenity of the residents and neighbours as well as environmental and heritage values.

4. 'A prosperous **Green Wedge** economy', environmentally sustainable, should be the focus when discussing a prosperous economy.

Activities must be assessed and altered in response to the latest science. Local agriculture is important but sustainable practices, climate change mitigation and a healthy Green Wedge should be of paramount consideration. *Encouragement of this consideration should be stated.*

If environmental values are not uppermost, agricultural, leisure and economic activities along with the environment will suffer in the long term. The encouragement of sustainable land management practices needs to be stated as is required by State Planning.

Horses and other hard hoofed animals have a negative effect on the environment. Actions, including education of those involved should be implemented and stated in the GW plan.

5. Permits should be required to commence farming in the Rural Conservation Zone, even on previously cleared and farmed land. Details need to be spelled out and terminology made clear as for example: proposed uses may not be appropriate to the area; the area may have been cleared and farmed many years previously but have been significantly revegetated in the intervening years.

6. **Biodiversity and all Green Wedge land is important.**

The importance of conserving all indigenous vegetation, both on public and private land, should be stressed.

'Balance' is mentioned several times in the draft, however if environmental values are not considered of the greatest importance other activities will inevitably suffer in the longer term.

Piecemeal land clearing and grazing leaves plants and animals vulnerable to ever increasing stress and disappearance. Most land in the Green Wedge has been 'disturbed' at some point, *which does not mean it should be allowed to further degrade.*

7. Any proposed **tourism development** must be 'in conjunction with' the agricultural uses of the land. This should be clearly stated.

Farm gate sales, cellar door sales are an excellent way to advertise the local produce and bring visitors from the local area or wider Melbourne to the area.

8. An extensive **public education program** should be conducted regarding the value and interdependence of biodiversity, ecosystems, bushfire reduction strategies, climate change. This interdependence should be strongly stated in the plan.

The question '**How can we maintain and reinvigorate the environment?**' should be the focus of a Green Wedge Management Plan.

This draft however focuses more on '*What can we get out of the land?*'

It contains potentially useful points but they need to be clarified and defined.

Ensuring that appropriate goals and outcomes protect and conserve the natural environment that we are so privileged to inhabit in our Green Wedge Shire should be the main concern.

As current residents we are custodians of the Nillumbik Green Wedge for future generations to value and enjoy just as we value and enjoy it now.

A review of the Green Wedge Management Plan should lead to a firm and clear blueprint to ensure we will and must act as custodians. This draft Review document fails to achieve this.

Eltham Community Action Group

elthamcag@yahoo.com

President Carlota Quinlan [REDACTED]

From: [Lorna Harris](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to councils draft GWMP
Date: Thursday, 8 August 2019 9:29:49 PM

From William Harris

Subject: Submission to councils draft GWMP

Dear GWMP Council Team
Re: Submission to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Wattle Glen is a great place to live with its small community and great natural environment. We worry that the Council's proposed GWMP is pushing for this to be changed because Wattle Glen is close to the Urban Growth Boundary and because the Council draft is not recognizing how much residents do not want our treed Green Wedge changed in the name of more development- whether that be more housing or through the lack of initiatives in the Council draft GWMP to protect and enhance our Green Wedge biodiversity.


So, as the Wattle Glen Residents Association advocate, the GWMP should

1. Not change any of the uses for Rural Conservation zoned land along the Urban Growth Boundary and around townships. The GWMP needs to properly discuss the values and needs of the environment, such as the importance of indigenous vegetation, habitat for wildlife and connectivity, biodiversity, ecosystem services, a systems view (that all is interdependent) the global biodiversity crisis, and climate change dynamics, the need to transform to an ecological sustainable society.

2. Councils Draft appears as a massive failure in anticipating climate change and biodiversity extinction- the "Green Wedge Shire", should have a GWMP that leads the way environmentally.

Therefore, I submit that
Because Councils Draft advocates the undermining of the current Rural Conservation Zone, and totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, the Council Draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form.

Yours sincerely
William Harris



Sent from my iPad

From: [Lorna Harris](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to councils draft GWMP
Date: Thursday, 8 August 2019 9:25:51 PM

Dear GWMP Council Team

Re: Submission to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan

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Yours sincerely
Lorna Harris



Sent from my iPad

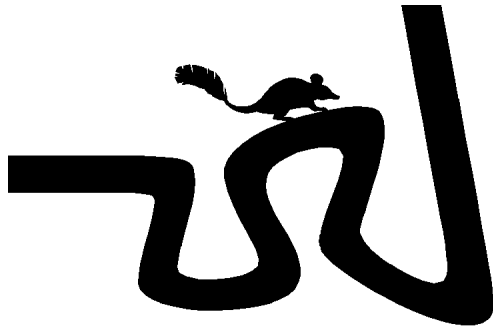
From: [directors RTB](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Cc: secretary.roundthebendcoop@gmail.com
Subject: GWMP Submission
Date: Thursday, 8 August 2019 7:49:01 PM
Attachments: [Co op GWMP 2019 Submission.doc](#)

Please find attached a submission on the GWMP from the RTBCC.

Directors
Round The Bend Conservation Cooperative



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the RTBCC stands. We respectfully recognise Elders both past and present. Our endeavour is to demonstrate this respect by managing this unique land to ensure that we protect its integrity.



ROUND THE BEND
CONSERVATION
CO-OPERATIVE LTD

SUBMISSION ON NILLUMBİK COUNCIL'S DRAFT GWMP.

As residents of Nillumbik (representing 32 rate paying families) we find the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) unacceptable for many reasons.

The current plan (2010-2025) was created to enhance and protect the biodiversity of the environmental assets of Nillumbik for the future for all of Melbourne. The popular term was to become a major part of the lungs of Melbourne.

Protecting and encouraging the native fauna and flora in its natural environment is noticeably missing in the current draft report and we feel this is a glaring omission. The implications in the draft report implies the decline for these protections allowing for changed development possibilities in sensitive areas.

The draft report does not reflect the results of the panel system set up by the Council. The panel of 40 indicated that there was a high appreciation in the community for the continuation of protection of the natural environment under the current GW Plan.

The draft plan proposes to allow changes to land use around rural townships and we oppose any changes to the Urban Growth Boundaries in these areas because of the damage these changes will create on the natural habitats.

The definition of cleared land for farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) needs greater detail in the draft plan as much land has regenerated since the original clearing and become a viable habitat for native species. A permit should still be required for farming in these areas as neighbours would then be informed in advance should a farmer wish to start a piggery or some other intrusive activity.

We feel the GWMP must promote the Shire of Nillumbik's role as a leader in conservation within the Green Wedge. The council has missed the point with its current attempt in the draft plan by not making specific plans to protect and enhance the environment. People currently come to Nillumbik both as residents and tourists to enjoy the bush environment close to Melbourne. Development in natural areas kills that advantage permanently.

This has been shown to be the opinion of a large majority of residents in the Councils initial community engagement. Green space has also shown to be a benefit to the health of the population and should be encouraged and protected for the future of our children.

We think the lack of detail in the draft plan is a careless omission allowing rubbery interpretations on land use and expansive development. It needs to be far more specific in its protections of environmentally sensitive land with a long term detailed plan.

Regards,

**Directors
RTBCC**

[Redacted Signature]

7th Aug., 2019

From: pidoug@bigpond.net.au
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Christmas Hills Landcare Group submission on Nillumbik draft GWMP
Date: Thursday, 8 August 2019 7:08:59 PM
Attachments: [CHLG submission on Nillumbik GWMP.pdf](#)

To: [REDACTED], Community Strategic Project Coordinator, Nillumbik Sire Council,
Please find attached a submission on the draft Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan from
the Christmas Hills Landcare Group, on behalf of its membership.

Can you please acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Regards

Doug Evans

Chair, Christmas Hills Landcare Group

[REDACTED]

Submission on draft Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan

Submission from Christmas Hills Landcare Group

Date: 8.8.19

The Christmas Hills Landcare Group (CHLG) was formed in 2006 when a number of local landholders expressed their interest in working together to care for their land and the local natural environment.

The group has a current financial membership of 80 adult landowners managing 46 properties including 38 properties that cover 583 hectares of rural land in the Nillumbik Green Wedge. The membership is a mix of bush block owners, part time farmers, horse owners and small lot owners.

The CHLG brings landholders together and supports them to learn more about the place they share (Christmas Hills) and to manage their properties to care for the rich natural environment of Christmas Hills. The CHLG has sought grants to help run numerous projects and deliver community events to serve this purpose.

To date, the CHLG has secured over \$300,000 that has helped landholders clear woody weeds from 669 hectares of remnant forest on private land, install 220 nest boxes for phascogales, dunnarts, pygmy possums and Powerful owls, purchase wildlife cameras that have helped landholder detect 80 different native fauna species on their properties, remove 50 foxes and collapse over 100 rabbit warrens, trial ecological burning and establish 4 demonstration sites for traditional Wurundjeri burning. We have held over 60 community events covering a wide range of topics of relevance to Christmas Hills landholders.

The CHLG is also an active member of the Nillumbik Landcare Network, working alongside the ten other Landcare groups operating in Nillumbik.

As a significant group of custodians of the Nillumbik Green Wedge, the CHLG has a direct interest in how it is managed and were keen to understand the directions and actions being proposed in the draft Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan.

The Christmas Hills Landcare Group is now of the view that the draft Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan released for public comment is fundamentally flawed and cannot be supported, for the reasons provided herein.

Does not serve the purpose of green wedges

The Victorian Government policy document "*Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*" includes Direction 4.5 '*Plan for Melbourne's green wedges and peri-urban areas*' that states: *As Melbourne grows, planning for Melbourne's green wedges and peri-urban areas is required to:*

- *protect biodiversity assets, including national and state parks, Ramsar wetlands and coastal areas*
- *support existing and potential agribusiness activities, forestry, food production and tourism*
- *protect major state infrastructure and resource assets, including water supply dams and water catchments and waste management and recycling facilities*
- *support renewable energy sources such as wind and solar farms*
- *protect extractive industries*
- *provide a recreational resource, which contributes to public health outcomes for all Victorians.*

These valued features, assets and industries should be prioritised before other land uses.

The Victorian Planning Provisions provide clear objectives for green wedges:

- *To protect metropolitan green wedge land from uses and development that would diminish its agricultural, environmental, cultural heritage, conservation, landscape natural resource or recreation values.*
- *To protect productive agricultural land from incompatible uses and development*
- *To protect agricultural land in Metropolitan Melbourne's green wedges and peri-urban areas to avoid the permanent loss of agricultural land in those locations.*

Recreation and tourism are only acceptable where it protects and maintains the integrity of the natural environment.

Rural living is to be managed to prevent negative impacts on agriculture, biodiversity and landscape values by "Directing housing growth into existing settlements"

The draft Nillumbik GWMP does not prioritise protection of biodiversity assets or existing and potential agribusiness activities before other land uses, at best it only seeks to find a 'balance'. As such the draft Nillumbik GWMP does not serve the purpose of green wedges.

Lacks a focus on the green wedge land itself

The Nillumbik Green Wedge is the land and the landscape of the non-urban parts of Nillumbik outside of the metropolitan Urban Growth Boundary. It is one of twelve designated green wedge areas around metropolitan Melbourne. Each is different, but their purpose is the same - to provide for non-urban uses, in particular agriculture, biodiversity conservation, water catchments, and other critical low-density activities including airports, water treatment facilities, major quarries, and cultural heritage sites.

The strong suit of the Nillumbik Green Wedge is its major contribution to biodiversity conservation for the wider Melbourne area due to the extensive areas of remnant vegetation on public and private land, and the habitat connectivity this vegetation provides between the Kinglake National Park to the north, and the Yarra River corridor to the south. This vegetation provides a rich diversity of habitats for numerous species

of native flora and fauna, including many species listed as threatened at state and national level.

The land cleared of native vegetation in the Nillumbik Green Wedge makes a significant contribution to existing agriculture, and offers great potential for agriculture in the future, the other critical value of this green wedge.

Despite this, the draft Nillumbik GWMP has very little to say on the land and the landscape – the green wedge itself – that the draft Nillumbik GWMP purports to manage. As such the draft Nillumbik GWMP cannot be effective in managing the Nillumbik Green Wedge.

Missing the evidence base needed for management of green wedges

Management of Nillumbik's Green Wedge needs to be informed by a comprehensive analysis and deep understanding of the biodiversity, agricultural (current and potential) and other values of the green wedge land (ie the place to be managed)

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 provides guidance in this regard:

Consistent with Plan Melbourne and the Regional Growth Plans, planning for green wedge and peri-urban areas should:

- define and protect areas that are strategically important to the metropolitan area and the state, for the environment, biodiversity, landscape, open space, water, agriculture, energy, recreation, tourism, environment, cultural heritage, infrastructure, extractive and other natural resources
- protect and manage the value of green wedges consistent with green wedge management plans
- avoid development in locations where there is risk to life, property, the natural environment and infrastructure from natural hazards such as bushfire and flooding
- accommodate additional housing and employment in established towns that have the capacity for growth
- provide for non-urban breaks between urban areas.

The Victorian Planning Provisions provides strategies for the protection of green wedge land, Victoria's biodiversity, and the state's agricultural base that would form a valuable platform for management planning for Nillumbik's Green Wedge, namely:

- Identify areas of productive agricultural land, including land for primary production and intensive agriculture.
- Protect productive farmland that is of strategic significance in the local or regional context.
- Prevent inappropriately dispersed urban activities in rural areas.
- Protect strategically important agricultural and primary production land from incompatible uses.

- Use biodiversity information to identify important areas of biodiversity, including key habitat for rare or threatened species and communities, and strategically valuable biodiversity sites
- Ensure that decision making takes into account the impacts of land use and development on Victoria's biodiversity, including consideration of:
 - Cumulative impacts.
 - Fragmentation of habitat.
 - The spread of pest plants, animals and pathogens into natural ecosystems.
- Avoid impacts of land use and development on important areas of biodiversity.
- Assist in the identification, protection and management of important areas of biodiversity.
- Assist in the establishment, protection and re-establishment of links between important areas of biodiversity, including through a network of green spaces and large-scale native vegetation corridor projects.

The draft Nillumbik GWMP is missing the fundamental evidence base required for effective management planning for the Nillumbik Green Wedge.

Management actions

Actions to manage the Nillumbik Green Wedge are undertaken by the people and organisations who are connected to, and custodians of, it.

Management actions must be set within the clear frame of what successful management outcomes would look like - ie an unambiguous articulation of the desired future for the green wedge land that is collectively agreed on. Without this, management actions will be adhoc, non-coherent, potentially conflicting and not serving the bigger picture.

Council's involvement of community in renewal of the Nillumbik GWMP has been extensive, but without the platform of a comprehensive evidence base of the green wedge values to be managed, and a desired future for these values agreed on, the community engagement has been an unfortunate exercise in futility.

As such the draft Nillumbik GWMP, and the community engagement it was derived from, does not provide a clear basis upon which purposeful and effective management of the Nillumbik Green Wedge can be implemented.

This submission has been circulated to the full CHLG membership to ensure it has their support.

Regards
 Doug Evans
 Chair, Christmas Hills Landcare Group

From: [Mika Yum](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan – I DO NOT Support
Date: Thursday, 8 August 2019 4:39:48 PM

To Nillumbik Council,

Please find below my input to the draft GWMP. I DO NOT SUPPORT the draft plan for the following reasons:

It should be recognised that animal agriculture should not be encouraged and certainly should not be allowed without a permit in RCZ or GWZ. This draft has all been about putting “people” into the plan but animals should also be protected from the eventuality of bushfire, drought and flood – they are sentient beings and should not be treated as expendable. Any resident homing farm animals should have to prove how they are going to protect their animals against the impact of climate change. Plant based agriculture is the future and we should be encouraging sustainable, environmentally friendly crop agriculture. Council's Draft GWMP needs to add protection for our animals and their environment and wellbeing.

Our plants and animals need to be protected on public and private land (as they do not now they difference). The 2019 Victorian State of the Environment Report - painted a bleak outlook for the State's native plants and animals and asks that more private land needs to be conserved to address the two global crises of climate change and biodiversity extinction.

It should include actions that protect habitat for wildlife and connectivity, biodiversity and the interdependence of the eco system. Council's Draft is in denial that the natural environment continues to decline everywhere. In Nillumbik and globally.

Thank you so much for your time.

[REDACTED]

Mika Yamafuji

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Draft GWMP 2019
Date: Thursday, 8 August 2019 3:49:36 PM
Attachments: [2019-08-09 GWMP Submission - JM.doc](#)
[ATT00001.txt](#)

Please find attached my Submission on Draft GWMP,

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Submission on Council's Draft GWMP

By  2019-08-09

I have been a resident of the Bend of Islands for over 30 years – a family decision to leave suburbia for a more fulfilling way of life in an environmentally aware community. As a community volunteer I have spent much time furthering the work of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association as well as working on advisory environmental committees for the Shire, including the formation of the initial Green Wedge Management Plan.

It is with much dismay and concern that I now read the Draft revised plan. I recognise that the plan needed a revision, but to lose the **key strategic vision of environmental protection and enhancement** will have long term disastrous effects on the place we all see as Nillumbik, the Green Wedge Shire. It is now evident to all of us that it is critically important, that in order to protect people and their quality of life (no matter whether they are builders, farmers, artists or retirees), we must protect our biodiversity and address climate change. The Draft plan does not do this.

The Draft plan has not followed through with the strong direction from the majority of the Community Panel or the views expressed by the community majority in the consultation phase – all emphasising the protection of Nillumbik's environment.

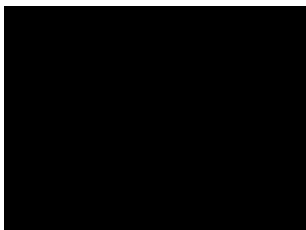
The Draft is unclear with regard to the intention of many of its actions, particularly as to how and when they can be achieved. We need clear action to ensure our trees and biodiversity are maintained and thrive into the future. Whilst education is needed, it is still necessary to retain regulation.

Green Wedges are vital for the future health of the city.
The Urban Growth Boundary must remain as the hard edge to the city's growth.
Buffer zones must not be created and there must be no changes to zoning that will negatively impact the values of the environment. Rural Conservation land must be protected and maintained.

The Plan needs to demonstrate a high commitment to protect the Nillumbik environment, not just what might be considered as high value areas.

I request that Council considers the above issues and embarks on a major revision of the Draft GWMP to include appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge. The document needs to be consistent with the relevant State policies and to reflect the clear community desire for environmental protection and enhancement.

Regards,



Note: I wish my submission to be 'anonymous' if it is published.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmmp](#)
Subject: Manningham Council Letter to Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan Review August 2019
Date: Thursday, 8 August 2019 2:21:44 PM
Attachments: [Manningham Council Letter to Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan Review August 2019.DOCX](#)

Please find attached submission by the City of Manningham to the Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan Review. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Senior Strategic Planner

Phone: [REDACTED]

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Email: manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au<<mailto:manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au>>

Website: <http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au>

8 August 2019

Attention: GWMP Project Team
Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan Review
PO Box 476,
GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Manningham Council response to Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan Review June 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan Review (GWMP)*.

I would like to commend the Shire of Nillumbik on the review and draft plan which is clear and concise and is clearly informed by extensive community input and engagement.

Officers agree in principle with the strategic directions contained in the review, in particular, the recognition of the opportunities for eco-tourism and the need to support existing agriculture. As Manningham shares a boundary with Nillumbik, it is critical that policies and long term future directions align.

More specifically, the GWMP identifies a number of opportunities including encouraging sustainable tourism opportunities to encourage people to visit or enjoy the Green Wedge. It identifies the need to grow and maximise the benefits derived from the visitor economy, strategies that will support the need for new and diversified accommodation investment and development of new visitor experiences that are able to be managed appropriately in the green wedge environment and the townships.

It also seeks to encourage sustainable, diversified and productive agriculture, access to markets and the right to farm.

Strategic direction of the GWMP

The strategic directions to encourage appropriate tourism uses and support sustainable agriculture are supported and are consistent with the *Manningham Green Wedge Action Plan 2020* and the *Manningham Economic Development Strategy (April 2018)* and the outcomes expressed in the *Rural Areas Discretionary Land Use Strategy (December 2016)* that underpins Manningham Amendment C117 ('Non Residential Uses in the Rural Conservation Zone'). This Amendment seeks some changes to the MSS to give greater support to tourism in the Rural Conservation Zone whilst also supporting existing agriculture. Council is currently waiting on a decision from the Minister following consideration of the Panel recommendations and adoption by Council.



Interpreter service

9840 9355

普通话 | 廣東話 | Ελληνικά

Itallano | عربي | فارسی

Manningham Council

699 Doncaster Road (PO Box 1), Doncaster, Victoria 3108

p 03 9840 9333 f 03 9848 3110

e manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au

ABN 61 498 471 081 www.manningham.vic.gov.au

Environmental management and conservation

In relation to the GWMP's *Goal 3: Safe and Healthy Environments*, officers agree that Melbourne's Green Wedges face the greatest pressure for change and growth, as a consequence of our immediate proximity to the city and therefore supports Nillumbik's Sustainability and Precautionary Principle, *'to anticipate and avoid any actions that may cause serious or irreversible harm to the environmental and the people who live within it.'*

The *'Green Wedge Conversations'* forum is also a great initiative to ensure balancing competing objectives of managing landscapes, bushfire risk, promotion of agriculture, tourism, rural living and biodiversity. Officers also encourage the *'Sustainability Precautionary Principle'* to be applied as part of an increased education campaign in balancing living in a bushfire prone area with the protection of a highly biodiverse environment.

Manningham is interested in partnering with Nillumbik to advocate for more state government support to protect and enhance environmental values.

In particular, in respect to environmental initiatives expressed in the GWMP, the following actions are supported:

Action A3.4: *Increase and prioritise Council's focus on feral animal and pest, plant species reduction, education and programs on private and public land.*

Officers support the continued collaboration with Nillumbik on pest, plant and animal management across land tenure, such as the Rivers to Ranges Project and operational and advocacy for deer control as part of the Yarra Catchment Deer Management Network.

Action A3.2: *Review the Environmental Significance Overlay in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme based on data collected on environmental assets and agricultural activity and practices.*

As part of the review of the Environmental Significance Overlay, officers support strengthening Environmental Significance Overlays to ensure Biodiversity protection.

Officers also support that livestock should not be grazed in areas of high biodiversity values and that the *'Sustainability Precautionary Principle'* is applied to the emergence of non-soiled based agriculture.

Reviewing statutory controls in the Green Wedge

The GWMP goes onto recommend that further examination is warranted to determine whether the current application of the zones to private land hinders any of the objectives of the plan, particularly in relation to the promotion of agriculture and tourism, the consolidation of population around townships and the management of the rural areas on the fringe of the Urban Growth Boundary.

In this context, Action A4.8 states:

Advocate to the Victorian Government that:

- *planning and other controls be altered to allow landholders a right to farm on pre-existing cleared agricultural land and be able to adapt to changing agricultural practice*
- *the support and promotion of supplementary rural business activities such as farm gate sales, farm stays and other low environmental amenity impact enterprises which are consistent with green wedge values need to be prioritised and*
- *the role of hobby farms be defined, recognised and policy and program be developed to support sustainable land management and agriculture at their scale.*

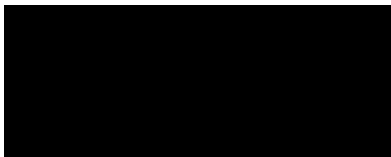
Whilst the right to farm is supported, officers are apprehensive that changes to planning and other controls may lead to more intense agricultural use which could potentially impact adjoining properties. There would be value in conducting a Sustainable Agricultural and Land Capability study to ensure future agricultural practices do not impact surrounding areas of environmental values including water and soil quality.

Council officers are also unclear of the implications of the current state government review into Green Wedges across Victoria and its implications for future strategic work in green wedge areas such as the *Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan Review*.

I hope these comments have been of some help to you and reinforce the importance of the need for the alignment of Green Wedge policy between Nillumbik and Manningham.

Please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED] if you would like to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely,



Angelo Kourambas
Director City Planning and Community

From: [Warwick Leeson](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Nillumbik GWMP submission
Date: Thursday, 8 August 2019 11:23:47 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Respect.docx](#)

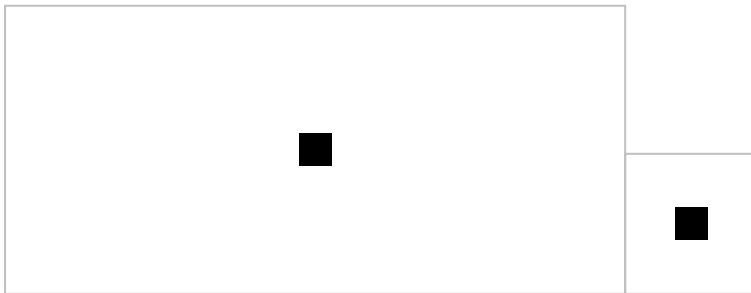
G'day Nillumbik GWMP,

Please accept my submission (attached).

I would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt.

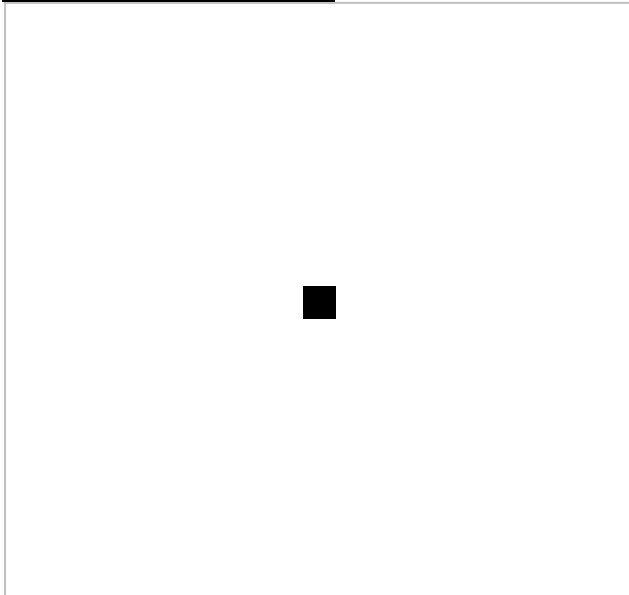
Also, I would request the opportunity to speak in support of my submission at the appropriate council meeting.

Regards,



Warwick Leeson OAM Member: Birrarung Council

[Redacted signature block]



Respect, responsibility & integrity are the linchpins of strong, democratic governance.

Anon.

My submission in regard to Nillumbik Shire Council's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan focuses more on governance issues than the nuts and bolts of the actual Plan and I draw heavily from the Council's Bulletin 5 of June 2019.

The Mayor, Cr Egan, quite rightly notes that, "The Victorian State Government expects each of metropolitan Melbourne's green wedge councils to prepare a GWMP and review it on a regular basis".

Cr Egan continues, "Council made a commitment to review the 2010 – 2025 GWMP when it was elected in 2016" and while I accept that the Council is entitled to review all existing policies, I would question that such a review was actually part of the 2016 election campaigning.

It is worth noting that, given the existing GWMP runs until 2025, any attempt to prematurely review the Plan might be viewed as having a covert agenda.

Page 3 of the Bulletin, details a 'Summary of the process to date' and quite clearly outlines a comprehensive process with numerous inputs, both through community contributions and the Panel recommendations.

Recently, the Mayor proudly noted the high level of satisfaction among Nillumbik residents about where they live; it is fair to deduce that that satisfaction level is based on people's view of the actual amenity, character and environment of their area, not on its subdivisional or tourism potential.

My many community engagements leave me in no doubt that the overwhelming majority of Nillumbik residents are heavily invested in protecting and preserving their Green Wedge; we love where we live and cherish the wonderful environment and our roles as custodians of our municipality into the future.

It is at this stage that I wish to highlight the need for Council to give weight to the Respect, Responsibility & Integrity aspect; at a time in our nation's history, when politicians from all government spheres, federal, state and local, are widely viewed with cynicism and disdain, the defining feature of any government's legacy will be how they treat their constituency and that constituency's aspirations and concerns.

The GWMP Panel met, and exceeded, the implied 80% recommendation benchmark and those who subsequently presented the minority report had been participants in the overall process. For Council to now seek to vary the recommendations of the whole Panel to accommodate the views of the five disgruntled Panel members will, I submit, be viewed as disrespectful to the majority of Panel members and to the whole Review process. In my view, such disrespect will invite reciprocity from the community, who will, in response, strongly align with the view that Council is behaving irresponsibly by ignoring the strong opinion that came out of the very Review process that this Council established.

It is worth noting that nothing in the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy document is at odds with the existing 2010 – 2025 GWMP. While this BMS was conducted with wide community consultation, it drew heavily on a number of people and organisations with topic-specific knowledge and its outcome is, in my view, far more respectful in its acceptance of all these inputs.

I further reference the BMS 'Message from the Mayor' comment where Cr Egan says, "The strategy acknowledges that we cannot deal with bushfire alone. We must align this with other challenges we face including environmental management, encouraging biodiversity and protecting our community".

The Mayor certainly has articulated a far stronger commitment to environmental protection and encouraging biodiversity that has the author of the draft GWMP.

The Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, in her office's Baseline Science Report, strongly recommends a scientific approach be adopted towards environmental protection and biodiversity encouragement.

With the greatest of respect to the overwhelming majority of those availing themselves of the opportunity to comment on the GWMP draft, none (or very few, if any) have a scientific background and, as such, their comments are based more on emotions than logic.

My primary submission, therefore, is that Council use this unique opportunity to be truly visionary in goal-setting; commission a binding scientific, evidence-based, assessment to determine the next GWMP.

This would remove the political element that arises when lay people, no matter how well-meaning, make suggestions or decisions on matters beyond their expertise levels.

The Victorian Planning Minister has recently stressed his government's commitment to ensuring the on-going protection and preservation of Melbourne's Green Wedges.

Should Nillumbik's draft GWMP move into the area of UGB or zoning changes, this would place council at odds with the final arbiter; however, any GWMP designed by scientists, along the lines proposed by the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, would carry significant persuasive credibility.

Should council not accept my primary position, I would default to submitting that council either actively support the Panel's majority report or, alternatively, shelve the current Review and allow the existing 2010 – 2025 GWMP to continue and either of the next two councils to conduct a Review in time to meet the 2025 deadline.

As noted at the beginning of this submission, Respect, Responsibility & Integrity are critical for any governance body to be taken seriously by their constituency.

I have no doubt that my primary submission would deliver a compelling, evidence-based, Green Wedge Management Plan while, at the same time, enhance Council's credibility and integrity and I commend that submission.

Warwick Leeson OAM

Member: Birrarung Council



To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: WCA Sub GWMP Objection
Date: Monday, 12 August 2019 10:15:15 AM
Attachments: [WCA Sub GWMP 090819.pdf](#)

From: Carli lange [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 9 August 2019 4:48 PM
To: Karen Egan <Karen.Egan@nillumbik.vic.gov.au>
Subject: WCA Sub GWMP Objection

To Karen Egan,

Please accept the Warrandyte Community Association (WCA) Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) objection attached to this email.

Please reply with an acknowledge receipt of this email at [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

Carli Lange-Boutle
WCA President
[REDACTED]



WARRANTDYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT NILLUMBIK GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN ISSUED ON 25 JUNE 2019

This submission is made on behalf of the Warrandyte Community Association which has as two of its objectives :

To protect the Green Wedge, and
To protect the environment and encourage restoration and regeneration of native flora and fauna.

The WCA believes that the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) released on 25 June 2019 should be abandoned for the following reasons.

1. The Draft recommends that much of the land currently zoned Rural Conservation Zone should be rezoned Green Wedge Zone. This rezoning would weaken the emphasis on conservation within the Nillumbik Green Wedge. No convincing reasons for such rezoning are provided by Council.
2. The Draft plan floats the idea of undefined “buffer zones” which is tantamount to moving the Urban Growth Boundary and would open up current green wedge land to subdivision and urbanisation. The alleged problems which buffer zones address can be solved by other means which don’t shrink the green wedge. Furthermore, so called buffer zones would surely push any problems further out, leading to the call for more buffer zones, and so on. There will always be an interface between urban areas and green wedge land. The creation of so-called buffer zones won’t remove this fact and will only serve to diminish green wedge land incrementally.
3. The Draft plan has been developed in haste and not in accordance with State Government requirements for the preparation of Green Wedge Management Plans.
4. The Council has largely ignored the thrust of community opinion as expressed in

the report on community engagement and the recommendations of the Community Panel. It was clear from this consultation process that the community was seeking to have green wedge protections enhanced and strengthened.

Having spent so much money on the consultative process it is irresponsible of Council to now ignore that opinion and advance a plan which seeks to weaken protection of the Green Wedge

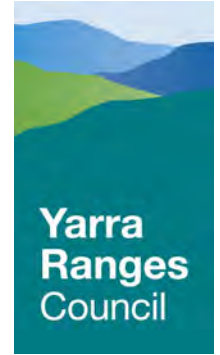
5. The existing GWMP provides much greater support for the purposes of the Green Wedge as set out in the State Planning Scheme, especially through measures to protect biodiversity. Furthermore, the existing GWMP was developed with much greater thoroughness and expertise and it should form the basis of the next GWMP. To discard this plan is a waste of the considerable resources the community has already invested in this matter.

Accordingly, the WCA requests that:

1. The Draft GWMP be abandoned; and
2. That Council set up a process to review the GWMP in accord with State Government requirements and the majority recommendations of the Community Panel; and
3. That the existing GWMP be retained and amended so as to reflect the majority recommendations of the Community Panel.

9 August 2019

WARRANTYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.
PO Box 75 Warrandyte 3113 www.warrandyte.org.au
ACN A0042350W ABN 23 120 318 791



Enquiries: Claudette Fahy
Telephone No: [REDACTED]

5 August 2019

Nillumbik Shire Council
Civic Drive
Greensborough VIC

Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Thank you for your email on the Draft Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP). As a neighbouring green wedge municipality, Yarra Ranges Council (YRC) looks with keen interest at Nillumbik's strategies and policies for the management of its Green Wedge. Overall, Yarra Ranges supports the expressed vision and goals of the Nillumbik GWMP which broadly align with those of Yarra Ranges and the State Government's *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*.

The discussion in Goal 5 – *Responsible Leadership* resonates with issues familiar to this Council. The ongoing tension of balancing development (urbanisation) with conservation and land management is ongoing. Council congratulates Nillumbik on its pragmatic approach to this fundamental green wedge issue; particularly on its intent to focus on building a better appreciation, understanding and resilience in the community, rather than seeking to simply change State policy and regulation. Yarra Ranges' agrees that the success of any Strategy is the underlying acceptance and understanding of the community.

Finally, Yarra Ranges shares many common issues with Nillumbik, such as residents in isolated rural locations, lack of transport, aging population, lack of facilities in rural areas, ongoing land management and of course the overarching fire risk and threat of climate change. To this end YRC has collaborated with Nillumbik and other peri urban areas in the past to advocate for resources and funding to the green wedge areas and we will continue to do so.

On behalf of Yarra Ranges Council I wish Nillumbik success in the completion of its Green Wedge Management Plan and again thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Closs
Manager Strategic Planning

From: **Barbara Joyce** [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, Aug 9, 2019 at 4:38 PM
Subject: Board of Directors Dunmoochin Foundation Response to GWMP
To: <gwmp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au>

Please find attached the submission to the Green Wedge Management Plan from the Board of Directors of the Dunmoochin Foundation in Cottles Bridge.
Board of Directors
Dunmoochin Foundation

Submission on the Green Wedge Management Plan draft 2019

Board of Directors

Dunmoochin Foundation

Shane Pugh, Mark Wotherspoon, Nerina Lascelles, Debbie Robinson, Barbara Joyce,
Donovan Radbourne-Pugh



1. The Board of Directors for the Dunmoochin Foundation does not agree with the current vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge as there is a concerning lack of detail. Environmental protection must be central to the vision for the Green Wedge and reflect the State Government Plan for Melbourne 2017-2050, where the first priority for the Green Wedge is to "Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation". Innumerable international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities are to protect our biodiversity and address climate change. The name **Green wedge** clearly shows that the natural environment is the cherished focus defining this wedge.
2. The Draft does not reflect the community's views and desires [as expressed via the community consultation process and via the Panel process]. Council's initial community engagement clearly demonstrated that the large majority of Nillumbik residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained, protected and enhanced. For such a strong voice to be ignored to such a degree erodes the community's confidence in Council and other authorities, and demonstrates a lack of good governance.
3. The Draft is confusing and difficult to read and does not give enough clarity about what its intentions are, key actions, and how Council will ensure these occur in a timely manner. Each of the five key moves contain potentially useful ideas but there is a critical lack of detail on how they will be applied. The document needs to describe in greater detail the actions to be taken and should prioritise environmental best practice. The Principles need to show how they are in keeping with protecting the Victoria's environment and biodiversity. In fact biodiversity protection should be a goal in the plan. The goals as listed contain a worrying lack of detail.
4. The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.
5. Climate change must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, NOT just adaptation.
6. Green Wedges are vital. They cool our city and are known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. The Draft does not reflect this fact.

7. Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation if this is to be turned around. The Draft does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.

8. Countless artists have responded artistically to the natural environment in Nillumbik. Their response to the fragile environment is now part of Nillumbik's cultural artistic heritage. The Black Dam on Barreenong Road has been painted by numerous famous artists. The orchids have inspired countless artists however the orchids are dependent on a web of symbiotic relationships that promote life force. Disturbance to the natural environment will destroy what exists so delicately in a fragile environment. Nillumbik could be the showpiece of the nation if the care of the natural environment is handled with care.

From: [John Roberts](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: GWMP Submission
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 10:18:39 PM
Attachments: [JR Submission on Council.docx](#)

Please find attached a submission to review of the GWMP.

Regards,

[John Roberts](#)

[REDACTED]

Submission on Council's Draft GWMP

I am a resident of the Bend of Islands and a member of the Round The Bend Conservation Co-operative (RTBCC) and a member of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA). I am a founding member of the RTBCC and commenced building my own house in 1973, and continue to live here.

The RTBCC was established with the principle aim of protecting a valuable area of natural bushland and continues to strive for that goal. Through our responsible residential development and rigorous land management activities we believe that the quality of our bushland is now higher than when we first purchased the land. We have demonstrated the effectiveness and viability of residential conservation; people living in the bush and enhancing (not degrading) the natural environment. This is the philosophy that should underpin the GWMP. Any revision of the GWMP should have as its fundamental objective the need to ensure a **net improvement in the quality of biodiversity and the quality of bushland environments**. To do otherwise is an invitation to, and encouragement of, loss of habitat and loss of biodiversity, and would be an admission that the NSC is complicit in this outcome. It is not a very flattering legacy.

The draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form. It totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, while advocating the undermining of the current conservation zones. I consider that it is particularly important that there is a general revision of the draft to incorporate the above generic philosophy and the following as examples of specific areas that require attention.

- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, states its first priority for Green Wedges: ***'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'*** (Refer Appendix 1 of Council's draft GWMP)

The Draft GWMP, should emphasise the ***'maintenance and enhancement of the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and the achievement of a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation'*** as the priority for and revised GWMP.

- The overriding response from Council's Community Survey (Aug 2018) and its Community Panel (Nov. 2018) was that Nillumbik **residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge**; and they want it to be maintained, protected and enhanced. Council's Draft GWMP will not achieve this, and any revised GWMP must reflect these values.
- Australia's record on species extinction is one of the worst in the world. Loss of habit and biodiversity is a major factor.
The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) states that, *"The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global"*.
Any revised GWMP must emphasise the importance of protecting and expanding biodiversity and protecting the natural bushland environment of the Nillumbik Shire.
- The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge. However, there has been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.
- The Draft GWMP proposes changes to how land within the Green Wedge can be used on the rural side of the UGB and around our rural townships. This has the potential to erode the values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundary. **The UGB must be treated as a hard boundary.**
- The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land'

needs greater detail – much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration considerable areas of previously cleared land now holds significant environmental qualities.

At a time when the loss of habitat is such a critical factor in loss of biodiversity, it is a retrograde step to allow the clearing of land with well advanced regeneration of indigenous flora.

Where any consideration of resumption of farming practices is to be considered, rigorous permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. 'Resumption of farming' is such a broad concept as to imply that there would be no restrictions as to what form of farming that might be; what was formerly grazing could become intensive (and offensive) industrial scale farming such as a chicken farm or a piggery. This is totally inappropriate.

- Horses and other hard-hoofed animals have a negative impact on the environment – none of Australia's native animals have hard hooves. Impacts on habitats include erosion, water quality degradation, damage to flora, and spreading of weeds. Actions must be implemented to prevent these impacts. These must include education of the equine sector and other graziers. There needs to be greater understanding and responsible ownership of animals, ensuring that animals do not enter waterways and are not allowed to graze in the bush. This focus on environmental care must also be reflected in the proposed Nillumbik Equine Strategy.

I request that Council considers these issues and revises the Draft GWMP to included appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge.

Regards,

John Roberts



From: [Peter Yates \(via Google Docs\)](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION ON NILLUMBIK'S DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 9:47:36 PM
Attachments: [SUBMISSION ON NILLUMBIK'S DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019.pdf](#)

 has attached the following document:

 **SUBMISSION ON NILLUMBIK'S DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019**



Dear GWMP working group,

Please find attached my submission on the draft GWMP management plan.

Could you please email me a receipt and inform me that you have been able to open and read the document. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

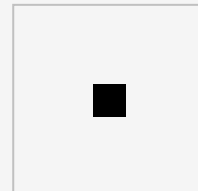
Peter Yates,



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Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

NB. Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP)

I would like to start by emphasising my very strong support for two other submissions I have been closely involved in developing. They are from the Nillumbik Environment Action Group (NEAG), of which I am a member, and the submission from a majority of community panellists. I sat on the community panel. I endorse all that was argued in both those submissions, especially with regard to climate change, biodiversity and habitat protection, rezoning of Rural Conservation Zone land, the need for a 'hard' urban growth boundary (UGB), and the development of "buffer" zones around townships. Those are largely practical arguments about how best to care for and manage our corner of the earth, the green wedge.

Rather than repeat those arguments I would like to use this opportunity to comment on the process that has brought us to this point. This means giving attention to questions of governance and political dynamics. What we have witnessed over recent years in Nillumbik mirrors what can be observed in democratic political communities across the globe. Whether small or large, all seem to be infected with zealotry, and the ideological fault lines are many. Social media is the main vector and amplifier. Ongoing conflict, and breakdown in political communication, are the dangerous products. Listening, thoughtfulness, empathy for those who think and feel differently, negotiation and compromise, are rare. Hard won knowledge is very often dismissed out of hand if it challenges the beliefs of an interest group. In this 'winner takes all' milieu, governments, whether local, state or national, have a choice between making things worse by joining the fray in pursuit of short term political advantage, or rising above it and working hard to provide ethical, accountable leadership based on the principles of good governance. The first approach increases division and conflict and sows mistrust, the second works to do the opposite.

The general principles and benefits of good governance are well understood. An excellent Good Governance Guide (GGG), specifically designed for use in local government has been produced by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) in conjunction with the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA), Local Government Victoria (LGV) and Local Government Professionals (LGPro). The guide states:

"Good governance is about the processes for making and implementing decisions. It's not about making 'correct' decisions, but about the best possible process for making those decisions." (GGG p7)

And Section 65 of The Local Government Act states:

- (2) In performing the role of a Councillor, a Councillor must—
- (a) consider the diversity of interests and needs of the local community; and
 - (b) observe principles of good governance and act with integrity (Local Gov Act 1989, Section 65)

Good governance characteristically means being accountable and transparent, following the law, as well as being responsive, equitable, inclusive, effective, efficient and participatory. (GGG p7)

When decision making processes adhere to these principles, the benefits include increased community confidence, confident councillors and council officers, better decisions, and support for ethical decision making. (GGG p.9)

After coming into office on the back of a promise to have a zero rate rise in its first budget, faith in the council was seriously eroded when a proposal to sell off 17 parks and reserves in urban areas was put before the community, who never expected that their local parks would be sold off to generate income. People felt they had been ambushed, and confidence in council plummeted. A groundswell of anger drove a very large, successful community campaign, and 14 reserves were saved. Many volunteers were left exhausted. Residents did not feel they had been treated equitably - some faced losing their local park while others didn't - and they did not feel their interests were taken into account until they successfully forced council to back down. By this time good governance seemed a long way off. Cynicism and a degree of contempt set in.

The council decision to review the current GWMP was a surprise to many, as debate on its merits had not been part of the 2016 election campaign and a review was completed in 2015 by independent consultants, Glossop. When the decision to review was taken, many community members and interest groups with an understanding of the green wedge openly questioned the need for it, and felt that council failed to explain adequately why the decision was made. Some began to wonder to whom council was accountable. Increasingly, the close association between the vocal Pro Active Landowners (PALs) lobby group and Crs. Ashton and Egan was called into question. An expensive, time consuming process was put into place and the GWMP review began, well over a year ago. Surprisingly, council's community engagement process did not ask for people's views on the current GWMP, even though that was what was being examined, but it did reveal that the community valued two things about the green wedge:

- *Space, peace and wellbeing –this related particularly to how the Green Wedge made people feel, an appreciation of views and fresh air along with the less stressful environment.*
- *Environment, biodiversity, plants and animals –this related to the importance of the natural environment for plants and animals as well as humans.*

The first challenge they identified was:

- *Over development and over population – this was a consistent theme with concerns that the population will be increased and the area developed further. (Community Engagement Report p.6)*

A randomly selected community panel was appointed to make recommendations on the future management of the green wedge. Submissions to the panel from the community were not called for, that was not part of the process. But a lengthy, complex submission from the PALs group arrived, and to the consternation of many panellists, it was made available by council for the consideration of the panel. Other community groups were not given the opportunity to put submissions before the panel. It is impossible to characterise this as an inclusive or equitable approach, nor does it accord with principles of natural justice that underpin good governance. At the end of the panel process a minority report, prepared outside the agreed rules of the panel process was handed to the mayor. It contained views aligned to PALs positions and unsubstantiated accusations of bullying by 'some panellists'. Council published this, unabridged, on their website! A furore ensued, the document was taken off the website, and denied minority report status through a council motion. One or more of the authors went to the ombudsman's office and it's minority report status was subsequently reinstated. No matter what one thinks about the informal advice proffered by the ombudsman, the panel process was bookended by two documents associated with the PALs lobby group, and neither arrived

according to the process rules agreed by all panelists at the outset. Onlookers drew their own conclusions. I doubt many thought they had witnessed good governance.

Panellists had the opportunity to ask for expert speakers to present to the group. One speaker, Scott Pape, was invited to speak on the economics of running a business in the green wedge. He was unable to attend. Council took a decision, without consulting the panel, to replace him with a key PALs spokesperson, Max Parsons. Max [REDACTED] spoke mostly about his opposition to current planning controls and his beliefs about landowners' rights to develop their land and businesses. Not surprisingly, the decision by council to introduce Max into the process was seen by the majority of panellists as inappropriate, and partisan.

Council also provided expert speakers from within the organisation. Geoff Lawler gave a presentation on planning. Looking back on that presentation is a telling exercise. Mr. Lawler spoke about a number of things he thought were important, after having met with various groups and individuals around the shire. A number of panellists took notes. Despite having had a meeting with NEAG, which I attended, and other groups who emphasised the importance of environmental and biodiversity protection, he chose not to highlight the community's widespread desire for better planning results in this area. He did discuss a 'need' for more jobs in green wedge areas, although unemployment is 3.1% lower in the green wedge than in greater Melbourne (3.7% vs 6.8%. GWMP Background Report for Community Panel. p.39), and the way in which the introduction of "buffer zones" could help solve "land management problems" on rural land abutting the UGB. He also spoke of "Our hoped-for tourism economy" and the "great opportunities" associated with our active arts culture. In answer to a question about the 'in conjunction clause' which requires tourism developments to be 'in conjunction' with an agricultural use, he said that it was "an impediment to business innovation in the green wedge", and that exemptions for particular sites required scheme amendments which took too long to obtain. He spoke about the ageing population and 'ageing in place', the need for improved bushfire and hazard planning in any new GWMP, and suggested that empowering and engaging the community through organisations such as the CFA and Landcare groups would induce cooperation that would lessen the need for planning regulation. He said that 'Leadership' was an important part of the answer to future management of the green wedge and should be central to a new GWMP. I well remember wondering as Geoff was speaking, whether he was actually sketching out council's (or his own) view of what a new GWMP should look like.

The draft plan is poorly organised and difficult to read, but if one perseveres and keeps a list of Mr. Lawler's key points handy, it becomes clear that the issues he raised are the foundation on which the draft plan is built. It does not pay much regard to the panel's majority recommendations nor does it pay much respect to the responses from the wider community, especially their primary concern, the ongoing protection and care of the environment. If good governance processes are employed, people are more likely to accept government decisions even when they don't agree with them. They are able to have confidence that their government is trying to do the 'right' thing in the community's overall interest, and not simply 'looking after their mates'. People don't expect, or want, to be consulted on everything. However, when communities are consulted, and people give their time and energy, hoping to contribute to the common good, they expect their representatives to take heed. Poor governance and faux consultation are likely to inspire people to reject rather than accept an outcome.


I have given enough examples of poor governance. From my point of view, after twenty two years in Nillumbik, the proof is in the pudding. I think the community is more polarised than I have ever seen it, and this distresses me. The GWMP review has made things worse, I think, but there are other forces at work. We live in a difficult

political environment where impressing one's social media allies is more important than talking to your neighbour. There was talk at the beginning of this process about bringing people closer together as I recall. That was always going to be difficult, given the deep divisions which were already present. Council would have had to run an excellent, inclusive and courageous process for which it took full responsibility. Handing the task to a community panel, at arm's length, and not supporting their conclusions was never going to do the trick. Much time and money has been wasted. The Lawler plan could have been written months ago, without the invention of a panel. The one thing in the draft plan which sparked something in me was mention of a Green Wedge Conversations Program. If such a program was very well run and resourced it might stand a chance, but this council would not be trusted to influence it. Large sections of the community have too little faith in this administration, but the idea has merit, and should be explored. We need to find something.

Peter Yates
Nutfield

From: [Barb Whiter](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 8:26:58 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[Barb Whiter - submission to Draft GWMP 2019 - 090819.docx](#)

To Nillumbik Shire Council's Green Wedge Management Team
Please find attached my submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.
Regards
Barb Whiter



Submission from Barb Whiter, [REDACTED] Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Introductory comments:

I looked forward to reading the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) 2019 as I had been aware of the wide community consultation opportunities. I had also heard from Community Panel members, that, while of course there were differing views in the room, the sessions were conducted within a framework of learning from expert speakers and each other, and which allowed for opinions to be spoken and heard.

How disappointed I was once I read the document.

In my opinion this Draft GWMP doesn't reflect the wider community's views about our environment at all.

I am also appalled at the lack of specifics and the lack of responsibility of the Key Actions in every section – no department, organisation or authority listed as the prime action taker, no timelines, no short, medium or long-term goals, and in several cases the words “*Seek ongoing government funding assistance to support the program*”, or “*Seek government funding assistance to establish and maintain this ...*” occur at least nine times. These are not actions, they're just pie-in-the-sky hopes. Not good enough.

The major flaw however is that conservation, biodiversity, the environment, and indeed the focus of why Green Wedges were established have all been ignored, or muddled with new motherhood statements. Green Wedges are vital. They cool our city and it is our responsibility to ensure the long-term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge, which is the most intact and biodiverse of them all.

On page 6 of the current Green Wedge Management Plan 2010-2025 it states:

“The Shire of Nillumbik was formed in 1994 with the conservation of the green wedge as its strategic focus. The Nillumbik Green Wedge is distinguished from others by the quality of its environment and natural bushland. Above all it is the environmental qualities – the topography, the dense bushland and isolated spaces, the rivers and streams – and the diverse townships that create a sense of place and continue to draw people to settle in Nillumbik.”

The draft plan appears to reject this strategic focus, creating a new one in which conservation takes a back seat to a ‘diverse community, living in the landscape to enhance the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Shire’.

This is a long way from the Victorian Government's *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* where the first priority for the Green Wedge is to **‘Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species, and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.’**

And indeed why is Council spending so much time and effort, and especially money, on this consultation when the current plan is approved until 2025?

The current GWMP contains specific actions in support of conservation, with responsible departments or organisations, plus achievable timelines; this new draft plan threatens to increase population density in our green wedge, water down the zoning and in other ways reduce environmental protection.

And the current plan doesn't ignore the challenges of actually living in the Green Wedge – economic, planning and people/social considerations are well addressed.

A Vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

NO

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

- Community engagement clearly demonstrated that the large majority of Nillumbik residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained, protected and enhanced. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the community's position.
- Nillumbik's Green Wedge is the most environmentally intact of Melbourne's Green Wedges, and is a significant part of the wider Green Wedge system, for the benefit of everyone, whether they live in the area or not. This must be a priority in the draft plan.
- Climate change mitigation must be an overarching Goal for the GWMP and therefore must be addressed in the Vision. It must inform all objectives and actions, including regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education and economic strategy.

Five Key Moves

To what extent do you agree with the Five Key Moves to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

DISAGREE – all – there is too little detail

Do you have any comments about the Five Key Moves?

- As I mentioned in my intro comments, this draft fails to include an Action or Implementation Plan based on clearly stated Objectives and Actions and which Council Department responsible for implementation. I believe the Victorian Government's Planning Practice Note 31 sets out a series of actions and measures that need to be undertaken when writing a GWMP, which includes identifying resource requirements, roles and responsibilities, timelines, outcomes and evaluation. The current GWMP has much greater detail than this new draft, and should be used as a basis for improvement.
- The document needs to describe in much greater detail the actions to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, ensuring the protection of all native vegetation and fauna across the Shire.
- The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and the community will ensure the protection of the green wedge. However there has been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.

Principles

To what extent do you agree with the Principles to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

DISAGREE – all – there is too little detail

Do you have any comments about the Principles?

- Each Principle is just a broad statement. There is no mention of environmental care, biodiversity or addressing climate change. It is unclear how the Principles will be interpreted and applied, while ensuring ongoing care for the environment.
- Perhaps there could be an additional Principle that focuses on Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity, and describes the urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity and the effects of climate change. In fact, Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.
- As with the Five Key Moves, the outlined Principles contain potentially useful ideas but there needs to be greater emphasis on the protection of the environment.

For example, the principle that says, 'The green wedge is a changing environment and home to many people. Change will be managed to conserve its values and with a focus on long-term

stewardship.’ could read, “The green wedge is a changing environment and home to many people. Change will be managed to conserve its biodiversity and environmental values and with a focus on long-term stewardship.”

Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

GOAL 1: Engaged connected communities

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 1?

DO NOT SUPPORT – there is too little detail

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 1?

- Engaging the community is obviously important but must be framed in the context of the environmental protection aim as stated in 1994 when the Local Government Review Board declared that the new Shire of Nillumbik was to be **a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus.**
- The new plan presents an opportunity to highlight and expand the role of the whole community in stewardship of the land. This needs to be clearly stated and emphasised, as we ask ourselves, ‘How can we maintain and reinvigorate the environment?’, rather than ‘How can we **use** the land?’.
- Leadership to mitigate climate change and drawdown carbon emissions is needed to draw together the whole community. It’s the most important priority for how we live together as a community – our collective wellbeing depends on it, as does the environment.

GOAL2: Active and creative people

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 2?

DO NOT SUPPORT – there is too little detail

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 2?

- The Objectives and Key Actions for Goal 2 must clearly and strongly focus on ensuring Nillumbik’s biodiversity is top priority. As stated in the draft plan, green space is an important determinant of health, not just because it enables physical activity but also because it has been shown to promote higher levels of mental wellbeing and social connectedness.

GOAL 3: Safe and healthy environments

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 3?

DO NOT SUPPORT – there is too little detail

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 3?

- The draft plan needs to more strongly acknowledge the importance of all indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it throughout the Shire, on private and public land.
- The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what ecosystems provide; developing knowledge of interdependent ecosystems; addressing climate change, and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the GWMP.
- Goal 3 repeatedly uses the language of ‘balance’, for example A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

- The use of stocktakes and studies [see A3.1, p32] that describe some areas of vegetation as more significant or valuable than others is alarming as it can lead to greater degradation of the environment which is already under pressure. One of the greatest threats to the Shire is where bit-by-bit land clearing and grazing leave our flora and fauna vulnerable to ever-increasing stress. In turn, this also places greater pressure on our community's overall wellbeing.

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 4?

DO NOT SUPPORT - there is too little detail

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 4?

- This section must clearly focus on overall environmental protection. Economic activities must be assessed and altered in response to latest science and the need for environmental protections. Perhaps this Goal could be renamed, 'A prosperous eco-friendly Green Wedge economy'.
- Council needs to lead the way to encourage the Green Wedge to be seen as an asset – to our health, our lifestyles and to the economy of the Shire and its local businesses. People outside the Shire visit for low-key environmentally-based leisure – they love the empty rolling hills, wineries, walking trails, villages, and B&B accommodation. We live here for the same reasons and we spend money here too.
- Support for local agriculture is important but must always provide for the continuing health of the environment. New systems that respect and promote regenerative farming including water conservation, Indigenous knowledge, and indigenous flora and fauna must be encouraged. The obvious link between sustainable agricultural practices, climate change mitigation and a healthy Green Wedge, must be central to the GWMP.
- The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail – much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that nearby residents will be informed about the piggery or chicken farm proposed on neighbouring land.

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 5?

DO NOT SUPPORT – there is too little detail

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 5?

- Stewardship of the land is mentioned in the draft plan, and its role must be better defined under this Goal. It needs to explain that Nillumbik residents all have an obligation to care for the land, not degrade it. Responsible stewardship also asks that the land, its diverse ecosystems and waterways, are passed on in a better state. Council must educate residents about these matters, and lead the way by increasing revegetation of indigenous flora throughout the Shire.
- Responsible Leadership should have a section dealing with climate change.
- It is Council's responsibility to make significant contributions to the education of residents for the protection and care of biodiversity. Alongside education, it is essential that appropriate resources are allocated to the enforcement of policy standards. Nillumbik's Biodiversity Report outlines the ongoing loss of native vegetation and part of the problem is inadequate enforcement.
- Key Actions A5.6 and A5.7 propose changes to how land within the Green Wedge can be used. The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. "Buffer zones" must not be

created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zone land must be protected and maintained.

Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan?

- The strongest message from the initial community consultation and the Panel Report is that Nillumbik residents and the population of wider Melbourne cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it to be maintained, protected and reinvigorated. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this.
- The Green Wedge Management Plan must reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its first priority and focus. This draft consistently fails to do this. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of Nillumbik's Green Wedge.
- There is a worrying lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shire's biodiversity in all its forms and varying quality. Clearly defined actions need to be included which will address this problem to ensure the long term health of the Green Wedge in Nillumbik.
- The impact of invasive species – flora and fauna – is significant and this must be better addressed.
- We expect the highest of professional standards of our elected Council leadership.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission for the Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 5:37:23 PM

Dear Nillumbik Shire Council,

I am writing to express my disappointment with the current Draft **Green Wedge Management Plan** (GWMP). I have lived in the Bend of Islands for my entire life and have now chosen to stay living in the area to bring up my own family. I am a member of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA) and fully support the environmental protection and conservation values of this unique area. I believe that the proposed GWMP completely downplays and undermines the environmental protection actions and current conservations zones of the previous GWMP.

It is important to prepare a revision to the draft report to incorporate the following issues;

- Environmental protection and reinvigoration must be central to the Vision for the Green Wedge. The draft does not state this clearly enough. Appendix 1 of Council's draft quotes the State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', where the first priority for the Green Wedge is to ***'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'***
- Declines in biodiversity are at critical levels, and there is urgent need for action by all levels of government and society. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) states that, "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global".
- The Victorian Green Wedge Planning Zones are aimed at conserving the natural environment of the Green Wedge and this plan should be supporting the zones not trying to undermine the RCZ and its conservation responsibilities as this draft does.
- The impact of invasive species – flora and fauna – is significant and this must be better addressed.
- The Green Wedge Management Plan must reaffirm the Shire's conservation role.
- The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail – much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration it holds significant environmental qualities.
- The draft speaks of polarised and diverse views and how conversations must be respectful and robust. It is vital that this is the case, and is supported by current science, particularly in relation to the need for environmental repair and preservation. It is necessary that we uphold the highest of professional standards throughout the Shire and its Leadership.

There is a very high majority of Nillumbik residents that cherish the high environmental values of our green wedge and want it maintained, protected and enhanced. It is vital that there is greater care and environmental protection to this area, not less. I believe the draft GWMP is not acceptable in its current form and I do not support it. I request that Council considers these issues and revises the Draft GWMP to included appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Bend of Islands

Please Note: I wish my submission to be 'anonymous' if it is published.

From: [Amanda Owen](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Response to: Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 5:16:33 PM

Response to: Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

I **don't** support the draft plan of the management of our green wedge.

Nillumbik is considered a Conservation Shire - this it seems not taken into account.

There is no mention of the incredible assortment of plant diversity.

There was a community engagement survey which unanimously wanted protection of the environment. How is the council taking this into account?

Please let's maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species.

Let Nillumbik Council be clear about what it is doing against climate change with thought about protection for native flora and fauna.

This Green Wedge needs to be respected and cherished as a valuable asset for the future not for any other reason than that is a conservation area of incredible value to us, our children and all who come after them.

Amanda Owen
9 August 2019



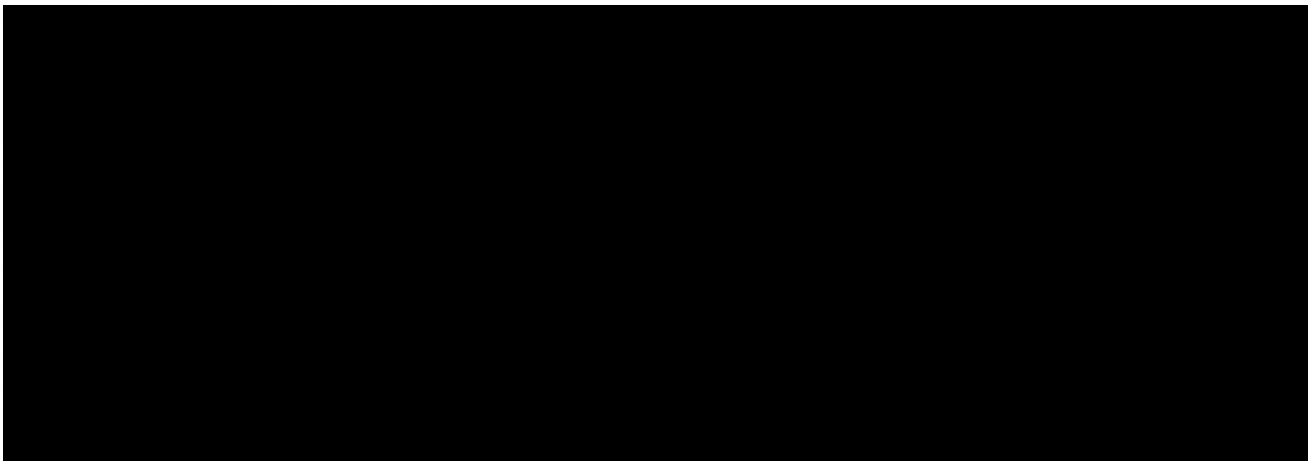
Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the GWMP

I think this plan is too generic and does not have strong actions to protect the natural environment. It should clearly state that the fact that Nillumbik's Green Wedge is the most environmentally intact of Melbourne's Green Wedges and is a significant part of the wider Green Wedge system. I would also like to see acknowledged that because of the uniqueness of the area the Shire has particular needs that are different to those in an area not established as a Green Wedge. The new plan presents an opportunity to celebrate our unique environmental features and provide a strong, bold statement to our climate-poor country.

This is also a great opportunity for Responsible Leadership. We should lead with Nillumbik's stance on climate change and the precautionary principle. The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play; that we can be part of the solution, acting locally to address global problems. Nillumbik is the perfect place to start turning things around.

We need a Green Wedge Management Plan that places the Green Wedge environment (biodiversity, ecosystem services) and its restoration as the main priority in a way that fits the 21st century challenges facing us, for our children and our children's children.



From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Draft GWMP
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 4:51:52 PM

Please find attached my submission on Draft GWMP 2019

Nillumbik residents and the wider population cherish the high environmental values of the GreenWedge.

Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire ,with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus.

We want it maintained, protected and reinvigorated. This must be central to the vision for the Green Wedge.

This must be the strong message for any GWMP.

The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to.

The current ESO must be reviewed as a means of better protecting biodiversity, under climate change.

This draft submission DOES NOT deliver. It is confusing and hard to read, and does not give clarity about what its intentions are.

There is concerning lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shires biodiversity, in all its forms.

It must reflect that Nillumbik's GW is the most environmentally intact of all Melbourne GW's and is for the benefit of all Melbournians.

Invasive Species must be addressed better.

Climate change mitigation must be included

I request that Council considers these issues and revises the Draft GWMP to include appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge

Regards

Pamela McMahon and Andrew McMahon

[REDACTED]

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Report to Council on the *Draft for Consultation: Green Wedge Management Plan*
8 August 2019

Introduction

Council’s Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee (‘the Committee’ or ‘ESAC’) has certain responsibilities according to the Objectives contained in its Terms of Reference:

Terms of Reference (March 2017 – March 2019)	Terms of Reference (May 2019 to current)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising environmental issues of interest and concern for Nillumbik for information to, and consideration by, Council on all aspects of the environment. • Assist in the preparation or review of key environmental sustainability strategies and policies. • Provide input and advice to Council on issues of environmental sustainability. • Check the progress of the Green Wedge Management Plan implementation including environmental, economic and social impacts. • Provide coordination, liaison and communication with other Council advisory groups and key external stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising issues of interest and concern for Nillumbik for information to, and consideration by, Council on all aspects concerning environment and sustainability. • Assist in the preparation or review of key environmental, land management and sustainability strategies and policies. • Provide input and advice to Council on issues of environment, land management and sustainability. • Check the progress of actions in the Green Wedge Management Plan with regard to environment and sustainability outcomes. • Provide coordination, liaison and communication with other Council advisory groups and key external stakeholders.

To meet these objectives, ESAC has given considerable time and thought to preparing a response to the *Draft for Consultation: Green Wedge Management Plan* (‘the Draft’).

- ESAC spent more than an hour in discussion with Geoff Lawler about the Draft at its meeting on 26th June.
- Members then circulated individual written responses to the Committee, which were discussed at a subsequent special meeting on 10 July 2019.
- A sub-committee then consolidated these points at the special meeting to create a draft response.
- The committee considered the draft response at a third meeting on 31 July 2019 to suggest amendments and finally forward this agreed text to Council.

ESAC followed the principles articulated in its ‘Agreed Ways of Working’ (20 Sept 2017), including a preference for consensus, allowing for dissenting opinions to be acknowledged.

Our formal response is organised under five headings that contain observations and recommendations concerning the Draft and about which ESAC expects a response from Council:

1. Things we liked
2. Greater emphasis needed

3. Concerns
4. Accountability, resources and tracking
5. Technical and editorial matters

HIGHLIGHTS (WHAT WE LIKED)

Foremost among the items Committee members highlighted are the following aspects of the Draft, though several require more nuanced comments which appear elsewhere in other sections of this report:

1. A 'friendly' style and presentation, including its conceptual framework, plain language, and simplicity of its goals, all of which promoted reader accessibility.
2. An acknowledgment that stewardship of the Green Wedge is shared primarily between Council and landowners and those living in this area and that a constructive relationship among the parties is vital to the sustainability and ongoing viability of the Green Wedge for the benefit of all residents in the Shire. We welcome the implementation of innovative measures such as the Green Wedge Conversation Program to build trust and co-operation across the community as a whole.
3. A clear appreciation of the place of the Green Wedge within the wider scope of State legislation limiting Council's unilateral actions, while recognising the inadequate resourcing from the State to the contribution the Nillumbik Green Wedge makes to the health of Melbourne.
4. An explicit recognition of the role of Traditional Custodians
5. An acknowledgement of both the risk of bushfires and the importance of an accurate stocktake of biodiversity
6. A vision that attempts to balance the interests of 'people' and 'place'
7. The reiteration of the Precautionary Principle as stated in the existing Green Wedge Management Plan (Part 2, page 8) designed to 'anticipate the possibility of detrimental social, health or environmental outcomes of any action and act to avoid serious or irreversible harm'

GREATER EMPHASIS NEEDED

The Committee also identified certain areas that require greater emphasis.

8. The Green Wedge Management Plan ('the Plan') is a Shire-wide planning document – particularly relating to People and Place. Many residents in the urban areas of the Shire identify with and value the lifestyle qualities of the Green Wedge, but the focus of the Plan must be on the Green Wedge itself.

Recommended Action A: More specific focus on the Green Wedge area and the townships located within it.

9. Greater acknowledgment that the ‘rebalance’ between People and Place will be welcomed by some Green Wedge residents, who have felt ignored or devalued by the previous plan, but also will displease others, who place greater emphasis on the maintenance and enhancement of the current natural environment.

Recommended Action B: More explicit recognition of this important difference in viewpoints.

10. The Shire is well known for its high levels of community engagement. The Draft proposes to tap into these qualities through measures aimed at encouraging and empowering the community to take greater shared responsibility with the Council for the management of the Green Wedge. The outcome envisaged by the Draft would be a more culturally tolerant community bound by common interests rather than fixed positions of difference. Nevertheless, the Committee has reservations about the effectiveness of any community-wide ‘healing’ process, given the history of deep-seated community division and lack of civility, despite well-intentioned interventions. A ‘Conversations’ program certainly is worth trying, if properly and appropriately resourced.

Recommended Action C: Combine the intimate scale of the ‘St Andrews’ Conversations’ with the provision of ‘expert’ information of the larger-scale ‘Melbourne/Sydney Conversations’ in introducing a ‘Green Wedge Conversations’ program.

11. The management of the Green Wedge is governed by State legislation and is subject to some extent to external funding.

Recommended Action D: Place greater emphasis on acknowledging these limiting factors in the Plan.

12. The Draft acknowledges that the Shire’s environmental assets can contribute to a prosperous economy and could benefit from a higher profile in this segment of the Plan. However, environmental risks also may be involved.

Recommended Action E: Give explicit recognition to the careful management of tourism, as an economic driver for instance, so as not to degrade vulnerable environments.

13. The Draft pays insufficient attention to some issues of biodiversity.

Recommended Action F: Give greater emphasis to the safeguarding and protection of high value biodiversity on private and public land.

14. Some planning issues may be too complex for the general reader to grasp immediately.

Recommended Action G: Include case studies to help clarify key issues for landowners in relation to a variety of planning and management matters, e.g. those that result in housing insecurity across the Green Wedge area. Two examples follow:

CASE STUDY 1: Rural Land Use

Many types of rural land use exist in the Nillumbik Green Wedge, depending on the specific way in which the landholder uses their land.

These include Amenity Lifestylers and Green Lifestylers, the former occurring where activities are undertaken for enjoyment (e.g. hobby farms) and the latter because of a passion for nature conservation (e.g. bush blocks). There also are Part-time Farmers, for whom the scale of farming falls between those of Lifestylers and Commercial Farmers and who are at least partially dependent on farm income. And there are a number of types of Commercial Farmers, for whom farming activities provide the major or sole income for the household.

It is important that this diversity of rural land use be identified and mapped in the strategic planning for future of land use and development in the Nillumbik Green Wedge. These are rural land uses that properly planned, where any proposed built development is subordinate to and supportive of nature conservation and/or soil-based farming, can be consistent with protecting the rural values that fundamentally underpin the Green Wedges.

CASE STUDY 2: Housing Insecurity

The Nillumbik Planning Scheme (Planning Scheme) does not provide rebuild certainty and existing use protection to Green Wedge home-owners should their home be destroyed in a bushfire (or other disaster event). The risk of housing loss by fire in the Green Wedge is high. The likelihood of risk realisation is inevitable. This creates housing insecurity for Green Wedge home-owners.

Private property ownership and use is governed by laws, including the Planning Scheme. Temporary permit exemptions made by the state government available after the 2009 fires are not guaranteed in future.

Mitigating the housing insecurity risk and providing rebuild certainty for Green Wedge home-owners requires permanent changes to the Planning Scheme.

15. The Draft recognises the concern of residents to rebuild homes after bushfire but lacks detail.

Recommended Action H: Identify the risks and critical importance of timeliness in obtaining the necessary permits and the inappropriateness of levying significant cost imposts and imposing new conditions and limitations of land use, should such a catastrophe occur.

16. There is a need to be more explicit about resourcing and monitoring the implementation of the Plan. See below.

CONCERNS

17. There is no reference to the State's suggested format for a Green Wedge Management Plan.

Recommended Action I: Acknowledge in the 'Introduction' the State Government's Planning Practice Note 31 Preparing a Green Wedge Management Plan that provides the expected scope and content for a Green Wedge Management Plan.

18. There is a failure to make any significant progress on major issues dividing the community.

Recommended Action J: Directly address the central issues about which the community is divided, e.g. conflicting values between bush maintenance and repair (including wildlife corridors) and rural land usage, or between biodiversity maintenance/enhancement and bushfire mitigation or other vegetation clearing.

19. There are important concerns in some sectors of the community that have not been explicitly addressed.

Recommended Action K: Specifically address unresolved issues about meeting some of the basic needs of Green Wedge residents in the Green Wedge Zone and Rural Conservation Zone. These include housing security and the provisions for re-establishing residences in a timely fashion in the event of a catastrophe as well as concerns about land usage (including the right to farm).

20. Issues of climate change deserve more attention.

Recommended Action L: Provide specific acknowledgment of the role of local government in tackling climate change.

21. Insufficient attention has been given to issues of biodiversity.

Recommended Action M: Accord equal importance to biodiversity to that given to People and Place.

22. Some Committee members believe there is a lack of transparency about how the Community Panel 80+% recommendations have been recognised and translated into the Draft.

Recommended Action N: Make direct reference to the document produced by the Council in December 2018 entitled 'Green Wedge Management Plan – Community Panel Response to Recommendations' and to Council's detailed 'Key inputs to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan' (June 2019).

23. The Draft's scope and direction are unclear. There is ambivalence as to whether the Draft is referring to only the Green Wedges zones or reflecting a Shire-wide approach. Strictly speaking the Green Wedge is comprised solely of those privately owned areas zoned Green Wedge Zone (GWZ) and Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) and public land zoned as reserves, special and public use (SUZ and PUZ) and National Park, but the rural townships have also been included in the Draft, leading to confusion.

Recommended Action O: Eliminate ambivalence and increase clarity throughout Plan about exactly what areas and zones are being discussed.

24. There is an inappropriate and misleading emphasis on rural residential land use. It is incorrect to show large areas of the Green Wedge as 'rural resident' as in the 'Rural Land Uses' map on page 25. While the RCZ allows consideration for the use of land for a dwelling, the purpose of the Zone specifically does not support residential type development.

Recommended Action P: Revise the map to give greater clarity to these differences.

25. The diversity of rural land usages within the Green Wedge lacks sufficient definition. These include:

- Amenity lifestyler
- Green lifestyler
- Part-time farmer
- Commercial farmer
- Green commercial farmer
- Hybrid farmer¹

Recommended Action Q: Provide clear definition and acknowledgment of the diversity of rural land uses within the Green Wedge.

26. Council will continue to be subject to sustained pressure to relax or modify planning provisions that would degrade the values of the Green Wedge.

Recommended Action R: Emphasise that Council must remain resolute in safeguarding against such pressures and incremental change that, over time, can irrevocably diminish the intrinsic qualities of the Green Wedge for the residents of Nillumbik and the Melbourne metropolitan area as a whole.

ACCOUNTABILITY, TRACKING AND RESOURCING

27. The Draft currently states:

- budget will be identified in financial reports
- performance against objectives will be reported; and
- objectives and performance measures will be incorporated into and inform all other council plans and strategies.

Recommended Action S: Council improves the specificity of reporting, monitoring and evaluation section of the Draft.

28. Tables are often used to provide clarity and specificity. Two examples are provided in a separate file that contains:

- Attachment 1 - Table 1: Accountability and Resourcing
- Attachment 2 - Table 2: Tracking Key Actions Suggested Approach and Listing

Recommended Action T: Council strengthens the final Plan by articulating in tabular format specifically how its objectives and actions will be tracked, accounted for, recorded and reported against.

¹ Refer to the 'Green pegs in green wedges?' Published by the Department of Primary Industries (Victoria) and the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA, Melbourne 2008. (p43).

29. The Draft does not include performance measures.

Recommended Action U: Council develops a meaningful and appropriate series of performance measures to assist it, and more importantly the community, to measure achievement of Plan goals, objectives and key actions over the term of the Plan. These should allow comparison with benchmark best practice, which requires performance measures to be meaningful, useful and specific.

30. Insufficient attention is paid to governance mechanisms of the Plan.

Recommended Action V: Council implements a best practice governance framework, including appropriate terms of reference, and an executive governance committee, so that the implementation of this Green Wedge Management Plan achieves appropriate priority over the life of its term.

TECHNICAL AND EDITORIAL MATTERS

31. There are a number of concerns expressed by the Committee about the Draft design:

- *It is too parochial for external readers.*
- *It needs to improve the quality of the graphics.*
- *Modelled Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVCs) is valueless at the scale used in the Draft.*
- *Bushfire map is of questionable value at the scale used in the Draft.*

ACCOUNTABILITY, TRACKING AND RESOURCING

Attachment 1

Table 1: Accountability and Resourcing

Goal	Objectives	Key Actions	Accountable Plan	Responsible Leader	Resourcing
3. Safe and healthy environments	O3.3 Reduce the number and impact of bushfire incidents	A3.7 Finalise and implement council's draft <i>Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2023</i>	<i>Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2023</i>	Manager Emergency Services ???	Council (Maintenance & Compliance) Melbourne Water Vic Roads Parks Victoria Landowners – of private land

Table 2: Tracking Key Actions Suggested Approach and Listing

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
		2020	2024	2028	
Goal 1.					
A1.1 Create a Green Wedge Conversations program to provide local communities with a forum to discuss resilience, leadership, knowledge transfer and cooperation between people involved with land management, agriculture, nature conservation, public land management and bushfire mitigation and management. Seek ongoing government funding assistance to support the program	Manager – Health and Wellbeing? Manager – Green Wedge Land Management Information and Support Service?	Performance measure not articulated – to be developed Year 1	Report performance against base measure	Report performance against base measure	Council Health and Wellbeing? Green Wedge Land Management Information and Support Service? Public Land Managers EMV, DELWP and others Volunteers
A1.2 Implement council’s Nillumbik Volunteer Development Strategy 2015-2020	Manager – Health and Wellbeing?				Council Health and Wellbeing? Volunteers Nillumbik Residents
A1.3 Develop and manage community infrastructure for the green wedge as part of the Shire’s overall approach to service and asset management planning	Manager – Asset Management and Works				Council Asset Management and Works EMV, DELPW, Melbourne Water, Parks Vic, Community Sporting

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
					Organisations, Public Land/Facility Managers Volunteers
A1.4 Better Utilise multi-use community spaces to create community hubs in the townships	Manager – Asset Management and Works				Council Asset Management DEECD EMV/SES/CFA/Vic Pol Parks Vic, Melb Water Volunteers, Community Sporting Organisations
A1.5 Create a comprehensive planning and place management service for the townships to strengthen their identities and attractiveness as service, population, tourism, community and cultural centres	Manager – Planning Services Manager – Economic Development				Council
A1.6 Investigate options for consolidation and amalgamation of small rural lots that are not capable of supporting a dwelling in their current configuration. Where appropriate and with owner consent, consider government purchase of such lots where they are adjacent to public land	Manager – Planning Services				Council Melb Water Parks Vic Green Wedge Landowners
A1.7 Review the impacts of proximity to urban communities on rural land adjoining the urban area and investigate options to maintain the amenity and productivity of these areas	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A1.8 Encourage the location of aged care services within the townships and programs to facilitate people ageing in the community where they have lived for many years. Encourage volunteer and community groups to support ageing landowners with land management, where needed. Implement Council's Positive Ageing Strategy	Manager – Health and Wellbeing Manager – Economic Development				Council Department Economic Development Australian Department of Health Aged Care Service Providers
A1.9 Advocate for improved public transport, traffic management and reduced road congestion	Manager – Asset Management and Works				Council Vic Roads Victorian Government
A1.10 Advocate for improved internet access and mobile phone coverage to support the ability to create application based services such as ride sharing and on-call transport	Manager – Health and Wellbeing	Performance measure not articulated – to be developed Year 1	Report performance against base measure	Report performance against base measure	Council NNBN Co Australian Government
A1.11 Undertake seasonal review of road conditions to improve management and review the road sealing program to ensure high use roads are prioritised.	Manager – Asset Management and Works				Council Vic Roads Victorian Government
Goal 2					
A2.1 Implement the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021	Manager – Health and Wellbeing				Council Volunteers Health/Wellbeing service providers Nillumbik Residents
A2.2 Review and update the Nillumbik Open Space Strategy and Recreation Strategy	Manager – Health and Wellbeing				Council Community sporting

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
	Manager Asset Management and Works				organisations Nillumbik Residents Volunteers
A2.3 Implement the Nillumbik Trails Strategy 2011	Manager – Health and Wellbeing Manager – Economic Development Manager – Asset Management and Works				Council Grants – Victorian government Grants – Commonwealth government Volunteers Community Trails Groups Nillumbik Residents Green Wedge Landowners
A2.4 Implement the Nillumbik Arts and Culture Plan 2018-2022	Manager – Asset Management and Works Manager – Economic Development				Council Grants, gifts and bequests Volunteers Arts and culture groups in the community Nillumbik Residents
A2.5 Investigate the establishment of a regional art gallery	Manager – Economic Development				Commercial, bequests and gifts Arts and culture groups and businesses in the community Volunteers

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A2.6 Develop and implement a heritage interpretation plan	Manager – Strategic Planning Manager – Economic Development				Council Heritage Victoria Volunteers Heritage groups in the community Nillumbik Residents
A2.7 Use the Nillumbik Planning Scheme as a positive means to encourage heritage conservation and management, including support of adaptive reuse of heritage places and allowing prohibited uses, if they help support the conservation of a heritage place and are in line with planning policy objectives	Manager – Strategic Planning Manager – Economic Development				DELWP Grants and seed funding to trial initiatives on viable sites Heritage groups in the community Volunteers
Goal 3					
A3.1 Undertake stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural activity and practices including hobby farming, that need to be protected for the future and the pests that need to be managed by sourcing information from formal research bodies and landowners. Seek government funding assistance to establish and maintain this data base into the future for landowner information program prioritisation and policy development	Manager – Strategic Planning Manager – Communications				Council DEECD Universities (LaTrobe) DELWP Grants – Victorian and Commonwealth Government Green Wedge Landowners
A3.2 Subject to the findings of the data base described by A3.1 review the Environmental Significance Overlay in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners
A3.3 Implement a whole of organisation	Manager – Health				Council

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
approach to community resilience addressing climate change, emergency management, and a range of matters in an integrated manner. This will include robust conversations on the natural environment and biodiversity values, bushfire risk reduction, economic development, agriculture, economic and community rebuilding post events, human health, wellbeing and safety and water catchment planning.	and Wellbeing Manager - Communications				EMV University partners, researchers and professors. Grants Nillumbik Residents Green Wedge Landowners
A3.4 Increase and prioritise council's focus on feral animal and pest plant species reduction, education and programs on private and public land	Manager – Asset Management and Works	Performance measure not articulated – to be developed Year 1	Report performance against base measure	Report performance against base measure	Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners
A3.5 In partnership with relevant government agencies, encourage biodiversity conservation and responsible land management on public and private land by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing Council's Biodiversity Strategy 2012; Roadside Management Plan, and Invasive Species Action Plan 2015 Supporting Landcare and Friends groups Providing an advisory service for land management Providing rebates for Trust for Nature covenanted land and agriculture with a land management plan Delivering Council's land management incentive program and other conservation protection projects Administering state planning policies that 	Manager – Communications Manager – Strategic Planning Manager – Asset Management and Works				Victorian government agencies (DELWP, EMV, DEECD etc) Council Green Wedge Landowners

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
apply to native vegetation and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering targeted environmental and sustainability education experiences 					
A3.6 In conjunction with key stakeholders, review Council’s approach to climate change to develop a best practice response. This will incorporate our statutory requirements and respond to all key state government frameworks but will need to remain agile and adaptive to changing policy settings. It will adopt an integrated approach that brings together the key local issues that have been identified in every goal in this plan. This will result in either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An updated climate change action plan and/or A new climate change and community resilience strategic framework build from a local context that recognises the unique features of our communities, it’s landscapes and natural environment. It will be informed by appropriate evidence, independent expertise and strong community participation 	Manager – Strategic Planning				DELWP EMV Council University partners Nillumbik residents Green Wedge Landowners
A3.7 Finalise and implement council’s draft Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2023	Manager – Strategic Planning				EMV Council Green Wedge Landowners Township Landowners (BMO)
A3.8 Advocate for improved mobile and broadband connectivity to help improve the	Manager – Strategic Planning				EMV Council

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
ability to communicate information and improve community safety, particularly to those most vulnerable during extreme weather events (See A1.10)					Victorian Government Australian Government
A3.9 AS part of a future review of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme consider identified landscape character and quality through the current policies and overlays that apply	Manager – Strategic Planning				DELWP Council Green Wedge Landowners
A3.10 Consider, through development approvals and management of Council property, the limitation of light spill not directly associated with safety or community activity to reduce impacts on nocturnal animals and the night time amenity of the landscape	Manager – Planning				Council Green Wedge Landowners
A3.11 Investigate opportunities to support community based renewable energy solutions	Manager – Strategic Planning	Performance measure not articulated – to be developed Year 1	Report performance against base measure	Report performance against base measure	Council Victorian Government Volunteers Commercial providers
A3.12 Promote water sensitive design, balance amenity uses of our waterways with environmental considerations, and balance demand for private use of water flows through extraction and diversity with broader community and environmental considerations	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELPW Melbourne Water Nillumbik residents
A3.13 Finalise and implement Council’s Domestic Waste Water Management Plan 2019	Manager – Planning				Council Nillumbik residents Green Wedge Landowners

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
					Nillumbik Landowners
Goal 4					
A4.1 Finalise and implement a new Nillumbik Economic Development Strategy	Manager – Economic Development				Council Business operators Agricultural enterprises Tourist operators Nillumbik residents
A4.2 Engage with and support the existing business base across the shire to promote local economic growth	Manager – Economic Development				Council Business operators Agricultural enterprises Tourist operators Nillumbik Residents
A4.3 refer A3.1	Manager – Strategic Planning Manager – Communications				Council DEECD Universities (LaTrobe) DELWP Grants – Victorian and Commonwealth Government Green Wedge Landowners
A4.4 To ensure land remains available for agriculture, use the Nillumbik planning scheme to encourage consolidation of smaller agricultural lots in common ownership and discourage the further fragmentation of agricultural lands	Manager – Planning				Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A4.5 Continue to apply the sustainable agriculture rate rebate and the primary producer rate rebate (see A3.5)	Manager - Planning				Council Green Wedge Landowners
A4.6 Consider policy and land use options to allow agricultural enterprises to diversify income sources by supporting complementary activities such as farm gate sales, events, education and accommodation	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners
A4.7 Continue to support sustainable land and animal management and access to markets by providing education programs, promotion, events and innovative partnership solutions	Manager – Communications Manager – Asset Management and Works				Council DEECD Green Wedge Landowners
A4.8 Advocate to the Victorian Government that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and other controls be altered to allow landholders a right to farm on pre-existing cleared agricultural land and be able to adapt to changing agricultural practice • The support and promotion of supplementary rural business activities such as farm gate sales, farm stays, and other low environmental amenity impact enterprises which are consistent with green wedge values need to be prioritised and • The role of hobby farms be defined, recognised and policy and program be developed to support sustainable land management and agriculture at their scale 	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELPW Green Wedge Landowners
A4.9 Finalise and implement a new Nillumbik Equine Strategy	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council Equine business

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
	Manager – Health and Wellbeing Manager – Economic Development				operators Equestrian clubs Local equine enthusiasts
A4.10 Review and update Council’s Destination Management Plan to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve awareness of the benefits of cycle tourism and mapping information • Invest in digital interpretation of heritage, cultural and natural assets • Develop tourism through trail investment • Develop festivals and an events attractions plan • Build on the arts and cultural product through development of curated content and packaging • Add to the food and wine offerings by facilitating diversity of product and infrastructure • Manage and avoid detrimental impacts on sensitive environmental areas • Increase strategic marketing and promotion and • Improve and develop products suited to family experiences 	Manager – Economic Development Manager – Asset Management and Works				Council Parks Vic DELWP Yarra Ranges Council Community recreation groups associated with trails use Commercial market and event operators Local business, agriculture, arts and tourism operators Green Wedge Landowners Business Development Victoria Volunteers

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A4.11 Create and investment attraction plan and investigate innovative land use solutions to attract professional services to locate within the townships of the green wedge	Manager – Economic Development	Performance measure not articulated – to be developed Year 1	Report performance against base measure	Report performance against base measure	Council Small Business operators Residents interested in small business operation Commercial professional service providers
A4.12 Identify and document areas of low mobile and internet connectivity and black spots. Identify opportunities to rectify areas affected (see A1.10 and A3.8)	Manager – Economic Development				Council Business Victoria Small business operators
A4.13 Analyse the needs of home based business and identify barriers to growth	Manager – Economic Development				Council Business Victoria Small home based business operators University partners
A4.14 Understand the demand for co-working spaces in Nillumbik and facilitate the needs of home based business through township and activity centre plans and community hubs	Manager – Economic Development				Council Business Victoria Small home based business operators
Goal 5					

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A5.1 Create a comprehensive landowners information and support service for land use and management including annual reporting on trends and outcomes. Seek ongoing government funding to support the service	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council Green Wedge Landowners
A5.2 = A3.3 Implement a whole of organisation approach to community resilience addressing climate change, emergency management, and a range of matters in an integrated manner. This will include robust conversations on the natural environment and biodiversity values, bushfire risk reduction, economic development, agriculture, economic and community rebuilding post events, human health, wellbeing and safety and water catchment planning.	Manager – Health and Wellbeing Manager - Communications	Performance measure not articulated – to be developed Year 1	Report performance against base measure	Report performance against base measure	Council EMV University partners, researchers and professors. Grants Nillumbik Residents Green Wedge Landowners
A5.3 = A1.1 Create a Green Wedge Conversations program to provide local communities with a forum to discuss resilience, leadership, knowledge transfer and cooperation between people involved with land management, agriculture, nature conservation, public land management and bushfire mitigation and management. Seek ongoing government funding assistance to support the program	Manager – Health and Wellbeing? Manager – Green Wedge Land Management Information and Support Service?				Council Health and Wellbeing? Green Wedge Land Management Information and Support Service? Public Land Managers EMV, DELWP and others Volunteers

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A5.4 = A1.5 Create a comprehensive planning and place management service for the townships to strengthen their identities and attractiveness as service, population, tourism, community and cultural centres	Manager – Planning Services Manager – Economic Development				Council
A5.5 = A3.1 Undertake stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural activity and practices including hobby farming, that need to be protected for the future and the pests that need to be managed by sourcing information from formal research bodies and landowners. Seek government funding assistance to establish and maintain this data base into the future for landowner information program prioritisation and policy development	Manager – Strategic Planning Manager – Communications				Council DEECD Universities (LaTrobe) DELWP Grants – Victorian and Commonwealth Government Green Wedge Landowners
A5.6 Consider reviewing the current application of zoning controls in the green wedge to better reflect the actual use of land	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners
A5.7 Consider reviewing the potential range of land uses that could assist owners to be better manage rural land that abuts the Urban Growth Boundary	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners
A5.8 Advocate Council’s position on all government policy reform affecting the Shire including reform of Green Wedge policy and planning provisions	Chief Executive Officer				Council Green Wedge Issues – Green Wedge Landowners All of Shire Issues – all residents and landowners

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A5.9 Identify and pursue all funding opportunities from government, philanthropy and corporations to support the implementation of this plan	Chief Executive Officer				Council Victorian Government Australian Government Grants, donations and bequests

*council consider if there is alignment between social, economic and environmental impacts, and resourcing and if this may inform future directed community engagement and input for implementation of initiatives.

** this plan is overwhelmingly concerned with the environment but attempts to incorporate social and economic considerations in a more comprehensive way than the previous plan.

From: [Graham Skinner](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission for council draft GWMP
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 3:03:06 PM

Dear GWMP Council team,

Re: Submission to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Wattle Glen is great place to live with its small community and great natural environment. I worry that the Council's proposed GWMP is pushing for this to be changed because Wattle Glen is close the Urban Growth Boundary and because Council's draft is not recognizing how much residents do **not** want our treed Green Wedge changed in the name of more development – whether that be more housing or through the lack of initiatives in the Council draft GWMP to protect and enhance our Green Wedge biodiversity.

So, as the Wattle Glen Residents Association advocate, the draft GWMP should:

1. Not change any of the uses for Rural Conservation zoned land along the Urban Growth Boundary and around townships. EG: as we have in Wattle Glen with vacant rural land between Mannish Rd and Clarke Ave and also on the west side of the Diamond Creek in Wattle Glen.
2. Council's Draft appears as a massive failure in anticipating climate change and biodiversity extinction - and Nillumbik, the "Green Wedge Shire", should have a GWMP that leads the way environmentally.

Therefore, I submit that:

Because Council's Draft advocates the undermining of the current Rural Conservation Zone, and totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, the Council Draft GWMP, is not acceptable in its present form.

Yours sincerely,

Name: Graham Skinner



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From: [Dorothy Weigall](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 3:03:05 PM
Attachments: [BRIEF submission support GWMP.pdf](#)

My name is Dorothy Weigall. I am part owner of
[REDACTED]

My family has owned the Bend of Islands property for over 60 years and we are very concerned about the proposed changes in the Green Wedge Management Plan, as discussed in the document below.

Yours sincerely,
Dorothy Weigall
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**FINAL DAYS SUBMISSION GUIDE FOR THE
DRAFT NILLUMBİK GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN
!!! IN BRIEF !!!**

BY AUGUST 11

WRITE AN EMAIL OR CREATE A DOCUMENT THAT YOU WILL ATTACH TO YOUR EMAIL

YOU MUST INCLUDE:

1. That you are writing a submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019
2. Your name
3. Your address

KEY POINTS:

1. The Green Wedge is NOT just about people and any Plan must reflect this. Innumerable international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities are to protect our biodiversity and address climate change.
2. The Draft does not reflect the community's views and desires [as expressed via the community consultation process and via the Panel process]. For such a strong voice to be ignored to such a degree erodes the community's confidence in Council and other authorities, and demonstrates a lack of good governance.
3. The Draft is confusing and difficult to read and does not give enough clarity about what its intentions are, key actions, and how Council will ensure these occur in a timely manner.
4. The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.
5. Climate change must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, NOT just adaptation.
6. Green Wedges are vital. They cool our city and are known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. The Draft does not reflect this fact.
7. Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation if this is to be turned around. The Draft does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.

EMAIL IT TO:

gwmp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

OR JUST DO THIS:

Go to loveyourgreenwedge.com for a **very simple** submission making process.

You can access all sorts of information, or just scroll towards the bottom of the page and make your submission right there. Click the 'HELP ME OUT' button for suggestions.



GOOD ON YOU * YOUR SUBMISSION MAKES A DIFFERENCE * YES IT'S TRUE * GOOD ON YOU



From: [John](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: GWMP - Submission Bree Gedye
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 1:32:31 PM
Attachments: [Bree Gedye Draft Green Wedge Management Plan - June 2019.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached my submission for the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

Regards,

Bree Gedye

9/8/2019

Attn: GWMP Project Team

PO Box 476

Greensborough VIC 3088

Draft – Green Wedge Management Plan, June 2019

I would like to ensure that the Green Wedge Management Plan considers landowners rights to manage their land within the Green Wedge.

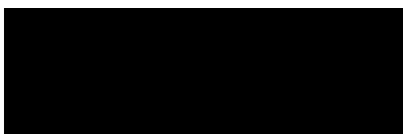
As a resident of Nillumbik I have a high regard for the natural environment and the rural lifestyle that the landscape provides, and I invest in its management. There is a strong state planning policy framework that applies to rural living, which can be hard to navigate. As a rate payer I would appreciate it if Nillumbik council implements less costly & less time-consuming planning regimes.

More importantly as climate change will challenge the community with frequent and intense weather events in particular heatwaves and bushfires, Council should facilitate bushfire prevention by special exemptions from planning regime for landowners to be able to clean up their land easily and allow for management to reduce fuel load on land.

I believe it is important for Council to consider within the GWMP a review of land anomalies within the Nillumbik Shire to ensure current zoning is fit for purpose, and if not, amend incorrect zoning. This will only benefit the ageing population of the Shire by opening more land to provide facilities to the community.

Upon implementation of the GWMP June 2019 I would like Council to report annually against targets and expectations and make this information available to the public so that we can track the progress of the plan.

Regards,



Brée Gedye



From: [Sue Grad](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: GWMP Draft Submission
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 1:31:42 PM
Attachments: [GWMP BICA SUBMISSION. Sue Grad President Aug 2019.docx](#)

Please find attached a submission on the Draft GWMP.

Please provide a receipt, by return email.

Kind Regards,
Sue Grad
President
Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA)

Submission on Council's Draft GWMP

This submission is made on behalf of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association. BICA membership includes 70% of Bend of Island residents and property owners.

I am a resident of the Bend of Islands and President of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA).

The draft GWMP is not acceptable in its' present form. It downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, while advocating to undermine the current conservation zones.

I consider that it is particularly important that there is a general revision of the draft to incorporate the following issues.

Introduction

- The Draft GWMP has a serious deficiency, running throughout the whole of the document, which means it will not achieve the **Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 Desired Planning Outcomes for Green Wedges and Peri-Urban Areas**.

The **Plan Melbourne 2017-2050** defines its' 1st desired outcome as **Environmental and Biodiversity Assets**, including *forests and grasslands* and clearly calls for the protection and enhancement of these. This is obviously the highest priority of **Plan Melbourne 2017-2050**, and shows that the green wedges should have strong environmental protection to preserve and enhance their natural environments for the benefit of all Melbournians into the future.

The stated aim of this outcome is *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'*

There is a lack of emphasis on the protection and enhancement of the **Environmental and biodiversity assets** in the current Draft GWMP and a major review is required to ensure that this outcome is clearly articulated, emphasised and supported.

- The current declines in biodiversity to critical levels, and the need for strong environmental action by all levels of government and society, has recently come to the fore on many fronts: -
 - **The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**
 - *"The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide."*
 - *"It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global".*
 - **The 2018 State of the Environment Report for Victoria**
 - 26% of Biodiversity indicators are in poor condition and will remain so without intervention.

The current Draft GWMP opens the way for Nillumbik to do the opposite and allow the further decline of its natural environment, the very asset that make it so suitable for a green wedge.

- The overriding message from the GWMP Community Panel Report is that Nillumbik residents cherish the high environmental values of the GW and they want it to be

maintained, protected and enhanced. This strong message is not carried through in the current GWMP draft.

Vision

- Environmental protection and reinvigoration must be central to the Vision for the Green Wedge. The draft does not state this clearly enough. Appendix 1 of Council's draft quotes the State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', where the first priority for the Green Wedge is to ***'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'***
- Council's initial community engagement clearly demonstrated that the large majority of Nillumbik **residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge** and want it maintained, protected and enhanced. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the GWMP Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the Community's position.
- To be consistent with the Victorian Biodiversity Strategy, this GWMP should be aiming to make Nillumbik's rural landscapes healthier - ie. "By 2037 Nillumbik's natural environment is healthy".
- The last GWMP Vision included the following and they should be reinstated into this draft GWMP without all the current compromises and contradictions:
"In 2030, management of the Nillumbik Green Wedge will lead the way in economic, environmental and social sustainability.
The Green Wedge will be secure and will be valued by the local and wider Melbourne community for its natural and cultural values. The future of the Nillumbik Green Wedge is one in which:
 - natural and cultural values are conserved and enhanced;
 - bush and rural landscapes are conserved and enhanced;
 - the economic future is sound;
 - communities are strong, connected and supported and are knowledgeable about the Nillumbik Green Wedge;
 - local identity and diversity are respected and nurtured."
- Since the last GWMP was written, Climate Change and Biodiversity issues have become more critical, not less, for example the noted decline in bees, Nillumbik orchids and frogs. This draft has no actual initiatives to improve this situation.
- The Victorian Green Wedge Planning Zones are aimed at conserving the natural environment of the Green Wedge and this plan should be supporting the zones, not trying to undermine the RCZ and its' conservation responsibilities, as this draft GWMP does.
- The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play; that we can be part of the solution - actively seeking local solutions to global problems. We're a relatively affluent population. Nillumbik really is the perfect place to start turning things around. If not here and now, when and where else?

Five Key Moves.

Each of the 'Five Key Moves' contain potentially useful ideas depending on how they are applied, but there needs to be much greater emphasis on the care of the natural environment.

- The document needs to describe in much greater detail the ACTIONS to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, ensuring the protection of ALL native vegetation and fauna across the Shire.
- Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term.
- The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge. However, there has been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. **The draft GWMP does not achieve this.**
 - Key Move 2 should be deleted in its' entirety, as it has the completely wrong sets of priorities and emphases. There are no commitments to actually addressing the environmental issues of Climate Change and Biodiversity, which featured as action in the last GWMP.
 - **Manningham Council**, in their GWMP background said, "*The main focus of the Green Wedge Strategy 2004 was the protection of biodiversity, sustainable management of public and private land, environmental education and community engagement and empowerment.*" And, that was 15 years ago! **Nothing like this for Nillumbik.**
 - In the *Four Theme Approach of the Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan 2011-2021*... "Part 2 of this plan has been grouped into the four themes of the *Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy* (PPWCMA 2004) – Land, Biodiversity, Water and People." **Nothing like this for Nillumbik.**
 - **Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge Management Plan** 1 April 2019 "*Highlights the relationship between the Green Wedge Management Plan and the State Biodiversity Strategy with particular emphasis on increasing habitat areas and biolinks.*" **Nothing like this in Nillumbik draft plan.**
 - Rather than having an exemplar GWMP for other Councils to follow, Nillumbik now has a Draft GWMP with little or no priority for enhancing biodiversity or the natural environment of the Green Wedge

Principles

- Each Principle is a very broad statement and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment.
- The Principles need to reflect the community's commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The plan must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised in keeping with the State Government's policies *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* and *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*, which is 'Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.'
- The outlined Principles contain potentially useful ideas but there needs to be greater emphasis on the protection of the environment. For example, the principle that says,

'The green wedge is a changing environment and home to many people. Change will be managed to conserve its values and with a focus on long-term stewardship.' could read, "The green wedge is a changing environment and home to many people. Change will be managed to conserve its' **biodiversity and environmental** values and with a focus on long-term stewardship."

- These Principles almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- The problem is not what is written in the GWMP draft, but what is omitted.
- An additional principle should be added, at the top of the list, as follows –
Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity
The decline in biodiversity must be reversed and the effects of Climate Change must be addressed so that we maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.
- The **'Sustainability and the Precautionary Principle'** has been taken from the previous GWMP and then watered down. The principle from the previous GWMP should be reinstated as supported by the GWMP Community Panel.

Goal 1: Engaged Connected Communities

The thrust of Goal 1, to engage the community, is important but must be framed in the context of the environmental protection aim as stated in 1994 when the Local Government Review Board declared that the new Shire of Nillumbik was to be a **conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus.**

- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- The tone and wording of parts of the Goal 1 are too ambiguous and can be interpreted as an opportunity to ignore, water-down or override the environmental protection responsibilities of those who live in the GW.
- The vast majority of the stated objectives and key actions are applicable to a well thought out plan for 'any rural municipality'. Whilst they are obviously required for Nillumbik's rural areas, they do not specifically relate to the special aspects associated with the GW. The mixing of the 'general rural' and 'specific GW' issues makes the GWMP draft complex and confused. In some instances, it could be interpreted that the GW is being blamed for many problems that are common to most rural communities.
- The thrust of Goal 1, to engage the community, is important but needs to be explained in the context of the environmental protection aims. The importance of the role of the community for stewardship of the land needs to be clearly stated and emphasised. 'How can we maintain and improve the environment', not 'What can we get out of the land'.

For example, Objective 01.1 could be: -

Enable our people to take greater shared responsibility for the future of our green wedge, to ensure that we enhance biodiversity and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.

- Achieving community engagement by playing down or ignoring the GW residents' responsibilities for environmental protection is self-defeating. This will result in a

diminished GW that does not meet the aspirations of the majority of the local community or Victoria's desired planning outcomes for the Green Wedges.

- The tone of 'how can we change the GW planning provisions' should be refocused to 'how can we develop smart solutions, consistent with the current GW planning provisions and boundary'. A1.6 is a good example of this. A1.7 needs a similar approach to solve the problem without diminishing the GW or its boundary.
- Comments on specific points:
Objectives O1.3, O1.6 & O1.7 and Actions A1.4, A1.5, A1.8, A1.9, A1.10 & A1.11 apply to any rural area, whether it is a GW or not. They certainly should be in the Council Plan, but don't need to be specifically spelt out as 'part of' the GWMP, other than as a reference to acknowledge that they apply to the GW.

Goal 2: Active and Creative People

In order to better manage the natural environment of the Shire, greater dialogue must be generated and maintained with the Traditional Custodians of the area. This is vital for the health of the whole community and the environment in which we live. A Key Action of Goal 2 must focus on this.

- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- Studies show that the natural environment, "the bush", has a positive influence on the mental and physical health for regular visitors to, and residents of, the bush. This needs (with the evidence) to be reflected in the Key Actions.
- The preamble finishes with a paragraph on the iconic nature of mudbrick dwellings to Nillumbik and laments that the number of new such dwellings has 'fallen away'. Doing something about this, needs to be a **Key Action** if Council is sincere about their comments of importance.
- Why no mention of Council Open Studios and Artisan Hills providing opportunities in the Green Wedge?
- People are important and a healthy environment helps people to be healthy, but the natural environment should not be compromised.

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments

The GWMP needs to more strongly acknowledge the importance of ALL indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it THROUGHOUT the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what ecosystems provide; developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent); address the climate change and extinction crises, and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the Actions and all other aspects of the plan, without compromise.

- Goal 3 repeatedly uses the language of 'balance', and this needs to be amended as it indicates that our thinking is oppositional. It implies that there is a need to trade-off

environmental health against other considerations, while international, national, and state government reports indicate that we must prioritise the health of our environment. For example, A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

- The use of stocktakes and studies [see A3.1, p32] that describe some areas of vegetation as more significant or valuable than others is alarming as it can lead to greater degradation of the environment which is already under pressure. The majority of the Shire's ecosystems are already 'disturbed' because of mismanagement, and this means we must change our ways. Every Objective and Action ought to aim for preservation and reinvigoration of the environment. One of the greatest threats to the Shire is 'death by a thousand cuts', where bit by bit, land clearing and grazing leave our flora and fauna vulnerable to ever increasing stress and disappearance. In turn, this also places greater pressure on our community's overall well-being.
- An additional Action must be to undertake a massive public education campaign about biodiversity, the value of ecosystems, care for natural landscapes, bushfire risk reduction through understanding the ancient role of fire in the landscape, the significance of the Green Wedge, climate change and their interdependence.
- It is inappropriate to clump biodiversity with other seemingly conflicting/opposing activities. Biodiversity protection is paramount and clearly an intention of the Green Wedge Management Plan process, thus, Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement should be a goal of its own.
- In THIS draft, Appendix 1 contains Plan Melbourne protection, however it should be the GWMP's primary objective.
- (O3.1) While it is important to protect our "valuable" biodiversity and habitats, this skirts around the importance of "less valuable" or, more accurately, "less intact or disturbed" habitats that make up the entire biodiversity map for the shire. For example, the "vulnerable" Ecological Vegetation Class - Valley Grassy Forest is often degraded within Nillumbik due to its grassy understory lending itself to being readily-available grazing land. This does NOT negate the importance of these otherwise "less valuable" habitats.
- It is important to consider vital faunal corridors, which may or may not be currently vegetated OR may support less "valuable" (read: less intact or degraded) habitats. We need to acknowledge that our natural environment is already highly fragmented, so these important corridors may exist, or need to be created, across landscapes that do not contain so-called "valuable" biodiversity and habitats.
- (A3.12) Amenity has no place when considering waterway health. This is not an area in which "balance" is appropriate and wording for this should be "Review current water extraction and diversion practices, including use of dams and bores, in light of inadequate environmental flows due to reduced rain fall and climate change impacts".
- It makes environmental sense to extend and improve the Green Wedge ESOs and the GWMP must say that is the intent of the 'review' (A3.2)
- 2017-2050, which provides the desired planning outcomes for Green Wedges and peri-urban areas, has the directive to "Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species, and achieve a Net Gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation." This draft plan does not provide sufficient emphasis on biodiversity

- Waterways, particularly Nillumbik rivers and creeks that feed the Yarra, must have water. It is not a balance; it is a priority (A3.12)
- The GWMP should undertake a massive public education campaign about biodiversity, ecosystem services, natural landscapes, the Green Wedge, climate change and their interdependences

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

This section must clearly focus on overall environmental protection. Economic activities must be assessed and altered in response to latest science and the urgent need for environmental protections. This must be reflected in the title of the Goal, the Actions, and throughout the plan, for example, 'A prosperous **eco-friendly Green Wedge** economy'.

- Support for local agriculture is important but must always provide for the continuing health of the environment. New systems that respect and promote regenerative farming, Indigenous knowledge, and value indigenous flora and fauna must be encouraged.
- The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail – much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration, it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure that any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents can be adequately informed about plans for neighbouring properties, for example a piggery that may be being proposed next door.
- This draft must mention the fact that tourism developments in the Green Wedge need to be "in conjunction" with agricultural uses, as stated in Section 55 of the planning scheme. This clause of the planning scheme decreases the likelihood of inappropriate development.
- Horses and other hard-hoofed animals have a negative impact on the environment – none of Australia's native animals have hard hooves. Impacts on habitats include erosion, water quality degradation, damage to flora, and spreading of weeds. Actions must be implemented to prevent these impacts. These must include education of the equine sector and other graziers. There needs to be greater understanding and responsible ownership of animals, ensuring that animals do not enter waterways and are not allowed to graze in the bush. This focus on environmental care must also be reflected in the proposed Nillumbik Equine Strategy.
- Change the goal to: "A prosperous **Green Wedge** economy"
The goal was designed for the whole of Nillumbik in the Council Plan, so that the wording throughout this section is very general and needs to be re-focused to what is specific to the GW in terms of environmental context and eco-friendly economic activities.
- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- Economic activities must have a net positive impact on the Green Wedge natural environment.

- Economic activities in the Green Wedge must be compatible with the Vision of the GWMP: “to enhance the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Shire.”
- Rather than the GW environment being an afterthought, this plan should learn from the first GWMP: “*The GWMP supports economic activity suited to the Green Wedge: activity that does not have a negative impact on its environmental values and characteristic landscapes. This is in accordance with the Council Plan 2009–2013 and Melbourne 2030.*”

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

This draft plan suggests the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) is too restrictive of farming practices and this zoning should only be applied to land with higher conservation values. This suggestion puts at serious risk flora and fauna across a significant proportion of the Shire, whether as single trees in paddocks or scattered pockets of remnant bush. These are all vital and in need of greater care and protection, not less.

- This Goal in its entirety must place much greater emphasis on the need to ‘Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.’ (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050).
- Key Action A5.6 and A5.7 [page 40 of the draft] propose changes to how land within the Green Wedge can be used. This has the potential to erode the values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundary. The UGB must be treated as a hard boundary.
- The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play; that we can be part of the solution, acting locally to address global problems.
- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to ‘*Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.*’ (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- This Goal title, “Responsible leadership’ is taken from the Council Plan that covers the whole shire, to take these Goal names and apply them to GWMP, for one part of the shire, makes no sense.
- Council first says it will work with ‘both sides’, but it should first reference the science and government policy on the values and threats to agriculture and the environment and the ideal way that they can coexist for the betterment of both.
- Nillumbik leaders should explain that “the right to farm” comes with an obligation on the owner to not degrade the land during his/her brief period of stewardship. Stewardship simply means that after an owner’s (brief) tenure, the land and its’ waterways will be passed on in a better state. For agricultural land, this means with soil erosion and pest invasion controlled; for bush properties, biodiversity has been improved. Nillumbik Landcare Network have produced a document on the Culture of Community Custodianship of Land which explains this concept.
- Council should call on advice of experts in related fields and the requirements of relevant state policies such as Practice Note 31 and the recent DELWP report on Protecting Melbourne’s strategic agricultural land.

- Responsible Leadership would have a separate section dealing with climate change mitigation in accordance with the precautionary principle.
- The UGB is a hard boundary and should be kept that way. A5.7 may lead to a push for a buffer zone on the rural side of the UGB. **This should be rejected.**
- The Victorian Green Wedge Planning Zones are aimed at conserving the natural environment of the Green Wedge and this GWMP draft should be supporting the zones, not trying to undermine the RCZ and its' conservation responsibilities as this draft does. (A5.6 and A5.7)
- In the event of polarised views coming from landowners and stewards, 'responsible' Council Leadership would have listed and described the landowners' frustrations. Eg: A list of practices beneficial to farming that it is claimed to have been thwarted by the current zoning. This would enable some appreciation by others, of Council's GWMP main plan change.

Other Comments

- The strongest message from the initial community consultation and the GWMP Panel Report is that Nillumbik residents and the population of wider Melbourne cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it to be maintained, protected and reinvigorated. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this.
- There is a worrying lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shire's biodiversity in all its' forms and varying quality. Clearly defined actions need to be included which will address this problem to ensure the long-term health of the Green Wedge.
- Declines in biodiversity are at critical levels, and there is urgent need for action by all levels of government and society. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) states that, "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global".
- The impact of invasive species – flora and fauna – is significant and this must be better addressed.
- The Green Wedge Management Plan must reaffirm the Shire's conservation role.
- The draft speaks of polarised and diverse views and how conversations must be respectful and robust. It is vital that this is the case, and is supported by current science, particularly in relation to the need for environmental repair and preservation. It is necessary that we uphold the highest of professional standards throughout the Shire and its' Leadership.
- The vast majority of the stated objectives and key actions are applicable to a well thought out plan for any 'rural municipality'. Whilst they are obviously required for Nillumbik's rural areas, they do not specifically relate to the special aspects associated with the GW. The mixing of the 'general rural' and 'specific GW' issues makes the GWMP draft complex and confused. It could be interpreted the GW is being blamed for many problems that are common to most rural communities.

- The last GWMP had positive Environment Strategies that have disappeared from this Council plan and should be reinstated:

Environment Strategies from the previous 2010-2025 GWMP (for reference/use)

1. Identify and manage biodiversity at a landscape scale for conservation.
2. Support the participation of rural landholders and communities in conserving biodiversity.
3. Discourage further rural residential development of undersized allotments in the Green Wedge.
4. Pursue the protection and restoration of significant sites and wildlife corridors.
5. Ensure land use and development is addressed in the context of its' potential effect on the wider catchment.
6. Conserve biodiversity by implementing sustainable land use planning and encouraging sustainable land management.
7. Minimise the impact of pest plants and animals.
8. Identify, document and protect the character of the diverse landscapes of the Green Wedge.
9. Adopt best practice on a local basis to address climate change.

I request that Council considers these issues and revises the Draft GWMP to include appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its' biodiversity in the Green Wedge.

Regards,

Sue Grad
President
Bend Of Islands Conservation Association (BICA)



From: [Jade](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: GWMP - Submission Jade Gedye
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 1:30:21 PM
Attachments: [Jade Gedye Green Wedge Management Plan - June 2019.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached my submission for the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

Regards,

Jade Gedye



9/8/2019

Attn: GWMP Project Team

PO Box 476

Greensborough VIC 3088

DRAFT – GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN, JUNE 2019

I would like to ensure that the Green Wedge Management Plan provides a clear policy to facilitate fair and reasonable consideration of all rural planning applications based on merit not land lot size.

I participated in the June workshop in 2018 where we were able to provide our thoughts and experiences about the Green Wedge. One of my suggestions to Council was that there should be clearer planning guidelines provided to owners of RCZ properties of whether a home could be built on a title of land.

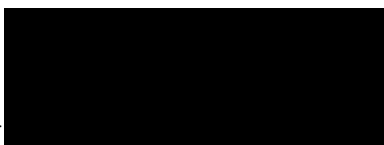
It is important for Council to always consider the value of the land to the landowners within the municipality and assist owners in protecting their asset (Instead of trying to implement encumbrances like amendment C101 & C81 which if imposed would have devalued land affected by these overlays).

More consideration should be made regarding the agricultural ability of the land. Clear guidelines could be implemented to allow residents to buy and sell land with more certainty about the possibility of building a home.

I believe it is important for Council to consider within the GWMP a review of land anomalies within the Nillumbik Shire to ensure current zoning is fit for purpose, and if not, amend incorrect zoning. This will only benefit the ageing population of the Shire by opening more land to provide facilities to the community.

Upon implementation of the GWMP June 2019 I would like Council to report annually against targets and expectations and make this information available to the public so that we can track the progress of the plan.

Regards,



Jade Gedye



From: [Jake](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: GWMP - Submission Jake Gedye
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 1:29:09 PM
Attachments: [Jake Gedye Green Wedge Management Plan - June 2019.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached my submission for the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

Regards,

Jake Gedye



9/8/2019

Attn: GWMP Project Team

PO Box 476

Greensborough VIC 3088

Draft – Green Wedge Management Plan, June 2019

I would like to ensure that the Green Wedge Management Plan considers landowners rights to manage their land within the Green Wedge.

As a resident of Nillumbik I have a high regard for the natural environment and the rural lifestyle that the landscape provides, and I invest in its management. There is a strong state planning policy framework that applies to rural living, which can be hard to navigate. As a rate payer I would appreciate it if Nillumbik council implements less costly & less time-consuming planning regimes.

More importantly as climate change will challenge the community with frequent and intense weather events in particular heatwaves and bushfires, Council should facilitate bushfire prevention by special exemptions from planning regime for landowners to be able to clean up their land easily and allow for management to reduce fuel load on land.

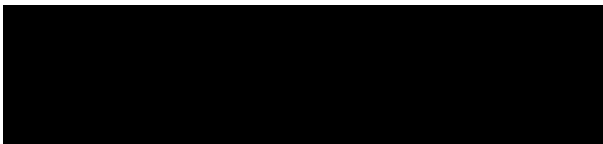
I participated in the June workshop in 2018 where we were able to provide our thoughts and experiences about the Green Wedge. My major concern has always been in regard to the management of risk from bushfire.

I supported the Nillumbik PALS group which pushed for the abandonment of C81 & C101 planning regime. At the time it was very concerning that Council would attempt to impose requirements for planning permits on landowners if they wanted to conduct many routine activities on private land such as keeping the land free of fallen vegetation debris. This limitation for removal of vegetation would create dramatic and dangerous increase in bushfire fuel loads with rise in risk to life and property. I would like to ensure that Nillumbik council will never try to introduce any Planning Scheme Amendments which remotely resemble C81 & C101 again!

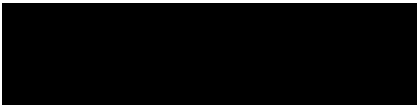
I believe that Council should ensure residents have a post disaster right to rebuild free of planning regime restrictions. As referenced in the Draft GWMP; *'A particular issue of concern for rural residents is having the ability to rebuild their home if it has been lost to fire or other disasters. Under the planning scheme, this will require a planning permit for development. Council supports the premise that people should be able to rebuild, but the planning and building controls are in place so that the design and siting of replacement buildings reduce future risks to the occupants, not repeat them. This may mean that another location on the property is a better option to address fire risk'*.

This statement regarding the right to re-build should be re-considered by council regarding imposing planning and building controls upon Residents in post disaster situations. Consideration to their pre-existing home and its character should always been taken into consideration.

Regards,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Jake Gedye

A black rectangular redaction box covering contact information.

From: [John](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: GWMP - Submission John Gedye
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 1:28:19 PM
Attachments: [John Gedye Green Wedge Management Plan - June 2019.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached my submission for the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

Regards,

John Gedye



9/8/2019

Attn: GWMP Project Team

PO Box 476

Greensborough VIC 3088

Draft – Green Wedge Management Plan, June 2019

I would like to ensure that the Green Wedge Management Plan considers the growth of the community. I understand that council will regularly review the Green Wedge Management Plan to identify a vision, objectives and actions for the sustainable use and development of each green wedge.

I participated in the June workshop in 2018 where we were able to provide our thoughts and experiences about the Green Wedge. After participating in the workshop it is clear to me as stated in the Draft GWMP that *'the community of Nillumbik has to manage the external demands of a rapidly growing population in the adjacent northern growth area'*.

Also as listed in the GWMP under Rural living *'The broader social considerations relevant to rural living also need to be better addressed. This includes how we house our ageing population and better enable people to age in the community where they have lived for many years – the ability to move into appropriate accommodation within the local area to remain close to family, friends and established community networks. Rural living also provides challenges about how we continue to service and support rural communities, including transport and accessibility and the provision of community facilities'*.

The land that I own is positioned directly opposite the Wattle Glen train station and would be the perfect position to provide local facilities to Wattle Glen and act as focal points for community activities (As Wattle Glen currently does not have these facilities).

As listed under Transport and accessibility the Draft GWMP states; *'The rural community experiences challenges of access and mobility, particularly for isolated children, young and elderly people. Accessibility can have a range of health and wellbeing impacts, including access to employment or how socially connected people are'*.

We met with Geoff Lawler in 2017 to discuss the potential of our land and what we may offer not only the residents of Wattle Glen, but the wider community. We are open to the possibility of providing facilities to Wattle Glen to create a township and assist in growth by implementing facilities such as aged care and or shops adjacent to the Wattle Glen railway station.

As noted in the GWMP under Appendix 1, **'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas. Population, settlements and local infrastructure. Plan and manage sustainable urban growth that is concentrated in and around major towns within**

Melbourne's peri-urban area so as to provide employment, infrastructure, services and community facilities to new and established urban areas in an equitable manner. Manage the growth and sustainable development of green wedge townships and settlements, having regard for their distinct character and environmental and servicing constraints'.

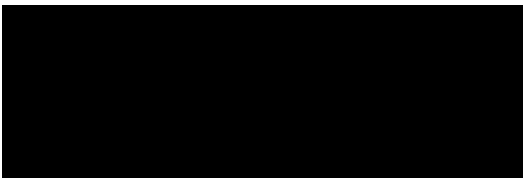
We are of the belief that if our land could be subdivided further it would help with the demand for accessible & affordable housing. We have all services available to our property including sewer which was implemented in readiness for further housing as our land was previously zoned for higher density than it allows today.

Nillumbik Council has previously produced an extensive report referencing our land titled 'Wattle Glen Township Strategy Sustainable Futures' in which it recognises that there is no identified environmental significance to our land and supports future residential development located close to the railway station in order to create a more defined township edge.

Our land is currently on the edge of the Urban Grown Boundary and fringed by residential property zoned NRZ7. We understand the limitations presented by being outside of the UBG although we see the potential for our land to be rezoned in order to provided facilities to the community due to it being positioned immediately opposite transport infrastructure.

We would appreciate if our land could be considered in the review of the Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan as we would be receptive to possible ideas council has in proceeding further with our plans for the property.

Regards,



John Gedye



From: [Barbara Joyce](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Green Wedge management Plan
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 1:26:10 PM
Attachments: [Submission on the Green Wedge Management Plan draft 2019.docx](#)

Please find attached my submission on the Green Wedge Management Plan 2019
Barbara Joyce

Submission on the Green Wedge Management Plan draft 2019

Barbara Joyce



1. The Green Wedge is NOT just about people and any Plan must reflect this. Innumerable international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities are to protect our biodiversity and address climate change. The name **Green** wedge clearly shows that the natural environment is the cherished focus defining this wedge.
2. The Draft does not reflect the community's views and desires [as expressed via the community consultation process and via the Panel process]. For such a strong voice to be ignored to such a degree erodes the community's confidence in Council and other authorities, and demonstrates a lack of good governance.
3. The Draft is confusing and difficult to read and does not give enough clarity about what its intentions are, key actions, and how Council will ensure these occur in a timely manner.
4. The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.
5. Climate change must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, NOT just adaptation.
6. Green Wedges are vital. They cool our city and are known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. The Draft does not reflect this fact.
7. Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation if this is to be turned around. The Draft does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: DGAP landowners - Green Wedge Management Plan submission
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 11:58:08 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[DGAP_GWMP_Submission_09_08_2019_\(Final\).pdf](#)

Hello [REDACTED],

Dominion Property Group (DPG) act on behalf of the Doreen Growth Area Precinct (DGAP) landowners group.

In response to Councils request for community feedback on the draft Green Wedge Management Plan, please find attached our submission on behalf of DGAP.

We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss our submission.

Regards,

Dale Young

Principal Planner

Dominion Property Group Pty Ltd

Scottish House

Level 4, 90 William Street, Melbourne Vic 3000

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

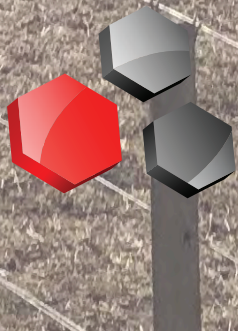
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Submission to:

*Nillumbik Shire's Draft Green
Wedge Management Plan Review*

Doreen Growth Area Precinct Landowners

9 August 2019



Dominion Property Group



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Executive Summary

This submission has been prepared to provide feedback to the Nillumbik Shire Council on the draft Green Wedge Management Plan in respect to a group of landowners collectively known as the Doreen Growth Area Precinct (DGAP).

This submission confirms that land in the DGAP is unviable and uneconomic for agricultural land uses due to the highly constrained productive capacity of the land and the significant urban / rural land use conflict that exists in this area.

Additionally, our submission outlines the DGAP landholdings present Council with an opportunity for urban development in the precinct whilst delivering green wedge management principles on its eastern interface.

Our submission confirms:

- That the DGAP landholdings present an opportunity for an urban development outcome which will assist Council to better manage the green wedge interface with and amended UGB and the Doreen growth corridor;
- That the use and development of the DGAP for ongoing agricultural activities is not sustainable; and
- The natural constraints to intensive agriculture mean the site does not meet the criteria for “strategic agricultural land”.



1. Introduction

This submission has been prepared on behalf of the DGAP landholders in response to Nillumbik Shire Councils request for feedback on their draft Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) released in June 2019. We understand the draft GWMP is a strategic Council document that *“will inform future versions of the Council Plan, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and Municipal Strategic Statement. Its objectives will also inform key shire-wide strategies such as those relating to economic development, housing, agriculture, positive ageing, bushfire mitigation, arts and culture, biodiversity, climate change adaptation and recreation”*.

The DGAP landholdings are located in the Green Wedge Zone (GWZ) and Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) which immediately abut the Doreen growth corridor and Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). The DGAP landholdings are significant and contain approximately 200 hectares (ha) across seven (7) landholders which are bounded by Yan Yean Road, Chapel Lane, Middle Hut Road and Doctors Gully Road.

Noting the opportunity to make submissions, Dominion Property Group Pty Ltd (DPG) has been approached by the DGAP landowners on the basis that:

- The land in question is located within the Nillumbik green wedge but proximate to the UGB;
- The land contains and is adjacent to major growth area infrastructure including urban services and proposed major road upgrades; and
- The productive use of the land is currently restricted to agricultural purposes which are considered unviable due to the productive capability of the land in this location.

The DGAP landowners have also undertaken Agricultural Land Assessments for their individual properties which confirmed:

- That the use and development of land within the DGAP for ongoing agricultural activities is not sustainable; and
- The natural constraints to intensive agriculture mean the site does not meet the criteria for “strategic agricultural land”.

Further, our submission outlines that the DGAP landholdings present an opportunity for Council to facilitate urban development in this area which better manages the urban interface with the Doreen growth corridor, whilst delivering green wedge management principles on its eastern interface.

2. Subject Land & Surrounds

2.1 Physical Location

The DGAP landholdings consist of seven landowners/ land parcels in Doreen located approximately 35 kilometers to the north of the Melbourne CBD. The DGAP landholdings contain an approximate area of approximately 200 hectares (ha).

The following Cadastre Plan confirms the boundaries of the DGAP landholdings.

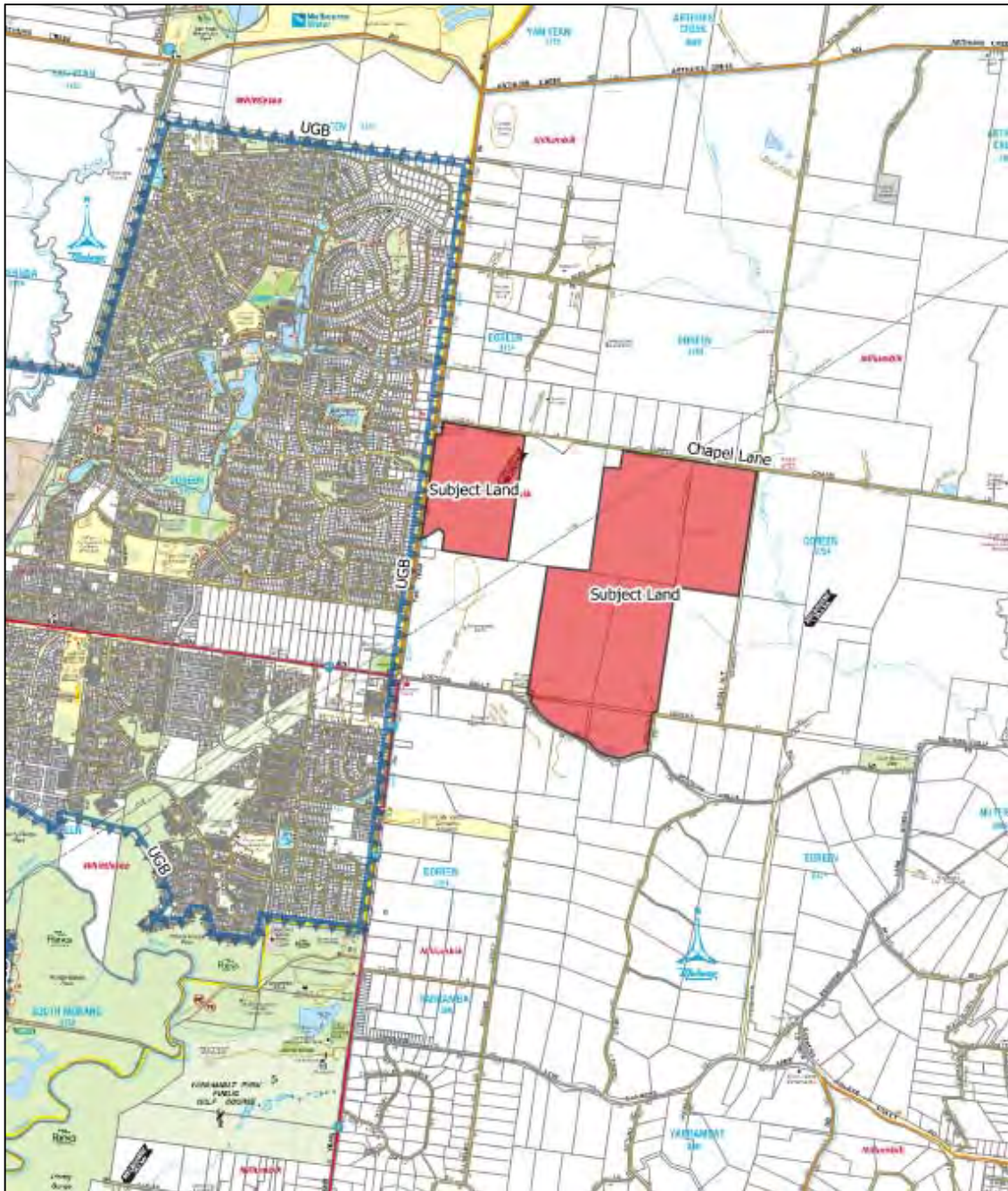


Figure 1: Cadastre Plan

2.2 Existing and Surrounding Land Uses

Existing Land Uses

Land in the DGAP is bounded by Yan Yean Road, Doctors Gully Road, Middle Hut Road and Chapel Lane and consists of large non-fragmented individually owned lots of between 30-40 ha which are generally used for agricultural, lifestyle and hobby farm purposes. The Doreen Primary School, which is located on Doctors Gully Road, is the only non-rural land use located in this area.

Surrounding Land Uses

The DGAP land is located within a broader area known as the Doreen growth corridor with high density urban residential development located immediately to the west. Yan Yean Reservoir is located approximately 3.5 kms to the north and the settlements of Hurstbridge, Cottles Bridge and St Andrews are located to the east and south-east.

Yan Yean Road is a local arterial road (Road Zone, Category 2) which transitions to a VicRoads arterial road (Road Zone, Category 1) at the intersection of Doctors Gully Road and Bridge Inn Road (also a Road Zone, Category 1). In turn Bridge Inn Road connects with Plenty Road, the major north-south arterial road in this region.

The adjacent Doreen growth corridor has significantly developed over the last 15 years and lot supply is currently nearing exhaustion which we note presents potential for new redevelopment opportunities to be explored, in particular in the DGAP.

The following photographs document the DGAP from various locations.



Photo 1: Looking south-west towards Doctors Gully Road from the farm dwelling at [REDACTED]



Photo 2: Looking north-west from [REDACTED] towards Chapel Lane (beyond ridgeline).



Photo 3: Looking east towards Brocks Road from [REDACTED].



Photo 4: Hi-voltage transmission lines and towers which bisect the property at [REDACTED].



Photo 5: Taken from [REDACTED] Yan Yean Road showing the lack of transitional zoning between urban and rural land uses.



Photo 6: Dumped rubbish on roadsides creates additional pressures for green wedge farmers. This photo is taken on Chapel Lane approximately 400-500 metres from the site at [REDACTED].



Photos 7 – 10: Photos taken along Doctors Gully Road and Brocks Road showing urban litter on roadsides (note: plastics blowing onto properties on a regular basis creates significant danger to livestock through potential ingestion).

2.3 Planning Scheme Controls

The subject site is located within the Nillumbik Shire Council and in-turn the following zone and overlay controls apply:

- Green Wedge Zone (GWZ);
- Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ); and
- Environmental Significance Overlay, Schedule 1 (ESO1), 'Sites Of Faunal Habitat Significance'.

Figure 2 below depicts these zoning and overlay controls.

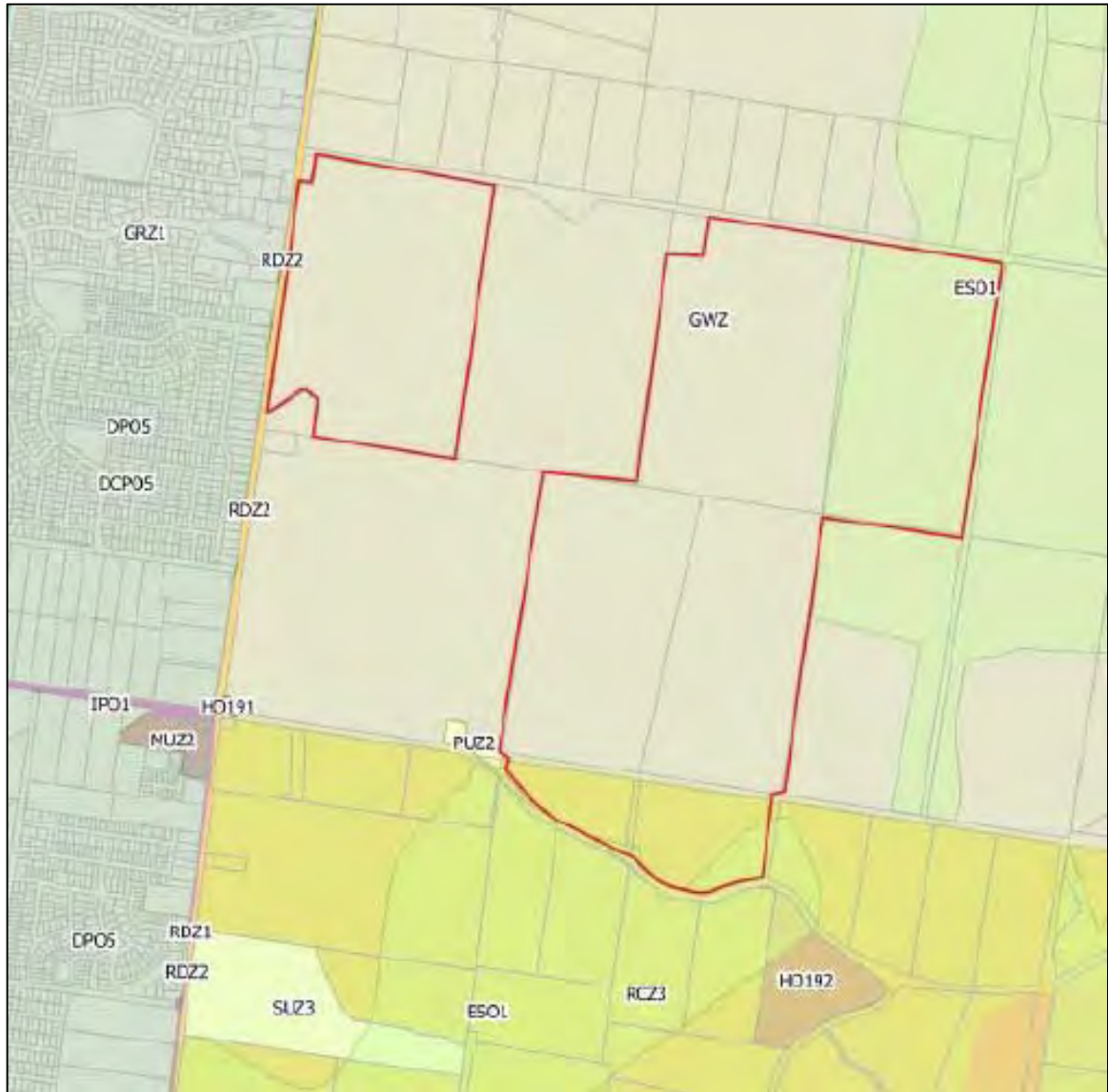


Figure 2: Zoning Map

3. Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

We recognise the importance of protecting Melbourne's Green Wedge land and consider that a significant challenge for managing agricultural land in Nillumbik Shire's green wedge areas, and around Melbourne's urban fringe, is that farmers trying to undertake legitimate and viable agricultural activities experience significant disruption from urban population pressures. These pressures exist as physical population pressures and also economic pressures that make the viability of agricultural activities in proximity to high-density urban growth areas (i.e. the UGB) unworkable.

We provide further detail on direct pressures experienced by DGAP landowners below in Section 4.

Councils draft GWMP acknowledges the issues of population pressure from metropolitan Melbourne and the challenge of managing the rural / urban interface adjacent to the UGB. We provide the following extracts from Councils draft GWMP that expressly highlight these concerns:

- *'Nillumbik is undergoing limited population growth; growing annually by only 0.4 per cent compared to an average 2.4 per cent growth rate across metropolitan Melbourne. It is however, experiencing the impacts of proximity to population growth in the adjacent northern growth corridor, particularly in relation to demands on community infrastructure and the transport network;*
- *The Nillumbik economy continues to transition from a traditional rural and gold mining past into one that is heavily influenced by proximity to metropolitan Melbourne;*
- *Council has identified that a new housing strategy is required for the whole of the Shire. The development of a small number of related key Council strategies, including economic development and community infrastructure, will combine to inform an integrated approach toward settlement planning;*
- *Further examination is warranted to determine whether the current application of zones to private land hinders any of the objectives of this plan, particularly in relation to the promotion of agriculture and tourism, the consolidation of population around townships and the management of the rural areas on the fringe of the urban growth boundary; and*
- *The Victorian Government is currently reviewing the impact of planning controls on strategic agriculture in Melbourne's green wedge and peri-urban areas'.*

With regard to the last point we note that DELWP are currently undertaking a review of all Strategic Agricultural Land (SAL) within 100 kms of Melbourne as part of their "Protecting Melbourne's strategic agricultural land process", which includes all of Nillumbik Shire and the DGAP landholdings. We note that all DGAP landowners have lodged submissions to this process, including having undertaken individual Agricultural Land Assessments of their landholdings.

Councils draft GWMP acknowledges population and urban interface pressures as key issues in the northern growth corridor. What is not recognised is the potential to leverage off the proximity to growth area infrastructure this interface provides to achieve beneficial outcomes for Nillumbik Shire.

In particular for the Doreen growth corridor, the DGAP landholdings east of Yan Yean Road offer a **logical inclusion** to leverage the locational advantage this urban interface provides, including the opportunity to assist Nillumbik Shire in graduating from urban to rural densities at the interface with an amended UGB.

With this in mind, the sections below further expand upon the agricultural and urban interface conflict experienced by DGAP landowners. The benefits that a graduated zoning transition may provide to better manage the green wedge interface further to the east is also outlined.

4. DGAP Landholdings – Key Issues

The following key issues for the DGAP landholdings are discussed in further detail below:

- Agricultural Viability;
- Natural Constraints;
- Land Capability;
- Urban Interface;
- Economic Pressures;
- Land Use Restrictions; and
- Infrastructure and Servicing.

Agricultural Viability

As part of the DELWP's Strategic Agricultural Land (SAL) submissions process, DGAP landowners undertook individual Agricultural Land Assessments (ALA's), which included an assessment of land capability for their properties. As part of the ALA's, DGAP landowners identified to the agricultural consultant their primary land uses and highlighted the significant constraints they experienced from the adjacent urban population in undertaking their rural pursuits.

These constraints included, but are not limited to:

- Trespassing;
 - People trespassing onto properties to collect mushrooms, catch rabbits and yabbies';
 - People trespassing onto properties into areas where cattle and horses are grazing. Trespassers disturb stock and sometimes leave gates open;
- Illegal shooting – there have been instances of shooters entering properties to shoot rabbits and kangaroos;
- Rubbish dumping is a problem. It is not only unsightly but is putting livestock at risk. Animal deaths or injury could occur if cattle ingest toxic plant cuttings or other poisons;
- Increasing urban populations have little understanding of agriculture which creates constant hazards and nuisance;
- Weed Management;
 - Windblown soil from nearby urban development increases the spread of weeds on agricultural properties which is costly to manage and eradicate;
 - Many properties contain uncontrolled weeds, which are spreading. As time progresses fewer property owners have land management experience and as a consequence pest and weed control and fencing maintenance are neglected, creating problems for neighbouring farms;
- Biosecurity – all livestock need to be fully traceable to allow a fast and efficient response to disease outbreaks or food safety incidents along the supply chain, including on and off farm. In practice this requires farmers to know who is on their property and potentially in contact with their cattle. This is very difficult as it is not possible to control trespassers;
- Animal security and safety is a major and increasing issue; and
- Stock are at greater risk of theft or interference as the urban population grows.

The issues raised above clearly occur due to the ungraduated nature of the urban / rural interface that is experienced in immediate proximity to the northern growth corridor, in particular the eastern and western sides of Yan Yean Road.

Natural Constraints

Further to the above, the ALA's completed for individual properties provided an assessment of climatic conditions and natural constraints applying to the individual properties and the surrounding area.

From a precinct wide perspective, and regarding agricultural viability, the following conclusions were drawn about climatic and soil conditions:

- *“According to data on the Bureau of Meteorology website, climate uncertainty has increased since at least 1990 and the drying trend in climate has had a material effect on the capability of the land to produce;*
- *Since 1990 annual rainfall in SE Australia has been below average 21 years of 28 years and Autumn breaks have been more uncertain with 24 years of Autumn seasons being below average;*
- *During the previous 30 years from 1960 below average annual rainfall occurred in only 13 years and below average Autumn seasons occurred in 18 years;*
- *Due to lower rainfall the soils are not producing the pasture production that agronomic inputs should provide. Low rainfall together with changing weather patterns is making cattle production a huge challenge both physically and economically;*
- *The low land capability and agricultural versatility of this land restricts it to extensive agricultural enterprises. It is unsuited to alternative higher value farming enterprises;*
- *The results for both Agriculture Victoria's land capability assessment and the Deakin University's agricultural suitability assessment are consistent. Both assessments indicate low land capability and land suitability for this land under both current and future climate conditions;*
- *The combined soil, water, landscape and climate features of the Doreen area were not assessed as possessing the most suitable conditions and greatest versatility for future productive agriculture in the Green Wedge;*
- *The land has major natural constraints that limit its present and future versatility to support a wider range of commodities other than those produced in broad acre agriculture; and*
- *Climate is a key element in land capability and suitability assessment and under a hotter and drier climate land with low agricultural capability and suitability agricultural production and economics will be severely tested as its capability becomes even more limiting”.*

Land Capability

The ALA's for individual DGAP landowners returned almost identical results regarding land capability. The land capability class on all properties was classified as either Class 4 or Class 5 land, the lowest two land classifications available on a scale of 1-5. Key reasons identified for poor land capability classification included:

- Poor quality and shallow soil types;
- Erosion risk;
- Climatic conditions (referenced above); and

- Steepness greater than 10% for some areas.

The land capability classification as Class 4 and 5 land means that by definition (according to DELWP's "Protecting Melbourne's strategic agricultural land" assessment process) this land is not considered "Strategic Agricultural Land".

Urban Interface

The DGAP landholdings bounded by Yan Yean Road, Chapel Lane, Middle Hut Road and Doctors Gully Road are subject to urban constraints which heavily restrict farming and agricultural pursuits.

The DGAP land has been rendered unworkable for productive farming and agricultural pursuits and therefore land use change within the precinct is likely to follow as a result of the need to identify future urban growth areas which are proximate to urban infrastructure and services.

The potential exists for the rezoning and redevelopment of the DGAP land to better protect green wedge land further east by implementing a zoning regime that graduates densities and creates an appropriate transition between urban to rural areas.

ALA's have been undertaken for individual DGAP properties and have collectively made the following statements about the viability of farming near the UGB, including:

- Farming near the UGB clearly has enormous challenges, most of which cannot be resolved under the current planning zone conditions;
- Given the constraints due to urbanisation, inability to expand the property due to high land prices, the low agricultural capability and versatility of the land and the warming and drying climate it is reasonable to conclude that farming in this area is totally compromised for long term commercial agricultural production;
- A reasonable alternative zoning could allow for subdivision of farms in the Green Wedge to acceptable minimum lot sizes and farmers who wish to leave farming in the Green Wedge would then be able to fairly realise on their land asset;
- Residential development, particularly rural living causes land use conflicts between urban and rural. Normal farm practices that may involve dust, noise and odour are a cause for complaint from the urban population;
- The incidence in dumping of rubbish, theft and dog attacks on livestock, cause inconvenience and cost to land holders;
- The DGAP properties lie within the Green Wedge Zone and Rural Conservation Zone where the current planning controls do not effectively protect and support commercial farming; and
- The Green Wedge Zone and Rural Conservation Zone are mixed-use zones which encourage uses incompatible with farming systems based on the management of natural resources.

Further to the above, we highlight the significant urban population on western side of Yan Yean Road creates an amenity conflict between urban and non-urban land as the zoning boundary between urban and rural/ agricultural land uses is ungraduated. This makes daily activities, including the movement of stock and machinery on and between agricultural properties east of Yan Yean road challenging and conflicted from viable economic pursuit.

Economic Pressures

Economic pressures outlined by the Agricultural Land Assessments included the following:

- *"The present size of most farms in the Green Wedge, is now too small to produce sufficient income from grazing to support a farm family. Due to the reduced terms of trade over the last few decades the family farm size has increased to 1200 – 2000 hectares. As a consequence*

there are very few farmers in the Green Wedge in the Shire of Nillumbik who survive without off farm income (i.e. two or more jobs). This statement was validated by DGAP landowners who supplement their income with off-farm employment;

- *Land prices in Melbourne's peri-urban fringe no longer reflect agricultural land values, but more on rural lifestyle values and land banking. This makes it impossible to expand the area of a farm business locally; and*
- *Council rates based on valuation bear no relationship to returns from farming."*

Land Use Restrictions

The restrictive nature of the GWZ and RCZ that apply to DGAP landholdings, and Councils unwillingness to approve planning permit applications for discretionary uses and development that would generate viable income streams for landowners in these zones, further adds to the unprofitability of this land.

Examples identified by DGAP landowners of land uses that are either un-permissible under the present zoning, or not considered suitable by Council, include; function centre, gymnasium, rural industry and tourism and related uses.

We conclude this leaves landowners with little viable options for their land as agricultural pursuits are uneconomic and more urban or commercial related uses are mostly prohibited or are unwilling to be considered for approval by Council.

4.1 Infrastructure and Servicing

Road and Rail

Bridge Inn Road and Yan Yean Road are the two arterial roads that service the eastern side of the Doreen growth corridor. Chapel Lane is accessed off Yan Yean Road and the extension (and future duplication) of Bridge Inn Road provides access to Doctors Gully Road beyond the intersection with Yan Yean Road.

The Mernda railway station is located on Bridge Inn Road approximately 3.3 km from the of the DGAP and provides direct public transport access to the Melbourne CBD.

Road Duplications:

The Stage 1 upgrade of Yan Yean Road is currently underway to the south between Diamond Creek Road and Kurrak Road. Works are anticipated to be complete this year and Stage 2 upgrades between Diamond Creek Road and Bridge Inn Road are currently going through a planning and environmental approvals process with work to commence in the coming years.

Additionally, Bridge Inn Road is proposed to be upgraded as part of the Suburban Roads Upgrade package of projects and it is currently in the planning phase.

These projects will duplicate both roads in the coming years to accommodate significant additional traffic volumes for the urban population of the Doreen growth corridor. It is considered these upgrades allowing for additional carrying capacity on these roads will consolidate this area as being heavily urbanised.

Doreen Primary School

The Doreen Primary School is located on Doctors Gully Road on the southern boundary of the DGAP. The school has existed for more than 150 years and is itself experiencing population pressures from the significant urban population located immediately to the west. Between 2010 and 2017, the enrolled student population of Doreen Primary School has increased by more than 300% from 50 to

155 students.

The location of this existing primary school at the southern edge of the DGAP is considered a substantial benefit to potential future rezoning and redevelopment opportunities for this area.

Service Infrastructure

In addition to nearby road and rail infrastructure, we emphasise the significant number of urban infrastructure services that are available to the DGAP landholdings, specifically:

- Reticulated water is available to the precinct;
- Reticulated sewer is located along Yan Yean Road and is easily accessible to the precinct;
- Gas pipeline infrastructure bisects several properties within the precinct;
- Several telecommunication towers are located at the topographic highpoint closest to Chapel Lane and Yan Yean Road;
- A high-voltage electricity transmission lines and easement bisects several DGAP properties running from the south-west to north-east through the precinct.

Due to its location proximate to a major growth corridor, the DGAP landholdings have full access to urban infrastructure services. From an agricultural perspective the pipelines and easements that apply to the land represent a significant encumbrance to the agricultural viability of the individual properties in the precinct. However, from a development perspective, the accessibility to these services is considered a major positive for the precinct and highlights the opportunity for this land to be considered as a logical urban infill opportunity.

Commercial Development

A newly developing mixed use precinct is located adjacent to the south-western corner of the DGAP at the intersection of Yan Yean and Bridge Inn Roads. Whilst not fully developed this mixed-use precinct already offers the following services:

- Service station;
- Car wash;
- Multiple convenience restaurants including; McDonald's, KFC, Pizza, Pie Face, Doreen Noodle Bar and Captains Cove fish and chips; and
- A Bridgestone tire service centre.

An early learning centre and Plenty Valley Christian College are located a short distance to the south on Yan Yean Road. Additionally, the Doreen Major Activity Centre is located a short distance from the north-west corner of the DGAP accessed off Hazle Glen Drive.

From a precinct perspective we conclude that whilst this land is zoned GWZ and RCZ, its accessibility to urban services is equal to those of landowners who live within the Doreen growth corridor.

Municipal Boundaries

Councils draft GWMP highlights the urban / rural conflict that exists along the UGB and we consider the interface either side of Yan Yean Road the prime example of this conflict which has been poorly managed.

Yan Yean Road forms the municipal boundary between the Whittlesea and Nillumbik LGA's with the DGAP east of Yan Yean Road previously located within the City of Whittlesea prior to Local Government amalgamations in 1994. We consider that had local government boundaries not changed in this area that land on the eastern side of Yan Yean Road would likely now also be urbanised.

5. DGAP Proposal – A Logical Inclusion

Interface Issues

Councils draft GWMP highlights the problems associated with the rural / urban interface adjacent to the UGB and suggests management techniques to improve cohesion within green wedge areas. What is not contemplated by the draft GWMP is the opportunity to use discrete and graduated urban development techniques on the Nillumbik side of the UGB as a management tool to improve the interface with the growth area and Whittlesea Council municipal boundary.

Whittlesea presently reap all the benefits of urban development associated with the Doreen growth corridor and in contrast Nillumbik obtain no revenue or servicing benefit from this development and instead experiences significant urban pressures as a result.

An Integrated Urban Edge

As articulated above, the DGAP and other neighbouring properties are located within the Nillumbik LGA but are detrimentally impacted by the urban development of the Doreen growth corridor within the Whittlesea LGA.

Our vision for the DGAP is for a discrete urban precinct within Nillumbik to assist Council to achieve its GWMP objectives by enabling a better graduation of land use zones in this area to more appropriately manage the urban / rural interface with the Doreen growth corridor.

Key benefits of a discrete and graduated urban development in the DGAP include:

- A small number of landowners (seven) who are united in their vision to achieve a more beneficial use of unviable agricultural land in the DGAP precinct;
- In contrast to the fragmented rural landscape north of Chapel Lane, the DGAP precinct contains large regularly shaped allotments and a well-defined precinct surround by roads on all sides;
- Excellent availability of urban services and utility infrastructure;
- Proximity to the Mernda railway station, major existing roads including future duplications/ upgrades that allow for convenient accessibility;
- Immediate proximity to an existing primary school on the southern boundary and close proximity to a private school and early learning centre; and
- Immediate proximity to a developing mixed-use activity centre on the corner of Bridge Inn Road and Yan Yean Road.

As articulated above, the sites key weaknesses from an agricultural viability perspective are its key strengths with regard to its potential to accommodate future urban development. Additionally, this land can assist Nillumbik Shire to achieve its draft GWMP objectives by allowing for a graduation of the urban interface to green wedge areas further to the east.

Beneficial Outcomes

Additional benefits for Council from a discrete and well considered rezoning and development opportunity of this precinct include:

- An opportunity to stimulate population growth within the Shire, which at 0.4 per cent per annum is currently significantly lower than the 2.4 per cent on average for metropolitan Melbourne;
- Economic benefits for Council including an increase residential rate base with a minimal

increase to urban services due to the ability to leverage off existing urban services available in the Doreen growth corridor;

- Opportunity to capitalize on surplus infrastructure capacity in the Doreen growth corridor which is not presently fully utilised; and
- The urbanisation of this land through the development of a master plan which has inbuilt mechanisms to achieve urban outcomes whilst delivering green wedge management principles on its eastern interface.

6. Conclusion & Request

6.1 Conclusion

The DGAP bounded by Yan Yean Road, Chapel Lane, Middle Hut Road and Doctors Gully Road is in the Nillumbik green wedge and directly abuts the Doreen growth corridor and UGB. Consequently, the precinct is proximate to existing and proposed urban development and major growth area road upgrades inclusive of Yan Yean Road and Bridge Inn Road.

Noting the above, land in the DGAP is currently set aside for the purposes of “Green Wedge” activities which are predominantly agricultural in nature. Independent Agricultural Land Assessments undertaken for the properties indicates the land is unviable as agricultural land due to its limited productive capacity. We note the foregoing report confirms that *“Given the constraints due to urbanisation, inability to expand the property due to high land prices, the low agricultural capability and versatility of the land and the warming and drying climate it is reasonable to conclude that this farm is totally compromised for long term commercial agricultural production.”*

Our submission confirms:

- DGAP landholdings are not considered to be Strategic Agricultural Land (SAL);
- Agricultural land uses in the precinct are detrimentally impacted by their proximity to major urban populations;
- The site is proximate to arterial roads (including future upgrades to these roads) and major urban service infrastructure which lends this precinct as being suitable for future urban uses;
- The DGAP presents Council with an opportunity to strategically manage the interface with the UGB by utilizing urban development as a green wedge management tool to assist in graduating urban densities away from the UGB; and
- The DGAP presents Council with the opportunity to obtain economic benefit from an increased residential population in the Shire and maximise the advantages of significant existing urban infrastructure located in the adjacent Doreen growth corridor.

6.2 Request

Accordingly, we formally request that the current review of the draft GWMP being undertaken by Council confirm:

- DGAP landholdings are not “strategic agricultural land” and are unviable and uneconomic for continued use as agricultural land;
- Consider a review of the existing planning controls that apply to the DGAP based on the site’s proximity to the UGB and suitability for future urban development; and
- Consider the benefits that graduated urban development in this precinct can offer Nillumbik Council from an economic perspective and as a mechanism to better graduate urban densities and defend more strategic green wedge land further to the east.

From: [Nina Does Vegan](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Green wedge management plan
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 10:01:15 AM

To Nillumbik Council,

Please find below my input to the draft GWMP. I DO NOT SUPPORT the draft plan for the following reasons:

It should be recognised that animal agriculture should not be encouraged and certainly should not be allowed without a permit in RCZ or GWZ. This draft has all been about putting “people” into the plan but animals should also be protected from the eventuality of bushfire, drought and flood – they are sentient beings and should not be treated as expendable. Any resident homing farm animals should have to prove how they are going to protect their animals against the impact of climate change. Plant based agriculture is the future and we should be encouraging sustainable, environmentally friendly crop agriculture. Council's Draft GWMP needs to add protection for our animals and their environment and wellbeing.

Our plants and animals need to be protected on public and private land (as they do not now they difference). The 2019 Victorian State of the Environment Report - painted a bleak outlook for the State’s native plants and animals and asks that more private land needs to be conserved to address the two global crises of climate change and biodiversity extinction.

It should include actions that protect habitat for wildlife and connectivity, biodiversity and the interdependence of the eco system. Council's Draft is in denial that the natural environment continues to decline everywhere. In Nillumbik and globally.

Nina lenk

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Bigpond](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Fwd: Submission to councils draft GWMP
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 1:42:29 PM

>>>> Dear GWMP Council Team Submission to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan

>>>>

>>>> Wattle Glen is a great place to live with its small community and great natural environment. We worry that the Council's proposed GWMP is pushing for this to be changed because Wattle Glen is close to the Urban Growth Boundary and because the Council draft is not recognizing how much residents do not want our treed Green Wedge changed in the name of more development- whether that be more housing or through the lack of initiatives in the Council draft GWMP to protect and enhance our Green Wedge biodiversity.

>>>>

>>>> So, as the Wattle Glen Residents Association advocate, the GWMP should

>>>> 1. Not change any of the uses for Rural Conservation zoned land along the Urban Growth Boundary and around townships. The GWMP needs to properly discuss the values and needs of the environment, such as the importance of indigenous vegetation, habitat for wildlife and connectivity, biodiversity, ecosystem services, a systems view (that all is interdependent) the global biodiversity crisis, and climate change dynamics, the need to transform to an ecological sustainable society.

>>>>

>>>> 2. Councils Draft appears as a massive failure in anticipating climate change and biodiversity extinction- the "Green Wedge Shire", should have a GWMP that leads the way environmentally.

>>>>

>>>> Therefore, I submit that

>>>> Because Councils Draft advocates the undermining of the current Rural Conservation Zone, and totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, the Council Draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form.

>>>>

>>>> Yours sincerely

>>>> Bob Disher

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>

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>>>> Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Friday, 9 August 2019 9:09:48 AM

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

As an someone who has lived my whole life and raised my own family within Nillumbik, who works as an ecologist within the shire I would like to make it very clear I do not support the draft GWMP.

The proposed changes to the RCZ are most alarming and highlight the lack of understanding of the ecology within Nillumbik and the conservation significance that these properties may potentially have on them.

There are numerous scientific works that confirm that biodiversity, eco systems and many species are at critical and endangered levels (see the Governments IPBES report that states "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever... It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global." This is local Nillumbik's opportunity to recognise this and take brave action. This document does not have any brave actions, there is nothing it offers as leading the way. There is a lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shire's biodiversity in all its forms and varying quality. Clearly defined actions need to be included to address this problem and ensure the long-term health of the Green Wedge.

I feel and fear that there is nothing more important to address with our GWMP than climate change mitigation. The plan must inform all objectives and actions such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy. Throughout the draft, there is no mention of strong leadership in this regard. Because of that, I do not support the draft GWMP. The community as a whole must come together to ensure serious action is taken to mitigate climate change and draw down carbon emissions. This is a top priority for how we live together as a community - our collective wellbeing depends on it, as does the environment.

The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail. Much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration, it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed of neighbours' intentions. This draft must mention the fact that tourism developments in the Green Wedge need to be "in conjunction" with agricultural uses, as stated in Section 55 of the planning scheme. This clause of the planning scheme decreases the likelihood of inappropriate development. We should change the heading of the economic one to "a prosperous, eco-friendly Green Wedge economy". This draft plan suggests the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) is too restrictive of farming practices and that this zoning should only be applied to land with higher conservation values. This suggestion puts at serious risk flora and fauna across a significant proportion of the Shire, whether as single trees in paddocks or scattered pockets of remnant bush.

These are all vital and in need of greater care and protection, not less. I do not support the draft GWMP.

Regards,
Dylan Osler

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission for your perusal
Date: Monday, 12 August 2019 10:17:02 AM
Attachments: [GWPG Nillumbik Draft GWMP 2019 submission.docx](#)

From: GreenWedge ProtectionGroup [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, 10 August 2019 10:04 PM

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Submission for your perusal

We thank council for the opportunity to place our submission before you, and look forward to the final document.

regards
Green Wedge Protection Group Inc.

Introduction

The Green Wedge Protection Group (GWPG) was formally incorporated in 1995, following municipal amalgamations. Less formally, the Group has existed since the early 1970s. The Purposes of the Green Wedge Protection Group include:-

- Working to ensure that residents and public officials of the Shire of Nillumbik act together to protect the environment; develop a high quality urban lifestyle within limited designated areas; and promote a rural lifestyle with sensitive farming and enhanced conservation objectives.
- Ensuring the Green Wedge is the strategic focus of the Shire of Nillumbik.
- Providing input to the Shire of Nillumbik and other decision making bodies on any matter considered relevant to the Green Wedge.

The Green Wedge Protection Group is heavily involved in state and local planning issues, both currently and prior to the group's formal inception, and will continue to provide advice and direction to authorities to ensure the intent of our Green Wedges is upheld at all levels of Government, and the values protected.

The Green Wedge Protection Group thank you for the opportunity to place this submission on the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan before Council.



Kahn Franke, President, Green Wedge Protection Group

Preface

The GWPG have had many phone calls and discussions with community members who have diligently read the draft GWMP. Most, if not all find themselves confused, unsure and doubt their ability to respond at any level. Some believe that the plan is too complex for them to understand, many believe it is very badly written and random. A document that is circular, convoluted and unclear, that does not inspire, and completely misses the desired role of supporting and enhancing the environment and biodiversity. There are also those that believe it is designed to “pull the rug over our eyes” that it purposefully meanders so that unravelling the true intent is time consuming and difficult.

Whether it is a lack of experience in putting together a GWMP, little understanding of our green wedge, its communities and the complexity of the planning scheme or the extremely tight timeline to produce the draft GWMP the document fails the “pub” test, it is not easily understood.

Background

The Green Wedge concept has been in place now for nearly fifty years. In that time very little has changed. The vision is the same, zoning names have changed but the controls are similar. The biggest changes have been the introduction of the UGB by the Bracks Labor Government and the weakening of controls over uses by Liberal Government Planning Minister Matthew Guy.

The NE green wedge that Nillumbik’s boundaries are based on is one of the most intact of the twelve wedges surrounding Melbourne. It is so because the communities across Nillumbik have supported the planning scheme, accepted the controls, understood the need for preservation of biodiversity, were aware of their surroundings, particularly with regard to fire, and sought to preserve the rural and bushland vistas that typify Nillumbik. Properties changed hands, generally prospective purchasers understood the green wedge principles, did their due diligence concerning planning controls and joined a community who prized the rural lifestyle.

With time, properties have become more expensive, changing the demographics across the green wedge. There are elements within this new demographic that appreciate the beauty and the lifestyle but seem not to understand why the Nillumbik landscape still exists. The acceptance for the need for planning controls by residents has ensured that the Nillumbik Green Wedge is Melbourne’s most environmentally intact. Not since the inception of the NE green wedge has there been an attempt to “consider” changing planning provisions that have protected this area, as we now see in this draft GWMP.

These “considered” changes to the planning scheme were not recommendations from the majority report by Council’s Community Panel. If not a Panel recommendation, then whose? While the intent is clear, the justification is non-existent. This council is actively attempting to remove, relax and reduce controls over the green wedge which will hasten its slide into obscurity.

Councils' Unconventional Process

The current GWMP 2010-2025 was to be reviewed every five years, the Glossop Report, a comprehensive review was completed and presented to the previous council. The current council did not move to implement the recommendations of the Glossop Review but decided to review/rewrite (the status is still not clear in the community's eyes) the current GWMP. Councils inability to define a clear direction has led to a process that expended considerable money and community time on an unknown goal.

Council embarked on a locally untried process of a Community Jury/Panel to review/rewrite the GWMP. Consultants were employed, and the criteria for selection outlined based on demographics. This was the first area of this process to be subverted, resulting in less than 25% of the shire population holding 50% of the panel positions

The panel selected were asked to nominate speakers that they thought could add to their understanding of the task at hand, nominations were made and voted upon. Once again, the process was subverted by the addition of a speaker who was not elected by the panel.

Throughout the community consultation and the panel deliberations criteria for presenting a "minority report" were detailed. For any recommendation from the panel to be approved at least 80% of the panel had to vote in favour, if the recommendation failed to get 80% approval by a small margin then a "minority report" could be made on that failed recommendation.

Five panel members (12%) submitted an entire alternative GWMP to the majority report at the last minute on the last day of the panel sitting, under the guise of a "minority report".

Council in accepting the "minority report #1" showed bias towards this vocal minority and was consequently taken to task by the panel majority, leading to the removal of "minority report #1" from the final recommendations presented to council, only for council to re-admit it after the Ombudsman sent an informal recommendation that the authors of "minority report #1"/complainants should be listened to. The inclusion of the "minority report #1" on equal footing to the majority Community Panel recommendations again subverted the "clear and transparent" process that should surround true community consultation.

Like the rest of the community, the minority report authors had the opportunity to place a submission before council and should have been given that direction by council, in the spirit of the Ombudsman's informal recommendation.

Planning Practice Note 31 (PPN31)

Guidelines or Not?

The PPN 31 provides a guide for the preparation of GWMP's and sets out the general requirements that should be met. The PPN covers the policy context and basis for the plan, it's context and status.

A major flaw with PPN 31 is its status. While there is a need for a GW council to produce a GWMP and the PN provides guidelines on how to produce one there is no need to seek approval by DELWP on whether the GWMP proposed meets the guidelines. Apparently PPN 31 is optional. The GWMP needs only to be adopted by

council. This may not be a problem if all the requirements of PPN 31 are met. However, the GWMP draft put forward by Nillumbik lacks rigour, professional input, input by neighbouring councils, input by Melbourne Water and in fact by any external bodies. It would appear that even input from Nillumbik's own various departments was not sought as there is no acknowledgement of contributors. It has been rushed, with the final draft prepared in a vacuum, by council staff (an invisible unnamed cross-corporate internal working group of Council) with no community involvement and no opportunity for ongoing feedback.

Council freely admits that the proposed GWMP is "people centric," believing that the current GWMP puts too much emphasis on the environment, biodiversity and sustainability. However, on reading the current plan it fully recognises the importance of people within the GW – a point recognised by the community panel who recommended that the current GWMP should serve as the basis for an updated plan.

The PPN 31 guidelines begin "A GWMP is a council adopted strategy that identifies a vision, objectives and actions for the sustainable use and development of each GW" it also includes "the needs of the local community" but only after suggesting that the plan "identifies the values and features of the GW, the preferred future land use, environmental and natural resources that should be protected". The Council Plan focuses on people and their involvement, interaction, welfare etc, as do many of the other policies council has created, the emphasis within the GWMP should be the environment, sustainable land use and management, biodiversity enhancement etc, as outlined in the eleven dot points on P3 of PPN 31.

Does the draft GWMP align with PPN 31?

What is the process for preparing a GWMP? Page 3 PPN 31

Council have relied solely on the initial community information gathering forums and the Community Panel process to then weave a document that is meant to fulfil the model provided by PPN 31. Within the structure outlined there is to be engagement of "stakeholders" these are not only the landowners or community but wider agencies with an interest in the GW. Project steering and working groups were not formed – the feedback loops indicated never happened. Several bulletins were put out through the council website, no wider interaction or face to face meetings were held, no opportunity for discussion or input by the community.

Information gathering. Council claims that the participants in the wider community engagement fulfilled this element, in truth they provided their views and issues only. They did not, however, explore existing information, the policy content, identify gaps, or undertake any research.

Review existing policies and programs. Not done. As stated earlier, the current GWMP had been reviewed in 2015 and not acted upon (ie. Glossop Report), while all policies will be reviewed in the fulness of time one that should have been looked into is the Invasive Species Action Plan, particularly in relation to the impact of deer. The haste with which this review has been undertaken means that full scrutiny of all aspects of current supporting policies and strategies has not been undertaken. Council did not supply the community panel with important policies and strategies such as The Nillumbik State of Environment Report, the Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy, land capability studies and a myriad of further documentation that would aid in their decision making.

Developing actions. No community input was sought while developing a series of Actions, nor were various options explored or tested with key stakeholders. The

resultant Council draft has 50 key actions, there are a number (5) that are repeated twice or three times, such duplication is unnecessary and potentially confusing.

Monitoring and Review. The Draft Plan (page 43) on monitoring and evaluation, provides no measures to the progress and implementation of the plan nor does it provide a timeline for either the Objectives or the 43 'unique' actions.

Principles that should underpin preparation of a GWMP page 4 PPN 31

A common basis for the preparation of plans. Not met. The extensive community consultation was carried out at the beginning of the process and partially meets the information gathering criteria, yet there has been no indication of any other Government agencies being involved or briefed. No list of these agencies has been sighted. There is no evidence that appropriate council departments were involved.

A well informed, inclusive plan preparation process.

Not met.

Dot pt 1. As far as the general public know there has been no inclusion of neighbouring municipalities, the CMA, Melbourne Water etc

Dot pt 2. While open to public view on the council website once again there has been no opportunity for further informed input. There is a raft of agencies mentioned in this point of the guidelines, no evidence of any interaction with these bodies has been sighted.

Dot pt 5. Initial engagement was considerable and every effort made to involve as many people as possible, however there has been a distinct lack of follow up contact, the odd bulletin emailed but no means for continued public input until the completed document was presented to the community for feedback.

Dot pt 6. As already stated, initial engagement was considerable. The process has not demonstrated transparency, inclusiveness or built on the consultation initiated. The treatment of the Community Panel input has not built partnerships or a shared ownership. Council will need to do much more to engender trust across the community.

A common approach to the preparation of a GWMP. Page 5 PPN 31

A major plank in the preparation of a GWMP is the full involvement of all sectors of the community and wider stakeholders. This is articulated in the diagram on page 5 of PPN 31.

This section of the PN "set out the core components EXPECTED to be used in the process"

The first dot point begins "Council SHOULD establish a project steering group..."

This entire section has BEEN COMPLETELY IGNORED by Nillumbik Council in its haste to prepare the document. Not only would it have added time, it would have also increased the rigour, quality, relevance, openness, and transparency, and achieved the clarity and greater certainty for all stakeholders and landowners required by the Government within a GWMP.

A Project Working Group should also have been established to assist the Project Steering Group. Council suggests that a "cross-corporate internal working group of Council participated in the review process and drafting of the plan". This does not a

Project Working Group. Council hasn't published the membership of this cross-corporate Working Group.

These two groups are instrumental in preparing a GWMP that has expert input from a wide range of key stakeholders, PPN 31 outlines explicitly the roles of these groups.

Council contend that the "over 1000 people" and the citizens panel of 40 had the experience, knowledge, expertise and understanding across issues such as strategic planning, biodiversity, climate change, land use, environmental issues, sustainability and the myriad of other components within the preparation of a viable GWMP.

We congratulate the over 1000 participants and wish to acknowledge the incredible efforts made by the 40 panel members, some of which had no idea what a green wedge was, in giving up so much time to produce a document that is a credit to them, only to have it generally ignored by council.

Council freely admit that the entire draft is based upon the comments received in the initial engagement process and the results of the citizen panel. Council did not consider that agencies and bodies such as –

- DELWP offering support and comment at all stages to both the Project Steering and Project Working Groups.
- Melbourne Water
- Neighbouring municipalities
- Interface Councils
- Country Fire Authority
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (Agriculture)
- Port Philip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority
- Heritage Victoria
- Victorian Farmers Federation
- Tourism Victoria
- All Council Departments particularly planning and environment.

would be of assistance in preparing the plan. This list is not exhaustive but gives some idea of the depth and breadth of knowledge and expertise available to contribute to a full and comprehensive GWMP, as the PPN 31 guidelines suggest.

Council may have dealt with some, or all, of these organisations however there has been no documentation, minutes or notices referring to involvement by any party.

Council has not identified appropriate mechanisms to oversee, monitor and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the GWMP. No timelines for any actions have been proposed and no means of qualitative or quantitative evaluation has been put forward.

Involvement of Stakeholders and landowners. page 5

Over 1000 people in the initial consultative engagement, the Information Gathering box of the flowchart on P4 of PPN 31. 40 members of the citizens panel were involved in partially in boxes 3 in developing a Green Wedge vision. No ongoing involvement or

further interaction was deemed necessary by council. In terms of PPN 31 the GWPG contend that the steps outlined were not carried out with any rigour, if at all.

How will the GWMP be implemented? Page 5 PPN 31

The draft plan commits to the setting of four yearly priorities and annual implementation plans.

No such plans have been produced and no timelines indicated.

Status of the GWMP. Page 6 PPN 31

Council states that “This is intended as part of future four yearly reviews of the planning scheme. Changes to municipal laws are not proposed”.

There are Actions within the Draft that do recommend possible changes to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.

- A2.7
- A3.9
- A4.8
- A5.6
- A5.7

Role of the Department page 6 PPN31

“Council believes that the general requirements of PPN 31 have been or will be met.”

The GWPG contend that council has treated PPN 31 guidelines as purely optional and, as there is no formal review by the department of the proposed Nillumbik draft GWMP council is free to pass it in any form they wish.

Nillumbik Council decided to go it alone, without the involvement of DELWP. PPN 31 anticipates that the department will be involved in the development of each GWMP, participate in the project steering and working groups as needed, liaise with councils and groups of councils and contribute to partnership arrangements or funding programs where available.

Nillumbik did not set up project steering or working groups, did not liaise with councils and groups of councils and needed no partnership arrangements or required access to funding programs.

Conclusion

Council Draft GWMP does not align with PPN31.

Council from the outset were unsure whether they were reviewing the current GWMP or writing a totally new document. This point alone has led to a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding within the community. There should and is considerable differences in the approach to organising a review against that required for a complete rewrite.

Ignoring PPN 31 may indicate that council believes it is not a requirement for a review. The GWPG would agree had the accepted review process been adopted.

The plan authors call the document the Draft GWMP indicating it is a new plan replacing the former adopted GWMP. The GWPG would argue that if it is a new plan then the council has a moral obligation to meet the requirements laid out in the guidelines of PPN 31.

While council has attempted to justify their process against PPN 31 by presenting a document advising of their interpretation of how the draft aligns with PPN 31 it fails to convince.

The GWPG strongly believe that the process of community and wider stakeholder engagement that is a part of PPN 31 is non-existent.

Overall the development of the Nillumbik draft GWMP fails the general requirements of PPN 31.

Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

General Comments

The Council Plan is required by the LGA along with other statutory requirements such as a yearly financial budget be produced. The Council Plan sets the course of the Shire for the next four years and consists of Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Strategic Indicators. It is a wide-ranging plan for the entire Shire providing detail on all aspects of managing the Shire with community and its people at its centre.

The Shire also has a myriad of more focussed Plans and Strategies that support the directions of the Council Plan but give greater detail on the specific plan or strategy. For example, the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan, the Invasive Species Action Plan, the Nillumbik Trails Strategy all concentrate on their individual areas but feed into the Council Plan. The GWMP focus is to ensure the sustainable management of a green wedge, this is clearly articulated in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 provides guidance on directions for future land use planning that should be included in the overall perspective of the Green Wedges for metropolitan Melbourne:

- *define and protect areas that are strategically important to the metropolitan area and the state, for the environment, biodiversity, landscape, open space. Water, agriculture, tourism, environment, cultural heritage, infrastructure, extractive and other natural resources.*
- *protect and manage the value of the green wedges consistent with green wedge management plans.*
- *avoid development in locations where there is a risk to life, property, the natural environment and infrastructure from natural hazards such as bushfire and flooding.*
- *accommodate additional housing and employment in established towns that have the capacity for growth.*
- *provide for non-urban breaks between urban areas.*

The intent of Plan Melbourne is specific in what the planning future should be for green wedges, primarily the natural environment. The draft GWMP as written is an extrapolation of the Council Plan without acknowledging or clearly articulating council's responsibilities to meet the Plan Melbourne directions for green wedges within the metropolitan context. Plan Melbourne's directions are supported by the eleven dot points on P3 of PPN 31 under the heading of what the GWMP should focus on.

A vision for Nillumbik's green wedge

The GWPG support the vision put forward by the panel. "Living with the landscape" is inclusive, partnering, embracing and involved with your environment. "Living in the landscape" does not engender these attributes but rather creates a limit and a sense of forlorn acceptance of your surroundings.

The explanation of the vision is further support for the Council Plan, with little of relevance to a GWMP. There is no vision of a future green wedge that has enhanced biodiversity, no vision of how the rural character to be maintained, of how flora and fauna will be protected, of its contribution to the wellbeing of communities across Melbourne, no vision of challenging climate change – these and other goals should be the focus of a GWMP. It is the connectivity with people and their environment in all its facets that requires a well thought out GWMP. Above all it should be creating an educated and informed community on the wonderful natural assets that surround us,

and work towards true sustainability at all levels. Sustainability not only of the natural environment but the altered as well – farming management and practices are ever evolving, and Nillumbik should be at the forefront.

Five Key Moves for the Shire

The Draft Green Wedge Management Plan has identified “five key moves” for the shire, as follows:

- 1. Create a comprehensive landowners’ information and support service for land use and management, including annual reporting on trends and outcomes. Seek on-going government funding to support the service.*
- 2. Implement a whole of organisation approach to community resilience addressing climate change, emergency management and a range of matters in an integrated manner. This will include robust conversations on the natural environment and biodiversity values, bushfire risk reduction, economic development, agriculture, economic and community rebuilding post events, human health, well-being and safety and water catchment planning.*
- 3. Create a Green Wedge Conversations program to provide local communities with a forum to discuss resilience, leadership, knowledge-transfer and cooperation between people involved with land management, agriculture, nature conservation, public land management and bushfire mitigation and management. Seek on-going government funding assistance to support the program.*
- 4. Create a comprehensive planning and place management service for the townships to strengthen their identities and attractiveness as service, population, tourism, community and cultural centres.*
- 5. Undertake stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural activity and practices, including hobby farming, that need to be protected for the future and the pests that need to be managed by sourcing information from formal research bodies and landowners. Seek government funding assistance to establish and maintain this data base into the future for landowner information, program prioritisation and policy development.*

It would be appropriate to have some explanation of where and how these five key moves were developed, and detail on how each was decided upon. The development of these “Key Moves” was not a community consultation process.

As 1,3 and 5 require on going government funding, their future implementation is doubtful.

These Moves are key items. This work should have been done to inform the development of a GWMP, however this has not been done because of the undue haste to rewrite the GWMP or the lack of understanding of exactly what a GWMP entails.

#1 Needs explanation as to what is to be achieved, why it is necessary and, most importantly, what is involved.

#2 This is what a GWMP is all about. However, we have a draft but have not had the “robust conversations” critical to producing a draft GWMP.

#3 Seems very similar to #2 but requires funding. A positive move but should be happening prior to the adoption of the GWMP in line with PPN 31.

#4 To be concise, this could read “Review township plans”.

#5 These actions should inform the production of a GWMP, not be an action within it. There needs to be an explanation and definition of what these “stocktakes” are

measuring, what the data base wishes to achieve and what is being monitored. This key move misses the whole point of a GWMP. Agricultural activity and practices, including hobby farming do not need to be protected for the future, it is the protection and sustainable use of the resource that they are based on that requires protection, this in turn leads to a sustainable future for every agricultural pursuit. Economic output is based upon the resource, not a plan to protect a lifestyle.

The Green Wedge Key Data

The information provided has a great deal of relevance to the production of the Council Plan, but very little to the production of a Green Wedge Management Plan. A Council Plan will supply relevant Actions to assist in the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan.

Relevant Green Wedge key data would need to focus on important landscape values such as endangered Ecological Vegetation Classes, threatened species, important vistas, data on climate change on a local level, pest plants and animals, loss of biodiversity and biomass, incremental impacts on habitat, ongoing loss of tree cover, negative impacts on ecosystems due to inappropriate land use and land management practices, decreasing water flows in streams, changes in rainfall patterns and associated drought conditions which will have impact on agricultural production, land degradation due to poor land management practices, and so on. All things that could influence positive outcomes in the development of a Green Wedge Management Plan that actually meet the criteria laid out in Plan Melbourne and PPN31 for the protection of Green Wedges.

Conclusion

The Green Wedge Management Plan should CLEARLY and CONCISELY explain the Aims. It should meet the accepted process for preparation (as in PPN31). It should include the information required as set out in a well-informed inclusive plan process and it should meet the common approach for the preparation of GWMPs. This Draft Nillumbik GWMP fails to meet those criteria. Nillumbik Council has, in the past, worked collaboratively with the community to produce plans and strategies, that reflect the community's aspirations and addresses their concerns. The current Draft Green Wedge Management Plan fails to meet these goals.

The Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, as circulated, is not a plan that the Council nor community can be proud of.

GOAL 1: Engaged connected communities.

This is an incredibly depressing section to read, it does not mirror the majority community and panel support for the ongoing existence of the green wedge and their love of where they live. The content centres on perceived problems brought about by “regulation”, the UGB, planning restrictions, limited housing expansion, compliance with state requirements to manage bushfire risk, retaining vegetation, managing effluent or protecting agricultural uses on undersized lots, the need for consolidation of small holdings, township boundaries constraining and restricting development, the responsibility and costs that come with rural life, lack of utility services, bushfire mitigation and preparedness (again), the complexity of the regulatory and planning system (again), uncertain use of small lots (again), balancing bushfire safety requirements and native vegetation objectives (again), restrictions on accommodating different family generations on rural allotments, and of course the problems of living on the urban boundary of trespass, rubbish dumping and dust. This list should be on every real estate agent’s ad and window front!

The Wayfarer Report was commissioned by council to review the comments of those who responded. The bar graphs show overwhelming support for the green wedge. When asked “What I like about the GW” (p11) of 1012 respondents 660 loved open space and the environment only 50 voiced complaints. When asked about “Challenges in the GW” (p14) of 385 respondents, 43 mentioned regulation and 42 mentioned planning issues. When asked about “Regulatory changes” (p22) of 225 respondents, 80 replied they were over regulated and 80 wanted increased planning controls. When asked about “Environmental opportunities (p35) 230 of 460 respondents replied “keep it as it is” and “needs protection”. And finally on p41 under “Comments “300 of 480 respondents said very clearly “Don’t mess it up!!”.

The GWPG would recommend that everyone read the Wayfarer report. The big question that council needs to openly address is just WHO ARE THEY LISTENING TO? Clearly not the majority

Objectives	GWPG response	Related Key Action	GWPG response
<i>O1.1 Enable our people to take greater shared responsibility for the future of our green wedge.</i>	Unclear as to who "our people" are - assuming it is referring to the entire population of the shire or metropolitan Melbourne, who should also shoulder responsibility for the Green Wedge.	<i>A1.1 Create a Green Wedge Conversations program to provide local communities ...</i>	This Conversations program should have been part of the development of the Green Wedge Management Plan as per Practice Note 31. Had these conversations been held, we'd have at least 10 pertinent Actions.
<i>O1.2 Encourage, support, promote and celebrate the roles that landowners and volunteers play in the management of the green wedge.</i>	Should read “Encourage, support, educate , promote, and celebrate...” Education is essential for sustainable use and preservation of biodiversity within the GW.	<i>A1.2 Implement Council’s Nillumbik Volunteer Development Strategy 2015-2020</i>	Council Plan Action
<i>O1.3 Support community facilities in the green wedge</i>	Covered under the Council Plan.	<i>A1.3 Develop and manage community infrastructure for the green wedge as part of the Shire’s overall approach to service and asset management planning.</i>	What does this mean? Anything beyond what is already happening?
		<i>A1.4 Better utilise multi-use community spaces to create community hubs in the townships.</i>	Is this not covered in A1.3? Or A1.5? These three Actions are broad in their terms but lack definitive Actions.
<i>O1.4 Work with local communities to articulate a vision and develop plans appropriate to their scale and capacity for Hurstbridge, St Andrews and Panton Hill as green wedge service centres and visitor gateways. Where possible, encourage housing diversity to enable ageing in place. Align future development with environmentally sensitive design principles and ensure that future development emphasises each town’s unique characteristics</i>	This objective is too involved and renders it unclear. It reads like two or more objectives eg. 1. Review current township plans for St Andrews, Panton Hill, Hurstbridge; and 2. Promote Ageing in Place; with multiple Actions.	<i>A1.5 Create a comprehensive planning and place management service for the townships to strengthen their identities and attractiveness as service, population, tourism, community and cultural centres.</i>	Put simply and concisely, this Action could be expressed as: Review township plans for Hurstbridge, St Andrews and Panton Hill. Easy to understand, not confusing, and a definite Action.
		<i>A1.8 Encourage the location of aged care services within the townships and programs to facilitate people ageing in the community where they have lived for many years. Encourage volunteer and community groups to support ageing landowners with land management, where needed. Implement Council’s Positive Ageing Strategy</i>	There are really 2 Actions in this, not one. Eg. 1. Encourage location of aged care facilities...; and 2. Encourage volunteer and community groups...

O1.5 Recognise the limits on housing development in the rural areas	Already covered in the current Planning Scheme. Surely this is a statement and NOT an objective.	A1.6 Investigate options for consolidation and amalgamation of small rural lots that are not capable of supporting a dwelling in their current configuration. Where appropriate and with owner consent, consider government purchase of such lots where they are adjacent to public land	Could be covered by funding from a Green Wedge “body” (see below) to either assist landholder in the cost to consolidate OR for the State to buy the land.
		A1.7 Review the impacts of proximity to urban communities on rural land adjoining the urban area and investigate options to maintain the amenity and productivity of those areas.	In the body of the text for “Engaged and Connected Communities”, it identifies perceived difficulties on the urban fringe that will not be rectified by changes to the Planning Scheme as intimated in the body of the text. The Green Wedge Protection Group are happy for any “buffer zones” to be within the Urban Growth Boundary. If these perceived problems are indeed real, where are the specific, effective Actions to mitigate them?
O1.6 Better support the ageing population of the green wedge to age in place with its benefits to retaining local knowledge, community cohesiveness, engagement and involvement in local groups.	Is repeated from O1.4, and needs further clarification in the Actions	A1.8 Encourage the location of aged care services within the townships and programs to facilitate people ageing in the community where they have lived for many years. Encourage volunteer and community groups to support ageing landowners with land management, where needed. Implement Council’s Positive Ageing Strategy	See comment above under O1.4 Could be the subject of another “Robust Conversation” perhaps?
O1.7 Facilitate linked public, community and shared transport options connected to the existing railway network and destinations within the green wedge.		A1.9 Advocate for improved public transport, traffic management and reduced road congestion.	We agree
		A1.10 Advocate for improved internet access and mobile phone coverage to support the ability to create application-based services such as ride sharing and on-call transport.	ok
		A1.11 Undertake seasonal review of road conditions to improve management and review the road sealing program to ensure high use roads are prioritised.	While we agree with these, this “Action” is also TWO actions, as in 1. Undertake a seasonal review of road conditions; AND 2. Review road sealing program.

It is apparent that ‘The Green Wedge Shire’ is leaving all the heavy lifting to the State for maintenance of our biodiversity. Not one objective or action ties our “connected communities” to the environment or speaks of our “engaged” communities working to improve their interaction with and enhancing the very thing they moved here for - the rural and natural environment.

GOAL 2: Active, Creative People

Goal 2 acknowledges the benefits of “natural attributes of our environment” and the importance of green space as a determinant of health but fails to mention the green wedge in all but one objective which leads to an Action “allowing prohibited uses”. An objective could be “Support, promote, celebrate and enable public access to Nillumbik’s rich array of flora and fauna”. The action may be “Create nature based interpretive trails throughout Nillumbik’s conservation areas”. Kinglake National Park should be included as a recreational facility and a place of destination. A further objective of “Creating open space on Wanneroo” is actionable through the MW land release.

Objectives	GWPG response	Related Key Action	GWPG response
<i>O2.1 Encourage active living and enhanced mental wellbeing.</i>	Council Plan objective.	<i>A2.1 Implement the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021</i>	Council Plan action.
<i>O2.2 Provide a diversity of open spaces with a range of high quality regional, district and neighbourhood parks linked by a network of trails.</i>	Council Plan objective.	<i>A2.2 Review and update the Nillumbik Open Space Strategy and Recreation Strategy.</i>	Council Plan action.
<i>O2.3 Complete the trail network for walking, cycling and horse riding in Nillumbik, connecting to the regional trails network covering neighbouring municipalities.</i>		<i>A2.3 Implement the Nillumbik Trails Strategy 2011.</i>	Council Plan action.
<i>O2.4 Support, celebrate and enable public access to Nillumbik’s rich tradition of local artists and makers.</i>	Council Plan objective.	<i>A2.4 Implement the Nillumbik Arts and Cultural Plan 2018-2022.</i>	Council Plan action.
		<i>A2.5 Investigate the establishment of a regional art gallery.</i>	Before we investigate the ESTABLISHMENT of a regional art gallery, there needs to be a business case put forward around the demand and requirement, and the anticipated financial costs for establishment and the ongoing costs. The GWPG support the concept of a regional art gallery, but don’t wish to see a financial white elephant burden the shire. Council Plan action.
<i>O2.5 Work with Heritage Victoria, the Wurundjeri Land Council and other government agencies to support local heritage protection.</i>		<i>A2.6 Develop and implement a heritage interpretation plan.</i>	
<i>O2.6 Ensure that council owned heritage places are accessible and sustainable and make better use of our heritage assets to support cultural tourism initiatives and leverage further economic benefits for green wedge communities.</i>		<i>A2.7 Use the Nillumbik Planning Scheme as a positive means to encourage heritage conservation and management, including support of adaptive reuse of heritage places and allowing prohibited uses, if they help support the conservation of a heritage place and are in line with planning policy objectives.</i>	Finally! This is an Action! However, this again is a combined series of Actions that would best be presented as separate Actions - as an individual, concise, clear and actionable item. Eg. A2.7.1. Use the Nillumbik Planning Scheme as a positive means to encourage heritage conservation and management. This is confusing, as this is what the planning scheme already does! Eg. A2.7.2. Support adaptive reuse of Heritage Places. GWPG question what is the reuse of a heritage place? This should be defined and clear in its intent. Eg. A2.7.3 Investigate allowing prohibited uses if these support the conservation of a heritage place (and are in line with planning policy objectives). Surely, if the uses are currently prohibited, then allowing these prohibited uses would not be in line with planning policy objectives. Hence the second part of this “new” action would be an oxymoron. Had Practice Note 31 guidelines been followed and the appropriate steering groups convened, then this issue would have been fully discussed and positive Actions generated.

GOAL 3: Safe and healthy environments

It is inappropriate to combine biodiversity with other seemingly conflicting/opposing activities. Biodiversity protection is paramount and clearly an articulated intention of the Green Wedge Management Plan process, thus Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement should be a Goal of its own.

In an appendix to THIS draft plan (Appendix 1), Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 which provides the desired planning outcomes for Green Wedges and peri-urban areas, has the directive to “Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species, and achieve a Net Gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.” This draft plan does not place appropriate emphasis on biodiversity protection, which should be the primary Objective of this Draft Plan.

Safety of the community should be a Goal of its own

Objectives	GWPG response	Related Key Action	GWPG response
<p><i>O3.1: Identify, protect and enhance valuable biodiversity and habitats</i></p>	<p>“Valuable biodiversity” is not an ecological term. It is important to protect biodiversity and habitats. The term “valuable” skirts around the importance of “less valuable” or, more accurately, “less intact or disturbed” habitats that make up the entire biodiversity map for the shire. For example, the “vulnerable” Ecological Vegetation Class Valley Grassy Forest is often degraded within Nillumbik due to its grassy understory lending itself to being readily available grazing land. This does NOT negate the importance of these otherwise “less valuable” habitats. It is also important to consider vital faunal corridors, which may or may not be currently vegetated OR may support less “valuable” (read: less intact or degraded) habitats. We need to acknowledge that our natural environment is already highly fragmented and degraded, so these important corridors may exist across landscapes that do not contain so-called “valuable” biodiversity and habitats.</p>	<p><i>A3.1: Undertake stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural activity and practices, including hobby farming, that need to be protected for the future and the pests that need to be managed by sourcing information from formal research bodies and landowners. Seek government funding assistance to establish and maintain this data base into the future for landowner information, program prioritisation and policy development.</i></p>	<p>See Key Moves Response #5</p> <p>#5 These actions should inform the production of a GWMP, not be an action within it. There needs to be an explanation and definition of what these “stocktakes” are measuring, what the data base wishes to achieve and what is being monitored. This key move misses the whole point of a GWMP. Agricultural activity and practices, including hobby farming do not need to be protected for the future, it is the protection and sustainable use of the resource that they are based on that requires protection, this in turn leads to a sustainable future for every agricultural pursuit. Economic output is based upon the resource, not a plan to protect a lifestyle.</p> <p>Where is the clear environmental benefit articulated to undertake this work? Where are the criteria to inform these “stocktakes”? Stocktakes can be informed by research already done on the ESO, and informed by Nillumbik’s Biodiversity Strategy (2012), and by Nillumbik’s State of the Environment Report (2014). Further information will be available through the ABS and numerous state studies and reports on land capability, land management at both agricultural and natural levels and state work on invasive pests.</p>
		<p><i>A3.2: Subject to the findings of the data base described by A3.1, review the Environmental Significance Overlay in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.</i></p>	<p>Stocktakes can be informed by research already done on ESO, and informed by Nillumbik’s Biodiversity Strategy (2012), and by Nillumbik’s State of the Environment Report (2014).</p>
		<p><i>A3.4 Increase and prioritise Council’s focus on feral animal and pest plant species reduction, education and programs on private and public land.</i></p>	<p>Happy to support this Action, with the addition of “Forge partnerships with agencies such as Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria to achieve a multi-agency, broad landscape approach to pest control.” Also consider education to inform and policy to restrict planting of environmental weeds within bushland environments. Feral deer control should be an action of its own, deer are responsible for habitat and biodiversity loss on an unprecedented scale. Council should lobby the State Government to have all species deer from the Protected Species list, and listed as feral/pest species, opening up available funding for the control of these highly invasive and environmentally damaging species.</p>

<p><i>O3.2: Enhance community understanding, resilience and adaptability for the impacts of climate change and a bushfire prone environment.</i></p>	<p>In essence, support this objective. It is important for the community to understand that a lot of climate change issues are due to broad scale vegetation clearing, habitat degradation and biodiversity loss. Thus, by ensuring the community have an understanding of these driving forces for climate change is a positive.</p>	<p><i>A3.3 Implement a whole of organisation approach to community resilience addressing climate change, emergency management and a range of matters in an integrated manner. This will include robust conversations on the natural environment and biodiversity values, bushfire risk reduction, economic development, agriculture, economic and community rebuilding post events, human health, well-being and safety and water catchment planning.</i></p>	<p>See Key Moves Response #2 #2 This is what a GWMP is all about. However, we have a draft but have not had the “robust conversations” critical to producing a draft GWMP .</p> <p>This action is confusing and convoluted. What is the real intention here? What is the desired outcome of “robust conversations”? This action can mean anything to anybody and is therefore insufficiently precise.</p>
		<p><i>A3.6 In conjunction with key stakeholders, review Council’s approach to climate change to develop a best practice response. This will incorporate our statutory requirements and respond to all key state government frameworks but will need to remain agile and adaptive to changing policy settings. It will adopt an integrated approach that brings together the key local issues that have been identified in every goal in this plan. This will result in either:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>an updated climate change action plan and/or</i> • <i>a new climate change and community resilience strategic framework built from a local context that recognises the unique features of our communities, its landscapes and natural environment. It will be informed by appropriate evidence, independent expertise and strong community participation</i> 	<p>A worthy aspiration that will be widely accepted.</p> <p>It is however a lengthy, complex, and confused statement that is not an Action within itself. It is obvious that, as this starts with “in conjunction with key stakeholders” this should have been part of the Planning Practice Note 31 process, and the role of the Project Steering and Project Working Groups. This would have thus resulted in concise, achievable Actions driven by all stake holders who understood the expected outcomes.</p>
		<p><i>A3.7 Finalise and implement Council’s draft Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-23.</i></p>	<p>This has been completed.</p>
<p><i>O3.3 Reduce the number and impact of bushfire incidents.</i></p>	<p>As part of the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy, this should simply be referenced in this GWMP, as has frequently been done for all other strategies and plans that feed into the GWMP (eg. Biodiversity Strategy, etc)</p>	<p>A3.7</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p><i>O3.4 Create a community focussed approach to bushfire, a coordinated approach between key agencies and the communities of Nillumbik and ensure strong advocacy in relation to bushfire and bushfire risk.</i></p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>A3.7</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
		<p><i>A3.8 Advocate for improved mobile and broadband connectivity to help improve the ability to communicate information and improve community safety, particularly to those most vulnerable during extreme weather events.</i></p>	<p>This Action is important in keeping the community informed, particularly in emergency situations.</p>
<p><i>O3.5 Conserve the bush and rural landscapes to maintain the natural beauty of the green wedge.</i></p>	<p>While this is an important objective, it lacks substance. Recommend using the term “remnant bushland” instead of simply “bush”. This adds strength to the Objective. OR we strongly recommend rewording this objective to say: “Identify, document and protect and enhance the character of the diverse landscapes of the Nillumbik Green Wedge.”</p>	<p><i>A3.5 In partnership with relevant government agencies, encourage biodiversity conservation and responsible land management on public and private land by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>implementing Council’s Biodiversity Strategy 2012; Roadside Management Plan and Invasive Species Action Plan 2015</i> • <i>supporting Landcare and Friends groups</i> • <i>providing an advisory service for land management</i> • <i>providing rebates for Trust for Nature covenanted land and agriculture with a land management plan</i> • <i>delivering Council’s land management incentive program and other conservation protection projects</i> • <i>administering state planning policies that apply to native vegetation, and</i> • <i>delivering targeted environment and sustainability education experiences.</i> 	<p>The GWPG is happy to support this Action. Each dot-point could form individual Actions.</p>

		<p>A3.9 As part of a future review of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme consider identified landscape character and quality through the current policies and overlays that apply.</p>	<p>This work has already been done in the recent review of the Significant Landscape Overlay and could be adapted to meet this Action.</p>
<p>O3.6 Support Melbourne Water and the Catchment Management Authority to improve stream condition, water flows, water quality and catchment quality.</p>		<p>A3.10 Consider, through development approvals and management of Council property, the limitation of light spill not directly associated with safety or community activity to reduce impacts on nocturnal animals and the night time amenity of the landscape.</p>	<p>We support this Action.</p>
<p>NO OBJECTIVE APPLY TO THESE ACTIONS:</p>		<p>A3.12 Promote water sensitive design, balance amenity uses of our waterways with environmental considerations and balance demand for private use of water flows through extraction and diversion with broader community and environmental considerations.</p>	<p>We have extreme concerns relating to this Action. Amenity has no place when considering waterway health. This is not an area in which “balance” is appropriate. “Balance” may have been appropriate fifty years ago and prior to the impacts of climate change, it is not relevant now. For example, appropriate wording for this Action might be: “Review current water extraction and diversion practices, including use of dams and bores, in light of inadequate environmental flows due to reduced rain fall and climate change impacts”.</p>
		<p>A3.11 Investigate opportunities to support community-based renewable energy solutions.</p>	<p>Would council consider suggesting what types of renewable energy solutions they would be likely to investigate?</p>
		<p>A3.13 Finalise and implement Council’s Domestic Waste Water Management Plan 2019.</p>	<p>We support this Action.</p>
<p>SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES: These should be included within this Goal to assist with our “healthy environment”: OBJECTIVE: Protect and enhance ALL REMNANT vegetation. OBJECTIVE: Achieve sustainable land management. OBJECTIVE: Pursue the protection and restoration of significant sites and wildlife corridors. OBJECTIVE: Ensure land use and development is addressed in the context of its potential effect on the wider catchment. OBJECTIVE: Conserve biodiversity through implementing sustainable land use planning and encouraging sustainable land management, ensuring land is suitable for the proposed land use. OBJECTIVE: Minimise the impacts of pest plants and animals. OBJECTIVE: Discourage further rural residential development of undersized or heavily vegetated bush allotments in the Green Wedge. OBJECTIVE: Manage biodiversity at landscape scale for conservation.</p> <p>The following Objectives that should be included within this Goal to assist with our “safe environment”, if this goal is to stay in this combined function format, are as follows: OBJECTIVE: Discourage further rural residential development in areas that are defined as high bushfire risk areas.</p>	<p>SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL ACTIONS: ACTION: Identify actual and potential wildlife corridors and valuable habitat, and then ensure planning controls and incentives reflect the need to protect these areas. (relate to Objective 3.1) ACTION: Ensure that the state government Bio-sites register is up to date with regard to Nillumbik’s sites of biodiversity and faunal habitat importance. ACTION: Seek and involve neighbouring municipalities and agencies in land and biodiversity management. ACTION: Continue to investigate ambiguities in the current planning controls that inadequately protect biodiversity assets i.e. grazing animals within bushland, and lobby for strengthening controls to prevent these degrading environmental impacts. ACTION: In priority areas for biodiversity, investigate permit conditions that require land management plans. This concept is already a requirement under Green Wedge zoning, and some municipalities ask for this under other land use zones. ACTION: Investigate the effectiveness of enforcement of breaches in planning controls.</p>		

GOAL 4: A Prosperous Economy

Goal 4 is an important part of ensuring the economic vitality of the Green Wedge. This section speaks to positive directions for economic development but gives no background information to inform the broad ranging statements.

It states under the sub heading Agriculture, “There is an opportunity to more productively utilise land in Nillumbik’s green wedge to supply Melbourne’s growing demand for food and to provide residents with a variety of new employment opportunities”. There is a wealth of information to inform this statement. The Nillumbik Land Capability Study outlines the possibilities but also the serious constraints of soil types and declining water availability across Nillumbik. There is also a great many studies and reports on agricultural and associated economic activity that could inform prospective directions for economic reform within the green wedge. PPN 31 gives direction on using “previous relevant work`can provide a useful basis for the preparation of the plan”. Serious consideration of the data available is required to produce a GWMP that is informed, up to date and relevant.

Council has an Economic Development Strategy with aims and actions for economic development within the green wedge areas that should be reflected within the draft GWMP. They encourage development while putting emphasis on the sustainable, soil-based and environmental requirements of a GWMP.

All of this will be dependent on a healthy environment. If we are not taking utmost care of our natural environment, waterways, open spaces, habitats and indigenous species, then the health of our economy will suffer.

Objectives	GWPG response	Related Key Action	GWPG response
O4.1 Encourage investment to improve the economy and create local employment while at the same time preserving the green wedge.	Need to “enhance” not just preserve.	A4.1 Encourage investment to improve the economy and create local employment while at the same time preserving the green wedge.	
		A4.6 Encourage growth in professional services and home-based business.	
		A4.11 Create an investment attraction plan and investigate innovative land use solutions to attract professional services to locate within the townships of the green wedge.	Confused. This seems to be two Actions, as we are unsure what “innovative land use solutions” would attract what “professional services” to the townships of the Green Wedge.
O4.2 Encourage sustainable, diversified and productive agriculture, access to markets and the right to farm.	Two Objectives – 1, Encourage sustainable, diversified and productive agriculture and access to markets. This is an actionable item. 2, The right to farm. This is a regulatory action and is far more complex.	A4.4 To ensure that land remains available for agriculture, use the Nillumbik planning scheme to encourage consolidation of smaller agricultural lots in common ownership and discourage the further fragmentation of agricultural lands	We agree.
		A4.5 Continue to apply the sustainable agricultural rate rebate and the primary producer rate rebate.	We agree.
		A4.8 Advocate to the Victorian Government that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> planning and other controls be altered to allow landholders a right to farm on pre-existing cleared agricultural land and be able to adapt to changing agricultural practice the support and promotion of supplementary rural business activities such as farm gate sales, farm stays and other low environmental amenity impact enterprises which are consistent with green wedge values need to be prioritised, and the role of hobby farms be defined, recognised and policy and program be developed to support sustainable land management and agriculture at their scale. 	Dot point 1. Reducing or eliminating planning controls will adversely affect biodiversity and soil quality, etc, etc. As new residents move in with little knowledge of farming management and planning controls, council’s pre-eminent position on land use strategies can only be achieved through the permit process. The State of the Environment Report provides chilling facts that we have not halted biodiversity loss even with the current controls.
O4.3 Recognise the contribution of hobby (or small scale) farming in the green wedge with supportive policy put in place.	No explanation as to why this is required. All rural activities, no matter their scale, are supported by council programs such as the Invasive Species strategy, biodiversity grants etc. Supportive policy in what areas to achieve what?	Third dot point A4.8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the role of hobby farms be defined, recognised and policy and program be developed to support sustainable land management and agriculture at their scale. 	If, as advocated, “hobby farms” were to be defined at a state level, this would be a planning amendment. The Port Philip and Westernport CMA with the DPI in 2008 set descriptors of six typologies for rural landholders within the GW which may assist in development of local policy. Needs explanation as to how “scale” effects sustainable land management to justify discerning between identical uses.

<p><i>O4.4 Recognise and support the sustainable management of the equine community in the green wedge.</i></p>	<p>The GWPG support the sustainable management of the equine community, particularly in regard to the environment and biodiversity.</p>	<p><i>A4.9 Finalise and implement a new Nillumbik Equine Strategy.</i></p>	<p>The GWPG and the wider community look forward to being involved in the development of this strategy.</p>
<p><i>O4.5 Encourage growth in the visitor economy through regional promotion and facilitation of new visitor experiences consistent with Nillumbik’s economic, social and environmental characteristics.</i></p>		<p><i>A4.10 Review and update Council’s Destination Management Plan to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>improve awareness of the benefits of cycle tourism and mapping information</i> • <i>invest in digital interpretation of heritage, cultural and natural assets</i> • <i>develop tourism through trail investment</i> • <i>develop festivals and an events attractions plan</i> • <i>build on the arts and cultural product through development of curated content and packaging</i> • <i>add to the food and wine offerings by facilitating diversity of product and infrastructure</i> • <i>manage and avoid detrimental impacts on sensitive environmental areas</i> • <i>increase strategic marketing and promotion and</i> • <i>improve and develop products suited to family experiences.</i> 	<p>This action provides concise actionable items that are easily understood and can be monitored.</p>
<p><i>O4.6 Encourage growth in professional services and home-based business.</i></p>		<p><i>A4.11 Create an investment attraction plan and investigate innovative land use solutions to attract professional services to locate within the townships of the green wedge.</i></p>	<p>See response to 4.11 above</p>
<p><i>O4.7 Encourage government to make reliable mobile phone and internet access available across the Shire.</i></p>		<p><i>A4.12 Identify and document areas of low mobile and internet connectivity and black spots. Identify opportunities to rectify areas affected.</i></p>	<p>We agree with this Action</p>
<p>Under the visitor economy it acknowledges that “Sustainable tourism is a significant opportunity and will be an ongoing objective for the green wedge”. Perhaps this should be objective O4.8.</p>		<p>SUGGESTED ACTIONS: Actions could include zero or low carbon footprint for accommodation, local cafes, promoting the natural environment, supporting wildlife tours within the bushland areas. Could also be built into the review of the Destinations Management Plan.</p>	

GOAL 5: Responsible Leadership

If this document is adopted in its current form the GWPG look forward to being involved with a “Collaborative and consultative leadership” for it has been sadly lacking in the production of this document. We also look forward to “leadership that builds trust” for trust has been eroded not built during the GWMP review/rewrite. It is also of concern when a Nillumbik goal speaks of “makes the best use of available resources to the benefit of all in pursuit of excellence”.

We do have a wonderful resource at our disposal, we either treasure it for its beauty and intrinsic wealth as we have in the past or we exploit it by commercialisation and breaking down of the planning scheme as proposed in this draft GWMP. The goal is ambiguous and “best use” requires a clear definition, to allay the mistrust prevalent in the community.

Governance and engagement

Paragraph 2 The 2018 extensive community engagement used to inform this draft was the initial consultation that should have been used to inform the Project Steering and Project Working Groups as outlined in PPN 31.

Paragraph 3 Mentions strongly held and polarised views, nothing was done to ameliorate this position. Use of the two groups from PPN 31 would have set up further lines of communication and education that may have softened these polarised views. Great community alarm was raised over recent proposed amendments to overlays - had there been a full understanding of how the planning scheme works, many would have realised their fears were ungrounded. An opportunity to inform and educate the public on many issues has been forfeited.

Paragraph 4 “Easily or cheaply” could have been added to this paragraph. Therein lies the strength of the planning scheme.

Paragraph 5,6 and 7. These all support the contention in the comments on paragraph 3. This does not “require strong leadership from Council” (para 7) but rather collaboration, consultation and interaction.

Land use planning

The paragraphs 1,2,3,5 and 7 are educational and informative.

Paragraph 4 In light of paragraph 4 under “governance and engagement” this appears to be an anomaly. This draft plan has many Objectives that challenge the intent of the planning scheme regarding green wedges which could lead eventually to planning amendments. These draft objectives are all contrary to the majority panel report. It is incumbent on council to initiate the “robust conversations” and to educate and explain what it is they wish to achieve and how it will support and enhance the green wedge before this document is adopted.

Advocacy

The panel put forward as one of their recommendations that an “authority” should be put in place to oversee green wedges. This was rejected by Council as another level of bureaucracy that may complicate Council decisions making.

All interface councils face problems that may impact one or more of the green wedges. The illegal dumping of “clean” fill in rural areas, bulk and scale of buildings are two that are impacting councils now. Council needs to investigate the opportunities of setting up a “body” that could be a pipeline to the Minister on planning problems and could also be a possible funding option. The maintenance of Melbourne’s green wedges should be shouldered by all Melburnians. Whether through direct government grants, a levy on councils per resident or a rate collection agency such as Melbourne Water who already collect park and drainage fees creating a financial pool that would be available to interface green wedge councils. This “body” would then be able to assist in funding green wedge issues. These could include but not limited to Restructure Overlays, overlay reviews, policy development, invasive species control, implementation of the GWMP and funding as specified in Key Moves 1,3 and 5.

This concept fits with O5.8 and aligns with A5.9.

The first five actions have already been covered in earlier Goals. Thus, they are repeated actions, not NEW actions. They have been covered under Key Moves.

Objectives	GWPG response	Related Key Action	GWPG response
<i>O5.1 Recognise and support landowners' maintaining land in the green wedge with up-to-date information.</i>	Information on what? This objective requires a lot of clarification (as it doesn't make sense)		
<i>O5.2 Take a joined up approach to working with the community to help it balance and cope with the competing demands of living and working in our green wedge.</i>	This is confusing and unclear – what is a “joined up approach?” Surely, those that are living in the Green Wedge chose to live here and are aware of the many demands of living in this environment.		
<i>O5.3 Support community strengthening through sharing its knowledge and capabilities.</i>	Perhaps THIS is what O5.2 is saying...		
<i>O5.4 Clearly articulate, and support, the future of our green wedge townships.</i>			
<i>O5.5 Work with the Victorian Government to ensure that the Nillumbik planning scheme supports the principles, goals and objectives of this plan.</i>	The Victorian Government has clearly articulated the principles, goals and objectives for Green Wedges. If this Green Wedge Management Plan conflicts with those, which it clearly does in its current form, then it is up to Nillumbik to justify these proposed changes to the Planning Scheme.	<i>A5.6 Consider reviewing the current application of zoning controls in the green wedge to better reflect the actual use of land.</i>	Changing the planning scheme is a long term and expensive exercise which the GWPG do not support.
		<i>A5.7 Consider reviewing the potential range of land uses that could assist owners to be better manage rural land that abuts the Urban Growth Boundary.</i>	Changing the planning scheme is a long term and expensive exercise which the GWPG do not support.
<i>O5.6 Enhance and update Council's knowledge base to support informed management of critical issues in our green wedge.</i>	We support this, and assume that this may include sourcing of information from relevant external bodies However, there doesn't seem to be an action to support this		There needs to be an action.
<i>O5.7 Keep the community appraised of and represent its interests in government policy reforms affecting our green wedge.</i>		<i>A5.8 Advocate Council's position on all government policy reform affecting the Shire, including reform of green wedge policy and planning provisions.</i>	
<i>O5.8 Attract external funding for green wedge management.</i>	See below (Advocacy)	<i>A5.9 Identify and pursue all funding opportunities from government, philanthropy and corporations to support implementation of this plan.</i>	
SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES: Objective: Implement the Green Wedge Management Plan			

SUBMISSION TO DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Submissions Close 11.59pm Sunday 11 August 2019

Following the flawed Community Panel process why are we now having this massive amount of community consultation on how to manage the green wedge when the majority of it -79% - is private land? The green wedge is perceived by some to fulfil some sort of Utopian vision as reflected in the endless motherhood statements written about it. The reality is it is private land which has been arbitrarily appropriated by the regulatory taking of land from its legitimate owners for the public benefit without formal notification and without compensation for loss of (then) existing rights and legitimate expectations for long term owners.

Our land was purchased in 1955 long before the green wedge was even a concept. Through various previous dysfunctional councils and bureaucrats we have been subjected to various restrictive overlays without any legitimate substantive evidence causing an enormous amount of effort and stress to protect our property from further regulatory intrusions. For example when the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) was applied to our property the "assessment" was done from over 2 kms. away. No qualified person accessed our property at any stage to determine whether or not the Overlay was justified by the on-ground substantive evidence. However the ESO remains to this day.

Council has now compulsorily acquired part of our land across two separate titles for the Diamond Creek – Hurstbridge trail extension – so again, the compulsory taking of land for the public benefit. We will get compensation this time but no amount of monetary compensation can ever make up for what we have lost – our amenity, our exclusive use, our privacy, our safety and security.

A major discrepancy in the Planning scheme is the application of Lot sizes in the Rural Conservation Zone where 81% of lots are already under the zone size. In fact the Rural Conservation Zone is inappropriate and was only used to lock the place up and restrict use. The Rural Conservation Zone should be removed from the planning scheme and replaced with a more suitable zone.

This Council has the opportunity through this Green Wedge Management Plan to find a moderate middle ground where some consensus can be reached to restore natural justice and fairness those who have been adversely affected over a very long period of time. Changes need to be made for Nillumbik to be viable. It should not remain stagnant and locked up from more housing. The green wedge needs people to be living in the landscape. The use of the precautionary principle should be abandoned as that can also be used to reject applications.

Buffer Zones.

Nillumbik needs an improved rate base. One way to do it would be to create buffer zones of smaller parcels of land – eg: 1ha – 2 ha. Buffer zones help to ameliorate the fire risk with more people to live on and maintain the land. That size would be manageable for many who wish to stay on their properties without having to move elsewhere.

The construction of the trail extension provides the opportunity to create such buffer zones which would utilise existing infrastructure such as the railway and sewerage and, depending on the location, would be within easy walking distance of Hurstbridge, Wattle Glen and Diamond Creek railway stations and provide access to schools, shops, medical and other facilities, sports grounds, stadium etc. The area also enjoys regular bus services.

SUBMISSION TO DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Agricultural Land

I do not support using the Nillumbik Planning Scheme to encourage consolidation of smaller agricultural lots in common ownership and discourage the further fragmentation of agricultural lands as stated in "Key Inputs into the draft Green Wedge Management Plan" A4.4 , page 18.

With the exception of some high quality agricultural land in some areas the majority of Nillumbik comprises shallow stony soils and is not suitable for agricultural purposes. Land should be zoned fit for purpose so there should be the ability to create buffer zones for dwellings as aforementioned.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

I await Councils approval of a fair and equitable Green Wedge Management Plan

Anne Stoneman


SUBMISSION TO DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

My brother & I purchased this property in 1955 and to our knowledge are the longest term owners along the Diamond Creek. **Since that time, rights we enjoyed at the time of purchase were retrospectively removed and restrictive regulatory controls increasingly applied. Dysfunctional Councils of the past who were driven by green activists and pressure groups caused us to lose trust in the honesty and fairness of processes affecting our land.**

The current Council has worked hard to restore fairness and common sense and we trust this will be reflected in the final GWMP.'

We used to run cattle here but we are overrun with kangaroos who constantly damage the fences. There is also a problem with wandering dogs who chase the kangaroos and end up driving them into the dams where they drown and we have to drag them out. It's very distressing.

Because of the fire risk in this area we need to be able to manage our properties without bureaucratic red tape and fear of prosecution.

It is very pleasing to see the roadsides being cleaned up. There is much work to be done but with its small rate base it is obvious Nillumbik must increase the rate base. Money does not grow on trees and there is a need/demand for more sporting and cultural facilities. Nillumbik can't rely on grants. There has to be economic benefit to ratepayers in whatever Council chooses to do.

Buffer Zones

In my view the hard urban edge policy has been a failure.

- It does not make sense to have 8ha minimum zoning immediately adjacent to, and nearby, a metropolitan rail service, which leaves that valuable infrastructure under-utilised.
- It is my view buffer zones of 1ha – 2ha should be created where infrastructure already exists. for example along the railway corridor including Hurstbridge, Wattle Glen and Diamond Creek.

The 'hard edge' policies have failed.

- The Eltham Main Sewer trunk line goes through our property and runs adjacent to other properties through Wattle Glen and Diamond Creek.
- Gas supply is available
- There is a good bus service and the railway line is soon to be upgraded.
- The Heidelberg Kinglake Road has bicycle lanes on both sides
- The Diamond Creek Trail extension is soon to be constructed so it is an opportunity for Council to establish buffer zones around the trail corridor so others too can "live in the landscape" and boost the rate base. The trail will be within easy walking distance of railway stations.

SUBMISSION TO DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Buffer Zones (cont...)

- Elderly, long time owners of large allotments could downsize their land and continue to age in place with less land to maintain.
- Some long term owners would also be happy to give their families 1ha – 2ha so they too can return and build on the land where they were raised.

Other reasons why an increased rate base is needed.

I have contacted Council twice about doing the bottom end of Gorst Rd so we can turn either way onto Broadgully.Road. You can't turn right into Broadgully Rd. from Gorst Rd. The first Cr. to come out & have a look at it was Cr. Brock a few years ago . He said it wouldn't be possible because a few trees would have to go. (Trees before people?) When a recent allocation of funds was available for work on Broadgully Rd I approached Council Officers about getting that work done but they said there was no money for it. We've had deaths on Broadgully Rd due to the increased traffic cutting across from Mernda & Doreen because the Ring Road has not been completed like it was intended originally.

From the corner of Bean Drive down to our gate Gorst Rd road has never been graded since Nillumbik took over from Diamond Valley Council.

Kevin Stoneman,


From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Nillumbik's Draft GWMP, 2019
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 9:55:38 PM

[REDACTED]

1. The Green Wedge is not only about people and any plan must reflect this. Innumerable international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities are to protect our biodiversity and address climate change.

2. I believe the Draft does not reflect the community's views and desires [as expressed via the community consultation process and via the Panel process]. For such a strong voice to be ignored to such a degree erodes the community's confidence in Council and other authorities, and demonstrates a lack of good governance.

3. The Draft is confusing and difficult to read and does not give enough clarity about what the intentions are, key actions, and how Council will ensure these occur in a timely manner.

4. The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.

5. Climate change must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, NOT just adaptation.

6. Green Wedges are vital. They cool our city and are known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. The Draft does not reflect this fact.

7. Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation if this is to be turned around. The Draft does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.

8. Council's Draft GWMP is unacceptable as written.

Sent from my iPad

From: [David Meneghini](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the draft green wedge management plan
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 7:54:34 PM

Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management plan.

I am writing to express my objection to any zoning changes and the status of our remaining bushland in the hurstbridge/wattle glen area.

Regards,
D.Meneghini

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Leanne Backman](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: GWMP submission
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 7:31:44 PM
Attachments: [GWMP submission.docx](#)

Please find my submission attached.

Regards

Leanne Backman

Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019

Leanne Backman

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am writing in response to the public consultation on the proposed Green Wedge Management Plan for Nillumbik Shire.

Never has there been a more vital time and terrific opportunity to protect our natural assets and invest in them for future generations and in fact, towards survival of the planet. As it stands, the draft plan largely misses these opportunities with a wishy washy policy exposing the 'green wedge' and all it's biodiversity to developer greed.

Documents such as 'Melbourne's Green Belt and Wedges' by Geoff Harris provide evidence of the forward thinking and planning by town planners such as Hoddle in 1837. Onward from this point was the identification of future needs and the necessity to retain land for economic, agricultural, public use, and environmental biodiversity including water catchments.

Prior to white settlement, Indigenous Australians had the skill, knowledge and insight to look after the land, it's plants and animals sustainably, while they lived balanced and rich lives, refer to Dark Emu by Bruce Pascoe.

Now, we have at our disposal scientific knowledge and data from some of sciences best minds. Nillumbik as an area, now have the responsibility to not only maintain, but improve on the foresight of our forefathers.

Instead of embrace this opportunity and responsibility, it feels as though council have undermined the whole process playing political games. Unfortunately I never believed the process would be transparent, equitable, and in the best interests of the general community. What has occurred is a waste of ratepayer funds and peoples time and energy. The ideology was sound in drawing on public members to form a panel, to conduct community input sessions, to gain expert recommendations. But alas the political games of 'minority reports', PALS, and the opportunity for greed to filter through to the final report, undermines the whole process, and is a shameful disgrace that all councillors should feel humiliated about. The general feeling is that Nillumbik Councillors for the most part are not acting in the interests of Nillumbik more broadly.

Nillumbik have always had regulations against clearing bush, building on ridgelines and the like. Yet more and more McMansions that require heavy cutting, filling, clearing, building in dangerous bushfire prone areas are becoming the norm. Nillumbik planning, are setting a precedence of building Toorak mansions in what was once bush or productive agricultural land.

In reference to councils own 2012 biodiversity report, Nillumbik is a unique and special area. At this time, identified were:

- 1,031 indigenous flora species, 64 of which are listed as significant species
- 350 indigenous fauna species, 70 of which are listed as rare or threatened, including the Brush-tailed Phascogale, Common Dunnart, Lace Monitor, Eltham Copper Butterfly, Swift Parrot, Masked Owl, Powerful Owl and the Australian Grayling
- 84 sites of biodiversity significance, 12 of national significance, 33 of state significance, 38 of regional significance and one of local significance (per DELWP)
- 19 nationally threatened species, one threatened ecological community listed for protection under the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, 52 species listed under the state Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1998, 132 listed by DELWP as rare or threatened in Victoria
- 39% of intact native vegetation in Nillumbik is on public land, 61% on private land.

It seems Nillumbik are going backwards. [REDACTED] used to work for council providing education and information to landholders to support good management. [REDACTED] assisted my husband and I to plan erosion control, pest control, removal of noxious weeds, replanting and generally looking after the land. What the area really requires is more of this approach!

- The shire does not need more McMansions, we can be leaders in supporting smaller, sustainable, affordable housing that co-exists with the environment so everyone benefits.
- We need policy with teeth to protect what is meant to be a 'green wedge' and people with the courage, foresight and integrity to implement it.
- We need intelligent leaders who heed the warnings of climate change and are prepared to promote real and positive change to reduce carbon emissions.
- We can't afford to lose more fertile ground to houses, garages, menages when food security is going to be a huge issue in the future (refer to page 19 of Geoff Harris report for agricultural belt that has now depleted)
- The urban growth boundary must NOT continue to be pushed further out.
- Planning of new developments must at least fit the current rules (I know numerous large developments and subdivision that don't fit the current criteria).
- The concept of the 'Green Wedge' does not seem to be taken seriously or represented in the draft report sufficiently. 'Green wedges' are vitally important and valuable. The research, numerous professionals and studies of great integrity make clear the importance to protect and enhance these areas. The draft does not go far enough.
- While council listened to the people, the report does not sufficiently reflect the views and desires of the community.

On the whole, I find this expensive and time consuming process a great disappointment as it has not delivered what it was intended to. I feel the science, the ideology of a 'green wedge', the reasons why people choose to live here, have not been captured, sufficiently valued, or protected in the draft report.

From: [Rodney Waterman](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 7:29:50 PM

Submitted to: gwmp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Submitted by: **Rodney Waterman**

Contact details: [REDACTED]

Post code: [REDACTED]

Date: **10.08.19**

I do not wish to speak to this submission

Submission

I believe that the environmental biodiversity in the Green Wedge should be better protected, increased and enhanced.

The outcomes I want the Green Wedge Management Plan to deliver are:

- “Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation” as required in ‘Plan Melbourne 2017-2050: Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas’ [Draft GWMP Appendix 1, p.44]
- No change to the Urban Growth boundary or township boundaries
- No ‘buffer zones’ around the townships
- Within the Green Wedge, no zone changes, or advocating for zone changes, which could result in subdivision of currently Rural Conservation Zone land into smaller lots.
- No changes to land use, or advocating for changes, which would allow further clearing of Green Wedge land without a permit.
- No Objectives, Key actions or changes to the Planning Scheme which would impact negatively on our biodiversity.
- A Green Wedge Management Plan which includes the appropriate details for implementation and monitoring, including outcomes, performance indicators, roles and responsibilities, priorities, time-frames and evaluation.
- All implicit impacts - of actions, objectives and possible outcomes of possible reviews - on the Green Wedge, to be transparent, not just implied or inferred.

From: [Bryan Walters](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, Shire of Nillumbik
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 5:56:46 PM
Attachments: [Swallowing a bitter pill.docx](#)

Please find attached an email version of my submission to the Draft Plan. I would appreciate email confirmation of its receipt.

Bryan Walters


Shire Offices
PO Box 476
Greensborough
Vic. 3088

Bryan Walters

July 26, 2019

Submission to the Draft GWMP, 2019

Swallowing a bitter pill: The Draft GWMP

The Draft GWMP, presented for public comment by the Shire of Nillumbik last week reminded me of a recent trip to Lake Eyre. The Lake has great breadth, but very little depth. When dried to a crusty, thin saltpan, the Lake still has more biodiversity in it than do the Goals of the Draft GWMP. An unkind interpretation would probably rename it the Wedge Plan.

The document is substantial in its complexity with a nesting of ideas discernable after a time of focused scrutiny. Such is the way with big-vision Plans.

There was a little confusion at first where the intention of the Draft GWMP is: *to set a direction for Nillumbik over the next decade with priorities determined every four years through the Council Plan and prior to the four year review of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme* through principles, goals, objectives and key actions. By page thirteen, a new set of guiding principles was introduced and the Actions appeared to have morphed into 5 Key Moves.

The Key Actions, to give credit, finally reappeared as the 'doing' part of the document, the 'Management' if you like. Surprisingly, the Introduction states that the Draft GWMP will be supported by an annual Action Plan. The reader may be confused here too as to whether the Actions in the Draft Plan are indeed the Actions for management or if there are further Actions to be formulated each year, or an entirely new set under which Council might direct and deliver its management of the Green Wedge.

In the Draft Plan, Actions arise from the stated Objectives, each of which nest within Five Goals.

There were also ten Principles, but it turns out that these 'informed the creation' of the GWMP review and so had no actual weight in the document other than reassuring the reader that it was 'Fair Play, all the Way'.

So the Draft GWMP document has a structure as follows:

A Vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge

Introduction

5 Key Moves

(10 Principles only of relevance to the process by which the Plan was reviewed)

5 Goals

Objectives (vary between 6 and 8)

Actions (vary between 7 and 14 depending on the stated Goal)

Monitoring & Evaluation

Appendix 1: *Plan Melbourne 2017 – 2020* (A strategic Victorian Government document)

Now, Municipal Councils are the third-tier of Government with mandated and legislated tasks controlled and overseen by the State. In other words, the State sets most of the agenda through legislation, particularly in Planning provisions. The Councils have some autonomy, but its performance is adjudicated by the State and to some extent by its constituents.

In this framework, the State, through the 'strategic' *Plan Melbourne 2017 to 2050* document guides the Councils. So a synopsis of this guiding framework forms part of the introduction, complete with a list of much of the State's planning support documents.

The introduction lifts heavily from the State document as it perhaps should, but open-ended and poorly expressed statements suggest that a vision is not forthcoming. It is almost as if the Nillumbik Council is presenting itself as a body directing the State.

This draft plan is consistent with the Victorian Government's metropolitan plan, Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and adopts the goals of the Shire's Council Plan 2017-2021 – Living in the Landscape vision for Nillumbik to become Australia's most liveable shire

There is a bit of 'sleight of hand' in the introduction where the powers of the State are laid out:

Legislation: *regulations requiring ratification by both Houses of the Victorian Parliament for planning scheme amendments that alter the urban growth*

boundary or green wedge subdivision controls.

This is a true enough statement, but the fact is there are no current amendments before the Parliament to 'alter urban growth boundaries'. And it is not within the ability of the Shire to do so. The recognition of 'difficulties' at the urban/rural interface (page 23) is irrelevant to the legislation or indeed to the Draft Plan. There is no 'buffer zone' and the suggestion of one looks like bracket creep for potential alteration into the Rural Conservation Zone for 'development' purposes. Nowhere in the State legislation is a buffer zone mentioned relative to the Urban Growth Boundary. This should not be included in the Plan and appears to be an ambit claim from either planners who should know better or by the ill-informed.

In discussion of the constraints on supplying unspecified housing for the elderly across the Shire, the seeming impediment by existing legislation to limit the number of dwellings on rural lots or on inappropriate lots, the suggestion (page 22) is that:

Consolidation of lots is likely to become increasingly necessary to assemble sufficient land to manage all the requirements of a dwelling..

This is a stultifying statement of intent. An unsubstantiated projection into the future that seeks to address the issue of small lot use across the Shire, to produce a favorable (Prosperity is one of the Goals of the Draft Plan) outcome, contrary to the State's limitations for reasons other than prosperity.

Throughout the Plan, there is lip-service to environmental protection, so clearly enunciated in the State documents. Vegetation protection is a primary concern and legislation enshrines it (s52.17 of the Victorian Planning Provisions and Planning Scheme Amendment VC138, 2017). Land use in rural land is therefore constrained, but with systems for appraisal, acceptability and permit.

The counterpoint to environmental protection is 'development'. By this it is implied that land use that generates wealth is the direction that the GWMP would want to take us. Well it probably is so for some. However, the major findings of the Panel during the Review process were that environmental protection was the key issue. Protecting it while allowing controlled activity seems to be the exact balance point the Plan could not enunciate.

Examining the Actions for Goal 1, **Engaged and Connected Communities**, Action 1.6 was: *Investigate consolidation and amalgamation of small .. lots that are not capable (because of existing legislation) of supporting a dwelling in their current configuration*

This Action does not seem to fit all that well with engagement of communities, but is a potentially exploitative action against environmental safeguards.

For Goal 2. **Active and Creative People,**

Action 2.7 nestled in Goal 2 is: *Use the Nillumbik Planning Scheme...including support of adaptive reuse of Heritage places and allowing prohibited uses.*

The Heritage Act 2017, the Heritage Council and the Minister would no doubt be consulted as they are the statutory bodies for this questionable Action statement.

For Goal 3. **Safe and Healthy Environments**

Objective 3.1 seeks to *Identify, protect and enhance valuable biodiversity and habitat* and Objective 3.2 *Reduce the number and impact of bushfire incidents*

The Plan fails to say how valuable biodiversity and habitat might be protected, other than perhaps by 'stocktaking' it. The fire Objective as stated is untenable.

Action 3.1 *Undertake stocktake of environment and agricultural pursuits*

Action 3.2. *Review the Ecological Significance Overlays (ESO's)*

Action 3.5. *Encourage biodiversity conservation*

'Stocktaking the environment' is a new term unseen in any environmental assessment document so far. It appears to equate more with measurement of asset for a commercial determination. Without definition it is a meaningless term.

Reviewing ESO's is a State enterprise through the Planning Scheme. The Shire may seek to alter parts of the Overlays after review, but cannot unilaterally change them. The issues of the C101 and C81 Amendments to the Overlays were part of this. Those amendments failed, but the overlays remain.

Encouraging biodiversity conservation seems an admirable counterpoint to development, but it is a hollow statement without a stated mechanism through which it might be applied.

For Goal 4 **A Prosperous Economy,**

This is a worrying section. In the preamble '*build up the capacity of a local area to improve the economic future*' and '*There is an opportunity to productively utilise land in Nillumbik's Green Wedge*' appear as commercial goals, unhindered by the constraints of protective legislation.

Objective 4.1 offers salvation: *Improve the economy and local employment while at the same time preserving the Green Wedge.* Yes, but how?

Action 4.3 suggests again *Stocktake the environmental and agricultural assets*, but to what end?

Action 4.4 *Use Nillumbik Planning Scheme to encourage consolidation of smaller agricultural lots and discourage further fragmentation of agricultural land*. This is a two-edged sword and would appear to encourage the buying up of land to establish large, commercial enterprise. This seems at odds with the Panel findings in the review process.

Action 4.8 calls for *Advocacy to the Victorian government to allow landholders a 'right to farm'*.

Interestingly, the 'right to farm' statement arose from the Victorian Farmers Federation alarmist reaction to Agriculture Victoria: Planning for Sustainable Animal Industries. The government review of farming practices sought to regulate unsustainable, cruel or environmentally damaging agricultural practices through a permit system where necessary. In other words - an education program. How this Action statement ever got into the Draft GWMP is baffling.

Goal 5. Responsible Leaders

Again (page 40) the Rural Conservation Zone *'is an inhibitor to this Plan's objective to promote the right to farm...'*

Action 5.5 again: *Undertake stocktakes of the environmental asset and agricultural activity and practices*. This is a previously stated action, again with no particular outcome.

Action 5.6 *Consider reviewing the current application of planning controls* suggests that the Shire can unilaterally change legislation. It can't. Nor can it bend the rules without putting a case to the State for adjudication.

Monitoring and Evaluation completes the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan. There is very little to read here. The opening statement perhaps really says ambiguously, the true intention of the current Council:

This plan is intended to be one of the most important in Council's hierarchy and will be intrinsic to the way of doing business rather than standalone as yet another plan competing for resources

If this is a primary intention, why bury it in the Monitoring and Evaluation section? And why make business the model for managing the Green Wedge?

Without hesitation I submit that the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan is poorly written, is unacceptable as it stands and largely ignores the major findings of the Review Panel. The Draft GWMP needs a complete re-write

with a reasoned focus on climate change and environmental protection. In a drying climate, agriculturalists will be affected rapidly. We are all in this together, so focus on long-term objectives please, not prosperity goals and short, re-election goals.

Bryan Walters



From: [Bryan Walters](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Fwd: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, Shire of Nillumbik
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 5:51:34 PM
Attachments: [Scientists and the GWMP.docx](#)

Please find attached, a submission prepared by resident and regional scientists with an interest in the future management of the Green Wedge in the Shire of Nillumbik. I would appreciate confirmation that this email and its contents have been recieved.

Contact for Scientists: Bryan Walters, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Submission to the Shire of Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan August 2019

Shire of Nillumbik
Civic Drive
Greensborough
Vic. 3088

Posted to: gwmp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au Friday, August 9, 2019

Nillumik Scientists request a Re-Write

Nillumbik Shire Council has undertaken a review the Green Wedge Management Plan before it had actually expired. Through a lengthy process, where extensive consultation was attempted, the major aspirations of the community and the recommendations of the selected review Panel seem to be largely ignored in the Draft GWMP now presented as the reviewed Plan for public comment.

The document is confusing, but at its center, a change in the management of the Green Wedge from rural conservation to rural and urban development is a potentially devastating direction.

The crisis we are facing globally and here in Australia is a changing climate. As scientists, we are watching the impact of climate change around us now seen in the death of numbers of tree species, loss of stream flow, disappearance of bird and insect species, among other signs. More of the same and a lack of consideration of climate change is not an answer for the crisis that is looming.

In the current Draft, environmental protections have been loosened rather than tightened in direct contrast to CSIRO recommendations for building climate resilience. The Draft Plan does not adequately address environment and biodiversity protection, or take account of the strong public comments on biodiversity and environmental amenity, but gives priority to development.

The business and prosperity model as proposed in the Plan will open the door to the further destruction of the values of the Green Wedge and further jeopardizes the stability bestowed so far by the mix of light agriculture, landscape and natural vegetation.

As professional scientists we, the undersigned, consider the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan currently presented, as unacceptable.

We believe a complete rewrite of the document is necessary with actions for climate mitigation and environment protection placed as the central themes of a new document with real, detailed actions and time-bound targets stated for the management of the Green Wedge.

Scientists :

Bryan Walters, Biologist, [REDACTED]
Dr Geoffrey Mosley, Geographer, Australian Director, Centre for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy (CASSE), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lynlee Smith, Botanist, St Andrews
Assoc. Prof. Randall Robinson, Deputy Director, Institute for Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities, Victoria University, Melbourne
Peter Robertson, Herpetologist, [REDACTED]
Sally Edwards, Botanist, [REDACTED]
Doug Froud, Botanist, [REDACTED]
Dr Emily Hynes, Zoologist, [REDACTED]
Richard Francis, Biologist. Abzeco Pty Ltd, Eltham
Dr David Baker-Gabb Ornithologist, [REDACTED]
Dr Kate Fitzherbert, Ecologist, [REDACTED]
Gabriela Hilty, Botanist, [REDACTED]
Dr David Middleton, Viticulturalist, [REDACTED]
Michael Smith, Ecologist. [REDACTED]
Dr Caroline Wilson, Ecologist [REDACTED]
Ian Penrose, Environmentalist, [REDACTED]

Contact details: Bryan Walters, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Submission sent to

Shire of Nillumbik Council,

Media - DVL, Herald Sun, Age, Guardian

Danielle Greene MP, Member for Yan Yean

**Vicky Ward, MP, Member of the Victorian
Legislative Assembly for Eltham**

The Hon. Richard Wynne, Minister for Planning

Kate Thwaites MP, Member for JagaJaga

**Jaclyn Symes MP, Member of the Victorian Legislative
Council for Northern Victoria**

From: [Jill Chan](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION ON NILLUMBIK'S DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 5:56:18 PM

The Green Wedges of Melbourne are often referred to as the "lungs of Melbourne". The setting aside of land as Green Wedges on the fringes of suburban Melbourne has always been regarded as an admirable and far sighted action on the part of an earlier State Government. It is inconceivable to think that Nillumbik is now considering adopting a management plan which has the potential to erode and negatively impact this very special area over which Nillumbik Shire is so privileged to have stewardship .

The Green Wedge is not just for Nillumbik residents to enjoy and reap the benefits of. It is for all people. The importance of an area such as this has been stated time and time again in public policy documents and studies worldwide. A contributing factor to the mental and physical health of communities is the prevalence and accessibility of the natural environment. With growth in population it is even more important that this factor be acknowledged and adhered to.

The Draft Green Wedge Management Plan does not give me the confidence that any further usage of the land for tourism, farming, commercial, residential or indeed any other uses will protect and maintain the Green Wedge. If any of these activities are permitted maintaining a hard edge to the Urban Growth Boundary will become difficult. A general whittling away of the Boundary by an incremental creep could occur and the growth around the more rural townships will increase. There must be no change to the current zones which could impact negatively on the Green Wedge.

A crucial element of having a Green Wedge is to maintain and enhance the biodiversity of the indigenous flora and fauna. This occurs by protecting their habitats. If other activities are allowed to encroach into the Green Wedge then not only are the habitats destroyed but so too is the expanse of natural environment that allows for the free roaming that so many of our native species need to survive and flourish.. Australia is already near the top of the list for causing the extinction of indigenous flora and fauna. Let us not allow Nillumbik Shire to contribute to this toll.

Climate change is real and all of us need to address this. Any further land clearing no matter what the reason will only contribute to this threat. The science is there to take heed of. Trees help to create a cooler environment. Trees absorb carbon dioxide. All landowners and custodians must meet the responsibility of addressing climate change.

The Green Wedge is vital for both our generation and the ensuing ones. It is vital for the continuance of our indigenous flora and fauna to be maintained and to flourish.

The Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, as it currently stands, does not adequately address the importance of the points mentioned in this submission. There is not enough

detail given about any proposed changes to the current plan. The possible negative impacts of any changes are not addressed at all.

Let Nillumbik lead the way in adequately preserving, maintaining and enhancing the green wedge.

Jill Chan

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Jason Chong](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 5:44:48 PM

To whom it may concern,

In response to the plan to review the zoning changes I hereby object to any plans to change them. The unique appeal of the district is the blend of bushland with housing.

Changing the zones will only serve to degenerate the quality of our fragile environment which serves a fine balance with harmonious living with the native fauna as it stands. It will also serve to degrade the quality of life for residents due to increased crowding and stretch on amenities.

I implore you to not bow to the financial pressure of wealthy developers seeking to gain more wealth at the cost of the community.

Regards

Jason Chong

Nillumbik resident

From: [Genty Marshall](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 4:29:41 PM

I'm writing to express my concern over the review of the zoning, planning and environmental status with the changes being considered for the Green Wedge area. The urban growth boundaries are of very serious concern. I object strongly to ANY zoning changes and to any alterations that may further jeopardise the last remaining snippets of bushland. The whole area has been compromised time and time again and I am gravely concerned that the current powers that be might forget how precious what we have out here really is. Please protect what is left of our beloved bushland and increase the restrictions to enhance our prosperous homelands for future generations.

Many thanks,

Genty Marshall.

From: [Brend Bunte](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 4:27:49 PM

I'll keep this short, but I'm opposed to any changes in the Zoning changes and status of our remain bushland. which should be protected. I'd hate to see Nilumbik follow the footsteps of Whitlesea council.

From: [Vicki](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the draft green wedge management plan
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 2:54:52 PM

I object to ANY zoning changes and the status of our remaining bushland.
Please leave it be, I'm proud of where I live and enjoy the fresh air and bushland.

Vicki Bondici.
Sent from my iPad

From: [david allen](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan .
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 2:07:35 PM

I object to any Zoning changes and the status of our remaining bushland .
We have the best, greenest shire in Victoria and you have been entrusted to ensure that it stays this way. Stop using the confusing wording used in this report and call out what should be your number one priority
ensuring that we protect our environment for future generations and limiting the development which is contributing to the destruction of this environment.

From: [John Hattam](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the GWMP Draft 2019
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 1:57:11 PM
Attachments: [GWMP Submission 2019.docx](#)

To the Mayor, Councillors and relevant Officers,

Please find attached my submission to the Draft 2019 Green Wedge Management Plan.

I would like to speak to the submission and would also like a receipt, acknowledging this email and it's contents.

Thank you,

Bronnie Hattam



Submission on the Green Wedge Management Plan Draft 2019

The current Green Wedge Management Plan 2010-2025 holds as its central tenet, to conserve and enhance the biodiversity values of the Shire and preserve the landscapes, it talks of economic activity only if it “does not impact negatively on natural and cultural values” (p.8) and it mentions sustainable living to “take account of the ‘ecological footprint’ of human activity. (p.15)

These words have been replaced with words such as “consider reviewing the current application of zoning controls in the green wedge” (p.41) so we know immediately this is a highly political document designed to be divisive and provocative.

As one of three councillors serving in the previous Council (the others being the then Cr Ken King and Anika Van Hulsen,) who sat on the GWMPIC along with a number of rural landowners, business owners and conservationists, extensive research was undertaken to implement the plan to **ensure** the landscapes and biodiversity was indeed preserved resulting in two proposed Planning Scheme Amendments (that the current plan suggests not very subtly, is at **one end of a spectrum** and termed **regulatory enforcement** in the Draft Plan (p.40)): said Draft sees this as heavy handed and unnecessary: **essentially what it is saying is that we need no further legal protections for our biodiversity and landscape**, even though most of it is in private hands, but that the rest of the Shire needs to trust the landowners to do the right thing. Unfortunately the new Draft then goes on to discuss rezoning land to change said land from RCZ to Agricultural. Or at A5.6 and A5.7 on P.41, it advocates reviewing land uses near the UGB and changes to Zoning Controls.

This non-regulatory approach, (except when it comes to **loosening controls** via a Planning Amendment) will potentially lead to huge hotel applications (the plan wants more accommodation so it would fit into this) so we could see massive Chinese investment for High Rollers to shoot all of our wildlife like in Murrumbidgee and we are highly unlikely to see enhanced biodiversity when there is no regulation in place although we may get rid of a few feral deer with this approach.

But this is a serious matter, for look what happens when successive state governments left it up to the private waste management companies to manage our waste with no oversight or regulation? Look at our combustible cladding crisis brought about by successive State government's failure to regulate the building industry and indeed in loosening the regulations at the behest of those same builders?

This council was elected to do away with the planning amendments (and unfortunately the SLO that had been approved by the previous council sat on the Ministers desk and failed to get the tick in time much to my disappointment) so now we have a Draft that essentially argues for **No Regulation**, but for all of the Shire's residents to rely on the Landowners to do the right thing whilst at the same time asking for rezoning loosening the permitted uses. It also seeks to shut out the voice and input from those who live in the urban parts of the Shire with much emphasis on the rural landowners and rural towns. We are all a part of the Green Wedge Shire and we all ought to have an equal voice. With this Draft we farewell the last great intact Green Wedge, the lungs of Melbourne. The Logo has already been changed to downplay the Green Wedge, the birdsong has gone from the Council Phone waiting line. Before long, the real birds will sing no more.

Bronnie Hattam 

From: [Adeena Rudge](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 1:43:52 PM

I object to ANY zoning changes and changes to the status of our remaining bushland in the Green Wedge/ Nillumbik area.

From: [Robyn Duff](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Draft GWMP
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 1:34:17 PM
Attachments: [GWMP Submission.docx](#)

Dear Councillors

Please find attached my submission on the draft GWMP. Would you kindly acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Yours faithfully

Robyn

Robyn Duff



To whom it may concern

Re: Submission regarding the GWMP

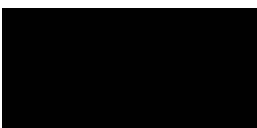
I am a resident of the Bend of Islands, having owned land in this area for 30 years and built a house in a wonderful part of Nillumbik, the Bend of Islands. For more than 10 years prior to this I lived in Nillumbik and have been attracted to the Green Wedge as a place to live for most of my life. I am also a member of the Christmas Hills Fire Brigade and an active fire fighter so I am aware of fire issues that might influence the GWMP. I fully support the submission made by the Bend of Islands Conservation Association.

The draft Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) fails to capture the unique nature of the Green Wedge and the main characteristic that sets it apart from other semi-urban and rural areas, that is its relatively intact indigenous flora and fauna. This should be the focus of the GWMP. Indeed this quality was highlighted in Council's own Community survey (August 2018) and in the Community Panel report (November 2018). Both reinforced the fact that the residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge. However this value and the objective of maintaining and improving these environmental values are absent from the GWMP.

In reviewing the GWMP, the overarching National and State plans provide a good context. Appropriately, the GWMP cites *Plan Melbourne* as Appendix 1. However it could benefit from the emphasis placed within this Plan on the desired outcomes for Green Wedge and Peri-urban areas. The first of these focuses on Environmental and Biodiversity Assets. It would be a great improvement if the GWMP contained a clear statement of this priority up front such as the first priority in the Plan Melbourne 2017-2050: "Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation."

This failure to describe and value the environmental qualities of the Green Wedge weakens the focus on the protection of the environment and the area's precious biodiversity. The native flora and fauna of the Green Wedge relies on this protection. Without this focus the environment will be further degraded and the thing that sets Nillumbik apart from other rural areas will be lost.

The reason that I live in Nillumbik is to be able to enjoy the natural environment with its indigenous plants – orchids and wildflowers, wattles and eucalypts supporting a wonderful array of animals, some of which are threatened. I am fortunate to have Powerful Owls and Brush-tailed Phascogales in my backyard in part thanks to the protection of the Green Wedge by the previous GWMP. I am distressed and very concerned that the protection of this wonderful environment may significantly weakened by this GWMP.



Robyn Duff



From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Nillumbik's draft management plan 2019
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 12:43:09 PM

To Whom This May Concern

I moved into Nillumbik's Green Wedge over 20 years ago as I wanted to live in a bush/rural environment and contribute to its conservation. Over the years I have learnt so very much about how precious Nillumbik's indigenous flora and fauna is and sadly I have witnessed a slow decline/loss of this.

In 2018 I was fortunate enough to be invited onto the Community Panel for the review of the Green Wedge Management Plan. I thought long and hard as to whether I would accept this invitation as I was skeptical of the process, in so far as whether it would be a genuine process or one that simply paid lip service to a community member. My skepticism was also couched in the FACT that the Green Wedge Management Plan was NOT up for review and to this day I still haven't found answers as to why the plan was being reviewed before its stated time frame for review. Sadly again, my experience of this panel was exactly that, paying lip service with Council attempting to be seen to be inclusive, considering the Community's views etc. however definitely not my experience.

So as a GWMP Community Panel member I participated with integrity and watched the outcome of this process and the so called 80% majority be manipulated for a handful of members whose behaviour was anything but honest. I have no issue with their voice being heard, however I did have an issue with the way they ensured their voice be heard and Council's apparent complicity re this.

So back to my personal comments about the current draft management plan 2019.

Obviously I don't support it for the following reasons:

1. There are any number of international reports/scientific research out there that clearly and strongly state that our highest and most urgent priorities are to address climate change and protect our biodiversity. Green Wedge is NOT just about people and any Plan it must include and reflect this.
2. So 'climate change' or as it was initially referred to "global warming", MUST be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, NOT just adaptation. Let's show some leadership!
3. I find the current draft is difficult to read and confusing which only reinforces my view that Council does NOT want people to understand what's actually happening and being proposed. It does not give enough clarity about what the plan's intentions actually are, key actions, and how Council will ensure these occur in a timely manner.
4. Specifically the 'Urban Growth Boundary' must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. The 'Rural Conservation Zoned' land must be protected and maintained.
5. It's a no brainer! Green Wedges are vital. They cool our city and are known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus and the draft does NOT reflect this fact. I hope I live long enough for the next generations who will inevitably ask WHY did we/my and the current generations, NOT protect what we have, when we KNEW we could protect and conserve this biodiversity. When it's gone it's GONE.
6. Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much

stronger protections for vegetation if this is to be turned around. The current draft does NOT demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.

In closing, I can say with some authority that the current Draft does NOT reflect the community's views and desires as was expressed by the MAJORITY via the Panel process and then via the community consultation process. For such a strong voice to be ignored to such a degree reinforces my and many other members of the Nillumbik community's confidence in Council and other authorities, and in very simple terms demonstrates a lack of good governance.

I can only hope that the current draft WILL be reconsidered and redrafted to reflect the above.

Regards
Maria Katsikas



From: [Alan Murfett](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: submission on Nillumbik's draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 12:15:25 PM

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the GWMP draft.

I live in Eltham, outside the Green Wedge but part of the 3/4 of Nillumbik ratepayers that are outside the Green Wedge but support it by choosing to live in Nillumbik and through our rates. I also volunteer in a local Friends group. I am happy to have an ESO on my property and am slowly revegetating it closer to the original EVC.

Point 1.

I read the community consultation summaries (couldn't attend) and I attended several working group sessions as an observer, and the draft GWMP does not seem to adequately reflect the sentiment expressed by community members.

Point 2.

Looking at the draft GWMP at a higher level -

Appendix 1: 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas',

has as its first heading 'Environmental & biodiversity assets'. Where's that in the draft GWMP?

Instead, in the draft GWMP we get (summarised on p. 14):

The five goals for managing our green wedge are

Engaged, connected communities

Active and creative people

Safe and healthy environments

A prosperous economy

Responsible leadership

Principles: What drives management of the Green Wedge

- Leadership
- Aboriginal Voice
- A whole of Shire approach and recognition of Nillumbik's relationship to Metropolitan Melbourne
- Manage change for future benefit
- Collaboration and connectedness
- Celebrate, appreciate and enjoy local identity and the landscape
- Social equity
- Safety, wellbeing and resilience
- Conserve and enhance our heritage
- Sustainability and the precautionary principle

How we will support delivery of the Plan: Five key moves

1. A comprehensive landowners' information and support service.
2. A whole of organisation approach to community resilience.
3. A *Green Wedge Conversations* program.
4. A comprehensive planning and place management service for the townships.
5. Stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural practices.

I haven't done it, but a word cloud analysis of the draft would be a very interesting. I don't think words related to 'Environmental & biodiversity assets' would feature prominently.

Point 3.

To get into a bit more (nit picking) detail:

Goal 5 Responsible Leadership p.40 highlights,

"Collaborative and consultative leadership that builds trust and makes the best use of available resources to the benefit of all in the pursuit of excellence."

This could come from any Mission Statement generating site on the web - total weasel words!

And a bit further down on p. 40,

"The engagement revealed strongly held and polarised views about the value of regulation and enforcement as a way of achieving management objectives. Many who argued for more regulation and enforcement wanted to be reassured that the rural areas would not be urbanised or over-developed. Those who were concerned with over-regulation and enforcement were concerned with unreasonable intrusion into everyday life and disempowerment. Some want certainty about their future in a challenging natural environment. Many respondents also raised concerns about community disharmony and conflict, often over this issue of regulation."

Should this be in a Plan?

I don't understand the inclusion of 'leadership' in the Principles (the first in the list!) and 'responsible leadership' in the Goals. I would have thought leadership was a strategy and, to be honestly blunt, I would expect nothing less from Council.

To summarise:

In the draft GWMP there seems very little direct statements about the Green Wedge natural environment. Instead the draft is about community, resilience, economy, leadership, tourism....even the equine industry (p. 37) gets more prominence than the bush.

Sorry, but the draft GWMP gets a Fail from me due to:

- it doesn't represent what I saw and heard from the community inputs
- it doesn't put sufficient emphasis on the environmental aspects I would expect in a GWMP

regards,

Alan Murfett

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Friends of Nillumbik](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission to Draft GWMP from Friends of Nillumbik
Date: Saturday, 10 August 2019 11:35:28 AM
Attachments: [FoN submission to GWMP draft 9th August 2019.docx](#)

To Whom it May Concern

Attached is the Friends of Nillumbik submission to the Draft GWMP. Please acknowledge receipt of this submission to [REDACTED]

Thanks,

Greg Johnson, President.



Friends of Nillumbik Inc.

P.O. Box 258 Eltham 3095

mail@friendsofnillumbik.org

Submission on the draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019

Friends of Nillumbik Inc. (FoN) is a grassroots not-for-profit, community volunteer group. We have around 1000 supporters who live and work in the Shire of Nillumbik. The purpose of our association is to support and promote the environmental and landscape values, neighbourhood character, orderly planning and good governance of the Shire of Nillumbik.

Friends of Nillumbik Inc. expected that the serious ongoing threats to our Green Wedge would be addressed in this review of the GWMP. Threats such as the compounding effects of Climate change, accelerating biodiversity/ecological losses and urban sprawl pressures. The GWMP draft, as presented on 25 June 2019, has the potential to seriously undermine the sustainability of Nillumbik's Green Wedge. Its goals fail to adequately detail and prioritise the protection measures required to ameliorate known threats to the Green Wedge.

Friends of Nillumbik considers that the GWMP draft in its current form is not fit for purpose. The draft fails in its purpose as per the following points:

- Insufficient priority given to the ongoing protection of Biodiversity and Waterways
- Foreseeable dilution of GWMP Goals and Objectives
- Groundless desire for changes to the Planning scheme
- Responsible Leadership listed as a separate Goal
- Process decisions

1. PROTECTION AS AN AFTER-THOUGHT

Any effective GWMP for our Shire must have at its core a strategy for protecting the very essence of why this was declared a Green Wedge Shire. The sprinkled references to "identifying and protecting areas of high biodiversity" (ONLY) found throughout the Plan, will undoubtedly guarantee a swift decline in biodiversity. "Islands" of splendid habitat are not viable. Where are the references to dedicated Wildlife Corridors traversing the Shire? Habitat & Bio links allowing bird, reptile and faunal movement from our bushland areas to our waterways? And the creation of Vegetation Protection Overlays (or ESO's) with bold measures to "achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation"? (Refer Appendix 1: Plan Melbourne 2017 – 2050, see footnote)

Melbourne has lost 2000 hectares of tree cover in the past five yearsthere has also been a 2% decrease in greenery over that time (ref: Ass. Prof Joe Hurley, RMIT).

If Nillumbik Council is not actively writing their management plan to arrest this trend, then which Councils should? Only half of the Objectives in Goal 3 address the natural environment, and only a third of the Key Actions. Biodiversity protection and enhancement should have a dedicated Goal to ensure that it receives appropriate priority.

2. DILUTION OF THE GWMP AT INCEPTION

The GWMP should be written as a separate and distinct document. Its initial independence from other Action and Development Plans/Strategies is crucial for its integrity. When it is then fed into the Shire Plan (Council Plan, MSS etc) its actions and goals will inevitably be compromised due to the constraints and competitions of the Council budget. A diluted GWMP at its inception does not show foresight, just a lack of priority.

3. SEEKING TO CHANGE NILLUMBIKS PLANNING SCHEME

In several places the draft seeks to challenge and undermine State planning policy. This is outside the purpose of a GWMP and is likely to be counterproductive. The discussion about rezoning from RCZ to GWZ (page 40); changing land uses around the UGB (page 22 – 24); and ensuring all farmland is “protected” from ESOs (see A3.1 and A3.2) is a radical attack on fundamental planning provisions designed to protect our Green Wedge. Any time spent attempting to leverage the removal of RCZ to be replaced with GWZ; and the creation of clumsy “Buffer Zones”, “Micro-zones” and “The Right to Farm” will reduce a 10-year plan down to just a few compromised years. It is an overreach which seriously compromises the document. It should not be a Green Wedge “De-construction” Plan, it is a Green Wedge “Management” Plan. Council should work within its own brief. Tinkering around at the edges in an attempt to placate self-interested and ill-informed residents will only result in further angst. It is imperative that all economic opportunities and activities pursued be compatible with the current Planning Provisions and have a positive (or neutral) impact on the natural environment of our Shire. The stated Vision of the GWMP and its long-term success demands this.

4. GWMP Goal 5: RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

Friends of Nillumbik rejects this as a stand-alone Goal. Responsible leadership should guide all aspects of this Green Wedge Management Plan. Community engagement, conversations, education, awareness and implementation of key actions cannot proceed without strong leadership. Many of the Key Actions listed for Goals 3, 4 and 5 (p33, p39 and p41) are a radical departure from the “management” brief. They have the potential to divide our community which is not Responsible Leadership. To balance people & place; and promote cooperation, we urge that this GWMP respect the confines of the State Planning Policy rather than undermining these protective provisions which apply to *all* landowners in the Green Wedge. True Leadership would endeavour to convey this and bring divergent groups toward shared, middle ground. An innovative leadership action could be to advocate for further Government monies to better support our rural areas (possibly in the form of an annual Melbourne property

levy). All of Melbourne benefits from our Green Wedges and we should all contribute to the preservation of them.

5. PROCESS INCONSISTENCIES AND FAILURES

Many of our Supporters have expressed concern with the GWMP Process. Although initially striving for a transparent and arm's length approach by convening a randomly chosen Panel, Council must now recognise that there have been anomalies along the way. Making the choice to accept 'recommendations' written outside the Panel process (by 5 Panel members) and formally accepting a Landowner's group dossier before submissions were called for was a digression in process. The lack of scientific data informing the Plan and no input sought from relevant Agencies are very serious shortcomings. In addition, the reliance on an Urban Planner with no demonstrated experience with green wedges as the Draft's author, and the unofficial involvement of Councillors during the process, leave questions to be answered. Concern has also been raised over the *participate.nillumbik* proforma experience. Do submitters actually understand that "Strongly Supporting" Goal 4 - A Prosperous Economy could demonstrate complicit support for a piggery or equine facility being developed in the paddock next to their house? Or "Support" for Key Move 5 "Environmental stocktakes" may actually be an unintended vote to allow land clearing. The *Participate* portal is skewed in favour of accepting the Draft and this deception should be acknowledged.

In conclusion, *Friends of Nillumbik* appreciates this opportunity to relay our concerns about the severe shortcomings of this GWMP draft. We represent a not insignificant component of Nillumbik's residents. We are confident that this Council will seriously consider our feedback and make major changes to this draft Management Plan. Friends of Nillumbik supports the retention of the current GWMP which correctly prioritises environmental protection, **in preference to** the adoption of this draft. Eighty nine percent (89%) of submitted feedback to the "Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2023" expressed interest in the protection of our biodiversity (of that, 76% expressed a much higher level of concern for protection measures). Council's published response to these concerns (OCM 30July 2019) was that they would be "addressed in the GWMP". Friends of Nillumbik holds council to this promise.

Greg Johnson, President, Friends of Nillumbik

Footnote: (Appendix 1), Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 which provides the desired planning outcomes for Green Wedges and peri-urban areas, has the directive to "Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species, and achieve a Net Gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation." This draft plan does not provide enough emphasis on biodiversity protection, which should be the primary Objective of this Draft Plan.

.....

gwmp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Submission of David Williams, [REDACTED] in response to Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019 (the "Draft 2019").

1. As a parent and grandparent, in our view, the most urgent priorities are to address climate change and to protect our biodiversity. As such, climate change must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, not just revision. ***The Draft 2019 does not reflect this.***
2. The Green Wedge is vital. It cools our city and is known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. ***The Draft 2019 does not reflect this fact.***
3. The Green Wedge provides for the following:
 - benefits to human health and wellbeing as a result of the trees and vegetation;
 - ecological and biodiversity benefits;
 - protection of the wilderness;
 - agricultural land - which depends on sustainable land practices, and the existence of healthy biodiversity. Our future food security depends on places like the Green Wedge;
 - protection of existing ecosystems – which sequesters carbon, and reduces the severity of fires by keeping the surface of the land cool; and
 - generates \$1 billion in tourism for Victoria's economy per annum, while supporting 14,000 jobs across the state.

The Draft 2019 seeks to erode the protection of the Green Wedge and thus, if it goes ahead as is, we stand to lose the many benefits of the Green Wedge, including those detailed above.

Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. It has been reported that "Melbourne has lost almost 2000 hectares of tree cover in the past five years as suburban backyards are cleared for new housing". To avoid the ongoing loss of vegetation throughout the shire, any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation. ***The Draft 2019 does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.***

In my view, the Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.

I have lived in the Nillumbik Shire for over 30 years. I love the green spaces here and want to see it protected for future generations.

Kind regards,
David Williams



OPEN Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP)

9 August 2019

We request to be heard by Nillumbik Shire Council on our submissions to this process as a group submission and separately as a company and again as individual submissions.

Likewise, we request to be heard in the same way by an Independent Panel appointed by the Minister if our suggestions and objections cannot be catered for or accommodated. It is our view that this process normally afforded to changes in the Planning Scheme is also made available for the GWMP review. In opinion we request, that it also be applied to all others who also wish to participate in this Panel.

This request is being made due to the fact that the **GWMP never completed its full open and transparent process** prior to it being incorporated in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme. Abandoned C81 was the process in which this was to occur. Appointment of the GWMP community Panel is not a substitute and should only be used as an additional resource (see our submissions to C81 regarding these specific flawed process issues).

We strenuously object to the officer's draft to GWMP as it disregards / ignores the contents, hard evidence with legal and professional support of our claims in our submissions. Accordingly, we request the Council consider all the contents of all our previous and new submissions now.

Nillumbik Council knows / ought to know that our lands were located in the legislated Plenty Growth Corridor and not Green Wedge. This requires urgent rectification.

The GWMP must be based on a sound and truthful basis.

We ask Council to please administer equity and justice to ALL in its Shire. Accordingly we ask them to include our lands equitably as urban in Diamond Creek 2020, Nillumbik 2020 and Nillumbik 2050 strategies and policies. Also equitably corrections to zoning/mapping anomalies and errors in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.

Please see new brief dated 6th of August 2019 and evidence attachments. This is in addition to the 2018 Brief already submitted. The attached 2019 brief shows the direct interrelationship between our lands distinctive urban reticulated infrastructure (urban capacity) and associated true urban classification of our lands. This can no longer be denied / argued. We continue to have accrued urban reticulated infrastructure and associate property / development right/entitlements or compensation for removal of same. Please see the attachments relating to our concerns with the proposed Water Bill that unjustly threaten to remove these. We are again notifying Nillumbik Council of our dire circumstances prior to it becoming law and ask Council to assist us in the protections of all our current rights and entitlements.

Accordingly, please assist us in the course and cause of justice in immediately notifying the Planning Minister and Water Minister of our circumstance with the immediate revocation of Nillumbik Councils 2005 decisions. These may be still be incorrectly relied on by the Ministers departments.

Notwithstanding the above, and the fact that our lands are rightfully urban and not Green Wedge we submit the following objections and suggestions to the GWMP

- We reiterate as with our earlier submission to this process, and our feedback at the community sessions that our lands with urban reticulated infrastructure (sewerage, water, drainage and etc) must be considered in all land uses and developments that require/utilize these distinctive assets. This includes all commercial uses, e.g. tourism, accommodation etc. These must not be confined to township boundaries particularly when lands like ours have been incorrectly excluded from these urban boundaries.
- We support the “MUST” suggestions put forward by the PALS Group for modifications in the GWMP, however, in regard to corrections of planning errors and mistakes we substitute the requests in our submission for equitable correction for all planning errors, irregularity and anomalies in the Nillumbik planning scheme without excuse or omissions of any areas or site specific properties.

This group submission to the GWMP draft is on behalf of Gila Schnapp (nee Freeman) and on behalf of the landowners and stakeholders of below subject lands

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

All from the same distinctive Ironbark Road and adjoining Pioneer Road urban reticulated infrastructure catchment.

25th July 2019

Open letter appealing for urgent assistance in the course and cause of justice.

Water and Catchment Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

1. We are putting the Water Minister Honourable Lisa Neville, the Planning Minister Honourable Richard Wynne, Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water and any other relevant Authorities and the State Government of Victoria on notice of our serious concerns. We reserve all our rights.
2. Please refer also to all previous correspondence, hard evidence and all that known or ought to be known. Relating to this Bill and the same in its previous version in 2017. Thus far none of our concerns have been addressed.
3. This letter is our written objection to the impact this legislation will have on our properties. We do not support this Bill in its current form. We ask for amendments and changes to protect our lands distinctive urban reticulated infrastructure and associated property and development rights and/or entitlements. This Bill needs to be returned to the Scrutiny and Acts Committee.
4. [REDACTED] - 40 acres (subject land 1 Freeman Family owned for over 75yrs) *Subject "land 1"*
 [REDACTED] - 5 acres (subject land 2 Freeman Family owned for over 75 years) *Subject "land 2"*
 Adjoining [REDACTED] - 14.5 acres (subject land 3 Family owned for 30years) *Subject "land 3"* All from the same Ironbark Road and adjoining Pioneer Road distinctive urban reticulated infrastructure catchment. Above properties will be referred to as "subject lands".
5. In addition to our general concerns overall we have defined some together with their specific Clause.
6. Under Section 144A of the **Water Act 1989** "subject lands" are to be taken to be "serviced properties" within the Waterway Management District of the **Melbourne Water Corporation**, for the purposes of **Melbourne Water Corporation** powers, functions and duties to us. This includes providing the subject lands with all inter-related urban services of water, sewerage and drainage (*urban capacity for the specific purpose of urban residential subdivision and development for the total area of the land-not one house site*).
7. **The subject lands are urban under the Water Act and must remain so. This will protect their above urban infrastructure and associated property/development rights and/or entitlements, or compensation for removal of same. This certainty was relied on in the Families long term financial planning to date.**
8. We reiterate, if the Bill removes any of our above urban entitlements and changes the protected urban status of the "subject lands", it will be in serious breach of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities (which Parliament has committed to) and our Family will incur major losses and damages.

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9. Our lands distinctive urban reticulated infrastructure was paid for (directly and/or indirectly), installed by the **State Rivers and Water Supply Commission via Plenty Yarrambat Waterworks Trust (the Trust) and MMBW**.
10. **Progress was paid for at considerable sacrifice with blood sweat and tears.**
11. These **metropolitan** responsibilities for the Trust's District were transferred to the **Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) followed by Melbourne Water**.
12. The Water Minister needs to ensure that changes to the Bill does not result in erosion, redirection or removal of the above responsibilities, obligations, functions and duties of Melbourne Water to the 'subject lands'. We must remain within the urban jurisdiction of Melbourne Water Corporation, Yarra Valley Water YVW (and all other inter-related urban authorities). Subject lands must not be transferred to any Rural Water Authority or rural business or 'sector' of Melbourne Water or other.
13. We are alarmed that there are no compensation provisions for those, like ourselves that may be negatively impacted by this Bill. In fact we note at no point in this Bill is there provision for compensation for removal of ANY of our rights and entitlements. There is a very real risk subject lands will revert back to primitive, infrastructure stripped bush blocks, comparatively worse in value and use to that of seventy years ago when first purchased. Thereby allowing unjust enrichment, major financial and amenity exploitation at our expense!
14. ***Such major equity issues can-not be ignored.***
15. Clause 5 sets out *new* definitions to be inserted into section 3 of the Principle Act. "The definition of **Water Supply District** is to replace the term **Water District** throughout the Act." Under Melbourne Water Corporation, (and in our case) the term "Water District" includes water and sewerage. Does the new term 'water supply district' separate water from sewerage in any way or including as combined duties of the Trust to us? Will this eliminate all or some of the current obligations and duties of Melbourne Water (and YVW and other) to us? This includes providing sewerage already in place or provision made to connect in to for subject lands.
16. YVW publicly informed Nillumbik Council on the 11th June 2019, that customer water bills have paid for sewerage (FN012/19 Domestic Wastewater Management Plan). This would include for subject lands and other urban and township areas. Again supporting the current inter-connection of urban water reticulation and sewerage.
17. Likewise the Bill makes new definitions of sewerage district, waterway management district and 'serviced property'. Will any of these new definitions alter the criteria used to determine if a property like ours, continues to be a 'serviced property' for the obligations, powers, functions or duties of Melbourne Water to provide us with all urban services. Does it enable existing 'serviced properties' to then be considered as a 'serviced property' for only one or other utility separately?
18. This could threaten the current status of subject lands and others as urban under the *Water Act 1989*. This would be unreasonable, unacceptable and needs rectification to the Bill if this is the case. Such changes should only apply to future provision of all or some of the services. See also new Section 337(3) in Clause 99 and the change to criteria.

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19. Does the insertion of definitions for environmental area, recreational area, social recreational uses and values and other move the goal posts in the exercising and honouring of all our current infrastructure and associated property/development rights and/or entitlements?
20. In Part 4, Clause 118 sets out new definitions to be inserted into section 3(1) of the *Catchments and Land Protection Act 1994*, this includes *new definitions* for Melbourne Water Corporation and Waterway Management District.
21. Other changes to the *Catchments and Land Protection Act 1994* include *new sections* that provide for *new functions and duties* for Melbourne Water Corporation (and other authorities). Will this impact on subject lands in any way? Does this enable the changing of subject lands distinctive urban reticulated infrastructure catchment, urban district status and current legislative responsibilities to protect it? (This includes its urban capacity).
22. Will all of the above changes, combined with the inter-related Catchment Act changes, abolish, erode or change any of the urban obligations and duties the Plenty Yarrambat Water Trust/State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (which Melbourne Water inherited) has to us? Including applicable compensation for removal of same.
23. Does Clause 124 (new Section 27A(2 and 5)) that inserts new provisions in the inter-related *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* allow properties to be newly considered a 'catchment area' (catchment meaning- aquifer recharge area) and as such no longer urban? Where is the provision for compensation for such a major change?
24. Clause 100 relating to the cross-references between certain sections in the *Local Government Act 1958* and the *Local Government Act 1989*. Inclusion of subject lands in the extension of both the urban district and Waterworks trust district received ministerial approval and was gazetted in 1975. In addition to the *Water Act 1958* it was tied to the *Local Government Act 1958*, Subdivision and other. The water was specifically for the purpose of urban residential subdivision and development. It was not for the purpose of a rural water supply or rural consumption such as irrigation or other. Our participation in a Commonwealth Loan Scheme was predicated on this fact alone. Accordingly cross referencing between these acts may need to be saved and not removed by the Bill.
25. Both Clause 12 (inserts a new section 22G(3) and (4) in the Principal Act) relating to the Minister revoking or amend existing strategies for all or part of a region and Clause 51 (New Section 122I) relating to abolishment of whole or part of a water supply, sewer, irrigation supply or waterway management district, are of great concern to us. As described earlier, the negative impact on us will be huge. We strenuously object to any such removal of subject lands. The Bill appears to be giving unbridled powers to the Water Minister, Melbourne Water and other Authorities!

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- 26. Clause 51 New Section 122M. In relation to Melbourne Water Corporation, we question whether the map referred to as LEGL./05-406 has been through correct and lawful parliament process? Does it show the boundary of the 'metropolis' ie. Melbourne and Metropolitan region of Melbourne under the former MMBW Act? (Of which subject lands were included when MMBW took over the Water Trust)
- 27. Clause 64- "Reconfiguration of infrastructure" – what exactly is this doing or changing? How is it affecting our current or future urban status in the *Water Act 1989* and our urban infrastructure and associated property and development rights and/or entitlements?
- 28. Clause 116 repeals Schedule 16 of the Principle Act and Clause 117 repeals Schedule 17 of the Principle Act (also Clause 113 with consequential repeal of 330A, 330B and 330C). These provisions may not be spent and redundant in our case. They may in fact be necessary to protect and preserve all our infrastructure rights and associated property/development rights and/or entitlements, which we have not yet been able to exercise, despite attempts to do so.

* Further clauses of concern are being examined and will be forwarded

Sincerely Gila Schnapp.

Gila Schnapp nee Freeman for and on behalf of the stakeholders and owners of subject lands.

All correspondence regarding this matter to [REDACTED] I can also be reached via [REDACTED]

See also attachments of Evidence examples following letter of 18/7/19

18.7.19

Open Letter

1/3

To Whom it may concern,

We desperately appeal for your urgent assistance in our continued struggles for equity and justice, as our most serious issues continue to be swept under the carpet, 'knowingly.' Could you please assist us with meeting with the Water Minister, we need amendments to this Bill that protect and preserve our urban reticulated infrastructure and associated development rights/entitlements or compensation for removal of same.

Please see the attached correspondence dated **5th May, 2019, and the 27th June, 2019 to the Water Minister, Hon Lisa Neville** highlighting **again** our dire concerns with the Water and Catchment Amendment Bill 2019 as with previous 2017 version. Our similar concerns were never addressed, despite MP Letters to the Water Minister and the Planning Minister. Accordingly, see the Letter to the Minister the 27th June whereby we are giving her the responsibility to reassure us that our devastating concerns are real and something must be done to correct them.

Note the hard evidence examples, substantiating and proving our **Urban** claims beyond doubt, and the fact that we currently remain **Urban** under the *Water Act 1989*. We were forced to pay for an **Urban** system, it exists and our Urban status cannot be disputed. *The purpose of the water was for residential development and urban land use, it was not for rural use.* This Bill threatens to inequitably and unreasonably remove our legitimate in-situ **Urban** status.

Unless this is acknowledged immediately by the Water Minister and related Water Corporations and Authorities, and provisions are put into the Bill to protect our urban status under the Water Act 1989 and all our inter-related **Urban Reticulated infrastructure** (Urban capacity) and associated property/development rights and entitlements (including compensation for removal of same), it will be in serious breach of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, the Parliament is supposed to adhere to and protect. It will result in our lands 'knowingly' reverting back to primitive infrastructure stripped bush blocks, comparatively worse in use, land capability and value, to that of seventy years ago, when purchased by the Family. Such sterilisation of our lands is unreasonable and unacceptable, it will result in unjust enrichment of others and major financial and amenity exploitation of our lands.

We are alarmed that there are no clear compensation provisions in the Bill, including for the abolition, removal, erosion or re-direction of existing urban infrastructure, its Districts and Catchments. Furthermore there is no compensation for removal of the certainty of urban residential development that such infrastructure provides for and that we relied upon in our long term financial planning.

Is the 're-configuration of infrastructure' and other changes provided for in the Bill enabling the selective 'theft' of infrastructure and abolishment of entitlements 'legal'? Will the Water Minister and Water Corporations and Authorities now be given extensive, sweeping, unbridled powers to change Water/Sewerage /Drainage Catchments, Districts and Systems by the Bill?

Background

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The Plenty Yarrambat Waterworks Trust was established by the then *City* of Heidelberg for the provision of **town's water and not for rural water** for the townships of Yarrambat and Plenty and also included adjoining areas of Diamond Creek. The properties were originally included in the *City* of Heidelberg. This has since changed many times from Shire of Diamond Valley to *City* of Banyule (where it should have remained) to Shire of Nillumbik.

We reiterate under Section 310A of the *Water Act 1958* our family was made liable for the largest single compulsory contribution (of total costs) to the extension of **both** the Plenty-Yarrambat **Urban District** and Waterworks Trust District of the for the Ironbark Road Scheme, head-works and distribution charges. (See attachment A and G). The infrastructure works were not permitted to begin and we could not be made liable for it, until our lands were gazetted by the Governor in Council (that is Cabinet) see attached gazettal and Urban District special charge proving our lands inclusion in this gazettal (attachment B and C).

The [REDACTED] in 1974 was the highest urban residential valued property, hence forced to pay the most, with the highest capacity and land capability. This Net Annual Valuation of \$2000 was 2/3rds of the infrastructure, Head-Works and distribution costs. Our \$3,084.00 liability in 1975 was equivalent to one and a half times the Municipal value of a shop site in Diamond Creek! Ninety dollars (\$90.00) was considered 'an impossible burden' for some (Council Chamber Meeting). This Rate Notice of \$883.66 was almost ten times this amount! (Attachment D and E). The 1991 Rate Notice example *shows the continued Urban Residential Status of the Land* (Attachment F).

The witness statement by our then consulting engineer supports the establishment and existence of our Urban reticulated infrastructure (Attachment ^{H B}). Our property was connected to the urban reticulated water supply via a 100mm main along the entire frontages of our property -some half a kilometre. We assert this was and still should be, connected to a larger main supply along Ironbark road outside our doors, giving us the urban reticulation to the entire acreages of our land. This is **under threat** by this Water Bill which we understand could enable erosion, or re-direction to other catchments and districts instead, leaving us with a single one house connection.

We are deeply concerned as to whether this Bill results in abolition of our Water Trust rights/entitlements, duties, functions and obligations of Melbourne Water to continue to provide us with water, sewerage and drainage at urban residential capacity to the entire acreages of our lands. We must remain in the Metropolitan Urban supply district of Melbourne Water for the *purpose* of residential land use and urban development.

NB: Melbourne Water inherited these responsibilities from The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, who in turn took them over from The Plenty Yarrambat Water Trust/State Rivers and Water Trust Commission.

Land was acquired from our Family with the urbanisation of Ironbark Road and corresponding installation of urban infrastructure (including for sewerage and drainage). We believe the installation of water mains along Ironbark rd also included the installation of sewerage. In addition, when the Water Trusts responsibilities and duties were taken over by the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works our whole area was included for *water, sewerage and drainage*.

3./3

It has been heart wrenching to helplessly watch the progress of this proposed Bill without having access to help that will prevent the devastating impact on our Family as highlighted in our numerous correspondence over the past two years and currently. We believe the future that generations of our Family have planned for and relied on is being 'stolen' before our eyes.

This letter is being rushed in the greatest of duress and stress, we feel helpless in our attempts to protect ourselves, against such power and money interests who gain by our major financial exploitations.

Sincerely

[Redacted signature]

Gila Schnapp for and on behalf of the stakeholders/landholders

Please reply to

[Redacted contact information]

[Redacted contact information]

See additional Evidence Examples
Plenty Growth Corridor → lands not green wedge
Showing Maps and earlier little
diagrams

P.7k9

Hard Evidence A to N

OF

CURRENT URBAN
STATUS OF "SUBJECT

Lands" lands "1" land "2"
land "3"

total - 14 attachments,
plus "witness statement
(4 pages) referred to

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attachment F

WATER ACT 1958

PLENTY-YARRAMBAT WATERWORKS TRUST

Notice under the provisions of Section 310A of the Water Act 1958

To: Nysen ~~REDACTED~~,
of: ~~REDACTED~~

~~REDACTED~~

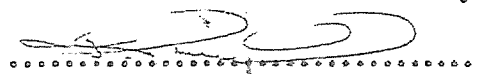
WHEREAS the Plenty-Yarrambat Waterworks Trust (hereinafter referred to as "the Authority"), in accordance with the provisions of Section 310A of the Water Act 1958 has prepared a scheme for the construction of works for the supply of water to the land abutting the portion of Ironbark Road between its intersection with DeFredericks Road to a point approximately 24 chains southerly from the more southerly of the intersections of Ironbark Road with Pioneer Road and the portion of Black Gully Road from its intersection with Ironbark Road to a point approximately 24 chains easterly from such last mentioned intersection.

NOW THEREFORE, the Authority, in pursuance of Section 310A of the said Act, hereby gives you notice in writing-

- (i) that a scheme has been prepared for the construction of the said works and may be inspected at the office of the Authority situate at the office of E.T.M. Stevens, Esq., the Authority's Consulting Engineer, at Charteris House, No. 216 Lower Heidelberg Road, East Ivanhoe;
- (ii) that the estimated amount which is to be recovered from you as an owner as your share of the cost of the scheme and by way of an amount assessed by the Authority to be a fair and reasonable contribution towards the cost of the headworks and distribution systems of the Authority is \$3084.13
- (iii) that within one month of the service of this notice you may by notice in writing to the Authority object to such scheme or any part thereof;
- (iv) that the grounds upon which any such objection may be made are-
 - (a) that the amount to be recovered from you is excessive or has been incorrectly calculated;
 - (b) that any owner intended to be made liable under the scheme should not be so liable or that any owner not intended to be made liable under the scheme should be so liable;
 - (c) that the portion of the cost of the scheme to be recovered from you is unreasonable.

DATED at IVANHOE this Eighth day of July 1975.

For and on behalf of the Authority



(F. Phillips) Secretary.

NOTE

You may by a request in writing signed by you and lodged with the Authority within one month from the date of your being notified in writing of the amount of your contribution elect to pay the amount of such contribution by forty quarterly instalments bearing interest on such portion as from time to time remains unpaid at a rate not exceeding one per centum more than the rate of interest payable by the Authority for the time being on moneys borrowed by it for the purpose pursuant to the said Act.

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B

PLENTY-YARRAMBAT WATERWORKS TRUST.

At the Executive Council Chamber, Melbourne, the
seventh day of October, 1975.

PRESENT:

His Excellency the Governor of Victoria.
Mr. Dickie | Mr. Dunstan.

EXTENT OF WATERWORKS AND URBAN DISTRICTS
INCREASED.

Under the powers conferred by the Water Act and all other powers enabling him in that behalf, His Excellency the Governor of the State of Victoria, by and with the advice of the Executive Council of the said State, doth hereby declare, order and direct that the extent of the Waterworks and Urban Districts of the Plenty-Yarrambat Waterworks Trust be increased by adding to the same the lands shown bounded by red colour on a plan approved by the Governor in Council and deposited in the office of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, Melbourne (Corr. No. 73/1745/75), and as on and from the date hereof, the extent of such Districts shall be deemed to be increased.

And the Honorable Frederick James Granter, Her Majesty's Minister of Water Supply for the State of Victoria, shall give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

L. G. HOUSTON,
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council.

P-10/29

Attachment C

RATEABLE PROPERTY



RATE NO. 738
DATE OF ISSUE: 26 MAR 1981

Under powers conferred by the Water Act the Plenty-Yarrambat Waterworks Trust on 25th Feb., 1981 made a Water Rate for the year ending 30th September 1981 of 4.3 cents for each dollar of the Net Annual Value of all lands and tenements within the Plenty-Yarrambat Waterworks and Urban District, provided that the minimum amount of rate payable in respect of any tenement shall be \$66.00. The Trust also made a Special Charge of \$30.00 for each service more than one serving any tenement. The Rate and Special Charge are due and payable on 10th March, 1981.
The following amount is due and payable in respect of your property:

RATE - on N.A.V. OF \$4,750	\$	204.25
Rate - Arrears	\$	
Special Charge - extra services	\$	
Interest - to date	\$	
Other amounts -	\$	
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE AND PAYABLE	\$	204.25

PLENTY-YARRAMBAT WATERWORKS TRUST
RECEIVED 15 MAR 1981
101 PLYMOUTH ST
SECRETARY

If Rates and Charges are not paid within fourteen days of the date of issue of this notice, legal proceedings may be taken for their recovery without further notice. Rates are a charge on the land and, unless the current rate is paid on or before 10th July, 1981, it will bear interest at the rate of ten per cent per annum from the due date until paid, provided that Rates and Special Charges may be paid by installments as indicated on the back of this notice. The arrears of Rate and Excess Water Charges will continue to bear interest until paid. For method of payment see back.

A. G. BOYD,
Secretary.

P.11/29

U

attachment
D

AMOUNT RECEIVED

SHIRE OF DIAMOND VALLEY

CIVIC DRIVE
GREENSBOROUGH 3088
P.O. BOX 115, GREENSBOROUGH

TELEPHONE
436 7411

VALUATION GENERAL RATE AND SANITARY CHARGE NOTICE 1974/75

Take notice that in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1958 (as amended) and the Health Act 1958 (as amended). Council did for the amounts stated below make a General Rate, Farm Rate, Urban Farm Rate and a Sanitary charge for the collection of night soil for the year ending 30th September, 1975. These sums are due and payable on the date stated below and are hereby demanded and application made for same. Unless such rates and charges are paid WITHIN FOURTEEN DAYS of service of this demand legal proceedings may be taken for the recovery of amounts stated hereon without further notice.

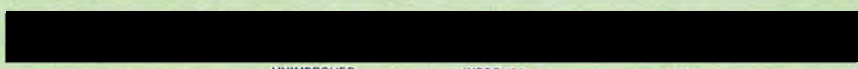
E. N. BLAKE, Rate Collector.

ASSESSMENT NUMBER	DATE DUE AND PAYABLE	GENERAL RATE C in \$ on Unimproved Capital Value	URBAN FARM RATE C in \$ on Unimproved Capital Value	FARM RATE C in \$ on Unimproved Capital Value	PROPERTY NUMBER
[REDACTED]	10/12/74	2.599			[REDACTED]

NORTH
RIDING
1974/75



LOCATION AND
LOT No. OR AREA



VALUATIONS ASSESSED AT VALUES DATED 31st DEC. 1969	SITE VALUE	UNIMPROVED CAPITAL VALUE	IMPROVED CAPITAL VALUE	NET ANNUAL VALUE
	\$ 35800	\$ 34000	\$ 40000	\$ 2000

THESE VALUATIONS MAY BE USED
BY OTHER AUTHORITIES FOR THE
PURPOSE OF ASSESSING A RATE OR
TAX BY THAT AUTHORITY.

ST.		GENERAL RATE	GARBAGE CHARGE	SANITARY CHARGE	INTEREST TO	TOTAL DUE
R	CURRENT	\$ 883.66	\$	\$		\$ 883.66
	ARREARS	\$	\$	\$	\$	

INTEREST: Rates are a charge upon the property and unless paid on or before the 10th Day of April 1975 will bear interest, from the date on which they became due and payable, at the rate of eight per cent. per annum. If rates are being paid by four equal instalments and the instalment is not paid on or before the last day of December 1974, February, May and August 1975 respectively, the instalment will bear interest from the date on which rates became due and payable at the rate of eight per cent per annum.



PAYMENT: The collector attends at the Shire Office, Civic Drive, Greensborough from 8.25 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Monday; and 8.25 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Tuesday to Friday. When remitting by post please do not include bank notes but forward Money Order, Endorsed Postal Order or Crossed Cheque. Make all remittances payable to Shire of Diamond Valley, Telephone Enquiries: 435 7411 - Monday; 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., 1.15 p.m. - 5.00 p.m., 5.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. Tuesday to Friday; 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., 1.15 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

P.12/29

Attachment
E

Payment of each instalment must be made not later than

1st Instalment	31/12/74 (or within 14 days from date hereof)
2nd Instalment	28/2/75
3rd Instalment	31/5/75
4th Instalment	31/8/75

NOTICES WILL BE FORWARDED FOR THE REMAINING THREE INSTALMENTS.

APPEAL AGAINST VALUATION

I hereby give notice that the property described hereon owned or occupied by you has been valued as set out hereunder. Any person aggrieved therewith may lodge an objection with the council in the manner set out in Division 4 of Part III of the Valuation of Land Act (as amended) during the months of February and March next after this notice of valuation was given, or where the valuations in the notice given appear for the first time—within Two Months after the notice is given. Any such objection must be in or to the effect of the prescribed form, copies of which are available at the office of the council during the normal hours of business.

T. MILLIKEN, F.C.I.V., Valuer.

APPEAL AGAINST RATE

If aggrieved by any matters included in or omitted from any rate other than in respect of the assessment of the value of the rateable property any person may, within two months after notice of the amount of rate payable by him is given, give notice in writing to the council of his intention to appeal to the Magistrates Court in the manner set out in Section 304 of the Local Government Act, as amended by section 7 of the Valuation of Land (Appeals) Act 1965.

E. N. BLAKE, Rate Collector.

STATUS CODE FOR RATING PURPOSES

R – GENERAL RATE
F – FARM RATE
B – URBAN FARM RATE
Q – SANITARY CHARGE ONLY

P13/29



CIVIC DRIVE
P.O. Box 1151
GREENSBOROUGH 3088

Phone: 435 7411

DATE 1/4/92

Attachment # 1991/92

RATES & CHARGES FOR PERIOD
1st OCTOBER 1991 to 30th SEPTEMBER 1992

Take notice that the Council of the Shire of Diamond Valley made and levied the following rates and charges for the property described on this notice. These rates and charges are due and payable on 11/11/91
Payment of this demand is now requested

S.E. DEAN
Rate Collector

METHOD OF PAYMENT

(A) Payment through any Bank.

- Payment of either amount 1 or 2 may be made at any Bank.
- You do not need to hold an account with the Bank or branch at which you make your payment.
- Complete the details on the Bank deposit slip below.
- Take this notice to any Bank for payment. Commonwealth Bank will not charge a transfer fee. Other Banks may.
- The Bank will stamp "Ratepayer's Copy" and return it to you as a receipt.

(B) Payment through Mail 1 or 2

- Make cheque payable Shire of Diamond Valley and crossed "Not Negotiable"
- Mail payment to:-
Shire of Diamond Valley
P.O. Box 115,
GREENSBOROUGH, 3088
- If receipt not required mail payment with deposit slip below and retain "Ratepayer's Copy" for your record.
- If receipt required place tick (✓) in box and return notice intact.
- (DO NOT DETACH DEPOSIT SLIP.)

(C) Personal payment to council 1 or 2

- Present notice intact to Cashier at Shire of Diamond Valley Offices.
- (DO NOT DETACH DEPOSIT SLIP.)
- Cashier will return "Ratepayer's Copy" with an official receipt.

GENERAL RATE in \$ on \$ V	URBAN FARM RATE in \$ on \$ V	SPECIAL RATEABLE PROPERTY in \$ on \$ A V	RENDERER USE RATE in \$ on \$ V
1.7040			
VALUATION DATE	30/06/86		
ASSESSMENT No	2159	SITE VALUE	83000
		CAPITAL IMPROVED VALUE	83000
		NET ANNUAL VALUE	4150

RATING TYPE GENERAL NORTH RIDING

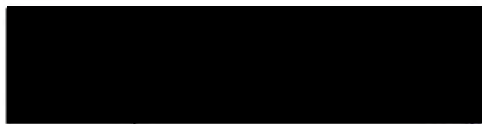
PROPERTY REF [REDACTED]
LOCATION [REDACTED]

1990/91	INTEREST	GENERAL	SANITARY	OTHER CHARGE
ARREARS				
CURRENT		1202.17		
LESS PENSION REBATE				
LESS CREDITS				
BALANCE CURRENT		1202.17		

Late payments will attract interest penalty at 16.00% p.a. from 11/11/91

1 PAYMENT IN FULL BY 10th APRIL 1992
1202.17
OR
 2 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SEE REVERSE SIDE OF NOTICE



TELLER STAMP 10 4 92 Date of Payment

OTHER OWNERS/OCCUPIERS

DO NOT DETACH

PROPERTY NUMBER [REDACTED]

Attachment 9

9

Attachment

PROPERTY: [REDACTED]

5(c) 2198294-7

PRIN. \$ 434.79
INT. \$ 57.94

57

RECEIPT REQUIRED

RECEIVED AMOUNT PRINTED ABOVE

PROPERTY: [REDACTED]

Telephone:

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN
BOARD OF WORKS

Head Office:
525 Lt. Collins Street,
Melbourne, 3001

Costs and expenses incurred in connection with Water Supply Scheme under Section 310A of the Water Act.

Instalment of Principal
Interest on Balance of Principal at 11.4% pa

ARREARS

362 33
72 46
57 94

Balance of Principal Outstanding was \$1958 on 1/10/81 inclusive of the above instalment (s) but exclusive of Interest. If desired, the unpaid balance (with interest to date of payment) may be paid at any time.

RECEIPT REQUIRED \$

492 73

PAYMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE MADE WITHIN 14 DAYS FROM THE SERVICE OF THIS NOTICE (FOR DETAILS SEE NOTES ON BACK)

PLEASE SIGN IN A HELIXIT FORM 1970

P. 15/29

Date of Service

M. J. [Name]

Total Pages

NOTE

attachment H (a)

*Consumers made liable
for total costs of this scheme
under 310A of
water act

Attachment

5.(b)

ESTIMATE AND ALLOCATION OF TOTAL COST

TERMS OF
REFERENCE

Trust Minutes dated 27th May 1975

"that the cost be allocated on the following basis:- half on the Unimproved Valuation of properties and half on a unit basis and further that enquiries be made to ascertain if properties which may be subdivided could be included on an area basis."

Tender for trenching and laying etc. dated 1/8/74	29642.24	
Plus 18% in accordance with rise and fall clause	<u>5336.00</u>	34978.24
Additional crushed rock required by Share of Diamond Valley		1400.00
Pipes costed at June 1975		11830.00
Fittings costed at June 1975		<u>1500.00</u>
		49708.24
Plus 20% contingency for future increases in cost		<u>10835.00</u>
		60543.24
Fees		7077.00
Administrative costs of scheme (7.5%)		<u>3728.00</u>
	Total	<u>71348.24</u>

ALLOCATION

To be financed by Trust	11750.24
	<u>59598.00</u>
To be recovered from owners	<u>71348.24</u>

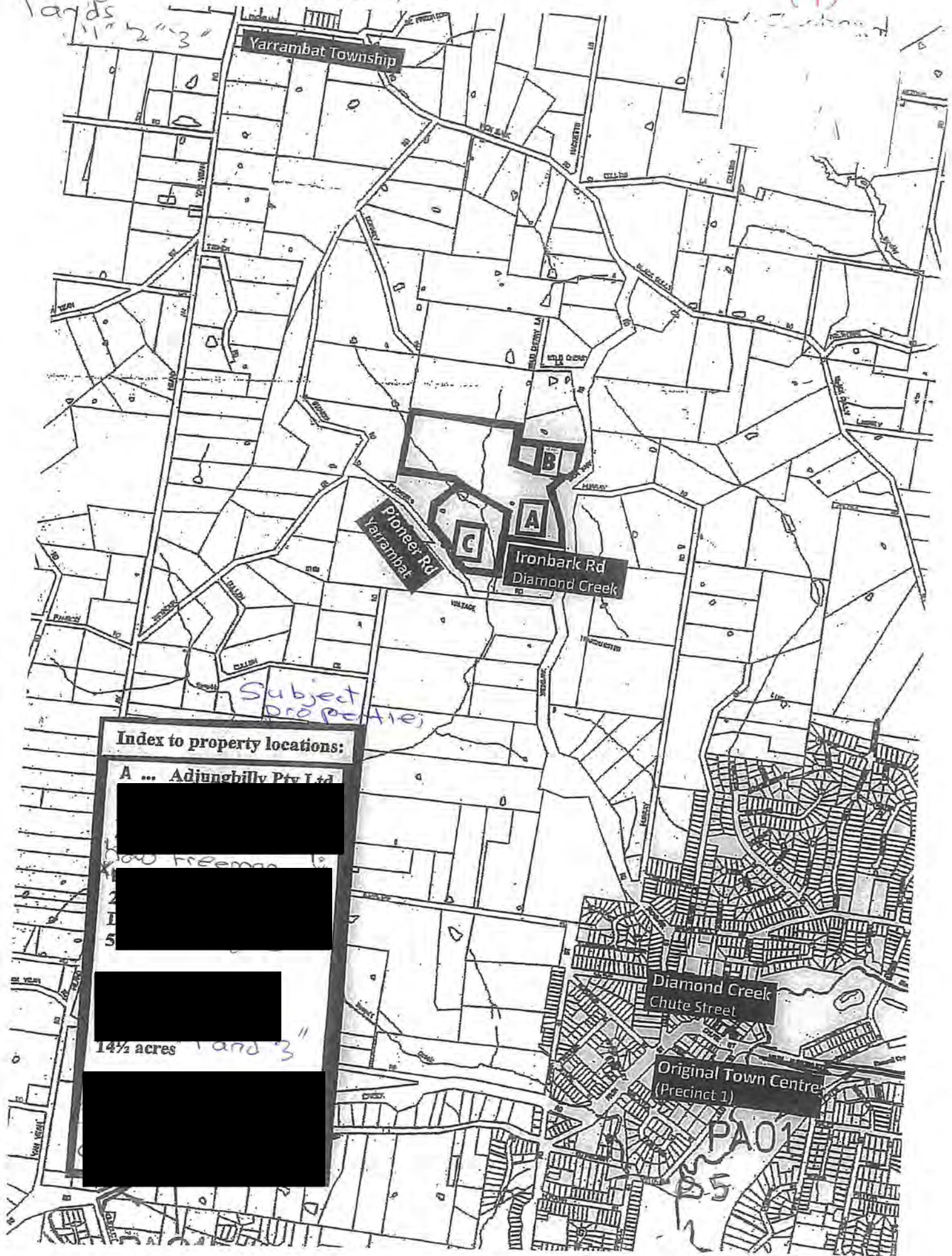
Consulting Engineer

24/6/75

P16/29

Subject Attachment 1
lands

(1)



Index to property locations:

A ... Adjungbilly Pty Ltd

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

14 1/2 acres land 3

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

URBAN Iron Bark road Subject lands "1" and "2"

5

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Attachment (j)

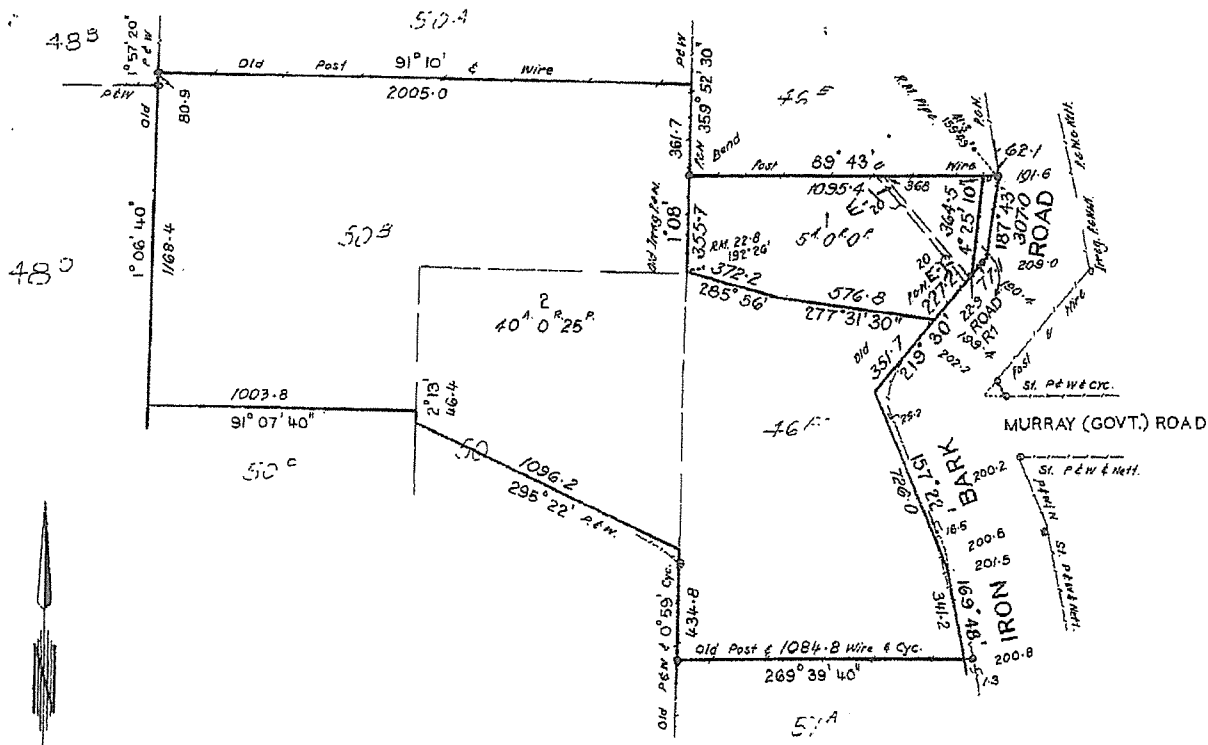
P.18/29

<p>PLAN OF SUBDIVISION OF: CROWN ALLOTMENTS 46F AND 50B AND PART OF C. A. 50 SECTION A PARISH: GREENSBOROUGH COUNTY: EVELYN</p>	<p>APPROPRIATIONS BLUE:- DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE BROWN:- WAY, DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE</p>	<p>ENCUMBRANCES & OTHER NOTATIONS Measurements in brackets are not derived from survey. Note: Road widths are not to scale. Reference Marks are 1/2" diameter iron rods, 18" long, unless otherwise specified.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Measurements are in Links
 Conversion Factor
 LINKS X 0.201168 = METRES

DEPTH LIMITATION: 50 FEET (CA. 46F)

COLOUR CONVERSION
 E-1 = BLUE
 R1 = BROWN



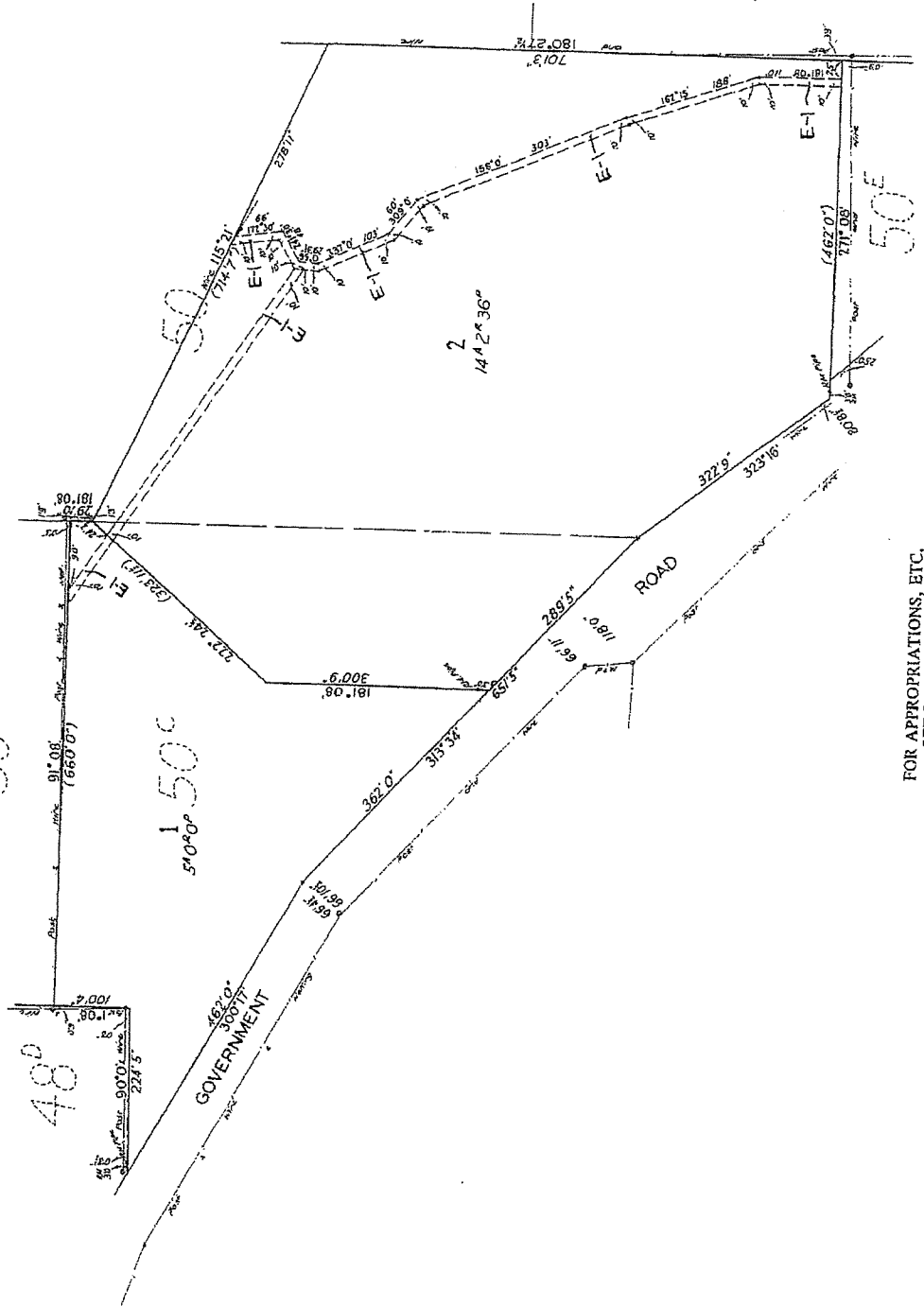
P. 19/29

PLAN OF SUBDIVISION
 PART OF CROWN ALLOTMENT 50 & PART OF CROWN ALLOTMENT 50 SECTION A
 PARISH OF GREENSBOROUGH
 COUNTY OF EVELYN



The land coloured blue is appropriated for drainage easements.

COLOUR CONVERSION
 E-1 = BLUE



FOR APPROPRIATIONS, ETC.
 SEE BACK HEREOF

* Earlier title copy
 attachment ↙
 attachment ↙
 Subject land
 "3"
 note sewerage and
 drainage easements
 Subject "land 3"
 46F
 51A
 50E

TITLE PLAN

EDITION 1

TP959443C

LOCATION OF LAND

PARISH: GREENSBOROUGH
TOWNSHIP: -
SECTION: A
CROWN ALLOTMENT: 46F (PART)
CROWN PORTION:
LAST PLAN REFERENCE: LP117036 (LOT 1)
DERIVED FROM: VOL.9670 FOL.929
DEPTH LIMITATION: 15.24m

NOTATIONS

all that piece of land in the Parish of Greensborough County of Evelyn being Lot One on Plan of Subdivision No.117036 and being part of Crown Allotment 46^F Section A which land is shown enclosed by continuous lines on the map hereon - - - - -

THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED BY LAND VICTORIA FOR TITLE DIAGRAM PURPOSES

Checked by: JFM

Date: 18 / 02 / 2016

Assistant Registrar of Titles

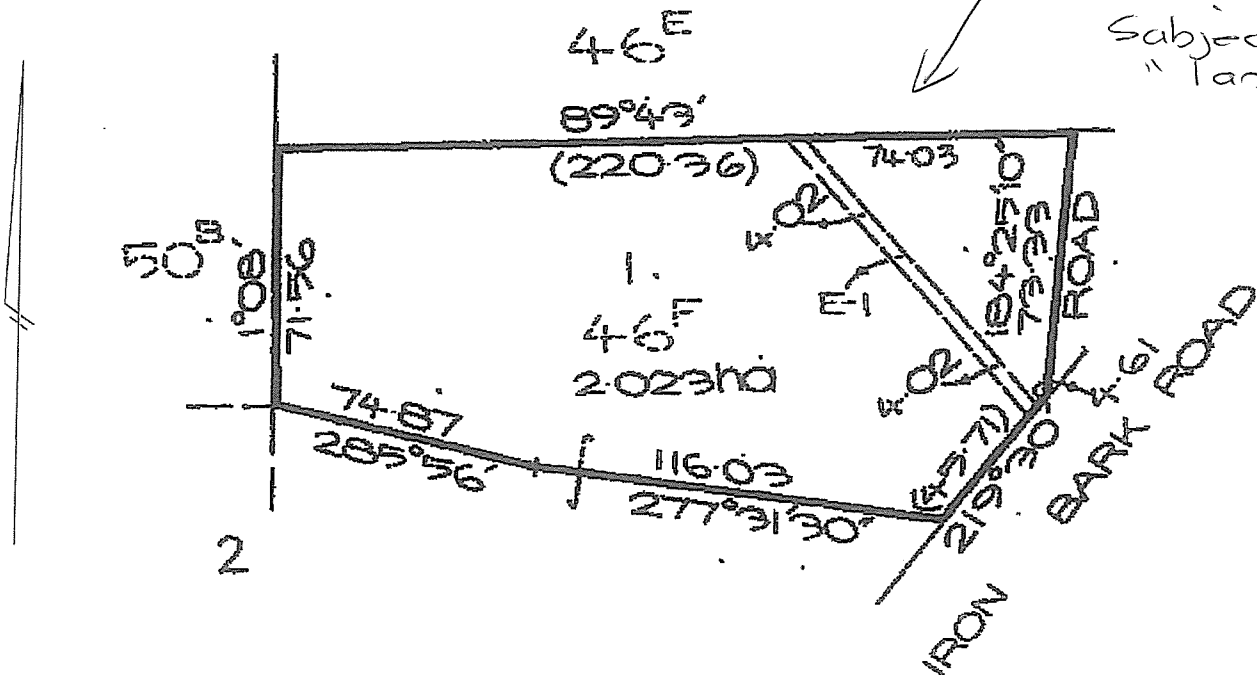
ENCUMBRANCES

As to the land shown marked E-1



THE EASEMENTS (if any) existing over the same by virtue of Section 98 of the Transfer of Land Act

* note sewerage and drainage easement Subject "land 2"



LENGTHS ARE IN METRES

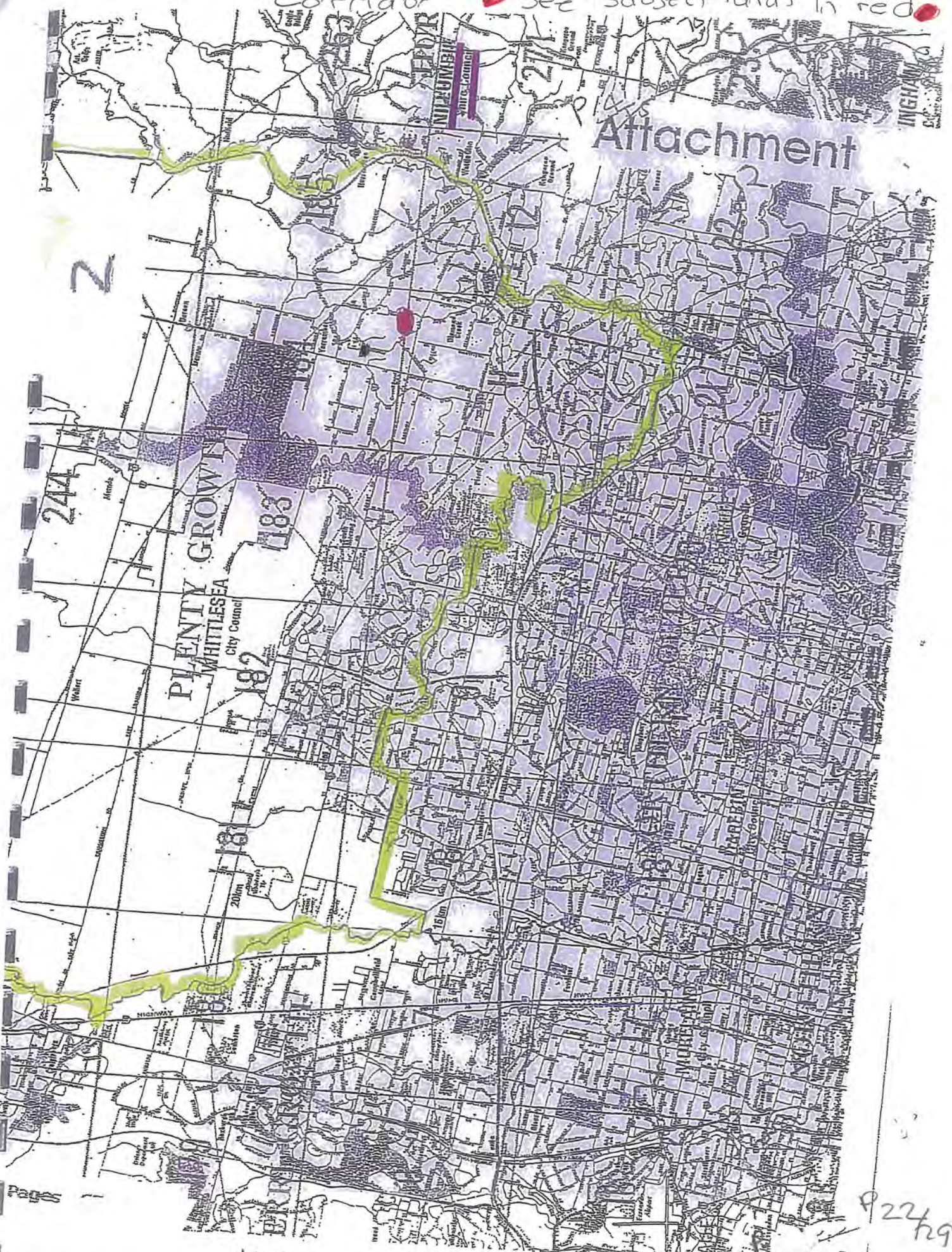
SCALE

DEALING / FILE No:

DEALING CODE:

SHEET 1 OF 1

Legislated Plenty Growth Corridor Attachment W
See subject lands in red



Attachment

Yellow highlighted is previous Plenty growth corridor Boundaries of included lands

P224/29



Freeman Family [REDACTED]

Water Bill Consultation and Amendments Required.

1 message

Freeman Family [REDACTED]

Thu, Jun 27, 2019 at 2:59 PM

27.6.19

Open Letter

Dear Water Minister

The Honourable Lisa Neville MP

Attention also Chief of Staff

RE : *Water Catchment and Amendment Bill 2019* and its negative impact on [REDACTED] and adjoining [REDACTED]. All part of the distinctive [REDACTED] and adjoining [REDACTED] urban reticulated infrastructure catchment.

We refer to our previous correspondence this year and last relating to this same Bill.

Our well founded deep concerns with the previous Bill sent directly to you and also forwarded on to you by a member of Parliament (with supporting evidence) were never addressed. We have noted this new Bill is almost double the size and more complex. This magnifies our concerns.

Please assist us with consultation with the legislator responsible for drafting this Bill.

We again explain our particular circumstances.

Under section 310A of the *Water Act 1958* our family was made liable for the largest single *compulsory* contribution (of total costs) to the extension of **both** the Urban District and Water Works Trust District of the Plenty Yarrambat Water Works Trust for the Ironbark Rd scheme, head-works and distribution charges. This was gazetted by the Governor and Council that is Cabinet, following an extensive advertised statutory process. See attached gazettal and its related urban district charge notice. This contribution was based on the highest net valuation of this land as urban residential. Therefore provided with the highest capacity and land capability. See attached 1974 Residential Rate Notice showing the water was for the total area of the land described as Crown allotments. The purpose of this water was specifically for urban residential subdivision and land use and not as irrigation or rural water. Note the other attachment examples added are in further support and in addition to ones you have already been provided with.

Currently under section 144A of the *Water Act 1989* 'subject properties*' are to be taken as 'serviced properties' within the waterway management district of the Melbourne Water Corporation, for the purposes of Melbourne Water Corporations powers functions and duties. This includes providing the properties with water, sewerage and drainage.

These urban responsibilities for the subject properties were transferred to Melbourne Water, from Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW), the Plenty Yarrambat Water Works Trust, and the State River and Water Supply Commission (who were both water and sewerage).

Therefore currently under the *Water Act 1989* we are Urban and are a serviced property under Melbourne's Metropolitan Water Corporation and we must remain so.

Our properties have urban reticulated infrastructure and associated property/development rights or entitlements for residential development and land use. The Family has relied on this certainty in their long term future planning.

Please re-assure us in writing that the *Water Catchment and Amendment Bill 2019* will not

- Remove or erode the above entitlements. Including compensation for loss of land value, use of land and damages. One of the purposes of the Principle Act is to (c) 'to promote the orderly, equitable and efficient use of water resources'. Accordingly this Bill must ensure our urban district catchment and its capacity remains intact.
- Result in the diversion or re-direction of our infrastructure to other catchments instead at our expense.

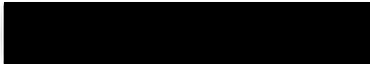
P.23/29

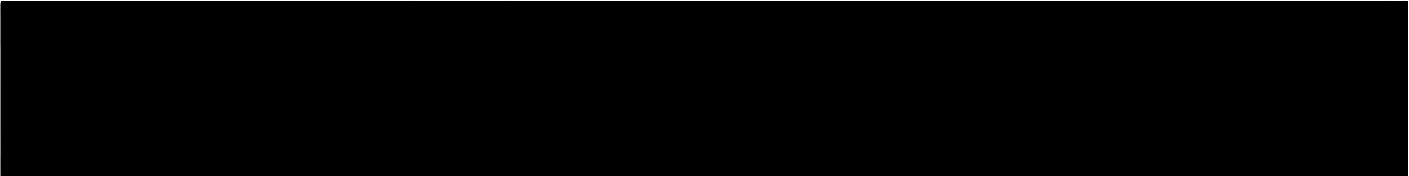
- Remove our lands from the Melbourne Water Corporations urban jurisdiction and transfer them to any Rural Water Authority.
- Allow for the removal of our lands from Melbourne Water Corporations water district, sewerage district or drainage. When our lands became part of Melbourne Water their obligation, responsibilities and duties to us included the continued provision of water, sewerage and drainage. This must remain the case regardless of the separation of these in the definitions.
- Allow new Water and other inter-related Strategies for a region to revoke or amend the existing Strategy that applies to us.
- Remove the current savings and transitional provisions in the Principle Act 1989 and *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* that continue to protect all our urban infrastructure and associated development rights or entitlements.
- Include new sections that will replace or erode our rights or entitlements.


Our future is in jeopardy. The Family paid for this progress with blood, sweat and tears. Please re-assure us that this Bill will not result in our lands being reverted to infrastructure stripped primitive bush blocks comparatively worse in value and use to that of seventy years ago when first purchased.

We need the Bill deferred and returned to the Scrutiny and Acts Committee to facilitate amendments and provisions to meet our concerns. Failure to recognise these concerns will result in the serious unjust enrichment to others at our expense and also the financial and amenity exploitation of our lands.

Sincerely


Gila Schnapp nee Freeman on behalf of properties



 Evidence.PDF
3334K

P. 24/29



Freeman Family [REDACTED]

URGENT DEFERRAL OF WATER AND CATCHMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2019

Freeman Family [REDACTED]

Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 10:46 AM

Open Letter

A plea for assistance in the course and cause of justice

6 June 2019
6.5.19

URGENT ATTENTION

Please defer debate on the *Water Catchment and Amendment Bill 2019* as a matter of urgency.

We require parliamentary representation as we believe this bill may have a major impact on our lands established, distinctive, privately paid for (directly and indirectly) urban reticulated infrastructure and associated development/property rights and entitlements for residential development and land use. This includes applicable compensation for losses and damages for any erosion, redirection or removal of same to the benefit of others instead. We understand this also includes loss of value and use of the land.

Such unjust enrichment is against the Constitution.

Yarra Valley Water are in the application stage for a major new sewer line (and potentially water as well) that will pass our property. The Victorian Planning Provisions are now defining installation of water, sewer and other related infrastructure work as 'minor' which then means they do not require any other planning permits other than regarding impacts to vegetation. We are concerned that our distinctive urban infrastructure will be altered, eroded or diverted to the benefit of others at our expense. We have been told by YVW that we cannot connect into this major pipeline. We remain in the dark as to what is actually occurring to our infrastructure and as a result cannot protect our property interests. We believe this Bill is connected to and supports this work.

Our concerns rest with the passing of this *Water Catchment and Amendment Bill 2019*. We believe that once the Bill has passed and becomes law infrastructure catchments and their redirection will be permitted with no right of reply to landowners affected.

Will this Bill absolve Shire and City Councils of any Legislative responsibilities to protect the infrastructure of its constituents?

Will this Bill exempt infrastructure installation from requiring a planning permit or any other permission from Councils?

Will this Bill exempt Council and Utility providers from releasing copies of engineering works and detailed information of the works themselves to the public that may impact their property? (This includes existing services and those of the future)

Our Family has relied on the long term financial planning provided by the urban infrastructure (compulsory under Section 310A of the *Water Act 1958*) and we are concerned this will be destroyed by the passing of this Bill. We remain fearful that our land will be stripped of its urban infrastructure assets and reverted back to primitive bush blocks, comparatively worse in value and use to that of seventy five years ago when purchased by the family. Infrastructure was paid for with blood, sweat and tears.

Similar concerns were voiced when this Bill was previously in debate in 2018.

The attachments are in support of this email please read them.

Sincerely [REDACTED]

P.25/29

David Fairbairn Consulting Engineer
[REDACTED]

**NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME
AMENDMENT C81 SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE OVERLAY**

PANEL HEARING

WITNESS STATEMENT: Prepared by David Fairbairn Consulting Engineer

SERVICING STRATEGY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

I act on behalf of the owners of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I have inspected the proposed Amendment C81 documents and wish to support my client's objection to the amendment. I consider that the proposed Amendment C81 limits the highest and best use of the land given the availability of existing infrastructure to the properties and the ability to extend other infrastructure to service the land. I also consider that the uncertainty associated with the status of the overall zoning of the land expressed in the submission made by our clients makes it additionally important to resolve this issue prior to any new controls being introduced to ensure that the overall servicing strategies developed by the various authorities for the region are not compromised by planning decisions taken independently of them.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION - EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

The properties at [REDACTED] were included in the Plenty-Yarrambat Waterworks Trust district and were supplied with and urban standard reticulated water supply via a 100mm dia AC main located on the west side of Ironbark Road and which was connected directly to the Trust supply system. This occurred after the above Waterworks and Urban Districts were extended to include this land (gazetted in 1975).

The property at [REDACTED] is connected to a 225mm dia main in Pioneer Road.

The Freeman family, owners of [REDACTED] contributed their share of the total costs of construction of the extension of the Trust water supply system to supply their properties at the time and were rated as urban consumers by the Trust.

The original Waterworks Trust was transferred to the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) in 1981 with the MMBW becoming the successor body.

The properties were also supplied with urban standard power and telecommunications.

Sewerage is not currently directly available to the properties but they are all able to be connected to the existing system in Diamond Creek. Capacity for the development of the properties was available in the Eltham trunk sewer but is slowly being reduced by diversion of flow from the South Morang catchment into the Eltham trunk sewer. There is a sewerage rising main running past the properties in Ironbark Road that serves the Doreen/Mernda system. It would be possible to pump directly into this main from these properties provided there is sufficient capacity available. We also understand that another rising main will be constructed in the future to further augment the system as part of the Mernda Strategy plan. Yarra Valley Water have indicated that they would not allow such a connection to take place however it is our opinion that such a connection is technically feasible. Connection of the properties to the gravity sewerage system via a rising main is also feasible. Therefore connection to sewerage should not be an issue.

Land was acquired from [REDACTED] in 1976 for an easement for way of road, drainage and sewerage. This was necessary for the upgrade of Ironbark Road including widening, straightening, sealing and to allow for the infrastructure establishment. The road is therefore suitable for access to any future land development on the subject properties.

3.0 PLANNING STATUS OF THE LAND

My clients continue to dispute the planning background of their properties with the Shire of Nillumbik that sees the current zoning as rural conservation. While my clients' expected development scenario is to be granted a corrected zoning to an appropriate residential or township zone, they wish to emphasise that whilst a revised zoning is not occurring they wish to proceed with other development options which could include other commercial uses or more intensive agricultural uses. They would therefore wish to be able to ensure that suitable infrastructure remains available for these options and that they be able to develop the land to the highest and best use available. I am informed by the owners that the development options currently being considered includes their 112 lot Subdivision covering all three properties which they continue to pursue. It is the opinion of this report that Amendment C81 and the associated guidelines for assessment of design will significantly limit options available for such development of the subject properties even though infrastructure is available to support such development.

4.0 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION

1. An anomaly does exist related to the land at [REDACTED] in that, in the opinion of my clients, there is some doubt about the legitimacy of the current zoning. The land is covered by urban standard infrastructure which is inconsistent with a non urban zone. The land was also originally included in the Plenty-Yarrambat Waterworks Trust District which would normally indicate that the land was within a suitable urban zone. As a result of the availability of the infrastructure and proximity of the properties to other urban areas, the effect of changing the planning status of the

property to an urban zone, as desired by the owners, would be consistent with other planning decision making for the local area.

2. Our clients have also argued that the properties were not part of the green wedge concept but were part of the Plenty Growth Corridor and were provided with urban infrastructure to support this growth strategy. Implementation of the Amendment will therefore severely limit the potential to further develop these properties.

For these reasons the implementation of the Amendment C81 further limits the planning options available to the owners and creates a further impediment to the resolution of their wish to resolve the planning issues associated with the properties.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE OVERLAY

The subject properties are currently entirely within the SLO10 area that is Undulating Agricultural as defined in the Amendment. The Design Guidelines for the SLO10 area are generally aimed at preservation of a predominantly rural character of the area. My clients have argued for some time that their properties should be recognised as urban rather than rural and therefore that this Amendment is not appropriate for their land as it is only being applied to land outside the urban growth boundary. Therefore the design guidelines will have significant impact on the potential of the properties for further development in the following manner:

1. The restrictions on vegetation removal will not only affect any future plans for development but will also restrict the use of the land for agricultural purposes. The preservation of dense vegetation is also in conflict with the Wildfire Management Overlay which also applies to the properties.
2. The restriction of development on hillsides and ridges coupled with the restriction of vegetation removal further limits the land uses and development of these properties.
3. Building and structure siting guidelines would impact heavily on possible infrastructure construction such as for roads and buildings associated with future development.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

Therefore on behalf of my clients, the owners of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I wish to support their objection to the provisions of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme proposed C81 Amendment on the grounds outlined in this report. My clients therefore request that the panel not approve the proposed Amendment C81 so as to not detrimentally affect the current and future potential of the land for development and the best use of infrastructure available to the properties.

David Fairbairn Consulting Engineer
[REDACTED]

7.0 DATE

This report is dated 29th January, 2016.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Consulting Engineer



Freeman Family [REDACTED]

Abolishment of Rights/Entitlements by Water Bill

1 message

Freeman Family [REDACTED]

Tue, Jul 30, 2019 at 2:59 PM

30.7.19

Open Email and attachments

Water and Catchment Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

Urgent Consultation Request.

Please see all of the attached documents that detail related correspondence regarding our major concerns to date with the *Water and Catchment Legislation Amendment Bill 2019*. We request urgent consultations regarding other clauses in this Bill.

Meanwhile we continue ask for its urgent withdrawal from Parliament for Referral to the Scrutiny and Acts Committee. It appears to have neglected to consider the impacts this Bill will have on people with existing protected water, sewerage and drainage rights and inter-related entitlements.

Thus far we require these amendments

- To permanently safe-guard the Urban status of subject lands under the *Water Act 1989*.
- To guarantee subject lands their continuation as a 'serviced property' under the jurisdiction, duties, functions, powers, responsibilities and liabilities of Melbourne Water Corporation.
- To ensure all the districts and catchments of subject lands (for urban Water, sewerage and drainage) are not abolished or removed or altered in any way.
- To protect and preserve subject lands, precious discrete urban regulated infrastructure and its associated property/development rights and/or entitlements (urban capacity to the total area of the acreages).
- To preserve the continued, accumulated entitlement for compensation or removal, erosion or re-direction of all rights and entitlements for any reason. Where are the conditions for equitable consideration for changes this Bill makes? What is to prevent particular Families or sections of a district to be discriminatorily targeted for the benefit of other persons instead?
- To remove the unbridled powers of the Water Minister, Melbourne Water Corporation and other authorities to do as/where and what they please, 'or is convenient' regarding districts, catchments, supply of all urban infrastructure and other. We are concerned that the Minister, Melbourne Water and other authorities can act without accountability or liability and disregard those impacted by this.


Please acknowledge receipt of this email and attached document.

Sincerely

Gila Schnapp Nee Freeman for and on behalf of subject lands.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

 **a 30-07-2019.PDF**
7436K

EQUITABLE CORRECTION TO LEGAL IRREGULARITY. Brief Dated 6th of August 2019.

In 1975 subject lands* were gazetted by the Governor in Council (that is Cabinet) as an extension to **both** the Plenty Yarrambat **Urban** District and Waterworks Trust District. See Attachment B enlarged part of original gazettal and C proving inclusion.

Under Section 310A of the *Water Act 1958* N Freeman was made liable for the largest single compulsory contribution (of total costs) based on having the highest urban residential value of subject lands (head-works and distribution costs) See Attachment A. The purpose of this scheme was specifically for urban residential development. See Attachment D and E. The associated Commonwealth Loan funding to the states was predicated on this fact alone. His exorbitant liability necessitated his participation in said loan. See Attachment G. The certainty of the utilisation of this infrastructure for urban purposes of subject lands was relied on in the Families future financial planning to date.

Co-ordinated with the installation of our urban reticulated infrastructure by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was a portion of land exchange from street lots 201-219 Ironbark Rd to adjoining street lots 175-199 for 'way of road widening, drainage and sewerage' for the direct benefit of subject lands and others.

Subject lands were included in the **legislated** Plenty **Growth Corridor**. See Attachment N.

*In the year 2000 subject lands were translated incorrectly to Environmental Rural (now Rural Conservation) **against provisions in applicable legislation**. Their promised closest fit zone translation should have been Residential One or Township. Failure to equitably correct this 'known' or 'ought to have been known' major Rural-Zoning/Mapping mistake resulted in their wrongful removal from Melbourne's New Metropolitan urban boundary. Subsequently subject lands were incorrectly included as Green Wedge land outside the urban boundary.*

Our rural conservation zoning mistake is in breach of the *Water Act 1989*.

Under section 144A of the *Water Act 1989* subject lands continue to be taken as 'serviced properties' within the urban management district of Melbourne Water Corporation, for the purposes of Melbourne Water Corporations duties, powers and functions. *This includes providing subject lands with water sewerage and drainage (full urban capacity to the total area of subject lands for the purpose of urban residential subdivision and development).* Melbourne Water Corporation inherited above urban responsibilities, obligations and liabilities to subject lands from the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, who in turn took them over from the Plenty Yarrambat Waterworks Trust/ State Rivers and Water Supply Commission.

Subject lands are Urban under the *Water Act 1989* and must remain so.

This necessitates immediate acknowledgment by the Planning Minister and the Water Minister to enable their co-ordination in aligning our urban status with the correct urban zoning/mapping in the Planning scheme. The new *Water and Catchment Amendment Legislation 2019* must not interfere with or sabotage our legitimate urban rights and entitlements.

New Green Wedge, Conservation, Open Space or any other community aspiration or use are not excuses to deny this necessary rectification. These can still be provided in the overall development plan of any residential area or within the site specific properties themselves.

Subject lands have accrued urban infrastructure and associated urban property/development rights and/or entitlements, including compensation for removal of same.

Urban values must be maintained. Major equity issues can-not be ignored. Our attempts to protect and preserve our properties are being denied and swept aside at every level of power. We are constantly dealing with misinformation, half-truths and obfuscation. We are being bullied into submission despite the provision of hard evidence that indisputably proves our urban case.

*Subject lands

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

All from the same distinctive Ironbark Road and adjoining Pioneer Road urban reticulated infrastructure catchment.

Gila Schnapp nee Freeman for and on behalf of the landowners and stakeholders of subject lands.

Hard evidence examples of current urban status of subject lands. We have been informed one or two of these is sufficient in its own right. Our urban case can no longer be disputed.

- proportionate charge for N Freeman with allocated street lot numbers [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for his compulsory participation in the water scheme under Section 310A of the *Water Act 1958* (head-works and distribution charge) Attachment A
- in a **gazettal** as an extension to both the Plenty Yarrambat **Urban District** and **Water Works Trust District** by the Governor in Council (that is Cabinet) essential before the works could begin and the properties like ourselves charged. Attachment B enlarged part of original gazettal.
- **Urban district water rates** notice 1980 proving [REDACTED] within the above gazettal, Attachment C
- **1974** Copy of **our urban residential rate** and **sanitary charge** by the Shire of Diamond Valley. Urban NOT Rural rates were paid by the Family until the year 2000. Attachment D and E
- Residential rate notice from the Shire of Diamond valley dated 1.4.1992. Showing the lands continuing as urban residential. Attachment F
- Receipt example from MMBW 1981 for loan instalment with 11.4% interest for N Freemans cost of Scheme Attachment G.
- Terms of reference consumers made liable for total costs of this Scheme. Attachment Ha
- Witness statement from David Fairbairn 29th January 2016 in role as engineer but also has town planning expertise. Even though this was presented to a different process the contents remain relevant. Attachment Hb.
- Map identifying location of subject lands Attachment I.
- Photograph of subjects land of Ironbark Rd Diamond Creek Attachment J.
- Certificate of Title for [REDACTED] showing **sewerage and drainage** easements as part of a township plan as Subdivisions were approved (Attachment M, L and K).
- Map of the **Plenty growth corridor**, showing the land within its boundaries. This evidence precludes us from ANY inclusion in the Green Wedge. (Attachment N)
- Also included are letters that detail our requests for withdrawal of the *Water and Catchment Amendment Legislation 2019*.

From: [Alexander Collum](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Individual submission to draft GWMP consultation
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:58:04 PM
Attachments: [individual GWMP submission.docx](#)

Good evening

Please find attached my submission to the Nillumbik draft GWMP consultation.

Regards
Alex Collum

DRAFT GWMP SUBMISSION

Thank you for the opportunity to write a submission to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan (the Plan). I was a member of the Green Wedge Community Panel (the Panel), and am a signatory to the group submission prepared by a majority of Panel members. As the group submission covers my views on the content itself of the Plan, I have decided to focus my attention in this individual submission to expanding on matters of structure and themes affecting the GWMP, in addition to reflecting on the Panel process itself. All views reflected in this submission are my own personal views.

URBAN AND RURAL NILLUMBIK

During the Panel at least one panellist voiced their disagreement with the inclusion of the urban residents on the Panel, on the basis that urban residents shouldn't be making decisions, or 'dictating', how rural residents live. While I agree that most people living in urban Nillumbik do not realise they don't actually live in the Green Wedge, this does not mean their views should be discarded or ignored.

Councillors govern for the whole of Shire, regardless of what area they were elected to represent, and on the same principle I think it is important that residents always have the same opportunities as each other to be involved in issues affecting the Shire. As arbitrary as the Shire's boundaries may be, we are all in this together, and we need to work on finding our areas of agreement and building up from there, rather than wanting to exclude each other.

I think the vast majority of Nillumbik residents, whether they come from urban or rural areas, are proud to call this part of our state home, and thankful to be living close to or in the 'lungs of Melbourne'.

KEY MOVES

While I understand the idea behind highlighting important actions, the approach Council has adopted in the draft Plan does not make sense. All five of the key moves are word-for-word replications of key actions; so in trying to emphasise their importance is Council saying we are to regard these key moves as 'key, key actions'?

As I will mention later in this submission, many of the actions in the Plan are unclear, including some of the ones replicated as 'key moves'.

Take for example key move number two, that Council will "implement a whole of organisation approach to... a range of matters in an integrated manner. This will include robust conversations...". What is this supposed to mean? How will Council achieve it? While I support the sentiment of it I question how the Council administration would be able to go about implementing it. Will the community be consulted on developing this, and the other 'key moves'?

GOALS

While I understand Council's rationale in using the five goals from its Council Plan 2017-2021 for the five goals in the Plan, I think that the goals should be rewritten. If the goals

were simply headlined by the economic, environmental and social themes, as well as the governance theme (with the objectives and actions rearranged accordingly) the Plan would be a clearer document to understand. Potentially Goal 1 – Engaged connected communities – and Goal 2 – Active and creative people – could be merged.

I also question the considerable amount of ‘narrative’ introducing each goal before the objectives and actions are listed. This is valuable information but to me it is unclear in places where this content is reflected in actions, or how Council as an administration is going to go about implementing what is expressed in the ‘narrative’.

ACTIONS WITHOUT ACTIONS

As I have raised above, while a number of the actions throughout the document are good and worthwhile actions, I question whether they can truly be called actions.

Many of them are vague, and struggle to explain what they are and how they will be implemented. Action 1.1 regarding a *Green Wedge Conversations* program sounds good, but from reading the action I have no understanding of what it will look like or how it will be built. If all of these actions require so much interpretation that Council has to undertake community consultation to work out what it’s meant to be doing for them all I worry nothing will get done.

The replication of actions across various goals, or as a ‘key move’ is also confusing. Key move five, Action 4.3, Action 3.1, and Action 5.5 are the same single action. While it may straddle different themes this doesn’t mean it should be reproduced – it just makes it confusing.

And the use of the prefix ‘key’ before the objectives and actions raises the question: if these are ‘key’ objectives or actions then does that mean there should also be plain ‘objectives’ and ‘actions’? If the prefix ‘key’ is used for everything, then really it is rendered useless.

GREEN WEDGE ADVISORY SERVICE

It is disappointing that Council has not included in its Plan the only minority report recommendation from the Panel.

In the rush to finalise the recommendations at the final workshop, where recommendations were being reformulated by panellists to reflect feedback from the group, the title of the recommendation was left as ‘Green Wedge Management Authority’. I believe that had we changed the title of the recommendation to reflect the recommendation itself it would have received majority support.

From reading the introduction and rationale that form the recommendation it is clear that the intent behind the recommendation is not for an ‘authority’, but rather an advisory body formed recognising the similarities and opportunities for collaboration between municipalities that have green wedges, and providing support to these municipalities. Perhaps it could be a part of the Interface Councils group?

THE PANEL

Upon entering into the Panel I found that almost everyone there, whether they had previous involvement in Council issues or not, were optimistic about the Panel process, and excited about the prospect of being part of a new type of engagement for a document that is so important for Council and for our community. While there were representatives of both 'sides' of the community that are regularly engaged with Council matters, the majority of panellists were not – they were 'fresh' eyes who committed themselves to getting across the material Council provided and doing good work.

Without a doubt I trust Council's commitment to a fair process in selecting the Panel. The fact that the selection of residents for the Panel was undertaken by someone based in Sydney says it all – it was a 'hands off' process that gave a random selection of households around the Shire the same opportunity to express their interest in participating.

Much has been made by some panellists, or others online, about the presence of residents with expert knowledge or experience in the Green Wedge Management Plan or Council more generally. If you send out 10,000 random invitations into a community of course you are likely to get a substantial number of responses from people who are interested or engaged in Council.

It was disappointing that during the process there were many in online community groups, namely on Facebook, that sought to cast aspersions on the panellists, or the manner in which they had been recruited. This led to some panellists being upset, or expressing afterwards an unwillingness to fully engage with the debates occurring during the workshops, for fear that they or their families would be affected by putting forward their views in the presence of the whole group.

I should note however that throughout the Panel workshops themselves I personally did not see any evidence of the alleged bullying or disrespectful behaviour that some have suggested took place, nor panellists dismissing the views of other panellists during discussions. I think all panellists conducted themselves in a friendly manner throughout the process, and (barring a couple of moments where I think some mistook comments or tone of others) were keen to explore the rationale behind the thinking and suggestions of other panellists.

'MINORITY' REPORT

I have serious concerns about the presence of, and process surrounding, the 'minority' report that was handed to councillors in literally the final minutes of the Panel workshop, and the consequential events that have led to its increased influence in the formulation of the Plan.

My clear understanding of the minority report process, as outlined in the early stages of the Panel process, was that minority reports were to be recommendations that had been formulated in the workshop process, had been voted on by the whole group, and had fallen short of the 80% threshold. The recommendation on the Green Wedge advisory service that was originally called 'Minority Report #2' met these requirements.

The 'minority' report of five members of the Panel did not meet this process. It is clear from the presentation and length of the report that it was not written during the workshop, but rather was prepared largely (if not almost entirely) outside of the workshops. To my knowledge, this report had not been mentioned to other members of the Panel, and I, along with what I think is a majority of the Panel, were shocked when the report was produced and presented to councillors. The secretive nature of the report's preparation is at complete odds with the principles of an open and collaborative Panel process.

I have no doubt that if all members of the Panel were aware that 'minority' reports of this kind could be prepared and included in the formal process there would have been other members of the Panel who would have also wanted to prepare reports.

As Cr Clarke has noted, a great deal of the 'minority report' overlapped with recommendations made by the Panel. So why then did a group of panellists choose to split themselves from the rest of the group, rather than build on the areas of agreement and contribute to incorporating their views into the recommendations?

My understanding was that the idea behind the Panel process was that the recommendations report of the Panel was a collective effort, reflecting the range of views and values of the members of the community who were participating, and reflecting the compromises and agreements between panellists who recognised the importance of coming together, despite their differences. The so-called 'minority' report diminishes this, and is disrespectful to those panellists who operated within the boundaries of the process and committed to the ideal of our collective work.

I recognise that some of my fellow panellists have different recollections of how the minority report process was presented to us, and don't mean to question their understanding of the process, but as I have said I thought the process around minority reports was clearly expressed to the Panel.

I also understand that, after an initial mix up where this report was including in the document of the Panel's recommendations, Council removed the report, only to months later recognise it after feedback from the Victorian Ombudsman. Further investigation by members of the Panel found that this feedback was not an official report or recommendation to Council, but merely an email to Council from an officer at the Ombudsman's office with informal advice. This is concerning as the Nillumbik Council officers' report from its April 2019 meeting in my view presents the correspondence from the Ombudsman's office as more substantive than what it was.

It is also concerning that it appears the Ombudsman's office was not provided the full context of the Panel process, nor were all panellists provided an opportunity to give the Ombudsman's office alternative perspectives on the matters raised. In my view this led to an incomplete analysis by the Ombudsman's office, and consequently disproportionately affected the response by Council to the matters raised by the office.

CONCLUSION

Overall I feel in many ways the Panel was a missed opportunity. It is saddening that some panellists felt they couldn't participate fully in the process, or weren't comfortable to put forward their views or engage with fellow panellists. It is also sad that there has been much denigration of the Panel and the process since it ended. Many, if not all of us who participated in the Panel did so because we felt a commitment to contributing to our community and to an important document affecting the much-loved Green Wedge.

There was such enormous goodwill and positivity in the room in the early stage of the process – and a commitment to debate the issues rationally, calmly, and with respect for each other. And then by the end many panellists felt they would need time to recover from the process, that it had been stressful.

We were all there because we love where we live, and we want to see the Green Wedge thrive into the future. If we weren't able to go forward from this point together, will we ever be able to come and work together, without the toxicity and the name-calling that sadly is so frequent in our community, especially online? I hope we can.

Despite these concerns, Council should not shy away from holding further Community Panels in the future – I think the model has useful applications for other issues. Perhaps a version of a Community Panel could be held to help develop each new Council Plan, and other significant documents?

I applaud Council for recognising that it needs to be innovative in its approach to community consultation. In today's world one needs a multi-faceted approach to reach as wide and diverse a population as possible, and ensure Council is reaching out to those who are not typically engaged in local issues. A number of panellists I met had never engaged with Council, and by the end of the process said they had learnt a lot and were much more engaged. Wouldn't it be wonderful to give more residents the opportunity to understand the work that local government does?

I would encourage Council to learn from their first attempt at a Community Panel, look at ways to reduce the sizeable costs from this attempt (for instance the earlier workshops could have been significantly pared back, reducing the number of days), and be completely clear about the structures and rules that operate for panellists and those running the panel to prevent some of the confusion that occurred this time around happening again.

I commend Council for their commitment to the GWMP and the consultation process, particularly the Panel process, and ask that they continue their commitment in this final stage by recognising the multiple issues raised by the group submission of the majority of Panel members and building on the draft Green Wedge Management Plan accordingly.

Yours sincerely
Alex Collum

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area, with a small white rectangular cutout in the center.

From: [Zoe Sharp](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: The GWMP Draft
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:53:55 PM

To whom it may concern at Nillumbik Council,

The current draught of the Green Wedge management plan is unacceptable. Living in the Green Wedge is a privilege that comes with responsibilities to protect the natural environment.

Many aspects of the draft appear to waterdown the emphasis on protection and conservation of the natural environment.

I particularly object to council advocating for any rezoning of Rural Conservation Areas that would allow for smaller lot sizes and introducing urban boundary buffer zones.

There is also an abysmal lack of detail included on climate change, inclusion of Aboriginal Voice and water management.

I do not think the contributions of the community in the consultation stage have been properly weighted.

Many aspects of the draft would adversely affect the quite,rural character of my cherished suburb of Wattle Glen.

Yours sincerely

Zoe Sharp



From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to N"bik GWMP
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:50:38 PM
Attachments: [Betty Russell sub GWMP.docx](#)

Please find attached my submission to the GWMP

Could I receive confirmation please that it has been received?

Many thanks

Betty Russell

SUBMISSION to the DRAFT NILLUMBIK GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN
August 11th 2019

Submitted to: gwmp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Submitted by: Betty Russell

Contact details: [REDACTED]

Date: 11 August 2019

I wish to speak to this submission

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft GWMP.

1. AN ISSUE OF GOVERNANCE?

There does appear to have been a possible issue of governance to check what should have been there.. How did Council come to approve a Draft GWMP so obviously incomplete? A reading of the document should have alerted Council to the fact that this is only a part of a plan and to think to consider it against PPN 31

1.1 Overview of requirements for a GWMP

It is understood that a Green Wedge Management Plan should be consistent with relevant state government policies and strategies [PPN31] and that these involve:

- Consistency with the policies & objectives for green wedges set out in Plan Melbourne
- Consistency with the State's policy framework set out within the Nillumbik Planning Scheme
- supported by PPN31 and PPN62

[Green Wedge Management Plan Background Report Community Panel, p. 18]

Furthermore, the Background Report continues: "If an objective of the GWMP is that it be endorsed by State Government, referenced into the Planning Scheme or recognised by various State Departments for possible funding programs, then consistency with State policy is a must."

Therefore it is of concern that the Draft GWMP is inconsistent with the goals of "Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, the requirements of PPN31 and the NPS 21.07.

1.2 Inconsistency with Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas : Vic State Government, DELWP

The first goal for the first section, "Environmental and biodiversity assets" is to:

*"Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a **net gain** in the quantity and quality of native vegetation" P.44.*

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August 11th 2019

Comment: There is no plan - or even mention of the concept - of 'net gain' in the plan. nor even a plan for 'no net loss'.

1.3 Inconsistency with PPN 31

1.3.1 Omission of monitoring details

Planning Practice Note 31 (PPN31) *Preparing a Green Wedge Management Plan*, outlines the requirements of a GWMP. These include:

- 'Establish a clear monitoring and review process to ensure the plan remains relevant and its performance can be measured. This should involve determining appropriate indicators and a plan to review the plan in five years '
- 'Have a monitoring process for actions built into the management process'
- 'Identify resource requirements, roles and responsibilities, time lines, outcomes and evaluation'
- 'Identify responsibilities, priorities and time lines and required resources'
- 'Explore key indicators that will be able to measure whether the objectives are being achieved

Comment: There are no such details included in the plan. There are lists of proposed Actions, but no plan to carry them out: no prioritizing, time-lines, tasks broken into parts to facilitate measurement of progress, no performance indicators. This is a plan which stops part way through,

1.3.2 Omission of the reviewing process of the current GWMP 2010-25

Another part of the requirements of PPN31 is to

- Review the existing policies and programs that apply or influence the green wedge
- Reviewing the adequacy of resources and programs
- Assessing the effectiveness of existing incentive and education programs

Comment: The Draft Plan **does** state that it "builds on and replaces the first plan adopted by Council in 2010" [p.7], yet there is no evidence that it "builds on" and no reference to results of reviewing the plan itself or how that review relates to changes needed. The action around preparing the Draft Plan has involved consultation, but not involved reviewing the current plan.

That the Draft document is a new, replacement GWMP and not a reviewed document is quite explicit on the '*Participate Nillumbik / Green Wedge Management Plan Review*' site, which states: "Help us prepare a **new** Green Wedge Management Plan ..." This is similarly stated in the Introduction to the '*Community Panel Response to*

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August 11th 2019**

Recommendations : "Nillumbik Shire Council is asking the community to help it prepare a new Green Wedge Management Plan ..." [p.5].

1.3.3 Omission of the establishment of a project steering group

Council should establish a project steering group (chaired by the council), with representatives from key stakeholders to oversee the preparation of the plan. The project steering group should provide support guidance and oversight of progress and would have the following roles ... oversee a publicised program of public display of draft plans and formal input to the development of the GWMP

Comment: *No such project steering group was set up. If there had been, the issue of the state of incompleteness of the document would have been addressed.*

Conclusion: The Draft Plan does not meet the requirements of PPN31. In terms of monitoring or review The Draft Plan is seriously incomplete.

1.4 Inconsistency with the Nillumbik Planning Scheme 21.07

Nillumbik Planning Scheme (NPS) 21.07 Monitoring and Review : Local Planning Provisions (LPP), Vic State Government, DELWP

This clause states:

- "Council will continue to monitor use, development and tree removal through surveillance of up to date aerial photography. In the non-urban areas, changes in land-use will be mapped and analysis will be provided in the Green Wedge Management Plan" [writer's emphasis].

Comment: Outcomes of monitoring of use, development and tree removal is highly relevant to the concept propounded in the Draft Plan that landowners should basically be in control of the Green Wedge and look after it without planning controls. However, there is no reference to any monitoring of use, development and tree removal included in the Draft GWMP.

Conclusion: The Draft Plan indicates that the requirements of the NPS 21.07 on monitoring appear to have been overlooked.

1.5 Inconsistency with part of Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037

Under the Goal "Victoria's natural environment is healthy", one of the targets is:

"We achieve a net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway and marine environments."

Comment: There is no plan to ensure a net gain, nor even to ensure "no net loss".

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1.6 The apparent consequences are:

- Nillumbik Shire would be ineligible for state government funding for GW projects
- the completed and remedied Plan will need to be opened again for consultation as the public have not been able to comment on the missing parts, nor on the document as a whole and have a right to expect to be able to do so on such a crucially important document.

It is therefore somewhat surprising that Nillumbik Councillors passed this Draft GWMP for consultation, given the omissions of key requirements, so that even on a first quick reading, it should have been obvious that this was not a complete plan. Without the missing parts, it is not a plan at all, just part of a plan.

It is a plan which is not consistent with the key documents which it needs to align with.

2. OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN

2.1 The Draft Plan represents a shift in strategic focus from one of conservation and enhancement of the green wedge, to having that pushed into the background

2.2 If implemented, the Draft plan would bring about a significant shift of power from protective regulation to local land owners/ managers

2.3 The feedback process is open to manipulation as it can be used multiple times by one person with more than one email address and by people outside of Nillumbik. It should not be anonymous.

2.4 The intentions of the plan are not transparent and the Draft Plan is difficult to follow, using goals which can't be demonstrated as achieved by the Actions set out. The goals should be replaced by themes.

2.5 There is a need for a project steering committee as per PPN31

2.6 What is meant by 'protect' and 'enhance' should be spelt out

2.7 The Draft Plan is incomplete, needing Monitoring and evaluation details as per PPN31 plus definition of key terms and a list of references

2.8 There should be no "buffer zones"; anti-social behaviour needs to be dealt with.

2.9 There should be no changes to the township boundaries, but rather innovative approaches to the issue of space

**SUBMISSION to the DRAFT NILLUMBIK GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN
August 11th 2019**

Thank you for the opportunity to give input

Submission in Response to
NILLUMBIK COUNCIL
DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN, JUNE 2019

OVERVIEW

Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, June 2019 (GWMP) is a petty document. It is nicely laid out in full colour, it includes pretty pictures and interesting information charts and on the surface what are lots and lots and even more fine sounding words. The document references 18 Nillumbik policies, plans and strategies encompassing a total of 1,755 pages. The document also references an equal number of state and federal policy instruments probably spanning a much, much greater number of pages.

However, I do not recall any specific actions or KPIs in the Draft GWMP. That means that by nesting the GWMP within all these other Council documents the Plan will become subject to everything else and there will be nothing against which the Council will be able to be held to account.

In short, the Draft GWMP is just a bunch of words and therefore not fit for purpose.

The Council, and we ratepayers should cut our losses and revert to the current *Green Wedge Management Plan 2010 – 2025*. The new council elected in 2020 should then embark on developing a new or revised plan with specified targets and actions and clear KPI's against which progress in managing – protecting and improving – the Shire's Green Wedge assets, including its biodiversity and landscapes, etc can be monitored.

VALUE OF WHAT IS TO BE PROTECTED AND ENHANCED

The Draft GWMP does mention Nillumbik's biodiversity and the environment and makes it clear that these assets are valuable to both local residents and to visitors. However, the draft Plan might have been rather more action oriented if the authors – Council's planners and others – had understood just how valuable are Nillumbik's environmental assets.

It is not easy to value environmental assets because they are not usually traded in markets. Over the past 20 or 30 years however, the Economics profession has been developing, testing and tweaking non-market valuation techniques the results of which do give some guide¹.

¹ See for example Vandana Subroy, Asha Gunawardena, Maksym Polyakov, Ram Pandit, David J. Pannell (2019), "The worth of wildlife: A meta-analysis of global non-market values of threatened species", *Ecological Economics*, 164; and Ram Pandit, Vandana Subroy, Stephen T. Garnett, Kerstin K. Zander, David Pannell (2015), *A review of non-market valuation studies of threatened species and ecological communities: Report to the National Environmental Science Programme, Department of Environment, Canberra*. 18 December 2015.

In their 2019 global meta analysis of the values of threatened species Subroy *et al* analyse the total economic values of specific animal species with passive use as the dominant value and derive a net present value of \$414 (\$US 2016 values) per household for a “species”. DELWP’s advisory list for Victoria puts the list of threatened vertebrate species (excluding fish) at 257. Based on the Subroy *et al* analysis and at the current AUD/USD exchange rate, these species would be valued in perpetuity at \$293 billion by all of Victoria’s 2.5 million households, at \$213 billion by all of Greater Melbourne’s households and at \$2.5 billion by Nillumbik’s 21,174 households (2016 Census household numbers).

The 257 threatened vertebrate species mentioned above represent just a fraction of the biodiversity that is threatened, endangered or still “safe”. The point is that even given the uncertainty about and ranges of such estimates, the environment is truly enormously valuable to we humans. Consider just bees and other insect pollination vectors. Their disappearance would be an existential threat to all humans.

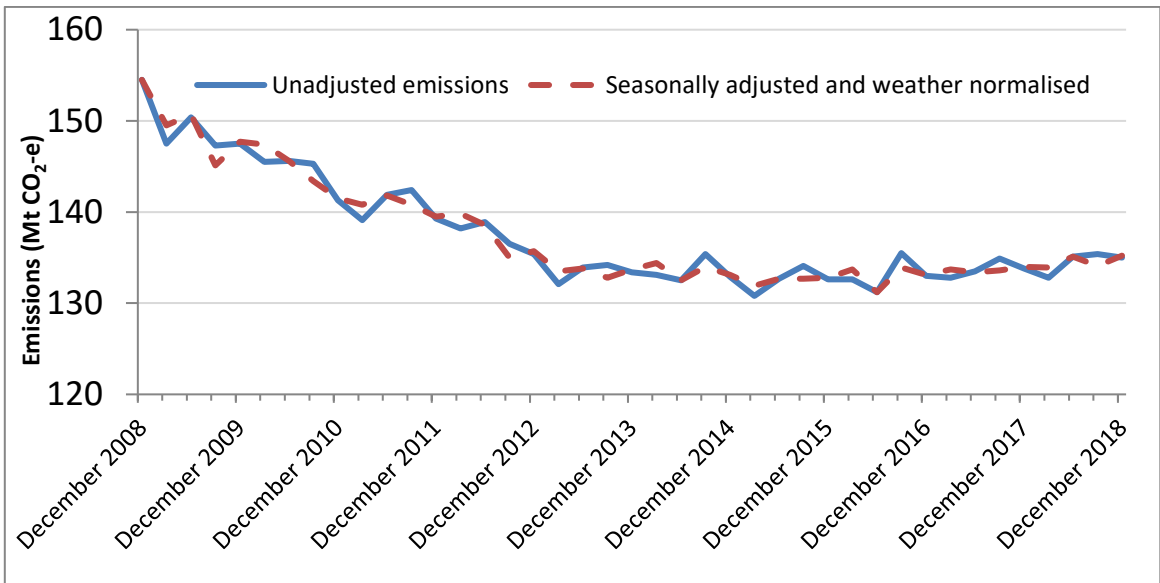
The bottom line here is that the environment and its biodiversity are enormously valuable and so deserve serious action to preserve and repair them.

A Council GWMP without specifics is useless.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The authors of the Draft GWMP recognise that climate change is real and upon us. However, the draft Plan is focussed essentially on responding to climate change and ignores the fact that through the GWMP it is possible to at least help prevent or slow the change.

Whether or not Australia achieves its Paris Greenhouse targets “at a canter” it is clear that Australia’s CO2 emissions have fallen as indicated in the following figure from the latest National Greenhouse Gas Inventory².



² Australian Government, Department of the Environment and Energy, *Quarterly Update of Australia’s Greenhouse Gas Inventory: December 2018*, Canberra.

Figures in the emissions update also make it clear that the drop in emissions has come from agriculture.

And the decline in agricultural emissions stems from changes in legislation which slowed land clearing. This is where the GWMP and climate policy have a connection.

Recent reports indicate Nillumbik has already lost some 2 percent of its tree cover. If the Council climate policies and strategies are to mean anything, the GWMP must contain stricter regulations about land clearing. And the regulations need to be enforced. New preferences for a Right to Farm should not come at the expense of the Shire's vegetation cover which needs to be increased rather than reduced even more.

THE PROCESS

The decision to consult the community via a Community Panel was an interesting initiative and promised much.

Unfortunately, the process was waylaid by the so-called Minority Report prepared by five of the panellists representing rural landowners and especially as that Minority Report has been given preference over other submissions by being considered in preparing this draft plan. The correct procedure would have been to set that Minority Report aside and consider it along with other submissions at this stage of the consultation process.

All that said, the more significant issue about the Panel process is that so many of its recommendations seem to have been ignored in preparing the draft Plan. Areas that seem to have been ignored or glossed over are listed in the table on the following page.

REZONING RISKS & BUFFER ZONES

When established, conservation was specified as the strategic focus of Nillumbik. Most of Nillumbik is zoned RCZ, the primary purpose of which is conservation. Rezoning some of the RCZ land to GWZ will risk the integrity of the Green Wedge because it would allow:

- most agriculture, no matter how intrusive to neighbours and damaging to the environment, to be introduced without the need for a planning permit;
- subject to a permit, intensive animal husbandry such as cattle feedlots which are prohibited in the RCZ;
- Subject to a permit, approval of a range of recreational and tourism land uses which would bring more people within the Green Wedge and increase the threat of bushfires to human life.

Submission Lodged by:

Henry Haszler



Panel Theme	Seemingly Missing in Action in Draft GWMP
Governance	Annual budget statement relating to the GWMP should be accompanied by an annual statement of performance against GWMP performance indicators
Responding to Climate Change	Develop action plans, within the next 3 years, for the mitigation and adaptation to climate change in its many dimensions
Regulation Regarding Grazing	Hoofed grazing domestic animals to be restricted to grazing/agricultural private land-holdings appropriate for livestock or properties with low biodiversity values. Grazing to be under guidance and education of a vegetation management plan, which will be <i>enforceable</i>
Planning Scheme, Environmental Overlays and Rural considerations for GW Zones	Where overlays currently apply, actions of landowners that lead to degradation of environmental values should be addressed by Council officers
Right of Tenure	Council to be responsible for education and updating new and existing landowners
Small Lots	Maintain current Local Planning Policy which governs building on small lots (e.g .RCZ3 <8ha) with a view to its increased enforcement
Right to Farm	Discourage bush block conversion to agricultural or pastoral use, or any other use that would otherwise degrade/impact vegetation and biodiversity values
Agriculture	<p>A. Discourage further fragmentation of agricultural lands and encourage consolidation of smaller lots in single ownership - council to facilitate consolidation of titles at zero cost to affected landholders</p> <p>C. Proposals to change land use should show the land is fit for the new purpose through a land management plan</p>

From: [Valda Kitchell](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Fwd: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:43:57 PM

From: Valda Kitchell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2019 11:37 pm
To: gwmp@nillumbik.vic.vic.gov.au
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Nillumbik Councillors,

Having read most of the GWMP I would like to say that I have not submitted a paper but would like to go on record as saying that I strongly object to any Zoning changes within the Shire.

I moved here to enjoy the peace and quiet of the entire area not just my own land. The increase in traffic is having harmful effect on the environment currently. Any further re zoning will only further increase traffic in our beautiful area of St Andrews.

Valda Kitchell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [KeithStaples](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:42:47 PM
Attachments: [Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019.odt](#)

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find attached my submission to Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019

Yours sincerely

KL Sewell-Staples

Subject **Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019**
By **Keith Leonard Sewell-Staples**
Of **[REDACTED]**
Dear Sir/Madam

For your information, I participated in one of the original community consultations/information events at the start of this process. I am still perplexed about why the plan needed to be reviewed at this time, when a plan that had the support of the community still had several years to run. This move therefore raised the possibility that some members of the Council were intending to water down the current Green Wedge Management Plan in favour of greater exploitation of the rural sections of the Shire and the development of areas which are currently protected.

These sentiments were exacerbated by the opening remarks of the consultants who could not provide a rationale for the holding of this activity other than to point out that it was within council's powers to do so. And furthermore, that some councillors had been approached during the last council elections by residents with concerns, but what those issues were they would not indicate. So we were embarked on an exercise in which only some of the vital matters that drove council's decision to initiate this activity were not known to all participants. To conclude that there might be a hidden agenda or agendas did not require too much reflection on my part nor would it have taken any longer for most students in Year 6 to identify a con.

The process from the beginning has been an exercise in high sounding rhetoric and in appearing to be acting on the best of motives while treating the residents especially those attending consultations as if they were pre-schoolers. The consultants at the initial consultation used techniques usually reserved for middle school leadership courses and the instructions on the white board as to behaviour were both patronising and insulting.

The opinions expressed at the consultation meeting I attended were strongly in favour of the retention of the existing plan, and even its strengthening in the light of climate change. At a time when scientific evidence strongly argues that the planet cannot afford any further loss of conserved areas we are tinkering with doing just that.

So in the face of a farcical process and in a context of extreme concern about the destruction of the natural world by informed scientists and in the absence of a thorough study/investigation of how the area of the Green Wedge interacts with the rest of the Greater Melbourne area and beyond, especially in relation to native flora and fauna, our leaders in the Nillumbik Council cannot bring themselves to acknowledge the destruction that is occurring locally nor how their intervention will improve or at the very least not cause further harm to occur.

The draft plan, as presented, has done nothing to persuade me from my original impression of the Council agenda, and it ignores the strong feelings of members of the community on this matter in most of its provisions. The failure to hear and reflect the community's voice on the Green Wedge is bringing the reputation of this Council further into disrepute, and does not reflect well on the motives of some members.

In fact, the Green Wedge is NOT just a tool of the Nillumbik Council. It is an integral part of the current design of the city of Greater Melbourne, often known as the lungs of the city. It is our responsibility to ensure that we do everything we can to uphold our contribution to this situation, especially as the Nillumbik Green Wedge is the best example in terms of biodiversity. Our Shire was created as a conservation Shire, with the Green Wedge as its focus. The draft plan does not pay adequate attention to this greater obligation.

It is also surprising that the draft plan is not much stronger on the implications of climate change for future planning. It is not sufficient to mention the need to adapt to the changing climate! Numerous international scientific reports make it clear that we all have a responsibility to take action to mitigate against further warming, and to actively lower emissions. For instance, the recent Nillumbik *State of the Environment Report* showed that there is an ongoing loss of large areas of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protection of the existing vegetation, and indeed promote the re-vegetation of previously cleared areas where possible, in the interests of both carbon capture and habitat for wildlife.

Unfortunately, the draft plan is not an easy document to read and is not transparent in terms of its true intentions, the key actions proposed, and the Council's plans if it is adopted. However, some basic principles should be stressed. One of these is the fact that the Urban Growth Boundary in Nillumbik must be strictly enforced, without the creation of so-called buffer

zones or other changes to zoning which would impact on the environment. Land that is currently designated as Rural Conservation Zone must be protected and maintained. The draft plan certainly does not demonstrate a strong enough commitment to environmental protection.

In summary, the draft report is unacceptable in its current form, and I urge the Council to reject the draft and ensure that, if a new version of the Management Plan is adopted, it has a much stronger approach to protecting the natural environment. Our Green Wedge is not there to enable the commercial exploitation of the natural environment by a few. It has a much higher purpose for Melbourne, and for the environment as a whole, and it is our responsibility to ensure that we live up to our responsibilities.

Yours sincerely

K L Sewell-Staples

From: [Helenc Coleman](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:39:39 PM

Helen Coleman


I do not support the current draft of the Nillumbik Shire Council's Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) as it is written.

As a former Councillor of 12 years and twice Mayor of the Nillumbik Shire Council (NSC) I was involved in the development and community and broader consultation of the original GWMP and the subsequent review development process which was much more extensive and robust compared to this latest draft of the GWMP. Although the use of the Citizen's Jury style of community consultation was innovative and intensive for the participants the process as I understand has not been successful. I am told that the current draft GWMP does not reflect the overall consensus views of the Citizen's Jury participants as developed by Mosaic Lab the consultants who were engaged by the Nillumbik Shire Council. The establishment of a splinter Minority Report inclusion into the draft GWMP plan (against professional officers recommendation) and based on only a very casual recommendation by the Victorian Ombudsman, provided I am told sent by email to the Council from the Ombudsman's office, was not appropriate considering the expensive process that had been put in place by NSC. The Minority Report circumvented the majority of the Citizen's Jury and did not reflect the consensus view. The Minority Report had also not been shown or read by the larger Citizen's Jury participants.

I was also concerned at what I identified as the notable lack of direct consultation with State Agencies, neighbouring Councils & Interface Councils. This is an extraordinary oversight and should be undertaken before the draft GWMP is decided on and submitted to the Minister.

The original GWMP was commenced in 2007 when the Nillumbik Shire Council broadly consulted with the community at that time and what was clear from the consultation was that the community has a strong attachment to the Nillumbik Green Wedge and is keenly interested in safeguarding this special place now and for future generations. This current draft GWMP does not, I believe, reflect those views which have not changed and it does not reflect the community views of today via the community consultation process and via the Citizen's Jury process.

The draft GWMP is confusing and I found it difficult to read as it gives little clarity about its intentions and planning of the key actions and how NSC will ensure these will occur into the future and when they will occur. The document reads like a overarching and snapshot copy of the NSC Council Plan document rather than a notably separate and in-depth publication that should be representative of the importance and significance of Nillumbik's Green Wedge.

There should be no movement of the Urban Growth Boundary with a hard boundary to be maintained and protected. Buffer Zones or the softening of the edge of the Green Wedge is and should not be a consideration. Any such changes would impact on negatively on the environment, bio diversity and the intent of the Green Wedge. Most importantly Rural

Conservation Zoned land must be protected at any cost and maintained, no suggestion of change to the RCZ should be referred to in the draft GWMP.

Landowners who live on the hard boundaries of the Green Wedge have lobbied long and hard since the Green Wedge was legislated by the State Government to soften the edges of the Green Wedge thankfully to no avail for mostly the purpose of pecuniary gain. Where would the soft edge stop? The State Government's commitment to the Green Wedge is set in legislation to protect the 'lungs of Melbourne'.

The current draft of the GWMP does not respond strongly enough to Climate change which should be a key point of reference for the draft GWMP and which draft GWMP should have strong actions for the lower of emissions not just 'adaption' as the draft GWMP reflects.

There is no reference that I can identify that shows that the Nillumbik Shire Council was originally established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge being its strategic focus.

Ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire is a concern and the draft GWMP does not reflect this loss of vegetation that is stated in NSC's own State of the Environment Report. The draft GWMP does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.

There is no significant mention of native wildlife and endangered species that are impacted by what is undertaken in the Nillumbik Green Wedge. There is a section of the equine industry but no reference to native wildlife and its protection and safety. This is a major oversight in the draft GWMP.

The 2010-2025 GWMP was a good example of the identification of what protection and enhancement of the Nillumbik Green Wedge. The guiding principles of that document were principles that were being implemented successfully and to develop a new draft GWMP without the community agreeing to its development is disappointing and not good governance. Good leadership and governance is about bringing the people with you! The development of this draft GWMP has involved a top down process from the outset.

As the original GWMP was developed to be in place to 2025 if the Council needed to make changes a review of the GWMP could have been undertaken rather than developing a whole new document that does not stand up to the original community consultation rigour or finely referenced detail of the previous GWMP Plan.

In 2019 NSC's role is to enhance and improve the Green Wedge rather than once again establishing an uncertain environment where the majority of the community are now focussed on its protection. NSC's role is not to carve up or undermine the current protections in place for the NSC's GWMP that have stood the test of time but to be the

custodians of the Green Wedge. The Shire's role is to support its community, wildlife, animals and environment and to understand that the Shire was originally established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge being its strategic focus.

Please acknowledge receipt of my submission.

Thank you

regards

Helen Coleman



From: [Lola](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Nillumbik Council GWMP
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:36:43 PM
Attachments: [Nillumbik Council GWMP.pdf](#)

Please find attached our submission to the GWMP Review
Nikos & Lola Nikolaou



Nikos & Lola Nikolaou
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

11 August 2019

Submission to Draft Nillumbik Shire Council Green Wedge Management Plan Review

We support the submission of the Nillumbik Ratepayers Association.

As long term residents we have managed our property well and do not wish to be burdened with further restrictions and additional costs to continue to live in this area. We struggle to get out of our driveway due to the volumes of traffic on [REDACTED] and through the Diamond Creek township due to the growth of development in neighbouring Councils. We deal with the hazards of plagues of kangaroos and deer on a daily basis. The onerous and costly maintenance of the property is difficult when there are so many Council restrictions and requirements towards development. We are now aging residents and would like to be able to offer our children the opportunity to live alongside so that we can assist with their young family and they can assist us with the maintenance and running of the property of 30+ acres in our twilight years. It seems crazy that this cannot occur.

Everywhere across the Nation the Governments are trying to find ways to increase housing supply to cope with the growing population why is it that Nillumbik is totally out of sync and restricts housing when there are many vast allotments around the existing townships which are in close proximity and well serviced by existing infrastructure eg schools, pre-schools, sporting facilities which rely on neighbouring councils population to meet their quotas and enrolments. There are many properties which abut the UGB which could be developed,

We support the introduction of buffer zones on the UGB of 1ha and 2 ha to provide a greater diversity of housing and this will also provide more protection from bushfires as the smaller properties would be better maintained and manageable and also increase the rate base for Council.

We would also like to see a greater variety of businesses being able to be established in the Green Wedge areas.

Development can occur and still be in harmony with the environment.

Lola and Nikos Nikolaou
[REDACTED]

From: [Lola](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: GWMP Grassyflat Road
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:34:58 PM
Attachments: [Nillumbik GWMP Grassyflat.pdf](#)

Please find attached our submission to the GWMP Review
Annessa Nikolaou and Kon Karasavidis



Annessa Nikolaou and Kon Karasavidis
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

11 August 2019

Submission to Draft Nillumbik Shire Council Green Wedge Management Plan Review

We support the submission of the Nillumbik Ratepayers Association.

We are located at the end of a residential street which is fully developed with urban housing. We would welcome the review of the UGB so that our property is not included in the Green Wedge. We manage and maintain our property well and do not wish to be burdened with further restrictions and additional costs to continue to live in this area. Due to the development which surrounds our property we have been overrun by kangaroos. It is not safe to allow our children to play outside and it is impossible to grow any vegetables or fruit. This is not the idyllic rural lifestyle we had hoped for. We deal with the hazards of plagues of kangaroos and deer on a daily basis. The onerous and costly maintenance of the property is difficult when there are so many Council restrictions and requirements towards development.

Everywhere across the Nation the Governments are trying to find ways to increase housing supply to cope with the growing population why is it that Nillumbik is totally out of sync and restricts housing when there are many vast allotments around the existing townships which are in close proximity and well serviced by existing infrastructure eg schools, pre-schools, sporting facilities which rely on neighbouring councils population to meet their quotas and enrolments. There are many properties which abut the UGB which could be developed,

We support the introduction of buffer zones on the UGB of 1ha and 2 ha to provide a greater diversity of housing and this will also provide more protection from bushfires as the smaller properties would be better maintained and manageable and also increase the rate base for Council.

We would also like to see a greater variety of businesses being able to be established in the Green Wedge areas.

Development can occur and still be in harmony with the environment.

Annessa Nikolaou and Kon Karasavidis
[REDACTED]

From: [Mishah Ness](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:32:31 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am a Nillumbik resident, employee and an active member of the community. The Green Wedge is unique in its landscape and natural beauty, and I want to raise my hand in support of keeping the Green Wedge a restricted/protected area in response to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

I object to any zoning changes, and the status of our beautiful bushland and the redirection of traffic from the North through Yan Yean Rd. The GWMP says that “the landscape and open space character of Nillumbik’s green wedge carry cultural and environmental values which are regarded as one of its most valuable features”, but if these changes occur, this will be threatened/destroyed, whether immediate or as a long term ramification of this draft.

Once this area is compromised, it can never return to the beautiful and minimally damaged condition it is in now.

I believe another impact of the changes this draft proposes will be a reduction of the amount of visitors that Nillumbik receives, hurting business owners and the people who once were drawn here for it’s natural beauty.

This is such a crucial time for our beautiful, unique area. The pressures the Green Wedge faces now are the same as those that have degraded other Wedges. It needs to be protected now, not compromised.

Thank you

Mishah Ness

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft of the Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:21:26 PM

Hi, my name is Peter. I am a Nillumbik resident, business owner, local church pastor and an active member of the community.

The Green Wedge is unique in its landscape and natural beauty, and I want to raise my hand in support of keeping the Green Wedge a restricted/protected area in response to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

I object to any zoning changes, and the status of our beautiful bushland and the redirection of traffic from the North through Yan Yean Rd. The GWMP says that “the landscape and open space character of Nillumbik’s green wedge carry cultural and environmental values which are regarded as one of its most valuable features”, but if these changes occur, this will be threatened/destroyed, whether immediate or as a long term ramification of this draft.

Once this area is compromised, it can never return to the beautiful and minimally damaged condition it is in now.

I believe another impact of the changes this draft proposes will be a reduction of the amount of visitors that Nillumbik receives, hurting business owners and the people who once were drawn here for it’s natural beauty.

This is such a crucial time for our beautiful, unique area. The pressures the Green Wedge faces now are the same as those that have degraded other Wedges. It needs to be protected now, not compromised.

Thank-you, Peter Ness

From: [shasta_verso](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:18:59 PM

This is a submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

From: Shasta Verso

Address: [REDACTED]

These are the key points I wish to address in response to the above.

KEY POINTS:

1. The Green Wedge is NOT just about people and any Plan must reflect this. Innumerable international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities are to protect our biodiversity and address climate change.
2. The Draft does not reflect the community's views and desires [as expressed via the community consultation process and via the Panel process]. For such a strong voice to be ignored to such a degree erodes the community's confidence in Council and other authorities, and demonstrates a lack of good governance.
3. The Draft is confusing and difficult to read and does not give enough clarity about what its intentions are, key actions, and how Council will ensure these occur in a timely manner.
4. The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.
5. Climate change must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, NOT just adaptation.
6. Green Wedges are vital. They cool our city and are known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. The Draft does not reflect this fact.
7. Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation if this is to be turned around. The Draft does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.

Regards,

Shasta Verso

[Sent from Yahoo7 Mail on Android](#)

From: [Claire W](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:11:27 PM
Attachments: [My submission.docx](#)

To the Chief Executive Officer
Nillumbik Council

Attached is my Submission regarding the Green Wedge Management Plan.
Please read carefully and act wisely.

Yours expectantly,
Claire Warren.

SUBMISSION RE GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Driving through Ivanhoe (on way to F19 to City) recently, I was struck by the fact that in the wall-to-wall housing and concrete footpaths, there were few tall trees – just many shrubs – and **no** eucalypts. No eucalypts?! This is Australia!

Also, talking to people newly moved to the area, I was appalled listening to their plans for their property and their attitudes to their environment. The English people want to plant Manchurian pear trees and other exotics. Because eucalypts are not part of their understanding, they don't appreciate their significance for the wildlife and the land. The indigenous trees are most likely to survive in the warming climate, to be able to withstand the drying-out of the soil. My understanding is that the land is to be shared by flora and fauna, and we humans are fauna. It's not a matter of conquering and controlling the land, bending it to our will and our taste. It's living *with* the land and working within its limits. It's about respecting the wildlife, understanding their needs and accommodating them.

As we are slowly learning, hard surfaces and removal of tree canopy contributes to higher temperatures, but conversely, planting of trees contributes to lower temperatures and brings more moisture. The more moisture in the air, the more rainfall. In short, trees are climate regulators.

It's scary to contemplate the number of species made extinct by a mere 1°C increase.

Care of the natural environment

Indigenous people knew about this area, how to manage the land and care for the fragile soil of the area. ("Nillumbik" means "shallow soil".) They knew to keep areas of tree canopy and cleared areas. They understood the importance of allowing fallen branches to break down aided by bacteria, fungus and insects, starting the first step in the food chain.

I believe we need to have greater appreciation and respect for our wildlife. Pedestrian crossings are provided for people to cross roads. The same should happen for our wildlife. Remove barbed wire; create wildlife corridors, allowing animals safe passage across roads (tunnels? bridges?). Any new development should be required to consider indigenous wildlife. Any vegetation removed should be offset by double that planted elsewhere. Developers should foot the bill for this. Remember that clearing of vegetation can also create wind tunnels, reduce shade, moisture and shelter, further increasing the risk of fire! — all of which, along with reduction in privacy, reduces the liveability and aesthetic beauty of the neighbourhood. Mature trees and shrubs can provide useful shields against radiant heat and embers, and can play a useful role in protecting against bushfire. It's complicated, so we need to stop seeking simplistic solutions and consider all the factors before clearing vegetation.

The Green Wedge must remain just that. Houston in USA is the embodiment of suburban sprawl, stretching more than 1500 square kilometres. It is a vast slab of concrete covering swampland, marshes, and prairie. Those swamps and marshes once served as ecological sponges, soaking up excess rainwater and filtering it through the region. But those natural floodplains are now blocked by

sheets of pavement, the result of development that has let the metro area swell to more than 6 million residents.

The protest is against selling of public green spaces which belong to all of us, against destructive developments and against weasel-wording councils. The protest is for the preservation of treasured natural areas in the green wedge which makes our outer Northern suburbs (think Nillumbik) so unique and are essential to the health and well-being of both human and non-human creatures.

Habitat loss will cause the loss of many wild creatures from this area, and may result in their extinction. The loss of any one creature or form of vegetation affects every other thing, as everything is inter-connected.

Save the Green Wedge. Don't muck around with it. It's here for all Victorians to benefit from.

Claire Warren



11 August 2019

Send to Council by 11.59pm, 11 August 2019:

gwmp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

From: [Lesley](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Re: Submission to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:09:58 PM

I am rather disappointed in the proposed Green Wedge Management Plan. It is full of nice pictures and motherhood statements, but it does not seem to address the concerns of many Nillumbik residents, including most of those on the advisory panel set up for the Green Wedge review, that our precious and sensitive flora and fauna, and the area as a whole that is a vital part of the 'lungs of Melbourne', are under threat of further development and a lack of environment protection measures.

I didn't read anything in the document that says how the plan will protect these natural assets. The document seems to be too focused on the way the Green Wedge can be exploited for humans, with little or no consideration of the intrinsic value of the natural environment itself. Once lost, it can never be retrieved.

I would therefore like to support the Wattle Glen Residents Association's response to the document as follows:

Wattle Glen is great place to live with its small community and great natural environment. I worry that the Council's proposed GWMP is pushing for this to be changed because Wattle Glen is close the Urban Growth Boundary and because Council's draft is not recognizing how much residents do **not** want our treed Green Wedge changed in the name of more development – whether that be more housing or through the lack of initiatives in the Council draft GWMP to protect and enhance our Green Wedge biodiversity.

So, as the Wattle Glen Residents Association advocate, the draft GWMP should:

1. Not change any of the uses for Rural Conservation zoned land along the Urban Growth Boundary and around townships. EG: as we have in Wattle Glen with vacant rural land between Mannish Rd and Clarke Ave and also on the west side of the Diamond Creek in Wattle Glen.
2. Council's Draft appears as a massive failure in anticipating climate change and biodiversity extinction - and Nillumbik, the "Green Wedge Shire", should have a GWMP that leads the way environmentally.

Therefore, I submit that:

Because Council's Draft advocates the undermining of the current Rural Conservation Zone, and totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, the Council Draft GWMP, is not acceptable in its present form.

Yours sincerely,

Name: __Lesley Alves_____

Address: _____

From: [Danos Shukuroglou](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:07:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
Importance: High

ATTENTION THE WORKING GROUP GWMP

I wish to object to the overall contents of the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan; it does not provide enough of a clear Vision for this beautiful area, and does not support our society to make progress without further damage to the environment.

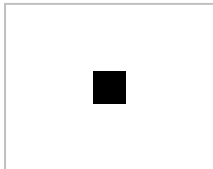
I have lived in the area with my family for the last 32 years. The peace and quiet, the native animals that visit our home, and the fresh air is what attracted us. I believe most people who have come to this area have decided to do so for similar reasons. We all need to learn how to best care for this place, as I see it being destroyed in many ways. People remove vegetation, throw rubbish into the bush and in the streets, newly constructed buildings do not meet the highest possible efficiency standards.

All these issues must somehow be addressed in any new GWMP. What we currently have lacks in many ways and needs to be significantly strengthened. From what I have read, the community spoke very clearly about their love of the environment and that is and must be our highest priority. I do not think that the Draft Plan makes this clear enough and does not show enough respect to people's wishes. The Community Panel also made this clear. It is absolutely unacceptable that the Council has ignored this in too many ways.

There is more I could say, but essentially, it seems there are ulterior motives to this Draft as there are too many gaps in it, leaving our environment vulnerable to 'development' and consequently unavoidable further destruction. Climate change and an expanding population are amplifying these issues.

Thank you for your attention and I sincerely hope that all the above will be respected and the necessary amendments and changes are made in the DGWMP.

Please confirm receipt of this and thank you for your attention.



Danos Shukuroglou
mobile [REDACTED]
Mediasoft *it*
[REDACTED]
Australia

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"When all else fails, read the instructions"

"Nothing comes from doing nothing"

William Shakespeare

"Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think"

Albert Einstein

"There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing"

- Aristotle

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."

"Worry Less, Live more..."

From: [Jasmine Mathieson](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:00:50 PM

Hi, my name is Jasmine. I am a Nillumbik resident, employee and an active member of the community.

The Green Wedge is unique in its landscape and natural beauty, and I want to raise my hand in support of keeping the Green Wedge a restricted/protected area in response to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

I object to any zoning changes, and the status of our beautiful bushland and the redirection of traffic from the North through Yan Yean Rd. The GWMP says that “the landscape and open space character of Nillumbik’s green wedge carry cultural and environmental values which are regarded as one of its most valuable features”, but if these changes occur, this will be threatened/destroyed, whether immediate or as a long term ramification of this draft.

Once this area is compromised, it can never return to the beautiful and minimally damaged condition it is in now.

I believe another impact of the changes this draft proposes will be a reduction of the amount of visitors that Nillumbik receives, hurting business owners and the people who once were drawn here for its natural beauty.

This is such a crucial time for our beautiful, unique area. The pressures the Green Wedge faces now are the same as those that have degraded other Wedges. It needs to be protected now, not compromised.

Thank-you, Jasmine Mathieson

From: [Matthew Mathieson](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:00:31 PM

Hi, my name is Matthew. I am a Nillumbik resident, employee and an active member of the community.

The Green Wedge is unique in its landscape and natural beauty, and I want to raise my hand in support of keeping the Green Wedge a restricted/protected area in response to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

I object to any zoning changes, and the status of our beautiful bushland and the redirection of traffic from the North through Yan Yean Rd. The GWMP says that “the landscape and open space character of Nillumbik’s green wedge carry cultural and environmental values which are regarded as one of its most valuable features”, but if these changes occur, this will be threatened/destroyed, whether immediate or as a long term ramification of this draft.

Once this area is compromised, it can never return to the beautiful and minimally damaged condition it is in now.

I believe another impact of the changes this draft proposes will be a reduction of the amount of visitors that Nillumbik receives, hurting business owners and the people who once were drawn here for it’s natural beauty.

This is such a crucial time for our beautiful, unique area. The pressures the Green Wedge faces now are the same as those that have degraded other Wedges. It needs to be protected now, not compromised.

Thank-you, Matthew Mathieson

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 10:53:37 PM

The Green Wedge Management Plan must include.

1 Nillumbik Council advocacy for NO REDIRECTION of traffic from the North and West on to Yan Yean Road north of Kurrack Road, This was a condition of the original L99 Amendment to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme that allowed the extensive urban development on the border of Nillumbik in 1997. Whittles has not abided by this amendment condition.

2. Nillumbik Council advocacy for compliance with Nillumbik local planning framework, clause 21.05.

The impact of this massive infrastructure project will have a catastrophic affect on the environment and purpose of the Green Wedge and the GWMP does not even mention it . This must be addressed

Alan Marshall
PH. [REDACTED]

From: [Trish Redman](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Green Wedge Management
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 10:48:01 PM

Dear GWMP Council team,

Re: Submission to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Wattle Glen is a wonderful place to live with its small community and great natural environment. I worry that the Council's proposed GWMP is pushing for this to be changed because Wattle Glen is close the Urban Growth Boundary and because Council's draft is not recognizing how much residents do **not** want our treed Green Wedge changed in the name of more development – whether that be more housing or through the lack of initiatives in the Council draft GWMP to protect and enhance our Green Wedge biodiversity.

So, as the Wattle Glen Residents Association advocate, the draft GWMP should:

1. Not change any of the uses for Rural Conservation zoned land along the Urban Growth Boundary and around townships. EG: as we have in Wattle Glen with vacant rural land between Mannish Rd and Clarke Ave and also on the west side of the Diamond Creek in Wattle Glen.
2. Council's Draft appears as a massive failure in anticipating climate change and biodiversity extinction - and Nillumbik, the “Green Wedge Shire”, should have a GWMP that leads the way environmentally.

Therefore, I submit that:

Because Council's Draft advocates the undermining of the current Rural Conservation Zone, and totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, the Council Draft GWMP, is not acceptable in its present form.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____ Trish Redman _____

Address: 

from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission Re GWMP
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 10:47:11 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear Council ,

Please Note my submission attached .

Regards

[REDACTED]

Submission Re: DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dear Nillumbik Shire Council,

I am a resident of the Bend of Islands and a member of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA).

The draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form. It totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, while advocating the undermining of the current conservation zones.

I consider that it is particularly important that there is a general revision of the draft to incorporate the following issues.

- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, states its first priority for Green Wedges: ***'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'*** (Refer Appendix 1 of Council's draft GWMP)

The Draft GWMP, in its entirety, should have this priority as the main focus.

- The overriding response from Council's Community Survey (Aug 2018) and its Community Panel (Nov. 2018) was that Nillumbik **residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge**; and they want it to be maintained, protected and enhanced. Council's Draft GWMP will not achieve this.
- The GWMP needs to more strongly acknowledge the importance of ALL indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it THROUGHOUT the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what ecosystems provide; developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent); address the climate change and extinction crises, and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the Actions and all other aspects of the Draft GWMP, without compromise.

- The natural environment continues to decline everywhere – In Nillumbik and globally. Maintaining a "Business as Usual" trajectory is not good enough.

Declines in biodiversity are at critical levels, and there is urgent need for action by all levels of government and society. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) states that, *"The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global"*.

- The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play; so that we can be part of the solution, acting locally to address global problems. We're a relatively affluent population. Nillumbik is the perfect place to start turning things around. If not here and now, where and when?
- The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge. However, there has been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.
- The Draft GWMP proposes changes to how land within the Green Wedge can be used on the rural side of the UGB and around our rural townships. This has the potential to erode the values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundary. **The UGB must be treated as a hard boundary.**

- We need a Green Wedge Management Plan that places the Green Wedge environment, biodiversity, and their restoration as the main priority in a way that fits the 21st century challenges facing us, for our children, and our children's children.
- The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail – much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed about the piggery etc proposed for next door.
 - Nillumbik leaders should explain that “the right to farm” comes with an obligation on the owner to not degrade the land during his/her brief period of stewardship. Stewardship simply means that after an owner's (brief) tenure the land and its waterways will be passed on in a better state. For agricultural land this means with soil erosion and pest invasion controlled; for bush properties, biodiversity has been improved. Nillumbik Landcare Network have produced a document on the Culture of Community Custodianship of Land which explains this concept.
- Horses and other hard-hoofed animals have a negative impact on the environment – none of Australia's native animals have hard hooves. Impacts on habitats include erosion, water quality degradation, damage to flora, and spreading of weeds. Actions must be implemented to prevent these impacts. These must include education of the equine sector and other graziers. There needs to be greater understanding and responsible ownership of animals, ensuring that animals do not enter waterways and are not allowed to graze in the bush. This focus on environmental care must also be reflected in the proposed Nillumbik Equine Strategy.
 - Achieving community engagement by playing down or ignoring the GW residents' responsibilities for environmental protection is self-defeating. This will result in a diminished GW that does not meet the aspirations of the majority of the local community or Victoria's desired planning outcomes for the Green Wedges.
 - Responsible Leadership would have a separate section dealing with climate change mitigation in accordance with the precautionary principle.
 - (O3.1) While it is important to protect our “valuable” biodiversity and habitats, this skirts around the importance of “less valuable” or, more accurately, “less intact or disturbed” habitats that make up the entire biodiversity map for the shire. For example, the “vulnerable” Ecological Vegetation Class - Valley Grassy Forest is often degraded within Nillumbik due to its grassy understory lending itself to being readily-available grazing land. This does NOT negate the importance of these otherwise “less valuable” habitats.

I request that Council considers these issues and revises the Draft GWMP to included appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge.

Yours faithfully,



Note: I wish my submission to be 'anonymous' if it is published.

From: [DAL](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Draft GWMP 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 10:43:06 PM
Attachments: [Submission_Draft_GWMP_DLucas.pdf](#)

To whom it may concern,
Please find attached a PDF titled '*Submission_Draft_GWMP_DLucas*' which contains my submission on the draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019.

Kind regards,
D Lucas



I am a Nillumbik resident who is unable to support Nillumbik Shire Council's draft Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) in its present form. It totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, while advocating to undermine current conservation zones.

The draft GWMP has lost sight of, or has ignored, the purpose of Green Wedges. Creating a prosperous economy is not the primary role of the Green Wedge, it is to protect biodiversity assets and support existing and potential agribusiness activities. The draft GWMP does not attempt to provide an analysis of the biodiversity, agricultural and other values of the Green Wedge, nor does it articulate a desired future for Green Wedge land and landscape.

As residents of Nillumbik Shire, we live with the landscape, not in it. The overriding response from Council's Community Survey (Aug 2018) and its Community Panel (Nov. 2018) was that Nillumbik residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and they want it to be maintained, protected and enhanced. Council's Draft GWMP will not achieve this.

There is a worrying lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of Nillumbik Shire's biodiversity, in all its forms and varying quality. Clearly defined actions are needed to address this problem, and to ensure the long-term health of the Green Wedge. Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement should be a Goal of its own.

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 states as its first priority for Green Wedges: '*Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.*' (Refer Appendix 1 of Council's draft GWMP). The Draft GWMP, in its entirety, should have this priority as the focus.

Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire with '*26% of Biodiversity indicators ... in poor condition and will remain so without intervention*'. Any new Plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation, and demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection - the Draft does not. The current Draft GWMP opens the way for Nillumbik to do the opposite and allow the further decline of its natural environment, the very asset that make it so suitable for a Green Wedge.

The Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) must be treated as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would negatively impact the environment. This has the potential to erode the values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the UGB.

Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained. The Draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs detail – much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration, it holds significant environmental qualities. If this Plan were to be adopted by Council in its current form, with no consideration of the landscape or natural environment, it would only lead to chaotic management, and degradation of the Green Wedge.

Horses are described as an agricultural product on page 36! Horse keeping, undertaken in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner, should only be seen as a form of land use that does not prevent potential future agricultural use (i.e. food or fibre production) of the land. Grazing of understorey vegetation, and direct access to waterways (by horses and stock), is not environmentally sensitive and sustainable.

Climate change must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, NOT just adaptation.

I request that Council considers the above issues and revises the draft GWMP to included appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge.

Deirdre Lucas

██████████
████████████████████
██████████

From: [Lee O'Mahoney](#)
To: [gwmp](#); [gwmp](#)
Subject: Fwd: Submission - Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 10:39:14 PM
Attachments: [Green Wedge Management Plan - submission.docx](#)

Hello,

Can you please discard my previous version and include the attached one.

Can you please confirm receipt.

Thank you.

Leee

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Submission - Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Date:Sun, 11 Aug 2019 21:36:20 +1000

From:Lee O'Mahoney [REDACTED]

To:gwmp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Hello,

Please find attached my comments on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

Can you please confirm receipt.

Regards,

Lee O'Mahoney
[REDACTED]

Submission – Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Introduction	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document.</p> <p>Unfortunately, it has a large number of flaws.</p> <p>Namely, it is not a plan to manage the Green Wedge, but a plan to irreversibly destroy it.</p> <p>In many cases, it also conflates people with biodiversity protection.</p> <p>I urge Nillumbik to scrap this plan and reinstate the 2010-2025 plan.</p>
Priorities won't be achieved	<p>The Victorian Government's Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 has stated that the number one priority for green wedges is to protect and enhance indigenous habitats (both plants and animals) and increase both the quantity and quality of native vegetation.</p> <p>Nillumbik's draft plan fails to achieve any of this.</p>
Failure to act on climate change	<p>The plan has no intention to reduce the impacts of climate change by reducing emissions, protecting existing carbon-absorbing vegetation or reforesting areas.</p> <p>We can not sit idly by and wait for the climate change bus to hit us.</p> <p>Our community has already been deeply affected by the impacts of climate change, through the Black Saturday bushfires.</p> <p>This plan is completely out of step with the community in failing to include any plans to mitigate climate change and instead suggesting we 'adapt' to it.</p>
Failure to acknowledge our Green Wedge focus	<p>Nillumbik was strategically created as one of the key Green Wedges of Melbourne. Today, it is now the most biodiverse of the Green Wedges.</p> <p>This draft does not reflect Nillumbik's critical position as a conservation shire.</p>
Desired outcomes are not stated	<p>Motherhood statements do not indicate the intention of the council. It prevents people from knowing whether they support the intention or not.</p>

Buffer zones of UGB and RCZ

I oppose the creation of any so-called buffer zones.
The Urban Growth Boundary is a line in the sand boundary, not a graded area.

I do not support any changes to zoning that will negatively impact on the environment.

As someone who lives near RCZ, it is important to me that land zoned RCZ continues to be so.

Changing RCZ to Green Wedge

I strongly oppose this.

The uses of the so-called Green Wedge zones are not congruent with green wedges - including animal factory farms.

The so-called Green Wedge zoning will destroy our gateways, reduce amenity of our green wedge and lead to increases in the sizes of rural townships – basically, spreading urban sprawl.

Removal of permits for farms in RCZ

I strongly oppose this.

Just as people in urban areas are notified of developments that affect them, people in RCZ land similarly need to be notified and have an opportunity to comment.

Inadequate protection of surviving vegetation

This plan fails to protect the vegetation that has, so far, survived growth in our area.

Protecting this vegetation is crucial in both trapping carbon and maintaining biodiversity.

Conclusion

I urge you to reinstate the 2010-2025 plan and the objectives and actions that are part of it.

This plan does not reflect the wishes of the community, nor will it 'manage' our Green Wedge.

Yours sincerely,

Lee O'Mahoney
Address included in email



From: [stuart Edwin boraston](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 10:38:26 PM

Submission of Stuart Boraston, [REDACTED] in response to Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019 (the "**Draft 2019**").

1. As a father of a young daughter and as someone who cares deeply for the health of this planet and its inhabitants, it is my view that the most urgent priorities are to address climate change and to protect our biodiversity. Therefore, climate change must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, not just adaptation. ***The Draft 2019 does not reflect this.***

2. The Green Wedge is vital. It cools our city and is known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. ***The Draft 2019 does not reflect this fact.***

The Green Wedge provides for the following:

- *benefits to human health and wellbeing as a result of the trees and vegetation;
- * ecological and biodiversity benefits;
- *protection of the wilderness;
- *agricultural land - which depends on sustainable land practices, and the existence of healthy biodiversity. [Our future food security depends on places like the Green Wedge](#)
- *protection of existing ecosystems – which sequesters carbon, and [reduces the severity of fires by keeping the surface of the land cool](#); and
- *generates \$1 billion in tourism for Victoria's economy per annum, while supporting 14,000 jobs across the state.

The Draft 2019 seeks to erode the protection of the Green Wedge and thus, if it goes ahead as is, we stand to lose the many benefits of the Green Wedge, including those detailed above.

Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. It has been reported that "Melbourne has lost almost 2000 hectares of tree cover in the past five years as suburban backyards are cleared for new housing". To avoid the ongoing loss of vegetation throughout the shire, any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation. ***The Draft 2019 does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.***

In my view, the Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.

My family and I love the green spaces in the Nillumbik shire and want to see it protected

for future generations.

Stuart Boraston



From: [Natalie Williams](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 10:22:28 PM

Submission of Natalie Williams, [REDACTED] in response to Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019 (the "**Draft 2019**").

1. As a mother of a young daughter and as someone who cares deeply for the health of this planet and its inhabitants, it is my view that the most urgent priorities are to address climate change and to protect our biodiversity. Therefore, climate change must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, not just adaptation. **The Draft 2019 does not reflect this.**
2. The Green Wedge is vital. It cools our city and is known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. **The Draft 2019 does not reflect this fact.**
3. The Green Wedge provides for the following:
 - benefits to human health and wellbeing as a result of the trees and vegetation;
 - ecological and biodiversity benefits;
 - protection of the wilderness;
 - agricultural land - which depends on sustainable land practices, and the existence of healthy biodiversity. Our future food security depends on places like the Green Wedge;
 - protection of existing ecosystems – which sequesters carbon, and reduces the severity of fires by keeping the surface of the land cool; and
 - generates \$1 billion in tourism for Victoria's economy per annum, while supporting 14,000 jobs across the state.

The Draft 2019 seeks to erode the protection of the Green Wedge and thus, if it goes ahead as is, we stand to lose the many benefits of the Green Wedge, including those detailed above.

Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. It has been reported that "Melbourne has lost almost 2000 hectares of tree cover in the past five years as suburban backyards are cleared for new housing". To avoid the ongoing loss of vegetation throughout the shire, any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation. **The Draft 2019 does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.**

In my view, the Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.

My family and I love the green spaces in the Nillumbik shire and want to see it protected for future generations.

Kind regards,
Natalie Williams

[REDACTED]

From: [Jeremy Loftus-Hills](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Resident submission Loftus-Hills
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 10:20:17 PM
Attachments: [gwmp_subf.pdf](#)

Dear Sir/Madam

Please accept my submission attached and confirm receipt.

Sincerely
J Loftus-Hills

The Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan

Submission on Draft

by

J. Loftus-Hills

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area below the author's name.

11/8/19

RESIDENT SUBMISSION

J LOFTUS-HILLS

AUGUST 2019

OBJECTIVE

To protect the green wedges of Metropolitan Melbourne from inappropriate development.

Clause 11.01-1R "Green Wedges - Metropolitan Melbourne"

Compared to the 2010 plan, and in the light of the resources at Council's disposal, the draft is an unimpressive document in need of substantial revision and extension. Compared to the plans of similar councils it is brief - being one third to half the typical extent. Its structure is erratic and the content light on facts. The thrust of the plan contravenes the established relationship between green wedge values on the one hand and social and economic outcomes on the other.

Whereas the state government issued a planning practice note in June 25, advising Council to build their plan on a mix of community consultation and science, Council has largely ignored the science, and used the community panel's report for its own preconceived ends. The style and content are often in tension, or contrary to the Victorian planning framework, frequently displacing hard factual analysis with the following inappropriate sub texts:

MANAGERIAL

At times it reads as a corporate assessment of a poorly performing asset in need of revitalisation. From this perspective the exploitation of various investment opportunities read like efforts to increase revenue, while sentences like the following point to cost reduction and delegation of responsibilities, at least as far as resourcing conservation is concerned: 'The new plan proposes to move the balance of local management approaches more towards leadership and empowerment to achieve its objectives'

ANTHROPOCENTRIC

The proposition that the primary purpose of the green wedge is the welfare of its residents and efficiency of its economy is unorthodox when compared to the plans of similar councils. This is a persistent if undeclared theme that drive much of the content of the introduction and leads to objectives and actions that risk generating outcomes contrary to state government's single objective for the management of green wedge land. Such outcomes would detract from those values 'cherished' by the community, and steer the plan well wide of the kind of strategies evident in the recommendations of the community panel.

SUBJECTIVE

One of the most glaring differences between the draft plan and those of similar council's, including the current plan, is the absence of scientific analysis and supporting evidence around policy discussions. Environmental, demographic, economic and sociological concepts, data and frameworks are not engaged in any depth, while subjective assertions about trends and consequences abound. Town planning frameworks and regulations are cast to one side in favour of appealing rhetoric. The text breaks into the second person on occasion, speaking with a voice more comfortable with opinion than fact.

POLITICAL

Upon deconstruction the draft reads more like a political treatise than a land management planning document. As a ratepayer I am unable to identify a viable strategic direction, sensible discussion of proposed town planning amendments or a clear conservation policy that meets the green wedge objective (above). There is no way of holding Council to account in terms of measurable outcomes and performance time-lines. There is an effort to create a soothing narrative while hinting at a radical agenda. A plan for a plan at best.

Planning Practice Note 31 seeks to bring uniformity and a quality standard to the preparation of a Green Wedge Management Plan. It has been informed by a range of inputs, including best practice and a review of existing plans (included Nillumbik's 2010 plan).

The Note sets out the preferred structure and process for the development and adoption of a plan, including a 7 step method that ensures a comprehensive and logical development of a strategically directed, cohesive structure including decisive objectives and measurable goals. It also includes a five step process for implementation that includes an authoritative role for a project steering group.

At consultation events Council claims categorically to have conformed to the practice note in both structure and process. Despite publishing a rationale in an attempt to justify this position this is patently and evidently not the case. The following audits the draft against PPN 31, using the 7 point structure as an organising principle.

STEP ONE

Develop a vision, role and purpose for the green wedge. This should be determined through community consultation and research.

A VISION for the NILLUMBIK GREEN WEDGE

Council refers submitters to page 7 of the draft, but there is no vision for a future green wedge on that page. Likewise page 5 - entitled VISION - is a high level commitment to a grassroots, community based process, built on 'shared values' 'purposeful decisions', 'opportunities actively sought...in a sensitive manner', 'embracing new technologies' and 'enhancing well-being'. Written in the second person it is more a rallying call than a vision statement. It is built on clichés, motherhood statements, without substantive background and without referencing the actual land usage changes intended by Council. Consequently there is no palpable, credible vision in where one would expect it, in the introductory first half of the plan.

This is not to say that there is no vision in the draft. A vision can be cobbled together through a careful easing of the second half, and finally emerges 35 pages later under Leadership. The heart of the vision can be found as radical changes to land use that would

- Expand agricultural land use
- Expand tourism land use
- Increase population density in townships and the green wedge
- Intensify commercial activity across the green wedge and the townships.

THE PURPOSE of the NILLUMBIK GREEN WEDGE

The purpose of the green wedge is well known to Council, clearly expressed by the community panel, within the existing green wedge plan, plans of similar councils and the letter and spirit of the Nillumbik planning scheme, including its MSS and local regulation.

The idea that the green wedge exists for the pleasure of the people who live in it is a concoction of this Council and should be stripped out of the plan. Likewise, the idea that it exists for the profit and sustenance of those who work and live within it is also patently false and should also be removed. To open the plan with this tone, matched with these pleasantly phrased assertions is mischievous and unwelcome. It also costs Council credibility and social capital, contradicting its own principled commitment to integrity in leadership and partnership with community.

THE ROLE of the NILLUMBIK GREEN WEDGE

Council's perception of the role of the green wedge is expressed in the goals set for management and the prescribed objectives and actions. In order to determine their relative importance to the plan, I have categorized substantive actions into 1 of 5 types (see **Appendix A** for method and results). The first 3 represent groups of green wedge values:

- Economic
- Social and Cultural
- Environmental
- Crossover
- Continuation

After allocation of crossover actions and the elimination of continuation actions, environmental actions are found to be the least numerous, economics the most numerous, with social and cultural actions midway between the two.

Prosperous Economy: It is unparalleled to find this kind of goal, set without qualification, dominant in a green wedge plan, and represents a singular indictment of this draft. This is because a market economy is driven by the profit motive and competition between private enterprises. These forces pay no attention to the external costs of their economic decisions. Over time the market economy has proven inherently destructive of the natural environment. Exploiting market forces as a means of driving development in the green wedge is a strategy common to speculators and profiteers, but stated in raw and unqualified terms, is contrary to the spirit and letter of PPN 31, and the express responsibilities of green wedge Councils.

Engaged, creative and connected community. Commendable ends in themselves but not as a priority for management of the green wedge. Council is aware that of the 7 strategies listed in clause 11-1-01R, none focus primarily on social outcomes like these. In the text, as in community consultation sessions, Council is unapologetic about its anthropocentric approach, knowing that both planning law and PPN31 require the principle voice be that of the environment, its protection and enhancement. This can be understood as a deliberately provocative in the face of state government guidance that adds an important dimension to the justification of a partially hidden agenda - to expand productive activity.

Safe and healthy environment. In the context of the green wedge this goal has two faces - one social, the other environmental. The audit reveals just 4.5 environmental actions against 6.5 social under this goal. This reinforces the impression imparted by the text, that the safety of people who live in the green wedge would in the life of the plan, overrule the protection of environmental assets.

The fact that Council is looking to subjective experience and economic exploitation of the natural environment as major success indicators reinforces the conclusion that this plan envisions the relaxation of environmental controls in favour of commercial interests (including farming), the relegation of scientific measures in favour of anthropocentric sensation.

Responsible Leadership. Discussion associated with this goal is in many ways the most realistic and revealing in the draft. The view that green wedge conservationists might be reconciled to deregulation and economic growth if Council '*provides encouragement and motivation and facilitates a better shared understanding of complex and often disputed issues*' is an idealized management process which should be better explained and impartially evaluated before Council commits landowner's rates to a high risk project.

Council's credibility as agent of reconciliation is further eroded when one assesses its investment in the community panel on the one hand versus its willingness to change the panel's recommendations (eg on biodiversity) on the other, and it's failure to delegate meaningful authority to a steering committee (per ppn31). Silencing the voice of science, and paying lip service to an aboriginal voice also raise questions about Council's commitment to giving over its authority to a collaborative process.

STEP TWO

Identify the values and features within the green wedge that are to be protected and enhanced. This should be based on a detailed environmental and land use inventory and community consultation.

Council refers submitters to pages 10-11 for more on this subject. However, as is characteristic of the introduction to the draft, therein the reader finds a plethora of ideas that arise then quickly fall away without background, data, analysis or conclusions. Crammed into the two pages one finds subjective overviews of social, environmental and economic values, mixed with a mini SWOT analysis and a synopsis of managerial concerns. I found it impossible to determine what values and features are targeted for protection, and base the following principally on the second half of the draft, especially pages 29-33.

With reference to environmental sub sections and actions 3.4, 3.5, 3.9, 3.12 and 3.13, I have concluded that the main features to be protected are:

- Landscapes
- Biodiversity and
- Water Catchments.

PROTECTING GREEN WEDGE LANDSCAPES ?

It is mandatory that Council, protect this groups of assets, which it currently does in conjunction with various state government departments and agencies. To use such a broad brush term without mapping or delineation is to reiterate one of the major responsibilities delegated to Council by state government. However Council has limited discretion over the detail, and is able to accentuate the value of selected features (as well as the inverse) through various means, most powerfully through the application of overlays.

Although there is no discussion about threats to landscapes, and much subjective and general content about their importance and aesthetic character, action 3.9 indicates that Council is seeking to add to or alter the existing 8 Significant Landscape Overlays (SLO's). A green wedge management plan, along with a planning scheme review is typically the place to explain the need for and nature of such changes, but this draft is silent on the rationale and intent.

Perusal of the 2019 PRSS reveals that Council will prepare an explanatory memorandum after adopting this plan. It is reasonable to expect that Council will use its green wedge management plan as a major justification for the new overlay. Therefore it is imperative that the broad intent and means be explained within it.

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY ?

While it is easy to agree on the necessity to protect biodiversity, it is not easy in the current climate to agree on specifics. It has been a contentious subject in the history of the current council. Judging by the continued reference to biodiversity in this plan, and the and its causal dilution of the panel's biodiversity recommendations, Council having killed C101 seems determined to bury it via the green wedge plan, Action 3.2.

This plan is internally inconsistent. Council categorically rejected the previous Council's attempt to implement the 2012 biodiversity strategy via C101, yet commits at action 3.5 to implementing the self same strategy. It includes state government policy Biodiversity 2037 as a *'key state policy referenced in this plan'* yet rejects the community panel's concise recommendation to update the (dated) local strategy and to map biodiversity values.

Not only is this ambivalence and circular logic directly contrary to the spirit and letter of PPN 31 and government policy it also has the ring of a partisan political campaign, aimed at pacifying a certain enthusiastic minority, amongst other similar ends.

PROTECTING CATCHMENTS ?

Catchment management is a vital link in the management of Nillumbik's green wedge. Important catchments that ultimately impact the Yarra river permeate the folds of the Nillumbik Terrain. Council's commitment to a waste management plan is well placed. Action 3.12 requires managers to balance private and public water consumption but does not provide a transparent scientifically based criteria basis for decision making, exposing it to abuse.

Planning the protection of catchments that directly or indirectly impact Yarra river waters and land without referencing Council's obligations under the Yarra River Protection Act is another example of the plan's lip service to its own principles, in this case Aboriginal Voice, and must be revised.

PROTECTION FROM THE IMPACT OF COUNCIL'S VISION

Perhaps it is convenient for planners to work through step two with a high level approach, rarely referencing specifics. This is disingenuous, conter to the letter and spirit of PPN 31 and in the end likely to prove counterproductive to good governance.

EXPANDIAN AGRICULTURE

Council knows that, with the exception of a small area around Kangaroo Ground Nillmbik's soils, small lots and undulating topography make it usuitable for agricultural production on a cost and environmental basis. In 2011 the 200 odd farming operations generated less than \$5 million between them, from apples, pears and beef. Agriculture employs a fraction of 1% of the shire's workforce in often seasonal, unskilled and low paid work. It remains a mystery why it seeks the expansion of an industry in the face of these kinds of barriers. The following is a brief summary of the associated environmental risks that have been ignored in the draft:

Soils: The threats to the environment posed by farming on any scale, but especially agribusiness on steep slopes with low quality soils in general, Nillumbik terrain in particular, have been documented in sceintific detail, and are known to Council. Compaction of soils and erosion of topsoils are just two.

Catchments: intensive agriculture on poor quality soils heighten the risk of pollution of waterways through runoff of fertilizers and other chemicals. Farm dams interrupt catchment flows, collect polluted runoff where domestic animals graze and compacted soils increase the rate of runoff, exacerbating erosion along waterways. Cultivation increases turbidity in streams and rivers, countering a key objective of the Yarra River Protection Act.

Biodiversity: The impacts on catchments and soils have negative impacts on biodiversity, as does monoculture and the massing of introduced species. Fencing can block animal corridors. In this context we note the tendency to build deer proof fences that further impede the movement of native fauna. Overspray of chemicals and the spread of nitrogenous fertilizers can kill off remnant indigenous vegetation. Agriculture is often associated with the spread of weeds and pests. Again, these are risks known to Council but not referenced in the draft.

Landscapes: It is acknowledged by Council that this plan promotes the right to farm '*where land is already cleared, and agriculture is an existing use*'. It also promotes the right of farmers to change uses, and to consolidate small blocks for upscaling agricultural operations. Modeling of aesthetic impact and implementation is fundamental to Council's ethical and legal management responsibilities but is not carried out.

These are just some of the major. predictable irreversible impacts, known to Council. Such risks should be major planning considerations by a Council committed to the precautionary principle but they are not countenanced in this draft.

INCREASING POPULATION DENSITY

Council's plan calls for ready access to land labour and capital in order to achieve its vision. Having established a new economic and social profile for the green wedge, it needs consumers to build scale and build profit business operations. One posited solution is to increase the population density by shifting growth boundaries into green wedge land for example, as mapped changes or under the vaguaries of 'buffer zones'. Another is to increase visitor numbers. Both these strategies present known environmental threats not integral, as they should be, to the draft plan.

Risk Management: There are dozens of reasons why the expansion of residential and visitor populations is not a good idea. They can be found in the *Report of the Inquiry into the Black Saturday Bushfires*. Clause 13.2 also makes it unlikely that the tribunal would allow the necessary building permits, even if Council made it possible.

Soils: Increasing the footprint of the built environment in Nillumbik's undulating topography inevitably leads to substantial cut and fill works that permanently alter the soil structure. Residential and/or commercial use also leads to a decrease in soil permeability as well as an increase in weeds and turbid runoff.

Catchment: Rural residential and township commercial development can have impacts on stormwater flows, similar to those generated by farms (above), exacerbated by the hard surfaces of buildings and pavement.

Infrastructure: The urban growth boundary is meant to force high population densities into urban areas minimizing the unit cost of public infrastructure. With a base of 0.5 per hectare, even doubling the permanent population would do little to change this equation, yet could more than double the demand on public infrastructure. Add to this the burden of added visitors and infrastructure costs multiply, demanding justification by way of public benefits which are not addressed in the draft.

Council needs to be reminded that the principle argument for green wedges was the MMBW's concerns about the cost of serving an ever sprawling medium density population.

EXPANDING 'TOURISM'

Tourism is not a recognized land use, but typically stands for the development of large scale hospitality and accommodation facilities (viz Warrandyte township). These developments can rapidly change the character of green wedge townships, even to the point where they eclipse the provision of goods and services that once supported the local population. The environmental impacts are moderately predictable, depending upon the scale and nature of the service, as well as the characteristics of the clientele. While place management projects may anticipate impacts, in the end they must be shaped and scaled to justify their significant expense. This typically addresses aesthetics above the preservation of remnant vegetation, or preservation of habitat and habitat corridors.

INTENSIFYING COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

Commercial activity brings similar environmental impacts to residential development multiplied by a factor depending on its characteristics. Increased traffic volumes, including heavy vehicles places extra burdens on infrastructure, increases road kill and injury of wildlife and further complicates emergency management.

CONCLUSION @ STEP 2

A green wedge management plan should identify those features and values that need to be protected as a matter of course, as well as those that are threatened given anticipated development. This draft takes an ambivalent approach to the former and ignores the latter. This section is entirely inadequate, in need of input from technical specialists and professional scientists. In the present form it gives rise to confusion and may lead to unproductive investments, unwarranted social disunity and a lack of confidence and trust in Council. By avoiding the science and a fair and frank discussion of the likely environmental impacts of its vision Council has failed to align its content with that recommended in PPN 31.

STEP THREE

Establish a strategic direction for land use and development within the green wedge that is consistent with government policies and strategies that will protect and enhance the values and features identified in the green wedge. This should be based on identification of key opportunities and constraints identified through research.

Green wedge plans of similar councils take a more or less formal approach to establishing a strategic direction for green wedge development. A proven approach is based on a SWOT analysis as planners assess the strengths and weaknesses of the responsible authority and the current and emerging threats and opportunities in their green wedge. Sections of the draft show a random start to this process, notably on page 11, but the threads are not drawn into a cohesive strategic direction. However, as it was with the vision, it is possible to divine the perceived threats and opportunities through a careful reading of the text.

OPPORTUNITIES

For example there is recurrent reference to economic opportunities manifesting as unmet demand across a number of sectors including:

- Primary produce
- Visitor services
- Professional services
- Construction and farm support.

These are hardly original or innovative propositions. However the public in general, ratepayers in particular, should be concerned that neither the opportunities nor the threats have been professionally and objectively evaluated. For example, studies of land capability give reason to doubt the faith Council has in an agricultural revival. Consultants report on the difficulty of capturing 'the tourist dollar' in these parts because the experience that attracts visitors is available for free. Council's own *Visitor Economy* consultants note the extreme cyclical fluctuations in demand. Conservationists should be concerned that the notional environmental cost of this strategic direction is not addressed in this draft.

THREATS

The threats include the risk of bushfire and climate change. Social strategies to reduce risk are prominent, and subject to strategies external to this plan. It is hard to avoid the conclusion that successful implementation of the plan depend upon a high level of social cohesion and resident education, the implication being that social division and ignorance is an unacknowledged threat. Successful implementation of aspects of the plan also requires additional funding from public and private investors. Noticeably absent is a detailed consideration of the limitations posed by existing planning law, or risks associated with the pending release of the states new deer management and strategic agricultural land policy.

A more rigorous approach to the preparation of a green wedge strategy would establish a strategic direction crafted specifically for Nillumbik. Instead, Council layers in its 5 corporate goals designed for its overwhelmingly urban population. Council's shows a willingness to proceed on the basis of untested assumptions, to avoid scientific and expert input and reach conclusions on the basis of inconsistent logic. The overlaying of corporate goals where a purpose built strategy is required represents a major breach of trust, and devalues the merit of the objectives and actions listed in the second part of the plan.

It also leaves Council and its ratepayers in an exposed position, wherein it cannot declare with certainty that its green wedge strategy is the lowest risk most productive means available to avoid inappropriate development, and that the consequent objectives and actions are the most efficient and effective means of achieving that end.

CONCLUSION @ STEP 3

In step 3 Council's approach to the planning task is exposed. Veiling its vision in persuasive rhetoric has left it with no tangible and measurable outcome upon which to rationalise a strategic direction. Failing to be specific in identifying environmental features and values for protection robs the plan of what should be its high level purpose. Layering its corporate objectives into the plan, without modification reads like a cynical exercise. One would expect this from an organisation attempting to minimise the cost of producing the plan and avoid accountability at its end.

In any account it is a clear and blatant failure to be transparent, accountable and in the end credible in the realm of green wedge management, and in conforming to state government expectations. A clear and self evident failure to abide by the guidance of PPN 31.

STEP FOUR

Articulate the strategic direction for the green wedge through the relevant planning scheme. This should involve:

- ensuring the vision, role and purpose of the green wedge is identified in the Municipal Strategic Statement
- confirmation of the green wedge zoning and the schedules to these zones
- ensuring identified values, environmental assets and resources are appropriately identified and protected by the planning scheme by such tools as planning scheme overlays and local planning policies
- consideration of the need to provide further guidance in relation to discretionary uses and developments within the green wedge through the Local Planning Policy Framework.

The draft makes three specific references to changes in the planning scheme. In submitter notes Council indicates that these will be considered in conjunction with a review of 'certain aspects' of the planning scheme. This relates to the fact that, notwithstanding the statutory requirement to review the plan after each election, this Council has sought and been granted an extension to complete this task by 2021. A high level interim report submitted in 2019 does not foreshadow changes to the green wedge land use per se, only that such changes are in prospect. This is then is a classic managerialist solution to the need not to reveal unnecessary detail about land use changes before the 2020 Council elections. There are clues as to what Council intends changing, but not how or why.

ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY

The previous Council invested heavily in biodiversity protections including a proposed amendment to ESO 1 (C101). The current Council rejected the amendment in controversial circumstances with the support of an enthusiastic minority. A subsequent amendment to the overlay is now in prospect, but the draft makes little more than passing reference to it, and provides a limited rationale. It is likely to reduce protections.

SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE OVERLAY

Similarly Council prefers to regulate perceived threats to the landscapes without making clear what the threats are, and evaluating competing solutions. It is likely to reduce protection of some landscapes in some circumstances.

ZONES

The draft states that the RCZ as presently applied is "*an inhibitor to this plan's objectives to promote the right to farm.*" without a defining limits to that right or commensurate responsibilities. Of the 7 purposes ascribed to the RCZ in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme, one provides for agricultural use '*consistent with the conservation of environmental and landscape values of the area*'. It is reasonable to conclude that the right to farm is

inconsistent with the conservation of environmental and landscape values of the area. Therefore Council's intention is to reduce protections in land currently zoned RCZ, but how that will be achieved will not be known before this plan is adopted.

MUNICIPAL STRATEGIC STATEMENT

The vision, strategic direction and land use changes contrast starkly with those of the 2010 plan and will require a major rewrite of the MSS, most notably in terms of the land use framework and related green wedge development controls.

LEADERSHIP

The idea that new directions, overlays, zone applications can be mooted in this off hand way, without a clear, scientifically based independent foundation, ignores for the fourth time the guidance in PPN 31 and flies in the face of the leadership commitments set out on page 19.

The current plan has six years to run. No case has been made for its urgent replacement. Council is aware that these and any other proposed amendments will be rejected by the Minister without a comprehensive strategic basis. Yet Council would adopt a green wedge management plan foreshadowing the most significant land use changes in decades, without giving even a high level factually based justification of the need for and direction of change.

CONCLUSION @ STEP 4

Step 4 reveals a new level of disingenuous thinking behind the draft. It is a misconception to think that the preparation of a green wedge management plan is an opportunity to offer seductive promises to constituents, and send coded signals to speculators and developers. It is relatively easy to achieve this effect if the constraints of the planning scheme are ignored - green wedge land appears plentiful and relatively cheap.

My understanding of the purpose of step 4 is to force management to engage with the realities of green wedge planning provisions. Not only quote selected parts of policies, but most importantly confront the limits on development encapsulated in the core provisions, the VPP and the green wedge zones. These are major constraints which developers and some landowners perceive as *'Difficult, costly and time intensive and unfair planning processes'* (P.11) while others perceive them as fundamental to the sustainability of the green wedge. Whatever the perspective, planning should take place within an understood set of controls that effectivel limit profitability and proscribe most commerical land uses.

Council is well aware that its vision pushes the use of the green wedge beyond a reasonable interpretation of the limits imposed by the planning scheme. I submit that in preparing a plan flush with prospective gains for stakeholders without considering the environmental and in this case the statutory and judicial limits to the gains is an abuse of Council's responsibilities, and will lead to greater social disunity, uncertainty and increased speculation as well as land banking.

STEP FIVE

Establish a framework to encourage sustainable land management practices and appropriate resource management. This should involve:

- reviewing the adequacy of resources and programs
- assessing the effectiveness of existing incentive and education programs
- developing new initiatives aimed at encouraging sustainable land management practices
- identifying and supporting sustainable land use options
- consideration of relevant plans and strategies related to natural resource management including fire management plans, catchment management plans and stream flow management plans.

The 2010 plan helped give birth to over a dozen substantial education and land management support programs and related strategies and reports. The State Government (via PPN 31) stakeholders and ratepayers expect that the effectiveness of these projects should be evaluated in conjunction with the drafting of a new plan. Only by evaluating outcomes in quantitative terms, can they be assured that Council has allocated funds in an efficient and effective manner.

Evaluation of legacy and completed programs also informs the strategic direction of the next phase in the management of the green wedge. This is especially important when Council has brought a superior plan to an abrupt end without evaluation or explanation. Failure to follow up from the Glossop review and the state of the environment report is potentially a wasteful, expensive and negligent failure.

In its note to submitters Council reveals that the process of evaluation is to be met in typically managerial language - 'evaluation will be ensured "...by building the Green Wedge Management Plan into Council's annual planning and resources allocation process...".

Regardless of the fact that past practice has not been evaluated, Council intends breaking from past practice in new land sustainability management processes, as mentioned in two of the 5 key moves and by retaining 'valued' programs in action (Action 3.5). This has not been a transparent process. Council has obviously made critical decisions about the value of legacy projects, and chosen not to share its reasoning with the public.

Submitters' ability to provide useful feedback at step 5 is further compromised by the scant detail attached to the 5 key moves. At the very least a plan conforming to the structure and processes of ppn31 would:

- Identify areas of competition/overlap between existing and new programs and explain why.
- Identify legacy programs that are to be replaced with new ones and explain why
- Identify programs not slated for continuation and explain why they have been abandoned.

THE 5 KEY MOVES SOCIAL COHESION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Under Goal 5 Council describes land management views held by the representative community panel as polarized. In contrast, the draft opens with the optimistic vision of a Council '*harnessing the shared values of our community*' to manage the green wedge as a '*key objective over the 10 year lifetime of this plan.*' It is therefore reasonable to conclude that increasing social cohesion, especially as it impacts attitudes towards land use and land management, is seen as critical to the success of the plan.

Readers are left to draw their own conclusions about how management would achieve an unprecedented consensus. Given their repetitive presence amongst the actions, and the fact that they are the only new processes canvassed in the draft, it is reasonable to conclude that Council has faith that the 5 key moves provide the best means to this end. However, there are barriers to effective implementation and expected outcomes:

Council is partisan: on page 40 the draft observes polarized views about regulation vs deregulation of land management. On the same page the Council commits to the 'right to farm' as one of the plan's objectives. Council cannot hold both positions - as an impartial facilitator and an advocate for deregulation.

Unproven process: There is no evidence that the various Council delivered programs have to date reduced polarization around the level of land use regulation. The resource intensive community panel process appears to have strengthened rather than softened extreme views.

Resource intensive: The cost of an adequately resourced, professionally delivered program is prohibitive. The 2019/20 budget allocates \$880,000 to land management/environmental programs. If half of this is allocated to behavioural change that's less than \$50 per head which would barely cover catering costs.

Authority is retained by State Government: Victoria's planning system does not lend itself to delegation beyond local council level. When It is in Council's political interest it will claim it has little effective authority in such matters (draft p.40 para 4). What authority is vested in council is delegated to it by the state. The prospect of micro management of land use in the court of public opinion may appeal as a democratic initiative, but no system in similar countries has ever made urban planning function effectively over the long term. This is evident in Council's willingness to tweak and otherwise alter community panel recommendations.

CONCLUSION @ STEP 5

It is difficult to understand Council's reluctance to evaluate legacy strategies before implementing new ones. An organisation that prides itself on the stabilisation of rate imposts, would logically take care to invest in only those strategic areas and activities that achieve their purpose. This observation is accentuated by the fact that it intends postponing planning scheme amendments until 2021. The reluctance to evaluate reinforces another persistent pattern: where PPN 31 recommends the use of science (as it explicitly does in the first three steps) the draft offers mostly opinion and unsupported generalisations.

This same observation extends to the plan itself. In 2015 Council invested in an independent evaluation of the 2010 plan as well as a state of the environment report. Neither of these exhaustive and resource intensive reports are referenced in this draft. Yet Council is intent on implementing new processes via the 5 key moves, guaranteeing the funding of 3 while seeking financial support for the others, without a clear sense of what they could achieve except, one suspects, reduce costs and the quality of outcomes.

STEP SIX

Identify the needs of green wedge landowners and the wider community. Issues that should be examined include demographic considerations, economic sustainability, employment opportunities, sustainable land use options, community facilities and other required levels of infrastructure.

The draft offers a lot of substance at step 6. It is sensitive to employment opportunities, farm expansions, increased services and more diverse commercial offerings in the townships. Communications and transport systems would be improved and the risk of death and property loss in bushfire reduced. There are hints about the removal of onerous environmental regulations and the prospect of an unprecedented consensus about land management in the green wedge. There maybe new development opportunities on the edge of the UGB or within townships, and the prospect of residential opportunities as well.

While these commitments would play well amongst speculators, developers and those who feel constrained by environmental protections, they do not reflect the sentiment of the Panel's Report nor the intention of its recommendations. The recommendation ask Council to protect and enhance what is in place

(‘cherished’), continue to deny permits to landowners seeking to invest in inappropriate development and focus on the shortcomings - such as the shortage of professional services, within those constraints. This requires an agile, innovative council free from the dictates of enthusiastic minorities and impartial to the prospect of higher rate revenues and investor sponsored infrastructure development.

CONCLUSION @ STEP 6

As if to establish its credentials as essentially a socio economic policy document, the draft does an excellent job in planning to meet social needs in the green wedge. The problem is twofold. Firstly as the penultimate step in the seven step structure, PPN 31 assumes that the necessary environmental protections and regulatory limitations have been exhaustively planned, and that in planning to meet social needs management will work within parameters already scoped and clearly delineated.

Secondly the strategic and scientific basis of the social needs component of the plan are so weak that, when used to justifying planning amendments before the Minister and supporting permits applications before the Tribunal, the plan in its present form may be more of an indictment than vindication.

STEP SEVEN

Establish a clear monitoring and review process to ensure the plan remains relevant and its performance can be measured. This should involve determining appropriate indicators and a commitment to review the plan in five years.

To date Council has not proven adept at publicly reviewing its green wedge plan, nor transparent in communicating the results of reviews of its many green wedge related strategies and plans. Its failure to follow up/link with the Glossop review is negligent. The idea that it lists 22% of green wedge specific actions as implementations of strategies up to 8 years old, without revealing the extent of implementation or the success indicators to date is a breach of its duty to ratepayers.

The draft plan includes a commitment to annual and four yearly reviews. Given the construction of the plan and its failure to collate actions into a prioritised timeline, meaningful evaluations at any stage will be difficult, in some cases, impossible in others. Few of the proposed actions have a quantifiable outcome. Of the 28 green wedge specific actions, many commit to vague activities, including to ‘consider reviewing’, ‘review’, ‘investigate’, ‘analyse’ and ‘encourage’ without describing a measurable outcome in terms of expected benefits to the green wedge.

CONCLUSION @ STEP 7

There is an evident need to establish indicators, and to prioritise and schedule actions. An end calendar style summary is routinely integrated into Council’s strategies and plans. Why is this not so for the green wedge management plan?

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Place the redrafting of the plan on hold until completion of the following:
 - Evaluation of the effectiveness of the 2010 plan.
 - Evaluation of the effectiveness of strategies implemented in conjunction with the 2010 plan including sustainable land management education
 - Update the state of the environment report (2015)
 - Establish a steering committee (per PPN 31) with the authority to revisit key decisions around the use of experts and scientific data, the incorporation of the panels' recommendations and oversight of the structure and content of the plan.
2. Use data and information to support assertions and generalisations.
3. Develop and clearly state a vision for the green wedge as it would be developed according to the objectives of the plan
4. Elaborate on the role and purpose of the green wedge based on the VPP, MSS, green wedge history and
5. Implement the Community Panel's Biodiversity recommendation as written
6. Have an independent expert evaluate the validity of an environmental stocktake as a means to measure environmental assets including biodiversity
7. Breakdown the 5 moves into means and outcomes and audit against existing programs
8. Shift the emphasis of actions away from social and economic types to environmental
9. With the help of an independent editor rework objectives and actions into statements with measurable outcomes
10. Commit to a timeline for the completion all actions
11. Abandon the use of the second person and the anthropocentric, subjective, political and managerial perspectives and style throughout the draft.
12. Through the use of maps and clear exposition describe exactly what environmental features are to be protected and enhanced and why.
13. Pay respect to the hundreds of people and dozens of organisations that helped formulate the 2010 plan by having its effectiveness independently evaluated.
14. Explain the phrase 'the right to farm' and identify the responsibilities that come with it
15. Publish a register of individuals and companies that own land within 1 km of township boundaries and the UGB
16. Explain the general nature of changes intended for the Nillumbik Planning Scheme and the reason for the changes.
17. With the support of independent experts in the fields of environmental science, sociology and economics develop a strategic direction for the green wedge based on a thorough and valid SWOT analysis
18. Explain the plan to expand tourism in the language of defined land use terms, notional scale and locations.
19. Explain what is meant by a place management process when applied to the townships, and undertake a cost benefit analysis of implementing such a project as described in the plan.
20. If the adoption of a replacement green wedge management plan is urgent explain why.
21. Add reference to the participation of the aboriginal population in general and organisations in particular in caring for Nillumbik land. Include acknowledgment at the outset, representation on the steering committee and ongoing roles where appropriate.

APPENDIX A

The audit of actions, is more notional than definitive, although the results confirm the impression given by the text. Once categorized each action is given a score of 1, with the exception of the following:

The core motive of actions are sometimes unclear. For example *'review the road sealing program to ensure high use roads are prioritized.'* This could be purely administrative and therefore have no direct impact on the green wedge, mostly environmental (to control erosion/runoff), economic (minimize maintenance costs or social (to improve connectivity). These may have been categorized incorrectly.

Some actions (14) have more than one target area. For example key move 5 reads like it will reduce the cost of mapping biodiversity (environmental) and improve the efficiency of data storage and retrieval (economic). This type of action has been categorized as 'crossover' actions, with a score of 0.5 attributed to each type.

Some actions (8) represent the continuation of long standing programs. While there maybe some residual actions that are ongoing, many seem to have effectively reached the end of their life or soon will. The continuation of such programs will hopefully end in a professional evaluation of their impact, but is less likely to indicate the thrust and effect of the new plan compared with fresh initiatives.

The results of the audit are tabulated below.

Goal	Economic	Social	Environmental	Continuation	Crossover
Connected and engaged communities	6	3		1	1
Active and creative people	1	4		2	1
Safe and healthy environment		4	2	3	5
Prosperous Economy	8			1	2
Leadership	3	2			5
TOTAL	18	13	2	8	14
INCLUDE CROSSOVER	23 (51%)	15 (33%)	7 (15%)		

From: [dwl3071](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Greenwedge
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 10:12:28 PM

I would like to protest against any further development in the greenwedge. As you know there are very few areas close to Melbourne where there is habitat for native animals and plants to live. Anyone who wants to destroy this area for the sake of a few dollars has no respect for nature and our environment. Once it's gone, it's gone.

I hope you will listen to what the residents want as the majority of people would hate to see the greenwedge destroyed by a short sighted council. Yours sincerely Yvonne Arnaud
Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [Angus Niven](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Green Wedge Management Plan Submission
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 10:00:52 PM

Phone number: [REDACTED]
Post code: [REDACTED]
Date: 11/8/2019

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission concerns my priorities for the draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

Above all, I want the Green Wedge's environmental biodiversity to be protected, increased, and enhanced.

I want the Green Wedge Management Plan to deliver on Plan Melbourne 2017-2050's requirement to "Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation" ('Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 : Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas'[Draft GWMP Appendix 1, p.44]).

I want the GWMP to take action on the loss of native vegetation reported in Nillumbik's Biodiversity Report, and on the effects of invasive flora and fauna.

I want "responsible leadership" to include recognition that prompt and vigorous action on climate change is essential, and a commitment to taking such action.

I want the Green Wedge Management Plan to contain detailed plans for implementation and monitoring of outcomes, performance indicators, roles and responsibilities, priorities, time-frames and evaluation.

I want all implicit impacts of the GWMP - both current actions and objectives and those potentially arising from future reviews - to be made transparent, rather than implied or left to be inferred.

I want the Urban Growth boundaries and township boundaries maintained as they are.

I do not want "buffer zones" around townships.

I do not want any zone changes, or advocacy for zone changes, that might lead to the subdivision of land currently part of the Rural Conservation Zone.

I do not want any land use changes, or advocacy for land use changes, that would allow further clearing of Green Wedge land without a permit.

I do not want the Planning Scheme to put forward any objectives, key actions, or other changes that would negatively affect the biodiversity of the Green Wedge.

I do not wish to speak on this submission.

Regards,
Angus Niven



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Lynne Waddington](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission regarding the Draft GWMP 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:59:03 PM

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses why I do not support some some aspects of the draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

Submission

The most critical issues facing us today are climate change and loss of biodiversity, leading ultimately to the collapse of the ecosystem and its ability to sustain life as we know it. Any management plan which does not address this as its most important core issue does not have my support. The current draft plan lacks strong emphasis, leadership and detail in this regard, and in particular seeks only to prevent further loss of the environmental biodiversity in the Green Wedge. We should do better: our biodiversity should be protected, increased and enhanced.

The GWMP should be strengthened as follows:

Goal: to protect, increase and enhance our biodiversity: “Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a **net gain** in the quantity and quality of native vegetation” as required in ‘*Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* : Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas’ [Draft GWMP Appendix 1, p.44].

This requires explicitly:

1. No Objectives, Key actions or changes to the Planning Scheme which would impact negatively on our biodiversity.
2. No changes to land use, or advocating for changes, which would allow any further clearing of Green Wedge land without strictly enforced guidelines and permits.
3. No zone changes, or advocating for zone changes, which could result in subdivision of currently Rural Conservation Zone land into smaller lots.
4. No change to the Urban Growth boundary or township boundaries.
5. No ‘buffer zones’ around the townships.

The Green Wedge Management Plan needs to include a much higher level of detail for managing the above, similar to the level spelt out in our current GWMP. These details should specify the manner of implementation and monitoring, precise and measurable outcomes, performance indicators, roles and responsibilities, priorities, time-frames and evaluation. Furthermore, and of the utmost importance, all implicit impacts - of actions, objectives and possible outcomes of possible reviews - on the Green Wedge, to be transparent, not just implied or inferred.

Submitted by: Lynne Waddington



From: [Vicki Mitchell](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submissions to the draft green wedge management plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:57:22 PM

Please allow people to live their lives to the fullest in this area. If you take away enjoyable lifestyles from people who are a majority you are downgrading their mental health. Wildlife should be kept under control and culled if necessary. Kangaroos encroaching into suburban areas are dangerous. When australia was first settled you could ride hundreds of miles and only see a couple of mobs. Allow acreage to be kept clean of undergrowth and fallen branches. Homes to have a good clearance around them from bushfires. We are all individuals and require different lifestyles so don't jam us all into the same box what suits one does not suit all. Let farmers farm let new young farmers who want to farm farm. If they purchase a property that has not been farmed before let them have a go. These are people with drive and ambition that want to work and work hard as a council you should be proud of these people and help them not hinder them with red tape solely set up to stop them in their tracks. The good old days can still be now with sensible plans. Health in the green wedge. Drug use re many artists in our area as in most areas is prevelant and should not be supported by members of the council grow up stop using it. I would love any of my children to be artists but leave the drugs out. If you do not agree with this you should resign from the council immediately. Regards vicki mitchell

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lindsay Donahoo](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Nillumbik Council Draft GWMP Submission
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:56:28 PM

We have lived in Wattle Glen for over 25 years. We have always enjoyed the semi rural nature while still having access to public transport, schools, sporting facilities & local markets.

The draft talks often about towns and settlements, but excludes Wattle Glen totally! There is a strong residents association here, and while not being a member, I have taken a keen interest in their activities and work.

We live at [REDACTED], opposite the development of 4 blocks, 2 of which now have houses. This has created increased vehicles on the 4 x ~600 sqm blocks, where there is insufficient road space for parking, a more difficult pedestrian access as the road width lessens, and no street lighting for the pedestrians.

In addition, the Main Rd/Mannish Rd/Wilson Rd cross road is the only fully cross road still unprotected between Heidelberg and Kinglake, not even turning lanes, and now a rat run from Doreen to the eastern suburbs - Broadgully Rd - Wilson Rd - Main Rd - Kangaroo Ground Rd to Warrandyte, Ringwood , etc and in reverse.

There has been one death at this intersection and many unreported near misses. I dare you to sit on the Main Road, heading north, waiting to turn right into Mannish Road, through post school & evening peak traffic. Watch your rear vision mirror at speeding cars, who veer left to avoid hitting you. At the same time, encounter the same cars encroaching the pedestrian path from the station!!

It appear development before adequate basic infrastructure interests some councillors, before public safety, and even before nature and environmental concerns come to mind.

I see nothing on the draft that addresses my concerns for future development in Wattle Glen.

Lindsay Donahoo

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Merja Hanlon](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:41:05 PM

Dear Councillors,

I wish to express my strong objection to any zoning changes to the remaining status of our bushland. I also advocate and urge the council to take strong measures to protect all the bushland surrounding our townships from further development as this would degrade our natural environment and threaten the ecology of the green wedge. The Green Wedge (lungs of Melbourne) should be protected in its entirety from any further development and suburban sprawl at all cost.

Regards,
Merja Hanlon



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Merja Hanlon](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:53:53 PM

Dear Councillors,

I urge Nillumbik Council to take the following action:

1. To advocate for no redirection of traffic from the north onto Yan Yean road
2. To advocate for compliance with Nillumbik local Planning Framework clause 21.05

Regards,
Merja Hanlon

Phone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sally Kuhlmann](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:50:33 PM
Attachments: [Submission-on-GWMP-2019_Kuhlmann,S.docx](#)

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

Kind regards,

Sally Kuhlmann



Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019

Name: **Dr Sally Kuhlmann**

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Emailed on 11 August 2019 to: gwmp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

1. Nillumbik Council's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan is unacceptable as written.

2. The preparation of the GWMP Draft has failed to follow State Government policy, as specifically required and described in Planning Practice Note 31. There has been no Project Steering Group chaired by Council with key stakeholder representatives. There is no adequate Implementation Plan (indeed, the current GWMP has far more detail and should provide the basis for improvement).

3. The Green Wedge is NOT just about people and any GWMP Plan must reflect this. This Draft fails to adequately do so. Innumerable international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities are to protect our biodiversity and address climate change.

4. The GWMP Draft fails to reflect the fundamental fact that Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. Both Council and the entire Nillumbik community have a responsibility to ensure the long-term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge – which is the most intact and biodiverse. Protecting Green Wedges is vital. They cool our city and are known as the lungs of Melbourne. Nillumbik's Green Wedge is an essential reason why people choose to live and visit here, and it benefits people elsewhere as well.

5. The GWMP Draft does not reflect the community's views and desires. Both the community consultation process and the Panel process are not adequately represented in the Draft. The GWMP Draft demonstrates a lack of good governance, since the degree to which such strong community feedback has been ignored can only erode the community's confidence in Council and other authorities.

6. The GWMP Draft is confusing and lacks clarity about what its intentions are, key actions, and how Council will ensure these occur in a timely manner. There is a worrying lack of detail about how the Shire's critical and declining biodiversity will be protected and revitalised.

7. The GWMP Draft fails to adequately demonstrate Nillumbik's respect of Indigenous (Wurundjeri) people, their culture and knowledge.

8. The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.

9. Climate change must be a key reference point and any GWMP must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, NOT just adaptation.

10. The GWMP Draft fails to demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection. Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new GWMP must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation throughout all of Nillumbik, including both private and public land.

11. The GWMP Draft is most disappointing considering that Nillumbik is supposed to be (and is well known for being) the 'Green Wedge' Shire. Indeed, Council should be providing real 'Responsible Leadership' by setting an example to others on how to appropriately manage a Green Wedge environment. The GWMP Draft fails to do so, and instead endangers both our environment and Nillumbik's reputation.

12. Unless the GWMP Draft is revised and rewritten, its implementation would produce many additional negative consequences. These would include impacts on business and tourism, as well as lowering mental health and wellbeing amongst the community, and damaging not just the environmental fabric of our Shire but also its social and cultural aspects as well.

From: [winepony](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION: Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:49:47 PM
Attachments: [VShukuroglou_DRAFT GWMP Submission AUG 2019.pdf](#)

Dear working group for the GWMP,
Attached please find my submission on the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.
I would very much appreciate receiving an email confirming that you have been able to download the file successfully.
Thank you for the attention I am sure each submission will receive.
The community looks forward to a positive outcome.
Sincerely,
Vicky Shukuroglou

--

vicky shukuroglou



SUBMISSION TO
NILLUMBIK COUNCIL'S
DRAFT
GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Vicky Shukuroglou

Eltham

2019

When I read the Draft GWMP I was left asking,
'What are our greatest aspirations?'



*What balance
are we seeking, and
by whose measure?*

Does the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan show
irrefutable commitment to the
protection and reinvigoration of the incredible
biodiversity that has been nurtured by
Australia's Indigenous people over millennia?

Does the Draft honour the knowledge that has been cultivated and held?

Does the Draft demonstrate a rich understanding of the
ethos
that has given guidance for such complexity and abundance
to thrive in this land for so long?





Any GWMP must prioritise the effective care of our biodiverse ecosystems, with immediate action and accountability throughout the community.

The Draft fails to clearly demonstrate a strong ethos of **RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS** with *'mutual benefit'*.







The impacts of land-clearing – both legal and illegal – continue to be felt throughout the Shire. Precious habitat is lost, and surrounding areas also suffer. We regularly see the impacts on animals whose homes have been destroyed, and the pressure this places on flora and fauna in neighbouring areas as they all try and find a place to live in our increasingly fractured and depleted environment.

Weed invasion inevitably follows, along with erosion, loss of an ancient seed bank, and proliferation of species that respond well to disturbance. The system is thrown off balance with no remediation, no care.

Death by a thousand cuts.

The Draft Plan does not take this issue seriously, and does not clearly articulate actions that will address this ongoing *crisis*. The current plan holds much stronger environmental protections than this Draft, and yet our environment continues to be degraded.

This Draft contains contradictions, and leaves the door open to changed zoning, expansion of tourism operations, and increases in agricultural activity with no stringent requirements for the protection of soils, waterways, and other habitats.

If we really are aspiring to be the Green Wedge Shire, we need to get on with it and our GWMP must reflect this.

Here we see thistles taking over after local land clearing. From the tall trees to the smallest soil microbes, indigenous biodiversity is damaged or obliterated. These invasive thistles now stand as signposts of a system struggling to retain a healthy balance. Evidence of great neglect. Something is clearly not working.

Until recently, indigenous orchids, lilies, daisies, herbs and other understorey grew prolifically in Nillumbik's ancient soil. Such degradation is a permanent fixture and will increasingly be, unless new and serious commitments to our environment are made by Council.

Where is our love and care for our place?
Why isn't this the key driver and evident in the Draft GWMP?

The GWMP must outline much stronger protections for our environment, with follow up enforcement an absolute priority. Community education is crucial alongside such measures. Our Council must prioritise these actions in the budget and absolute transparency is necessary.





* USED TO BE COMMON WHERE I LIVE *

NOT SEEN OR HEARD IN RECENT YEARS



I FIND THIS UNACCEPTABLE FOR A
CONSERVATION SHIRE WITH
THE GREEN WEDGE AS ITS
STRATEGIC FOCUS ...

... and this kind of activity takes place regularly in *Nillumbik*, at a time when innumerable peak intergovernmental and other international bodies such as the United Nations, CSIRO, UNICEF, the Australian Army, and many more, are urging us ALL to *prioritise the health and resilience of our natural environment.*

The Draft plan must have much stronger emphases on actions that will urgently and drastically reduce carbon emissions.

Halting the loss of vegetation is one simple way, along with supporting and educating those involved in agriculture for the adoption of *regenerative* rather than depleting processes. Indigenous perennial plants offer innumerable benefits.







Recent research has shown it is common for native bees to pick up diseases from flowers honey bees had visited.

*'In 100 per cent of the cases where they left spores from the pathogen on the flower, we had our native stingless bees pick up the pathogen and become sick... **that caused the bees to die about three times the rate of the normal mortality.'** ¹*

One question we must ask is,
'how widespread and connected is healthy habitat that provides security for our insects, especially when we know so little about their needs?'

Australia has 250,000 estimated insect species, and of these, only 20 to 30% are described.

'Worldwide, 41% of known insects species are in decline... among those, a third are going into extinction.

...Four significant contributing factors are habitat loss; pollution, especially pesticides and fertilisers; biological factors including pathogens and introduced species; and climate change.' ²

How will the new GWMP address these current issues, and ensure that we do everything we can to mitigate further demise and reinvigorate our precious systems?



'And when the insects go, the animals go.'





In a depleted and fractured system, recovery from any loss is so much harder.

How will the Green Wedge Management Plan ENSURE that our environment is healthy and robust, and able to thrive despite the challenges posed by our growing population and climate change?

The Draft does not attend to this question with enough clarity or commitment.





As we all know, indigenous animals reliant on healthy waterways are feeling the pressure.

Animals such as frogs, turtles, platypus, spoonbills and fish are immediately affected by pollutants, erosion, reduced water-flows, and inadequate access to healthy and connected habitats.

Any new GWMP must emphasise the need to protect and improve the quality of ALL our waterways, and develop robust actions to ENSURE this occurs, with NO exception.



FROG SPAWN in our much-loved 'back yard'

The Draft Plan does not sufficiently address the urgent need for extensive, ongoing, and diverse community education in best environmental practice.

Alongside community education, the new GWMP must ensure that Nillumbik Council demonstrates environmental stewardship and leadership through ALL Policy documents AND daily actions 'on the ground'.

We need to see and feel a positive presence throughout the community and this must be in multiple ways.
We need our Council to SHOW what it means to care for our environment.





The previous images and following two show Council's shocking mismanagement of public land. What is Council saying to its own Community by spraying toxic chemicals on roadsides, next to creeks, and in areas where animals feed and people play sport? This is unacceptable and Council ought to pay attention to recent cases overseas where enormous lawsuits were won, though lives were lost through terrible illness.

The Draft Plan fails to indicate how Council will ensure innovative and best practice, that is nimble and responsive to Science, and keeps environmental - and therefore human - health as a top priority.



A rare plant near the roadside killed by Council's inadequate approach to educating or briefing those who complete such works.

How does the GWMP make a positive difference to this significant issue?



What is being said to those who see this as they drive down a bush road?



Hard hooved animals add another layer of impact. Whether domesticated or 'feral', all animals with hard hooves leave their mark. The Draft must pay much greater attention to this issue. It is essential that people who 'own' animals understand the fact that none of Australia's native fauna have hard hooves, and therefore the land and all life forms evolved with a different kind of pressure. This simple fact makes indigenous flora and fauna so much more vulnerable – especially when trying to survive in a weakened system.

Deer, rabbits, foxes, and goats are wreaking havoc across the Shire. The Draft does not adequately describe how this destruction will be addressed.

An additional pressure is the increased frequency and severity of bushfires. A large contributor to this is a generally poor understanding of our complex environment, along with the impacts of climate change.

Fire is crucial in the landscape as it has been an integral element for millennia. This is just one example where Indigenous knowledge must be **respected** and **consulted** if we are to make appropriate progress. This is essential for the well being of humans and our environment.

















More local land clearing. Council considers this acceptable!?! Apparently because the 'owner' of the land had not altered the form of the creek, there was no issue. We all ought to know that when any kind of vegetation removal takes place, it always leads to erosion, build up of silt in waterways, invasion of weeds.

The new GWMP must demonstrate clear intention to protect the Green Wedge. The draft plan leaves too many loopholes open for exploitation.



Do we know how many kinds of mantis call this area home? And do we know how many might have already been 'lost'?

I was thrilled to see this one, so small and lively. It has a cousin – almost black and perhaps even smaller. And one much larger, seen devouring a European Wasp...





Our perspective can change



The enigmatic Jewel Spider often lives in large and connected communities. We are seeing less and less of these creatures, when not so long ago they were abundant. This is the same for native bees and wasps, butterflies, moths, and more.

Small organisms are important indicators of big problems.

How does the Draft plan diligently and thoroughly address these issues?





One of several thousand:

Each year I make the decision to clear neighbour's weeds before the seeds spread. These would inevitably invade the bush or open paddocks [that ought to be covered with indigenous grasses and other plants for the benefits they bring to the soil, carbon sequestration, and local fauna], and end up in a creek. Of course, where there is adequate waterflow, which is increasingly uncommon, the weeds then travel downstream.

These weeds need to be 'nipped in the bud'.

Council's approach means that too much is left unattended, therefore increasing the problem exponentially.

The GWMP must better articulate actions that will empower the community with a strong sense of stewardship. Currently, it contains too many words without conviction and related action. Our community's respect and understanding would grow if Council lead by taking real initiative and appropriately caring for our Reserves, waterways, and other public spaces.

There is too little in the Draft Plan that demonstrates Council's understanding and honours the unquestionable significance of our indigenous vegetation, and the vital role of **every** resident.



A common scene... in the Green Wedge Shire.
Where is the leadership and strong advocacy?

Remnants of roadkill.

A precious long-neck turtle.

Also decreasing in number,
suffering from increasing
pressure.

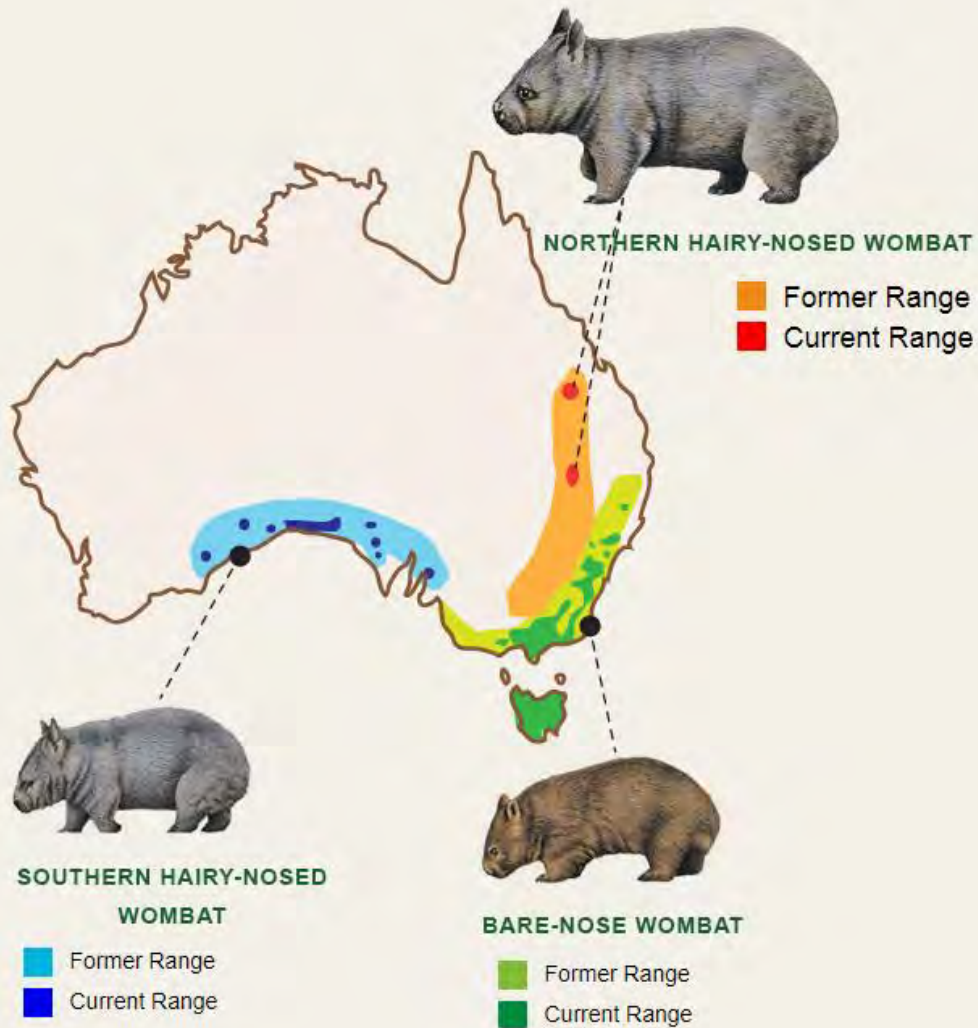




How much do we really care?







The Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat once had a broad range across the three eastern mainland Australian states. It's now critically endangered, restricted to only two sites in Queensland ... and is considered one of the rarest mammals in the world.

The Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat ... population is highly fragmented and declining across semi-arid parts of South Australia, with just a few records in Western Australia and NSW. ³

While the decline is not quite as alarming for our Bare-nosed Wombat, their numbers are significantly decreasing and will continue along the same trajectory unless we all change our ways.

Are we aspiring to a world without wombats and other wonderful animals?

WHAT WOULD THE CHILDREN SAY?

PLEASE NOTE:

As an active member of NEAG [Nillumbik Environment Action Group], I would like to express my support for all concerns and arguments raised in our group's submission. As such, I will not re-iterate all those concerns, and will ask that you make reference to it and, in your collation of data, add the same concerns as coming from another submission, being this one.

A miniscule selection of innumerable references:

1. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-08/native-bee-honey-bee-disease-parasite-research-qld/11392606>
 2. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-02-12/insect-species-in-decline-and-facing-extinction/10804094>
 3. <https://www.bushheritage.org.au/species/wombats>
- Map: <https://www.wombatfoundation.com.au/wombats/>

<https://www.psychology.org.au/About-Us/What-we-do/advocacy/Advocacy-social-issues/Environment-climate-change-psychology/Statement-of-commitment-on-climate-change>

<https://igcc.org.au/investors-zero-carbon-bill-a-step-towards-a-prosperous-resilient-economy/>

https://www.dea.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/DEA_Climate_Change_Health_Fact_Sheet_final.pdf

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climatechange/overview>

<https://www.army.gov.au/our-future/blog/situational-awareness/defence-will-not-be-prepared-for-a-changed-climate>

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/melbourne-s-green-spaces-are-being-lost-in-rush-to-build-more-housing-20190728-p52bir.html>

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/biodiversity-plan>

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/resource-library/planning-practice-notes>

<http://www.100resilientcities.org/>

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/News/Article/Article/612710/>

<http://www.defence.gov.au/estatemangement/governance/Policy/Environment/>

<https://www.afr.com/policy/energy-and-climate/climate-change-is-a-financial-risk-says-apra-20170217-gufnnf>

And of course, the

Nillumbik State of the Environment Report, 2014

From: [Wendy Morris](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission re Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:39:45 PM
Importance: High

Dear Sir/Madam

For your information, I participated in one of the original community consultations/information events at the start of this process. I am still perplexed about why the plan needed to be reviewed at this time, when a plan that had the support of the community still had several years to run. This move therefore raised the possibility that some members of the Council were intending to water down the current Green Wedge Management Plan in favour of greater exploitation of the rural sections of the Shire and the development of areas which are currently protected. The opinions expressed at the consultation meeting I attended were strongly in favour of the retention of the existing plan, and even its strengthening in the light of climate change. The draft plan, as presented, has done nothing to persuade me from my original impression of the Council agenda, and it ignores the strong feelings of members of the community on this matter in most of its provisions. The failure to hear and reflect the community's voice on the Green Wedge is bringing the reputation of this Council further into disrepute, and does not reflect well on the motives of some members.

In fact, the Green Wedge is NOT just a tool of the Nillumbik Council. It is an integral part of the current design of the city of Greater Melbourne, often known as the lungs of the city. It is our responsibility to ensure that we do everything we can to uphold our contribution to this situation, especially as the Nillumbik Green Wedge is the best example in terms of biodiversity. Our Shire was created as a conservation Shire, with the Green Wedge as its focus. The draft plan does not pay adequate attention to this greater obligation.

It is also surprising that the draft plan is not much stronger on the implications of climate change for future planning. It is not sufficient to mention the need to adapt to the changing climate! Numerous international scientific reports make it clear that we all have a responsibility to take action to mitigate against further warming, and to actively lower emissions. For instance, the recent Nillumbik *State of the Environment Report* showed that there is an ongoing loss of large areas of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protection of the existing vegetation, and indeed promote the re-vegetation of previously cleared areas where possible, in the interests of both carbon capture and habitat for wildlife. Unfortunately, the draft plan is not an easy document to read and is not transparent in terms of its true intentions, the key actions proposed, and the Council's plans if it is adopted. However, some basic principles should be stressed. One of these is the fact that the Urban Growth Boundary in Nillumbik must be strictly enforced, without the creation of so-called buffer zones or other changes to zoning which would impact on the environment. Land that is currently designated as Rural Conservation Zone must be protected and maintained. The draft plan certainly does not demonstrate a strong enough commitment to environmental protection. In summary, the draft report is unacceptable in its current form, and I urge the Council to reject the draft and ensure that, if a new version of the Management Plan is adopted, it has a much stronger approach to protecting the natural environment. Our Green Wedge is not there to enable the commercial exploitation of the natural environment by a few. It has a much higher purpose for Melbourne, and for the environment as a whole, and it is our responsibility to ensure that we live up to our responsibilities.

Yours sincerely
Wendy Morris

Wendy Morris

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Christine Seow

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

The draft GWMP should do more to acknowledge the importance of all indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it across the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity, preserving biodiversity, valuing what ecosystems provide, developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent) and address the climate change and extinction crises and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the plan, without compromise and trade offs. Until that is the case and is clear in the plan, I do not support the draft GWMP.

Our GWMP must address climate change mitigation, not just in terms of how we respond to climate but how we are addressing it. The plan must inform all objectives and actions such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy. Throughout the draft, there is no mention of strong leadership in this regard. Because of that, I do not support the draft GWMP. The community as a whole must come together to ensure serious action is taken to mitigate climate change and draw down carbon emissions. This is a top priority for how we live together as a community - our collective wellbeing depends on it, as does the environment.

I am very concerned about the use of the work "balance" in the current draft GWMP as it implies that there is a need to trade-off environmental health against other considerations, while international, national, and state government reports indicate that we must prioritise the health of our environment. For example, A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

Yours faithfully,

Christine Seow

Sue Grad



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

The draft GWMP should do more to acknowledge the importance of all indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it across the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity, preserving biodiversity, valuing what ecosystems provide, developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent) and address the climate change and extinction crises and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the plan, without compromise and trade offs. Until that is the case and is clear in the plan, I do not support the draft GWMP.

I feel and fear that there is nothing more important to address with our GWMP than climate change mitigation. The plan must inform all objectives and actions such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy. Throughout the draft, there is no mention of strong leadership in this regard. Because of that, I do not support the draft GWMP. The community as a whole must come together to ensure serious action is taken to mitigate climate change and draw down carbon emissions. This is a top priority for how we live together as a community - our collective wellbeing depends on it, as does the environment.

I do not support the draft GWMP. I believe it needs clearer priorities. It uses the language of 'balance', and this needs to be amended as it indicates that our thinking is oppositional. It implies that there is a need to trade-off environmental health against other considerations, while international, national, and state government reports indicate that we must prioritise the health of our environment. For example, A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

Sue Grad

Graeme Willcox

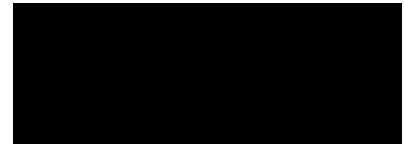
Bond University recently declared Nillumbik to be the best local government area in Australia. This was a serious study using the accepted criteria for judging societies e.g. health statistics, education and income levels, crime rates and so on. One of its attributes is the Green Wedge. A few quick points:

[1] I have no sympathy for drawing up the drawbridge and stopping others from coming here but decades ago there was a report from Council showing how we could house many more residents but by developing in the settled areas. This development is the cheapest form as major infrastructure is already there. My memory is that we could house many thousands more this way and still keep the Green Wedge. My memory was that the figure was in the ten thousands but I could be wrong

[2] There is a fear that the open spaces are being eyed off by the "get rich the easy way" brigade. I read that we are unusual in the developed world in that so much wealth has been made in such ways i.e. by being successful at rezoning land. I lived for some years in England and was struck by the way all people accepted the idea of town boundaries and heritage overlays. In my life in Melbourne I have sadly witnessed the continual chipping away of parkland and its replacement by thoughtless development. It's not well known that Melbourne was the richest city in the British Empire outside of the British Isles. Look at the planning of the Colonial planners and compare this to the efforts of later generations and be saddened.

Graeme Willcox

Kevin Filmer



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

The majority of people who participated in the community survey (approx 1,000 residents) CLEARLY stated that they value and enjoy the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained and protected. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the Community's position. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this. I therefore do not support the draft as I do not believe it adequately address the main concerns of residents (as per the community engagement). The plan should reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its Strategic Focus. This draft consistently fails to do this. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge.

I feel and fear that there is nothing more important to address with our GWMP than climate change mitigation. The plan must inform all objectives and actions such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy. Throughout the draft, there is no mention of strong leadership in this regard. Because of that, I do not support the draft GWMP. The community as a whole must come together to ensure serious action is taken to mitigate climate change and draw down carbon emissions. This is a top priority for how we live together as a community - our collective wellbeing depends on it, as does the environment.

The Principles in the draft are broad and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment. They need to reflect the community's commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The GWMP must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised in keeping with the State Government's policies in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037, which is 'Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.' An additional Principle that focuses on Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity, and describes the urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity and effects of climate change should be added to the GWMP. Until that happens, I do not support the draft. Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

Kevin Filmer

Gaille Abud



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

I have had serious concerns about possible management changes to Green Wedge management for some time and was happy to attend the workshops as an observer. I was generally pretty happy with how the workshops played out, but disappointed with the Draft now before us. This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I do not support the draft GWMP as it fails to clearly articulate an implementation plan based on clearly stated Objectives and Actions and the Council Department responsible for implementation as stated in Practice Note 31. The current GWMP has much greater detail than this new draft, and should be used as a basis for improvement. The document needs to describe in much greater detail the ACTIONS to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, ensuring the protection of ALL native vegetation and fauna across the Shire. Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term. The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge and there has still been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.

The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail. Much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration, it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed of neighbours' intentions. This draft must mention the fact that tourism developments in the Green Wedge need to be "in conjunction" with agricultural uses, as stated in Section 55 of the planning scheme. This clause of the planning scheme decreases the likelihood of inappropriate development. We should change the heading of the economic one to "a prosperous, eco-friendly Green Wedge economy". This draft plan suggests the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) is too restrictive of farming practices and that this zoning should only be applied to land with higher conservation values. This suggestion puts at serious risk flora and fauna across a significant proportion of the Shire, whether as single trees in paddocks or scattered pockets of remnant bush. These are all vital and in need of greater care and protection, not less. I do not support the draft GWMP.

I do not support the draft GWMP. I believe it needs clearer priorities. It uses the language of 'balance', and this needs to be amended as it indicates that our thinking is oppositional. It implies that there is a need to trade-off environmental health against other considerations, while international, national, and state government reports indicate that we must prioritise the health of our environment. For example, A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

Gaille Abud

Vassi Bouzalas



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

On a personal note as a community member, I would like to add the following -

I do not support the GWMP draft, as it feels to me, as a community member, that it has not followed proper and fair practice. Also - in this day and age, when we desperately need to hold on to what SMALL bits of natural environment we have is absolutely critical. We as humans have done enough damage - its time to STOP!! This draft, does not respect and uphold the importance of the environment in our region. It is why we live out here, and it is why so many visitors marvel at the uniqueness and beauty we live in. It is a privilege to live here - and it BECAUSE of the nature/environment. Council should understand that and be brave, stronger and stop putting human greed first. At times, it is getting very distressing to see that the needs of the absolutely BEAUTIFUL flora and fauna here in Nillumbik - is being put last. Nillumbik council can stand out and show its REAL COMMITMENT TO THE GREEN WEDGE! NOT threaten it, with this weak draft!!!

The current GWMP has much greater detail than this new draft, and should be used as a basis for improvement. The document needs to describe in much greater detail the ACTIONS to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, *****ensuring the protection of ALL native vegetation and fauna across the Shire*****. Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term. The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge and there has still been consistent net loss of vegetation. ****This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this!!*****

The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail. Much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration, it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed of neighbours' intentions. This draft must mention the fact that tourism developments in the Green Wedge need to be "in conjunction" with agricultural uses, as stated in Section 55 of the planning scheme. This clause of the planning scheme decreases the likelihood of inappropriate development. We should change the heading of the economic one to "a prosperous, eco-friendly Green Wedge economy". This draft plan suggests the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) is too restrictive of farming practices and that this zoning should only be applied to land with higher conservation values. This suggestion puts at serious risk flora and fauna across a significant proportion of the Shire, whether as single trees in paddocks or scattered pockets of remnant bush. These are all vital and in need of

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

greater care and protection, not less. I do not support the draft GWMP. **** I am not sure HOW any forward thinking person can!

I do not support the draft GWMP. I believe it needs clearer priorities. It uses the language of 'balance', and this needs to be amended as it indicates that our thinking is oppositional. It implies that there is a need to trade-off environmental health against other considerations, while international, national, and state government reports indicate that we must prioritise the health of our environment. For example, A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS DRAFT.

Vassi Bouzalas

Rosie Pane



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I do not support the draft GWMP as it fails to clearly articulate an implementation plan based on clearly stated Objectives and Actions and the Council Department responsible for implementation as stated in Practice Note 31. The current GWMP has much greater detail than this new draft, and should be used as a basis for improvement. The document needs to describe in much greater detail the ACTIONS to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, ensuring the protection of ALL native vegetation and fauna across the Shire. Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term. The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge and there has still been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.

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I do not support the draft GWMP. I believe it needs clearer priorities. It uses the language of 'balance', and this needs to be amended as it indicates that our thinking is oppositional. It implies that there is a need to trade-off environmental health against other considerations, while international, national, and state government reports indicate that we must prioritise the health of our environment. For example, A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

Rosie Pane

Liam Kay



Dear Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not fully support the draft.

There are numerous scientific works that confirm that biodiversity, ecosystems and many species are at critical and endangered levels (see the Governments IPBES report that states "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever... It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global." This is an opportunity for Nillumbik Council to recognise this and take action.

There is a lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shire's biodiversity in all its forms and varying quality. Clearly defined actions need to be included to address this problem and ensure the long-term health of the Green Wedge.

I worry that the use of stocktakes and studies [see A3.1, p32] that describe some areas of vegetation as more significant or valuable could lead to more stress on the environment. There is already pressure on the ecosystems from disturbance and mismanagement. The plan needs to be holistic, not looking and making decisions on little patches here and there - a bit land clearing and /or grazing here and there leave our flora and fauna vulnerable to ever-increasing stress and disappearance.

People live in harmony with the environment, and the current draft reads as if we are at odds with the environment.

I do not support animal agriculture of any type due to the devastating impact to the economy. It is a total inefficient use of land, water and other resources. I support plant-based agriculture where it provides for the continuing health of the environment. New systems that respect and promote regenerative farming including water conservation, Indigenous knowledge, and indigenous flora and fauna must be encouraged. The obvious link between sustainable agricultural practices, climate change mitigation and a healthy Green Wedge, must be central to the GWMP. The need for a framework that encourages sustainable land management practices is described in the State Government's Planning Practice Note 31, entitled 'Preparing a Green Wedge Management Plan', and so this has to be clearly demonstrated in any GWMP. This current draft does not achieve this requirement.

Thank you for your hard work putting the draft together, I imagine it has been a very difficult task. I would offer solutions, but at the moment I do not have the time.

Best regards,

Liam Kay

Clare Haley



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

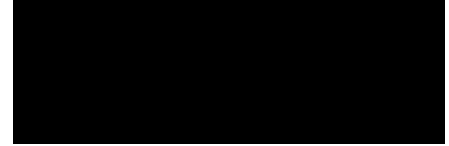
I do not support the draft GWMP. There are numerous scientific works that confirm that biodiversity, eco systems and many species are at critical and endangered levels (see the Governments IPBES report that states "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever... It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global." This is local Nillumbik's opportunity to recognise this and take brave action. This document does not have any brave actions, there is nothing it offers as leading the way. There is a lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shire's biodiversity in all its forms and varying quality. Clearly defined actions need to be included to address this problem and ensure the long-term health of the Green Wedge.

I love the Nillumbik environment and I do not support the draft GWMP. I think it should clearly stated that Nillumbik's Green Wedge is the most environmentally intact of Melbourne's Green Wedges and is a significant part of the wider Green Wedge system. I would also like to see it acknowledged that because of the uniqueness of the area, the Shire has particular needs that are different to those in an area not established as a Green Wedge. The new plan should be an opportunity to celebrate our unique environmental features and provide a strong, bold statement to our climate-poor country.

I do not support the draft GWMP as I do not believe it adequately includes the indigenous voice. It is vital that Nillumbik demonstrates its respect of Indigenous people, their cultural heritage and knowledge. This barely gets a mention in the GWMP despite the fact that Indigenous people have ensured the vitality of the area's biodiversity for tens of thousands of years. In order to better manage the natural environment of the Shire, greater dialogue must be generated and maintained with the Traditional Custodians of the area. This is vital for the health of the whole community and the environment in which we live. A Key Action of Goal 2 must focus on this.

Clare Haley

Maggie Broom



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission reflects my concern with the Green Wedge Management Plan and explains why I do not support it in its current form.

If Nillumbik Shire values its green wedge it will take to heart the scientific evidence that biodiversity and environmental issues are at a critical time. This is not a time to be equivocating about 'balance'. Environmental protection and restoration is recognised at international levels as being the one issue upon which everything else depends. There will be no 'private water' or 'amenities' on a planet that has lost its ability to regenerate.

The long-term health of the green wedge is but one tiny part of a global need to rethink a system that has created such dangerous times for all species, including our own.

We need strong action from the Council to protect the biodiversity of our green wedge and to avoid further degradation of the environment - it's a world-wide issue and you're treating it as if it was just a matter of inconvenience to have to 'balance' competing needs.

Get on board with the science and make some serious plans about protecting and restoring a safe and healthy environment. We're choking here on 410ppm CO2 and you're worried about 'amenities'.

I do not support the draft GWMP.

Maggie Broom

Justine knight

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I do not support the draft GWMP. There are numerous scientific works that confirm that biodiversity, eco systems and many species are at critical and endangered levels (see the Governments IPBES report that states "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever... It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global." This is local Nillumbik's opportunity to recognise this and take brave action. This document does not have any brave actions, there is nothing it offers as leading the way. There is a lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shire's biodiversity in all its forms and varying quality. Clearly defined actions need to be included to address this problem and ensure the long-term health of the Green Wedge.

The Principles in the draft are broad and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment. They need to reflect the community's commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The GWMP must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised in keeping with the State Government's policies in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037, which is 'Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.' An additional Principle that focuses on Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity, and describes the urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity and effects of climate change should be added to the GWMP. Until that happens, I do not support the draft. Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

I do not support the draft GWMP. I believe it needs clearer priorities. It uses the language of 'balance', and this needs to be amended as it indicates that our thinking is oppositional. It implies that there is a need to trade-off environmental health against other considerations, while international, national, and state government reports indicate that we must prioritise the health of our environment. For example, A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

Justine knight

Daide Rizzo



Dear Nillumbik Council,

The following items are why I DO NOT SUPPORT the Green Wedge Management Plan draft:

I believe that the GWMP should have a more measurable focus on environmental protection and the draft does not state this strongly enough. It is essential that appropriate resources are allocated to the enforcement of policy standards. Nillumbik's Biodiversity Report outlines the ongoing loss of native vegetation and part of the problem is inadequate enforcement. The impact of invasive species - flora and fauna - is significant and this must be better addressed.

The plan should reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its Strategic Focus. This draft consistently fails to do this. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge (as per the community engagement).

The Principles in the draft are broad and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment. They need to reflect the community's commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The GWMP must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised in keeping with the State Government's policies in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037, which is 'Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.' An additional Principle that focuses on Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity, and describes the urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity and effects of climate change should be added to the GWMP. Until that happens, I do not support the draft. Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

Daide Rizzo

Submission on Council's Draft GWMP

I am a resident of the Bend of Islands and a member of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA).

The draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form. It totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, while advocating the undermining of the current conservation zones.

I consider that it is particularly important that there is a general revision of the draft to incorporate the following issues.

- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, states its first priority for Green Wedges: 'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.' (Refer Appendix 1 of Council's draft GWMP)

The Draft GWMP, in its entirety, should have this priority as the main focus.

- The overriding response from Council's Community Survey (Aug 2018) and its Community Panel (Nov. 2018) was that Nillumbik residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge; and they want it to be maintained, protected and enhanced. Council's Draft GWMP will not achieve this.
- The GWMP needs to more strongly acknowledge the importance of ALL indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it THROUGHOUT the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what ecosystems provide; developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent); address the climate change and extinction crises, and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the Actions and all other aspects of the Draft GWMP, without compromise.
- The natural environment continues to decline everywhere – In Nillumbik and globally. Maintaining a "Business as Usual" trajectory is not good enough.

Declines in biodiversity are at critical levels, and there is urgent need for action by all levels of government and society. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) states that, "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global".

- The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play; so that we can be part of the solution, acting locally to address global problems. We're a relatively affluent population. Nillumbik is the perfect place to start turning things around. If not here and now, where and when?

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

- The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge. However, there has been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.
- The Draft GWMP proposes changes to how land within the Green Wedge can be used on the rural side of the UGB and around our rural townships. This has the potential to erode the values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundary. The UGB must be treated as a hard boundary.
- We need a Green Wedge Management Plan that places the Green Wedge environment, biodiversity, and their restoration as the main priority in a way that fits the 21st century challenges facing us, for our children, and our children's children.
- The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail – much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed about the piggery etc proposed for next door.
- Nillumbik leaders should explain that "the right to farm" comes with an obligation on the owner to not degrade the land during his/her brief period of stewardship. Stewardship simply means that after an owner's (brief) tenure the land and its waterways will be passed on in a better state. For agricultural land this means with soil erosion and pest invasion controlled; for bush properties, biodiversity has been improved. Nillumbik Landcare Network have produced a document on the Culture of Community Custodianship of Land which explains this concept.
- Horses and other hard-hoofed animals have a negative impact on the environment – none of Australia's native animals have hard hooves. Impacts on habitats include erosion, water quality degradation, damage to flora, and spreading of weeds. Actions must be implemented to prevent these impacts. These must include education of the equine sector and other graziers. There needs to be greater understanding and responsible ownership of animals, ensuring that animals do not enter waterways and are not allowed to graze in the bush. This focus on environmental care must also be reflected in the proposed Nillumbik Equine Strategy.
- Achieving community engagement by playing down or ignoring the GW residents' responsibilities for environmental protection is self-defeating. This will result in a diminished GW that does not meet the aspirations of the majority of the local community or Victoria's desired planning outcomes for the Green Wedges.
- Responsible Leadership would have a separate section dealing with climate change mitigation in accordance with the precautionary principle.
- (O3.1) While it is important to protect our "valuable" biodiversity and habitats, this skirts around the importance of "less valuable" or, more accurately, "less intact or disturbed" habitats that make up the entire biodiversity map for the shire. For example, the "vulnerable" Ecological Vegetation

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Class - Valley Grassy Forest is often degraded within Nillumbik due to its grassy understory lending itself to being readily-available grazing land. This does NOT negate the importance of these otherwise "less valuable" habitats.

I request that Council considers these issues and revises the Draft GWMP to included appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge.

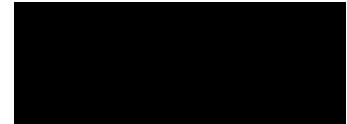
Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Note: I wish my submission to be 'anonymous' if it is published.

Alana Duncan



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

The majority of people who participated in the community survey (approx 1,000 residents) CLEARLY stated that they value and enjoy the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained and protected. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the Community's position. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this. I therefore do not support the draft as I do not believe it adequately address the main concerns of residents (as per the community engagement). The plan should reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its Strategic Focus. This draft consistently fails to do this. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge.

Responsible leadership should lead with Nillumbik's stance on climate change and the precautionary principle. The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play; that we can be part of the solution, acting locally to address global problems. We're a relatively affluent population. Nillumbik is the perfect place to start turning things around. I do not support the draft GWMP until strong leadership items are added around climate change.

I do not support animal agriculture of any type due to the devastating impact to the economy. It is a total inefficient use of land, water and other resources. I support plant-based agriculture where it provides for the continuing health of the environment. New systems that respect and promote regenerative farming including water conservation, Indigenous knowledge, and indigenous flora and fauna must be encouraged. The obvious link between sustainable agricultural practices, climate change mitigation and a healthy Green Wedge, must be central to the GWMP. The need for a framework that encourages sustainable land management practices is described in the State Government's Planning Practice Note 31, entitled 'Preparing a Green Wedge Management Plan', and so this has to be clearly demonstrated in any GWMP. This current draft does not achieve this requirement and therefore, I do not support the draft GWMP.

Alana Duncan

Rijo George



Let's protect our Green Wedge

Rijo George

JENNY VILSON VALLUPPARA



Let's protect our Green Wedge

JENNY VILSON VALLUPPARA

Roeland Trietsch

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I worry that the use of stocktakes and studies [see A3.1, p32] that describe some areas of vegetation as more significant or valuable could lead to more stress on the environment. There is already pressure on the ecosystems from disturbance and mismanagement. The plan needs to be holistic, not looking and making decisions on little patches here and there - a bit land clearing and /or grazing here and there leave our flora and fauna vulnerable to ever-increasing stress and disappearance. For this reason, I do not support the draft GWMP.

The draft speaks of (and we are aware of) polarised and diverse views and how conversations must be respectful and robust. The best way to prevent these frustrations is to have a very clear hierarchy of principles. It is the ambiguity that can lead to a lot of frustration. In my opinion, this document does not address that issue. It is full of ambiguity and potentials for "discussions". It is vital that these discussions are supported by current science, particularly in relation to the need for environmental repair and preservation, and urgent climate change mitigation. I do not support the draft plan as I think the key issue of "diverse views" we are grappling is not adequately addressed; the words are just being used as an ointment to reduce the burning.

The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail. Much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration, it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed of neighbours' intentions. This draft must mention the fact that tourism developments in the Green Wedge need to be "in conjunction" with agricultural uses, as stated in Section 55 of the planning scheme. This clause of the planning scheme decreases the likelihood of inappropriate development. We should change the heading of the economic one to "a prosperous, eco-friendly Green Wedge economy". This draft plan suggests the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) is too restrictive of farming practices and that this zoning should only be applied to land with higher conservation values. This suggestion puts at serious risk flora and fauna across a significant proportion of the Shire, whether as single trees in paddocks or scattered pockets of remnant bush. These are all vital and in need of greater care and protection, not less. I do not support the draft GWMP.

Keep our area green and unique, overdevelopment would change the feeling of the area.

Regards,

Roeland Trietsch

Sam

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I worry that the use of stocktakes and studies [see A3.1, p32] that describe some areas of vegetation as more significant or valuable could lead to more stress on the environment. There is already pressure on the ecosystems from disturbance and mismanagement. The plan needs to be holistic, not looking and making decisions on little patches here and there - a bit land clearing and /or grazing here and there leave our flora and fauna vulnerable to ever-increasing stress and disappearance. For this reason, I do not support the draft GWMP.

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Sam

Mon Lukas

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

The draft GWMP should do more to acknowledge the importance of all indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it across the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity, preserving biodiversity, valuing what ecosystems provide, developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent) and address the climate change and extinction crises and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the plan, without compromise and trade offs. Until that is the case and is clear in the plan, I do not support the draft GWMP.

The majority of people who participated in the community survey (approx 1,000 residents) CLEARLY stated that they value and enjoy the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained and protected. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the Community's position. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this. I therefore do not support the draft as I do not believe it adequately address the main concerns of residents (as per the community engagement). The plan should reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its Strategic Focus. This draft consistently fails to do this. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge.

The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail. Much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration, it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed of neighbours' intentions. This draft must mention the fact that tourism developments in the Green Wedge need to be "in conjunction" with agricultural uses, as stated in Section 55 of the planning scheme. This clause of the planning scheme decreases the likelihood of inappropriate development. We should change the heading of the economic one to "a prosperous, eco-friendly Green Wedge economy". This draft plan suggests the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) is too restrictive of farming practices and that this zoning should only be applied to land with higher conservation values. This suggestion puts at serious risk flora and fauna across a significant proportion of the Shire, whether as single trees in paddocks or scattered pockets of remnant bush. These are all vital and in need of greater care and protection, not less. I do not support the draft GWMP.

Mon Lukas

Rachel Morrison

I do NOT support the proposed GWMP in its current form.

There is a frightening lack of detail to the proposals and seems to be “fluffed up” to look good on paper without the depth required for such a complex procedure to protect such a magical yet vulnerable area. The development of the Wedge is of MAJOR concern to me - like most of my neighbours, we live here because of the LACK of development - the quaintness and uniqueness of the townships, the trees, even the unsealed roads and especially the feel of community that these features contribute to.

We chose to do without huge sports complexes, large retirement villages, increased housing and units squashed into tiny blocks of land, subdivision where large parcels of land and wildlife corridors are so desperately needed to preserve some balance and keep our beautiful Green Wedge GREEN.

Progress in my eyes would be to step forth and preserve the area in its current form. Development would be to continue to promote Land for Wildlife and create safe wildlife crossings and corridors, to assist land care groups and locals to improve the land so as to encompass their needs as well as that of wildlife. Preservation would include erosion control, pest control and weed control (Council is already making headway in this field which is fabulous to see). A simplistic vision I know, but that's what I want as a Nillumbik rate payer and Hurstbridge local.

Please save this area. It would be a tragedy to destroy it.

Regards

Rachel Morrison

From: [Home Email](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: GWMP concerns
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 8:04:23 PM

To whom it may concern

I was flabbergasted to learn that in addition to the “fluff” and lack of specifics put forth in the GWMP, that there was no opposition to the redirection of traffic from Plenty Rd onto Yan Yean Rd via Bridge Inn Rd from the north, despite the incursion such a move into our already threatened environment and struggling road systems would make. We need less traffic directed our way, not more. Why should residents choosing to live in a “quiet country environment” be invaded by traffic from the suburbs we are trying to differentiate from!! Council, please advocate the NO redirection of traffic from the north onto Yan Yean Rd.

I hereby request council advocacy for compliance to the Nillumbik Local Planning Framework under clause 21.05.

Plenty road MUST take the majority of traffic leading to and from the growth belt that was allowed by Whittlesea Council to develop without that council developing appropriate infrastructure to carry the load. This is NOT the problem of Nillumbik residents who have chosen a green, quiet, rural setting in which to live. Please protect our corner of paradise.

Thank you

Regards

Rachel Morrison



****Concerned Resident****

Lydia Schofield
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

The majority of people who participated in the community survey (approx 1,000 residents) CLEARLY stated that they value and enjoy the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained and protected. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the Community's position. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this. I, therefore, do not support the draft as I do not believe it adequately address the main concerns of residents (as per the community engagement). The plan should reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its Strategic Focus. This draft consistently fails to do this. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge.

I feel and fear that there is nothing more important to address with our GWMP than climate change mitigation. The plan must inform all objectives and actions such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy. Throughout the draft, there is no mention of strong leadership in this regard. Because of that, I do not support the draft GWMP. The community as a whole must come together to ensure serious action is taken to mitigate climate change and draw down carbon emissions. This is a top priority for how we live together as a community - our collective wellbeing depends on it, as does the environment.

The Principles in the draft are broad and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment. They need to reflect the community's commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The GWMP must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised in keeping with the State Government's policies in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037, which is 'Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.' An additional Principle that focuses on Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity, and describes the urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity and effects of climate change should be added to the GWMP. Until that happens, I do not support the draft. Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

Lydia Schofield

Alan Reynolds
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

I am concerned at the breaking down of of the parameters that define and control the maintenance of our green wedge enviroment.

My submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

The majority of people who

participated in the community survey (approx 1,000 residents) CLEARLY stated that they value and enjoy the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained and protected. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the Community's position. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this. I therefore do not support the draft as I do not believe it adequately address the main concerns of residents (as per the community engagement). The plan should reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its Strategic Focus. This draft consistently fails to do this. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge.

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Virginia Ruchel

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I DO NOT support the draft GWMP because I believe it should have a more measurable focus on environmental protection and the draft does not state this strongly enough, despite it being a Strategic Focus for the Shire. The State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', says the first priority for the Green Wedge is to 'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.' We need to enhance and gain; business as usual is not good enough. It is essential that appropriate resources are allocated to the enforcement of policy standards. Nillumbik's Biodiversity Report outlines the ongoing loss of native vegetation and part of the problem is inadequate enforcement. The impact of invasive species - flora and fauna - is significant and this must be better addressed.

The draft GWMP should do more to acknowledge the importance of all indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it across the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity, preserving biodiversity, valuing what ecosystems provide, developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent) and address the climate change and extinction crises and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the plan, without compromise and trade offs. Until that is the case and is clear in the plan, I do not support the draft GWMP.

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Virginia Ruchel

Elizabeth Ferguson



Do not undermine the integrity of the Green Wedge. It is incredibly important that it is kept as it is. It brings tourists to the area and is environmentally very significant. Local residents feel very strongly about this. Council has no mandate to do this and many, many people are very suspicious of Council's motives.

Elizabeth Ferguson

Louise Jade

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

In the 50's and 60's my mother [REDACTED] held meetings to articulate and document the idea of the Green Wedge for our area, then part of the Heidelberg Shire Council.

I was a little kid sitting at the table drawing with my coloured pencils and learning about the importance of maintaining the physical environment - especially the TREES and the native habitat for the benefit of air quality, native creatures and for future generations (me - now in my mid 60s). These women were 'ahead of their times', and I am grateful for them and their work.

Just next door in neighbouring Whittlesea Council areas you can see the type of developments that can emerge and the problematic fallout, when the principles of a Green Wedge are not taken into account. Farmers who fought to have the right to graze cattle have now subdivided and we see the massive growth of poorly designed, inefficient, low quality housing and lagging unsustainable infrastructure.

I do not want to see the opening of the door to money making and environment-forsaking unsustainable developments in Nillumbik, which is currently renowned for it's green identity. This identity is such a valuable asset.

Please do not water down our Green policies. Think of the future. Think of the marvelous legacy we have the opportunity to leave for future generations who will live in, work in and visit Nillumbik.

The majority of people who participated in the recent community survey (approx 1,000 residents) CLEARLY stated that they value and enjoy the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained and protected. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. The current draft does not achieve this.

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Joanna Strybosch

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Joanna Strybosch

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Juliet Honey

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

I do not support the draft Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP). Despite environmental protection being a Strategic Focus for the Shire, the draft GWMP undermines this focus.

In community consultation it has been demonstrated time and again that our community values the natural environment and seeks to maintain it. The draft GWMP has been written in opposition of the community's response to evaluation and feedback to council.

The State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', says the first priority for the Green Wedge is to 'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'

It is essential that appropriate resources are allocated to the enforcement of policy standards. Nillumbik's Biodiversity Report outlines the ongoing loss of native vegetation and part of the problem is inadequate enforcement. The impact of invasive species - flora and fauna - is significant and this must be better addressed in the plan.

We have a responsibility to maintain our natural environment and biodiversity. Including increased development in the GWMP is inappropriate and will cause environmental damage.

The new plan should be an opportunity to celebrate our unique environmental features and provide a strong, bold statement to our climate-poor country.

I do not support the draft GWMP as it fails to clearly articulate an implementation plan based on clearly stated Objectives and Actions and the Council Department responsible for implementation as stated in Practice Note 31. The current GWMP has much greater detail than this new draft, and should be used as a basis for improvement. The document needs to describe in much greater detail the ACTIONS to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, ensuring the protection of ALL native vegetation and fauna across the Shire.

The draft plan seeks to increase development of the urban growth boundary which would be damaging to the strategic focus of the Green Wedge. I urge the council to review the draft GWMP and demonstrate their commitment to the Green Wedge through policies that will protect and effectively manage the Green Wedge in Nillumbik, rather than seeking to destroy it.

Yours sincerely,

Juliet Honey

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Julie Fink

DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019.2

As a resident of Eltham for over 45years and with property both in the township and the Green Wedge I wish to submit to Council how important I feel it is that we respect the vital importance these "lungs of Melbourne".

In this time of increased population and climate warming the forward thinking of the late Premier Rupert Hamer must be honoured.

The Urban Growth Boundary must be set in concrete and RCZ land must be maintained and protected in its biodiversity and native vegetation cover.

I find it difficult to understand why The Draft ignores the strong voice given by the community during the consultation process and via The Panel process.

Why is it so ?

Yours sincerely,

Julie Fink

Robert Coffey

I do not agree with the The Draft Green Wedge Management Plan is a shallow & vague and week document, open for manipulation and lacking real substance on multiple fronts. It gives no direct detail as to how the Nillumbik Green Wedge is to be protected and preserved in accordance with the original Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works (former planning authority) plan and intention for greater Melbourne brought down under the then Hamer State Government of the day.

Due to the lack of detail on mechanism, it is a Draft Management Plan that could be presented for managing anything. For example, a sewage treatment plant with broad acre irrigation, an aged care facility, or municipal parkland? It does not say how council are going to protect the Green Wedge in line with the original intent.

It fails to state how the valuable biodiversity & habitat as well as limited agriculture are to be protected. The use of the unheard of term enviromental stocktake being used. We already know what is here we don't need a stocktake. There is no stated detail mechanisms as to how council in the future are going to protect and enhance the Nillumbik Green Wedge under the Draft Management Plan.

The fact that the existing Green Wedge Management Plan was a 15 year plan due for review in 2025 raises suspicion as to why the council is reviewing it in 2019. What are the real politics at play?

The original Green Wedge Plan put together by the MMBW under the Hamer Government is a valuable contribution as to what makes Melbourne one of the great and most livable cities in the world. The Nillumbik Green Wedge needs to be protected. The Draft Management Plan offers the potential for development and exploitation.

If over the past 20 years or so a few people have bought into the Green Wedge and do not like or appreciate the original planning intention to protect the biodiversity of Nillumbik that is unfortunate. If some of these people perhaps wish to clear land and devalue the biodiversity of the Green Wedge by this land clearing or subdividing into smaller allotments for development that is unfortunate for them. Buyer be aware in the first place when purchasing.

It is not a reason to alter the original planning intent for our Green Wedge by weakening or changing it. Business and profit and easy money should not be the model.

If we are to have a Draft Green Wedge Management Plan it needs rewriting.

I stress I am not a Greenie. However I have lived in the area my entire life, 66 years now. I am a realist who loves living in Nillumbik and appreciates it.

Rob Coffey

Panton Hill

Mary- Elizabeth Calwell



My family have been involved in the Bend of Isles in the area within Round the Bend Conservation Co-operative since the 1860s and rejected offers by real estate agents to protect our bush. We also forwent financial opportunities. It is imperative that we prevent any more intrusion of buildings or so-called development to ensure survival of our unique flora and fauna for future generations.

Mary- Elizabeth Calwell

Kimberley Kifun

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I do not support the draft GWMP. There are numerous scientific works that confirm that biodiversity, eco systems and many species are at critical and endangered levels (see the Governments IPBES report that states "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever... It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global." This is local Nillumbik's opportunity to recognise this and take brave action. This document does not have any brave actions, there is nothing it offers as leading the way. There is a lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shire's biodiversity in all its forms and varying quality. Clearly defined actions need to be included to address this problem and ensure the long-term health of the Green Wedge.

The majority of people who participated in the community survey (approx 1,000 residents) CLEARLY stated that they value and enjoy the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained and protected. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the Community's position. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this. I therefore do not support the draft as I do not believe it adequately address the main concerns of residents (as per the community engagement). The plan should reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its Strategic Focus. This draft consistently fails to do this. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge.

I worry that the use of stocktakes and studies [see A3.1, p32] that describe some areas of vegetation as more significant or valuable could lead to more stress on the environment. There is already pressure on the ecosystems from disturbance and mismanagement. The plan needs to be holistic, not looking and making decisions on little patches here and there - a bit land clearing and /or grazing here and there leave our flora and fauna vulnerable to ever-increasing stress and disappearance. For this reason, I do not support the draft GWMP.

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I do not support animal agriculture due to the devastating impact on the economy. It is a totally inefficient use of land, water and other resources. If animal agriculture is undertaken it must be done using regenerative farming practices to minimise its impact on our environment and our economy. I support plant-based agriculture where it provides for the continuing health of the environment. New systems that respect and promote regenerative farming including water conservation, Indigenous knowledge, and indigenous flora and fauna must be encouraged. The obvious link between sustainable agricultural practices, climate change mitigation and a healthy Green Wedge, must be central to the GWMP. The need for a framework that encourages sustainable land management practices is described in the State Government's Planning Practice Note 31, entitled 'Preparing a Green Wedge Management Plan', and so this has to be clearly demonstrated in any GWMP. This current draft does not achieve this requirement and therefore, I do not support the draft GWMP.

I hope you receive this advise well and take clear and decisive action on it.

Kind Regards,

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Andeli Zuzic

Tina Nguyen

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I do not support the "management" of green spaces, with the potential of their zoning to be changed into agricultural land. The green wedge needs to be kept as in tact as it presently is, with plans for regeneration of habitat for the species (both flora and fauna) of which it has been depleted. It is the ONLY plan that should be even remotely considered, given the ecological significance of the green wedge to, not only to greater Melbourne, but also to mitigate the potential of bushfires, amongst other impacts of climate change for the future.

The most recent IPCC report, released in August 2019, explains the significance in strategic land use to ensure the survival of humanity in face of the climate change. This includes: a cut back from agriculture and a move away from mono-farms/ plantations, a halt to deforestation, and the active participation of all communities to reforesting land that has become arid due to commercial farming.

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I do not support the draft GWMP as I do not believe it adequately includes the indigenous voice. It is vital that Nillumbik demonstrates its respect of Indigenous people, their cultural heritage and knowledge. This barely gets a mention in the GWMP despite the fact that Indigenous people have ensured the vitality of the area's biodiversity for tens of thousands of years. In order to better manage the natural environment of the Shire, greater dialogue must be generated and maintained

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

with the Traditional Custodians of the area. This is vital for the health of the whole community and the environment in which we live. A Key Action of Goal 2 must focus on this.

Tina Nguyen

Fabian Arias

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Don't change anything, your rate payers/employers have already spoken against further subdivisions in Diamond Creek

Fabian Arias

Bohdan Kuzyk

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I do not support the draft GWMP. I believe it needs clearer priorities. It uses the language of 'balance', and this needs to be amended as it indicates that our thinking is oppositional. It implies that there is a need to trade-off environmental health against other considerations, while international, national, and state government reports indicate that we must prioritise the health of our environment. For example, A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

I do not support the draft GWMP as I do not believe it adequately includes the indigenous voice. It is vital that Nillumbik demonstrates its respect of Indigenous people, their cultural heritage and knowledge. This barely gets a mention in the GWMP despite the fact that Indigenous people have ensured the vitality of the area's biodiversity for tens of thousands of years. In order to better manage the natural environment of the Shire, greater dialogue must be generated and maintained with the Traditional Custodians of the area. This is vital for the health of the whole community and the environment in which we live. A Key Action of Goal 2 must focus on this.

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Phil Gardiner

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I DO NOT support the draft GWMP because I believe it should have a more measurable focus on environmental protection and the draft does not state this strongly enough, despite it being a Strategic Focus for the Shire. The State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', says the first priority for the Green Wedge is to 'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.' We need to enhance and gain; business as usual is not good enough. It is essential that appropriate resources are allocated to the enforcement of policy standards. Nillumbik's Biodiversity Report outlines the ongoing loss of native vegetation and part of the problem is inadequate enforcement. The impact of invasive species - flora and fauna - is significant and this must be better addressed.

The majority of people who participated in the community survey (approx 1,000 residents) CLEARLY stated that they value and enjoy the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained and protected. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the Community's position. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this. I therefore do not support the draft as I do not believe it adequately address the main concerns of residents (as per the community engagement). The plan should reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its Strategic Focus. This draft consistently fails to do this. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge.

The Principles in the draft are broad and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment. They need to reflect the community's commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The GWMP must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised in keeping with the State Government's policies in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037, which is 'Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.' An additional Principle that focuses on Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity, and describes the urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity and effects of climate change should be added to the GWMP. Until that happens, I do not support the draft. Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

Phil Gardiner

Laury Bannister

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I DO NOT support the draft GWMP because I believe it should have a more measurable focus on environmental protection and the draft does not state this strongly enough, despite it being a Strategic Focus for the Shire. The State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', says the first priority for the Green Wedge is to 'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.' We need to enhance and gain; business as usual is not good enough. It is essential that appropriate resources are allocated to the enforcement of policy standards. Nillumbik's Biodiversity Report outlines the ongoing loss of native vegetation and part of the problem is inadequate enforcement. The impact of invasive species - flora and fauna - is significant and this must be better addressed.

I do not support the draft GWMP as it fails to clearly articulate an implementation plan based on clearly stated Objectives and Actions and the Council Department responsible for implementation as stated in Practice Note 31. The current GWMP has much greater detail than this new draft, and should be used as a basis for improvement. The document needs to describe in much greater detail the ACTIONS to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, ensuring the protection of ALL native vegetation and fauna across the Shire. Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term. The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge and there has still been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.

I do not support the draft GWMP. I believe it needs clearer priorities. It uses the language of 'balance', and this needs to be amended as it indicates that our thinking is oppositional. It implies that there is a need to trade-off environmental health against other considerations, while international, national, and state government reports indicate that we must prioritise the health of our environment. For example, A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

Laury Bannister

Jason Cleeland

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This is a submission to outline why I do not support the draft Green Wedge Management plan.

A management plan for the Green Wedge needs to be all encompassing. Natural environments do not exist in isolation but are multi faceted; each individual part is reliant on others. The studies and stocktakes recommended in this draft (see A3.1, p32) describe some areas of vegetation as more significant or valuable, but treating them in isolation could lead to stress on other parts of the environment. To protect the entire green wedge area, decisions about parts of the wedge need to take into account the effect on the entire area. The purpose and protection of the green wedge as a whole needs to be at the forefront of all decisions made.

I worry that the use of stocktakes and studies [see A3.1, p32] that describe some areas of vegetation as more significant or valuable could lead to more stress on the environment. There is already pressure on the ecosystems from disturbance and mismanagement. The plan needs to be holistic, not looking and making decisions on little patches here and there - a bit land clearing and /or grazing here and there leave our flora and fauna vulnerable to ever-increasing stress and disappearance. For this reason, I do not support the draft GWMP.

I do not support the draft GWMP as it fails to clearly articulate an implementation plan based on clearly stated Objectives and Actions and the Council Department responsible for implementation as stated in Practice Note 31. The current GWMP has much greater detail than this new draft, and should be used as a basis for improvement. The document needs to describe in much greater detail the ACTIONS to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, ensuring the protection of ALL native vegetation and fauna across the Shire. Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term. The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge and there has still been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.

The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail. Much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration, it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed of neighbours' intentions. This draft must mention the fact that tourism developments in the Green Wedge need to be "in conjunction" with agricultural uses, as stated in Section 55 of the planning scheme. This clause of the planning scheme decreases the likelihood of inappropriate development. We should change the heading of the economic one to "a prosperous, eco-friendly Green Wedge economy". This draft plan suggests the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) is too restrictive of farming practices and that this zoning should only be applied to land with higher conservation values. This

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suggestion puts at serious risk flora and fauna across a significant proportion of the Shire, whether as single trees in paddocks or scattered pockets of remnant bush. These are all vital and in need of greater care and protection, not less. I do not support the draft GWMP.

Jason Cleeland

Darryl Trotter

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission is to let you know that I don't support the draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

It is not your time to review this Management Plan, as the current one is still valid.

Your proposal only thinks about development, the protection of the environment is not considered adequately.

The proposed plan has the goal to allow bushfire protection, biodiversity conservation and agriculture/tourism at the same time. However, this is impossible. Managing land for conservation purposes does not allow grazing or agricultural activities at the same time.

Managing land for bushfire protection modifies the land and biodiversity values - as we well know; "High biodiversity values equals High bushfire risk". As such, a piece of land cannot be managed for conservation and bushfire protection purposes at the same time.

Nillumbik council spent hundred-thousands of dollars to establish an independent community group to give advice on what the community thinks how the Green Wedge should be managed. Why does council not listen and adopt these recommendations? Can't you see that the community does not want to have a second Doncaster, but instead loves the green environment? However, you are a pro-development council and do not seem to care about protecting our environment.

This is what we want from our Councillors:

- Protect the Rural Conservation Zone and manage it for conservation purposes
- Only allow development where it is safe from bushfires and does not impact on biodiversity values
- Protect the biodiversity values we've got – remember that you cannot replace a tree, because of the 80-year time lag in between.

As such in short: do not replace the current GWMP. Or at least adopt all recommendations from the independent community survey.

Ensure that the protection of our natural environment is the most important goal in Nillumbik's GWMP. That's the vision of Nillumbik's residents.

Darryl Trotter

Alexander Redpath

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues I have with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft, yet support the ambition of producing a GWMP.

The plan should reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its Strategic Focus. This draft does not do this. Throughout it is vague. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge. It altogether makes it impossible for anyone to support as it is not clear what they are supporting.

One of the major issues for the GWMP is climate change mitigation. The plan must inform all objectives and actions such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy. In this draft, there is no mention of strong leadership in this regard. Because of that, I do not support the draft GWMP. The community as a whole must come together to ensure serious action is taken to mitigate climate change and draw down carbon emissions. This is a top priority for how we live together as a community - our collective well-being depends on it, as does the environment. Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

The Principles in the draft are broad and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment. They need to reflect the community's commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The GWMP must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised in keeping with the State Government's policies in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037, which is 'Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.'

Surely the biggest threats to the Green Wedge concept are urban expansion, water management, ill educated land management, air quality and finance. There is little or no reference to resolving these in the current draft. In fact it is concerning that the Shire is eligible for Growing Suburb funding which appears to be in contradiction to the idea of the Green Wedge.

In summary this document is vague and uninspiring. It lacks any clear key actions. In trying to please all it has been finely tuned to mediocre. Until it becomes more focused, I do not support the draft.

Alexander Redpath

Joanne Fecondo

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I DO NOT support the draft GWMP because I believe it should have a more measurable focus on environmental protection and the draft does not state this strongly enough, despite it being a Strategic Focus for the Shire. The State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', says the first priority for the Green Wedge is to 'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.' We need to enhance and gain; business as usual is not good enough. It is essential that appropriate resources are allocated to the enforcement of policy standards. Nillumbik's Biodiversity Report outlines the ongoing loss of native vegetation and part of the problem is inadequate enforcement. The impact of invasive species - flora and fauna - is significant and this must be better addressed.

I love the Nillumbik environment and I do not support the draft GWMP. I think it should clearly stated that Nillumbik's Green Wedge is the most environmentally intact of Melbourne's Green Wedges and is a significant part of the wider Green Wedge system. I would also like to see it acknowledged that because of the uniqueness of the area, the Shire has particular needs that are different to those in an area not established as a Green Wedge. The new plan should be an opportunity to celebrate our unique environmental features and provide a strong, bold statement to our climate-poor country.

I do not support the draft GWMP as it fails to clearly articulate an implementation plan based on clearly stated Objectives and Actions and the Council Department responsible for implementation as stated in Practice Note 31. The current GWMP has much greater detail than this new draft, and should be used as a basis for improvement. The document needs to describe in much greater detail the ACTIONS to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, ensuring the protection of ALL native vegetation and fauna across the Shire. Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term. The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge and there has still been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.

Joanne Fecondo

Shirley Burns

E: [REDACTED]

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I do not support the draft GWMP. There are numerous scientific works that confirm that biodiversity, eco systems and many species are at critical and endangered levels (see the Governments IPBES report that states "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever... It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global." This is local Nillumbik's opportunity to recognise this and take brave action. This document does not have any brave actions, there is nothing it offers as leading the way. There is a lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shire's biodiversity in all its forms and varying quality. Clearly defined actions need to be included to address this problem and ensure the long-term health of the Green Wedge.

I do not support the draft GWMP as I do not believe it adequately includes the indigenous voice. It is vital that Nillumbik demonstrates its respect of Indigenous people, their cultural heritage and knowledge. This barely gets a mention in the GWMP despite the fact that Indigenous people have ensured the vitality of the area's biodiversity for tens of thousands of years. In order to better manage the natural environment of the Shire, greater dialogue must be generated and maintained with the Traditional Custodians of the area. This is vital for the health of the whole community and the environment in which we live. A Key Action of Goal 2 must focus on this.

I do not support the draft GWMP. I believe it needs clearer priorities. It uses the language of 'balance', and this needs to be amended as it indicates that our thinking is oppositional. It implies that there is a need to trade-off environmental health against other considerations, while international, national, and state government reports indicate that we must prioritise the health of our environment. For example, A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

Shirley Burns

Caitlin Fecondo

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I DO NOT support the draft GWMP because I believe it should have a more measurable focus on environmental protection and the draft does not state this strongly enough, despite it being a Strategic Focus for the Shire. The State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', says the first priority for the Green Wedge is to 'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.' We need to enhance and gain; business as usual is not good enough. It is essential that appropriate resources are allocated to the enforcement of policy standards. Nillumbik's Biodiversity Report outlines the ongoing loss of native vegetation and part of the problem is inadequate enforcement. The impact of invasive species - flora and fauna - is significant and this must be better addressed.

The draft GWMP should do more to acknowledge the importance of all indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it across the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity, preserving biodiversity, valuing what ecosystems provide, developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent) and address the climate change and extinction crises and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the plan, without compromise and trade offs. Until that is the case and is clear in the plan, I do not support the draft GWMP.

I do not support the draft GWMP as I do not believe it adequately includes the indigenous voice. It is vital that Nillumbik demonstrates its respect of Indigenous people, their cultural heritage and knowledge. This barely gets a mention in the GWMP despite the fact that Indigenous people have ensured the vitality of the area's biodiversity for tens of thousands of years. In order to better manage the natural environment of the Shire, greater dialogue must be generated and maintained with the Traditional Custodians of the area. This is vital for the health of the whole community and the environment in which we live. A Key Action of Goal 2 must focus on this.

Caitlin Fecondo

Jenna Fecondo

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I worry that the use of stocktakes and studies [see A3.1, p32] that describe some areas of vegetation as more significant or valuable could lead to more stress on the environment. There is already pressure on the ecosystems from disturbance and mismanagement. The plan needs to be holistic, not looking and making decisions on little patches here and there - a bit land clearing and /or grazing here and there leave our flora and fauna vulnerable to ever-increasing stress and disappearance. For this reason, I do not support the draft GWMP.

I do not support the draft GWMP as it fails to clearly articulate an implementation plan based on clearly stated Objectives and Actions and the Council Department responsible for implementation as stated in Practice Note 31. The current GWMP has much greater detail than this new draft, and should be used as a basis for improvement. The document needs to describe in much greater detail the ACTIONS to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, ensuring the protection of ALL native vegetation and fauna across the Shire. Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term. The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge and there has still been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.

The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail. Much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration, it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed of neighbours' intentions. This draft must mention the fact that tourism developments in the Green Wedge need to be "in conjunction" with agricultural uses, as stated in Section 55 of the planning scheme. This clause of the planning scheme decreases the likelihood of inappropriate development. We should change the heading of the economic one to "a prosperous, eco-friendly Green Wedge economy". This draft plan suggests the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) is too restrictive of farming practices and that this zoning should only be applied to land with higher conservation values. This suggestion puts at serious risk flora and fauna across a significant proportion of the Shire, whether as single trees in paddocks or scattered pockets of remnant bush. These are all vital and in need of greater care and protection, not less. I do not support the draft GWMP.

Jenna Fecondo

Tricia Barrett

[REDACTED]

We live in this area because of the Green Wedge, the natural surrounds, flora & fauna, environment, bush setting. We see greenery from our home, not out of character developments, units, businesses, crowded streets/properties. We DO NOT want to be like every other suburb. That's why we live here. That's why tourists love this area and spend money here - it is unique and special. We do not want subdivisions, we do not want commercial developments - this is like a country area; full of natural beauty, spirit, and community. The very things we love about it are what you are wanting to destroy - why? for money. It destroys the beautiful area, environment, the community and culture. The Green Wedge has been protected for many many reasons - and we want it to stay that way please.

Tricia Barrett

Duplicate: refer to submission 272

Catherine Russell

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

It makes a mockery of community consultation and the expensive and lengthy process undertaken by NSC with the Green Wedge Panel.

The majority of people who participated in the community survey (approx 1,000 residents) CLEARLY stated that they value and enjoy the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained and protected. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the Community's position. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this. I therefore do not support the draft as I do not believe it adequately address the main concerns of residents (as per the community engagement). The plan should reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its Strategic Focus. This draft consistently fails to do this. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge.

I feel and fear that there is nothing more important to address with our GWMP than climate change mitigation. The plan must inform all objectives and actions such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy. Throughout the draft, there is no mention of strong leadership in this regard. Because of that, I do not support the draft GWMP. The community as a whole must come together to ensure serious action is taken to mitigate climate change and draw down carbon emissions. This is a top priority for how we live together as a community - our collective wellbeing depends on it, as does the environment.

The Principles in the draft are broad and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment. They need to reflect the community's commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The GWMP must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised in keeping with the State Government's policies in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037, which is 'Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.' An additional Principle that focuses on Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity, and describes the urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity and effects of climate change should be added to the GWMP. Until that happens, I do not support the draft. Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

Catherine Russell

David Jamieson

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

I do not support the present proposals to weaken protections for the green wedge.

We cannot be sure about the legislative framework that will govern our state in the lead up to the 2050 deadline for Australia to meet its commitments under the Paris protocol [1]. Perhaps we will renege on our commitments? Perhaps we will meet our commitments? Perhaps we will sign up to even more stringent commitments as a result of UN sanctions?

In the event we agree to meet our present commitments, land use changes are a crucial part of meeting our 2050 commitments as identified by the IPCC reports and indeed were already used to meet our past Kyoto targets [2] as has already been well documented. Therefore, it is highly likely in this scenario that a legislative framework will be introduced to provide strong incentives for carbon capture and storage through preservation and expansion of areas of native vegetation characteristic of our neighbourhood. Some of those incentives are likely to be driven by financial imperatives such as carbon trading certificates or taxation incentives that would likely produce a lucrative source of new income for the land within the Nillumbik shire. This would also likely broaden the shire's present narrow taxation/rates base owing to the lack of significant industry and instead turn this disadvantage into a significant financial advantage.

This enormous and foreseeable revenue stream would be compromised by encroachment into either privately or publicly administered lands. These lands presently represent potential carbon capital on which interest will be earned over the next 30 years leading up to 2050 as the legislative framework is developed. The next 30 years will not be like the previous 30 years if we elect to meet our Paris commitments.

In fact initiatives to establish a new GWMP should look forward to 2050 and potential new sources of revenue not presently available. The current draft does not achieve this. I also do not believe it adequately addresses the main concerns of residents (as per the community engagement). The plan should reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its Strategic Focus. This draft consistently fails to do this. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge.

We also have the opportunity to align the new GWMP with the State Government's policies in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037, which is 'Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.' This could make Nillumbik a leader in taking advantage of the near-term changes to the legislative agenda leading up to 2050. Therefore an additional Principle that focuses on Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity, and describes the urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity and effects of climate change should be added to the GWMP. Until that happens, I do not support the draft. Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

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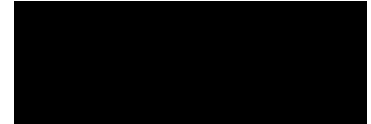
Remember: There are big changes coming - the end of petrol cars, the closure of coal power stations, the rise of activism from Pacific Island states and countries most vulnerable to the downside of climate change. Nillumbik will not be insulated from these trends. We have the opportunity to lead. Please take it for the sake of the present and future generations that live in our beautiful and privileged land.

[1] An agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016. The agreement's language was negotiated by representatives of 196 state parties at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in Le Bourget, near Paris, France, and adopted by consensus on 12 December 2015. Australia was one of the nations that signed this agreement.

[2] The Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty which extends the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that commits state parties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, based on the scientific consensus that (part one) global warming is occurring and (part two) it is extremely likely that human-made CO₂ emissions have predominantly caused it. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. There are currently 192 parties. Australia met its commitments largely through targets set associated with land use change agreements.

David Jamieson

Ross Daws



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I have concerns and do not support the draft.

The majority of people who participated in the community survey stated that they value and enjoy the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained and protected. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. In my opinion, council's draft does not reflect this strongly enough. I do not support the draft as I do not believe it adequately address the main concerns of residents, and further engagement and inclusion is required.

The draft fails to include the goal of conservation as a cornerstone of the plan. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge.

The plan must inform all objectives and actions such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy, yet there is no mention of strong leadership in this regard.


The Principles in the draft are very broad and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment. They need to reflect the community's commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The GWMP must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised in keeping with the State Government's policies in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037, which is 'Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.' An additional Principle that focuses on Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity, and describes the urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity and effects of climate change should be added to the GWMP. Until that happens, I do not support the draft. Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

Sincerely,

Ross Daws

Eltham North

Lyn Ramcharan



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

The draft GWMP should do more to acknowledge the importance of all indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it across the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity, preserving biodiversity, valuing what ecosystems provide, developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent) and address the climate change and extinction crises and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the plan, without compromise and trade offs. Until that is the case and is clear in the plan, I do not support the draft GWMP.

The Principles in the draft are broad and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment. They need to reflect the community's commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The GWMP must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised in keeping with the State Government's policies in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037, which is 'Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.' An additional Principle that focuses on Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity, and describes the urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity and effects of climate change should be added to the GWMP. Until that happens, I do not support the draft. Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

I do not support the draft GWMP. I believe it needs clearer priorities. It uses the language of 'balance', and this needs to be amended as it indicates that our thinking is oppositional. It implies that there is a need to trade-off environmental health against other considerations, while international, national, and state government reports indicate that we must prioritise the health of our environment. For example, A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

Lyn Ramcharan

Paul ramcharan

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

I DO NOT support the draft GWMP because I believe it should have a more measurable focus on environmental protection and the draft does not state this strongly enough, despite it being a Strategic Focus for the Shire. The State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', says the first priority for the Green Wedge is to 'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.' We need to enhance and gain; business as usual is not good enough. It is essential that appropriate resources are allocated to the enforcement of policy standards. Nillumbik's Biodiversity Report outlines the ongoing loss of native vegetation and part of the problem is inadequate enforcement. The impact of invasive species - flora and fauna - is significant and this must be better addressed.

I worry that the use of stocktakes and studies [see A3.1, p32] that describe some areas of vegetation as more significant or valuable could lead to more stress on the environment. There is already pressure on the ecosystems from disturbance and mismanagement. The plan needs to be holistic, not looking and making decisions on little patches here and there - a bit land clearing and /or grazing here and there leave our flora and fauna vulnerable to ever-increasing stress and disappearance. For this reason, I do not support the draft GWMP.

The draft speaks of (and we are aware of) polarised and diverse views and how conversations must be respectful and robust. The best way to prevent these frustrations is to have a very clear hierarchy of principles. It is the ambiguity that can lead to a lot of frustration. In my opinion, this document does not address that issue. It is full of ambiguity and potentials for "discussions". It is vital that these discussions are supported by current science, particularly in relation to the need for environmental repair and preservation, and urgent climate change mitigation. I do not support the draft plan as I think the key issue of "diverse views" we are grappling is not adequately addressed; the words are just being used as an ointment to reduce the burning.

Paul ramcharan

jennifer sheridan

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

I do not support the draft GWMP for the following reasons:

In a time of critical climate change, loss of biodiversity and worldwide environmental crisis, the proposed GWMP fails to make a substantial contribution to reversing these alarming world wide trends. There is a lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shire's biodiversity in all its forms and varying quality. Clearly defined actions need to be included to address this problem and ensure the long-term health of the Green Wedge.

The majority of people who participated in the community survey (approx 1,000 residents) CLEARLY stated that they value and enjoy the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained and protected. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the Community's position. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this. I therefore do not support the draft as I do not believe it adequately address the main concerns of residents (as per the community engagement).

Community engagement is disingenuous and bogus if strong community opinion is not then reflected in the subsequent documents and actions which flow from it.

The plan should reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its Strategic Focus. This draft consistently fails to do this. It lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge.

New farmingsystems that respect and promote regenerative farming including water conservation, Indigenous knowledge, and indigenous flora and fauna must be encouraged. The obvious link between sustainable agricultural practices, climate change mitigation and a healthy Green Wedge, must be central to the GWMP. The need for a framework that encourages sustainable land management practices is described in the State Government's Planning Practice Note 31, entitled 'Preparing a Green Wedge Management Plan', and so this has to be clearly demonstrated in any GWMP. This current draft does not achieve this requirement and therefore, I do not support the draft GWMP.

Please listen to your constituents, many of whom have come to live in this area for it's green environment, birds, animals and clean air.

jennifer sheridan

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:28:31 PM
Attachments: [Green_wedge_management_plan.docx](#)

Hi Nichole,

Please find attached our submission about the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

Regards,

Ash and Rachel Deans

Submission about Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019

Ashley and Rachel Deans
[REDACTED]

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission about the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

Once again the consultation process for a key Council Plan is flawed and our confidence in good governance and transparency eroded.

1. Principles

We are absolutely astounded that Council would ask the community to rate the importance of 'Aboriginal voice' as a key principle to guide land management. This is incredibly distasteful, and we do not believe that we are entitled to rate this principle. We have asked Council to reconsider how the 'Have your Say' page was structured in relation to this, however, it has been ignored.

It is imperative that the GWMP reflects accurate cultural references to Wurundjeri and we see no evidence that they have been consulted.

Additionally, there is a principle about social equity which is poorly described and divisive to rate. We ask you how this would be applied to management of the Green Wedge?

Most Council's have key strategic positions around social justice and reconciliation endorsed as separate policies or strategies. They then reference them within key strategic documents such as the GWMP.

2. Inclusion of irrelevant information

One of the fundamental issues with the way this plan is written – it is masquerading as a Community Vision or Community Plan rather than the GWMP. It covers topics such as positive ageing, exploring a regional art gallery, advocating for improved mobile and broadband Connectivity, as well as objectives that are statutory requirements (heritage and environmental). The result is a Plan with broad motherhood statements that waters down the whole intent of the GWMP. And the suggestion that all Council advisory committees become responsible for delivery of the 'five key moves' is ludicrous and testament to the fact that the Plan has gone so far off track.

3. A prosperous economy

We are opposed to inclusion of this goal. It is clear from reading the plan that Council is prioritising agricultural practices, jobs and wealth over the protection of the Green Wedge. We believe that the information provided in relation to this goal is subjective rather than factual. It appears that the wishes of the agricultural, tourism and equine industries have been prioritised to the detriment of the green wedge.

4. Biodiversity and Climate Change

The GWMP fails to protect biodiversity of the Green Wedge or address Climate Change. Climate change must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, NOT just adaptation. The plan in its current form seems out of touch with other Municipalities who have declared a 'Climate Emergency.'

5. Community views

The GWMP does not accurately reflect the community's views and desires [as expressed via the community consultation process and via the Panel process]. For such a strong voice to be ignored to such a degree erodes the community's confidence in Council and other authorities, and demonstrates a lack of good governance.

6. Urban Growth Boundary

The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.

7. Protection of the Green Wedge

Green Wedges are vital. They cool our city and are known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. The Draft Plan does not reflect this fact.

Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation if this is to be turned around. The Draft does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.

8. Council's Draft GWMP is unacceptable as written.

The Draft is confusing and difficult to read and does not give enough clarity about what its intentions are, key actions, and how Council will ensure these occur in a timely manner. We oppose the GWMP in its current format.

From: [Suzy Jaeger](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:28:08 PM

I SUBMIT THAT THE GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN MUST INCLUDE:

1. NILLUMBIK COUNCIL ADVOCACY FOR NO RE-DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC FROM THE NORTH ONTO YAN YEAN RD.
2. NILLUMBIK COUNCIL ADVOCACY FOR COMPLIANCE WITH NILLUMBIK LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK CLAUSE 21.05.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Jaeger Hughes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Gary & Marinka Deering](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:25:05 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am totally against any changes to the Green Wedge. The Green Wedge is vital to protect the wildlife and act as the lungs for Melbourne. We are so fortunate to still have these areas of natural beauty, and areas to protect our natural flora and fauna.

We have an obligation to our children and the following generations to protect our precious environment. Once this is gone it will never come back.

Please protect our Green Wedge.

Regards Marinka Deering (Hurstbridge resident)

Sent from my iPad

From: [Hedley Widdup](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:13:12 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am thoroughly dissatisfied with the Nillumbik Council's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019

At the highest level, the draft plan appears to be aimed at promoting greater development within the green wedge at the likely cost of a loss of the qualities that render the area the "green wedge". This is unacceptable that the council would propose this unilaterally.

My opposition to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan includes the following points:

1. The Green Wedge is not just a concept that revolves around people – the Plan must reflect this. Innumerable international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities are to protect biodiversity, promote sustainability and address climate change.
2. The Draft does not reflect the community's views and desires at all. The community has expressed its views via the community consultation process and via the Panel process. It is totally unacceptable that community views would be ignored after them being sought. Not only does this erodes the community's confidence in Council and other authorities, it demonstrates a lack of good governance. Furthermore, to deliberately act in the opposite direction to the results of consultation shows a complete disregard for the electorate. This is an item of utmost importance to the Nillumbik Community, so for council to act without a mandate is tantamount to a deliberate act of negligence and vandalism.
3. The Draft is confusing and difficult to read and does not give enough clarity about what its intentions are, key actions, and how Council will ensure these occur in a timely manner.
4. The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.
5. Conservation of the existing environmental quality of the area, which is the defining characteristic of the Green Wedge must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for conservation of these qualities, not just adaptation.
6. Green Wedges are vital. They cool our city and are known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. The Draft does not reflect this fact.
7. Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation if this is to be turned around. The Draft does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.
8. Council's Draft GWMP is unacceptable as written, and council does not have community acceptance therefore it cannot be implemented, it is in need of a complete re-write noting the concerns of the people who live within the shire and not just the whims and wishes of the council members

Regards

Hedley Widdup

Home owner and resident, [REDACTED]

From: [Sue Ormerod](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: GWMP Submission from Sue Ormerod
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:12:46 PM

I am very disappointed in the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

1. In the section titled "Vision" (page 4) the GWMP draft uses the vision statement from the 35 community panel-members as its headline :“ Management of the Nillumbik green wedge will lead the way in supporting a vibrant, resilient, connected and diverse community, living with [in] the landscape to enhance the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Shire”. This focused on ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY as the priority, but the draft then goes on to list “uses” of the land in which agriculture and not conservation is top of the list, followed by recreation, then nature conservation, tourism and rural living. Clearly this interpretation is not in line with the community panel members’ input, and is a disappointing divergence. Agriculture may be seen as a “green” use of land, but chemical run-offs into streams, soil erosion from hoofed animals, seed drift, weed infestation, and the need for water all require very careful monitoring, especially in areas where biodiversity is fragile, like the Green Wedge. Tourism is also listed as a land use, and small groups who cycle, go bushwalking, or orienteering in the Green Wedge can and do really appreciate and respect the country without destroying the environment, however large events would overload the road system, noise and light would disturb fauna, and there would be an additional fire risk to both visitors and residents on the roads in the fire season.
2. Nillumbik’s Green Wedge is the most healthily biodiverse of all those round Melbourne, and yet there is significant loss of vegetation according to the “State of the Environment” Report. Our Green Wedges are the lungs of the city and we have a duty of care to protect and enhance our native vegetation. We are all custodians of the land for the coming generations, so why does the draft speak of development and housing on such a precious and fast diminishing heirloom?
3. Planning and Development: Council plans to support landowners and managers from the Green Wedge with ongoing discussion and information. I would suggest that an important function of this initiative should be to inform prospective land purchasers what the implications are of owning

land in the Wedge and how it is regulated. That would prevent the unwary from believing that they will be able to subdivide, develop, farm, or develop a tourist facility as of right.

4. The challenges of climate change, specifically its impact on the Green Wedge and how this may be mitigated were not addressed. This would be an opportunity to show what Nillumbik can do.
5. The GWMP draft has obviously been a costly project. As I mentioned above, I am disappointed.

Regards,

Sue Ormerod

Please reply "Received"

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: from Margaret Jennings re Nillumbik 2019 draft Green Wedge management plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:10:17 PM

Sunday August 11th 2019

Re submission on above.

From Margaret Jennings, [REDACTED]

Dear Council,

I have recently read the draft and am extremely disappointed to see that the whole point of the original GW as outlined by Rupert Hamer appears to be lost here. I cannot agree to any zoning changes that weaken the aim of this sole remaining intact green wedge.

According to a meeting with visiting delegates of the OECD that I was attending almost 20 years ago in capacity as Mayor, our shire and our shire only was singled out and praised for its vision for the future, not just for environmental values but also for retaining a catchment for water storage and agriculture so close to Melbourne. Being able to grow food close to a city was seen as big picture 20 years ago because of the importance of food security – that future is almost on us. There is some excellent agricultural land in Nillumbik and it must neither be subdivided for smaller hobby farms nor “lifestyle blocks”.

Our children and greater Melbourne would never thank us otherwise.

Thank you for inviting submissions and I would be pleased if you considered mine.

Regards,

Margaret Jennings

Marjen Education Services

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Cara Murphy](#)
To: [gwmp](#); [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:03:41 PM

No to any further development in Hurstbridge and protect the zoning in Hurstbridge and protect the green wedge.

From: [Peter Roberts](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 8:45:28 PM

Hello,

I wish to object to any zoning changes or the changes to the status of our bushland.

Regards,

Peter Roberts



From: [Lou Empson](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Nillumbik's Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 8:28:40 PM

Please find below my submission against Nillumbik's GWMP.

I would appreciate acknowledgment that it has been received.

1. The Green Wedge is NOT just about people and any Plan must reflect this. Innumerable international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities are to protect our biodiversity and address climate change.
2. The Draft does not reflect the community's views and desires [as expressed via the community consultation process and via the Panel process]. For such a strong voice to be ignored to such a degree erodes the community's confidence in Council and other authorities, and demonstrates a lack of good governance.
3. The Draft is confusing and difficult to read and does not give enough clarity about what its intentions are, key actions, and how Council will ensure these occur in a timely manner.
4. The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.
5. Climate change must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, NOT just adaptation.
6. Green Wedges are vital. They cool our city and are known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. The Draft does not reflect this fact.
7. Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation if this is to be turned around. The Draft does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.
8. Council's Draft GWMP is unacceptable as proposed.

Lucy Empson


From: [Joe Marra](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 8:25:22 PM

1. The Green Wedge is NOT just about people and any Plan must reflect this. Innumerable international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities are to protect our biodiversity and address climate change.
2. The Draft does not reflect the community's views and desires [as expressed via the community consultation process and via the Panel process]. For such a strong voice to be ignored to such a degree erodes the community's confidence in Council and other authorities, and demonstrates a lack of good governance.
3. The Draft is confusing and difficult to read and does not give enough clarity about what its intentions are, key actions, and how Council will ensure these occur in a timely manner.
4. The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.
5. Climate change must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, NOT just adaptation.
6. Green Wedges are vital. They cool our city and are known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. The Draft does not reflect this fact.
7. Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation if this is to be turned around. The Draft does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.
8. Council's Draft GWMP is unacceptable as written.

Attilio Marra



Please send confirmation of receipt of this submission.

From: [Louis Moore](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Louis Moore - draft GWMP submission
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 8:01:50 PM

To the Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission highlights issues with the current draft of the Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support it in its entirety.

After much deliberation, myself and my family actively chose to relocate to the Nillumbik shire


because of its well preserved landscape, and community vision. I think it should clearly stated that Nillumbik's Green Wedge is the most environmentally intact of Melbourne's Green Wedges and is a significant part of the wider Green Wedge system. I would also like to see it acknowledged that because of the uniqueness of the area, the Shire has particular needs that are different to those in an area not established as a Green Wedge. The new plan should be an opportunity to celebrate and emphasis our unique environmental features and provide a strong, bold statement to the rest of the country.

I do not support the draft GWMP as it fails to clearly articulate an implementation plan based on clearly stated Objectives and Actions and the Council Department responsible for implementation as stated in Practice Note 31. There is lots of broad general statements, and lack of specifics.

The current GWMP has much greater detail than this new draft, and should be used as a basis for improvement. The document needs to describe in much greater detail the ACTIONS to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, ensuring the protection of ALL native vegetation and fauna across the Shire. Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term. The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge and there has still been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.

Regards

Louis Moore and the Moore family. Residents for 2 years.



From: [Mamia Shukuroglou](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 7:57:12 PM
Attachments: [Draft GWMP submission_MS.pdf](#)

Dear working group for the Green Wedge Management Plan,
Attached please find my submission.
Please send me an email confirming successful receipt and download of the document.
Thank you for your attention and the work that will go into carefully reading every submission.
Sincerely,
Mamia Shukuroglou

[Mamia Shukuroglou](#)



SUBMISSION TO NILLUMBİK COUNCIL'S DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2019

The CSIRO reports that, *'Urban biodiversity matters... Australia has spent too little effort on the urban environment, thus we lack information on which to base urban biodiversity strategies. However, we know that the status and trends of biodiversity in cities and their surrounding regions can be improved by visionary urban design and by providing urban communities in Australia with biodiversity information and tools to monitor urban biodiversity.'* Given the passion and commitment of people who live in Nillumbik, a place of diverse ecosystems in various levels of health, many of which need our urgent care, we could be leaders in this field.

I would feel proud to see a Council document advocating for the care of our earth as a foremost priority. After all, it IS the only one we have, and it IS our greatest responsibility.

When Nillumbik Council announced the re-drafting of the GWMP, I was hopeful about what we - as an innovative and wealthy community - could achieve. Given the significant environmental degradation that continues to occur, I knew the current GWMP needed to be strengthened. The proposed review was an opportunity to build necessary changes into an updated document.

We can readily see the complexity of our earth if we give it our close attention.

We can understand how we are part of it, and how our actions have lasting effects. The connection of all life-forms is evident, and **when harm comes to one element, it inherently means harm to another.**

Communities around the world are working together to ensure ecosystems are at their very healthiest when the next generations enter them. Nillumbik can and must be a world leader, a champion for the recovery of the environment from the damage caused over a short 200-year occupation. The knowledge of Australia's Indigenous people can give excellent guidance and Council would do well to pay greater attention. After more than 80,000 years, the traditional custodians ensured the land was thriving and rich in biodiversity. Obviously this does not mean unaffected by humans – that is an impossibility. It means **thinking and living in ways that honour a different kind of balance than the one presented in the Draft Plan.**

It would require us to move away from an anthropocentric view.

My hopes for the new GWMP started evaporating as aspects of the process appeared to involve questionable processes with specific intentions that were not in keeping with the majority voice of community. Issues of good governance became increasingly apparent. As a result, this Draft is perceived as a rather dubious product - as exemplified by some of the contradictions contained within it – and it is unfortunate that a large proportion of the community feels they can have little faith in such an important process and resulting document.

While some of the ideas presented are sound and possibly aspiring for a sustainable future where our natural environment is protected, the document lacks consistent clarity of purpose, actions are far too intangible, and on the whole, it has been written in ways that leave the reader feeling perplexed about what this Council really stands for and whether it can be entrusted with our precious Green Wedge.

As was evident in the Council's initial consultation process nearly one year ago, our community loudly and proudly speaks of love and care and connection to the area – that does not generally include the factories or footpaths, the real estate offices or banks, the carparks or shops. People overwhelmingly speak of the trees, the bush, the native animals, the birds, and the incredible health it brings to their mind. They speak of the community and its commitment to protecting the things they love. They have solid and fair grounds for immense motivation, and as such, must be treated in the same way. The fact that the Draft plan does not really reflect these convictions – which were also clearly expressed by the Community Panel – raises significant questions about how the Draft was written, what the motivations are, and how some of the most significant concerns were not addressed.

This does not follow notions of good governance that ought to be at the heart of any Council activity.

A re-worked GWMP is necessary, addressing all aspects with clarity and commitment.

Mamia Shukuroglou, Eltham, 2019

From: [Rosie Murphy](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Re zoning of the Green Wedge
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 7:46:21 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a resident of the Hurstbridge for the last 23 years.

I do not support the re zoning of any bushland in the Green Wedge. We have a beautiful area and we hope that it will remain that way. My family have been in the area for over 40 years and we love our green bushlands,

Kindest regards,

Rosie Murphy

From: [Helen](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 7:36:25 PM

> Dear Nillumbik Council,

>

> Having lived in Nillumbik for the past 20 years I am appalled at the direction council wishes to follow in the proposed draft GWMP.

>

> May I suggest council redirect their energy in researching what the terminology Green Wedge actually stands for, why it was implemented in the first place, and appreciate how lucky one is to live in this environment.

>

> I am totally against any Zoning/planning changes to the remaining bush land, that have been recommended in this draft plan.

>

> Regards

> Helen Bendix

>

> [REDACTED]

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green wedge management plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 7:05:07 PM

Dear Council

I hereby object to ANY zoning changes and to the status of our remaining bush land.

Regards
Liz Eadie

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [Axel Bendix](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 6:48:43 PM

Dear Nillumbik Council,

I wish to raise my objection to the proposed zoning changes outlined in the draft GWMP.

The reason many of us live in Nillumbik and suffer some of the highest rates in Victoria is because of the zoning regulations and associated planning controls. Changes to these will impact existing residents and deliver us no additional benefits apart from clogging our roads further and diluting the already limited services.

Regards
Axel Bendix



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Pat Corr](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Cc: [Pat Corr](#)
Subject: GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUBMISSION.
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 6:46:23 PM

GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT 2019 – SUBMISSION

I wish to make the following submission on the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan:-
I support the method by which the Community Panel was selected and very much appreciate the time and effort which the members put in to their task. I support the Community Panel majority report but am surprised at the weight that Council appears to have given to the minority report of five members of the panel. Acceptance of this minority report would appear to be contrary to what was advised would be the process for the consultation.

I believe that the panel's over-riding recommendation:-

“The existing plan. It should serve as a base from which to prepare an updated plan, and any actions that are yet to be completed should be carried over, unless specifically contradicted by our recommendations” was a very good and sound one. This recommendation appears to have only been given scant regard in the final draft. The column in the A3 “Key inputs to the draft GWMP” headed “How these inputs are responded to the draft GWMP June 2019” is not particularly convincing. It would have been better to have shown where the changes were regarded as obligatory or necessary and to point out the changes/modifications.

The current/existing Green Wedge Management Plan is an easy to read and clear document. It sets out ten guiding principles which are easy to follow. It also sets out Objectives and Strategies which are brief but to the point. The draft Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) is not easy to follow and (I think) nowhere does it show where it might be building upon the current GWMP – which was a key and clear recommendation of the Panel.

It is most disappointing that there is no Bibliography in the draft GWMP. I know that Council arranged presenters to present information to the panel members but the reader of the draft cannot know who they were. And there must have been many printed references perused by those involved with the preparation of the draft but, again, we are none the wiser and thus cannot avail ourselves of the relevant information.

To address a specific issue. In the draft GWMP page 40 there is reference to already cleared land in the RCZ not being able to be used for agriculture without a planning permit. I cannot see that this is the case – is it being used illegally or do continuing use provisions apply? On page 41, Key action A5.6 – it would seem to be overkill to go over the whole of the RCZ zone reviewing individual land uses and then, presumably, think about spot rezoning individual parcels of land to some other zone.

I continue to be concerned at the lack of consideration which appears to have been given to the panel's over-riding recommendation, the content of the draft document and, as such, am of the view that the draft GWMP is unacceptable in its current form.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Would you please confirm receipt.

Pat Corr

[REDACTED]

11 August 2019

From: [Ken Cunningham](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: GWMP SUBMISSION - Ken Cunningham
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 6:25:42 PM

I wish to strongly oppose the Green Wedge Management Plan draft currently under consideration. I believe that it will seriously threaten the values present in the 2010-2025 Plan which also more precisely defines the purpose of the Green Wedge and maintains the best qualities of the Shire into the future.

I moved to Eltham more than 45 years ago to enjoy the benefits of a community which places the highest value on maintaining the environment and protecting it from unnecessary development. The current draft does not appear to reflect this view.

I understand that my concerns are in line with those expressed by the Community Panel and I am disappointed that the Draft does not truly reflect this position.

Ken Cunningham

I would appreciate a receipt email.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Pat Krebs](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the draft GWMP, 11th August 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 6:20:21 PM

I do not support the draft Plan for the following reasons:

- The Plan doesn't have a strategy to improve biodiversity and native vegetation in the Green Wedge as Plan Melbourne and Practice Note 31 requires.
- The plan ignores the 'extinction crisis' which has been widely reported in the news and by scientists.
- The existing GWMP is a better document and should have been retained. The draft should not encourage the idea that the Green Wedge is appropriate for expanded rural residential development.
- Why is there no climate change mitigation strategy in the draft plan?
- Council surveys have shown the community wants to see the natural environment of the Green Wedge protected. The draft GWMP doesn't make this a priority.
- There should be no attempt to rezone parts of our Green Wedge. Ever since Nillumbik was established most of our rural land has been protected by its Rural Conservation Zoning which prioritises conservation. This should remain the case.

Name: Pat Krebs

Postal Address: [REDACTED]

Gi Va]gg]cb' (, '
>Ua Yg'5[cgh]bY~]

From: [James Agostinelli](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission To The Daft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 6:19:19 PM

I object to any zoning changes in the remainder of our bushland

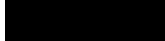
From: [mickburrough](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to draft green wedge management plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 6:11:16 PM

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to object to any changes to the current zoning and any changes that will affect the remaining bushland that Hurstbridge has. The bushland is what makes Hurstbridge what it is and any development that would compromise it should not be allowed.

Regards

Mick Burrough



Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [Trisha Weller](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 5:50:15 PM

I object to any zoning changes and the status of our remaining bushland.

Trisha Weller



From: [Colleen](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 4:57:26 PM

I object to ANY zoning changes and the status of our remaining bushland. and absolutely no more overlays. There should definitely be the right of homeowners to rebuild dwellings and infrastructure following a disaster WITHOUT Council taking control and requiring unnecessary permits etc. My primary concern is that the final document should NOT, in any way, give rise to any resurrection of planning schemes C81 and C101 or any similar schemes.

Private property land owners should be consulted on issues regarding THEIR areas and not left to those who do not live on property.

Colleen Ray

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ken Cunningham](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: GWMP SUBMISSION - Nada Cunningham
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 4:36:42 PM

I wish to express my dissatisfaction with the Green Wedge Management Plan draft especially in comparison with the current 2010 - 2025 Plan which has greener credentials and more details about objectives and actions to manage the Green Wedge.

Community consultation and the panel report showed that Nillumbik residents overwhelmingly want the Green Wedge protected. This a key point and should be the basis of the GWMP. IT IS NOT. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose by making the preservation and enhancement of our beautiful environment the top priority in the GWMP. Keeping environmental values uppermost is also the surest way to achieve a healthy, prosperous Nillumbik.

With this in mind, It is important that residential and commercial development not spread outside the Urban Growth Boundary and that permits should be required to begin farming in the Rural Conservation Zone - even on previously cleared land. And any future tourism development must be in conjunction with agricultural use.

Little mention is made of how the shire's biodiversity will be protected, an important point given that one-third of Victoria's plant and animal species live in the catchment area, and given the increasing awareness of the interdependence of species and the effect of the loss of species on our flora, fauna - and ultimately, us.

Detailed objectives and actions backed by current scientific research on climate mitigation, biodiversity, bushfire reduction strategies and waste management are needed to ensure the Shire is serious about the preservation and maintenance of the Green Wedge.

Nillumbik has a chance to be a leader in this field, to show what really can be done to maintain a truly Green Wedge and thus, perhaps, become Australia's most liveable shire in all senses of the word.

Nada Cunningham

I would appreciate a receipt email.

From: [mikepelling](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Drafy Green Wedge management plan comments
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 4:07:17 PM
Attachments: [COMMENTS ON NILLUMBIK DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019.docx](#)

Attn: Manager
Please find attached my comments
Regards, M.Pelling

COMMENTS ON NILLUMBIK DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019

1. The concept and incorporation of Green wedges is a planned concept many years old, as such it does not need to be questioned on the basis of current short term parochial interest which only considers local opinion. It was created with the whole of Melbourne and the future of its growth in mind and supported by numerous local and state governments over the years. The idea of lungs for the city was often used as a description and not only dealing with the advantage to a sprawling city but with the obvious decline in wildlife corridor access through Melbourne and beyond for flora.
2. No leadership seems to exist, as reflected in the use of consultants, and the involvement of respondents with no association or knowledge of such a concept. Although the Council is allowed to review such a plan it would seem the issue is too large for them to handle, as it does involve all of Melbourne, and commonality is surely required. The issue is the long term and what is left for the future generations, not using up land for more houses for the benefit of a few.
3. The draft seems to encourage uneconomic hobby farm development. When this is proved to be true, animals involved are let go, to the detriment of the whole environment. The current deer crisis is a good example, but what about feral alpacas, dogs and cats.
4. The Council makes a point of calling itself the Green Wedge Shire in spite of being so suburban, it is very hard to reconcile this with thought bubbles like amalgamating with suburban councils. The heritage the newer council is happy to use, politically, is based on Environmentalism and an artistic community.

I apologise for the brevity of this submission and hope, as a very long time resident, that the Council and the Councillor incumbents can make a real contribution to the future for everyone.

Mike Pelling

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11/8/2019

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Draft Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 4:06:29 PM

Objection:- We object to any Zone Changes and status of our remaining Bushland....The proposal has too many un clarified statements ie "Stocktake".... Wayne & June Van Tenac of Cottles Bridge, postal address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Julie Martindale](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 4:00:58 PM
Attachments: [Submission on Nillumbik Draft GWMP 2019 - Julie Martindale.pdf](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find attached my submission. Please acknowledge that you have received it (either by return email or letter). Thankyou.

Regards

Julie Martindale

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019

I would like to submit the following on Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019:

My name is Julie Martindale and I live in the Bend of Islands. I am a member of the Christmas Hills Fire Brigade and a member of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA). I chose to live here because of the area's outstanding natural beauty and am perfectly happy living within the restrictions of the unique Special Use Zone governing the Bend of Islands.

I fully agree with and support all the detailed comments of the submission made by BICA. Further to those points raised by BICA I would like to add:

- The current Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) which was planned to run till states that:

*"The Shire of Nillumbik was formed in 1994 with the **conservation of the green wedge as its strategic focus**. The Nillumbik Green Wedge is distinguished from others by the quality of its environment and natural bushland. Above all it is the environmental qualities – the topography, the dense bushland and isolated spaces, the rivers and streams – and the diverse townships that create a sense of place and continue to draw people to settle in Nillumbik."*

Planning Zones within the current GWMP aim to conserve the environment, yet the draft seems to be trying to undermine the existing Rural Conservation Zone. Positive environmental strategies in the current GWMP have been omitted in the draft and there is a lack of emphasis on protection and enhancement of environmental and biodiversity assets in the face of a critical decline in biodiversity in Australia.

- Currently seventy-nine per cent of Nillumbik Green Wedge land is in private ownership and around 43 per cent of that land has environmental significance (Nillumbik GWMP Part 1.)

Unless we place the conservation, protection and enhancement of the natural environment, on both public as well as private land, at the forefront of all planning and management decisions we run the risk of destroying the very place that currently nurtures us. Given the global scale of environmental degradation, (habitat destruction, pollution of rivers and oceans, decreases in biodiversity, climate change, and the human desire to trample on just about everything) it is imperative that we act at a local level to stop degradation that occurs by a thousand small cuts, quite often by way of small changes to existing planning schemes or land classifications that allow land to be used in ways previously deemed inappropriate.

One example of a "small cut" comes from Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report 2014 which clearly indicated that *"Land clearing continues to occur at a faster rate than revegetation. Although biodiversity projects and programs are protecting and improving components of the natural environment, the pressure of incremental loss of vegetation is significant."* Sadly an RMIT report (Urban Vegetation Cover Change in Melbourne 2014-2018) noted a further decline of vegetation cover in the area studied in Nillumbik (predominantly along the urban growth boundary) between 2014-2018.

- The Urban Growth Boundary must not be moved in spite of pressure on Nillumbik's western and southern boundaries. The Green Wedges of Melbourne were put in place for reasons that are perhaps more important than ever.

- Victorian government guidelines to councils for preparing a GWMP (Preparing a GWMP- Planning Practice Note 31) emphasise the need to include a range of regulatory and non-regulatory measures to *“encourage and facilitate land uses and developments that protect and enhance each green wedge”* and *“encourage landowners to adopt sustainable practices. Achievement of sustainable land uses and land management practices are the critical elements in the development of GWMPs.”*

Land use rights and stewardship must come with land use obligations and responsibilities. For example, ensuring that farm animals and horses do not enter waterways or graze in bushland, or become vehicles for the spread of weeds.

Permits for agricultural use must be obtained with consequences for land degradation, water quality decline or loss of net vegetation. Economic activities should be aligned with positive environmental impacts.

Fauna corridors on private land must be expanded and enhanced and efforts made to exclude domestic animals/horses from high value areas such as nature reserves and waterways.

- Council needs to display leadership in the light of the clear message given by the Community Panel, where the majority of panel members demonstrated that they want the environmental values of the area to be given high priority and made recommendations to that effect.

In my view, the draft plan does not contain a sufficiently strong statement, or specific actions to protect and enhance the biodiversity and environmental values of the Green Wedge. It actually weakens the provisions of the existing plan, and ignores most of the recommendations put forward by the community panel. What’s the point of council spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on buzz words like “community consultation” when there is no intention to follow through on the majority view of ordinary Nillumbik residents?

Just talking about “sustainability” and “environmental protection” is meaningless unless there is a real commitment to it. They run the risk of becoming just more buzz words, watered down over time as successive governments or councils come and go. For example, there is no point in Coles making a grand gesture to ban plastic shopping bags, but then producing a series of plastic mini toys which will go straight to landfill.

- Two State Government policies (Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037), outline *“Victoria’s plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.”*

Nillumbik council clearly has role to play in responsible leadership and education. The GWMP should include action to undertake a massive public education campaign about biodiversity, ecosystem services, natural landscapes, the Green Wedge, climate change and their interdependences. I should like in future to see a council motto such as ‘Green Wedge, Green Heart.’

Yours Sincerely,
Julie Martindale



[REDACTED]

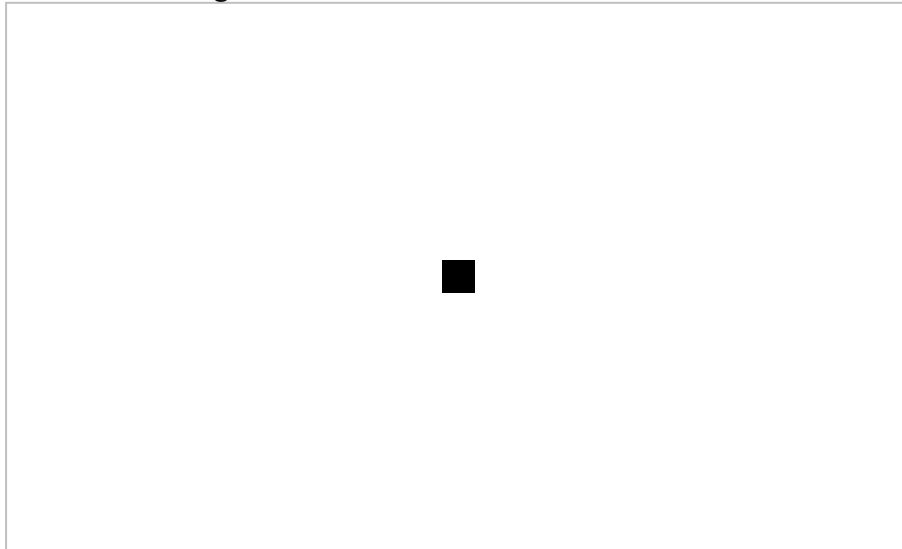
From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: GWMP Submission
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 3:47:27 PM
Attachments: [image003.jpg](#)

NILLUMBIK DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUBMISSION

I do not support the draft GWMP

The draft plan should do far more to acknowledge the importance of all indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it across the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what ecosystems provide; developing a 'systems view; address the climate change and extinction crisis, and the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the plan, without compromise and trade offs.

The draft plan does not provide enough certainty for the long term protection of the natural environment within the Nillumbik green wedge. The result of the extensive community survey made it dear that the majority of the community valued and enjoyed the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it maintained and protected. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the Community's position. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this and I therefore do not support the draft. The plan should reaffirm the Shire's conservation role with the Green Wedge as its Strategic Focus. The draft lacks detail and omits significant objectives, relevant actions, and accountability measures that would ensure the long-term health and purpose of the Green Wedge.



Name/Signature Eric Johnson

Address/Suburb [REDACTED]

E-mail [REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [John Fecondo](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission re: Nillumbik Shire Council's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 3:45:32 PM

Dear Council

I write to express my concerns about the draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019 (GWMP) that is currently being considered by the Council.

I am particularly concerned that the draft GWMP does not reflect the clear majority of our local community's opinions that were expressed during both the community consultation and the Panel review processes. Ignorance of these views in the final report will undermine our community's confidence in the Council and raises questions about the ability of Council to demonstrate principles of good governance. I am also concerned that the draft is confusing with vague statements, is difficult to read and does not give enough clarity about what its intentions are, key actions and how Council will ensure these will occur in a timely manner.

More specific concerns:

1. The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a defined boundary. Buffer zones must not be created and there must be no changes to zoning that would have any negative impacts on the environment. Most importantly, existing Rural Conservation Zoned land MUST be protected and maintained as is or at all costs or increased wherever possible.
2. The Plan needs address the most important challenges to our natural environment including protection of biodiversity and critically, the impact of climate change. In this respect, the Plan must present real actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, not simply adaptation.
3. Council's "State of the Environment Report" clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation if this decline in vegetation is to be reversed. The draft GWMP does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.
4. Green Wedges are vital. They cool our city and are known as the "lungs of Melbourne". It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik SC's Green Wedge not only for our local area but also for Greater Melbourne which simply means keeping it as is and maintaining the existing biodiversity. Nillumbik SC was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. The Draft does not reflect this fact.

In conclusion, the draft GWMP is unacceptable as written in its current form.

Yours sincerely

John Fecondo

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Christian Kuhlmann](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 2:17:38 PM
Attachments: [Submission-on-GWMP-2019_Kuhlmann.C.docx](#)

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

Kind regards,

Christian Kuhlmann


Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019

Name: **Christian Kuhlmann**



Emailed on 11 August 2019 to: gwmp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

1. Nillumbik Council's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan is unacceptable as written.

2. The preparation of the GWMP Draft has failed to follow State Government policy, as specifically required and described in Planning Practice Note 31. There has been no Project Steering Group chaired by Council with key stakeholder representatives. There is no adequate Implementation Plan (indeed, the current GWMP has far more detail and should provide the basis for improvement).

3. The Green Wedge is NOT just about people and any GWMP Plan must reflect this. This Draft fails to adequately do so. Innumerable international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities are to protect our biodiversity and address climate change.

4. The GWMP Draft fails to reflect the fundamental fact that Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. Both Council and the entire Nillumbik community have a responsibility to ensure the long-term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge – which is the most intact and biodiverse. Protecting Green Wedges is vital. They cool our city and are known as the lungs of Melbourne. Nillumbik's Green Wedge is an essential reason why people choose to live and visit here, and it benefits people elsewhere as well.

5. The GWMP Draft does not reflect the community's views and desires. Both the community consultation process and the Panel process are not adequately represented in the Draft. The GWMP Draft demonstrates a lack of good governance, since the degree to which such strong community feedback has been ignored can only erode the community's confidence in Council and other authorities.

6. The GWMP Draft is confusing and lacks clarity about what its intentions are, key actions, and how Council will ensure these occur in a timely manner. There is a worrying lack of detail about how the Shire's critical and declining biodiversity will be protected and revitalised.

7. The GWMP Draft fails to adequately demonstrate Nillumbik's respect of Indigenous (Wurundjeri) people, their culture and knowledge.

8. The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.

9. Climate change must be a key reference point and any GWMP must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, NOT just adaptation.

10. The GWMP Draft fails to demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection. Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new GWMP must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation throughout all of Nillumbik, including both private and public land.

11. The GWMP Draft is most disappointing considering that Nillumbik is supposed to be (and is well known for being) the 'Green Wedge' Shire. Indeed, Council should be providing real leadership and setting an example to others on how to appropriately manage a Green Wedge environment. The GWMP Draft fails to do so, and instead endangers both our environment and Nillumbik's reputation.

12. Unless the GWMP Draft is revised and rewritten, its implementation would produce many additional negative consequences. These would include impacts on business and tourism, as well as lowering mental health and wellbeing amongst the community, and damaging not just the environmental fabric of our Shire but also its social and cultural aspects as well.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Nillumbik GREENS SUBMISSION to GWMP Review
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 1:55:59 PM
Attachments: [Nillumbik Greens sub - GWMP \[2\].docx](#)

Please find attached a submission to the GWMP Review from Nillumbik Greens.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Thank you for all the extra work I guess you are doing; this must be a very heavy load at this time.

Many thanks

Betty Russell [REDACTED]

On behalf of Nillumbik Greens

NILLUMBIK GREENS' SUBMISSION
to the DRAFT NILLUMBIK GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN August 2019

Submitted to: gwmp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Submitted by: Nillumbik Greens

Contact details: Betty Russell, [REDACTED]

Date: 10 August 2019

I wish to speak to this submission



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NILLUMBIK GREENS' SUBMISSION
to the DRAFT NILLUMBIK GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN August 2019

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft *GWMP*.

Nillumbik Greens commends Council's commitment in the *Draft Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP)* to "protect and enhance" our *Green Wedge* environment. However, it can possibly result in this outcome, On the contrary, it appears that the implementation will result in the further erosion of our *Nillumbik Green Wedge*,

We also commend the Draft Plan outline of issues and understand that balancing the need to protect and enhance our *GW* environment is a challenge for Council against the often competing demands of living in the *GW*. Furthermore, it is understood that implementation of, and attitudes to, the land use planning system are the pivotal issues which underpin all the competing demands in Nillumbik and that these reflect differing values around attitudes to nature, land ownership and the balance of community versus individual rights.

'**Protection**' of the biodiversity of our environment is mandated in state legislation designed to ensure "**no net loss** to biodiversity", to be achieved by 'biodiversity off-sets' for native vegetation "removed, destroyed or lopped." [Nillumbik Planning Scheme 52.17].

'**Enhancement**' of environmental biodiversity is described as '**net gain**': "Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a **net gain** in the quantity and quality of native vegetation" [*Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas* ' Draft Plan p.44].

It is difficult to see how either protection (no net loss) or enhancement (net gain) of our *Green Wedge* biodiversity could result from the balance of actions in this Draft Plan,

A related issue is that the Draft Plan does not function as a Plan because it is not a whole Plan. Consequently, as it stands, it is ineffective.

It is therefore of immense concern that the missing parts, and the completed Plan as a whole ,MUST be subject to public scrutiny and feedback.

This submission focuses on major inadequacies in the processes and content of the Plan itself and on the imbalance between environmental protection and enhancement on the one hand, and on the other hand, the environmental implications of the foreshadowed reviews of township boundaries, planning zones and overlays and of anti-social behaviour in the *GW* areas bordering the townships, giving rise to the possible introduction of "buffer zones",.

1. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS IN THE DRAFT PLAN

1.1 Planning Practice Note 31: Vic State Government, *Dept Environment, Land, Water & Planning* (DELWP)

1.1.1 Monitoring & Evaluation

The section of the Draft Plan on 'Monitoring & Evaluation' is more about how the Plan will be used, than about Monitoring & Evaluation.

This section of the Plan refers to "performance statements", but there are no performance measures given on which to assess performance and make such statements. Monitoring and Evaluation requires detailing of the tools to do it with – the performance criteria. The Key Actions could be turned into performance measures if they were set out with priority levels, time-lines, resource requirements, roles and responsibilities, but there is nothing like this.

This omission is indirectly acknowledged in the doc '*How Nillumbik GWMP – Draft for Consultation June 2019 aligns with Practice Note 31*', with the response: "It is believed that the general requirements of the practice note have been **or will be** met !!!

The omission is also reflected on the *Participate Nillumbik* website, *Feedback – Draft Green Wedge Management Plan*, where it lists the contents of the GWMP from Vision through to Actions, but **Nothing more!**

Therefore, the following **requirements** for a GWMP, as detailed in PPN31 are not adequately addressed

- 'Establish a clear monitoring and review process to ensure the plan remains relevant and its performance can be measured. This should involve determining appropriate indicators and a plan to review the plan in five years '
- 'Have a monitoring process for actions built into the management process'
- 'Identify resource requirements, roles and responsibilities, time lines, outcomes and evaluation'
- 'Identify responsibilities, priorities and time lines and required resources'
- 'Explore key indicators that will be able to measure whether the objectives are being achieved

NILLUMBIK GREENS' SUBMISSION
to the DRAFT NILLUMBIK GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN August 2019

- 'Identify appropriate mechanisms to oversee, monitor and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the GWMP

1.1.2 GWMP: a Review or a Replacement?

it is demonstrated that the current GWMP 2010 – 25 has NOT been used as a basis of review and improvement, as that document contains a well-developed, detailed Implementation Plan and definitions of terms & acronyms,

The Draft Plan **does** state that it “builds on and replaces the first plan adopted by Council in 2010” [p.7], yet there is no evidence that it “builds on” and no reference to results of reviewing the plan itself or how that review relates to changes needed. The action around preparing the Draft Plan has involved consultation, but not involved reviewing the current plan.

That the Draft document is a new, replacement GWMP and not a reviewed document is quite explicit on the '*Participate Nillumbik / Green Wedge Management Plan Review*' site, which states: “Help us prepare a **new** Green Wedge Management Plan ...” This is similarly stated in the Introduction to the '*Community Panel Response to Recommendations*': “Nillumbik Shire Council is asking the community to help it prepare a new Green Wedge Management Plan ...” [p.5].

While there is no evidence of the Council having reviewed the current Plan, there is evidence that the Community Panel/ Citizens' Panel did and found it valuable, stating in the Preamble of their Report [p.7]:

The panel acknowledges the significant amount of work and expertise that has gone into preparing the existing plan. We strongly believe that it should serve as a base from which to prepare an updated plan, and any actions that are yet to be completed should be carried over ...

This '*Citizens' Panel*', of 40 people was selected as being a representative cross-section of the Nillumbik Community. They gave 6 days to the task, plus their own independent research time as well. Council's response was somewhat ambivalent, but the practical outcome is that the Panel's strong view has been rejected.

Therefore, the following requirements in PPN31 are not adequately addressed:

- Review the existing policies and programs that apply or influence the green wedge
- Reviewing the adequacy of resources and programs
- Assessing the effectiveness of existing incentive and education programs

NILLUMBIK GREENS' SUBMISSION
to the DRAFT NILLUMBIK GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN August 2019

***Comment:** The Draft Plan contains NO information about past review of the adequacy of resources and programs, or their effectiveness., nor any review criteria, for future review*

- Involvement of stakeholders and landowners: Any previous relevant consultation should be reflected in the final plan
- Promote community participation and ownership of the values and actions for the green wedge

***Comment:** The setting up of the Community Panel did promote community participation, but rejection of many of the recommendations discourages participation as futile and definitely does not promote "ownership".*

1.1.3 Other questions relating to meeting the requirements of PPN31

- management of residential development in green wedges

***Comment:** There are no lateral thinking, creative actions proposed for this. Instead there is a proposal to review the pressures and constraints on the township boundaries, with the implicit aim of achieving the shifting of the township boundaries.*

- Council should establish a project steering group (chaired by the council), with representatives from key stakeholders to oversee the preparation of the plan. The project steering group should provide support guidance and oversight of progress and would have the following roles ... oversee a publicised program of public display of draft plans and formal input to the development of the GWMP

***Comment:** No such project steering group was set up. If there had been, the widespread dissatisfaction with the process would have been pre-empted. Similarly, since the Plan is incomplete, it will need to be completed. If there had been a Project Steering Group, this situation would not have arisen.*

Does the completed GWMP go back to the public for comment, or will the missing parts be exempt from public scrutiny? Is that why they are missing?

- A GWMP should be consistent with relevant state government policies and strategies {Principle 1}

***Comment:** It does not appear to be consistent with PPN31*

In summary it looks as though the Draft GWMP has been developed **without** reference to 'Planning Practice Note 31'.

NILLUMBIK GREENS' SUBMISSION
to the **DRAFT NILLUMBIK GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN** August 2019

1.2 Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas : Vic State Government, DELWP

The first goal for the first section, “Environmental and biodiversity assets” is to:

*“Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a **net gain** in the quantity and quality of native vegetation” P.44.*

There is no plan – or even mention of the concept - of ‘net gain’ in the plan. nor even a plan for ‘no nett loss’.

1.3 Nillumbik Planning Scheme 21.07 Monitoring and Review : Local Planning Provisions (LPP), Vic State Government, DELWP

This clause states:

- “Council will continue to monitor use, development and tree removal through surveillance of up to date aerial photography. In the non-urban areas, changes in land-use will be mapped and analysis will be provided in the Green Wedge Management Plan” [writer’s emphasis].

There is no reference to any monitoring of use, development and tree removal included in the Draft GWMP.

1.4 Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037: Vic State Government, DELWP

Under the Goal “Victoria’s natural environment is healthy”, one of the targets is:

“We achieve a net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway and marine environments.”

There is no plan to ensure a net gain, nor even to ensure “no net loss”.

In summary , the Draft GWMP fails to comply with some of the requirements of:
PPN31
Plan Melbourne 2017 - 2050
Nillumbik Planning Scheme 21.07
Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037

**NILLUMBIK GREENS' SUBMISSION
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This means that in its present state, the Draft Plan would not be eligible to be “endorsed by State Government, referenced into the Planning Scheme or recognised by various State Departments for possible funding programs ...”[GWMP Background Report for Community Panel, p.18].

2. THE NEED for HEIGHTENED PROFESSIONALISM in the DRAFT GWMP

It is argued that the Draft Plan is incomplete and the structure confusing and obscure, so that as a whole there is a need for heightened professionalism.

2.1 It is incomplete

2.1.1 The requisite details of Monitoring & Evaluation are missing from the Draft Plan

Monitoring and evaluation are essential elements of an effective GWMP, not an add-on for later. This is mandated in Planning Practice Note 31 (PPN31), which requires that the GWMP should set out a series of actions and measures that need to be undertaken for the purposes of monitoring and evaluation. It should:

- 'have a monitoring process for actions built into the management process'
- 'identify resource requirements, roles and responsibilities, time-lines, required outcomes and evaluation' process
- 'identify responsibilities, priorities and time-lines and required resources.
- 'explore key indicators that will be able to measure whether the objectives are being achieved
- 'establish a mechanism to measure the progress of implementation.'

The Monitoring and Evaluation sections of the current *GWMP 2010-25* provide an appropriate, clear model which meets the requirements of PPN31, as does the model provided by *Whittlesea GWMP*, Reviewed in 2016

2.1.2 Outcomes of Monitoring & Review of the current GWMP 2010-25 are missing

There are NO details of any Review of the current *GWMP 2010-25* in the Draft Plan informing any changes. Outcomes of monitoring, evaluation of progress and changes which flow from them should be an integrated part of the whole. In addition, PPN31 requires that existing policies and programs relevant to the green wedge be reviewed. Will they deliver the vision and objectives? Do they need to be changed, enhanced and/or better resourced? Summary of such reviews in terms of their relevance to the *GWMP* should be included.

By comparison, *Whittlesea GWMP Review 2016* includes - among other matters - a progress review of short, medium and long-term actions (p.8), Delayed/outstanding actions (p.11), an Updated Action plan (including priority level, responsible department & Council role), Monitoring and Evaluation framework findings (p.11) and Results of Advocacy Actions (p.14), plus a Summary of Review findings (p. 15).

2.1.3 A Glossary of Definitions of Terms and Acronyms is missing

The lack of a *Glossary on the Definitions of Terms* compounds the confusion from the structural lack of clarity (detailed in Section 3). This is particularly important for key terms which are seemingly open to varying interpretation (eg 'protecting' and 'enhancing' the environment, 'biodiversity off-sets') or missing (eg 'performance measures/ criteria'). Or open to confusion (eg the difference between the UGB and township boundaries)

Also of importance is a listing of Acronyms and what they stand for.

It would be a simple matter to update the listing in the current GWMP 2010-25..

2.1.4 A list of References is missing

The References should be listed together at the end of the document.

In summary, this is not a review of the current GWMP, but a replacement document, which gives neither evidence of any review informing this document, nor grounds for replacing it with such an inadequate, unfinished document presented to the public for comment..

2.2 The structure is confusing and the contents obscure

2.2.1 The goals are not the most appropriate for driving a plan to sustainably manage Nillumbik's Green Wedge. These goals are platitudinous motherhood statements, relevant to the whole of Nillumbik, or to any rural or urban area, any shire or any City. It is not that we reject these statements, but rather that their purpose appears to be to connect this plan to the Council Plan. There are better ways to do that, without obstructing the flow of this Draft GWMP. Appendix 1 "A comparison of the goals of this Draft GWMP 2019 with the current GWMP 2010—25" allows the reader to decide; "Which set of goals/aims is more relevant to managing a sustainable Nillumbik Green Wedge?"

This Draft Plan would be easier to understand if it followed the structure advocated in Planning Practice Note 31 , which omits the Goals, using Objectives as a synonym for goals.

The purpose of the goals should be to drive a plan to achieve the vision, a plan of goals which can be implemented, monitored, evaluated for effectiveness and progress, then adjusted as needed. The goals in the Draft Plan are not created for that purpose. They make it more difficult for the reader to follow the plan, because the goals are not directly relevant to managing the Green Wedge. The Objectives for each goal will not fulfil that goal, although they may do so to a small degree. However, together, the Objectives and their Key Actions target the Vision, by-passing the intruding goals.

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In addition, these vague goals make the development of the sections on Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation impossible to do well, because the goals are not directly relevant to the management of the GW or the outcomes needed to ensure that it is managed sustainably.

In summary, the structure would be stronger, simpler and more accessible if :the structure advocated in PPN31 were followed; the motherhood goals deleted; the objectives gathered under relevant themes; and the whole integrated with the Council Plan by using a chart or table to link the GWMP Objectives and Actions to the Council Plan, showing also where the Key Actions could be relevant to implementation of any other Council strategy or plan. This would provide a more useful, interwoven link, without impeding the flow of the GWMP..

2.2.2 The Draft Plan lacks transparency

The vague goals embedded in the structure make following the structure more difficult.

In addition, the plan is full of implications which should be made transparent.

Example 1: Township Boundaries

The Draft Plan sets up a reasonable explanation of the pressures on townships (development restricted by lack of sewerage, need for housing for retirees whose connections are established in the area, running out of available space for new housing, planning laws requiring that incremental growth be restricted to the townships).

This is followed by the constraints on extending the township boundaries and therefore these constraints **MAY** need to be re-examined [Draft Plan p.22]. There is an **implicit** link between the problems and the solution of re-examining the township boundaries with the **implicit** message that they may need to be extended.

The issue is then sidelined for a future housing strategy for the whole of the shire. Yet there are strong **implications** here - not spelt out - for the management of the GW because the **implications** of moving township boundaries out to make bigger townships would mean making the area of Green Wedge smaller. **This should be spelt out.**

To give balance, there should be other solutions explored in the discussion section and other supportive Key Actions added to the one excellent strategy of A1.4 to "Better utilise multi-use community spaces to create community hubs in the townships.". Other Key Actions could include advocating for sewerage for GW townships to be given a higher priority; seeking whole of Nillumbik community input into creative solutions for using existing township land and amenities more effectively.

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It seems that the GWMP Community Panel gained the same impression, given their Recommendation 16: 'Housing development - setting the limits:: "Maintain consistent transparency about policy intent and approach to development outcomes within the Green Wedge"

In summary, there is a strong but subtle bias in the discussion of the township issues leading to an **implicit** assumption that the obvious answer is to review the township boundaries, with the **implicit** message they need to be extended, with the message of the **implicit** impact on the Green Wedge avoided altogether. **Transparent??**

Example 2: Buffer Zone

In a section summarizing feedback from consultation under Goal 1, it is noted that people living in rural areas close to the Urban Growth Boundaries and particularly around Diamond Creek, are experiencing difficulties such as rubbish dumping, trespass, etc. [Draft Plan, p. 23], but this is not a problem in Eltham, where there is a **buffer zone** built into the township area . Again, the implication is that this represents a good way of dealing with the issue.

Under Action 1.7 [p 24] which follows on from this information comes: "Review the impacts of proximity to urban communities on rural land adjoining the urban area and investigate options to maintain the amenity and productivity of those areas". Here, the term 'Buffer Zone' is only **inferred** as an "option" by its proximity to the previous text. What is meant by a "Buffer Zone" is not explained

There is no mention:

- Of other ways of dealing with the issue - eg finding and punishing the people who do these things.
- that a Buffer Zone probably means a Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ), with a minimum lot size of 0.4 ha if unsewered or 0.2 ha if sewerred
- of the impact such a "Buffer Zone " would have on the Green Wedge, meaning subdivision of a substantial area of land .into 0.4 ha blocks and later, when sewerred, into 0.2 ha blocks.
- the high value our community ascribes to the "Environment, biodiversity, plants and animals - the importance of the natural environment for plants and animals as well as humans; this is inconsistent with reducing all of that with a Buffer Zone. . .

In summary, there is a strong, subtle bias in the discussion of the issues facing rural land owners close to the Urban Growth Boundary, leading to an **implicit** assumption that the obvious answer is to review the issue, with the **implicit** message that a Buffer Zone could be the best answer, with the message of the **implicit** impact on the Green Wedge avoided altogether. **Transparent??**

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2.3 Overall summary of this section.

The Community Panel Report (Preamble) recommended that the existing GWMP 2010-25 should serve as the basis of the review. Council's response was to "[reserve] its right to improve clarity and efficiency, remove redundant or duplicated clauses and fill-in any gaps". This rationale or not reviewing the existing document simply does not hold up!

This Draft Plan is incomplete, confusing in structure and lacking in transparency. It is not up to a professional standard and is NOT likely to "lead the way" anywhere. It looks as though the author (s) may have run out of time.

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3. CONCERNS OVER THE PROCESS OF THE CONSULTATION

Many people have questioned/ are questioning the integrity of the GWMP Process.

3.1 Council's decision to include an anonymous set of 9 briefing papers representing the interests of a group of land managers in a 'Community Engagement - Verbatim Responses' pack [p. 369] for Panel members' perusal elicited this response: [Appendix 3 'Community Panel Statement' of the same report]

"We, GWMP Review Panel, acknowledge that submissions were provided as part of the 'Community Engagement Report - Verbatim Responses' pack, despite no request for submissions by Council

We understand some groups may feel disadvantaged and are mindful of this."

3.2 Unofficial involvement of Councillors during the process was concerning.

3.3 The Minority Report by 5 members of the Community Panel seems to have disproportionate weight compared to that attributed to the majority report from the remaining 35 panel members.

3.4 The Draft GWMP appears to have been prepared by someone with little expertise in Green Wedge matters, especially in the environment in a Green Wedge context. Nillumbik Council has long been acknowledged for the depth of its environmental expertise; how could it have come to this?

3.4.1 The lack of professionalism of the seriously incomplete Draft Plan (see Section 2), leads to concerns over

- the presentation of a clearly incomplete document to the public for comment
- the lack of importance placed on prioritizing, monitoring and evaluation
- whether the rights of the public to give feedback on the revised whole document - once it fulfils the requirements of PPN31. (see Section 2) - will be fulfilled.

3.4.2 Lack of transparency and difficulty understanding the Draft plan - detailed in 2.2. - has been a common worry

3.5 Concern has also been widely raised over the 'Participate Nillumbik' Feedback survey, which:

3.5.1 is easily open to misuse as it is anonymous, meaning that anyone with more than one email address could send multiple responses, skewing the outcomes. It seems as though they don't even need to be from Nillumbik

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3.5.2 seems to be designed to achieve simplistic data for the purpose of gaining approval, rather than informative, constructive data which can help improve the Draft plan, and build a sense of ownership

○ Example 1: Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

The feedback does not ask for responses about the goals; ie how appropriate the over-arching goals are as drivers to develop a management plan to achieve a sustainable Green Wedge and fulfil the Vision.

They do not ask whether the Objectives under each goal could achieve that goal

○ Example 2: Five Key Moves

There is insufficient detail about how these moves connect to the Vision and goals.

- *Key Move 1: Create a comprehensive landowners' information and support service for land use and management, including annual reporting on trends and outcomes ..."*

- Is the support service aimed at better economic management, better environmental practices, improved land stewardship, sharing knowledge about dealing with pests such as deer, combatting loneliness? ?What is the purpose? In other words, what outcomes are desired for this to be a success? While this is part of the missing Monitoring, it is relevant to gaining meaningful responses.

-

- If the added details were given, a more useful focus would be:

○ how relevant the respondent considers each move to be to the achievement of the Vision

○ how it relates to a nett gain in the quality and quantity of indigenous biodiversity and vegetation.

○ Whether these Key Moves are the most important Key Moves, or whether the respondent considers there are more important ones.

○ Example 3: Goal 4 - A prosperous economy

Obj 4.2 Encourage sustainable, diversified and productive agriculture, access to markets and **the right to farm**

But what does "the right to farm" mean?

- In this Draft Plan there is an absence of definitions; one has to connect fragments which do not appear together and work out the implications and connections.

- Separately we read that "livestock should not be grazed where they might damage areas with high biodiversity values" and another fragment states that some landholders want farming "to take place without unnecessary interference" [p.37].

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- So putting these fragments together, it seems that the "right to farm", means that no planning restriction would apply if the land was already cleared, and presumably there would be no oversight as to where cattle graze. In fact, to actually know what it means, the reader needs to know to go to the on-line Nillumbik Planning Scheme and how to navigate that.
- By comparison, the current GWMP 2010-25 is transparent, easy to follow and does not require expertise or guess work to understand it.

Asking for comments on aspects like this which are densely obscure is not an effective form of feedback.

3.5 In Summary

The Engagement process has been characterized by anomalous glitches, which have brought the integrity of the process into question.

The '*Participate Nillumbik Green Wedge Review / Feedback* portal is open to misuse and is skewed in favour of simplistic responses to obtain data which supports the document, which is densely obscure

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4. A NILLUMBIK GWMP WHICH WILL DELIVER PROTECTION & ENHANCEMENT OF OUR GREEN WEDGE ENVIRONMENT



4.1 Introduction

While the GWMP encompasses more than the environment, it is the environment which creates the Green Wedge. If that environment continues to be eroded, all the advantages and reasons why people want to live, work, visit and play here will be gradually nullified.

The Draft Plan represents a change in the strategic focus of Nillumbik, the Green Wedge Shire, watering down its conservation focus, whittling away at the edges of the Green Wedge itself, loosening controls over privately owned land and changing the focus of our townships to "Service providers".

This section:

- defines key terms
- analyses shifts in the strategic focus
- outlines the reasons why the Draft Plan can be expected to result in further loss of biodiversity and shrink the total area of our Green Wedge
- considers why this matters
- explores issues of governance related to the GW and what this suggests about the knowledge base and attitudes of Council
- makes recommendations for a GWMP which will deliver protection and enhancement of our GW environment.

Definitions of key terms in the context of this submission

Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the GW environment:

- 'Protect' means to ensure there is **no nett loss** to biodiversity or the area of the Green Wedge

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- 'Enhance' means to ensure there is a **nett gain** in the biodiversity of natural eco-systems and in the "quantity and quality of native vegetation" [Plan Melbourne 2017-50 Appendix 1 in Draft Plan p.44]

For other definitions, see the Glossary at the end of this paper.

4.2 The Draft Plan represents a shift in the strategic focus away from conservation.

There is a subtle shift in what it is we should value as the Green Wedge

From the current GWMP 2010-25 Part 2 [p.6]: "The Shire of Nillumbik was formed in 1994 with the conservation of the green wedge as its strategic focus. The Nillumbik Green Wedge is distinguished from others by the quality of its environment and natural bushland. Above all it is the environmental qualities - the topography, the dense bushland and isolated spaces, the rivers and streams - and the diverse townships that create a sense of place and continue to draw people to settle in Nillumbik."

To the Draft Plan [p.21]: "At the highest level, all value the sense of community, the landscapes, open space, nature and rural character that defines much of Nillumbik's green wedge." And our townships as "green wedge service centres and visitor gateways" [p.4.]

So in the Draft plan, the strategic focus of conservation of a green wedge natural environment has been subverted into the background , with the value of natural bushland faded right out. It does appear that to the writer of the Draft Plan, the Green Wedge is synonymous with farm land.

However, this strategic direction is incompatible with the strategic direction of the state planning laws which govern green wedges, requiring that the Planning Scheme prioritise conserving and enhancing the landscape ahead of residential development in the Rural Conservation Zone that applies to much of the shire.

Hence the battle against the planning laws.

4.3 The Draft Plan can be expected to result in further loss of biodiversity and the area of Green Wedge

The rhetoric of "protect and enhance" is embedded throughout the Draft Plan, but this commitment - despite the many excellent Green Key Actions proposed - is not carried in the balance of predictable outcomes. The positives will be far outweighed by the overall direction, which involves reviewing:

- constraints on township development, with a view to possibly advocating to extend their boundaries (ie. shrinking the Green Wedge)

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- anti-social behaviour around the edges of the towns, especially Diamond Creek, with a view to possibly advocating to introduce buffer zones between the UGB and the Green Wedge (ie, encroaching further into the Green Wedge)
- zones and overlays with a view to possibly lessening planning controls or removing protective planning overlays, both of which would result in further land clearance.

In summary, A shrunken, further denuded Green Wedge is the predictable outcome, despite potentially significant biodiversity off-sets.

4.4 Why should the Nillumbik GW environment be protected and enhanced?

4.4.1 **Basically** so that we who live here in Nillumbik and others who visit can continue to enjoy the benefits of the Green Wedge now and into the future. and so that this can be a part of the ongoing heritage we leave for future generations

4.4.2 The state of the environment: Nillumbik contributes to the Victorian state downward trend of increasing loss of biodiversity; [Victorian State of the Environment Report 2018 Summary Report](#)], while our neighbouring Shire of Whittlesea, despite its significant growth, managed to achieve a nett gain. [[Urban Vegetation Cover in Melbourne 2014-18](#)], exposing our GWMP Vision rhetoric about "leading the way" as empty rhetoric.

4.4.3 Nillumbik Green Wedge plays a role as part of "the lungs o Melbourne"

4.4.4 As "Nillumbik the Green Wedge Shire", with the largest intact area of vegetation (91%), we have a responsibility to:

- support our indigenous people in protecting their heritage of stewardship
- help mitigate (in a small way) the impacts of the Global Biodiversity crisis
- help mitigate the Climate Change global emergency (in a small way) through vegetation as carbon sinks
- lead the way as an example of Green Wedge good practice.

4.4.5 The extent and quality of our indigenous, environmental biodiversity is central to the existence of the Green Wedge and the reason people want to live here.

It is the essence, the heart of our Nillumbik identity and the reason Nillumbik people value the GW [Draft Plan p.11]

This is also captured by the Community Panel in Recommendations 4 (Biodiversity) and 6 (Conserving the Landscape), giving protection and enhancement of the indigenous environment a high priority

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4.4.6 Intrinsic value : 'Life forms that make up biodiversity have intrinsic value and warrant our respect', State Government Victoria 1 DEWLP Biodiversity 2037
<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/biodiversity-plan> accessed 12.6.19

In summary, there are many reasons why our Nillumbik environment should be protected and enhanced, in the interests of the Nillumbik community and the wider community of Melbourne.

4.5 Issues of governance related to the GW

There appears to be a recurring theme of Council undervaluing the importance of the Green Wedge to the people of Nillumbik, leading to issues of governance reflected in this Draft GWMP

4.5.1 A recurring Theme

- When the Draft Council Plan for public consultation was issued, the only mention of the Green Wedge was that it covered 91% of the shire. As previously the GW had been central to the Council Plan, there was a strong reaction to this omission, which was explained as **AN OVERSIGHT!**
- The Council issued a permit to remove 746 trees (Councillor: "but only 100 were mature trees"!!!) to build ONE house in Pigeon Bank Rd North Warrandyte in a Rural Conservation Zone and against the recommendation of Council Officers that it contravened the *Nillumbik Planning Scheme* in multiple ways. The only explanation some Councillors could conceive of for the furore of responses, was that local people did not want to share the area with newcomers!! Apparently they could not even comprehend that people in Nillumbik love our GW and don't want to see 746 trees sacrificed for one house!.
- The Community Pane Report, in its rationale for Rec 2, stated
A stronger demonstration of commitment to implement the plan is required, compared to what has occurred under the current plan so far. This lack of commitment was demonstrated by the need to retrospectively prepare a report on implementation actions, only after a specific request for information by the Community Panel.
- Council staff knowledge and expertise in GW matters has been diminished, suggesting a low value placed on it
- The unfinished state of this Draft GWMP suggests that the writer(s) ran out of time, which again suggests an underestimation of the value of expertise in this area.

4.5.2 Issues of governance relevant to the Draft GWMP

Lack of monitoring of the current GWMP as required under the NPS 21.07 is an issue of governance.

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Lack of monitoring information is a major issue in terms of compliance with PPN31.

This omission is manifest in two significantly important areas designed for accountability: firstly the omission of requisite details for monitoring (performance criteria, prioritization, responsibility, timelines, etc.), which should be part of what is open to community consultation; secondly the lack of reference to previous monitoring of the current GWMP 2010-25 to inform changes in needs and directions in this current Draft Plan

Lack of compliance with statutory regulations has implications for eligibility for state funding for projects..

The Principle of Leadership: "integrity: we are accountable, genuine and transparent in our actions and decisions" [Plan p.19].

- If you read this Draft Plan, that sounds like a joke! See 2.2.2 on page 10 for lack of transparency.

-If you look at Council responses to the recommendations of the Community Panel and at the outcomes, it would seem that there was a lack of sincerity in the intentions and purpose of the Community Panel.

4.6 RECOMMENDATIONS for a GWMP which will deliver protection and enhancement of our GW environment

- A. **Set up a project advisory committee as defined in PPN31 & by the Community Panel, Rec 2** It should be ensured that expertise in the GW environment is included. It should comprise representatives of community groups, relevant Council departments plus Emergency Services.
- B. **Ensure eligibility for state funding** of GWMP projects by checking compliance with all mandatory requirements of state policies and strategies - see section 1 of this document.
- C. **Attend to issues identified in the first three sections of this submission**
- D. **Incorporate into Draft Plan results of review of current PGWMP 2010-25** and how they inform changes needed, or how they justify a completely new plan.
- E. **Principles:** see highlighted additions
 - o "A whole of shire approach and recognition of Nillumbik's relationship to Metropolitan Melbourne. ... for their management of rural land that benefits metropolitan Melbourne" (Does this mean in an agricultural sense, or does it mean the whole of the green wedge?) Replace with, or leave it and add **and the benefits of our Green Wedge are valued by all of Melbourne.**
 - o "Manage change for future benefit The green wedge is a changing environment and home to many people. Change will be managed to conserve **and enhance** its

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biodiversity, environmental and cultural values and with a focus on long-term stewardship"

F. Vision needs expansion

'Management of the Nillumbik green wedge will lead the way in supporting a vibrant, resilient, connected and diverse community; living in the landscape to enhance the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Shire.' [Draft Plan, p5].

The Nillumbik Green Wedge will be managed so as to:

- *protect agricultural land for both its productive potential and environmental value [Municipal Strategic Statement, NPS 21.03, p.8]*
- *maintain and enhance the biodiversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species of the bush and rural landscapes and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation [Plan Melbourne 2017-250 Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas, Goal 1].*
- *be cared for with respect for its indigenous heritage and in the interests of Nillumbik residents and all Melbournians [Municipal Strategic Statement, NPS, 21.04].*

G. Key Moves

Create a comprehensive landowners' information and support service for **sustainable, environmentally friendly** land use and management, including annual reporting on trends and outcomes. Seek on-going government funding to support the service.

H. Goals - remove them See 2.2.1 above.

I. Objectives - set out under themes of:

- Environment
- Economy
- People & Communities (including Townships)
- Governance

Comments on Objectives & Key Actions

01.1 "Enable our people to take greater shared responsibility for the future of our green wedge"

Does this mean helping with Landcare , the fire brigade, or similar? Good idea.

OR Is this a **non-transparent** way of saying we should let landowners take responsibility for managing their land in a way which will protect the biodiversity and environment, consistent with the purpose of the Green Wedge?

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We have quite commonly seen this in action, with, for example a Reynolds Rd. South Eltham landowner ,who cleared the gully alongside a small creek at the back of his land where there was a Significant landscape overlay, so that he could build a large shed, which he rapidly began. The neighbours ran hither and thither, but it was all too late and that landowner was permitted to build his shed, where he would not have been able to if the bush had not been cleared. Of course , there are many landowners who would respect their duty of care and stewardship, but there are others who would not.

The bush must remain protected by planning controls.

01.2 “Encourage, support, promote and celebrate the roles that landowners and volunteers play **in contributing to** the management of the green wedge.

01.3

01.4 Although townships do play a role as “service centres” and “visitor gateways.”, the wording of this objective takes away the differing identities of the townships, shifting the focus from the interesting individuality of our towns to a streamlined part of an economy

A1.7 Review the impacts of proximity to urban communities on rural land adjoining the urban area and investigate options **which do not involve moving township boundaries**, to maintain the amenity and productivity of those areas

Replace with: Request police to investigate and act on this particular form of anti-social behaviour and public to help.

It is very frustrating to read on the one hand ,a commitment to transparency and find, on the other hand, so many examples of the lack of it. This Action appears to be setting up an opportunity to provide evidence for a rationale to move the township boundaries and create a buffer zone, keeping some landowners who are itching to subdivide, very happy. The anti-social behaviour needs to be stopped.

A2.7 Use the Nillumbik Planning Scheme as a positive means to encourage heritage conservation and management, including support of adaptive reuse of heritage places if they help support the conservation of a heritage place and are in line with planning policy objectives.

Delete “and allowing prohibited uses”

03.1 “Identify, protect and enhance valuable biodiversity and habitats” **on public & private land**

03.5 “Conserve **and enhance** ...”

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A3.1 Add in “Review existing mapping records.”

A3.2 Support in principle, but how do we avoid people clearing vegetation, so as to avoid responsibility for maintaining the overlay? Try adding:

Undertake aerial mapping as a high priority to discourage unauthorized land clearing. Ensure that any such behaviour is punished appropriately.

A3.5 “encourage biodiversity conservation, **enhancement** and responsible land management on public and private land by ...”:

A3.12 Add: “Promote farming methods which increase the water retention ability of the soil”

O4.2 “Encourage sustainable, diversified, productive and **environmentally friendly** agriculture, access to markets and the right to farm, **subject to permit through the NPS**”

4.3 Recognise the contribution of hobby (or smallscale) farming in the green wedge with supportive, **environmentally friendly** policy put in place.

Investigate the possibility of Landcare partnering to help with projects to improve native biodiversity quality and quantity on private land.

A4.3 As for comments above under A3.2

A4.4 This appears to be designed to encourage large scale farming, but this generally goes with large scale clearing, Support merging of undersize lots only into neighbouring land or public ownership.

A4.6 Need a simple way to gain approval by applying for a permit. Neighbours need to know and have the opportunity to object. One example that comes to mind is of a home being rented out to large numbers of guests, with resultant issues in parking, dust and sometimes noise. If neighbours had been aware, they would have looked for some conditions to be placed.

A4.8 “planning and other controls be altered to allow landholders a right to farm on pre-existing cleared agricultural land and be able to adapt to changing agricultural practice.” Do not support a “right to farm”. In the Green Wedge here should be no easing up of planning controls.

It is recognized that arranging off-sets is an expensive process..

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Add: "Advocate for exploration and trial of more streamlined, less expensive ways of arranging for off-sets."

A5.1 "... for **sustainable** land use and management" Include water-saving, soil improvement measures.

A5.6 Support in principle, but needs further discussion and explanation and MUCH MORE transparency than is demonstrated in the Draft Plan

5.7 "Consider reviewing the potential range of land uses **compatible with protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of native vegetation**, that could assist owners to be better manage rural land that abuts the Urban Growth Boundary."

We need to find ways where access to markets can be gained, but conditions that ensure the Green Wedge is well protected.

A5.8 "Advocate Council's position on all government policy reform affecting the Shire, including reform of green wedge policy and planning provisions **in ways which will continue to control conditions which protect the Green Wedge**."

- J. Monitoring:** set out Key Actions in a table, breaking down the Actions where possible into elements relevant to monitoring for progress reports. This table also needs to include performance criteria, prioritization, time-frame, responsibility, resources needed (external or internal)
- K. Evaluation & Review:** Set out a time-frame for review of the whole and parts (where some parts (eg high priority tasks and financial elements of all tasks) may need more frequent monitoring than others,
- L. Whole of organization and integrated approach:** **Remove the goals which interfere with the comprehension of the document as a whole. Replace with themes. Add a table** which connects the objectives of the GWMP to the Council Plan and other relevant Plans & Strategies . Link the Key Actions to relevant Objectives in other plans and strategies.
- M. Expand the 'Opportunities:'** to include Climate change mitigation through vegetation as carbon sinks.
- N. Education - too general** - add desired outcomes to proposed educational actions

CONCLUSION

The Plan does not fulfil the mandatory statutory requirements, which has implications for funding - see Section 1 of this submission.

The Plan has not been completed to a professional standard: it is incomplete, confusing and lacking in transparency. Perhaps attempts to reduce the quantity of information has had the unintended effect of making it outrageously difficult to comprehend. It is easier to read and understand two volumes of the current GWMP 2010-25, than this draft. Perhaps also, the time needed to write it has been grossly underestimated. Additionally the lack of transparency adds substantially to the difficulty of understanding as it takes more than one reading and intense concentration to work out all the unstated implications.

Concerns over due process have been detailed in section 3

The Plan in its current state will produce a "net Loss" in biodiversity and the area covered by the Green Wedge. It needs fundamental changes to meet the requirement of "net gain" set out in *Plan Melbourne* [Draft Plan, Appendix 1, p.44 and *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*].

To fulfil this state government requirement will need major changes of direction to the Plan. Recommendations of changes needed are detailed in Section 4 of this paper.. However, given the extent and complexity of the changes and the need to fulfil statutory requirements, it would make more sense to **use the current, excellent GWMP2010-25** as the basis of this review.

**This Draft GWMP, in its current form,
will result in a shrunken, further denuded Green Wedge.**

Is that going to be this council's legacy?

ACRONYMS

DELWP: Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

GWMP: Green Wedge Management Plan

NPS: Nillumbik Planning Scheme

PPN31 Planning practice Note 31

UGB: Urban Growth Boundary

DEFINITION of TERMS USED

Biodiversity: means 'the variety of all species on earth. It is the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes, and the terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems of which they are a part' [*National Framework for Biodiversity Conservation, Australian Govt Dept of Environment & Energy, <https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/conservation>*

'Biodiversity assets' ???

Biodiversity off-sets: "An offset compensates for the loss in biodiversity value when native vegetation is removed. An offset is delivered by protecting and managing native vegetation at an offset site. This protection and management improves the security and condition of the native vegetation, resulting in 'gain'. This gain is used to meet the offset requirements when native vegetation is removed. ... All offset sites must be managed to ensure gain is achieved...." [A Quick comparison of first party and third party off-set sites, Vic State Govt, DELWP

https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0023/329450/Info-sheet-A-quick-comparison-of-first-party-and-third-party/offset-sites.pdf .

In Victoria, biodiversity offsets are saleable credits used to compensate for the permitted clearance of native vegetation and threatened species habitat under the Victorian Government's *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (the 'Guidelines') (DELWP 2017), and the Australian Federal Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). Source: <http://www.offsetsvictoria.com.au/biodiversity-offsets-1/>

Green Wedge: "Green wedge land is defined under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as land that is described in a metropolitan fringe planning scheme as being outside an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). A metropolitan fringe planning scheme is a planning scheme applying

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to any of the following municipal councils ... [list includes Nillumbik] ..." [Planning Practice Note 62, Vic state government DELWP]

Hobby Farm: ??

Native vegetation: Native vegetation is defined in planning schemes as 'plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses' [*Victoria Planning Provisions*]

Planning controls: Rules that guide the purpose and use of an area of land. The purpose of planning controls is to make sure that decisions about how a piece of land is used or developed is in the best interests of the whole community, both now and in the future [*'Key Definitions', Fact Sheet, Protecting Melbourne's Strategic Agricultural Land: [Consultation 12/3 - 23/4] DELWP* <https://engage.vic.gov.au/protecting-melbournes-ag-land>

Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the *GW* environment:

- 'Protect' means to ensure there is **no nett loss** to biodiversity or the area of the Green Wedge
- 'Enhance' means to ensure there is a **nett gain** in the biodiversity of natural eco-systems and in the "quantity and quality of native vegetation" [Plan Melbourne 2017-50 Appendix 1 in Draft Plan p.44]

Right to farm ??

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July 28 2019

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Nillumbik Policies & Strategies: <https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Council/Council-publications/Strategies-policies-and-legislation>

Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy 2012

Nillumbik Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020

Nillumbik Destination Management Plan 2015

Nillumbik Environment Charter

Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan 2010-25, Vols 1 & 2

Nillumbik Health & Wellbeing Profile 2016

Nillumbik State of Environment Report 2014

Nillumbik Volunteer Development Strategy 2015-2020.

Nillumbik Draft GWMP documents: <https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gwmp>

Nillumbik GWMP Review - Background Report for Community Panel August 2018

Nillumbik GWMP Review - Community Panel Report 2018

Nillumbik GWMP Review - Community Panel . Response to Recommendations 2018

Nillumbik GWMP Review - Minority Report 2018 Revised April 2019

Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan for Comment June 2019

Nillumbik Green Wedge Plan Review Glossop Town Planning, 2015

Planning Practice Note 31 (PPN31) Preparing a Green Wedge Management Plan 2015

Planning Practice Note 62 (PPN62) Green Wedge Planning Provisions 2015

Dept Environment, Land, Water & Planning. Victorian State Government

Nillumbik Planning Schemes on-line: <http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/schemes/nillumbik>

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LPP 21.00 Municipal strategic statement (Nillumbik)

21.04 Vision Strategic Framework

21.07 Monitoring and Review :

VPP 52.17 Native Vegetation

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas :

Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 203

Smith, F. Patrick, [Suzanne M. Prober](#), Alan P. N. House, Sue McIntyre *Maximizing retention of native biodiversity in Australian agricultural landscapes-The 10:20:40:30 guidelines*. University of W.A. School of Biological Sciences. <https://research-repository.uwa.edu.au/en/publications/maximizing-retention-of-native-biodiversity-in-australian-agricul>

Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy Plan 2016 – 2020. May 2017 [https://assets-corporate.visitvictoria.com/documents/Visitor Economy Strategy Action Plan.pdf](https://assets-corporate.visitvictoria.com/documents/Visitor_Economy_Strategy_Action_Plan.pdf)

Whittlesea Shire Council GWMP Reviewed 2016

References.

GWMP Community Engagement Report – Verbatim Responses Wayfarer Consulting 2018 [https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.nil-participate.files/8815/4943/0940/Green_Wedge_Management_Plan - Community Engagement Report.pdf](https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.nil-participate.files/8815/4943/0940/Green_Wedge_Management_Plan_-_Community_Engagement_Report.pdf)

Op cit, Att 3: Community Panel Statement Aug 18 201

[https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.nil-participate.files/6115/4871/5167/Community_Engagement_Report - Verbatim responses 1.pdf](https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.nil-participate.files/6115/4871/5167/Community_Engagement_Report_-_Verbatim_responses_1.pdf),

[3] *Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan: Minority Report Revised April 2019*

[file:///C:/Users/Betty%20Russell/Documents/LOCAL%20GOVT/GWMP%20REVIEW/COUNCIL%20DRAFT%20FOR%20COMMENT/KEY%20DOCS/N'BIK/Minority%20Report%201%20GWMP%20Community%20Panel%20Revised-April-2019%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Betty%20Russell/Documents/LOCAL%20GOVT/GWMP%20REVIEW/COUNCIL%20DRAFT%20FOR%20COMMENT/KEY%20DOCS/N'BIK/Minority%20Report%201%20GWMP%20Community%20Panel%20Revised-April-2019%20(1).pdf)

[Victorian State of the Environment Report 2018 Summary Report](#),

. [[Urban Vegetation Cover in Melbourne 2014-18](#)],

Melbourne's green spaces are being lost in rush to build more housing
<http://www.greenwedge.warrantyte.org.au/2019/08/03/a-plan-that-threatens-our-green-wedge/>

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Which set of goals/aims is more relevant to managing a sustainable Green Wedge?

Figure 1: Comparison of the Aims of the current GWMP 2010-2025 and the Goals of Draft GWMP

<u>Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan (2010 - 2025 Part 2, p. 13 (Current)</u>	<u>Draft Green Wedge Management Plan [p.7]</u>
<p>Aims</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conserve and enhance the natural values, landscapes and cultural heritage of the Nillumbik Green Wedge. 2. Increase local and wider community understanding and enjoyment of the special nature of the Nillumbik Green Wedge. 3. Maintain strong, connected and diverse communities. 4. Achieve a diverse economic base in the Nillumbik Green Wedge that helps local communities to thrive but does not impact negatively on natural and cultural values or on the valued character of towns, settlements and landscapes. 5. Minimise bushfire risk to human life. 6. Involve communities and other stakeholders in delivering the GWMP. 7. Deliver the GWMP and future actions in keeping with the guiding principles. 	<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engaged, connected communities • active and creative people • safe and healthy environments • a prosperous economy and • responsible leadership

From: [Olive McIntosh](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 1:17:45 PM

I am not writing an extensive submission as I am a carer and have health issues myself.

I oppose any changes to the Zoning currently in place and to the status of our remaining bushland.

Having lived in Eltham over 30 years ago, I have seen what poor development has done to that area. It is now a nightmare to drive through, to find a parking spot and to be a pedestrian. Parking near the station is almost impossible. During the busiest times of day, some of the roads are more like car parks. It is now an area I avoid, only going there for necessities. Diamond Creek is steadily becoming the same.

We bought our home in Hurstbridge ten years ago. In those ten years, we have seen a remarkable increase in traffic, particularly in the vicinity of Arthurs Creek and Haleys Gully Roads. I am often woken at 4.30 to 5am by the sound of heavy trucks using these roads, which are inadequate for the purpose. Similarly, I have had numerous scares on the one-lane Monash bridge. Much of this has been attributed to the over-development in the adjoining Whittlesea municipality.

There would need to be a great deal of improvement to infrastructure to support more development in the townships north of Diamond Creek. The roads are inadequate for the amount of traffic passing through this area now. (For example, when I am returning to Hurstbridge the traffic jam frequently begins on the Greensborough Bypass and continues until I am north of the Diamond Creek station. On my last journey it took me over an hour to get from the Ring Road to Diamond Creek.) The train service is also infrequent.

On the issue of our bushland, there is already very limited public land available for use by township residents. Most of it is privately held. The main reason residents of Hurstbridge objected to the proposed residential development of land in Greys Harps Road was that it would have removed recreational opportunities for the people of Hurstbridge and surrounds. The pressure on existing public land will increase if the population rises due to increased development on private land.

This is not a detailed or carefully thought out submission as I do not have the time to devote to that. It is, however, a call to Nillumbik Council to take into account the wishes of their communities in the townships and the Green Wedge that surrounds those townships. Leave the Green Wedge alone.

Olive McIntosh



--

Olive McIntosh

From: [Isobel Yates](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Green Wedge Management Plan Submission
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 1:07:37 PM

Hello,

I am writing to you with a submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019.

My name is Anna Yates and I live in Brunswick, Vic.

I am very concerned about the impacts the new proposed plan will have in the Green Wedge.

The Green Wedge is about far more than just the people who live in and around it and any plan must reflect this. Although I live in Brunswick I often go out to Nillumbik on the weekends and enjoy walks in the beautiful outdoors with my family. There is nothing quite like stretching my legs and enjoying the vast space out there, which is so different to my Brunswick apartment. It holds a special place in my heart and I do hope all that can be done to protect it is acted upon.

Countless international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities *must* be to protect our biodiversity and address climate change, and areas such as the Green Wedge play a crucial role in this and therefore must be vehemently protected.

I found the draft very difficult to read and understand and the Plan is no good if it is only a vague document without real and clear commitment to timely action. This must be amended.

The Urban Growth Boundary **MUST** be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be implemented and there must be **NO** zone changes that would negatively impact on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained, this is crucial to the well being of our environment. Without such Boundaries and zones being strictly adhered to we will lose our beautiful Green Wedge to housing developments and commercial land use.

This plan must have climate change as a key point and must speak of strong action that will be taken for mitigation and lowering emissions. Adaptation is **NOT** good enough. Mitigation, and lowering of emissions is key and this must be stressed in the Plan. Already we are feeling the effects of Climate change and have very limited time to take drastic action to reverse the damage.

Nillumbik's State of Environment Report clearly indicated the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must show much stronger protections for vegetation so that this can be turned around. The importance of turning this around cannot be overstressed. The Draft does not demonstrate a strong enough commitment to environmental protection.

The Panel process and community consultation process have made community views clear and the Draft Plan does **NOT** reflect these community views and desires. Community confidence in council erodes when such a strong and clear voice is ignored. Council's job is to represent their community and implement policy and plans that reflect the desires of that community. To ignore these desires so blatantly reduces the community's ability to trust Council and other authorities. Good governance must be shown by listening to the community.

Green Wedges are vital, they exist for innumerable good reasons such as cooling our cities and acting as the 'lungs' of Melbourne. There are of course also a brilliant place for enjoyment and benefit those such as myself in lifting mood and improving mental health with

access to nature so close to home. It is the responsibility of Council and the community to ensure the long term health of the Nillumbik Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse of the green wedges surrounding Melbourne. Nilumbik was originally established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus and the current Draft Plan does not reflect this.

It is the duty of the Council to take community desires into account and write a Plan that reflects these desires and reflects a serious commitment to doing everything possible to address climate change. I do hope that Council will amend the plan accordingly and we can all move forward towards a future goal of reducing emissions and revegetating the Green Wedge. Please help to keep this wonderful escape from city life accessible and healthy for generation to enjoy. I hope someday my children can enjoy it as I do.

Kind regards,

Anna Yates

From: [Legend McFerris](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission for draft GWMP
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 12:42:53 PM

Outlined below are my specific concerns about this draft:

1. The reason to prepare a new GWMP part way through an existing one “is that the condition of the environment and natural resource base needs considerable improvement” (Practice Note 31). This draft fails to address the type, scale and form of changes threatening the health of this GW. Threats such as the alarming acceleration in biodiversity loss and animal extinction probabilities. This draft has not set out ways that they will address and negate threats.
2. This draft fails to identify the unique and key features (and related values) for this specific Green Wedge - Nillumbik. Therefore the entire document has struggled to tailor its purposes and objectives to specifically provide for Nillumbik’s unique environment. The draft could have been written for a non-green wedge Shire as it lacks insight for our unique landscape.
3. The changes to Regulatory measures suggested in this draft are not designed to “encourage land uses and development that protect and enhance the Green Wedge”(Practice Note 31) In fact the recommendations for Buffer Zones along the UGB and Microzones for an Equine Industry or intensive agriculture will directly compromise the health of GW soils and ecology.
4. I believe it would have been appropriate (if not essential) to formally ask for input from all of Nillumbik’s land managers, not just the private owners. Landcare groups, Friends of groups, DEWLP, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria etc. They would have provided essential data for this draft. In addition, it is inexplicable to me why the Community Panel recommendations were given the same weighting as a Minority Report that under law you were not compelled to include in your considerations.

CONCLUSION : As temporary custodians of Nillumbik’s governance provider you have a duty of care for the natural resources of this Shire. The achievement of sustainable land uses and land management practices are THE critical elements in the development of a Green Wedge Management Plan. This draft prioritises private beneficiaries over servicing the Greater Good.

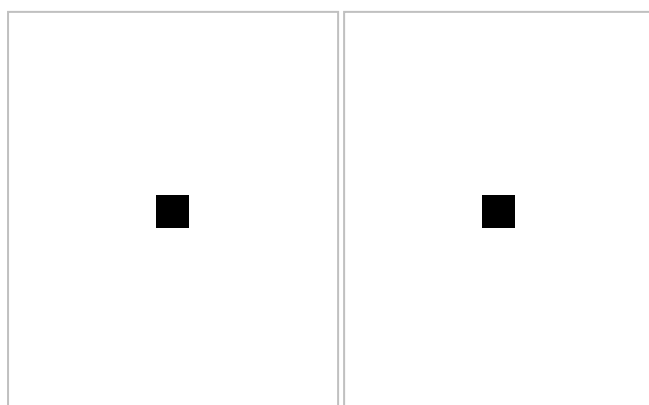
Katherine Wardell,
North Warrandyte

From: [AB Bishop](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 12:35:38 PM

FROM: Ms AB Bishop

1. The Green Wedge is NOT just about people and any Plan must reflect this. Innumerable international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities are to protect our biodiversity and address climate change.
2. The Draft does not reflect the community's views and desires [as expressed via the community consultation process and via the Panel process]. For such a strong voice to be ignored to such a degree erodes the community's confidence in Council and other authorities, and demonstrates a lack of good governance.
3. The Draft is confusing and difficult to read and does not give enough clarity about what its intentions are, key actions, and how Council will ensure these occur in a timely manner.
4. The Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be created, and there must be no changes to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained.
5. Climate change must be a key point of reference and any Plan must speak of strong actions for mitigation and lowering emissions, NOT just adaptation.
6. Green Wedges are vital. They cool our city and are known as the lungs of Melbourne. It is our responsibility to ensure the long term health of Nillumbik's Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse. Nillumbik was established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus. The Draft does not reflect this fact.
7. Nillumbik's State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must demonstrate much stronger protections for vegetation if this is to be turned around. The Draft does not demonstrate a sufficiently strong commitment to environmental protection.
- 8. Council's Draft GWMP is unacceptable as written.**

AB Bishop
Writer, Horticulturalist



AB's new book, Habitat, was Australian Best Selling Gardening Book 2018.
The Australian Native Garden won the HMAA Book Laurel 2016/17.
Both books available from most bookstores and online.

From: [Natalie Bucknell](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: FW: Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 12:18:03 PM

Sorry, I forgot to include name and address:

Natalie Bucknell



The plan says a lot of good things and takes into account many important considerations – but it's also quite ambiguous and general in many areas so it's difficult to imagine what implementation will look like. The important points from my perspective:

- **Why isn't climate change mitigation a key priority? It's much more cost effective than adaptation and is desperately needed at all levels of government. In the long term every other action is pointless if we don't mobilise to reduce emissions.**
- The plan needs to take this opportunity for better environmental protection, more food production, regenerative agriculture – It needs to be much more visionary.
- Planning and building – more transparent processes for planning and building approvals – requirements more clearly spelt out, higher standards for energy efficient buildings and incentives for more environmentally friendly developments (retaining trees, using recycled or low impact materials)
- Public transport infrastructure – great to see this raised as an issue. The council should provide leadership in expanding public transport options. Also expand bicycle and walking tracks to provide options for alternative forms of transport (not just for recreation – this means building track options that are more direct point to point routes)
- Charging infrastructure to promote EVs and reduce local air pollution – the transition from petrol vehicles to electric is going to happen quickly and we need to be ready.
- Planning and protection to maintain and develop the vegetation around the townships as the populations grow.
- Great that consideration is being given to supporting ageing residents and providing facilities for them – leadership needed in this area.
- Housing restrictions should allow for the fact of the challenge to young people of accessing housing in an expensive market – extend dependent living arrangements to young people too.
- **Environment and conservation are key, key, key! Needs more emphasis.**

From: [Katie Hamilton](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge- Concerns
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 12:16:07 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you with a submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019.

My name is Katie Hamilton and I live at [REDACTED].

I am very concerned about the impacts the new proposed plan will have in the Green Wedge.

The Green Wedge is about far more than just the people who live in and around it and any plan must reflect this.

Countless international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities must be to protect our biodiversity and address climate change, and areas such as the Green Wedge play a crucial role in this and therefore must be vehemently protected.

The Panel process and community consultation process have made community views clear and the Draft Plan does NOT reflect these community views and desires. Community confidence in council erodes when such a strong and clear voice is ignored. Council's job is to represent their community and implement policy and plans that reflect the desires of that community. To ignore these desires so blatantly reduces the community's ability to trust Council and other authorities. Good governance must be shown by listening to the community.

The draft is very difficult to read and confusing and is not clear enough in stating key actions and intentions and how Council will implement the plans in a timely manner. The Plan is no good if it is only a vague document without real and clear commitment to timely action.

The Urban Growth Boundary MUST be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be implemented and there must be NO zone changes that would negatively impact on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained, this is crucial to the well being of our environment.

This plan must have climate change as a key point and must speak of strong action that will be take for mitigation and lowering emissions. Adaptation is NOT good enough. Mitigation, and lowering of emissions is key and this must be stressed in the Plan.

Green Wedges are vital, they exist for innumerable good reasons such as cooling our cities and acting as the 'lungs' of Melbourne. It is the responsibility of Council and the community to ensure the long term health of the Nillumbik Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse of the green wedges surrounding Melbourne. Nilumbik was originally established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus and the current Draft Plan does not reflect this.

Nillumbik's State of Environment Report clearly indicated the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must show much stronger protections for vegetation so that this can be turned around. The importance of turning this around cannot be over stressed. The Draft does not demonstrate a strong enough commitment to environmental protection.

The Community has spoken, through the Panel, submissions and community consultation - it is the duty of the Council to take these desires into account and write a Plan that reflects these desires and reflects a serious commitment to doing everything possible to address climate change. I do hope that Council will do their job and represent their community.

Thank you.
Kind regards,
Katie

From: [Esther Myles](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 12:13:09 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you with a submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019.

My name is Esther Myles and I live at [REDACTED]

I am very concerned about the impacts the new proposed plan will have in the Green Wedge.

The Green Wedge is about far more than just the people who live in and around it and any plan must reflect this.

Countless international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities must be to protect our biodiversity and address climate change, and areas such as the Green Wedge play a crucial role in this and therefore must be vehemently protected.

The Panel process and community consultation process have made community views clear and the Draft Plan does NOT reflect these community views and desires. Community confidence in council erodes when such a strong and clear voice is ignored. Council's job is to represent their community and implement policy and plans that reflect the desires of that community. To ignore these desires so blatantly reduces the community's ability to trust Council and other authorities. Good governance must be shown by listening to the community.

The draft is very difficult to read and confusing and is not clear enough in stating key actions and intentions and how Council will implement the plans in a timely manner. The Plan is no good if it is only a vague document without real and clear commitment to timely action.

The Urban Growth Boundary MUST be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be implemented and there must be NO zone changes that would negatively impact on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained, this is crucial to the well being of our environment.

This plan must have climate change as a key point and must speak of strong action that will be take for mitigation and lowering emissions. Adaptation is NOT good enough. Mitigation, and lowering of emissions is key and this must be stressed in the Plan.

Green Wedges are vital, they exist for innumerable good reasons such as cooling our cities and acting as the 'lungs' of Melbourne. It is the responsibility of Council and the community to ensure the long term health of the Nillumbik Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse of the green wedges surrounding Melbourne. Nilumbik was originally established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus and the current Draft Plan does not reflect this.

Nillumbik's State of Environment Report clearly indicated the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must show much stronger protections for vegetation so that this can be turned around. The importance of turning this around cannot be over stressed. The Draft does not demonstrate a strong enough commitment to environmental protection.

The Community has spoken, through the Panel, submissions and community consultation -

it is the duty of the Council to take these desires into account and write a Plan that reflects these desires and reflects a serious commitment to doing everything possible to address climate change. I do hope that Council will do their job and represent their community.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Esther Myles



From: [Belinda Grimmer](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 12:06:18 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Belinda Grimmer and as a long time resident of Hurstbridge, I am concerned about the likely Zoning and Planning changes to our town.

I strongly object to any Zoning changes which will result in houses or commercial buildings being built on bush land around our town.

Yours sincerely
Belinda Grimmer

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Isobel Yates](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 12:02:24 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you with a submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019.

My name is Isobel Yates and I live at [REDACTED].

I am very concerned about the impacts the new proposed plan will have in the Green Wedge.

The Green Wedge is about far more than just the people who live in and around it and any plan must reflect this.

Countless international reports confirm that our highest and most urgent priorities *must* be to protect our biodiversity and address climate change, and areas such as the Green Wedge play a crucial role in this and therefore must be vehemently protected.

The Panel process and community consultation process have made community views clear and the Draft Plan does NOT reflect these community views and desires. Community confidence in council erodes when such a strong and clear voice is ignored. Council's job is to represent their community and implement policy and plans that reflect the desires of that community. To ignore these desires so blatantly reduces the community's ability to trust Council and other authorities. Good governance must be shown by listening to the community.

The draft is very difficult to read and confusing and is not clear enough in stating key actions and intentions and how Council will implement the plans in a timely manner. The Plan is no good if it is only a vague document without real and clear commitment to timely action.

The Urban Growth Boundary MUST be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary. Buffer zones must not be implemented and there must be NO zone changes that would negatively impact on the environment. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained, this is crucial to the well being of our environment.

This plan must have climate change as a key point and must speak of strong action that will be take for mitigation and lowering emissions. Adaptation is NOT good enough. Mitigation, and lowering of emissions is key and this must be stressed in the Plan.

Green Wedges are vital, they exist for innumerable good reasons such as cooling our cities and acting as the 'lungs' of Melbourne. It is the responsibility of Council and the community to ensure the long term health of the Nillumbik Green Wedge which is the most intact and biodiverse of the green wedges surrounding Melbourne. Nilumbik was originally established as a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus and the current Draft Plan does not reflect this.

Nillumbik's State of Environment Report clearly indicated the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire. Any new plan must show much stronger protections for vegetation so that this can be turned around. The importance of turning this around cannot be over stressed. The Draft does not demonstrate a strong enough commitment to environmental protection.

The Community has spoken, through the Panel, submissions and community consultation - it is the duty of the Council to take these desires into account and write a Plan that reflects these desires and reflects a serious commitment to doing everything possible to address climate change. I do hope that Council will do their job and represent their community.

Thank you.
Kind regards,

Isobel Yates

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission on Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 12:02:01 PM

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

Please find my submission on the draft green wedge management plan below. I did not do it via the online form because I am sick of the secret passwords that the web has buried me under.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Curtis



A Vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge

'Management of the Nillumbik green wedge will lead the way in supporting a vibrant, resilient, connected and diverse community; living in the landscape to enhance the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Shire.'

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

Yes

No

Partially

Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

It needs to be much stronger on protection of the natural environment. It is after all the only green wedge, all of which we were promised in 1971 would be permanent, that is still intact.

Five Key Moves

The five Key Moves below outline organisational changes for the long-term to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan.

You can see more details about the [five key moves here](#).

1. A comprehensive landowners' information and support service - **Agree**
2. A whole of organisation approach to community resilience. – **Disagree as the phrase "difficult conversations" implies a downgrading of the central importance of environmental values.**
3. A "Green Wedge Conversations" program – **Disagree as this seems to be a narrow focus on landowners rather than the purpose of the green wedge as a whole.**
4. A comprehensive planning and place management service for the townships. – **Disagree as so much is omitted.**
5. Stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural practices . – **Disagree as so much is omitted.**

Overall these "key moves" seem to be very narrow indeed and more about the landowner constituency, which is empowered by the appallingly undemocratic electoral structure the Victorian Electoral Commission has imposed on Nillumbik, the one that lets just over one quarter of the voters win control of the council, than the green wedge itself.

To what extent do you agree with the Five Key Moves to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Key Move 1

Key Move 2

Key Move 3

Key Move 4

Key Move 5

Do you have any comments about the Five Key Moves?

Principles

The following principles informed the creation of the Green Wedge Management Plan and will inform how the goals, objectives and key actions are to be implemented.

You can see more details about each of the [Principles here](#).

- Leadership - **Disagree**
- Aboriginal voice- **Disagree**
- A whole of shire approach and recognition of Nillumbik's relationship to Metropolitan Melbourne - **Disagree**
- Manage change for future benefit- **Disagree**
- Collaboration and connectedness- **Disagree**
- Celebrate, appreciate and enjoy local identity and the landscape - **Disagree**
- Social equity - **Disagree**
- Safety, wellbeing and resilience - **Disagree-Disagree**
- Conserve and enhance our heritage - **Disagree**
- Sustainability and the precautionary principle - **Disagree**

To what extent do you agree with the Principles to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree
Strongly disagree

Leadership

Aboriginal voice

A whole of shire approach and recognition of Nillumbik's relationship to Metropolitan Melbourne

Manage change for future benefit

Collaboration and connectedness

Celebrate, appreciate and enjoy local identity and the landscape

Social equity

Safety, wellbeing and resilience

Conserve and enhance our heritage

Sustainability and the precautionary principle

Do you have any comments about the Principles?

They are all so vague.

Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

The Plan includes five goals which describe the desired overall outcomes for the community.

Click on each goal to see the list of Objectives that describe what is to be achieved in support of the goals, as well as a list of Key Actions which will work towards achieving the objectives.

[Goal 1: Engaged connected communities](#)

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 1?

Strongly support

Support

Neutral

Do not support

Strongly do not support

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 1?

It's all so vague again.

"Where possible, encourage housing diversity to enable ageing in place"

"Ha! Ha! This is from the council that created a \$2million black hole by cancelling the extremely well thought out diverse and affordable housing project in Hurstbridge

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

[Goal 2: Active and creative people](#)

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 2?

Strongly support

Support

Neutral

Do not Support

Strongly do not support

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 2?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

[Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments](#)

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 3?

Strongly support

Support

Neutral

Do not Support

Strongly do not support

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 3?

I am concerned by the review of the environmental significance overlay (A3.2)

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

[Goal 4: A prosperous economy](#)

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 4?

Strongly support

Support

Neutral

Do not Support

Strongly do not support

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 4?

I am concerned by how far O4.5 and A4.6 might go in undermining environmental values by putting too much pressure on the green wedge.

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

[Goal 5: Responsible leadership](#)

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 5?

Strongly support

Support

Neutral

Do not Support

Strongly do not support

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 5?

I am aghast at A5.6 and A5.7, which would undermine the whole idea of the green wedge,

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan?

You can type your comments in the box below or upload a file (Word document or PDF)

The draft management plan does not give the necessary priority to the green wedge's purpose. As the Board of Works said when it established the green wedges concept, "It is intended that the basic attributes and resources contained within the areas shall be preserved to the maximum degree, and that environment management policies shall be specifically oriented towards this objective "

(p. 54, *Planning Policies for the Melbourne Region*, 1971)

You can upload your file here. Choose file...

If you would you like to receive a confirmation email with a copy of your contribution, please provide your email address.

As an indication for meeting arrangements, at this stage are you intending to speak to your submission at the Future Nillumbik Committee meeting on Tuesday 10 September 2019. Required

Yes

No

NB: To register to speak, you will need to complete the [online form](#) by 5pm on Tuesday 3 September.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the green wedge management plan consultation
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 11:08:46 AM

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission addresses some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outlines why I do not support the draft.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission.

I do not support the draft GWMP. There is a lot of evidence that tells us biodiversity, eco systems and many species are at critical and endangered levels. This is Nillumbik's opportunity to recognise this and show strong leadership to reverse some deeply distressing trends. Nillumbik's own State of the Environment Report clearly indicates the ongoing loss of hectares of vegetation throughout the Shire, and this was supported by the recently released report from RMIT. This draft GWMP does not demonstrate such leadership, there is nothing in it that offers to leadership on action to reverse some of the most challenging trends which, if they continue, will have a profoundly negative impact on all life. There is a lack of detail throughout the document regarding protection and enhancement of all forms of the Shire's biodiversity. The plan needs to include specific actions to address this problem and ensure the long-term health of the Green Wedge, it needs to show a stronger commitment to environmental protection.

I am also concerned that the draft does not reflect the community's views and desires. By giving status to the minority report Council and not following their own process specifically designed to determine the overall view of the community, Council opens itself up to concerns about transparency of process and nepotism. For such a strong voice to be ignored demonstrates a lack of good governance and diminishes the community's confidence in Council at a time when there is already a great lack of trust in politicians.

Robert Meates

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [BRUCE GOODMAN](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the draft GWMP
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 10:25:50 AM

I do not support the draft Plan for the following reasons:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->- <!--[endif]-->When council surveyed the community in August 2018, the majority of responses showed that residents valued the environment of the Green Wedge and wanted it to be protected. I do not believe council's draft GWMP will achieve this.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->- <!--[endif]-->The draft does not clearly state the shire's conservation role for the whole of Melbourne, as described in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050. Our Shire has always had conservation as a key objective.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->- <!--[endif]-->The Plan doesn't have a comprehensive strategy, including regulation, for improving biodiversity and native vegetation across the Green Wedge. Plan Melbourne calls for indigenous flora and fauna habitats to be maintained and enhanced. The Plan ignores the 'extinction crisis' which has been widely reported by scientists.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->- <!--[endif]-->The Plan considers the need to change land management outcomes on rural land at the edge of the Urban Growth Boundary which could include subdivision or rezoning. The UGB is a 'hard edge' and must be kept that way. There is no justification for any 'buffer' treatment. The same must be said about township boundaries: allowing more development at the edge of towns compromises green wedge amenity.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->- <!--[endif]-->Climate Change is a growing threat. Nillumbik's Green Wedge with its extensive vegetation cover must be considered as a 'carbon sink' which mitigates this trend. Why doesn't the Plan consider this?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->- <!--[endif]-->Ever since Nillumbik was established most of our rural land has been protected by its Rural Conservation Zoning which prioritises conservation. The Plan's rezoning consideration for land used for agriculture, directly threatens this important priority. The need for a permit for agriculture must remain so that permit conditions can protect the environment.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->- <!--[endif]-->The existing GWMP should've been **reviewed** so that it was updated. Instead Council has insisted it be **re-written** with an altered Vision statement which encourages the idea that the Green Wedge should be considered for expanded rural residential development. This is quite inappropriate. The existing GWMP is better suited for Nillumbik and should be retained.

Name: BRUCE GOODMAN

Postal address: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Green Wedge Management Plan Review
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 8:25:33 AM
Attachments: [2019-07-11_GWMP_DETAILED_Submission_Information.doc](#)

Dear Nillumbik Shire Councillors,

Please find attached my submission to the review of the Green Wedge Management Plan. I have strong concerns and hope you will be able to reconsider the recommendations. It is important that the result does not diminish the conservation and biodiversity of the area. Over developed land in the future will be damaging to our environment. at a time when habitat loss is one of the majority factors causing our species extinction crisis, this is not the GWMP that the Shire needs. Melbourne needs a strong Green Wedge and The beauty of the Nillumbik Shire should not be diminished.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Submission on Council's Draft GWMP

I am a resident of the Bend of Islands and a member of the Bend of Islands Conservation Association (BICA).

The draft GWMP is not acceptable in its present form. It totally downplays the environmental protection and actions of the last GWMP, while advocating undermining of the current conservation zones.

I consider that it is particularly important that there is a general revision of the draft to incorporate the following issues.

Introduction

- The Draft GWMP has a consistent serious deficiency, running throughout the whole of the document, that means it will not achieve the **Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas**.

The **Plan Melbourne 2017-2050** defines its 1st desired outcome as **Environmental and biodiversity assets**, including *forests and grasslands* and clearly calls for the protection and enhancement of these. This is obviously the highest priority of **Plan Melbourne 2017-2050**, and shows that the green wedges should have strong environmental protection to preserve and enhance their natural environments for the benefit of all Melbournians into the future.

The stated aim of this outcome is *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'*

There is a worrying lack of emphasis on the protection and enhancement of the **Environmental and biodiversity assets** in the current Draft GWMP and a major rewrite is required to ensure that this outcome is clearly articulated, emphasised and supported.

- The current declines in biodiversity to critical levels, and the need for strong environmental action by all levels of government and society, has recently come to the fore on many fronts: -
 - **The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**
 - *"The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide."*
 - *"it is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global".*
 - **The 2018 State of the Environment report for Victoria**
 - 26% of Biodiversity indicators are in poor condition and will remain so without intervention.

The current Draft GWMP opens the way for Nillumbik to do the opposite and allow the further decline of its natural environment, the very asset that make it so suitable for a green wedge.

- The main overriding message from the Panel Report is that Nillumbik residents cherish the high environmental values of the GW and they want it to be maintained, protected and enhanced. This strong message is not carried through in any way in the current GWMP draft.

Vision

- Environmental protection and reinvigoration must be central to the Vision for the Green Wedge. The draft does not state this clearly enough. Appendix 1 of Council's draft quotes the State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', where the first priority for the Green Wedge is to ***'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.'***
- Council's initial community engagement clearly demonstrated that the large majority of Nillumbik **residents cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge** and want it maintained, protected and enhanced. This view was also expressed by the majority report of the Community Panel. Council's draft does not reflect strong enough support for the Community's position.
- To be consistent with the Victorian Biodiversity Strategy this GWMP should be aiming to make Nillumbik's rural landscapes healthier. I.e "By 2037 Nillumbik's natural environment is healthy"

- The last GWMP Vision included the following and they should be reinstated into this draft GWMP without all the current compromises and contradictions:

“In 2030, management of the Nillumbik Green Wedge will lead the way in economic, environmental and social sustainability.

The Green Wedge will be secure and will be valued by the local and wider Melbourne community for its natural and cultural values. The future of the Nillumbik Green Wedge is one in which:

- natural and cultural values are conserved and enhanced
- bush and rural landscapes are conserved and enhanced
- the economic future is sound
- communities are strong, connected and supported and are knowledgeable about the Nillumbik Green Wedge
- local identity and diversity are respected and nurtured.”
- Since the last GWMP was written Climate Change and Biodiversity issues have become more critical, not less, eg: bees, Nillumbik orchids and frogs, but this draft has no actual initiatives to improve.
- The Victorian Green Wedge Planning Zones are aimed at conserving the natural environment of the Green Wedge and this plan should be supporting the zones not trying to undermine the RCZ and its conservation responsibilities as this draft does.
- The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play; that we can be part of the solution - actively seeking local solutions to global problems. We're a relatively affluent population. Nillumbik really is the perfect place to start turning things around. If not here and now, when and where else?

Five Key Moves.

- Each of the ‘Five Key Moves’ contain potentially useful ideas depending on how they are applied, and there needs to be much greater emphasis on the care of the natural environment.
- The document needs to describe in much greater detail the ACTIONS to be taken, and each of these must prioritise best environmental practice, ensuring the protection of ALL native vegetation and fauna across the Shire.
- Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term.
- The current GWMP 2010 - 2025 describes in much greater detail (than the new draft) the ways Council and community will ensure the protection of the green wedge. However, there has been consistent net loss of vegetation. This demonstrates that any new plan must be stronger and clearer about the actions which will be taken to reverse this ongoing decline. The draft GWMP does not achieve this.
- Certainly, Key Move 2 should be deleted in its entirety as it has the completely wrong sets of priorities and emphases.
- There are no commitments to actually addressing the environmental issues of Climate change and Biodiversity which featured as action in the last GWMP.
 - **Manningham Council**, in their GWMP background said, “*The main focus of the Green Wedge Strategy 2004 was the protection of biodiversity, sustainable management of public and private land, environmental education and community engagement and empowerment.*” And, that was 15 years ago! Nothing like this for Nillumbik.
 - In the *Four Theme Approach of the Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan 2011-2021...* “Part 2 of this plan has been grouped into the four themes of the *Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy* (PPWCMA 2004) – Land, Biodiversity, Water and People.” Nothing like this for Nillumbik.
 - **Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge Management Plan** 1 April 2019

“Highlights the relationship between the Green Wedge Management Plan and the State Biodiversity Strategy with particular emphasis on increasing habitat areas and biolinks.” **Nothing like this in Nillumbik draft plan.**

- Rather than having an exemplar GWMP for other Councils to follow, Nillumbik now has a Draft GWMP with little or no priority for enhancing biodiversity or the natural environment of the Green Wedge

Principles

- Each Principle is a very broad statement and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment.
- The Principles need to reflect the community’s commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The plan must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised in keeping with the State Government’s policies *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* and *Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037*, which is ‘Victoria’s plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.’
- The outlined Principles contain potentially useful ideas but there needs to be greater emphasis on the protection of the environment. For example, the principle that says, ‘The green wedge is a changing environment and home to many people. Change will be managed to conserve its values and with a focus on long-term stewardship.’ could read, “The green wedge is a changing environment and home to many people. Change will be managed to conserve its **biodiversity and environmental** values and with a focus on long-term stewardship.”
- These Principles almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *‘Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- The problem is not what is written in the GWMP draft, but what is omitted.
- An additional principle should be added, at the top of the list, as follows –
Preservation of Environment and Biodiversity
The decline in biodiversity must be reversed and the effects of Climate Change must be addressed so that we maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.
- The **‘Sustainability and the precautionary principle’** has been taken from the previous GWMP and then watered down. The principle from the previous GWMP should be reinstated as supported by the Community Panel.

Goal 1

- The thrust of Goal 1, to engage the community, is important but must be framed in the context of the environmental protection aim as stated in 1994 when the Local Government Review Board declared that the new Shire of Nillumbik was to be a **conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus.**
- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *‘Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- The tone and wording of parts of the Goal 1 are too ambiguous and can be interpreted as an opportunity to ignore, water-down or override the environmental protection responsibilities of those who live in the GW.
- The vast majority of the stated objectives and key actions are applicable to a well thought out plan for ‘any rural municipality’. Whilst they are obviously required for Nillumbik’s rural areas, they do not specifically relate to the special aspects associated with the GW. The mixing of the ‘general rural’ and

'specific GW' issues makes the GWMP draft complex and confused. In some instances, it could be interpreted that the GW is being blamed for many problems that are common to most rural communities.

- The thrust of Goal 1, to engage the community, is important but needs to be explained in the context of the environmental protection aims. The importance of the role of the community for stewardship of the land needs to be clearly stated and emphasised. 'How can we maintain and improve the environment', not 'What can we get out of the land'.

For example, Objective 01.1 could be: -

Enable our people to take greater shared responsibility for the future of our green wedge, to ensure that we enhance biodiversity and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.

- Achieving community engagement by playing down or ignoring the GW residents' responsibilities for environmental protection is self-defeating. This will result in a diminished GW that does not meet the aspirations of the majority of the local community or Victoria's desired planning outcomes for the Green Wedges.
- The tone of 'how can we change the GW planning provisions' should be refocused to 'how can we develop smart solutions, consistent with the current GW planning provisions and boundary'. A1.6 is a good example of this. A1.7 needs a similar approach to solve the problem without diminishing the GW or its boundary.
- Comments on specific points:
Objectives O1.3, O1.6 & O1.7 and Actions A1.4, A1.5, A1.8, A1.9, A1.10 & A1.11 apply to any rural area, whether it is a GW or not. They certainly should be in the Council Plan, but don't need to be specifically spelt out 'part of' the GWMP, other than as a reference to acknowledge that they apply to the GW.

Goal 2

- In order to better manage the natural environment of the Shire, greater dialogue must be generated and maintained with the Traditional Custodians of the area. This is vital for the health of the whole community and the environment in which we live. A Key Action of Goal 2 must focus on this.
- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- Studies show that the natural environment, "the bush", has a positive influence on the mental and physical health for regular visitors to, and residents of, the bush. This needs (with the evidence) to be reflected in the Key Actions.
- The preamble finishes with a paragraph on the iconic nature of mudbrick dwellings to Nillumbik and laments that the number of new such dwellings has 'fallen away'. Doing something about this needs to be a **Key action** if Council is sincere about their comments of importance.
- Why no mention of Council Open Studios and Artisan Hills providing opportunities in the Green Wedge?
- People are important and a healthy environment helps people to be healthy, but the natural environment should not be compromised.

Goal 3

- The GWMP needs to more strongly acknowledge the importance of ALL indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it THROUGHOUT the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what ecosystems provide; developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent); address the climate change and extinction crises, and the need to transform to an

ecologically sustainable society. This must become the underpinning ethos that guides the Actions and all other aspects of the plan, without compromise.

- Goal 3 repeatedly uses the language of 'balance', and this needs to be amended as it indicates that our thinking is oppositional. It implies that there is a need to trade-off environmental health against other considerations, while international, national, and state government reports indicate that we must prioritise the health of our environment. For example, A3.12, p 33, speaks of balancing amenity, environmental considerations, private water extraction and community considerations. What needs to take place is a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.
- The use of stocktakes and studies [see A3.1, p32] that describe some areas of vegetation as more significant or valuable than others is alarming as it can lead to greater degradation of the environment which is already under pressure. The majority of the Shire's ecosystems are already 'disturbed' because of mismanagement, and this means we must change our ways. Every Objective and Action ought to aim for preservation and reinvigoration of the environment. One of the greatest threats to the Shire is 'death by a thousand cuts', where bit by bit land clearing and grazing leave our flora and fauna vulnerable to ever increasing stress and disappearance. In turn this also places greater pressure on our community's overall well-being.
- An additional Action must be to undertake a massive public education campaign about biodiversity, the value of ecosystems, care for natural landscapes, bushfire risk reduction through understanding the ancient role of fire in the landscape, the significance of the Green Wedge, climate change and their interdependence.
- It is inappropriate to clump biodiversity with other seemingly conflicting/opposing activities. Biodiversity protection is paramount and clearly an intention of the Green Wedge Management Plan process, thus, Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement should be a Goal of its own.
- In an appendix to THIS draft plan (Appendix 1), Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, which provides the desired planning outcomes for Green Wedges and peri-urban areas, has the directive to "Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species, and achieve a Net Gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation." This draft plan does not provide sufficient emphasis on biodiversity protection, which should be the primary Objective of this Draft Plan.
- (O3.1) While it is important to protect our "valuable" biodiversity and habitats, this skirts around the importance of "less valuable" or, more accurately, "less intact or disturbed" habitats that make up the entire biodiversity map for the shire. For example, the "vulnerable" Ecological Vegetation Class - Valley Grassy Forest is often degraded within Nillumbik due to its grassy understory lending itself to being readily-available grazing land. This does NOT negate the importance of these otherwise "less valuable" habitats.
- It is important to consider vital faunal corridors, which may or may not be currently vegetated OR may support less "valuable" (read: less intact or degraded) habitats. We need to acknowledge that our natural environment is already highly fragmented, so these important corridors may exist, or need to be created, across landscapes that do not contain so-called "valuable" biodiversity and habitats.
- (A3.12) Amenity has no place when considering waterway health. This is not an area in which "balance" is appropriate and wording for this should be "Review current water extraction and diversion practices, including use of dams and bores, in light of inadequate environmental flows due to reduced rain fall and climate change impacts".
- It makes environmental sense to extend and improve the Green Wedge ESOs and the GWMP must say that is the intent of the 'review' (A3.2)
- Waterways, particularly Nillumbik rivers and creeks that feed the Yarra, must have water. It is not a balance; it is a priority (A3.12)
- The GWMP should undertake a massive public education campaign about biodiversity, ecosystem services, natural landscapes, the Green Wedge, climate change and their interdependences

Goal 4

- This section must clearly focus on overall environmental protection. Economic activities must be assessed and altered in response to latest science and the urgent need for environmental protections. This must be reflected in the title of the Goal, the Actions, and throughout the plan, for example, 'A prosperous **eco-friendly Green Wedge** economy'.
- Support for local agriculture is important but must always provide for the continuing health of the environment. New systems that respect and promote regenerative farming, Indigenous knowledge, and value indigenous flora and fauna must be encouraged.
- The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail – much of Nillumbik has been cleared at some stage, but thanks to regeneration it holds significant environmental qualities. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed about the piggery etc proposed for next door.
- This draft must mention the fact that tourism developments in the Green Wedge need to be "in conjunction" with agricultural uses, as stated in Section 55 of the planning scheme. This clause of the planning scheme decreases the likelihood of inappropriate development.
- Horses and other hard-hoofed animals have a negative impact on the environment – none of Australia's native animals have hard hooves. Impacts on habitats include erosion, water quality degradation, damage to flora, and spreading of weeds. Actions must be implemented to prevent these impacts. These must include education of the equine sector and other graziers. There needs to be greater understanding and responsible ownership of animals, ensuring that animals do not enter waterways and are not allowed to graze in the bush. This focus on environmental care must also be reflected in the proposed Nillumbik Equine Strategy.
- Change the goal to: "A prosperous **Green Wedge** economy"
The goal was designed for the whole of Nillumbik in the Council Plan, so that the wording throughout this section is very general and needs to be re-focused to what is specific to the GW in terms of environmental context and eco-friendly economic activities.
- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- Economic activities must have a net positive impact on the Green Wedge natural environment.
- Economic activities in the Green Wedge must be compatible with the Vision of the GWMP: "to enhance the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Shire."
- Rather than the GW environment being an afterthought this plan should learn from the first GWMP: *"The GWMP supports economic activity suited to the Green Wedge: activity that does not have a negative impact on its environmental values and characteristic landscapes. This is in accordance with the Council Plan 2009–2013 and Melbourne 2030."*

Goal 5

- This draft plan suggests the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) is too restrictive of farming practices and this zoning should only be applied to land with higher conservation values. This suggestion puts at serious risk flora and fauna across a significant proportion of the Shire, whether as single trees in paddocks or scattered pockets of remnant bush. These are all vital and in need of greater care and protection, not less.
- This Goal in its entirety must place much greater emphasis on the need to 'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and

quality of native vegetation.’ (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050).

- Key Action A5.6 and A5.7 [page 40 of the draft] propose changes to how land within the Green Wedge can be used. This has the potential to erode the values of the Green Wedge and effectively increase the spread of residential and commercial development outside the Urban Growth Boundary. The UGB must be treated as a hard boundary.
- The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play; that we can be part of the solution, acting locally to address global problems. We're a relatively affluent population. Nillumbik is the perfect place to start turning things around. If not here and now, where and when?
- The preamble, objectives and actions of this goal almost totally ignore what should be the major objective of the GWMP – to *'Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation.* (Refer 1st item in Appendix 1 of draft GWMP - Plan Melbourne 2017-2050)
- This Goal title, “Responsible leadership’ is taken from the Council Plan that covers the whole shire, to take these Goal names and apply them to GWMP, for one part of the shire, makes no sense.
- Council first says it will work with ‘both sides’, but it should first reference the science and government policy on the values and threats to agriculture and the environment and the ideal way that they can coexist for the betterment of both.
- Nillumbik leaders should explain that “the right to farm” comes with an obligation on the owner to not degrade the land during his/her brief period of stewardship. Stewardship simply means that after an owner’s (brief) tenure the land and its waterways will be passed on in a better state. For agricultural land this means with soil erosion and pest invasion controlled; for bush properties, biodiversity has been improved. Nillumbik Landcare Network have produced a document on the Culture of Community Custodianship of Land which explains this concept.
- Council should call on advice of experts in related fields and the requirements of relevant state policies such as Practice Note 31 and the recent DELWP report on Protecting Melbourne’s strategic agricultural land.
- Responsible Leadership would have a separate section dealing with climate change mitigation in accordance with the precautionary principle.
- The UGB is a hard boundary and should be kept that way as. A5.7 may lead to a push for a buffer zone on the rural side of the UGB. This should be rejected.
- The Victorian Green Wedge Planning Zones are aimed at conserving the natural environment of the Green Wedge and this GWMP draft should be supporting the zones not trying to undermine the RCZ and its conservation responsibilities as this draft does. (A5.6 and A5.7)
- With the scenario of polarised views coming from landowners/stewards ‘responsible’ Council Leadership would have listed and described the landowners’ frustrations. Eg: A list of practices beneficial to farming that it is claimed to have been thwarted by the current zoning. This would enable some appreciation by others of Council’s GWMP main plan change.

Other Comments

- The strongest message from the initial community consultation and the Panel Report is that Nillumbik residents and the population of wider Melbourne cherish the high environmental values of the Green Wedge and want it to be maintained, protected and reinvigorated. This message must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. The current draft does not achieve this.
- There is a worrying lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shire’s biodiversity in all its forms and varying quality. Clearly defined actions need to be included which will address this problem to ensure the long-term health of the Green Wedge.
- Declines in biodiversity are at critical levels, and there is urgent need for action by all levels of government and society. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and

Ecosystem Services (IPBES) states that, "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global".

- The impact of invasive species – flora and fauna – is significant and this must be better addressed.
- The Green Wedge Management Plan must reaffirm the Shire's conservation role.
- The draft speaks of polarised and diverse views and how conversations must be respectful and robust. It is vital that this is the case, and is supported by current science, particularly in relation to the need for environmental repair and preservation. It is necessary that we uphold the highest of professional standards throughout the Shire and its Leadership.
- The vast majority of the stated objectives and key actions are applicable to a well thought out plan for any 'rural municipality'. Whilst they are obviously required for Nillumbik's rural areas, they do not specifically relate to the special aspects associated with the GW. The mixing of the 'general rural' and 'specific GW' issues makes the GWMP draft complex and confused. It could be interpreted the GW is being blamed for many problems that are common to most rural communities.
- The last GWMP had positive Environment Strategies that have disappeared from this Council plan and should be reinstated:

Environment Strategies from the previous 2010-2025 GWMP (for reference/use)

1. Identify and manage biodiversity at a landscape scale for conservation.
2. Support the participation of rural landholders and communities in conserving biodiversity.
3. Discourage further rural residential development of undersized allotments in the Green Wedge.
4. Pursue the protection and restoration of significant sites and wildlife corridors.
5. Ensure land use and development is addressed in the context of its potential effect on the wider catchment.
6. Conserve biodiversity by implementing sustainable land use planning and encouraging sustainable land management.
7. Minimise the impact of pest plants and animals.
8. Identify, document and protect the character of the diverse landscapes of the Green Wedge.
9. Adopt best practice on a local basis to address climate change.

I request that Council considers these issues and revises the Draft GWMP to included appropriate emphasis on the value of the environment and its biodiversity in the Green Wedge.

Regards,

Name

Address

(Optional) Note: I wish my submission to be 'anonymous' if it is published.

From: [Katie Rizzo](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Green Wedge Management Plan submission
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 8:11:09 AM

Submitted by: Katie Rizzo

Contact details: [REDACTED]

Date: 11/08/2019

Submission

I want the environmental biodiversity in the Green Wedge protected, increased and enhanced.

As an Eltham resident of over 11 years, I want a Green Wedge Management Plan which includes the appropriate details for implementation and monitoring, including outcomes, performance indicators, roles and responsibilities, priorities, time-frames and evaluation. This includes to:

- Maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and species and achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation” as required in ‘*Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* : Desired planning outcomes for green wedges and peri-urban areas’[Draft GWMP Appendix 1, p.44]
- No change to the Urban Growth boundary or township boundaries
- Within the Green Wedge, no zone changes, or advocating for zone changes, which could result in subdivision of currently Rural Conservation Zone land into smaller lots.
- No changes to land use, or advocating for changes, which would allow further clearing of Green Wedge land without a permit.
- No Objectives, Key actions or changes to the Planning Scheme which would impact negatively on our biodiversity.

Please think of the future of our area for our children and grandchildren.

--

Katie Rizzo - [REDACTED]

From: [jill bambach](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Please don't ruin our green wedge
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 7:32:32 AM

The draft gwmp does not protect or enhance our green wedge. I live in Panton Hill and I do not support the draft. Community want you to protect the wedge not encourage developers and more farming.
Sent from my iPhone

Refer submission number 54

Participate submission received. Further, an email with a map attachment received into GWMP inbox on 12 August, 2019.

From: [smdwyer](#)
To: [gwmp](#)
Subject: Submission to the draft green wedge management plan
Date: Monday, 12 August 2019 8:09:02 PM

I object to any zoning changes & the status of our remaining bushland

Susan & Mark Dwyer

[REDACTED]

This property has a very long history of commercial use, as it was the site of an early hotel (pub) in Watson's Creek. In the early 1950s a road house & general store was built and operating.

The store was operating until early 1970s until the MMBW (Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works) purchased the property and surrounding properties for the Sugarloaf dam project. Once purchases by the MMBW the business was closed, property was rezoned and subdivided and house/shop rented to residential tenants.

In 1982 Joanne and John van Eeden leased the property from MMBW, advertised for lease as a business site, with the intention of opening a tourism business. John Van Eeden had previously operated two shops in Eltham and Hurstbridge.

The Eltham council at the time granted the Van Eeden's a *Cottage industry* permit in 1982, to run their Antique shop and furniture restoration business.

The Van Eeden's purchased the property from MMBW in 1994. The property was very run down and neglected, so they rebuilt buildings and applied for permits to run a retail store: 110sm was allocated as a site-specific permit.

In 1998 they applied for a permit to run a 50-seat restaurant/café. This was granted.

Also granted was a permit for full, on-premises liquor license.

They repositioned and restored the Barn/workshop and were given *an existing right-of-use* allowing it to be used as a display showroom.

The property now has three (3) large, attached buildings: café, house and house extension. The Barn is a separate building. The buildings have been constructed using mud brick, recycled timbers and second-hand iron in keeping with the sustainable *Eltham Mud brick* style of building and to blend into the environment. Surrounded by beautiful mana gums and with a delightful bush outlook the buildings to have been developed to have as little impact on the environment as possible.

John van Eeden built a small, plastic lined dam which now adds an idyllic feature to the property.

Joanne Van Eeden was one of the founding members of the Nillumbik tourism associating and worked on the committee to set up the Open artist studio's and antique trails and Food and wine trails.

This business:

- has operated for over 37 years
- is the Gateway to Yarra Valley and a well-known destination point
- has provided employment and training for over 100 employees
- offers outlets for local wineries who do not have cellar door permits
- showcases the work of local artists
- offers a range of regional and local food and wine products, all grown and produced in Nillumbik and the Yarra Valley.
- has the updated information carousal for the Yarra Valley, providing passing visitors on the way to the Yarra valley with tourist information
- is an "I" for information centre carrying brochures of local businesses
- is a wonderful venue for small social gatherings such as weddings

- provides rest and toilet facilities, not available elsewhere along the road from Eltham to Yarra Glen. Being on tank-water this can be a heavy cost for the business.

As the planning scheme now stands it severely restricts any chance to enhance the offerings the business is able to make and therefore impacts on its profitability and the capacity to continue operations by extending its operations on some evenings.

The current planning scheme now states that a business may have a restaurant and open in the evening if it is on a 20-acre minimum, have an agricultural, profit-making interest, such as wineries producing wine.

Our business, which sits on only two (2) acres has been over-looked and is an anomaly in the Shire. It stands and survives on its own with permits with strict limitations although it has the same restaurant permits and offers the same, or better, visitor experience, as other wineries in the area. It is probably the longest operating venue of them all but because it does not have 20 acres and make wine it misses out on opportunities to expand available to others in the area.

The business needs to be able to utilise the existing buildings on the premises. The limitation of 110 sq. does not allow enough space for the business to grow and evolve successfully. To be successful a business needs to be able to expand and grow. Surviving in a small business is difficult. They are usually family-run and the owners work very long hours to keep afloat. To cater for these the limitations on permits and size should be addressed to each individual business and focus on their specific needs. This has not happened in our case.

Our business is in line with the Government's long term plan for tourism, that recognises the importance of tourism in local economies including the green wedge.

The Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy 2016 is the Victorian Government's long term tourism plan. It provides an overarching framework that defines tourism's importance to many parts of our local economies and is supported by a broad state policy framework, including green wedge policy

There is no need for further building or development on this property, the buildings are already there. A solution would be a blanket permit or rezoning of the property that would allow existing buildings to become part of the current business operation.

Whilst new businesses are popping up around the shire, they sit on 20 acres and plant grapes or other intrusive species (lavender) and so meet the current regulations. Such properties have less restrictions than Watson Creek property, their permits are more flexible and they have more room to grow. It seems ironic that in a green wedge you are allowed business development if you have grapes or other plantings. These are hardly *sustainable* as they need to be sprayed with toxins and destroy native flora and fauna habitat. There are those in the Shire that have had their grapes and vineyards removed as they are at times not profitable. Worse still are those that have abandoned the grapes and leave the damaged land to stay as an ugly monument to failure. It is a most depressing sight.

By preventing our business to grow on its existing site with minimum disruption to surroundings has been a huge problem. It also seems short sighted for a business that is running and has proven itself to stand alone, sufficiently and profitably for 37 years.

This business was running and over-looked in 2002 when the government made changes and established the 2030 GWMP. The Council, knowing this at the time, allowed the business 12 evening openings a year, each requiring an application. This has been operated on and with no complaints.

In terms of the role of rural townships the business, if able to grow, has many options for contributing to the Government's policy, through increased focus on local history, travel advice and education on sustainable tourism:

Our rural townships will be the primary focus for local economic activity in the green wedge. A place for agriculture, recreation, nature conservation, Tourism and rural living. The green wedge contains a number of uses, including agriculture, conservation, rural living and Tourism. Sustainable tourism opportunities to encourage people to visit or enjoy the green wedge and local towns.

The shires close proximity to Melbourne, its place within the Yarra Valley and Dandenong ranges region and its tourism strengths in nature based assets, agriculture and arts and culture provided opportunity to attract and increase visitors. Sustainable tourism is a significant opportunity and will be an ongoing objective for the green wedge. To grow and maximise the benefits derived from the visitor economy, strategies will support the need for new and diversified accommodation investment and development of new visitor experiences that are able to be managed appropriately in the green wedge environment and townships.

The Nillumbik shire Green wedge plan says "to create a visitor rout" which is exactly what this business is and stands for and has for the past 37 years, still evolving and responding to everything that is relevant in this GWMP.

OUR PROPOSITION:

- that this property be able to utilize the buildings already existing on the site and therefore having little impact on the environment
- that it is able to expand the floor size of the restaurant into the main house, which is attached and purpose-built to accommodate a restaurant.
- that it be able to open two nights (Friday & Saturday) until 10.30 pm, with no amplified music and subdued lighting. Parking to be policed so quiet exiting so that outside noise would not affect the surrounding area
- that permits be granted for a *Bed and Breakfast* and for the Barn, allowing a Cellar door outlet (liquor license red line), small events and or a sales room.

These changes in permits would allow the business to be more successful, offer a greater visitor experience, and generate more employment. It would also create a valuable community hub and keep business in the Shire rather than having guests proceeding through to the Yarra Valley.

To be able to live and work in the Green Wedge is protecting it for the future for our kids and the next generation. Creating wealth, jobs and development for the next generation to be able to protect the Green wedge.