



Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Volume 5

Hard copy submissions

Incoming mail submissions

514 - 737

738 - 747



nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Nillumbik
The Green Wedge Shire

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| 741 | * Roadsides and Roadside Ecology Northern Nillumbik |
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NILLUMBIK COUNCIL

~~GWMP.~~

PLEASE CONFIRM

RECEIPT OF SUBMISSION

~~TO~~

PLEASE RECORD THAT

I WISH TO ADDRESS

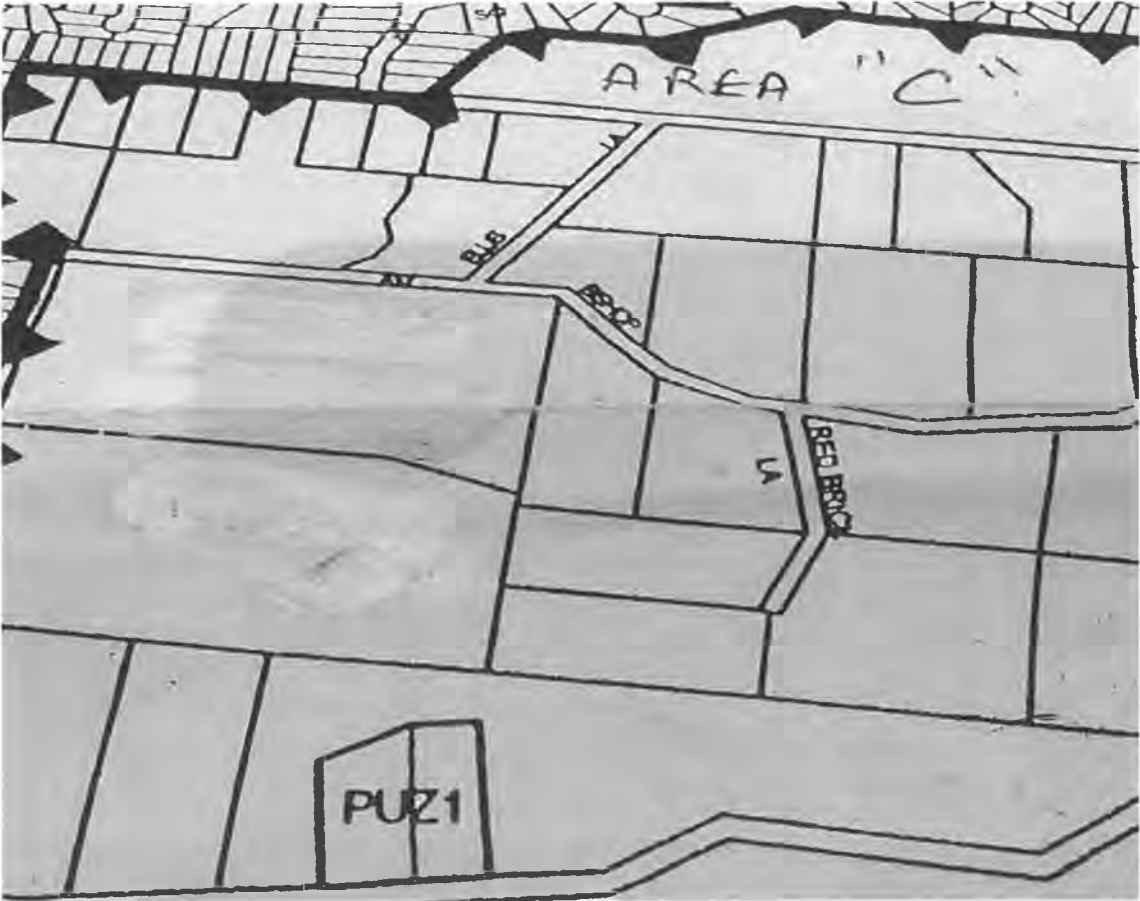
COUNCIL

SUBMISSION TO THE GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN
NILLUMBİK SHIRE COUNCIL

Stewart & Carolyn Donald

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We refer to our property at [REDACTED] consisting of 7.94 hectares which forms part of which Nillumbik referred to as Area C in previous studies (see map below)

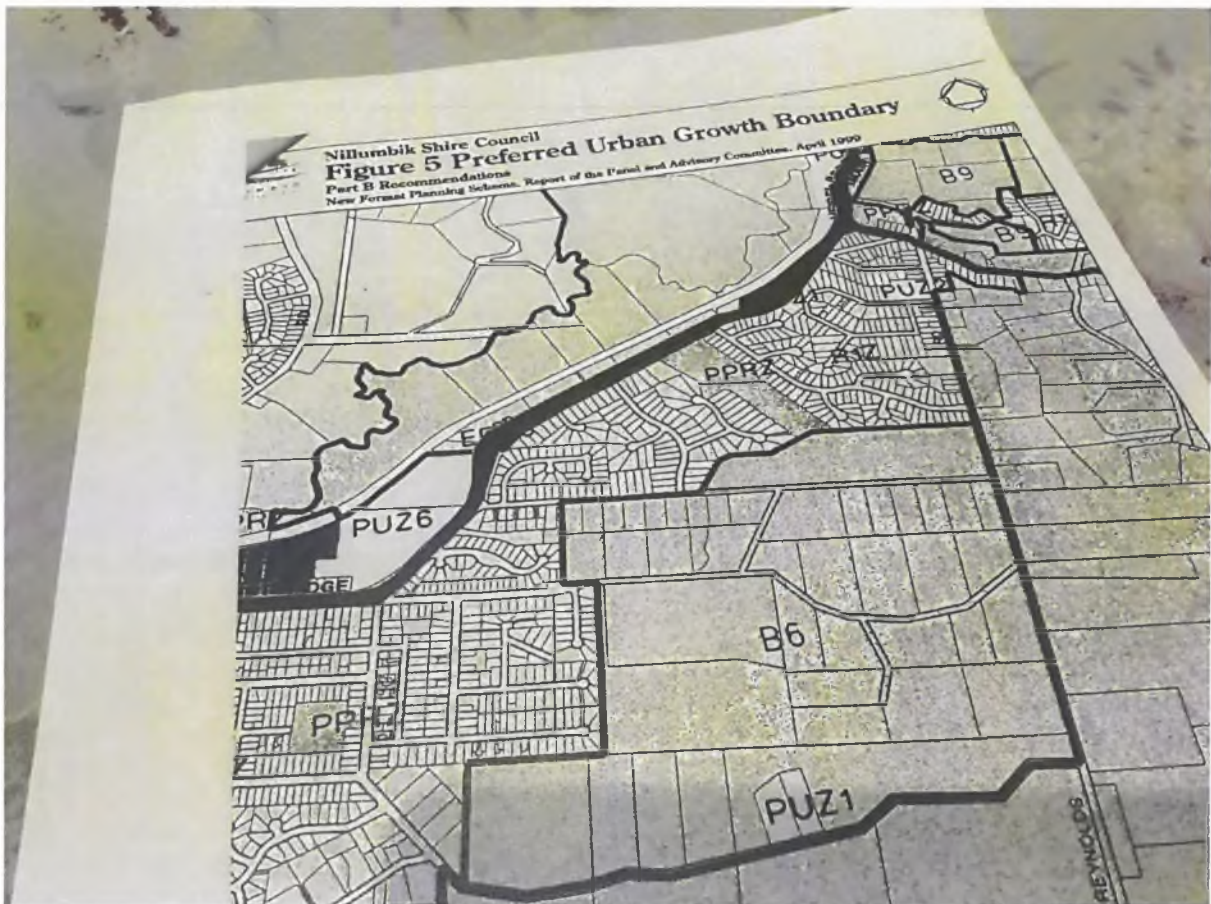


Of 44, allotments identified in Area C only 3 comply with the 8-hectare minimum allotment size as identified in the attached map.

The allotments vary in size from .4 ha upwards with 88% of allotments being 2ha and under, to which Nillumbik Council have previously referred to as rural residential in character.

In consideration of reducing the allotment area of our property using a consistent and merit-based approach we refer to 3 previous recommendations put forward by _

- Nillumbik Council in 2003. That Area "C" be included within the urban growth boundary.
- The independent panel & advisory panel in April 1999 that ERZ 2HA over our land in area C with an averaging option to allow the creation of lots with a minimum lot size of 1.5ha if conservation objectives are enhanced.
- Nillumbik Councils, Melbourne 2030 submission February 2003, which indicated "a more robust UGB will be achieved if it is based on a sound planning principle rather than arbitrary line between existing residential and non-urban zones.
- The proposed Green Wedge Legislation and two draft zones are far too restrictive and do not reflect the values and features of the Nillumbik Green Wedge. (See Below)



Merit based studies have identified our property as being suitable for the creation of smaller allotments include:

- Successful implementation of smaller allotments in the nearby Plenty area
- Within close periphery of a closely subdivided urban area
- Is of a size that is too small for long term agricultural use and too large for easy effective management
- Are experiencing difficulty in pastoral management because of boundary issues with adjoining properties
- Is largely cleared of vegetation and in this instance performing a defacto role of buffer between the nearby urban areas and outer areas of greater vegetation cover
- Is zoned rural conservation (schedule 3) allowing for lots with a minimum size of 8 ha.
- Is just outside the urban growth boundary
- Water electricity and telephone services, are currently available, gas and sewage services are available nearby.

Area "C" in the defined attachment is in close proximity and in many instances within walking distance of infrastructure such as:

4 Primary Schools
1 Secondary School
2 Railway Stations
Numerous bus connections
Emergency Services, Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance

A key problem is that the locality in question is not rural, environmental rural or quintessentially Nillumbik Green Wedge in character at all. At the best it is suburban rural landscape character "SLO 14".

The settlement clearly indicates that the development of area C proceeded rezoning. The table below illustrates the number of allotments above and below the 8 ha minimum in area C of the Diamond Creek urban growth study.

.4ha. - 2 ha. 26 60.4%
2.1ha. - 4ha. 12 27.9%
4.1ha. - 6ha. 1 2.3%
6.1ha. - 8ha. 2 4.7%
8ha. + 2 4.7%

As all allotments contain dwellings and outbuildings etc. it is clearly evident that Area "C" having considerable building and development opportunities exercised over the years a rural residential outcome has evolved despite the retrospective zoning.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Previous comprehensive studies have indicated that existing flora and fauna is consistent throughout Victoria and the reduction of allotment areas would not propose a threat to either.

Perversi Avenue, Bishop Avenue Road ways are unsealed. Prevailing winds most commonly south westerlies blanket the area with environmental and health hazardous dust and other toxic materials identified through forensic testing.

Despite only 5 dwellings situated along the unmade section of [REDACTED], traffic volumes number an average 1083 vehicles per day, a clear indication that [REDACTED] or feeder road to outer suburbs.

SOCIAL

Our family [REDACTED] have now occupied property along [REDACTED] since the 1800's spanning 6 generations.

Inconsistent and bewildering planning decisions have resulted in urban development and redevelopment along the hard edge of the UGB and Green Wedge rural properties.

The rural properties providing a backyard, parkland, playground and dumping ground for their urban neighbours, evidenced by the number of gateways, fence removals, piles and piles of rubbish due to easy access.

Rubbish dumping, vandalism, theft graffiti, stray dogs and speeding motorists are a direct result of past poor planning outcomes.

NOTE Dog attacks on livestock result in conflict between neighbours and restrict land use and livestock carrying possibilities.

The recent shooting of neighbour's dogs is a major concern.

NOTE Age care facilities (ageing in place), homes or a village catering for our ageing population is badly needed in the Diamond Creek area - allowing dignified living in social and familiar surrounds.

ECONOMIC

Area "C" comprises of approximately 100ha., livestock numbers are minimal and by enlarge utilised to manage land through grazing.

All agricultural pursuits have been studied resulting in a conclusion that no meaningful agricultural activities are worthwhile - soils been very poor.

NOTE an, application by [REDACTED] to erect a hothouse and grow hydroponic tomatoes at [REDACTED] drew wide spread objection from neighbours and urban residents on the basis of excessive noise and visual pollution.

Existing infrastructure supports a planning scheme amendment of area "C" into more manageable allotments also resulting in increased economic activity in the township. Sealed roads via private road schemes, additional council rates, better, efficient and appropriate land use, happy residents and dust free walking tracks.

CONCLUSION

The subject land can hardly be described as rural or rural conservation and is more fittingly described as urban fringe. It is not evident how a blanket 8ha. Minimum subdivision already exceeded protects the environment and landscape values in non-urban areas.

Surely a better approach is to review how existing infrastructure within such proximity to the township of Diamond Creek can be better utilised and the environmental and landscape values of the land be promoted through a more flexible and performance-based approach rather than a blanket subdivision control.

We understand that further strategic work and investigations are required to promote the long term management of this land as it should be subject to a change in the schedule that would enhance Green Wedge management in a manner that is contiguous with existing residential allotments.

Put simply "hard edges" don't work!

Buffer zones do!

Area "C" lies adjacent to a major activity centre.

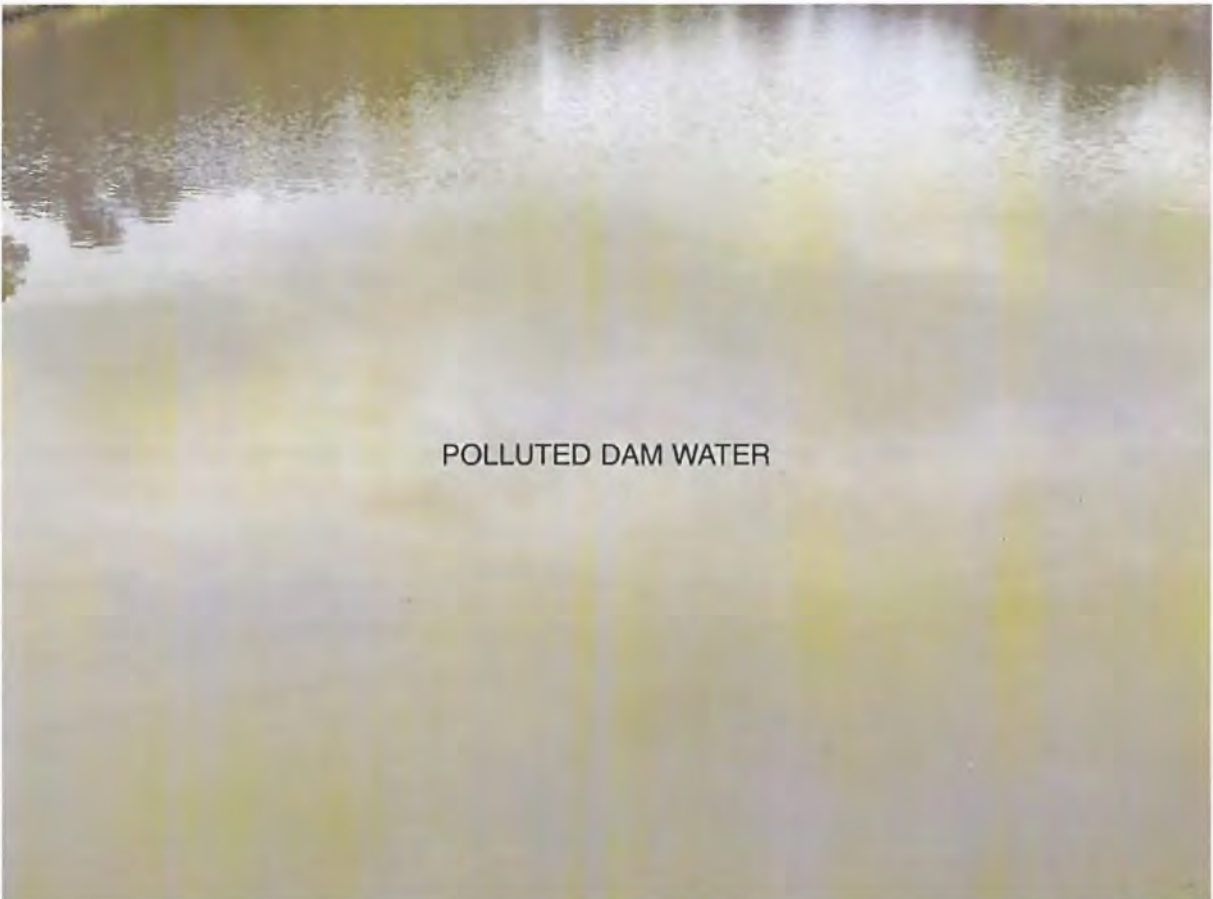
A buffer zone needs to be created between the urban allotments and rural properties east of Reynolds Road.

This Nillumbik Council now has the opportunity to rectify past anomalies to finally get it right!

See pictures below to show what type of things are going on in our area.

Kind Regards

Stewart Donald





DUMPED TYRES
PHIPPS CRESCENT



URBAN RESIDENTS DUMPING GROUND

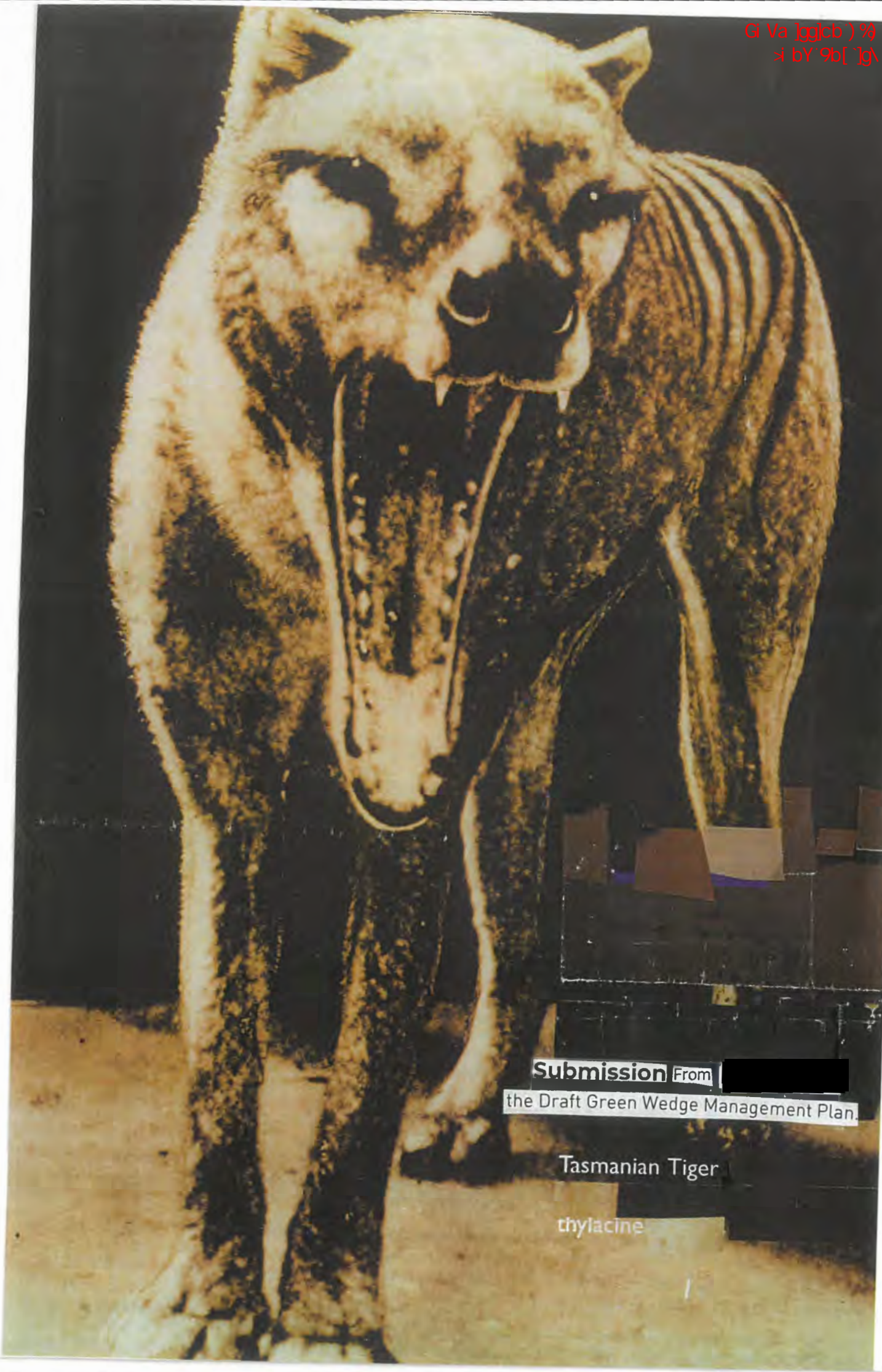


LITTER



URBAN RESIDENTS DISPLAYING ACCESS AND TRAFFIC MOVEMENT

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Submission From [REDACTED]
the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

Tasmanian Tiger

thylacine

1 Contents SOME EVIDENCE FOR MY APPRAISAL DRAFT Green Wedge Management Plan

cover: Megafaunal Thylacine, carnivorous.

- 2 Rationale of this submission. Applause + objections, DGWM Plan.
- 3 Mudplastering by June and daughter [REDACTED]
- 4-7 Western art heritage
- 8 Wurundjeri tribesman and BUNJIL the eagle spirit.
- 9 Manna Gum and Bunjil
- 10 Wurundjeri acknowledgement and its interpretation.
- 11 Shire's eulogy of Wurundjeri displayed on 'dirty bush'
- 12 Totems Megafauna
- 16 Eucalypt pyrophytes need pyrobotanical ecoservices.
- 18 Discriminatory urban Growth Boundary.
- 21-25, Aboriginal art heritage. The red centre. Tiwis.
- 27 "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."
- 30 Sick landscape is hurting.
- 32 Extreme bushfire.
- 34 Live in the landscape. Die in the landscape.
- 36 Suppression replacing prevention with disastrous results.
- 38 Selective quotes from VBAC to justify 'shared responsibility'?
- 40 VBAC definition of "shared responsibility" contradicts Pillumik interpretation.
- 41 CO₂ level not responsible for climate change.
- 42 Causes of drying climate.
- 44 Kyoto Protocol of no benefit to mankind.
- 46 Sugarloaf reservoir polluted by treated sewage and drugs.
- 48 Plan by private landowners to restore biodiversity, prevent bushfire and increase wealth. Big animals and maremma guard dogs.
- 50 Hoofed animals, just like the megafauna, good for biodiversity.
- 52 Allan Savory's big animals reverse desertification on 5 continents.
- 51-5 Paintings that transfuse subject with soul.



Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Submission by [REDACTED]

In this, my submission, I investigated your Wurrundjeri dedication to discover how their beliefs kept Dillumbik fire safe, biologically diverse and alive with healthy beauty for thousands of years. I concluded your vision for Dillumbik's Green Wedge has the same intent as Wurrundjeri Dreaming by describing a community living in the landscape to enhance the environment, social and economic sustainability.

SUMMARY of my consideration of some aspects of your PLAN.

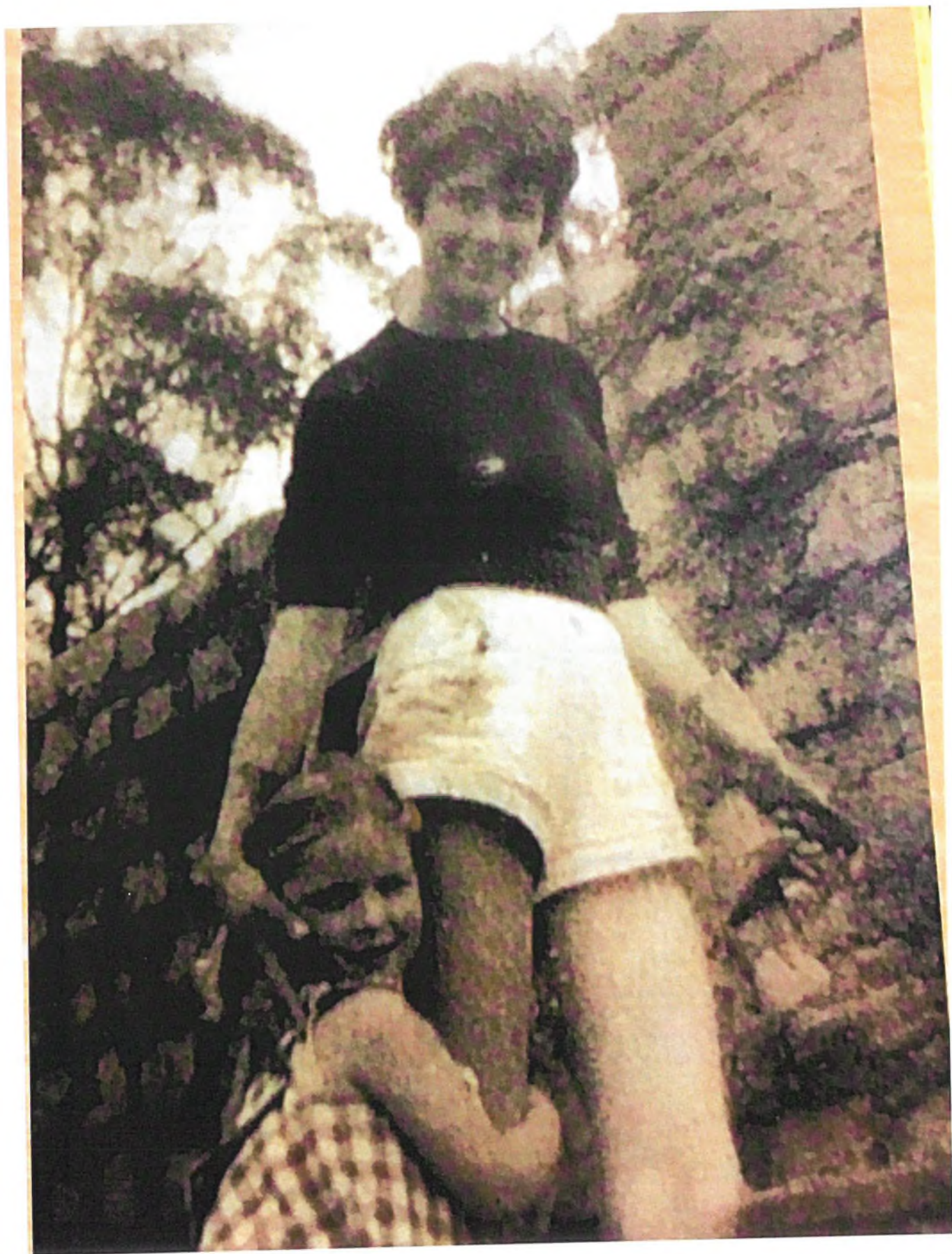
I applaud, fostering artistic expression, sponsorship of Wurrundjeri cultural heritage should be developed by including workshops in new gallery. approve of private landholders invoking their common law rights to create a plan that increases their wealth by restoring biodiversity.

OBJECTIONS

1. I Grieve at the ignorance of megafaunal bushfire prevention. + HOOFs.
2. Censure sloppy research on Homo nomadism, food supply + bushfire prevention.
3. am critical of the lack of acknowledgement of the legal basis of fire prevention by DEWLP, CFA and other fire agencies.
4. "deplore the unfair, dangerous concept of shared responsibility for bushfire PREVENTION which can never be equal, i.e shared.
5. I reject the threatening concept of residual risk.
6. "condemn the inadequate mitigation of fuel load creating the potential for thousands of deaths, species disaster, loss of infrastructure and depletion of water supply.
7. "revile your failure to mention extreme bushfires that can't be fought, are 1% of all fires yet cause 99% of the damage of all bushfires.
8. "amazed your wurrundjeri ecology exemplifies a picture of overgrown dirty bush.
9. "Object to the precautionary principle stifling initiative because the ecoservices required by native flora might clash with private agenda.
10. I spurn the discredited assumption that increased CO₂ causes climate change.
11. "shocked you seem unfamiliar with Sugarloaf pollution by sewage and drugs.
12. "abhor my discrimination by the 2003 Urban Growth boundary.

Kudditji Kngwarreye | My Country





Deborah Halpin ceramic sculpture.

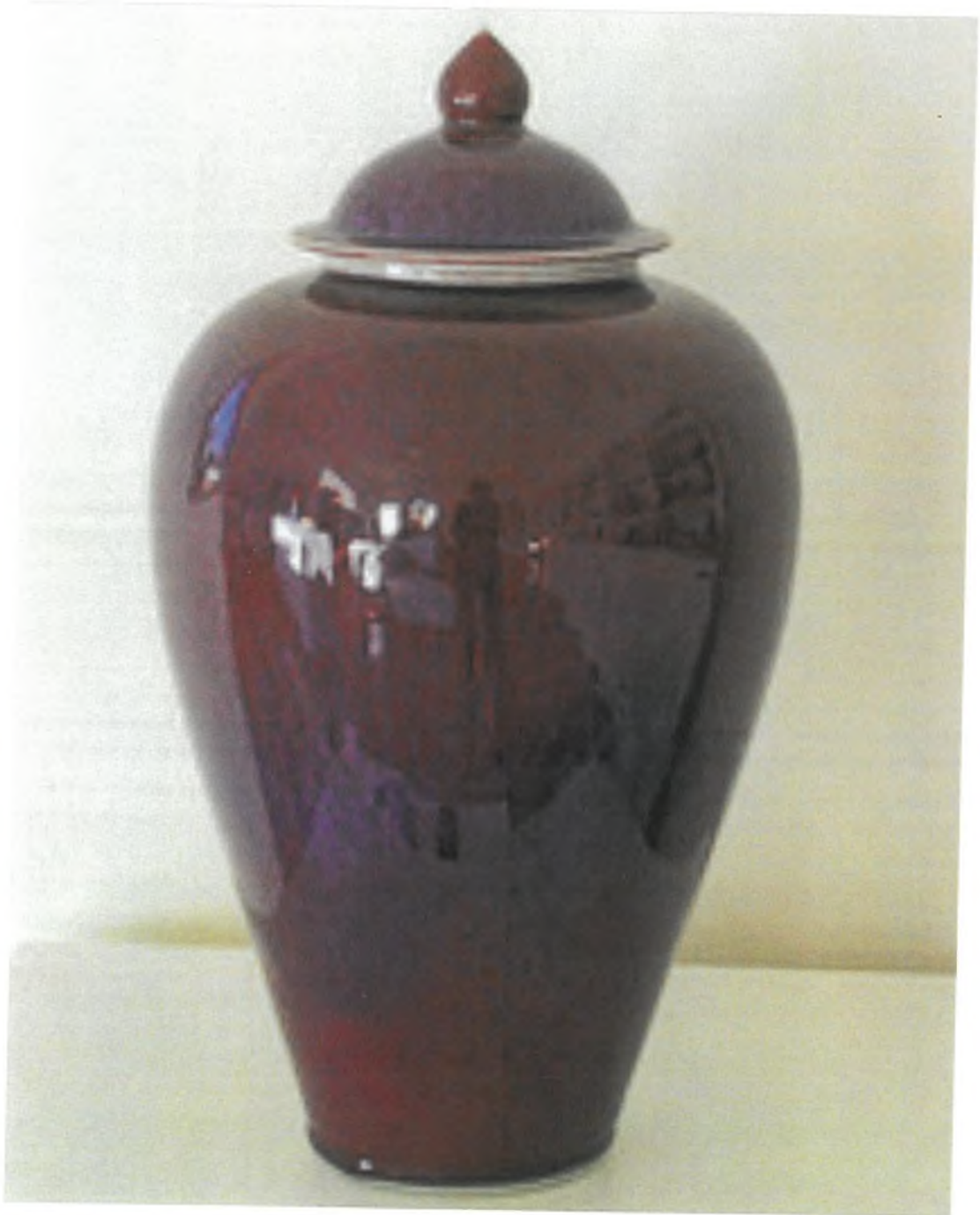




Shane Pickett, *Wanyarang Lightning Calling* 2005.

6

Chris Sanders ceramic jar



7a

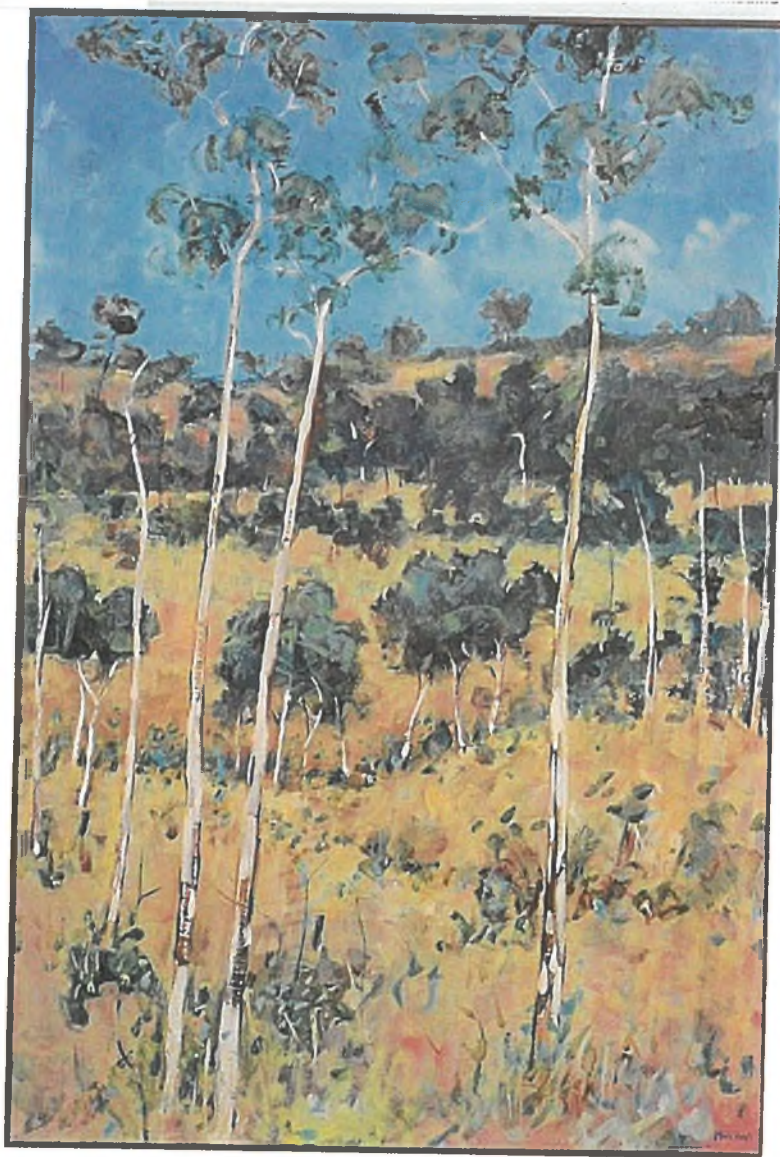
robert baines "transaction" stainless



Michael Wilson Diamond Jewellers

8a

piers dudley bateman



Piers Bateman

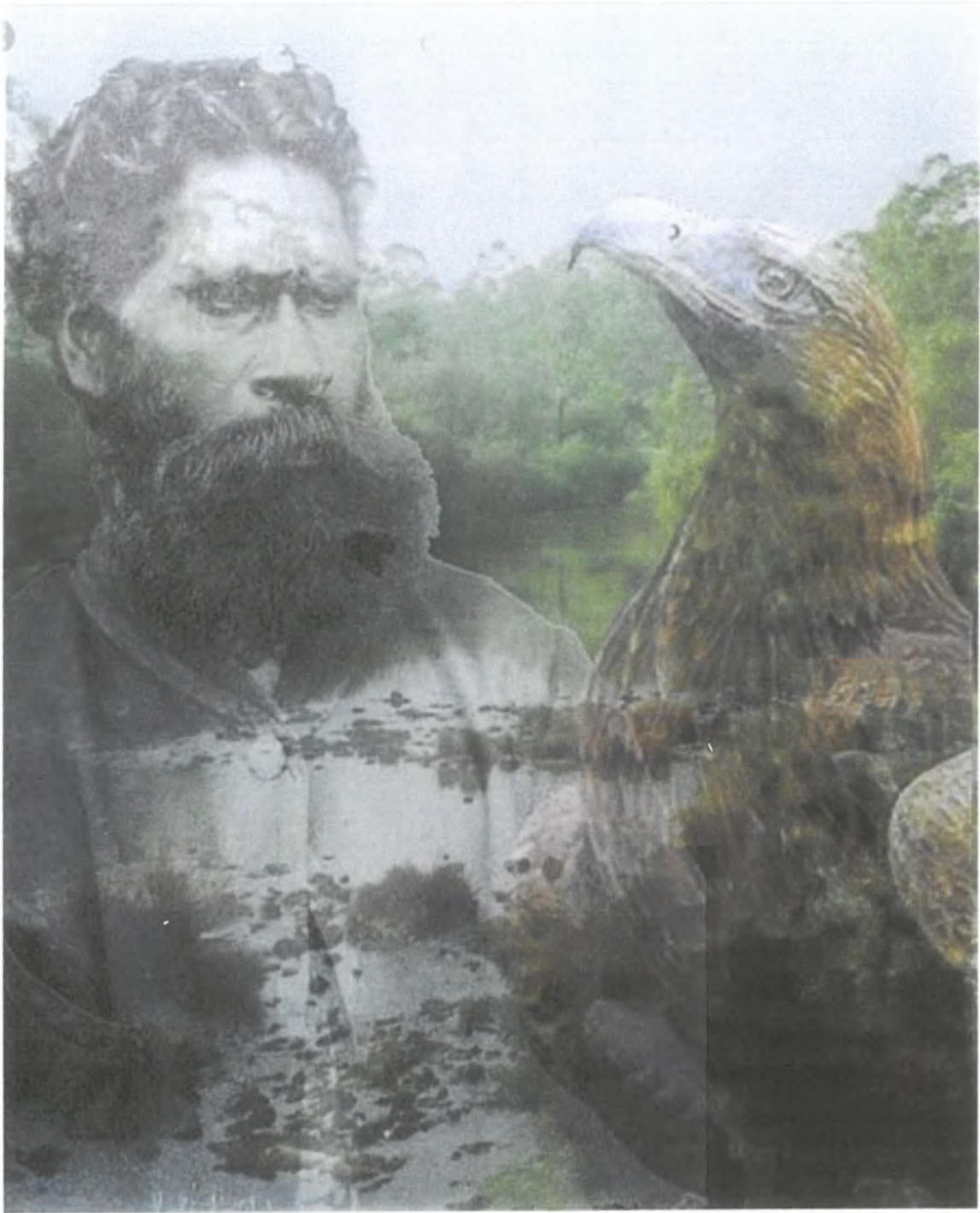
7

A large Frog climbed out of the swamp and was sitting on the bank when it started to rain.

*It rained so much that a big river was created. The frog called the river, **Yarra****



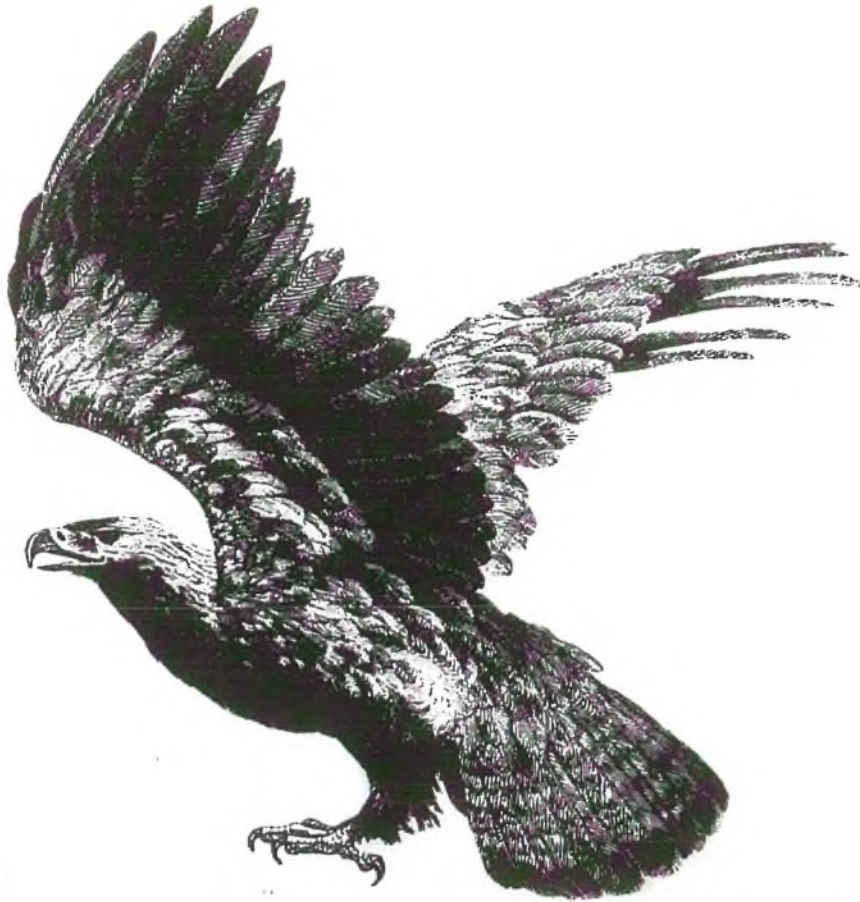
Amy Cunningham-Waltz | Frogs | Frog art, Aboriginal dot painting



*Yarra is a Wurundjeri word meaning 'eternally flowing'.

Pre-Contact Wurundjeri - The Aboriginal History of Yarra

9



Bunzil



Moanna Gum





Wurundjeri

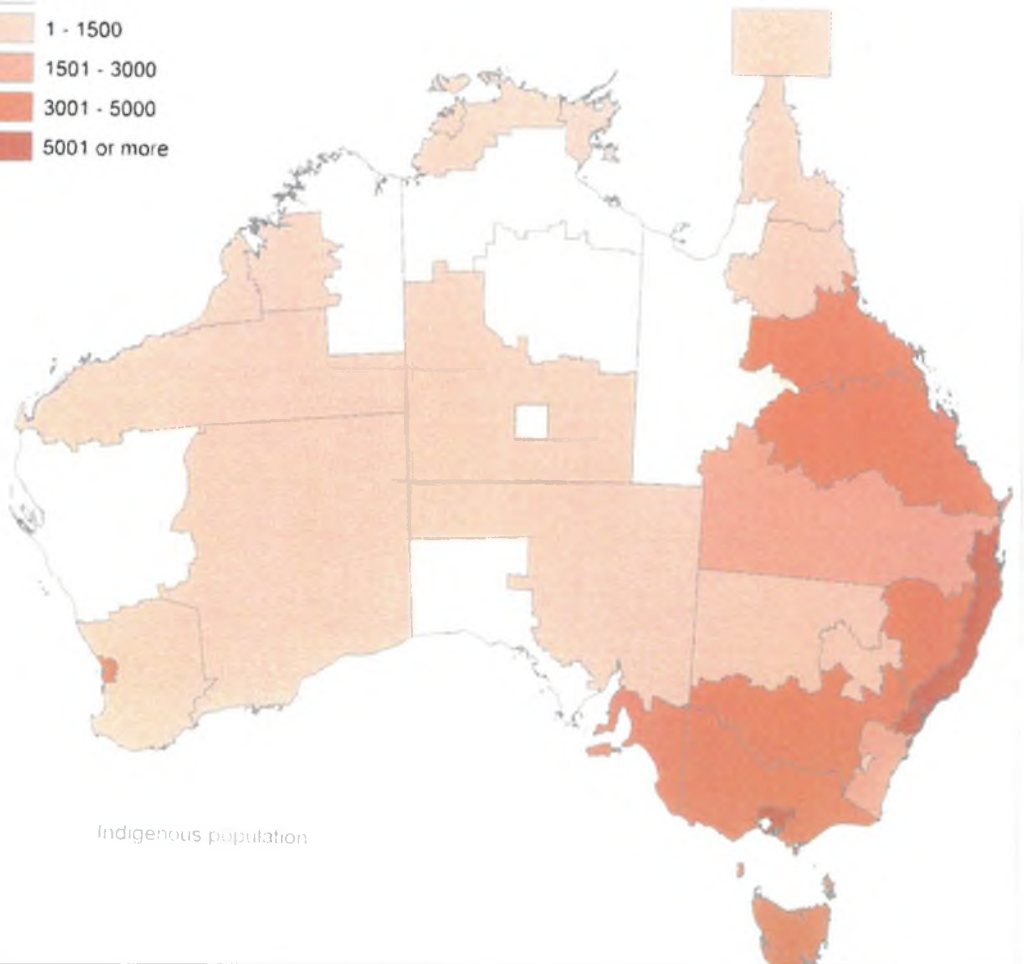
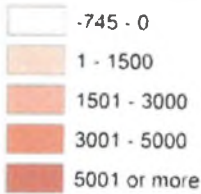
Dillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of land known today as Dillumbik. We pay respect to the Elders both past and present and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians.

This acknowledgement of the traditional landowners means: -

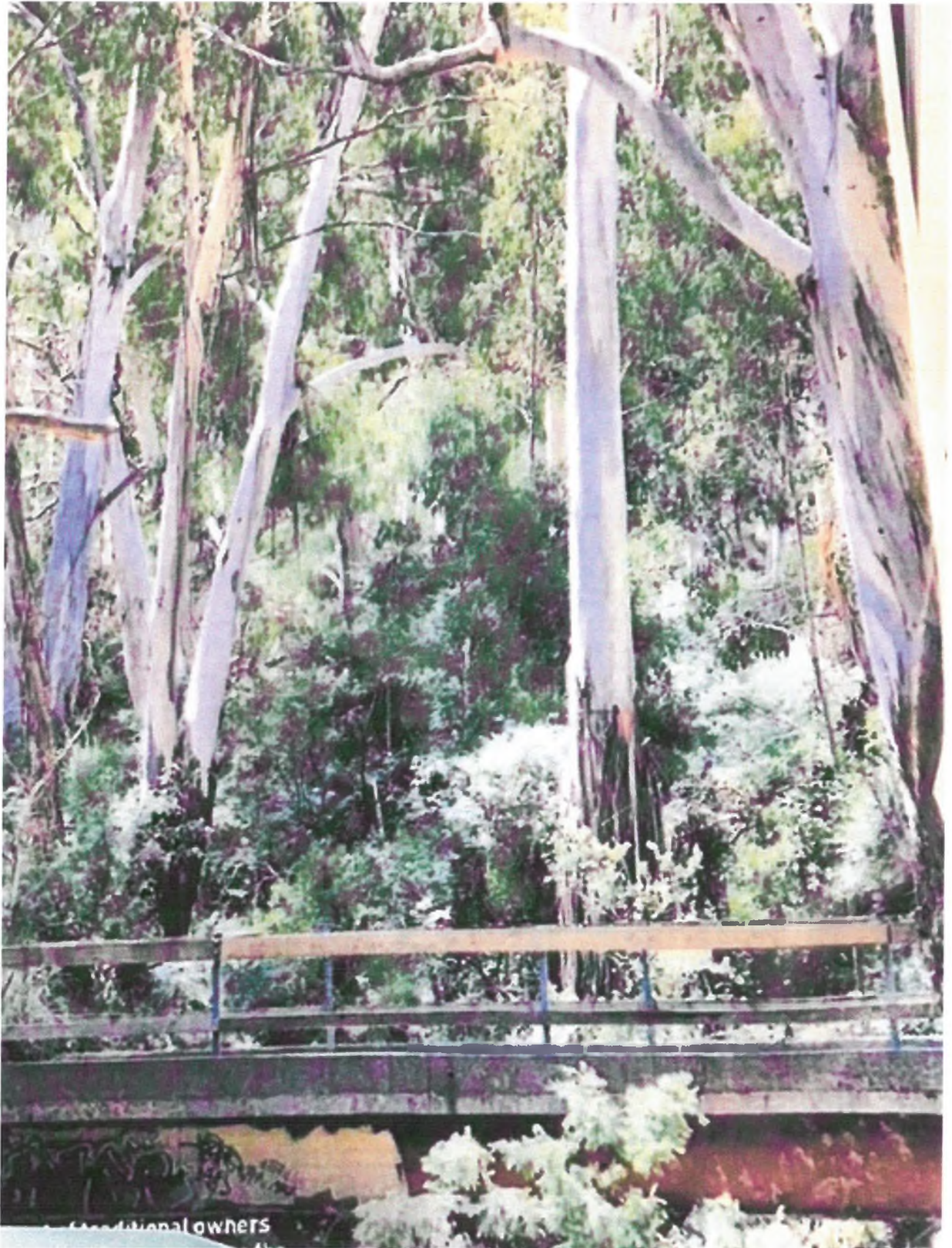
We recognise and admit the depth of the claims of the WURUN people of the MANNA GUM, the DJERI GRUB that lives in that tree and BUNJIL, the eagle spirit that created Wurun from the land. Woi is the way they pronounce their words, WURRUNG their language, one of 300-700 spoken in 1788. As landowners for more than 60,000 years they took care and safekeeping of Country through their Dreaming. For generations stories of fundamental importance were repeated so their oral history persisted.

Wurundjeri Tribe Council We pay deferential esteem to Councils of previous and present Wurundjeri people whose current chairman is Joy Murphy Wandin. That respect is extended to the rest of the 786,689 members of Nation identified in 2017 from the 2016 census.

Number of persons



Indigenous population



Overgrown, uncared for 'dirty bush', antithesis of totemic 'clean bush.'

What are the **Wurundjeri claims** you admit the truth of and what enabled them to care for the land for thousands of years? 12

The **DREAMTIME** imposed tribal laws, a system of **totemic symbols** about land management, songline travel, bush tucker, location and status of spiritual significance controlling conduct, retribution, governance, transactions, diplomacy, and all other aspects of being.

FIRE DREAMING was the supreme totem which not only guided their **NOMADIC lifestyle**, because fire was their hearth and home, but also care of the environment. Seventy percent of Australian plants need or tolerate fire. Rainforest, allergic to fire, covered Australia when it was part of the supercontinent **Gondwana**. Australia finally separated 45 mya and drifted northwards. The **climate** became hotter and drier. Most endemic rainforest died in the drought. Survivors evolved into **scleromorphs** (sclerophyll.) **Eucalypts**, a relatively minor species, appeared 34 mya. As Australia's **tectonic plate** crushed against the S.E. Asian plate 15 mya, it pushed up the New Guinea Highlands which intercepted tropical rains, further drying Australia.

Megafauna, giant animals of up to 3 tonnes roamed the country at this time, such as giant wombats. (Diprotodon)

HOMO SAPIENS arrived in Australia between 120,000 and 70,000 years overlapping with megafauna for 20,000 - 30,000 years.

These megafauna kept the bush fire-safe, lumbering between trees, their huge size ensuring wide **spacing** prevented connectivity. Their **seamplung** compacted seedlings and litter, denying oxygen to lightning strikes, keeping fires small and cool. When the megafauna became extinct this eco-service was denied the bush. Larger more threatening bushfires occurred.

Aborigines had observed the park-like appearance and flattened ground created by large animals, so they filled this vacant niche using their **fire dreaming** to cool burn the bush, keeping it clean.

Nillumbik shows ignorance of this concept by using a picture of overgrown, connected, dirty bush on which to showcase their Wurundjeri dedication.

truly monstrous creature, more like 7m in length, sat unchallenged at the top of the food chain.

13



Varanus priscus was the largest land-living lizard in history (Credit: Stocktrek Images Inc/Alamy)

Fauna found at the Naracoorte Fossil Site

Procoptodon goliath - the largest of the leaf-eating kangaroos (200kg) could stand on tiptoe, prop on its tail and reach leaves up to three metres from the ground. The skull is short and deep, an indication it had enough power in its jaws to grind up very tough leaves.



Palorchestes azael - originally described as a giant kangaroo based on a few fossil teeth. As more fossils of this species were found, researchers realised that it must have walked on four legs. Palorchestes may also have had a small trunk, hence the name "marsupial tapir".



Thylacoleo carnifex - commonly called the marsupial lion, it had a cat-like skull with large slicing premolars or cheek teeth. Combined with a large retractable thumb claw and powerful forelimbs this animal would have been a fearsome predator.



Diprotodon australis - the largest marsupial to ever live in Australia, weighing over two tonnes. It is rarely found in the cave deposits, because its sheer size prevented it from falling through most cave openings.



Thylacinus cynocephalus - the thylacine or Tasmanian tiger is now extinct, the last one dying in the Hobart Zoo in 1936. Despite numerous reports each year, there has been no proof presented to show the animal is still alive.



Megalibgwilia ramsayi - a very large, long-beaked echidna with powerful digging forelimbs. Their diet would probably have included worms and grubs rather than ants.



Simosthenurus occidentalis - stood no taller than a modern grey kangaroo, but was much more robust. It is one of the nine species of leaf-eating kangaroos identified at Naracoorte.

Wonambi naracoortensis - a large, non-venomous snake grew to a length of five to six metres and killed its prey by constriction. Wonambi is an Aboriginal word for the rainbow serpent. The species name naracoortensis reflects the fact it was first described from fossils found at Naracoorte.



Progura naracoortensis - a giant malleefowl was also first described from Naracoorte's fossils.

Zygomaturus trilobus - a marsupial with no modern day comparisons that probably lived in the wetter areas of Australia, feeding on clumps of reeds and sedges it shovelled up with two fork-like front incisors. The skull has raised nostrils that would be an advantage to the animal when feeding in water.



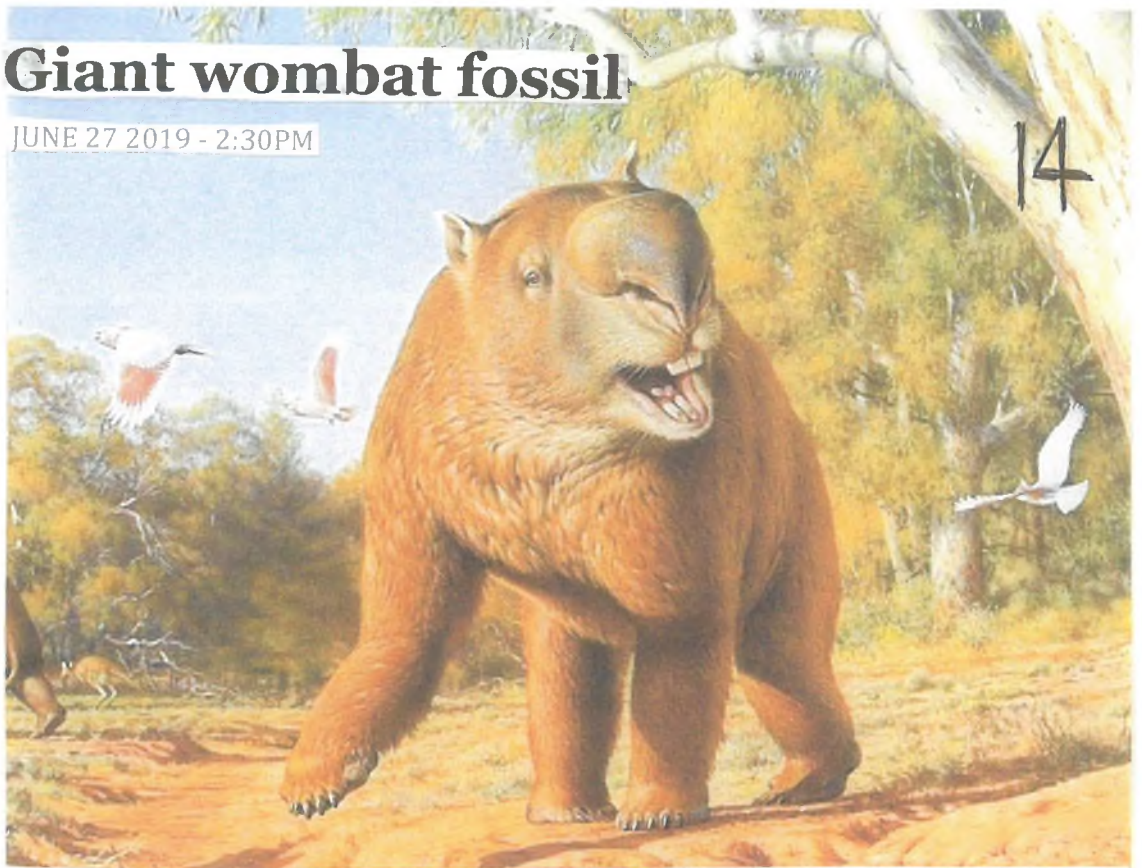
Megalania the largest venomous animal ever to have lived

Mega fauna

Giant wombat fossil

JUNE 27 2019 - 2:30PM

14



Council workers in the Snowy Mountains have unearthed the fossilised jaw of a juvenile diprotodon, the largest known marsupial to roam the planet.

An illustration of the rhino-sized, 2.8 tonne diprotodon. diprotodons were herbivores

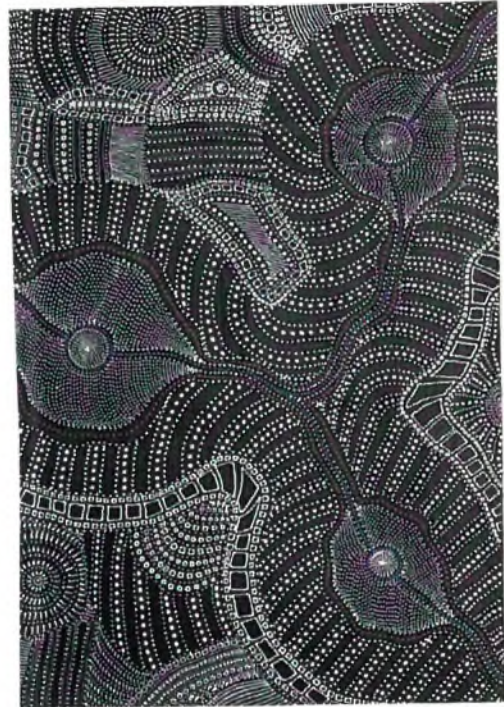


Wonambi, the Rainbow Serpent, was not some mythological fantasy, but a Dreamtime memory of a 7 metre megafaunal snake.

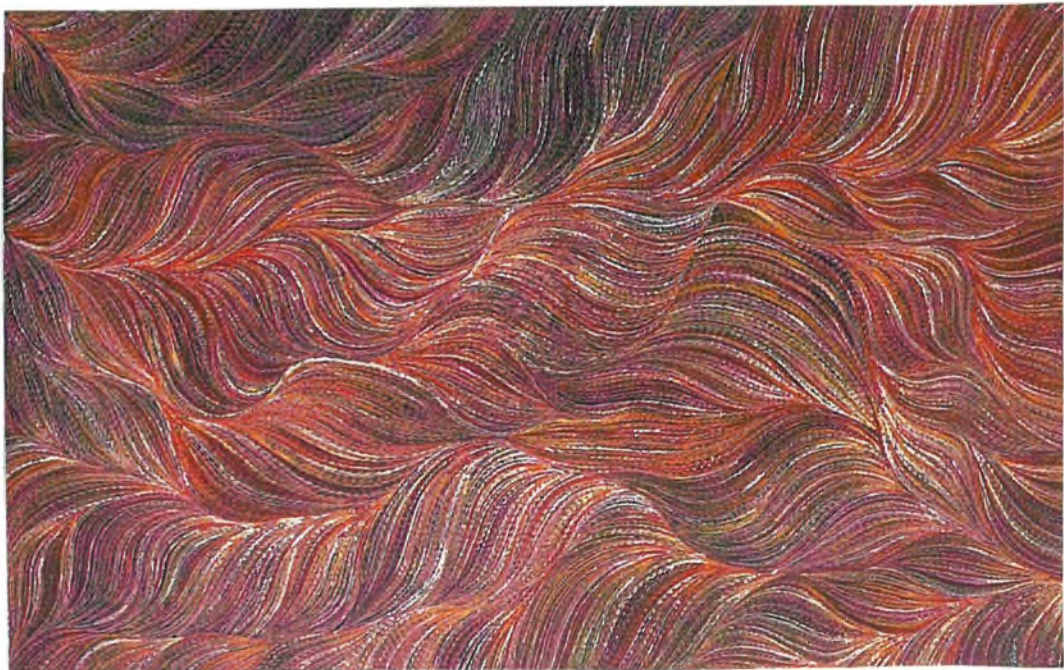


SONGLINE of Sandhills and River Bed

Anna Petyarre



Yam Dreaming



Delvine Petyarre

This new extensive burning favoured **Eucalypts** which diversified and spread to colonise the continent.

Aboriginal love of fire earned the pseudonym of **pyro-phyllist**. They shared a **symbiotic** relationship with this fire flora, itself a **pyeophyte**.

Gum trees constant leaf drop and annual bark-shedding creates lots of fuel. They need **fire's eco-services** to clear toxic oil laden leaves and for alkaline potash to sweeten the acid soil enabling numerous wildflowers to germinate. Smoke can provoke seed, thought to be dead, to sprout via a different pathway. The charcoal biochar holds copious amounts of water enabling photosynthesis. **Gums regenerate** from cool fire, sprouting from an underground lignotuber food store and from epicormic buds beneath the bark.

Dillumbik Shire Council is **wrong** to say Aborigines managed their landscapes using '**swidden agriculture**', a type of 'slash and burn' farming. (page 18 Bushfire Mitigation Strategy) As observed by Joseph Banks, such agriculture was used in the grasslands of Pacific Islands and New Zealand using introduced plants and animals. The isolated island continent of Australia was bypassed by this Neolithic Revolution.

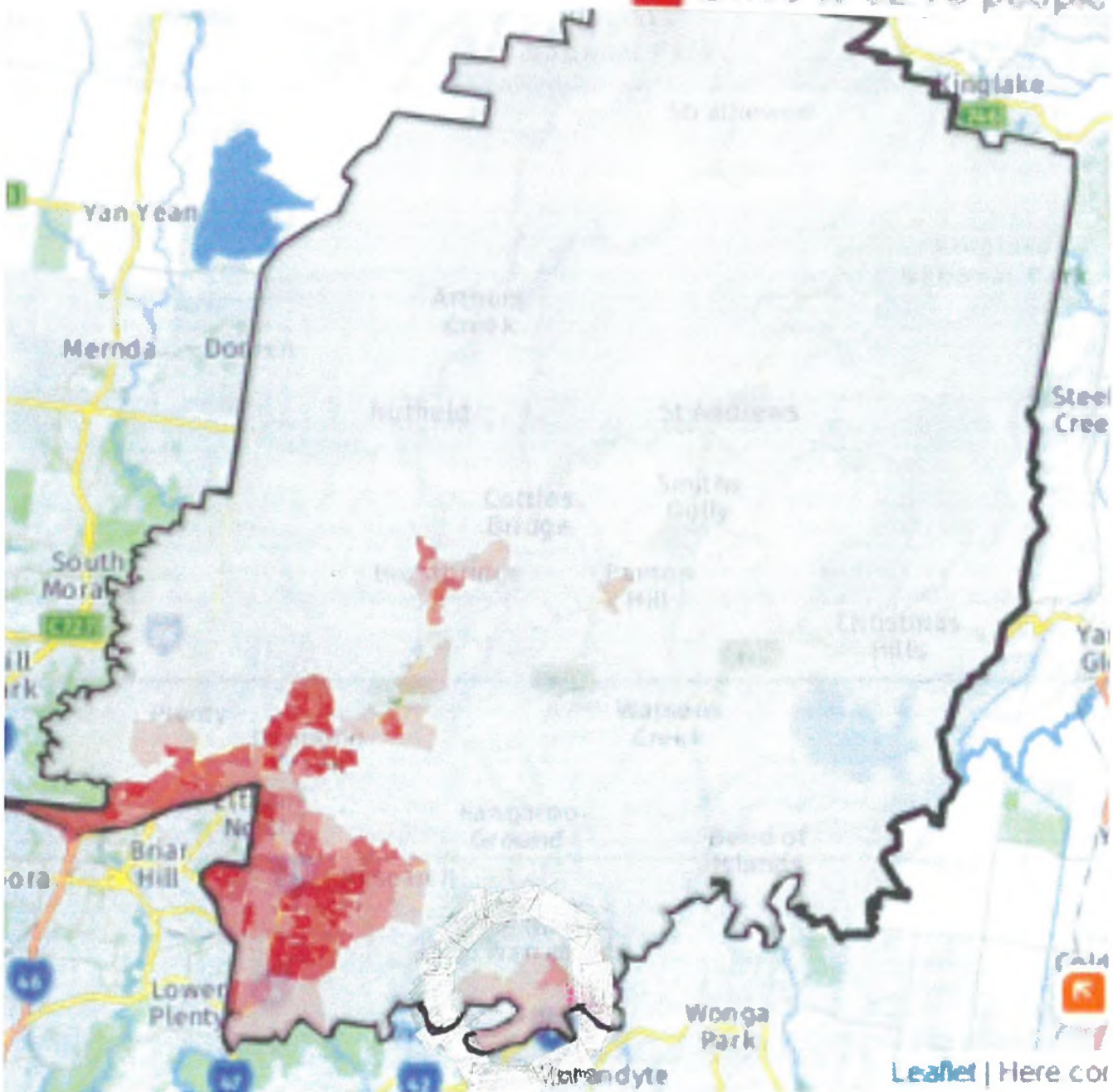
Aboriginal Australia was home only to native flora and fauna. As nomads they moved to **abundant food sources** of nuts, fruit, grain and starchy roots. **Fire** was withheld from such productive areas during growing, seeding and harvesting. Timely back-burning protected these crops so nearby mosaic burning could proceed.

Forests were also cool burnt, where trees could be 40 metres apart, as were more open woodlands. Herbivores attracted to young kangaroo grass were speared and cooked by omnivorous Homo. A cooking fire was lit in a stone-lined pit using their eternal firestick, usually a glowing stem of blackboy, grass tree.



Known as 'marram' or 'kuyim', the kangaroos provide a good source of meat for a whole family group. They can be speared when grazing in the cool out on the open plains or driven into nets. Great skill is needed to track a kangaroo. The hunters need to use sign language to communicate with each other to avoid making a noise that would scare off their prey.

Population density of Nillumbik Shire



area outlined on the map is the Shire of Nillumbik. If you read i see that most of our population clusters in the pink and red area

Health and Wellbeing Pillumbik's Green Wedge Vision
denied to urban Eltham.

18

Green space is an important determinant of health... it has been shown to promote higher levels of mental wellbeing. (p26) "Our community values the sense of openness, fresh air and the health and wellbeing it creates. (p31)

As one of the 50,000 people confined to the southern urban 9% of the shire I RESENT AND ENVY this advantage enjoyed by the sparse population of 13,000 living in the 91% rural part of the shire now called the green wedge (p17) "making it one of Australia's most attractive and liveable places," (p5) yet still part of metropolitan Melbourne.

Future population will further crowd Eltham and Diamond Creek. (p22) This primitive restriction on my mental wellbeing is quite discriminatory.

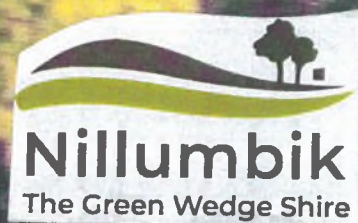
In 1958 we pioneered our block while living in a tent on an old apple orchard. We slaked our thirst with beer and milk from the frig attached to a single power pole.

While [redacted] made mud bricks, I crowbarred through the mudstone so pipe scrounged from the tip could connect us to main's water in Bolton Street.

Bellbirds sang and kookaburras laughed as we moved into our four square adobe hacienda. No roads, no services, no such thing as a Certificate of Occupancy. [redacted] counted the snake writhes across the hillside track as she shepherded the children to school through the towering River Red Gums. All gone. Just houses. The 2003 Urban Growth Boundary buried that idyll. The sound that now deafens us is traffic roaring down the hill before screeching to a halt at the valley gridlock. Wall to wall housing, getting higher.

Then you made all the 'muddies' leave. Their "extractive industry" was declared illegal. If God couldn't be turned outside the new icon - the building envelope. Well, might the school choir sing, "Eltham! Oh Eltham!"

19







WURUNDJERI DANCERS - PAN International



unlike mudbrick makers and any future innovative product by them, other icons have endured. I include a sample:— sculpture by Barnes and Halpin, ceramics by Sanders, printmaking by Baldesson and a landscape by Bateman, jewellery by Wilson, indicating our western art heritage.

Cultural Heritage: **Aboriginal.**

I was unable to locate any memorable Wurrundjeri works although they must exist. I did find dancers performing a mock corroboree.

I have included indigenous work from the centre and from Melville Island where workshops and galleries nurture and support them, the Desert Art Centre and Mbantua Gallery, also signatories to Indigenous Art Code of Conduct and members of the Australian Indigenous Art Trade Association. Perhaps Wurrundjeri artists need this kind of support.

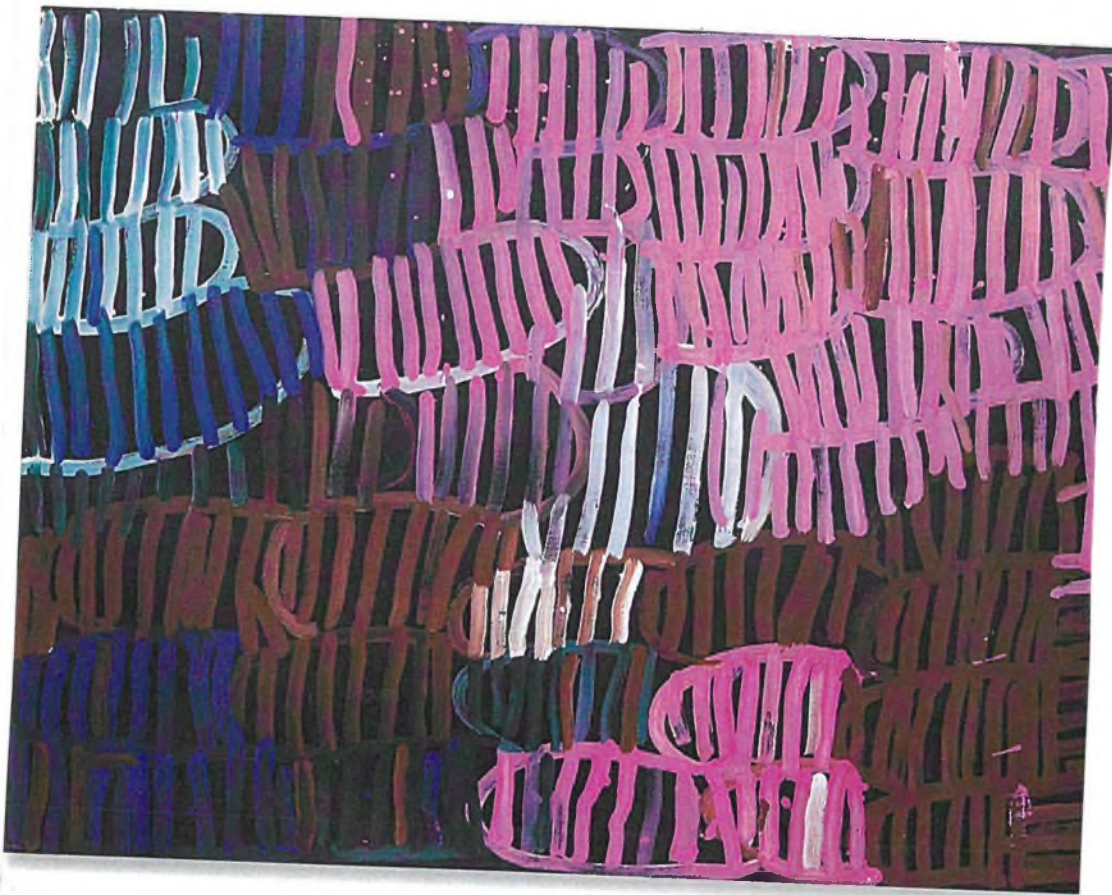
Just as [redacted] is the Senior Wurrundjeri Elder, other Aboriginal women flourish with security and sponsorship. Women in their ceremonies at Utopia (near Alice Springs) performed Dreamtime rites demonstrating respect for Country, its health and wellbeing. Tribal designs unchanged for more than 40,000 years, decorated their bodies while they sang the colours. These same symbols were painted on canvas.

As the adult educator on [redacted] helped the [redacted] their outboard motors, write letters, fill in forms, and the nurses to measure, and so on. When we left, the [redacted] gave us a miniature set of Pukamani poles to ward off evil spirits. At their workshops on neighbouring Bathurst Island they produced paintings, sculptures, ceramics, fabrics, etchings, linocuts and baskets. These would be enriched with traditional geometric designs. Natural pigments were often tempered by fire to intensify colour. Again, care and sponsorship nurtured creativity!

23



Charmaine Pwerle | Awelye - Body Paint



Minnie Pwerle | Awelye - Women's Ceremony

Central Australia Utopia.
"Country"



Tiwi
Pukamani Poles



Open

25



TIWI BARK BASKET



TIWI FUNERY PUKAMANI POLES



27



The hat.



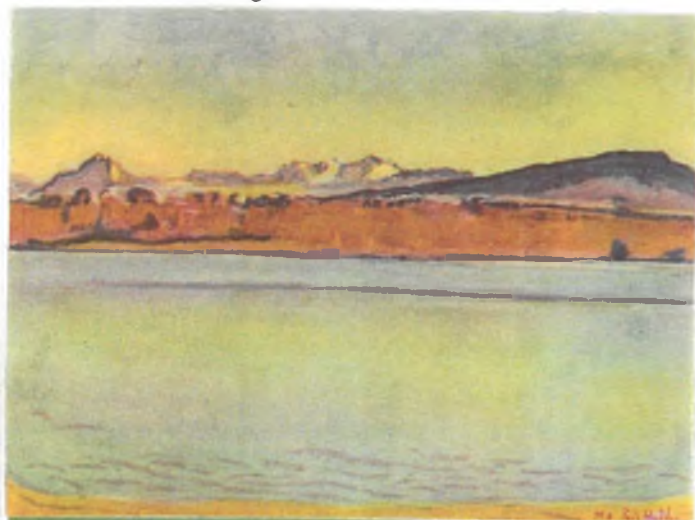
Goal 3: Safe and Healthy environments. **BEAUTY**

(Fixation on appearances.)

Nillumbik contains beautiful rural areas, landscapes

"natural beauty of the green wedge" "Conserve the bush and rural **landscapes** to maintain the natural **beauty** of the green wedge." (page 32) Protect significant views... and conserve the cultural significance, tourism appeal and character of scenic rural landscapes." (page 44)

PERCEPTION is tantalising. The eye's yellow spot and optic nerve convey the incoming pattern to the brain. The **CONCEPTION** we develop, what we "see," depends on our interests and experiences. A photographer probably evaluates image depth and light in order to make a correct camera setting. A sniper calculates distance, wind resistance and target movement to ensure a clean kill. An artist of **realism** considers tone, colour and texture to represent his view. In other words, the 'reality we each see' is an interpretation, a conception we each create from the view confronting us. Some artists paint the **UNSEEN REALITY**, the emotion stirred like the terror in Munch's, "Scream" or the writhing unease in Van Gogh's, "Cypresses".



3 landscapes



One Dreamtime story tells how birds were created when a rainbow shattered into a million pieces.

Each small piece of the rainbow had its own special colour, shape and size. And each piece turned into a beautiful bird that was different from all the others.

Most of the birds sang with joy as they flew down to earth. They developed beautiful, musical voices which everyone liked to listen to.

Other birds cried out in fear. Their voices were very rough and hard to listen to.

The Kookaburra was so happy as he sat watching the birds that he suddenly burst into laughter.

On the ground, the Kangaroos stood up on their hind legs to get a better view of the beautiful shower of birds.

Today, the Kookaburra is still laughing and the Kangaroos still stand up on their hind legs.



q aboriginal art of utopia



Wild Flowers after Rain by Barbara Weir ...
aboriginalart:



Goal 3: **BEAUTY** "of scenic rural landscapes

Because of this implicit reality we each carry within us, a view that appeals to some will repel others, hence the axiom, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." So, I find vapid and prosaic your references of conserving the scenic character of the landscape to maintain beauty, tourist appeal or cultural significance. (pages 10, 32, 44, 5, 11, 28, 19, 21, 22, etc.) I assume scenic beauty was the reason for including the **displayed landscape** in a previous document. To me, the sheet erosion and dying canopy indicate how much the land **is hurting**, denied the ecosystem services of fire and big animals. Environmental health radiates inner energy. You can almost hear the dung beetles burying their cache of fertilizer; the absorbed urine being utilized by mycorrhizal fungi to nourish flora. No animals here. No dung. No alkaline pee to germinate masses of wildflowers to colour this unhappy landscape.



shane pickett



Arms of Wanyarangs Lightning Waitch Winja

by Shane Pickett

RELATED IMAGES



Goal 3 Safe environments (are unsafe)

"Nillumbik is one of the highest bushfire risk areas in the world"
 "Council has identified bushfire mitigation as a key council responsibility." (p30-31) "Fire is the most significant threat facing the shire because of its vegetation, topography, climate and demography." (other relevant policies (ORP) p4 D. BUSHFIRE MITIGATION STRATE

There are two types of bushfire. The first is a fire that can be fought by conventional means.



The second is an EXTREME BUSHFIRE, a campy fire like that of Black Saturday 2009. Although only 1% of bushfires they cause 90% of the damage of all fires. The Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission 2009 (VBRC) recommended bushfire policy should cover "the full range of fires - with particular recognition of the heightened risk associated with the most ferocious fires on the worst of days." (2009 VBRC FINAL REPORT, SUMMARY page 6. This was repeated in Recommendation 1, on page 23, "emphasising that all fires are different...") Awareness of this critical difference was mirrored in the MINORITY REPORT'S OBJECTIVE 1, "Bushfire risk to be mitigated from extreme to moderate." Nillumbik Shire Council REJECTED THIS RESPONSIBLE ADVICE as it was "NOT CONSIDERED TO BE FEASIBLE ..." (page 1, attach. 3)
 But it is feasible, as [redacted] pointed out in his 2003 report, a copy of which you received. His fire mitigation chart (Fig 5) clearly showed, "IF FUEL LITER WEIGHTS WERE REDUCED TO $< 10T$ PER HA THE POTENTIAL NUMBER OF UNCONTROLLABLE FIRES WOULD BE CLOSE TO ZERO."



BEST RESEARCH | CSIRO, front cover of Pyne

33

BURNING BUSH

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments ?

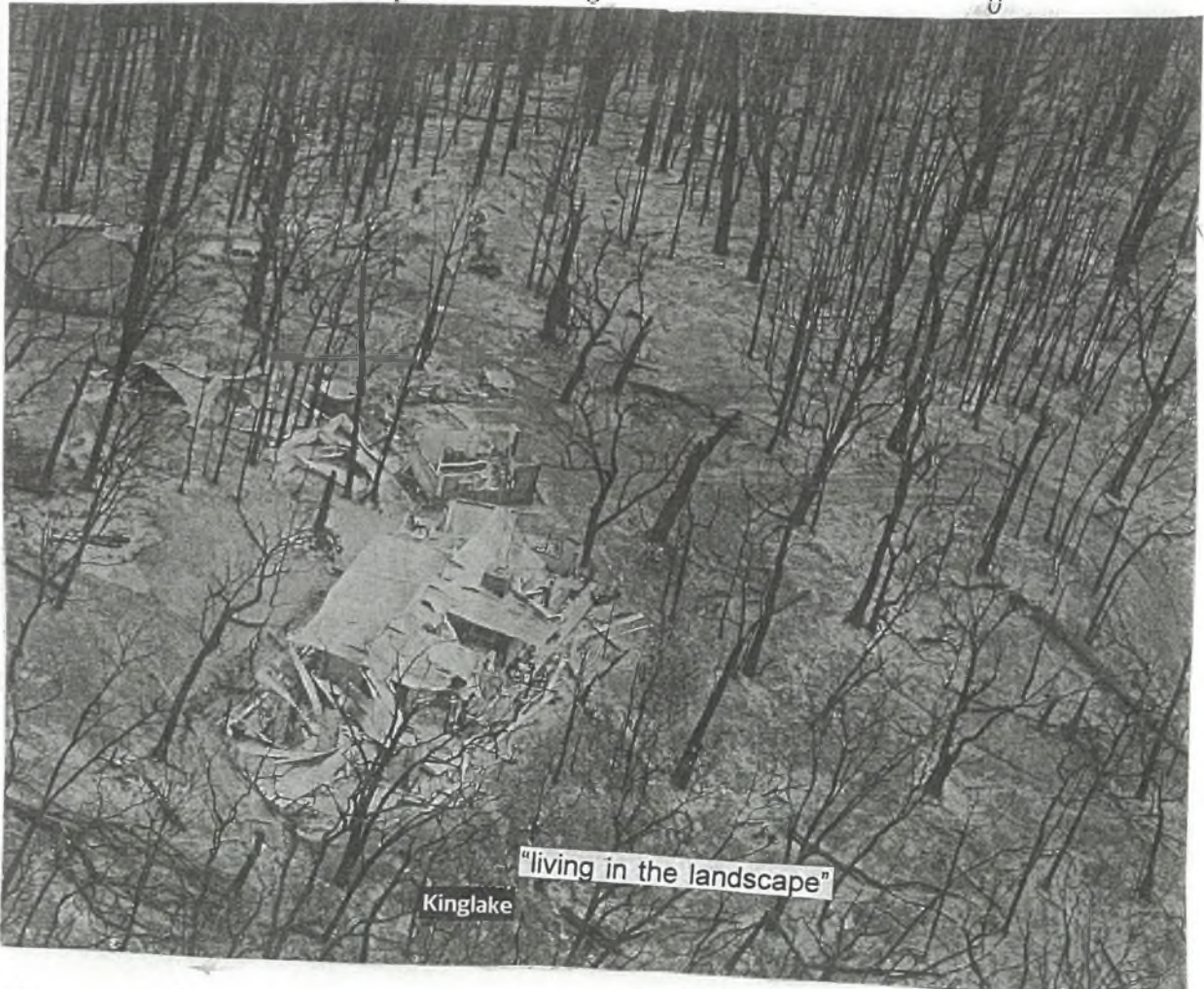


Goal 3 [un]healthy environments

34

Incoll describes an **EXTREME BUSHFIRE** "... as a blizzard... you can barely stand up... You cannot see or breathe because of acrid wind driven smoke and the noise is fearful. Unless you reach shelter the searing heat will scorch your lungs and peel off your skin, and you will quickly die." "... high intensity fire you will never forget or doubt its awesome power."

Millempek chooses to ignore the truism, "**NO FUEL: NO FIRE**" or to remember **Aborigines kept Australia fire safe with BARE FEET AND A FIRESTICK**. New management rules ignore the fire hazard of forests in favour of protecting "things" i.e. people's assets. So people who live in a forested landscape will possibly die in the landscape during an extreme bushfire.



"living in the landscape"

Kinglake

I can find no reference to extreme bushfire in the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan or the Draft Bushfire Mitigation Plan. The Minority Report's request was rejected.

35



Kudditji Kngwarreye | Country - Fire



Low intensity prescribed burn in the Wombat State Forest (DSE/K. Tolhurst)

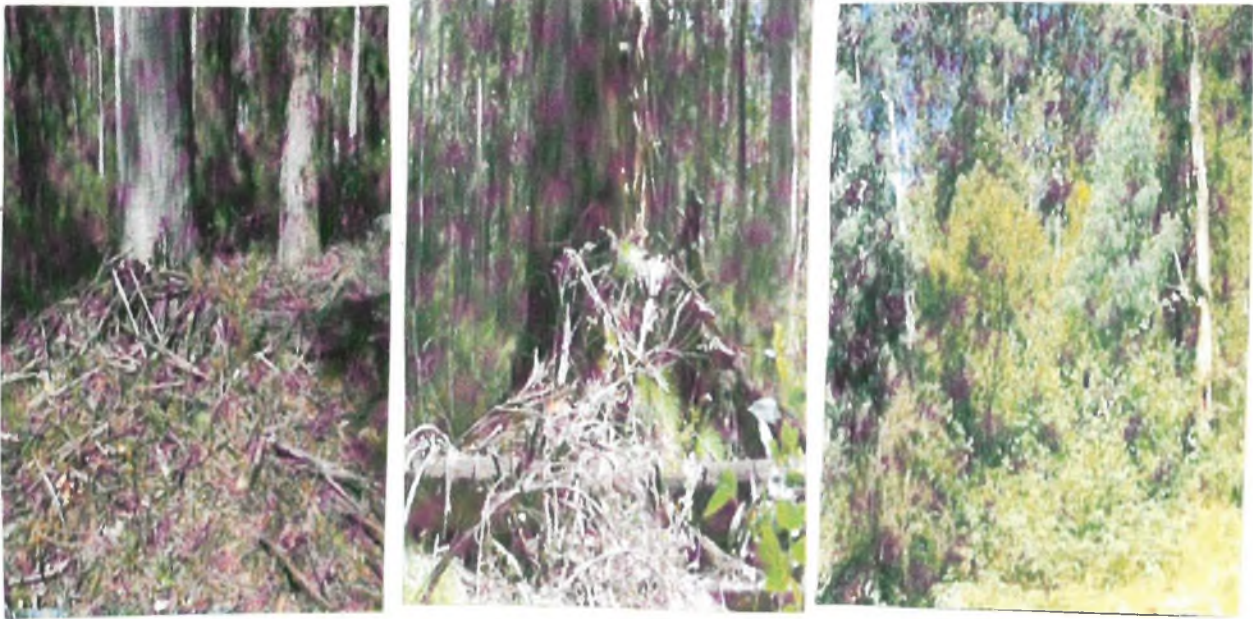
You have abdicated from prevention in favour of **suppression**, 36 particularly suppression by aircraft dumping water or fire retardant on fires. If an **extreme crown fire** is not suppressed within 10 minutes of ignition, when energy is below 4,000 kW/m, such fires cannot be stopped. Aircraft cannot fly in zero visibility, intense buffeting winds and fire plume temperatures 1000°C - 3000°C.

The state government abandoned VBRC Rec. 56, of 5% strategic burning on public land, in favour of a **Residual Risk** policy of 70% (If an airline admitted there was a 70% risk of disaster, planes would be empty). Under these changed rules of 2016, not bush, but houses and infrastructure would be protected. In making Recommendation 56, the VBRC noted that **prescribed burning**, "one of the main tools for fuel management on public land... Reduces fuel load and so reduces the spread and intensity of bushfires which helps protect flora and fauna. Ironically maintaining pristine forests untouched by fuel reduction can predispose those forests to greater destruction in the event of bushfire." The Commission also noted DSE, (DEWLP) had burnt only 1.7% of public land since the mid-eighties, not enough to mitigate risk. The consequent **massive fuel load** will ensure peri-urban areas and their coveted infrastructure will all burn, just like 2009 when 2,133 houses were destroyed and 173 people perished. Kinglake National park was devastated. Alpine Ash, dead. No regeneration.



The Kinglake National Park

You were still teasing these stark spectres a decade later. With the park closed to peying eyes, how many other skeletons did you find? of Phascogale, Dunnart, Echidna, Wallaby, Roo, Wombats, Lyrebirds, parrots, owls, a hawk? that fell dead from the sky. After five years a few Dunnarts returned to hide under the siles you scattered about. A lone goanna was sighted, gawking around. It was obviously rattled by the silence of the deserted plateau.



WE CAN MANAGE THE FUEL CONNECTIONS which is not managed here.



NOT THE CLIMATE OR IGNITION

Megafauna sampled saplings which Aboriginal fire burned. Not done here in this dangerously interconnected bushscape.



Goal 1

On page 1/26 in his Emergency Management, Future directions plan, Mr Craig Hapsley quotes the last sentence of the Preface to VBRC Final Report, Summary VII,

"The recommendations we make give priority to protecting human life, and they are designed to reflect the shared responsibility that governments, fire agencies, communities and individuals have for minimising the prospect of a tragedy of this scale ever happening again."

38

The VBRC also says, "It is axiomatic that the most effective way of reducing bushfire damage and protecting human life is to prevent fires from starting."

Apparently "new emergency management legislation (proposed for introduction in 2020) (Rec. 5 p 24/26) will be based on the premise "that community safety is a shared responsibility..." and "to support community-based emergency management." (Rec. 6 p 24/26)

At the moment, land owners can request the CFA brigades conduct planned burns on their property. (CFA website) I wonder if this has changed because paid CFA members are now amalgamated with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Could community based responsibility for fuel mitigation be a cynical cost-saving exercise? You say -

A challenge to consider is "changing fuels and fire loads, which require new methods and approaches for fuel reduction." (page 7/26)

But -
Litter dropped and shed from Eucalypts has been unchanging for at least 40,000 years when aboriginal cool burning filled the niche created by megafaunal extinction.

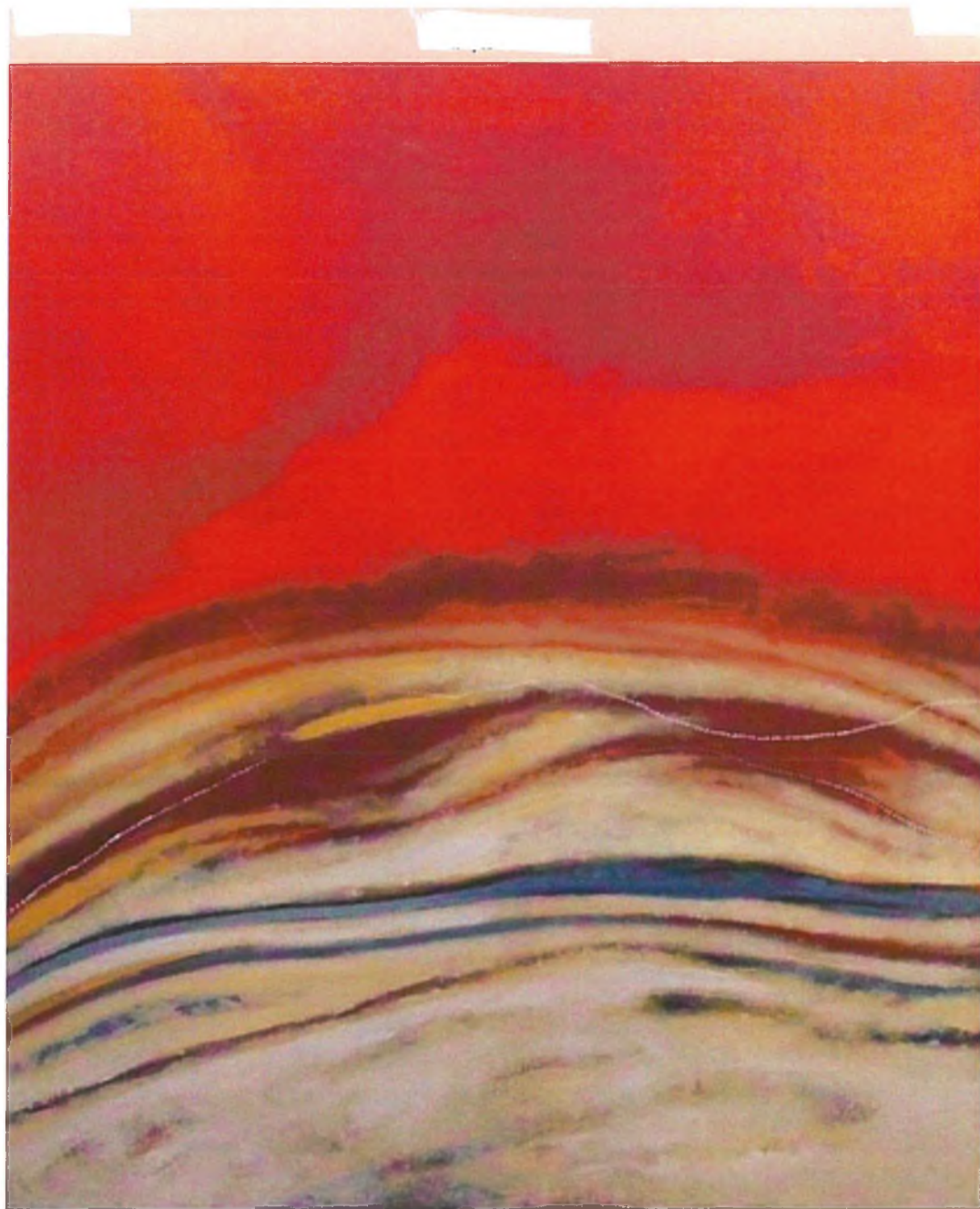
While flammable oil laden, well recited fuel hasn't changed, the quantity certainly has, due to the failure of paid agencies to undertake prescribed burning.

The Victorian government introduced Residual Risk policies to save money in 2016 when Mr Hapsley was Commissioner of Emergency Management. You say -

"Promote the use of 10/30 and 10/50 as legitimate methods to establish defensible space" (page 1/5 Attach. B) I say -

But the 10/30, 10/50 rules are useless in an extreme bushfire. These fires generate their own unpredictable weather making house defence preparations useless. Ceaseless ember attacks bombard

39



Shane Pickett, *Bunuroo Heat Wave*, 2006

bombard the firefront starting spot fires 5-25 kilometres ahead, that soon coalesce. The inevitable wind change switches its force to the new angle converting the extensive flank to a fierce new front. The arrival of an early wind change on February 7, 2009 prevented many deaths in Diamond Creek, Eltham and Warrandyte, but cremated 27 persons in Steadman, 12 in St Andrews and 2 in Arthur's Creek.

On June 19, 2019, Forest Fire Management Victoria warns us of future danger. Fuel loads fell significantly after the 2009 Black Saturday fires. This reduced risk came at a cost of large losses of life and property. If the fuel reaccumulating in Victoria's forests is not reduced with continuous fuel management programs, the residual risk will rise steeply from 63% in 2019 to 76% within 3 years."

Why should people need to "leave and live" because custodians of public land neglect their paid responsibilities? To expect private landowners to do their job for them is unreasonable. Many commute long distances to work in demanding jobs somewhere else. Lots of farmers toil for incomes of \$5000. The average age is 44 meaning many are much older, even disabled, like myself. The community is responsible only for decisions they make. Nothing else.

The Royal Commission used the expression "shared responsibility" to mean increased responsibility for all. It recommends that state agencies and municipal councils adopt increased or improved protective emergency management and advisory roles. (p6) "Individual" planning and action for bushfire safety involves hard decisions about actions if bushfires threatened on a workday, during school holidays, a party: to consider their fitness to cope with a demanding, sustained, firefight: what to do with pets, livestock. (page 7 Final Report, Summary.) Nothing said here about community based emergency management.

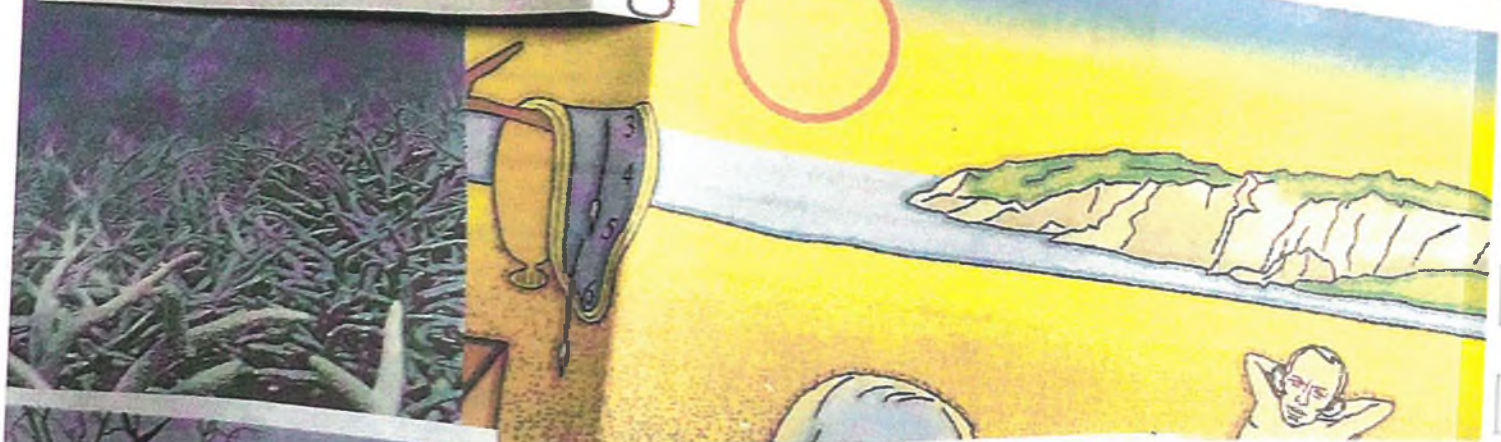
"Never let the truth get in the way of a good story" Mark Twain.

41

The climate reckoning

Officials warn the Reef is in danger of vanishing

Reef warning



Planet in danger



on climate

climate policy

Imagine two circles inside each other. Within the inner circle, humans have a shortfall of basic needs such as energy, water, food, and shelter.

change, pollution, biodiversity and freshwater overuse. The "and just space for humanity" should be in the ring between the two circles. That should be our goal.

Finally, be clear about where your power lies. I've written that consumer power won't save the world. In a democracy, you have far more power as a citizen than as a consumer.

Economic forces mean that conscious consumerism can save the world but it can't create a transformative change. The best thing to consume is energy. Energy is best when it is clean. Your vote is the most powerful thing you can do. Putting pressure on governments at all levels during and between elections is the best way to achieve it.

ENVIRONMENT follow UK's climate action

For all things British, it is to be expected that the UK does what Australia does on the part of Australian climate policy to deal with the threat of climate change. It is telling that footage from the UK's recent parliamentary session was featured as a model for other nations.

First, don't despair. Climate change is a threat of this scale. Every action counts. Improve our energy efficiency. The threat of this scale requires a coordinated action root in optimism. Bonus: it will also help you.

We must tackle climate emergency

climate for change

climate

...we need relentless focus. ...taining no hoax - but it's part of a bigger picture of biodiversity and

...recently went more than ... without using coal to generate

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments

42

"The state of Millumbik recognizes that climate change is one of the most serious challenges facing the world today and into the future." (CC action plan 2016-2020) "Enhance community understanding, resilience and adaptability for the impacts of climate change..." (p32)

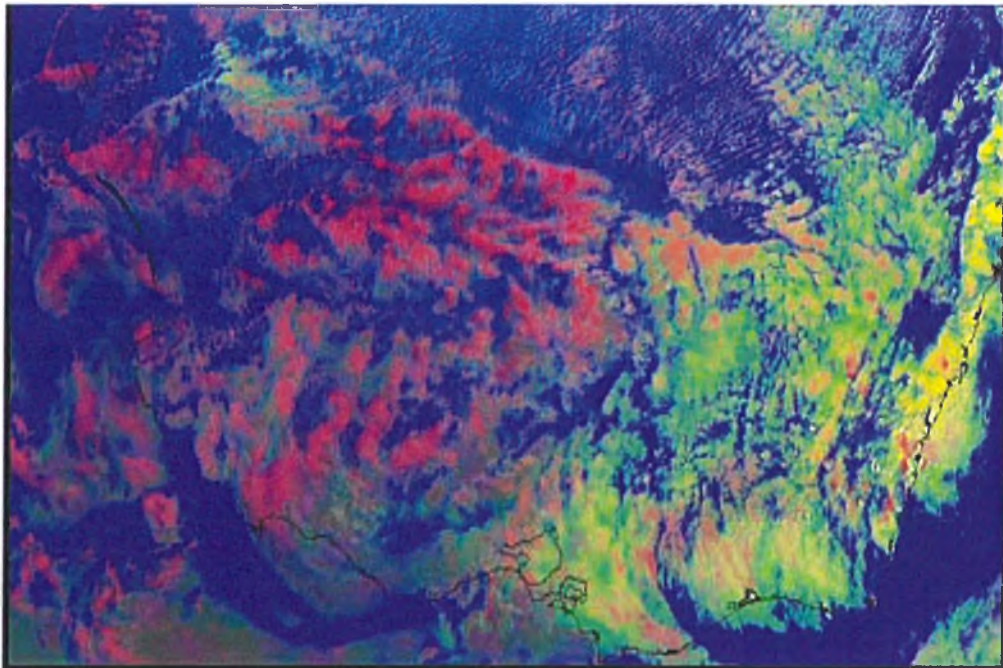
Climate Change

I believe carbon dioxide levels have become a convenient scapegoat upon which to rationalise the ills of the planet. We shouldn't be fooled. Carbon dioxide (C/O_2) has been up to eighteen times the current 410ppm which corresponded with an iceage. (geocraft.com) Desertification is being reversed by Allan Savory on 5 continents by reintroducing big animals. (U-TUBE - Allan Savory. TED 2013) Carbon is the basis of all life on earth. Without it plants could not make glucose which initiates part of the cyclic food chain. Plants thrived with 0.05% O_2 so they could arguably be considered to be deprived today. We should also remember that without the greenhouse effect the earth's temperature would be $-18^\circ C$. But our climate is changing. It is becoming drier. We are experiencing a natural greenhouse period between iceages. The Australian tectonic plate is still pushing nearer the Equator a few centimetres each year, so the increasing altitude of the New Guinea Highlands intercepts ever more tropical rain. Warm ocean currents are no longer able to encircle Australia's north and increase water capacity of the S.E. Trades.



Particulate pollution from hatrobe's coalfired furnaces, cement making from limestone and traffic exhausts, invades water vapour, aping beneficial nuclei around which raindrops form. This means the limited amount of available water vapour must be spread further, so deferring saturation, probably until cooling by sea. The 2009 destruction of the forests in the water catchment of Kinglake National Park has seriously depleted water harvesting. Dead, blackened limbs, without canopy no longer precipitate copious quantities of morning dew, nor release rain collecting nuclei. The humus sponge and water retaining biochar was volatilised in the atomic tempests. Sterile dust was blown away or eroded into creeks interrupting perennial flow.

Yellow indicates a satellite picture of particulate pollution from 2003 extreme bushfires.



SUBMISSION TO THE COAG BUSHFIRE INQUIRY CONCERNING THE RECENT AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

A large Frog climbed out of the swamp and was sitting on the bank when it started to rain.

*It rained so much that a big river was created. The frog called the river, Yarra**



Human activity causes 0.28% of global warming. (geocraft.com) Water vapour is the most significant greenhouse gas, being about 95%. (ditto) 44

"There is no expectation that any statistically significant global warming reductions would come from the Kyoto Protocol. (Dr S Fred Singer, atmospheric physicist and former director of US weather satellite service.)

The Kyoto Protocol mandates a fund of \$100 billion, to be replenished annually. This finances adaptation and mitigation of carbon dioxide. Three hundred and sixty trillion dollars spent on climate protection will result in literally no benefit at all for citizens of the planet"

\$20,000 for each person on earth. (Salby "Atmospheric Carbon", July 1, 2016 University College, London.)

I installed 25 photo voltaic panels in 2001. My need to shop is reduced by my back garden of herbs and salad plants. Recyclables built much of the house, while the "stuff" within is mainly second hand. A Subaru drove well for 30 years. I make felt from daggy wool, spin, dye and knit; make pots, baskets from prunings. As an apiarist I made mead and melomel from honey. Geese, ducks and chickens ate the waste, scratched the dirt and provided the fertiliser for my earlier food forest.

We should focus on the positives we can contribute rather than destroying what we have achieved.

It concerns me that we could inadvertently have adverse effects on the lifestyle habits of native fauna. Clause 51.02 allows for tourist facilities to be developed "in conjunction with natural systems." Please put the welfare of fauna before money.



New law finally gives voice to the Yarra River's traditional owners

September 25, 2017 5:13pm AEST

The Yarra River has been legally recognised as an indivisible living entity which deserves protection.

On September 21, the Victorian Parliament delivered a major step forward for Victoria's traditional owners, by passing the [Yarra River Protection \(Wilip-gin Birrarung murron\) Act 2017](#). Until now, the Wurundjeri people have had little recognition of their important role in river management and protection, but the new legislation, set to become law by December 1, will give them a voice.

The Act is remarkable because it combines traditional owner knowledge with modern river management expertise, and treats the Yarra as one integrated living natural entity to be protected.

The new law recognises the various connections between the river and its traditional owners. In a first for Victorian state laws, it includes Woi-wurrung language (the language of the Wurundjeri) in both the Act's title and in its preamble. The phrase *Wilip-gin Birrarung murron* means "keep the Yarra alive". Six Wurundjeri elders gave speeches in Parliament in both English and Woi-wurrung to explain the significance of the river and this Act to their people.

Author



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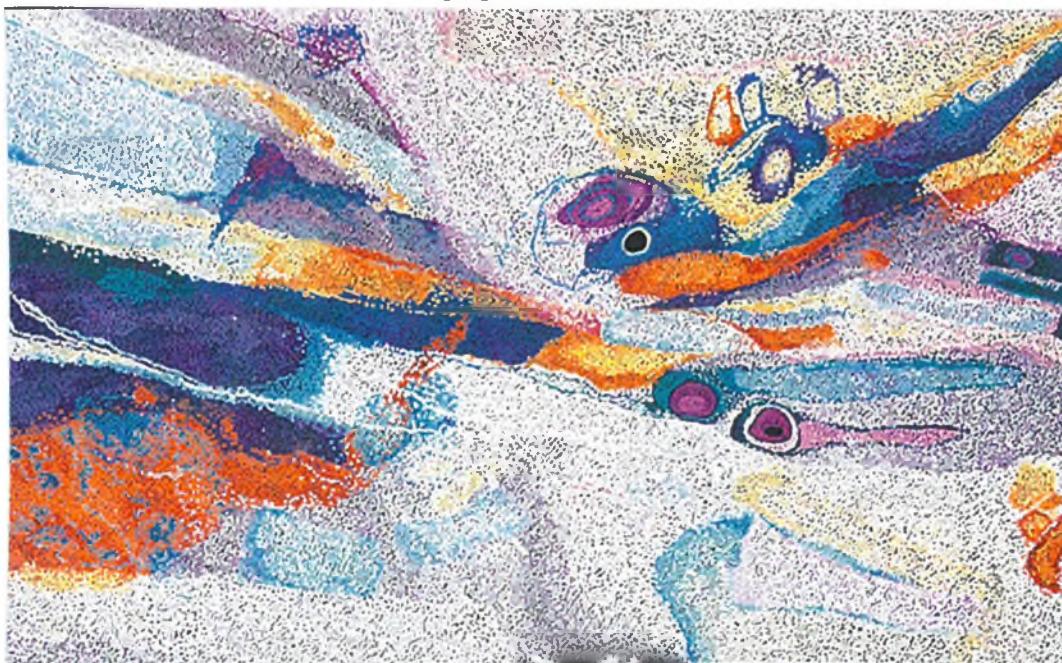
Disclosure statement

Katie O'Bryan is a member of the National Environmental Law Association, Environmental Justice Australia and the Australian Conservation Foundation

Partners



Monash University provides funding as a founding partner of The Conversation AU.



Helen McCarthy Tyalmuty 'Naiiyu Soakages' HMC0222, 90 x 151cm

Goal 3 Safe and healthy environments: water.

46

Support Melbourne Water and the Catchment Management Authority to improve stream condition, water flows, water quality and catchment quality.

page 32

page 44

reduce the occurrence and impact of soil erosion and salinity

Sugarloaf Reservoir is not a catchment dam. Signs mounted in the water clearly stated, "Do not drink this water." So we decided not to fish there, as fish would also be contaminated by treated sewage from Brushy Creek, that is pumped into Sugarloaf with water from the Yarra. It is then 'purified' by up to 70 chemicals from the Winneke treatment plant. Up to 69 drugs can't be eliminated. ("Platypus Society" The Age, Nov. 7, 2018) This is my household drinking water.

South of Australia was once flooded by ocean. Deep rooted perennials avoid tapping these saline reserves. Fallow land, awaiting rain for annual cropping is vulnerable to erosion by wind or rain.

A permaculture enterprise with woodlots for fuel or furniture timbers, combined with a food forest of shrubs, vines, trees, canes; of both native and international provenance, including animals, could be more economic and time-efficient. (eg Rowan Reed Agroforestry.org.au)

Lillumbik Shire Council's 'Sustainable Gardening Site' demonstrates only a "pretty" non-edible garden, without animals.

Permaculture follows nature's laws, wherein there is no waste. The byproducts of one process fuel the next. All water is retained on site. Waste water runs through a reed or comfrey bed to purify before watering trees or shrubs. For the last 30 years, Michael Hobbs's house on a tiny Sydney site, sterilized waste water with UV light, before recycling it back to the house. Rainwater tanks provided infill. Permaculture prefers waterless composting toilets where appropriate, as city sewage, flushed elsewhere is 90% potable water. We need to conserve water, a precious resource on this dry continent.

The Victorian government recently passed a "remarkable" Act, giving Wurundjeri voice in the management of the Yarra River. It includes the phrase "Wilip-gin Birrarung Mooron" meaning, "Keep the Yarra alive."

The Biggest Estate on Earth. How Aborigines Made Australia
by Bill Gammage

Across Australia, early Europeans commented again and again that the land looked like a park. With extensive grassy patches and pathways, open woodlands and abundant wildlife, it evoked a country estate in England. Bill Gammage has discovered this was because Aboriginal people managed the land in a far more systematic and scientific fashion than we have ever realised.

For over a decade, Gammage has examined written and visual records of the Australian landscape. He has uncovered an extraordinarily complex system of land management using fire and the life cycles of native plants to ensure plentiful wildlife and plant foods throughout the year. We know Aboriginal people spent far less time and effort than Europeans in securing food and shelter, and now we know how they did it.

With details of land-management strategies from around Australia, *The Biggest Estate on Earth* rewrites the history of this continent, with huge implications for us today. Once Aboriginal people were no longer able to tend their country, it became overgrown and vulnerable to the hugely damaging bushfires we now experience. And what we think of as virgin bush in a national park is nothing of the kind.

BILL GAMMAGE is a historian and adjunct professor in the Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University. He is best known as author of the ground-breaking military history *The Broken Years: Australian Soldiers in the Great War*

ELTHAM BOOKSHOP
Biggest Estate on Earth
041515 06 PEN
firm



48

A **Suggested PLAN** for consideration by private landowners enabling the green wedge to become a wonderful, vibrant place instead of a terrible fire threat to Eltham and beyond. The plan suggestion is congruent with significant intentions of Goals 1-3.

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities A place where communities and **ideas thrive** (page 21) underpinned by trust, confidence and continuous learning people to take greater shared responsibility for the future of our green wedge.

Goal 2: Active and creative people Active lifestyles are fostered through participation and innovation. (page 23)

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments (page 29)
Healthy and **safe** communities enjoy living in our iconic green wedge environment.

Restoring health to the flora will help prevent its becoming a time-bomb waiting for ignition.

Health and safety was first assured by the sheer size and weight of the **megafauna**, widely spacing trees, trampling seedlings and suppressing litter. Their copious dung provided fertiliser. Prolific urine added potassium and lots of water. Being alkaline it sweetened the acid soil, enabling profusions of wildflowers to germinate. Their nectar was the first link in the forest food chain. It fed the insects that fed the birds and frogs whose tadpoles fed the fish and so on until herbivores nourished carnivores while omnivorous Homo fed off both.

After the demise of these huge animals, **Athopigines** retained the health and safety of Country by fighting fire with fire. Their mosaic of cool burning as they moved to new food sources, kept the wide tree spacing, burnt seedlings and toxic gum litter, 50% of which became potash carbon to fuel photosynthesis and charcoal biochar which retains surprising quantities of water.

Europeans resident from the invasion of 1788, were afraid of bushfire unknown in their cool temperate homeland. It threatened their stationary lifestyle of houses, farms and fences. They developed a **pyrophobia**, still shared by some environmentalists who see fuel reduction by fire as torturing the land and violating the illusion of naturalness. They failed to acknowledge that cool burns prevent the monster conflagrations that destroy our unique biota. "National parks became their acts of atonement." (Eric Rolls) Their dark overgrown recesses were soon

Maremma puppies



Maremma livestock guardian dog

create plan

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deserted by native animals who preferred state reserves, purged of feral foxes and where they could browse on succulent leaves in the sunny clearings replanted after timber harvesting. ("Going Green", Mark Poynter). While aboriginal children played with fire, European children were, and still are, forbidden to play with matches. To the new settlers bush was a resource to use, even misuse, rather than a spiritual totem to revere and maintain.

So how can private landowners fill the vacant niche once filled by aborigines and megafauna?

Devise a plan. Get together and talk, brainstorm. Your understanding of place and diversity of lifestyle will enable you to devise a unique plan that adores your difference. The plan will be simple, restore health to the biota and create wealth for yourselves.

Avoid bureaucratic interference. Ignore ignoramus who think hard hoofs are bad. Huge 300 kg roos like Procoptodon were hoofed animals, having lost an outer toe and retaining a single front hoof. They could perambulate on wide, single toed hind hoofs, rearing up like a horse to browse foliage about 3 metres from the ground.

In view of these heavy hoofed antecedents which created the biodiversity of the present, it makes no sense to attest that hoofed stock grazing in bushland is diminishing biodiversity, or should be restricted to properties with low biodiversity values. This myth was generated by 'no graze no burn lobby' who wrongly believed their 'lock it up and leave it' philosophy would recreate pristine wilderness. It did the reverse and destroyed the very thing they portended to save. "GRAZING PREVENTS BLAZING"

You may decide to use sheep as your big animals, which evolved in Tibet and thrive in all manner of climate. Australia's wealth was created from sheep. Until the mining boom we lived off the sheep's back. Wool financed CSIRO and projects like myxomatosis to reduce the rabbit plague.

You will need seeding capital to purchase animals, movable solar electric fencing, paid shepherds to attend animals, maremma livestock guardian dogs,

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Shane Pickett, *Guardians of the Good Energy Spirit*, 2006

Shearing sheds if sheep, lama, yak, angora goat is chosen, or shed. you may decide to request CFA to cool burn properties of 8-40 ha. You could need help thinning trees to their optimum 50-200 ha. the culls for fire wood or tanning or whatever is best economic value.

I suggest you watch the vtube of Allan Savory ted.com, remembering he is unfamiliar with flammable flora and its pyrobotanical needs. Grazing restores biodiversity-5 continents.

Do be the innovative creative people of your reputation: ignore the precautionary principle and watch the health and energy bloom in the green wedge along with the orchids.

| Season | Late summer | Early winter | Deep winter | Early Spring | True Spring | High Summer | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| Wurundjeri season | Luk Eel season | Waring Wombat season | | Gulung Orchid season | Poorneit Tadpole season | Buath guru Tussock Grass | Ball Cherry Ballart | Biderap Dry season |
| Month of calendar year | February to March | March to May | June to mid July | Mid July to August | September to October | November | December | January |
| Temperature and weather | Cooler; some autumn rains; days and nights are becoming equal in length; Hot winds blow | Cool, rainy days Rains encourage plants to grow after autumn fires | Deep winter. Cool and rainy, low temperatures | Cold | Rising temperatures; rain continues; Day and night of equal length; Melting snow fills the billabongs | Warm, raining | Long days, short nights | Hot and dry; high temperature and low rainfall |
| Plants | Grasslands dry out. Manna gums are in flower; starchy roots of water plants die down; Mistletoe berries. Banksia and string bark in flower providing nectar | Hearts of soft tree ferns eaten, small tuberous plants grow well after rains | Roots of tubers eaten | Orchid season; orchids boiled and eaten; Muyan (Silver wattle) known as Barak's wattle and Yellow box in flower providing nectar | Flowers on burgan, Goodenia, Kangaroo apple, orchids, lilies, flax lily in flower, yam daisies (murnong) in flower | Tussock grass in flower, Black Wattle, Corandemk in flower; fruit on Kangaroo Apple and appleberry; tubers and roots; small tuberous plants dying off | Tussock grass is long and dry; Cherry Ballart fruiting, elderberries ripen, Kangaroo apples ripe, Morn (Prickly Currant Bush) ripens | |
| Animals | Female eels move down creeks to the sea; eels are fat and ready to eat | Wombats emerge to bask in the sun Brush-tail and Ring-tail possums mating Moths emerge as food for birds and gliders; Eastern grey kangaroos and wallabies feed on new growth | Echidnas breeding, birds nesting; possums, koalas, wombats eaten, grubs drawn from trees for food | Koalas mauling, Lyrebirds courtship display Moths emerge Birds begin nesting | Young kangaroos out of pouch; Migrating birds like the sacred kingfisher return; pied currawongs are calling | Bats catch insects. Emu and kangaroos are hunted as they move in to drink Lizards and snakes active Fish are eaten | | |
| Other foods | | Fungi appearing from the ground | | Eggs from birds nests | | Pith from Tree ferns | Lerps on manna gums eaten | |
| Wurundjeri seasonal activities | Burning scrub and tussock grasses to help catch animals and fertilise plants | | Low lying areas flood with winter rains—not suitable for camping; People use a bark shelter (willam) on high ground; warmed by fires and possum skin rugs | Move to lowlands to collect eggs, snare ducks | Eating yams, water plants, greens | People gather at billabongs, creeks and in clan gatherings when food is plentiful; Women dig for tubers and roots, and gather shellfish; spearing and netting flathead and flounder. People travel to mountain gullies for firesticks (Austral mulberry) and pith from tree ferns Big shelters are not needed unless it rains Fish traps set | | |

Wurundjeri Seasonal Calendar





shane pickett



piers dudley bateman

aboriginal artifacts in nillumbik art collection

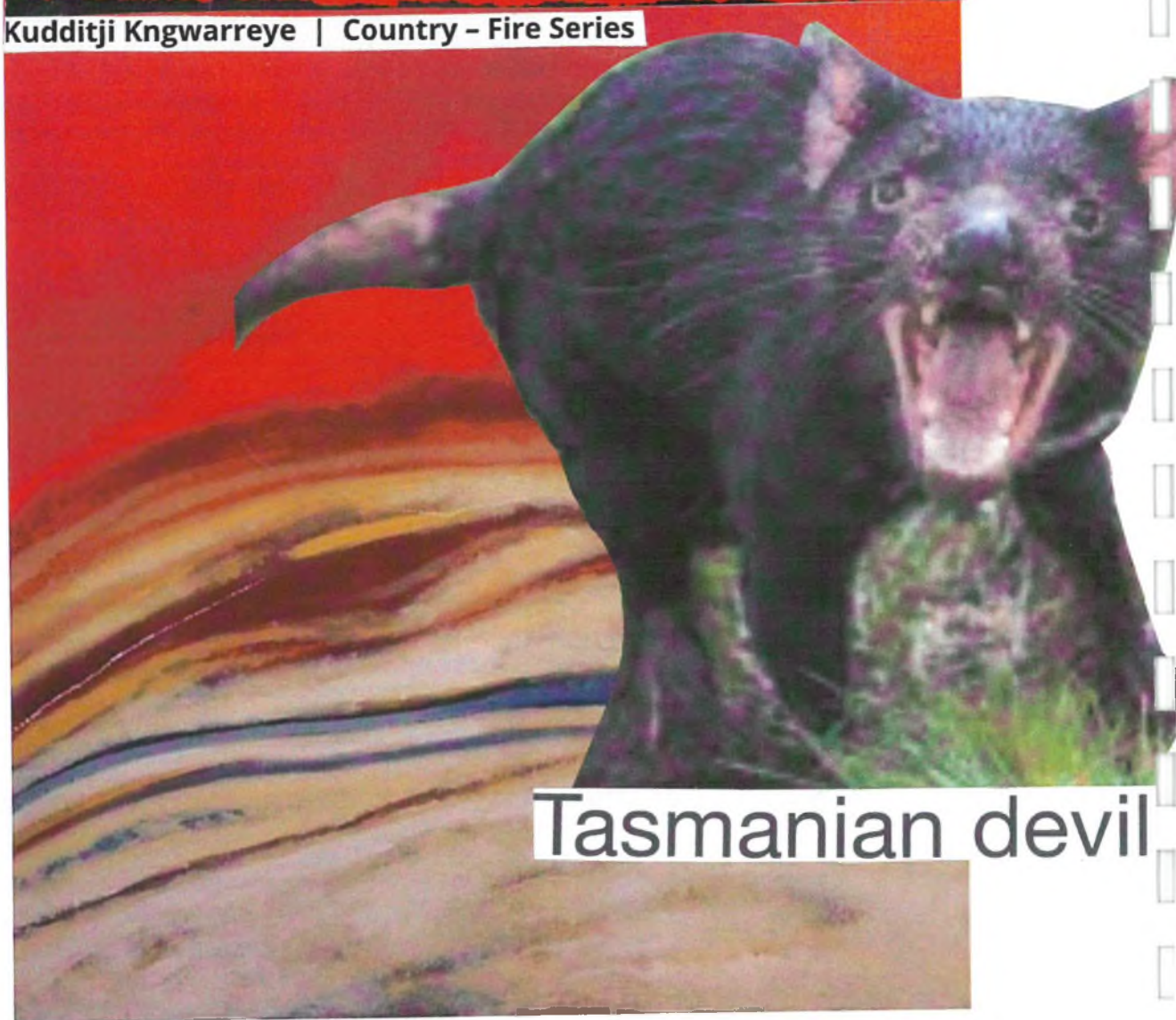


 COOEE ART GALLERY

Shane Pickett - Artists Profile - Cooee Art



Kudjitji Kngwarreye | Country - Fire Series



Tasmanian devil

Shane Pickett, *Bunuroo Heat Wave*, 2006

SUBMISSION TO THE GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

NILLUMBIK SHIRE COUNCIL

Stephen and Amanda Margetts

[Redacted]

This submission is in relation to our property at [Redacted]

See aerial map below:



Thank you for the opportunity to put in a submission on our experiences and thoughts regarding the Green Wedge Management Plan and taking the time to consider our pragmatic rationale.

[Redacted] is 8.00ha in size. It is located on the border of Diamond Creek and Eltham North. The North Boundary is the hard edge of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and is bordered by 9 neighbours on residential blocks of approx. 600sqm in size; and a council public park located on James Cook Drive that covers a considerable part of our Northern fence line. Heading South there are 3 more neighbours on 8 hectares until reaching Allendale Rd where blocks are approximately 0.5 – 1 acre in size. Please refer to Map below



As you can see above, our property, along with 4 neighbours at [REDACTED] plus all our [REDACTED] neighbours seem to be an anomaly with zoning. They are located right between smaller lot sizes in *Diamond Creek and Eltham North*.

WHY HARD EDGES TO THE URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY DON'T WORK AND BUFFER ZONES ARE NEEDED

As discussed above, the North side of our property is bordered by 9 neighbours and a council park and adjoining reserve. Planning decisions in the past that have resulted in urban development bordered by a hard edge of the UGB with a minimum of 8.0 hectares have impacted immensely on the lifestyle of property owners. Having this density about our boundary has caused immense problems and stress for us and difficulties managing and enjoying our property. When we first purchased the property, we made an effort to contact all of our neighbors to introduce our family and establish trusted relationships to help build some community appreciation for managing large parcels of land in such a built up area. See below a list of some of the problems we have since experienced from neighbours and the general public.

Neighbours: People living on small residential lots have completely different ideologies to people trying to manage 8.0 hectare properties and for some reason see our property as their own private park rather than someone's personal property. Some problems they have caused include:

1. Rubbish dumped over back fences onto our property – sometimes toxic for our horses
2. One neighbour excavated their backyard for a decking but then dumped all the shale rock on our land on top of our good top-soil. When asked to remove it, the contractor cut our fence at the park to access our property and then spread the shale rock across the top soil instead of removing it. It's still there 4 years on. We advised the council, and nothing was done.
3. Old Christmas trees thrown over their back fence on to our property
4. Lawn mower clippings thrown over their back fence which is poisonous to our horses. We recently had a horse die from Colic - a few days after we found clippings had been thrown over the fence from the park. Coincidence?? Not sure, but we'll never know unless an expensive autopsy is conducted and we cant afford that expense.
5. Neighbours complain when we try to manage the vermin saying they find it distressing but if we don't manage vermin they complain as well.
6. People complained about our horses neighing during the night
7. They complain if a snake is found in their backyard saying it must have come from our property (not sure how we are supposed to manage that).
8. A couple of neighbours have gates in their back fence into our property – like it's a local park – and access our property as they please to retrieve items or mow the lawn in front of their fences, without permission from us.
9. Dogs escaping from backyards and harassing our horses and our smaller dogs
10. Complain about noise made from farming equipment and the occasional 125cc motorbike (which is a very rare occurrence)
11. Complained when we planted trees that it was going to spoil their view.
12. Complained to council when we erected a small cubby house for the kids, that it spoils their view and wanted it removed.
13. Constantly watching us and noting everything we do.



Unfortunately, when you have neighbours who don't actually live in your street and are over 100 metres away you don't get to know them very well. I think for this reason they find it very easy to complain about anything we do as they don't know us personally, don't make an effort to get to know us, and they don't have to see us and face us each day.



General Public

Our property is the quickest short cut between Diamond Creek and Eltham, as well as a short cut from the Aqueduct trail to Diamond Creek. Due to this **we have had hundreds of people** trying to use our property as a cut through. We are constantly having people enter our property for the following:

1. We have people enter with bows and arrows shooting wildlife also shooting from the park
2. People walking through and opening gates and leaving them open and letting horses out – we have now had to put padlocks on all gates which is not ideal in the event of a bushfire
3. Kids throwing sticks and rocks at horses from the park

4. People entering our property to fly their drones
5. People entering our property to fly their remote control aeroplanes
6. People entering our property and walking their dogs off leash
7. *We had a member from the Nillumbik bushwalking group approach us and wanted to bring the whole group through our property. When I said we weren't keen for that to happen for a number of reasons, especially privacy, he got quite angry and agitated and kept pushing his point why they should be allowed in as if they had a right to enter.*
8. We have found sex toys and lubricant in our paddocks
9. We have had people enter the property and set up a picnic Valentines day dinner with candles in the middle of summer in long grass
10. We have had things stolen from paddocks including horse rugs and fly vales

When we approach people about being on private land (in a nice way) they are often very aggressive and argumentative toward us. They feel that they have the right to be on our land. When I say "how would you like it if I just walked into your backyard they say that's different". This is a constant reply we get. It has got to the stage that we feel that it can be unsafe for our daughters or female agistees being out in the paddocks by themselves.

██████████ is the first semi-rural rd on the edge of suburbia. This creates problems as well as it attracts trouble as people don't have to travel far to think that they have privacy and forgetting that people actually live in the street. Our teenage girls have witnessed things they shouldn't have had to and neither should we for that matter.

1. People having sex anytime of the day and night inside and outside the car ██████████
██████████
2. Rubbish being dumped blatantly in broad day light
3. Drugs being sold and used openly
4. Stolen cars dumped
5. Even the local garbo uses our street to urinate each week on his round

INFRASTRUCTURE

From our back boundary at James Cook Drive Council Park

- 1.2km to Diamond Creek Train Station
- 1.2km to Diamond Creek Shops
- 1.3km to Diamond Valley Secondary College
- 1.2km to Diamond Creek East Primary School
- 1.4km to Sacred Heart Primary School
- 2km to Diamond Creek Primary School
- 350metres to the Bus Stop on James Cook Drive
- 1.1km to Emergency services
- Electricity (3 phase) available
- Water available (strong pressure)
- Sewerage along boundary
- Great Telstra and Optus mobile service
- Natural Gas available in Godber Rd 100m away and at Siyan Rise, James Cook Drive
- Mostly sealed road to Allendale Road.

From our front gate – enters onto [REDACTED] which is mostly sealed

- Aqueduct Bike trail at end of our street
- 1.1km to proposed Eltham Nth Train Station
- 2.7km St Helena Secondary College
- 2.9km Glen Katherine Primary School
- 3.0km Eltham North Primary School
- 3.5km Eltham Train and Bus Station
- 4.2km to Eltham College on bike trail
- NBN – fibre to the node (very fast and reliable internet service)

QUALITY OF LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS

Recent soil tests across our whole property indicate the soil is devoid of basic elements to sustain agriculture or for grazing animals. It would take many years of reconstitution and thousands of dollars of soil conditioners to improve the soil for agriculture. PEP Soil testers have advised us the soil quality is classed as poor and would not sustain agriculture pursuits, not even on the flats that contain much alluvial soil that has washed down from the hills.

We have a constant inundation of noxious weeds including cape weed, thistles, blackberry, bridal creeper, wild apple etc despite constant effort and spraying programs in conjunction with the Melbourne Water Creek Frontage Management Plan.

Fences bordering the council park constantly damaged from dogs coming under the fence or people climbing over with no funding or support from council, despite numerous requests.

SUITABILITY FOR BUFFER ZONE

1. Successful implementation of smaller allotments in nearby Plenty
2. Smaller allotments allow for better management of land and home security
3. Our property is neighbouring an already subdivided urban area that was also once a farm
4. Current arrangement causes conflict between neighbours and land holders with conflicting agendas and purposes
5. The property is mainly cleared pasture of low quality soil
6. Electricity, Water, Sewage and Gas all available
7. Low BAL rating

CONCLUSION

In conclusion while we enjoy living on our property, we now better understand the challenges with large scale vacant land surrounded by small domestic house blocks. Given the challenges we have outlined above, and the adjoining amenities, the subject land is not suitable for sustainable agricultural use, and is well placed to offer options for creating realistic buffer zones between urban and non-urban communities. We strongly feel that our property is an anomaly given the proximity and abundance of amenities, including walking distance to shops, rail and bus services and the fact that it is surrounded by smaller housing lots on more than one side.

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.

Name
Address

Michael Dempsey

Submission to Nillumbik council on the Draft Green Wedge Management plan

I came to live in [REDACTED] 30 years ago, so that my children could grow up in the bush, and learn to appreciate our incredible flora and fauna, away from press of traffic and pollution. One of the factors in my decision to move from the inner city was that the area had been designated a Green Wedge area by the government which meant that – as the ‘lungs of Melbourne’ it would be an area that would be safe from ever encroaching ugly development that has poisoned so many other outlying bush areas.

With much relatively untouched bush area boasting diverse flora and fauna , and a currently the most intact of the twelve Green Wedges, it is vital that Council honour the conservation priority enshrined in the government's 15 year plan...

It is in fact hard to understand why Council wants to review the plan 8 years into the 15 –without giving some credence to the charges of self-interest laid against some counsellors— those with links to the development industry or the horse management sector, who are not disinterested when it comes to terms like ‘opening up’ (ie clearing forest) or the need to encourage different tourist experiences (horse riding perhaps?).

I am of the view that there is already sufficient tourism in the region.

The reason I decided to leave my home of 30 years (for the Bend of Isles – still in Nillumbik , but genuinely committed to protecting the environment) is precisely because of what tourism is doing to the environment in North Warrandyte. The new widened bridge notwithstanding, the existing level of tourism is already straining our roads and parking facilities. We should be preserving the green space which is what attracts tourists in the first place, not clearing bush to develop more ‘tourist facilities’.

The timing of this tampering with a perfectly good plan, is significant.

Australia has one of the worst records of de-forestation in the world. The major climate change advice to plant more trees, not devise plans which involve giving people licence to chop more down. Surely it is the role of governments (local state and Federal) to take the lead on action to combat the effects of climate change by *preserving* precious and threatened environments for future generations, not to be open to charges of narrow short-term self-interest .

I am including a poem I wrote about the impact of the current level of tourism on Warrandyte

Karen Throssell (resident of Nillumbik for 35 years; Manager of the Warrandyte Neighbourhood house for 13 years; member of FOWSP; Warrandyte CAN (Climate Action Network); BICA (Bend of islands Conservation Association) Teacher, Writer and Poet.

*lanes, it's all we can do, —
You selfish old-timers, to oppose this is mad
you clearly don't have to sit in the queue*

*You cannot block progress, It is vital, inevitable
And coming for you.*

Karen Throssell

30 July 2019

Submission on Draft GWMP 2019

I have been a resident of [REDACTED] and now the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for over 50 years. I am also a member of the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Conservation Association. I do not believe that the draft GWMP is acceptable in its current form. I believe it undermines existing conservation zones instead of enhancing them.

- Original GWMP was a fifteen year plan and has more protection for the environment
- Community Panel set up at great expense, expressed in their majority report that the Community values the environment and wants it protected and possibly enhanced
- Biodiversity should be a priority and all indigenous vegetation should be valued and protected
- Permits to start farming are essential. Horses and other hard-hooved animals have a detrimental effect and their impact needs to be assessed
- Bushfire risk reduction should not mean totally clearing vegetation and a bare earth appearance
- Ownership of land should not be a licence to degrade by inappropriate development
- Trees alone do not provide biodiversity and greater attention should be paid to native grasses, shrubs, herbs and orchids

Yours faithfully

M. Krause

Submission addressing Nillumbik Council's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

31 July, 19.

From Rosemary Aitken,

I do not want to speak to this submission. My points are these:

1. The Draft Green Wedge Management Plan is concerning in that the word "Green" is used although very little of it seems to be about the environment.
2. If it is to reflect concern about ^{the} environment with the intention of preserving the native fauna ^{and} flora, then management should surely be done on a scientific basis. and not bowing to business/development/economic pressure. This is evident when the report notes that expansion of township boundaries is desirable.


The broad Goals of this plan support community, safety and prosperity, all laudable but where is the concern for the environment ? for the ancestral owners of the land?

3. The vision of Green Wedge Development to be the 'lungs' of the city as set out by a former State Minister, The Hon. Vasey Houghton, in the Shire Hall, Eltham, in the late 60's is being lost with 'development whatever the cost' attitude now.
4. Safety and bush fire mitigation have been rightly included, and this can be achieved again by people with experience, knowledge, and expertise in this subject employed or volunteering to give this training.
5. At the meetings held in St Andrews community hall last April, it was certainly the feeling that some of the present North Ridings' land owners wanted the opportunity to subdivide, when under the current guidelines I gathered that this was not possible.
6. A rapid whittling away of the Green Wedge would seem to be the outcome, roads even further congested, and Nillumbik would be another growth corridor for Greater Melbourne.

Please rewrite the draft to maintain the goals of the previous Plan.

I found the emphasis of this Draft Green Management to be all around peoples wants, not broader community needs. Its language was slanted this way, and as a few people at the Consultation meetings said 'why do we need a new plan at all'





Attn: GWMP Project Team
Nillumbik Shire Council
PO Box 476
Greensborough VIC 3088

2 August 2019

Dear GWMP Project Team,

I have reviewed the Green Wedge Management Plan.


It is called the Green Wedge MANAGEMENT Plan.

It should be called the Green Wedge PROTECTION Plan.

In its current form it is the Green Wedge EXPLOITATION Plan.

Mark - Fail. Please rework and resubmit.

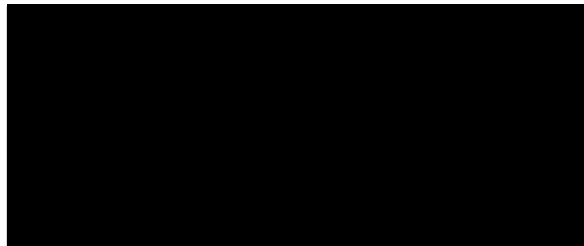
Yours sincerely,



Dr Michael Aldred

NILLUMBIK SHIRE AND THE GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT DRAFT PLAN

- I am writing this submission because I want to make positive change
- I have seen a lot of harm come to this area and it worries me and my family
- We want to know that trees will be better protected and that animals will have places to live
- We would like to see a lot more tree planting and other kinds of environmental repair throughout the Shire
- From our point of view, it looks as though people who destroy native trees and other plants on their properties never have to replace them. This means more and more gets lost.
- We think that Council should provide more education for everyone who lives here and even people who visit, so that we can all know how to take care of this wonderful place.
- As well, there needs to be something done to make sure that any wrong-doing is dealt with so that the environment does not suffer. It is not about punishing people for the sake of it, it is about making sure the rules are taken seriously and that people can see the Council really does care.
- We think the Green Wedge Management Plan and any other Council information should have these things as top priorities.



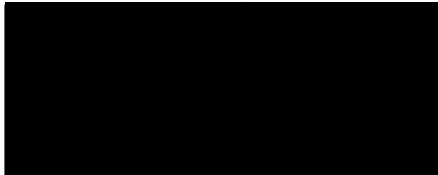
Tara Stubley.

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

Dear Councillors of Nillumbik Shire and Officers,

I am keen to make comment on the Green Wedge Management Plan because I think there are too many loopholes in it, leaving giant gaps for developers to jump in and make a mess of this place. We have seen the impacts of inappropriate development in an area that is supposed to be focused on environmental care. This must stop and any documents made by Council must make sure that laws are put in place to create better outcomes. For example, I think it would be a good idea to keep any development within the townships, and for any development to be regulated by the most sustainable building codes. Many places around the world have achieved much more than we have, and we could easily learn from them and aim even higher. We have everything that is needed to do this, we just have to make it a real priority. The draft plan does not seem to achieve this in how it describes what everyone will do, and so some big changes need to be made to the Plan.

Please make sure that any further writing for this Plan really shows that Council is thinking about our future and the well-being of our planet and all the life it supports, and is really serious about taking action. I do not feel confident in the current draft.



AURSTBRIDGE

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019



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 the Community's position, and this position must lay the foundation for any new GWMP. Therefore I 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. The 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 viability of the Green Wedge.

I believe there is no more important issue to address with our GWMP than climate change mitigation. Climate change mitigation must inform all objectives and actions under the plan such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy. The draft GWMP provides no leadership on this critical issue. I believe the Nillumbik community as a whole must come together to ensure serious action is taken to mitigate climate change and draw down carbon emissions.

The Principles outlined 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 have lived in Nillumbik all my life - it is my country, and my home. The Green Wedge is fundamental to what Nillumbik means to me and my family. When I mention to friends and acquaintances from elsewhere in Melbourne that I am a Nillumbikian, it is clear that this understanding of our wonderful shire is shared

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

universally among Victorians. The draft GWMP does not reflect what I and countless other Victorians understand Nillumbik to be, and on that basis, I cannot support it.

Andrew Barr

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

mitchell bell



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

please keep the green wedge GREEN! i have lived here all of 23 years of my life and i am coming to understand the importance and uniqueness of our area. and even in my lifetime i have witnessed this place become more threatened from overdevelopment and frankly ignorance of how special this area is, cramming as many dwellings on each free metre of ground (with no regard for sustainable building practises). once its gone it will never come back. we have the opportunity to be a forward thinking and sustainable shire that can be a leading example of how things should be in the future of climate and environmental uncertainty. I want my future children to be able to enjoy this suburban oasis.

you cannot put a price on a unique pocket of timeless nature.

please dont make any desicions that your grandchildren will resent you for.

regards,

a concerned [redacted] male [redacted]

mitchell bell

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Jeremy Skuse



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

This submission outlines why I do not support the draft GWMP.

The plan is short on actionable recommendations to preserve and enhance the natural environment of our Shire.

In view of the increasing pressures on our natural environment, the draft plan places too much emphasis on people's use of the environment and too little emphasis on regenerating and protecting our unique part of the world.

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 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.

Jeremy Skuse

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Danni Malee



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.

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.

Danni Malee

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Georgia Madden



Council need to stop destroying the green belt land. Stop the greed to build and cram new builds on the green reserves. It is a disgrace and we will keep fighting. Responsible and ethical building has gone out of the window and it would appear the council only care about the rates coming in now from new builds. We the people, want to keep the character of Eltham and what it is well know for, its open green belt land and parks. It is also clear that council are allowing far to many subdivisions of land. We are seeing more and more two storey town houses being thrown up. These build are not ethical in design and do not take into consideration the environment, the fall off the land, drainage, fauna, wildlife, birds and animals. Not to mention the aboriginal heritage of the land. What gives council the right to destroy our natural reserves without including the correct people in these conversations. This is not about development and the ethical grown of an area, this is about the greed of the council and how much money they can rake in through taxes. Stop hiding your real face and put the cards on the table. We see you and we will fight you and be heard. Whatever it takes, we the people will have our say and fight to save our environment.

Georgia Madden

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Luca



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 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.

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.

Luca

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Joanna O'Connor



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 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.

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.

Joanna O'Connor

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Natalie Glassey



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.

Natalie Glassey

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Sheryl Lewis

I wish to object to any review of our Green Wedge. Nillumbik is already choking from overdevelopment and the effects to our native flora and fauna. I have been a resident and ratepayer in [REDACTED] for over 30 years and have seen with disappointment the effects of overdevelopment on our wildlife and natural environment. I have seen many species of birdlife and fauna disappear gradually and fear that if our Green Wedge is not protected our entire Shire will turn into any other suburb and lose its natural beauty which is why we chose to live here in the first place. Any review of our Green Wedge can only have catastrophic outcomes for the area in which we love. Please accept this submission as my strong protest to any review of lessening any areas of our Green Wedge.

Sheryl Lewis

NILLUMBIK SHIRE – SUBMISSION TO THE GREEN WEDGE DRAFT

Nillumbik has a reputation as an environmentally caring community.
We have to keep that going!

Here are some of my suggestions about the draft plan for the Green Wedge, as its current form does not show enough care:

1. Stronger preservation of native flora and fauna, waterways and wildlife corridors is essential.
2. Stronger action on climate change is crucial. We cannot keep putting this off
3. Stronger policies for preventing urbanisation
4. Better education for our whole community so we all know the real values of our beautiful environment and how to care for it.

DAVID JOHN FERRELL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Nerida Kirov



Why did we waste so much money on the recent review, when you have now decided to ignore the findings of the majority of its participants. It would appear that you are out to get a predetermined outcome that the current council sees important, disregarding what the majority have asked for.

This also comes on the back of a report in the age talking about the amount of green coverage we are losing and the results this will have to both physical and mental health.

This area was seen as "the lungs of Melbourne", well the lungs are choking and it would appear eprsonal gain and greed is deemed more important. Shame, shame, shame!

Nerida Kirov

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

christine wright



I think it is VITAL, not just for us here in Nillumbik, but for the wider community that we retain the trees and general biodiversity

With climate change crisis it is so important that we maintain the environment, not destroy it for the sake of money

Let us develop and protect what natural environment we have so our children and our earth have a future

christine wright

SUBMISSION TO NILLUMBIK COUNCIL FOR
DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- I want to see more protection for our native flora and fauna and this should be made really clear in the Green Wedge Management Plan.
- I believe we have a responsibility to take immediate and varied action to combat climate change and this must be described in the Plan. It must be obvious that we all must take action, and Council should really be a leader!
- I want to feel confident that the area's future is secure and its environment is healthy no matter what Council is in place. These kinds of documents should make sure this happens.

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment.



Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Ms Pat Reynolds

In my opinion, the draft GWMP does not adequately protect our Green Wedge. Every measure that will enforce its protection must be taken. To many points in the plan fail to enforce the current protections, focusing primarily on what the GW means to us humans, without considering the alarming position we are in, as stated in the following quote ...

“Australia is in the midst of an animal extinction crisis and the loss of almost 20 unique species in coming years is inevitable without drastic change.

That’s the dire warning from the Wilderness Society following the release of a damning interim report about the inadequacies of current environmental laws.

A Senate inquiry report released last night found the current approach to wildlife protection was “incapable” of stopping the spiralling rates of extinction and recommended a “complete overhaul” of legislation.”

Reporter -Shannon Malloy.

Within the lifetime of the typical Australian the number of people living here is expected to jump 60 per cent from 23.3 million today to 37.6 million by 2050. Sydney and Melbourne's populations are projected to explode by 60 to 80 per cent to reach almost 8 million inhabitants.

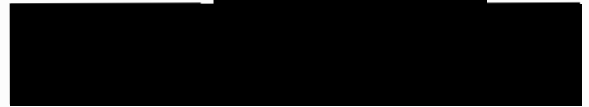
The pressure this population growth will put on the green wedges will be enormous, and they need to be protected with strict binding regulations.

From the human perspective, more than ever, we will need places like Nillumbik, the Green Wedge Shire.

Ms Pat Reynolds

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

John Doyle



Dear councillors, Are you mad. To destroy the green wedge would make some of you richer and the rest of the population poorer. Do not destroy the lungs of Melbourne. Yours sincerely, John Doyle

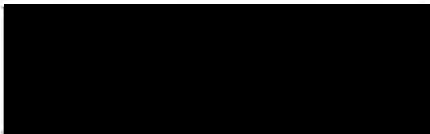
John Doyle

TO NILLUMBIK COUNCIL –
A SUBMISSION FOR THE GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

We need to fight climate change.
This Plan only talks about *adapting* to climate change. That is like giving up!!

We need much stronger protection for all the animals and plants in the Green Wedge.

We have a responsibility to make sure that our kids and grandkids can enjoy a healthy future surrounded by a healthy environment. Please make this part of the Management Plan!



Renska Younger



SUBMISSION FOR THE GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN – NILLUMBIK COUNCIL

Dear Nillumbik Council.

I am writing this submission because I am very concerned at what I see takes place in our beautiful area and want to try and contribute to positive change.

I have a great love of the native flora and fauna and want to see them safe and healthy for future generations. All life forms have a right to exist and we must be responsible in our actions.

I think it is incredibly important that any document written by the local Council shows great respect for our ecosystems and all they provide, and I think it is very important that we know what actions will be taken by current and future Councils to ensure that we don't keep losing our vegetation.

Tree cover in our area is so important to us. We love the parks and reserves, and value the fresh air. If the area is opened up to more development, these things will be lost.

Please make changes to the Plan to reflect these concerns and describe strong actions for the future of all life. We need our environment to be healthy.

JOS Stephens

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION TO THE GREEN WEDGE DRAFT : NILLUMBIK SHIRE

Dear Council,

Our green wedge has not been adequately protected up until now. We see vegetation being destroyed on private property all the time. This affects our health in many ways including our mental well being. It is distressing to watch this continuing destruction of the natural environmental in an area that has been put aside for its protection.

There are lots of excuses for putting off the action we need not only on environmental protection but also on climate change. Protection from bushfire is often raised as one of these excuses. However, we will never be entirely safe from bushfire just as we will never be entirely safe on the roads. After Black Saturday and the Royal Commission, the State Government made many changes to ensure a safer Green Wedge for people who live there. It is now our responsibility to ensure we have a sustainable, healthy environment in the Green Wedge which can happen whilst incorporating these changes.

It is our responsibility to future generations.

Penelope Clarke



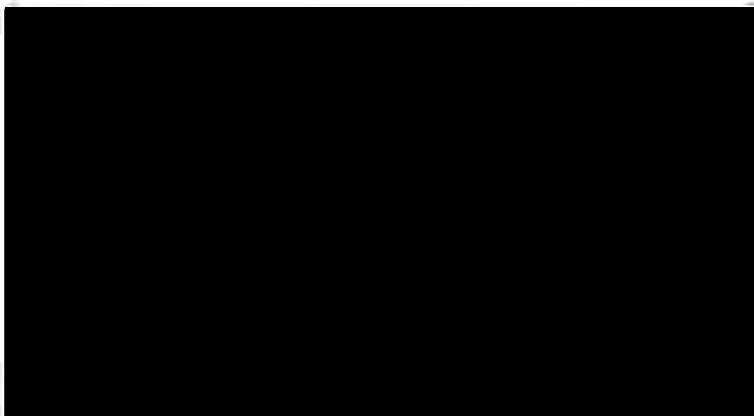
The Green Wedge Management Plan of Nillumbik Shire

A submission in response to the draft

To Council,

I love the Green Wedge because of the clean fresh air, the animals and amazing plants, and all the wonderful places I can go walking. It is really important to me that the people in positions of power – such as those on Council – also care for the Green Wedge and want the best for its future as a sanctuary for our native plants and animals. I am worried that the Plan does not show enough leadership in how we can all care for this place and how we can all make a difference. Stopping the destruction of all native vegetation that is left is a good place to start. We need to take action on climate change and reduce our emissions as a whole Shire.

Please think of these things when you draft the final version and make sure really strong actions are in place. This is a plan, and so must include how we are going to make it happen!



To NILLUMBIK SHIRE for the Green Wedge Management Plan Draft

Submission:

- I think your draft GWMP could be very confusing for many people because although the sentiment is sometimes good, there is very little indication as to how these things will be achieved and by whom. I would really like to see a Plan that speaks about who is accountable and for what actions. I think it is really important that the community can read a document like this and understand what Council wants to do and how they will do it, and over what period of time.
- For example, although environmental protection is mentioned, there is no strong and clear plan for how this will be achieved. Also, there are parts that seem to create the wrong opportunities for development to take place which is contradiction to environmental protection. An example of this is the possibility to remove the need for a permit to conduct agricultural activity in a conservation zone.
- I think this draft is a good start but much work needs to be done on it to be sure we are keeping the Green Wedge safe.

Aria Ibrahim

10/8/19

ATTENTION: NILLUMBIK SHIRE COUNCIL
SUBMISSION TO THE GREEN WEDGE DRAFT

We must develop better policies to protect our Green Wedge. This Green Wedge Management Plan presents an incredibly opportunity to make this happen. It is a really important part of the whole of Melbourne – people love it and look forward to visiting its special bush environments.

Most people know that healthy people thrive best in healthy environments. Kids need space to explore and learn and connect with nature. We need to protect every bit we have left. Too much is already gone. That is not ok!!

Please make some tighter policies in the Green Wedge Management Plan so we can all feel confident that the future of our bush is safe from development.

Matt M. Tuncel



NILLUMBIK SHIRE GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

To the Council of Nillumbik Shire:

I would like to see some changes made to the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan so that climate change becomes a key focus.

This is the number one issue of our times, and without giving it our attention in much stronger ways, we will be in real strife. There is so much Council can do within this area to make a good contribution to the reduction of carbon emissions and other pollutants.

We should have a huge solar powered system for the area, we should make much better use of our waste – whether it is food scraps, water, or electronic waste, and we should all be more encouraged to walk rather than drive, car pool and socialise, and much more.

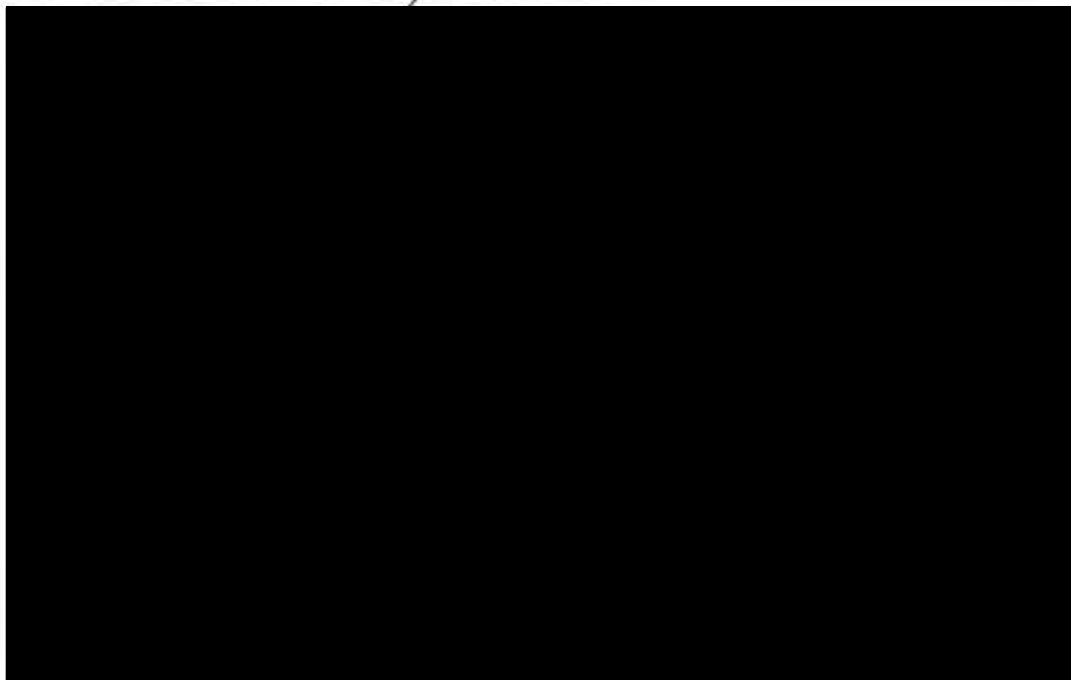
Council needs to advertise the idea of avoid - reduce - re-use – recycle – much more prominently throughout the Shire, and this should be done in many ways to reach a really wide audience.

The draft plan is written as though we have little left to do other than adapt to the coming change. It would be a failure to hold such a position and we would be letting down all future generations – human or other.

Please address this when you refine the Plan.

Thank you

Math. Fesabel



NILLUMBIK SHIRE's Green Wedge Management Plan draft

My Submission:

I am upset when I see another patch of bush being cut down.

Unfortunately, this is not rare and it is clear that we must all take EVERY POSSIBLE action to preserve whatever is left of our native vegetation. This must be demonstrated in the GWMP Plan and everything that Council does. Since colonisation of this country, we have lost almost all our forests and extinction rates are highest in Australia out of the whole world! This is a disgrace and it is up to every Local Council to take action and turn this around. This might mean we have to change our view of progress, and what it means to live in a place as precious as this. I feel so happy when I am walking in the bush, and do not want this to be lost for future generations of all living things.



Brighton East

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

To the Council of Nillumbik:

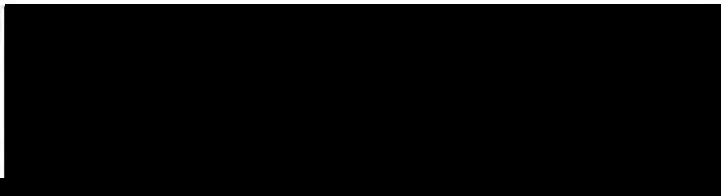
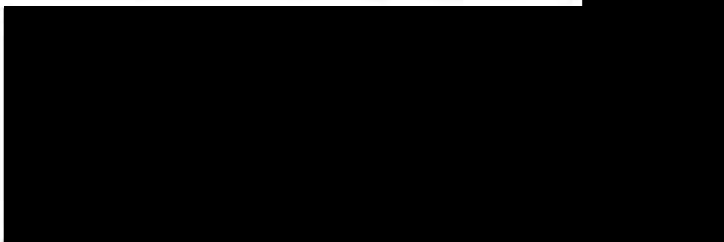
I am strongly opposed to any further subdivisions within the green wedge and feel that further development must be contained inside the Urban Growth Boundary. This draft Plan actually suggests encouraging more development around our townships which effectively means that the urban growth boundary is being ignored.

We must also be clever in how we plan for a growing population of Melbourne. Council must be more strict when it comes to Planning regulations and standards, and look to current research that indicates what makes for a healthy growing city. Improved public transport, walkability, and cycling opportunities are critical and the draft Plan should make an effort to address these issues.

Traffic through many townships is becoming a serious problem, and smart solutions need to be implemented. As we know there is a serious economic cost associated with congestion, and this includes health costs.

I look forward to seeing a stronger Green Wedge Management Plan, as what we currently have is not protecting our beautiful Shire very well and the new plan is not better, and in fact contains less detail and less accountability.

Emily McCarthy



Christine robb



FOR YOUR USE when responding to Council's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan [GWMP]

The points below relate directly to the layout of Council's online form.

This link will take you to Council's webpage <https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gwmp>. Scroll down on the page and find the button that says 'Click here to give your feedback'. You will then SIGN UP, and you're away. Do it through July!

For other ways to make a submission, please scroll to the bottom of this document.

We STRONGLY URGE YOU to make at least ONE comment on each question

BECAUSE only ticking the boxes leaves it up to Council to interpret your response. Two people might both answer 'NO' when asked if they agree with the Vision, but one might want much stronger environmental protections, while the other might want an increase in urban growth.

This will only be clear if they make comment.

We encourage you to use your own words, rather than just cut and paste.

If you have limited time, you can consider just one or two of the dot points below each heading,

and move on to the next heading. In this way you can quickly build a submission.

The more Council receives from the community, the clearer the message.

NOTE: Please use this structured information as you see fit. The aim is to help you make a submission quickly, as reading a 45 page document and preparing your response is a big ask!

The suggested responses have been drafted by a group of locals who have studied the draft plan, and taken into account the overwhelming community support for protection of the Green Wedge.

FOR EXCELLENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GREEN WEDGES AND THIS PROCESS, VISIT

<http://www.loveyourgreenwedge.com/>

Question 1: A Vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge? NO [because there is a worrying lack of detail]

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

- Environmental protection and reinvigoration must be central to the Vision for the Green Wedge. The draft does not state this strongly enough, despite it being a Strategic Focus for the Shire.
- 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.
- The GWMP must reflect the fact that Nillumbik's Green Wedge is the most environmentally intact of Melbourne's Green Wedges, is a significant part of the wider Green Wedge system, and is for the benefit of everyone, whether they live in the area or not.
- 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 such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy. Throughout the draft, the repeated mention of just adapting to climate change leaves the reader with the impression that Council has basically thrown their hands up in the air suggesting there is nothing that they nor Nillumbik residents can do to tackle climate change. This is not true and must be part of every day action.
- 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.

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."

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, because there is a worrying lack of detail]

Do you have any comments about the Five Key Moves?

- It appears that Council has failed to follow State Government policy requirements in the preparation of the GWMP. This throws into question the

entire document and associated processes. Planning Practice Note 31 describes specific requirements for the development of a GWMP, including the establishment of a Project Steering Group chaired by Council with key stakeholder representatives. This did not occur.

- This draft fails to clearly articulate an Implementation Plan based on clearly stated Objectives and Actions and the Council Department responsible for implementation. As stated in the State Government's Planning Practice Note 31, '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.' The current GWMP has much greater detail than this new draft, and should be used as a basis for improvement. [Click here for Planning Practice Note 31](#) .

For a comparison to the draft GWMP, [Click here for the current GWMP](#) .

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.

Principles

To what extent do you agree with the Principles to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge

Management Plan? DISAGREE [all, because there is a worrying lack of detail]

Do you have any comments about the 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

GWMP 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.'

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. 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 [because there is a worrying lack of detail]

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for 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 plan must state more clearly that the Shire and Green Wedge areas have particular needs that are different to those in an area not established as a Green Wedge. 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 'What can we get out of the land?'.
- 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.

GOAL2: Active and creative people

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 2?

DO NOT SUPPORT [because there is a worrying lack of 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.
- 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.

GOAL 3: Safe and healthy environments

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for 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.

DO NOT SUPPORT [because there is a worrying lack of detail]

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 3?

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 4?

DO NOT SUPPORT [because there is a worrying lack of 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 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 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.
- 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.

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 5? DO NOT SUPPORT

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 in Goal 5, Responsible Leadership. It needs to explain that Nillumbik residents have an obligation to care for the land, not degrade it, and this must be for the entirety of their tenure. 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.

- 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.
- Responsible Leadership should have a section dealing with climate change mitigation in accordance with the precautionary principle.
- Council ought to provide education and free, easily accessible advice to residents on a range of topics such as 'avoid - reduce - reuse - recycle', reducing meat-consumption, buying local produce and growing your own, responsible waste disposal, reduction of car-dependence, benefits of native vegetation etc.
- 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). 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 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?

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 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.

- 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”.
- 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.
- The impact of invasive species - flora and fauna - is significant and this must be better addressed.
- 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, and urgent climate change mitigation.
- It is necessary that we uphold the highest of professional standards throughout the Shire and its Leadership.

Christine robb

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Ryan CONNOLLY



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.

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.

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. - Ryan CONNOLLY

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Melissa Collins



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.

Melissa Collins

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Nick Weaver



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.

Nick Weaver

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Elise marrgatt

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.

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.

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 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.

Elise marrgatt

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Pauline Bennett

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 and my 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 love where I live and want long term protection of its environmental heritage.

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 in line with the indigenous people's management of our environment. Throughout the draft, there is no mention of strong leadership in this regard. I despair about the environmental damage already occurring in our area without Council taking any action. 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. - Pauline Bennett

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Kristy doyle



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

I am writing as a life long member of this shire now raising my own young family here and I want to share my concerns about the draft Green Wedge Management Plan. I have been willing to support the shire in many ways over the years including payment of high rates but feel concerned about the lack of protection on these issues the council is providing.

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 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 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.

Kristy doyle

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Karen Colebatch

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.

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. - Karen Colebatch

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Susan Bannister

E

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.

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.

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.

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.

Susan Bannister

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Christine Gilmour



No further subdivisions encroaching into agricultural land or public land; no further loss of indigenous plant species or habitat for native animals.

Christine Gilmour

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Martin Maley



Please protect our lovely biodiversity in the nillumbick council, as part of the young generation here, I would love to see even more protection for our native flora and fauna as we are in one of the most sustainable communities and should be setting these higher standards for others, instead of conforming to society's greed for quick money and cheap living with average quality of life: poorly built houses (I work in big estates out west, they are built quickly with no regard for quality), cheap unhealthy takeaway food and no organic health, poor ratio of developed land vs protected native environment, which results in more mental health issues....

PROTECT THE GREEN WEDGE!

Martin Maley

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Ryan Anderson



I would like to see the green wedge project stay in action for future generations to enjoy a green Nillumbik

Ryan Anderson

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

David Adcock



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 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.

David Adcock

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Jacob Spotswood



Dont ruin what Eltham is known and loved for
Jacob Spotswood

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Jan davies



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 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.

Jan davies

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Sharyn Mundy

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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.

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.

Sharyn Mundy

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Slavica



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.

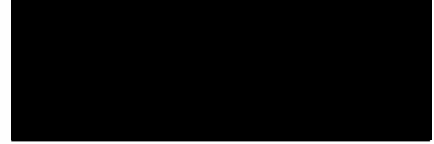
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The Principles in the draft are broad and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment. They need to reflect the community's commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The GWMP must describe how the 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.

Slavica

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Hesse Bevilacqua



I live in it and I don't want it changed

Hesse Bevilacqua

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Felicity Donert



I love the nature, open space, relaxed community and a sense of country life here in the green wedge. Moving from the city my German husband said that he loves Australia but not the city. The Green wedge has that contrasting feel to it. A sense of freedom.

Felicity Donert

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Janene Ferrarin



As a Nillumbik resident I am submitting my deep concerns about the future of our unique shire.

Nillumbik provides clean air from the many indigenous trees and vegetation which in turn place as as 'The most healthy lifestyle' LGA in the Melbourne Metroplitan area.

From our very unique indigenous flora and fauna to small scale agricultural holdings, wineries, local artisan producers to its unique arts/music culture, Nillumbik is truly the jewel in Melbourne's crown....

To value the worth of Nillumbik's green wedge we MUST protect it from unsustainable development which will serves only those whose interests will profit at the expense of our unique native environment which Liberal Premier Dick Hamer famously quoted as being 'The lungs of Melbourne'...

Like Mr Hamer, we Nillumbik residents have a vision to protect, preserve and to respect our native environment for the health and wellbeing of current and future generations to come...

The Green Wedge Management Plan MUST NOT compromise the existing protections in place but to value it's worth NOT in development and profits for the few, but in environmentally sustainable practice that includes preservation of Nillumbik's natural wildlife and bush so we can all enjoy it's beauty and health promoting benefits.

Janene Ferrarin

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Patrick Hyde



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.

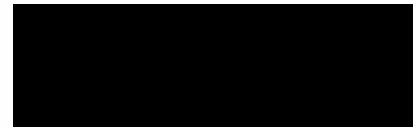
I love the Nillumbik environment and I do not support the draft GWMP. I think it should clearly stated that Nillumbik's Green Wedge is the most environmentally intact of Melbourne's Green Wedges and is a significant part of the wider Green Wedge system. I would also like to see it acknowledged that because 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.

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.

Patrick Hyde

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Clare



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

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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.

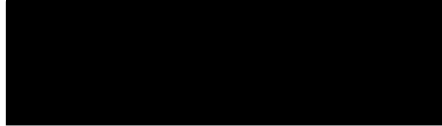
I do not support the draft GWMP as I do not believe it adequately includes the indigenous voice. It is vital that Nillumbik demonstrates its respect of Indigenous people, their cultural heritage and knowledge. This barely gets a mention in the GWMP despite the fact that Indigenous people have ensured 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.

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.

Clare

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Vicki Kegele



NO more selling off reserves or subdivision of residential land...NO more units or townhouses if we continue to over develop Nillumbik we will no longer be a Green wedge area....just bricks & mortor.....expecially Eltham and Hurstbridge us heading that way too☹ in fire season over population is a killer 🏠👤

Vicki Kegele

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Daniel Epstein



Please do the right thing and leave our green wedge alone. The green wedge here in Warrandyte and Eltham is so special. It is a place that has been protected for decades and as our elected leaders don't let the developers push try and reduce the protection of the green wedge.

Daniel Epstein

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Mia Driessen Lee



i object to any changes that will put green wedge at risk

Mia Driessen Lee

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Richard Lee

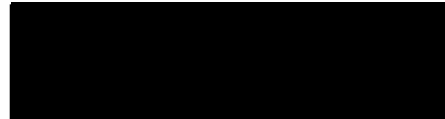


I am a long term resident of Eltham. I live in Eltham because it us unique and an amazing place to live which I can share with my family and friends. When I tell people from elsewhere where I live they comment on what an amazing place it is. Changes to the green wedge management plan threatens this by making the green wedge just another part of Melbourne. It also threatens our unique flora and fauna. We must stop changing everything for the sake of profits and greed. If something is great let's keep it that way.

Richard Lee

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Nathan parsons



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.

Nathan parsons

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Johannes Gregory



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

In this submission I'd like to address some of the issues with the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and outline why I do not support the draft.

I have lived in and around the Green Wedge since 1962, when I was five years old.

I reflect the views of those I believe are a majority in Nillumbik and surrounding areas, adjacent to and invested in 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 has been and clearly should remain Council's role! 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.

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Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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 have always firmly believed the Green Wedge areas are the "lungs of Melbourne". This is a phrase that has been common in describing the Green Wedge areas, particularly the Nillumbik/Kinglake Wedge, for decades (long before climate change became a common concern). The Lungs of Melbourne is a phrase which considers and recognises one of the vital reasons for this zone.

The Green Wedge is more than a "greenies phrase" or chance for economic appropriation. It is, moreso than ever before, an essential buffer zone between large acres of clear fell farmland and the urban growth areas, surrounding suburbs and city.

It is an inheritance to our and future generations.

It is clever, sustainable, long term vision and planning which affects the entire region as well as the entire state.

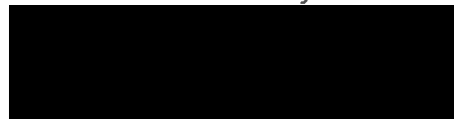
It is an area lent to Nillumbik Council to manage in order to preserve, maintain and extend the environmental objectives of it's creation.

The Green Wedge is not a tool for a few to gain wealth, nor is it essentially a tool or bank, intended to prop up Nillumbik's financial management. However it is clear that the Green Wedge is economically important the way it is (environmentally, socially, feeding community and communities, artistically, creatively, and more), some of which may have capacity for further benefits if sensitively invested in (ie appropriate tourism of the Green Wedge - not degradation of it's green credentials and value).

Johannes Gregory

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Ryan Marsh



In approximately 7 weeks I'll become a father for the first time. My young boy, like me, will have the privilege of growing up in the nillumbik green wedge. The access I was afforded in my youth to the vast natural expanses that the Nillumbik Shire prides themselves on is exactly why my wife and I chose to buy in nillumbik to raise a family.

Overdevelopment is the shortsighted and reckless outcome of that pride being lost. It benefits only the smallest percentage of people (not all of which are actual residents), and denies residents a part of what it is that makes Nillumbik great.

Councils like ours should be leading the way in the preservation of our environments, as you can't reverse such decisions when choosing profits over preservation.

Thanks for hearing my words.

Ryan Marsh

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Caroline Kardachi

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.

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

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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.

Caroline Kardachi

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Olivia Wykes

Hi, Having grown up in St Andrews, Kangaroo Ground, Cottlesbridge, Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek, Eltham I feel very connected to this area and the wonderful nature that we enjoy. I have lived in London and currently live in

The natural bush and amenity that it is should not just be seen as 'nice to have', it is essential for our survival. We need to think big picture when we look at development and urban sprawl. It needs to be contained as much as possible and we cannot sell out to developers who want as many small dwellings, cheaply made and unsustainable in their design. We must maintain the beauty of this area and keep trees, open spaces, the creeks health all at the centre of that philosophy.

Keeping old growth must be number one. Followed by planting more trees.

Development that is sustainable and minimal is the way to go.

Humans want bike paths and parkland. Focusing on public transport is also hugely necessary and moving to an electric vehicle future.

These are tough times and they call for tough decisions and ones that will protect not just our wildlife but ourselves. This is too important and financial considerations must play second fiddle to these greater issues.

Kind regards,

Olivia Wykes

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Carolyn noel



I don't believe that the GWMP goes far enough to protect the green in the GREEN wedge. It seems to me it's more about people and horses and how to manage them! Where are the climate change mitigation strategies. My block is changing and I'm desperate to maintain my trees but they are struggling. What climate change doesn't kill the deer do. When will this council realise that maintaining a healthy beautiful green environment is one of our most precious resources and getting more valuable by the day. I say NO to developing the 420 undersized block in the shire for the sake of rates. Let's keep what we all moved here for!!!

Carolyn noel

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Susan Driessen



I have great concerns about the current council agenda. You have no mandate to continue to alter the fabric of our community. The green wedge is at the core of what makes Eltham such a wonderful community. It is also good for people's wellbeing and work life balance to protect it. On a bigger picture climate change is the single biggest challenge and we need councils with a vision that includes an acknowledgement of climate change and the threat it poses. Leave the green wedge alone. Do not alter its protections so that it becomes less protected and start to be a council that protects what is important to the people you represent. Council for the future and not for economic reasons alone. So disappointed with the council and with the leadership.

Susan Driessen

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Kerryn Pilkington



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.

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I would support a greater emphasis on reducing invasive plant life and council providing opportunities for community engagement in managing our waterways, like workingbees to remove blackberry that clogs our creeks and streams and alerts for boneseed emergence and the best time to remove it.

Finally I want a GWMP that maintains limits and controls on subdivision and development. Further development will reduce native wildlife in our area and having the varied parrots and native birds in our skies, and marsupials in our reserves are beneficial to our wellbeing.

To sum up our GWMP should be protective of the Green Wedge, not a plan that allows it to be eaten away. The Green wedge is at risk, and once it's gone we won't be able to regrow it.

Kerryn Pilkington

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Catherine Watson
[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.

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 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.

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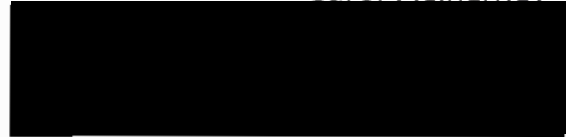
Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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.

Catherine Watson

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Carol McInerney



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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.

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.

Thank you for considering my views,

Carol McInerney

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Joy McPhail



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 love living in this area because it is GREEN, the birds I have coming in to my garden, along with the echidnas & kangaroos, make this a unique environment to live in - please protect it!

Over development will destroy something that can never be replaced 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 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 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. - Joy McPhail

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Maxine Stagg



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.

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.

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Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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Patricia Weller

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Jennifer Mobilia

Living in the green wedge is something our family holds dear, the beautiful trees and wildlife make for a peaceful place to live. Living in the green wedge means valuing living WITH the environment and respecting it for what it offers us. Being close by to open wide spaces with fresh air and stillness is even more important in today's busy world. We recently moved to Hurstbridge after 15 years in Eltham and love it even more. We became very sad about the overdevelopment of Eltham. Constantly feeling like its the week before christmas just about everyday at the supermarkets fighting to get a park etc... Feeling dismayed about the highrise development and mulit developments in the back streets leading to a feeling of choking in most streets. It was unbelievable how choked up it would get driving between Eltham Woods and the train carpark to collect my children in the afternoon. I am the second generation of my family to live in Eltham. Sadly, its essence is being squeezed out. Living in the green wedge means seeing wallabys on your daily train commute and beautiful trees and green pastures.

Please do the right thing to preserve what is a vast and precious area that cannot ever be replaced once it is gone. Please do not over develop and ruin this land for generations to come.

Jennifer Mobilia

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Melinda Morriss



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Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Matt Dawson



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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.

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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 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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Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

susan gregory



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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. Our green wedges must be preserved. Nillumbik has been growing at a pace that is not sustainable for the future of native animals, flora, fauna. The death toll of animals along roadsides has become

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

extremely telling of the loss. There needs to be further tree planting and conditions for all new builders concerning the replanting of native plants.

Respect the air we breathe the waterways that nourish the wild life we grew up with and trees for our childrens futures. FRESH.

susan gregory

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Linda Kusumadewi



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Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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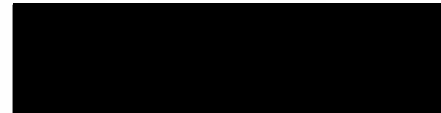
Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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Leanne Davies

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Ruth Bence



Re: Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

The State Government's Plan for Melbourne 2017-2050 states that the top 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." Nillumbik Council's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan does not attempt to address this aim and therefore cannot be truly regarded as a Green Wedge Management Plan.

It will take commitment and dedication to maintain and enhance Nillumbik as a Green Wedge for Melbourne: I do not sense this kind of energy in the writing of the Plan.

In my local experience as a resident of North Warrandyte I have recently attempted to have a weed (bridal creeper) which is invading the significant roadside area of Blooms/Hawkes Road attended to. I have been informed there is no funding this year for bulbous weeds! In response to a recent council newsletter which asked residents to inform Council about rabbits, I rang Council to advise of considerable disturbance being caused by rabbits to remnant native vegetation on my property, however, my two calls have not been answered.

Council's community engagement process demonstrated that the large majority of residents place a high value on retaining and enhancing the Green Wedge of Nillumbik, yet the Draft Plan does not demonstrate how it proposes to protect and reinvigorate diversity.

It also appears that Council has failed to follow State Government policy requirements in the preparation of their Green Wedge Management Plan which throws into question the entire document and way it was prepared.

Unfortunately, the Green Wedge Management Plan is inadequate across the board and I do not believe it can or will contribute to the protection of this wonderful area for future generations of local residents, Melburnians and visitors.

Ruth Bence

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Jill Grover

Please don't touch any of our lovely peaceful gardens

As a disabled person whom drives a scooter I need these areas for my relaxation and to excercise my dogs on leads of course.

That's why I chose to live within this lovely area

I live in

Please keep us green

I also travel on my scooter to plenty rd

More improvements is needed on the path to plenty rd from the estates to railway station up to plenty rd.

Please concentrate on the terrible bottleneck roads that go down to one lane

And bbn our 50mtr pool

Jill Grover

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Alan



please protect the green wedge - it is what makes our city livable. (NB melbourne is the Australian city with the least tree cover)

Alan

**Submission of Feedback
Green Wedge Management Plan**

9 September 2019

Dear Cr Karen Egan

We have reviewed the Draft GWMP to the best of our ability and we provide the following feedback.

- The GWMP provides extensive background and data. It identifies many issues facing the shire relating to preserving the Green Wedge, reversing the decline in biodiversity and overall conservation of our natural environment.
- However, the great majority of this presentation is on a high-level basis. The Key actions beginning page 32 list proposed reviews and implementation of existing plans, but do not provide timelines for completion or details of any action proposed.
- We are left with the overall impression that Council is paying lip service to the many residents who support urgent action addressing climate change and the threats to our flora and fauna, and that the GWMP leaves it open for Council to act without meaningful consultation and engagement with the community.
- Accordingly, in the absence of at least some action plan details we are unable to support the GWMP.

Yours sincerely

David and Gail Moore

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

julien august



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. 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 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.

julien august

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Peta Heywood



WILDLIFE: one of the amazing things of living here is the wildlife. Fencing needs to be wildlife-friendly wherever possible and landowners encourage to leave areas of their properties available to native animals. We need road signs reminding people 'animals live here - slow down'.

TREES: landowners should be encourage to plant trees suitable for the Shire, Council could subsidise this as part of the Shire's work against climate change.

ROADS: VicRoads should be banned from installed the horrible metal barriers that destroy the view for both tourists and locals. The wire barriers are much less intrusive suburban-like.

THE ARTS: as well as sport Council needs to keep focussed on non-sporting leisure activities that already exist, and work to increase them. We need cinema committed to showing quality films, this would be a boon to everyone especially residents.

GROWTH: the green wedge must stay green for the health, physical and mental, of Melbourne environs. This means restrictions on building, land clearing, subdivision, tree removal, etc. We know that climate change is slowed by the action of trees and we need to be encouraged to value them. In this context keeping parklands free of over-development will need careful attention. In particular the need for more sporting facilities needs thoughtful monitoring.

SPORT: although ball sports are so popular, there are other activities that should not be forgotten. The area is beloved by horse riders and brings considerable business into the area. For this we need safe areas and trails that keep riders safe from traffic.

BUSHFIRES: coping with these creates a real problem when the major focus is on clearing trees. Learning which species to plant and how to take the edge off the possibility of destruction is important and ongoing. There are roadsides, such as Jones Road, just waiting to feed a fire that I think need to be attended to and some sort of clearing undertaken.

GROWTH: Whatever the pressures I urge Council to maintain the current limits on land size and building permits. The worst thing that can happen is over-development.

NOTE: The Council has, over the years, supported many excellent initiatives and some not-so-good ones. I understand it is impossible to please everyone and welcome the opportunity to list my concerns.

Basically, I love living here and don't want to see it changed by over development.

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Ruth Crespin



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.

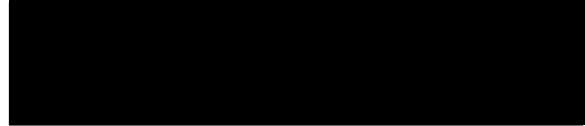
Responsible leadership should lead with Nillumbik's stance on climate change and the precautionary principle. The GWMP needs to recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play; that we can be part of the solution, acting locally to address global problems. We're a relatively affluent population. Nillumbik 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 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.

Ruth Crespin

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Frank O'Neill



We have lived here for approx. 44 years & raised two children. There have been huge changes during that time, some good & some bad.

The amount of inappropriate development is alarming with the loss of green space, tree removal & the resulting traffic chaos.

The green wedge is extremely important to us, our kids & our three grandkids.

We want the existing green wedge plans to remain untouched so as to stop any further destruction to animal habitat & our freedom to enjoy our surroundings in this beautiful spot before it's too late.

Frank O'Neill

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Greig 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 draft plan is so broad and so loaded with motherhood statements, it could be applied to inner Melbourne. The plan needs to be all about what it is purporting to be. A plan for the Green Wedge. It must address those characteristics that define the Green Wedge and indeed ensure that the very character and value of this fundamental part of Nillumbik is not only maintained but improved upon. I have lived here for 40 years and from my perspective, the attractiveness is diminishing. Pro-development people need to focus on what is important to visitors. It is the drive and walks through this small slice of native/rural Australia that is bringing more people from Melbourne. Perhaps on the way to the Yarra Valley. Perhaps not. Gradually turning the wedge into suburbia removes the differentiator that attracts them. Nillumbik Shire should consider itself privileged to be a custodian.

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.

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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.

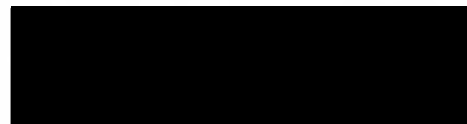
If the council is reacting to concerns expressed by such groups as PAL in the past, whom I partially support, this is overshoot .

Incidentally, or maybe not incidentally, the draft plan is incredibly difficult to read, even painful. This is not a well written document and in my experience would be rejected immediately by any CEO in the corporate world.

Greig Bannister

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Lee Bee



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 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.

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 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.

Lee Bee

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Siena Hyland

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 feel and fear that there is nothing more important to address with our GWMP than climate change mitigation. Just 10 years ago our community was shattered by the Black Saturday bushfires, an event that is still seared into our minds and burnt into our trees. The ferocity of that fire was largely due to climate change and it was just a small show of the force of nature if we do nothing to stop its destruction. We are caretakers of this land and must act as such. It is too precious to not be taken seriously.

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.

This is a vital moment for us to stand united as a community against the greatest threat of our time and in that moment we have a chance to become role models for other shires and future generations. By strengthening the environmental protections of our wedge we can ensure that it will retain its beauty and diversity for many decade to come.

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.

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Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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I have lived in this community for my entire life and this place holds a special place in my heart. The animals and flora rely on the natural habitats just as much as we do but with our surrounding councils and shires increasing housing projects it is more vital than ever that we protect these habitats. Our wedge is home countless species of animals and orchids, some found nowhere else in the world.

It is with hope that I implore you to see the sense in protecting our wedge with a strong plan that will ensure our environment is protected

Siena Hyland

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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.

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 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 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.

Roeland Trietsch

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Amanda Sykes



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.

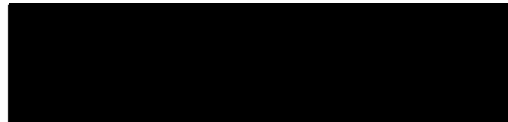
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Amanda Sykes

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Michelle MacDonald



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

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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.

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Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

to be clearly demonstrated in any GWMP. This current draft does not achieve this requirement and therefore, I do not support the draft GWMP.

Michelle MacDonald

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Gill Smith & Robert Black



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

Re: Response to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission about the draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

We have a number of concerns about the Plan and are not confident that the current Nillumbik Council will fully consider all residents' views in a balanced and even manner given its recent actions.

The Plan lacks "teeth". It is a series of motherhood statements and does not set out a detailed framework for implementation, governance or enforcement. It does not prioritise conservation of the environment above all other land uses and therefore does not align with the community's priorities.

The Plan should reflect the majority community support for protection of the environmental values of the Green Wedge and the community's concern about over-development and densification in the townships, and inappropriate development and land use in the rural areas of the Shire.

As long-term ratepayers, we demand a "Management Plan" - tell us how you intend to protect the environmental values of the shire, protect against over-development and appropriately manage all land uses and community assets. We don't want to be patronised with superficial marketing statements.

The Council must be visionary and, through the Plan, protect our valuable Shire for all Victorians for the future. We call on our Council to take the lead on climate action given the vulnerability of our Shire to its impacts.

Yours sincerely,

Gill Smith and Robert Black

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

megan Raynal

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 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.

megan Raynal

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Tony Young



With much of the disappearance of flora and fauna, I think it is vital to maintain the green wedge in the nillumbic council area.

I would like to see more detail and the input of the local owners of the land.

Visit Warrandyte on any "good weather" weekend and see how important this area is to other than locals as well of course as locals.

Tony Young

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Elizabeth Arnaud



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 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 as 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 in all that we do, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be compromised.

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

I am overseas, at the moment in Canada, and I can tell you that in comparison to other countries, we in the Nillumbik Shire have a precious jewel in the native vegetation and wildlife that surrounds us. No others can compare. We desperately need to hold on to it and not threaten it with weakened vegetation protection laws or it will become denuded like most other countries and our wildlife will become threatened, rare and extinct.

I do not support this draft Green Wedge Management Plan. It will not protect our Green Wedge into the future, if anything it will promote a slow and steady deterioration. Our vegetation and wildlife will continue to disappear.

I would much rather that you retain the existing Green Wedge Management Plan as it has much better protection for the future of the Green Wedge.

I do not support this draft.

In hope of a greener future,

Elizabeth Arnaud

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Catherine & Eric Johnson



Having previously lived in the Green Wedge and fought to retain its natural beauty of bushland, wildlife and wildflowers and the benefit the area gives to everyone in the area. It brings peace of mind, cleans our air, and provides a corridor for wildlife and the preservation of local provenance of vegetation. We could say the area is the lungs of Nillumbik. To develop would be desecration of the area and a blot on the values of the governing body.

Catherine & Eric Johnson

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Anna

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.

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.

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.

Anna

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Pauline Darvill



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.

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 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 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.

Pauline Darvill

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Sallyanne Naylor



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 green wedge is vital to our future health, community, sustainability and wellbeing.

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.

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 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.

Sallyanne Naylor

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Aimee



I have lived in Eltham all my life and it's a wonderful place which is made unique by its green wedge and changes to the green wedge will be devastating for the landscape, flora and fauna of nillumbik. Hands of our green wedge

Aimee

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Nicole huitt



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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Nicole huitt

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Katherine Savage

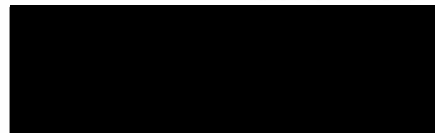


We live in the most unique suburbs of Melbourne . The lungs of Melbourne . The wall of green that stops the spread of high density suburbs. We are unique and you as council HAVE A DUTY TO PROTECT . Warrandyte dose not want to become another Eltham which has become just another suburb, with it's high density. Don't let this happen to the rest of our GREEN WEDGE !!!!!

Katherine Savage

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Boris Nestic



Please don't develop in the wedge and continue to source reusables while maintaining high quality of life and biodiversity. Stimulate the economy? Sure, we are in economic recession anyway, another retail or building hub is a short term solution

Boris Nestic

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Julian Silveri



I've lived in Nillumbik shore for 38 years and throughout this time I've witnessed the profound benefits to living in a green wedge area. Having green spaces for people to enjoy is paramount. The clean air and water that is created as a result is priceless and in to the future, this will become very important for the shire. Any reduction in native bushland will be the demise of our ecology and environment.

Julian Silveri

Jennifer Juchnevicius

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

I do not support the draft GWMP.

We are fortunate to live in a unique environment. Any changes that risk our native bush character are not acceptable. I live here because of the trees, nature, bush, rustic environment and the wildlife. If I didnt want that I'd live elsewhere.

The proposed GWMP should have a more measurable focus on environmental protection. 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. 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.

- Jennifer Juchnevicius

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Natalie McCall

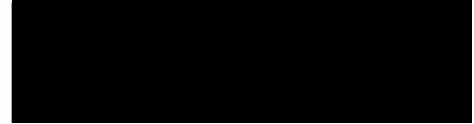


Keep our green wedge please

Natalie McCall

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Jon Thornton



Your new Green Wedge Management Plan lacks actionable detail. I would like to see a greater focus on conservation, a commitment to containing/reducing population density and the adoption of more stringent zoning guidelines to prevent the destruction of habitat.

Jon Thornton

John Puls



I am opposed to the changes proposed to our green wedge. The current plan due to run until 2025 protects our unique environment from the ridiculous amount of over-development taking place throughout the Greater Melbourne area. The roads in this area are already clogged with traffic mainly because they were never designed to cope with a huge number of vehicles. Also the paucity of river crossings means that no amount road widening in congested traffic hot-spots will improve traffic flows. Please do not destroy our semi-rural way of life.

John Puls

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Carey Jacob

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 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.

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.

- Carey Jacob

Sara Jacob

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.

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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.

Sara Jacob

Jamie



I love the green wedge and don't want anything to change!!!

Jamie

Lynda Hamilton



Melbourne's urban sprawl is slowly killing our precious open spaces. Greedy developers seeking to profit from lax planning regulations are causing the eradication of the natural environment at extraordinary rates, including the 'green wedge'. Nillumbik is known for its strong stance for the natural environment, which is a credit to those who can see into the future and wish to preserve our assets for other generations. If planning regulations allow for greater development in the 'green wedge', where will the animals go? Where will the birds nest? Once its gone, its gone forever. Please keep Nillumbik green.

Lynda Hamilton

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Archie Iappin



Dear Council,

I live in [REDACTED] and go to [REDACTED]. I'm in year 7 and we are learning about sustainability. I think that climate change is a really big problem that needs to be solved. Where we live we are lucky to have green around us and even endangered plants. Our council must show the world how to live sustainably, cut carbon emissions and protect the diverse plants and animals.

I don't think that the strategy is helping the world enough. What you're trying to do is not enough. There are many environmental scientists in our community who can help and have told us that we need to make sure that no more deforestation happens. So please do not reduce regulations that protect our local environment. Please also speak to younger people about this plan and our future.

Sincerely Archie Iappin

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Jay Whitehead



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.

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Jay Whitehead

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Linda Bester



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

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

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 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.

Linda Bester

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Joy James

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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.

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Joy James

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Louise Clover

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 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'm a new resident to Nillumbik (since January 2018), love the Green Wedge and hope to see it thrive, rather than deteriorate.

Louise Clover

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Tim Clover

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.

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Tim Clover

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Kate Lappin and Stephen Mullins

To Nillumbik Shire Council,

I am a resident of Nillumbik and extremely thankful and privileged to be living in the most bio-diverse part of Melbourne. I also feel a deep responsibility to protect our bio-diversity and beautiful environment for future generations. Consequently I cannot support the draft Green Wedge Management Plan and deeply concerned about the inadequacy of the plan.

We are living in a unique part of Melbourne that should set the highest standard for environmental protections and climate mitigation in the state. The climate crisis compels us to not just protect our green spaces but to extend them and provide greater protections than we currently enjoy. If we consider only the fire risks to our communities, we will have been grossly negligent in violating our duty of care to future generations.

I do not support:

- The sole focus on fire risks in relation to climate change
- The suggestion that we need to 'balance' commercial and environmental interests or enable 'trade offs' between environmental and other interests. Instead commercial operations must be required to enhance current and future livability and environmental outcomes.
- The proposed alterations to the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ). Previously cleared land may have significant environmental value. Permits are essential as they can ensure any agricultural activities respect the land and add to climate mitigation strategies.
- A focus on economic growth that prevails over environmental value. The 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.

Instead we propose that Council

- Commits to maintaining the existing environmental standards of Nillumbik
- Commits to developing a more stringent and more specific climate change policy that ensures we maintain and extend our capacity to absorb carbon and to protect our biodiversity
- Reflect the overwhelming support in the Nillumbik community for the Green Wedge protections to be maintained and expanded and to support efforts for community harmony, rather than division.

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

I would welcome the opportunity to attend further consultations on the development of this policy.

With thanks,

Kate Lappin and Stephen Mullins

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

Heja Chong



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

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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.

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 a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

We need to be protecting as much of our natural environment as we can to stop further extinctions of our native flora and fauna. There is already so much habitat loss, please do not make it easier for there to be even more.

Thank you
Jacinta Payne

Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan

I do NOT support the Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

The current draft Green Wedge Management Plan needs to address climate change far more specially than it currently does. I heard Geoff Lawler say that it only mentions it because we have a separate Climate Action Plan but the GWMP needs to have specific actions for this critical issue. Plus we have many individual, detailed plans e.g. bushfire, tourism, trails etc. which are mentioned and have actions tied to them in the GWMP so this is a very inconsistent statement.

It is not good enough to use existing policies selectively as in the current plan. Neither the draft plan nor the slides at you information sessions mentioned the Federal/ Victorian/ Nillumbik State of Environment reports or Nillumbik's Environment Charter. This is poor, very selective, negligent policy making. This is the time show leadership – be specific and be determined.

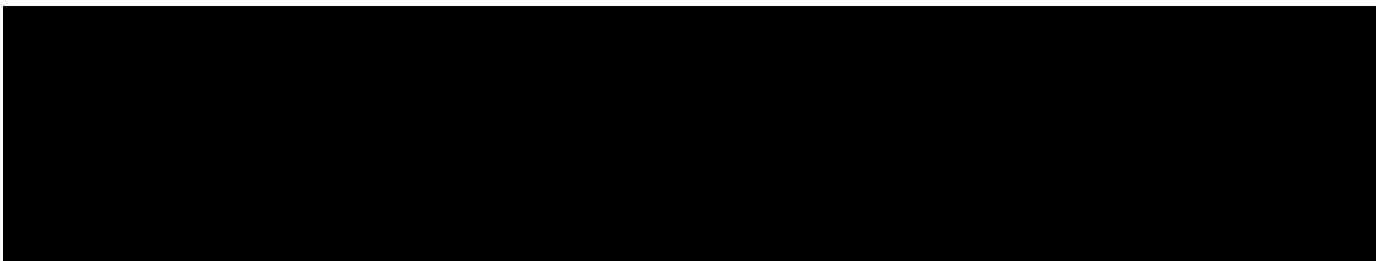
We are in drought now it's mid-winter, and my dams are like little puddles, they wont last through summer. We need to recognise this and DO something other than use energy saving light bulbs. There is no point promoting agriculture if we have no water – we'll just end up in another cycle of donations and bail outs for our hobby farmers. We need sustainable food production strategies than can operate within the limitations of the water supply. This suggests plant based agriculture as animal ag is extremely inefficient use of resources.

This level of climate change cannot be managed by voluntary efforts as you suggest in the draft plan and GL told us at the briefing sessions. It's ridiculous to think individuals can fight climate change on a voluntary basis. This is the time when we really need all levels of government to step up and protect the ever more fragile eco system – starting with local government protecting our Shire.

The Nillumbik Climate Plan 2016-2020 already asks to identify the risks and vulnerabilities related to climate change. We are now 3 years into that plan the GWMP is still talking about “stocktaking”. We should now put actions in place to address the risks to biodiversity- Just talking about stocktaking again in the GWMP is not good enough. We need PROTECTION while we stocktake and talk “resilience”.

The GWMP will be in place for the next 10 years it needs to be robust enough to deal with the magnitude of problems. This plan is far from that it simply allows for us to sit by, watch and talk about “resilience”. We need a NEW plan with a modern focus that recognises the impending risks – this is Business As Usual.

Name ANNIE HAINES



Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019



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 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.

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 a prioritisation of environmental considerations, as without optimal environmental health, all other activity and considerations will be constrained.

Helen Williams

Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan

I do NOT support the Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

The current draft Green Wedge Management Plan needs to address climate change and species extinction far more specially than it currently does. At every stage, any potential for affirmative environmental action gets ignored or becomes subverted or neutralised or put in the context of some sort of 'future robust conversations'. This is the time for "robust conversations".

We are the "Green Wedge Shire", with at least 1,031 indigenous flora and 350 indigenous fauna species and a "conservation' responsibility. This all gets ignored/down-played; and the whole Draft is lacking in adequate environmental actions. This verges on the negligent and is a failure of "duty of care".

As well as climate change, the Plan should have thoroughly addressed the biodiversity extinction crisis and the locally declining environmental values - they do not get a mention. Geoff Lawler says the reason to update the plan is to put people over place but that is exactly what is causing this crisis we are all experiencing. We need balance, we need a 'systems' view (recognising that we are all part of a larger whole, that all is interdependent - ecosystems & eco-services). Moving to a 10 year plan now where we put people OVER the natural world is absolutely NOT reacting to science. It is acting in an old fashioned, scared and protective manner which will hasten poor conditions. Nillumbik Council you have to take a stand and not react to a few self-interested individuals – our future depends on it.

The findings of a recent study that climate change has already caused irreversible damage to our biodiversity; and that the speed of climate disruption is outstripping many animals' capacity to adapt, especially for animals already deemed at risk of extinction, and warning of a growing threat to even common species. Continuing to talk about encouraging animal agriculture when we are watching farmers and animals suffer across the country due to climate change is ignorant and irresponsible. Scarce resources should be focussed on more efficient plant based food production methods.

The GWMP will be in place for the next 10 years it needs to be robust enough to deal with the magnitude of problems. This plan is far from that it simply allows for us to sit by, watch and talk about "resilience".

Name Bronwen Brook

Address/Suburb

E-mail

Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the GWMP

I find it frustrating that we're still talking about stocktaking when we have had this action in the Climate Change Action Plan for 3 years. 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.

I feel and fear that there is nothing more important to address with our GWMP than climate change mitigation. It 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. 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.

This level of climate change calls for the very opposite action to that you are proposing in the Draft GWMP. See page 40 discussion re 'regulation' - arguing for a move to higher reliance on 'landowners' voluntary efforts': "education, awareness, facilitation and ultimately empowerment". But as so many recent inquiries have demonstrated: voluntary cooperation and self regulation get abused and do not work! This is the time when we really need Council to step up and protect the ever more fragile eco system within our Shire.

Name/Signature

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Nilumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission**I do not support the draft GWMP.**

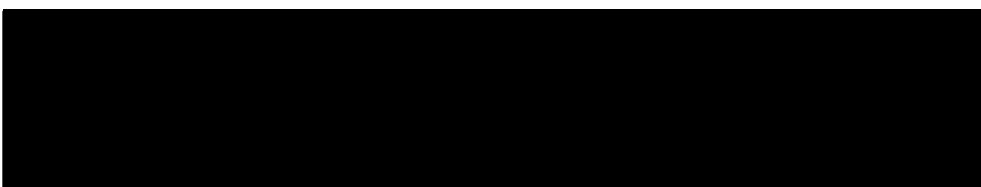
There are numerous scientific works that confirm that biodiversity, eco systems and many species are at critical and endangered levels (see the Governments IPBES report that states “The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global”). This is local Nilumbik’s opportunity to take action. This document does not have any distinctive actions, there is nothing we could offer as class leading. 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 which will address this problem to ensure the long term health of the Green Wedge.

Council's Draft GWMP's framing subverts the needs of the natural environment and the Green Wedge:

- By being in denial of locally declining environmental values and the global biodiversity extinction crisis.
- By viewing the impact of climate change solely in terms of bushfires.
- By persistently subjugating them to other priorities such as bushfire mitigation and the active encouragement of economic growth and development.
- By failing to adequately define its very sparse environmental objectives and actions and to provide the context of the manifold and accelerating threats.
- By failing to place centrally in the GWMP the intrinsic values of the environment and their restoration.

As such, not only is continued environmental decline assured, it will accelerate.

Name/Signature



To Nillumbik Council,

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

It does not reflect the very extensive community survey we paid \$300k for – which showed that residents want the natural environment protecting.

What I like about the Green Wedge



Responses: 1012

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; the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society.

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

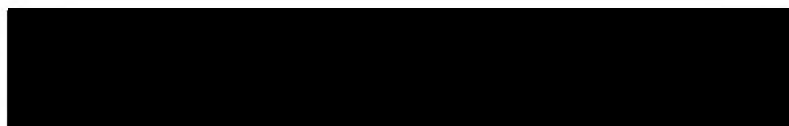
The *2019 Victorian State of the Environment Report* - painting a bleak outlook for the state's native plants and animals and states that more private land needs to be conserved to address the two global crises of climate change and biodiversity extinction.

Council's Draft argues that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required. Having no permit when water is going to be such a scarce resource seems irresponsible. Potential animal farmers need to prove they can sustain their animals in the eventuality of bushfire, drought and flood – they are sentient beings and should also be afforded protection. Allowing people to take on animals with no plan is negligent.

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.

Council's Draft GWMP needs to add these issues in as clear actions and priorities.

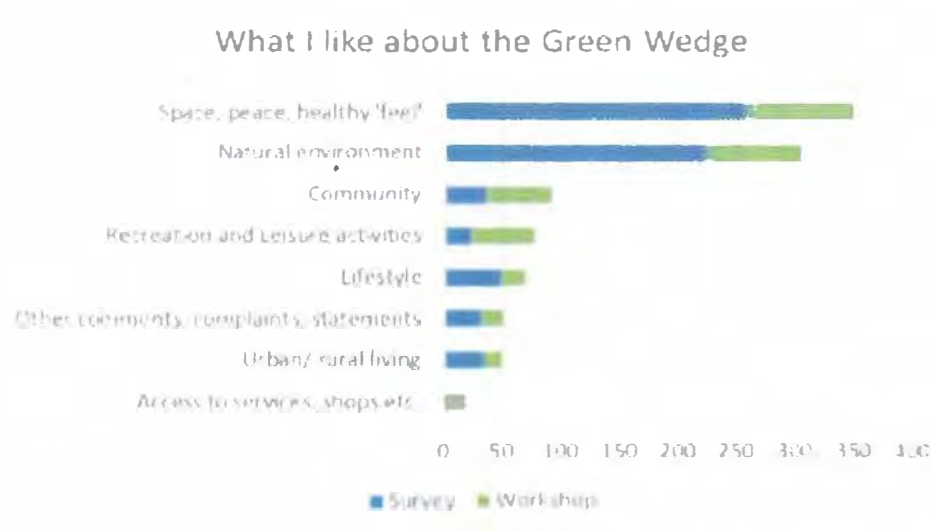
SYD Ems



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the draft Nillumbik GWMP

I notice you quote the result of the extensive community survey – which made it clear 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.



Responses: 1012

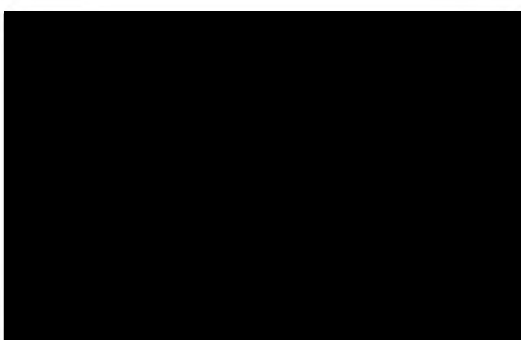
I would like to ensure there is a MORE environmental protection for the Green Wedge in this management plan. There are so many words in the document it is very hard to understand exactly who has overall responsibility for our environmental values, how they will be managed as a whole and who will be responsible and accountable.

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.

Name/Signature

Address/Suburb

E-mail



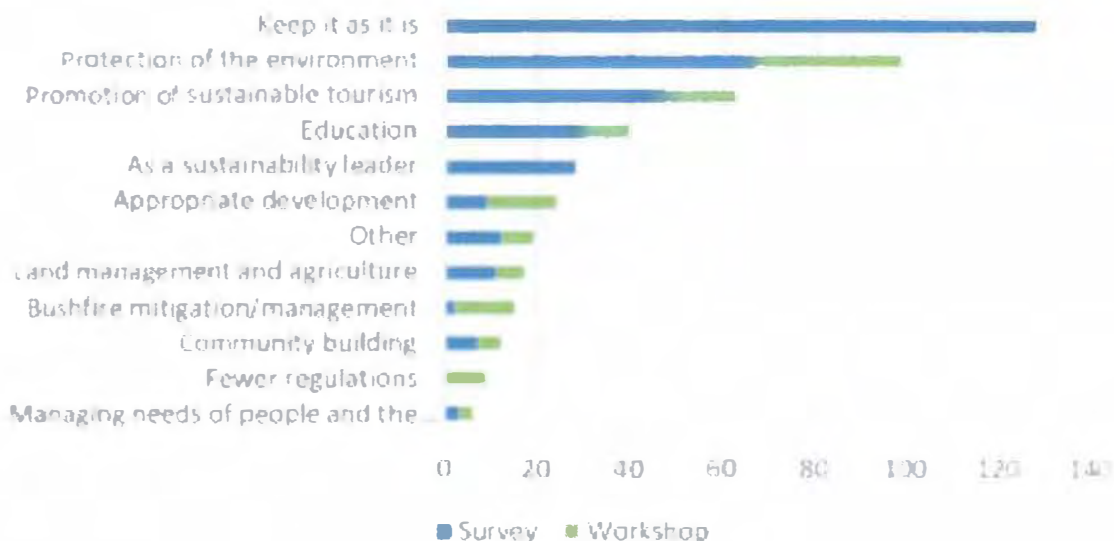
Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE DRAFT GWMP

I would like to see Nillumbik Council state more clearly their stance on climate change and the precautionary principle in the GWMP (and not just in the Climate Change Action Plan). 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 there is some leadership items added around climate change.

Environmental opportunities

Environmental opportunities



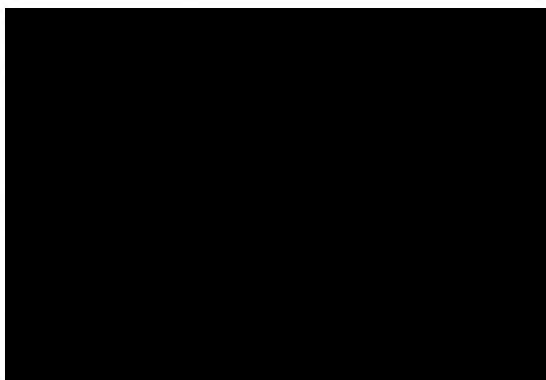
Responses: 460

I would like to see more reference to the people and practices of our first people and demonstrates to our 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.

Name/Signature

Address/Suburb

E-mail



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the draft GWMP

I would like to see more recognition of the state of the climate globally and how Nillumbik could contribute to climate change mitigation (I have heard planting trees is very useful) . The current document seems to gloss over the fact that climate change is putting so much pressure on the already fragile ecosystem that supports our green wedge. 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. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global".

Nillumbik Council should take this very valuable and timely opportunity to publicly recognise and act at a local level. This document does not have any brave actions, there is nothing we could offer as class leading. 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 which will address this problem to ensure the long term health of the Green Wedge.

It appears to have less protection than the current plan which has seen biodiversity loss. This would indicate that a new plan should have more protection included. The draft plan does not provide enough certainty for the long term protection of the natural environment within the Nillumbik green wedge.

The draft plan 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); 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.

Name/Signature

Address/Suburb

E-mail



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

I DO NOT support the Draft GWMP for the following reasons:

1. Council's Draft GWMP's framing subverts the needs of the natural environment and the Green Wedge:

- By being in denial of locally declining environmental values and the global biodiversity extinction crisis.
- By viewing the impact of climate change solely in terms of bushfires.
- By persistently subjugating them to other priorities such as bushfire mitigation and the active encouragement of economic growth and development.
- By failing to adequately define its very sparse environmental objectives and actions and to provide the context of the manifold and accelerating threats.
- By failing to place centrally in the GWMP the intrinsic values of the environment and their restoration.

As such, not only is continued environmental decline assured, it will accelerate.

2. Bushfire risk and fuel management are very thoroughly dealt with in many other state and local legislation and strategies. Only a general statement should be required such as "*The bushfire threat and the causes of bushfires (eg. climate change) should be managed in a holistic manner that as well as human safety, takes account of the environmental and wildlife's needs - considers the web of life - the biodiversity and ecosystem services on which we, and the economy, ultimately all depend, that minimises the clearing of vegetation and habitat for wildlife, and that promotes living with respect for, and in harmony with nature.*", and all other references should be deleted.

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

4. The GWMP needs to recognise, prioritise and actively help turn around:

- The continuing decline of our local environmental values (address all the causes and threats).
- The findings of the 2019 Victorian State of the Environment Report' - painting a bleak outlook for the state's native plants and animals; concerning the impact on biodiversity of horses, grazing and bushfire protection on private land; that more private land needs to be conserved; and the two global crises of climate change and biodiversity extinction.

The GWMP needs to reaffirm the shire's conservation role.

5. It 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?

6. The Vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge should:

- be consistent with the *Victorian Biodiversity Strategy*; and this GWMP should be aiming to make Nillumbik's rural landscapes healthier; ie: "By 2037 Nillumbik's natural environment is healthy".
- reinstate the following elements from the last GWMP Vision, 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 is respected and nurtured."

7. Since the last GWMP was written climate change and biodiversity issues have become more critical, not less (eg: bees, Nillumbik's orchids and frogs), but this Draft does not seem to have noticed as it has no actual initiatives to improve.

8. The Victorian Green Wedge Planning Zones are aimed at conserving the natural environment of the Green Wedge, and the GWMP plan should be supporting the zones, not undermining the Rural Conservation Zone [RCZ] and its conservation responsibilities as this Draft does.

9. 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.

Council's Draft is so poorly framed, and thoroughly fails the basics of what's required, that it needs to be dumped in its entirety and a new plan be written. In the interim, the existing GWMP 2010-25 needs to be reinstated.

Name/Signature

C. Robinson

Address/Suburb

E-mail

Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

To Nillumbik Council, please note I **DO NOT** SUPPORT the draft plan for the following reasons:

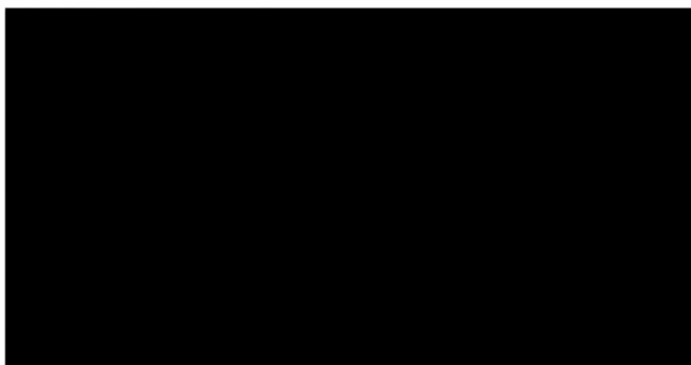
I think it lacks integrity that you spent so much of ratepayers money on “extensive community engagement survey” which overwhelmingly showed that residents supported the protection of the environment only to find there is no explicit protection in the draft plan. Just mentioning the results in the plan is meaningless

The draft is wordy and long winded it talks about caring about the natural environment but it doesn't actually have any specific protection in it. In fact the exact opposite – allowing individuals to determine what they do on their land is ruinous for the environment. It can't be managed in individual packets, it has to be managed as a whole. I have no doubt that most residents will act appropriately but we need a consistent standard and the Council has to own and regulate that standard – which means making that clear in the GWMP.

The GWMP needs to clearly state actions for environment, such as the importance of indigenous vegetation; habitat for wildlife and connectivity; biodiversity; ecosystem services. Just talking about “conversations’ and “resilience” is not going to mitigate climate change and the biodiversity extinction crisis. Even with separate documents key goals should be added into the GWMP. The current plan reads as “Business as Usual” which is no longer good enough

We should include in the plan a conversation about animal agriculture. There is lots of mention of bushfire and drought in the GWMP but then we are still talking about farming animals – those two scenarios are not compatible. Not only should a permit be required for GWZ but also a robust plan on the consciences of fire, drought and flood on any farmed animals. Allowing people to take on animals with no plan is negligent. You govern the number of domestic animals to ensure they are well looked after – the same care should be shown to all animals resident take into their care.

Council's Draft GWMP needs to add these issues in as clear actions and priorities.



Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan

I do NOT support the Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

I would like to see climate change become a more strategic focus in the draft Green Wedge Management Plan regardless of the fact Nillumbik has a separate Climate Action Plan. Nillumbik has many individual, detailed plans e.g. bushfire, tourism, etc. The key issues should be drawn together in the GWMP, not used selectively to drive the plan in a certain direction. As climate change impacts so many of the issues we will be facing in the future it deserves greater recognition in the GWMP rather than currently framed solely in terms of its impact on the bushfire threat, completely neglecting the very significant impact on biodiversity and climate.

We are the "GW Shire", with at least 1,031 indigenous flora and 350 indigenous fauna species and a "conservation" responsibility. This all gets ignored/down-played; and the whole Draft is lacking in adequate environmental actions. This verges on the negligent and is a failure of "duty of care".

Victoria is in drought; it's mid-winter, and yet our waterways and dams are still dry. Surely that means a crucial, local ecosystem is in crisis - this alone should serve as a serious alarm bell for marshalling unprecedented environmental actions?

As well as climate change, the Plan should have thoroughly addressed the biodiversity extinction crisis and the locally declining environmental values - they do not get a mention. Geoff Lawler says the reason to update the plan is to put people over place but that is exactly what is causing this crisis we are all experiencing. We need balance, we need a 'systems' view (recognising that we are all part of a larger whole, that all is interdependent - ecosystems & eco-services). Moving to a 10 year plan now where we put people over the natural world is not reacting to science. It is acting in an old fashioned, scared and protective manner which will hasten poor conditions.

The rate of climate change we are experiencing calls for the very opposite action to that you are proposing in the Draft GWMP. See page 40 discussion re 'regulation' - arguing for a move to higher reliance on 'landowners' voluntary efforts: "education, awareness, facilitation and ultimately empowerment". But as so many recent inquiries have demonstrated: voluntary cooperation and self regulation get abused and do not work! This is the time when we really need Council to step up and protect the ever more fragile eco system within our Shire.

The Nillumbik Climate Plan 2016-2020 already asks to identify the risks and vulnerabilities related to climate change. We are now 3 years into that plan the GWMP is still talking about "stocktaking". We should now put actions in place to address the risks to biodiversity- Just talking about stocktaking again in the GWMP is not good enough. We need PROTECTION while we stocktake and talk "resilience".

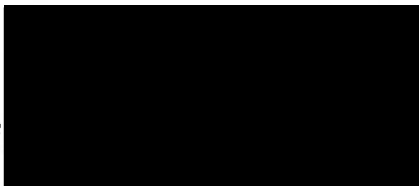
The findings of a recent study that climate change has already caused irreversible damage to our biodiversity; and that the speed of climate disruption is outstripping many animals' capacity to adapt, especially for animals already deemed at risk of extinction, and warning of a growing threat to even common species. Continuing to talk about encouraging animal agriculture when we are watching farmers and animals suffer across the country due to climate change is ignorant and irresponsible. Scarce resources should be focussed on more efficient plant based food production methods.

The GWMP will be in place for the next 10 years it needs to be robust enough to deal with the magnitude of problems. This plan is far from that it simply allows for us to sit by, watch and talk about “resilience”.

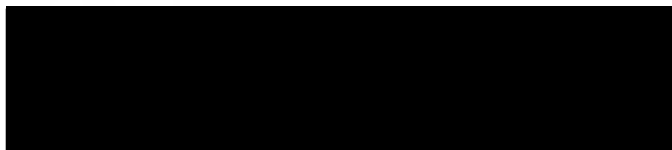
This is the time to be direct, strong and brave. The current draft Green Wedge Management Plan has all the wrong priorities and emphases. It really needs to be replaced with a newly-framed document.

Nillumbik Council you have to take a stand and not react to a few self-interested individuals – our future depends on it.

Name



Address/Suburb



E-mail



July 2019

To Nillumbik Council,

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

- 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; 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.
- **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** - painting a bleak outlook for the state's native plants and animals; concerning the impact on biodiversity of horses, grazing and bushfire protection on private land; that more private land needs to be conserved; and 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**. So 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 fails the basics of what's required.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Address/Suburb: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

E-Mail: [REDACTED]

Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

Question 1: A Vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

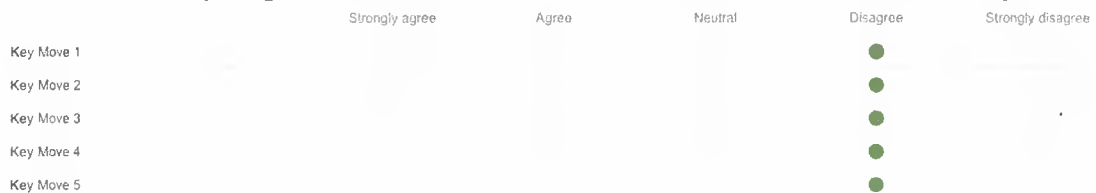
- Yes
- No
- Partially
- Not sure

Comments about the Vision?

I would like to see more environmental protection in Nillumbik's Vision of its Green Wedge. There is nothing more important to protect in these times of climate change and species extinction than environment and habitat. I would like to see more emphasis on the input the community gave during the very expensive "engagement" survey.

Five Key Moves

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

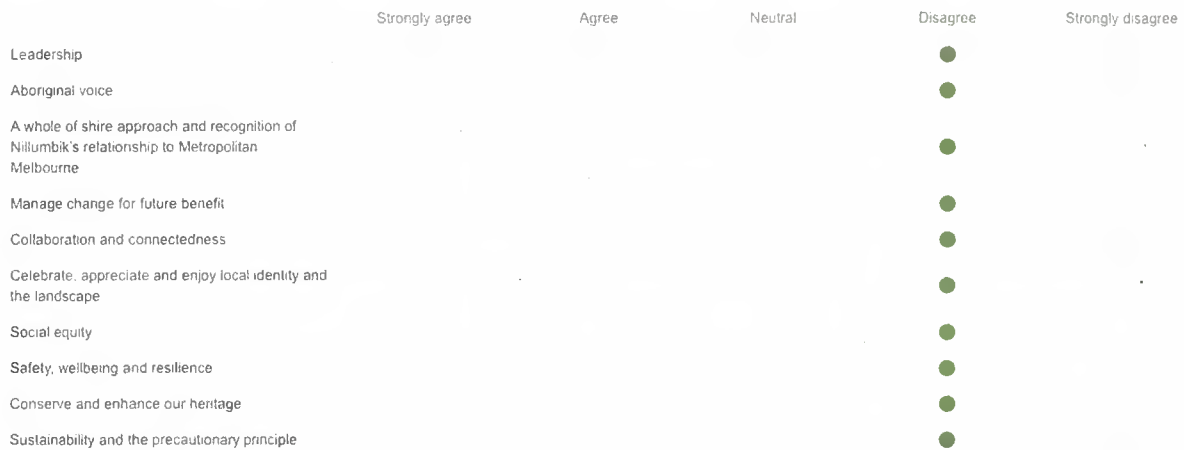


Comments about the Five Key Moves

I would like to see more detail on how exactly our native flora and fauna are going to be protected by this document. It needs specific action points not "could be protect but may not be" type of statements.

Principles

To what extent do you agree with the Principles to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?



Comments about the Principles

Could this focus more on preservation of environment and biodiversity? It needs to state the urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity and effects of climate change – this should be added to the GWMP. Biodiversity protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

GOAL 1: Engaged Connected Communities DO NOT SUPPORT

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Strongly do not support

Comments for Goal 1

I think this section should discuss more about the unique features of Nillumbik Green Wedge. It should celebrate the rich biodiversity and beautiful habitat, the secret habitat links, the amazing native vegetation that sustains so much of these things. This is what brings so much of our community together – this uniqueness. The community will come

together to protect this if the framework is in place but this GWMP draft allows for our Shire to become just like every other. To slash and burn, to concrete and asphalt. Then what will we put in our new gallery – pictures of what used to be here?

GOAL 2: Active and Creative People DO NOT SUPPORT

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Strongly do not support

Comments for Goal 2

More dialogue should be held with the traditional owners of the land.

GOAL 3: Safe and Healthy Environments DO NOT SUPPORT

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Strongly do not support

Comments for Goal 3

I would like to see actions that increase habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what the 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. Currently every positive statement has a potential trade off attached to it which just negates it.

Goal 4: A prosperous Economy DO NOT SUPPORT

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Strongly do not support

Comments for Goal 4

I do not support any form of animal agriculture in the Shire as this has dire repercussions on the environment. I would like us to send this message as a progressive Shire that really cares about the future.

Economic activities must recognise 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'.

I support local, sustainable agriculture that has a positive impact on the environment – such as Hurstbridge Farmgate. The obvious link between sustainable agricultural practices, climate change mitigation and a healthy Green Wedge, must be central to the GWMP

Goal 5: Responsible Leadership DO NOT SUPPORT

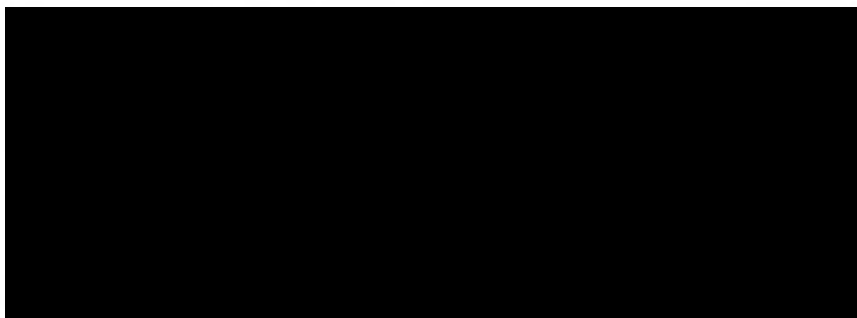
- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Strongly do not support

Comments for Goal 5

I do not support any changes the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ). This would result in more little nibbles of protected land being unlocked for clearing. 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.

Other comments

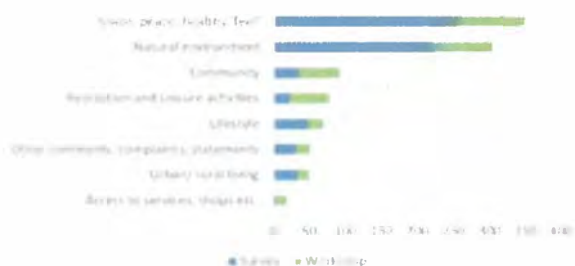
Please incorporate into this plan some level of hierarchy with respect to the myriad of issues included. At the moment it is finely balanced on the fence. It's hard to say it would cause offence and that is because it doesn't really provide any focus – just lots of nice ideas under LOTS of headings.



Nillumbik DRAFT Green Wedge Management Plan - Response

I do not support the Nillumbik draft GWMP as I do not believe it aligns it with the outcome of the community survey which overwhelmingly wanted protection for the environment. I do not see this stated as a mandate anywhere in the draft GWMP.

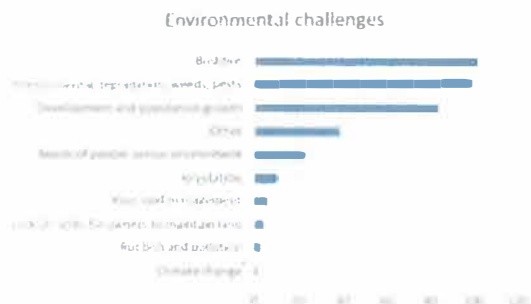
What I like about the Green Wedge



Responses: 1012

Page 11

Environmental challenges



Responses: 668

Page 18

Economic challenges



Responses: 149

Page 20

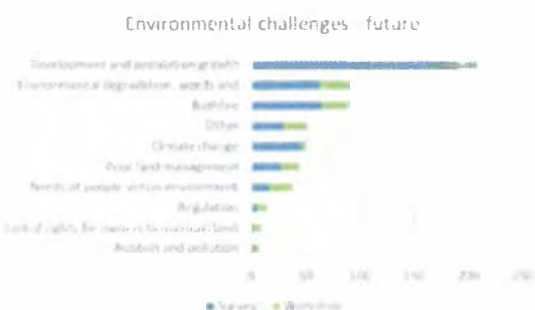
Regulatory challenges



Responses: 225

Page 22

Future environmental challenges



Responses: 599

Page 28

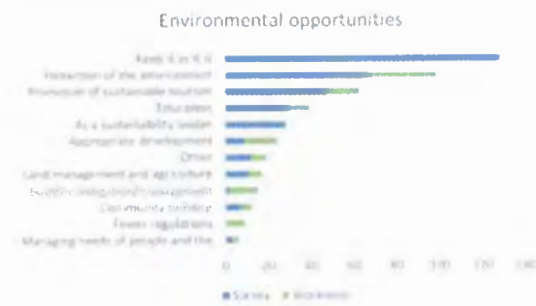
Future regulatory challenges



Responses: 342

Page 30

Environmental opportunities



Responses: 460

Page 35

Regulatory opportunities



Responses: 246

Page 39

The overall summary from this (expensive) independent consultant was:

What I like about the Green Wedge

Respondents indicated that the key elements they liked about the Green Wedge were:

- 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.

There is not enough protection for the environment in this GWMP, it must be clearly stated that this Shire is considered a conservation shire and the plan should ensure 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.

Name/Signature Laura Russo



Address/Suburb



E-mail



Reference: Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

I do not support the draft green wedge management plan as there is far too little emphasis on the growing climate emergency we are facing. We need to take extraordinary action to face this complex issue. This should be recognised under the “Leadership” heading.

The dialogue throughout the document is about trade-offs and compromises. There is never a single sentence in the whole document that upholds the value of our environmental assets as a priority. This suggests to me that they will constantly get traded off for all the other myriad of principles you have stuffed into the document.

- I want you to recognise the significance of our special, natural landscape
- I want you to recognise how important this was in the community survey – it was the TOP priority
- I want you to protect our natural assets against development and human greed
- I do not want you to support animal agriculture as it has a devastating impact on the environment. I do support sustainable crop ag.
- I want you to recognise climate change and take some leadership

If Nillumbik can't do it – who will?

Please re-draft this document recognising what can and will be lost if we do not act to protect it.

Name

Address/Suburb

E-mail

Nilumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan - Submission

Question 1: A Vision for Nilumbik's Green Wedge. Do you agree with the vision for Nilumbik's Green Wedge?

- Yes
- No
- Partially
- Not sure

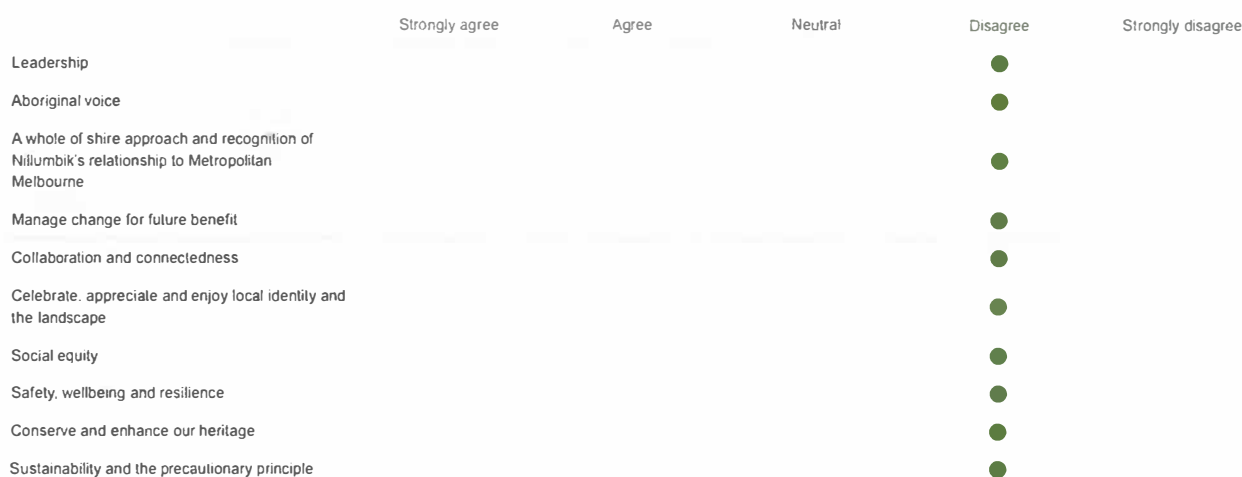
Comments about the Vision: I didn't get the impression that Nilumbik Council were addressing the gravity of climate change in this document. Mitigation of climate change must be the top priority for GWMP and therefore should feature in the Vision.

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



Comments about the Five Key Moves? I would like to see more detail on how exactly our native flora and fauna are going to be protected by this document. Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term. I prefer the level of detail in the current GWMP plan.

Principles: To what extent do you agree with the Principles to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?



Comments about the Principles: The Principles need to reflect the community's desire to protecting the Green Wedge. This statement was very clear in the community survey. The GWMP 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.'

GOAL 1: Engaged connected communities DO NOT SUPPORT

Comments about the objectives or key actions for 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 Nilumbik was to be a conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus.

GOAL 2: Active and creative people DO NOT SUPPORT

Comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 2: I believe active and creative people are more likely to be inspired by a unique protected. They will be inspired to know that they are leading the way in taking climate change seriously at a local level. This document does not provide that leadership aspiration.

GOAL 3: Safe and healthy environments DO NOT SUPPORT

Comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 3: The action of trying to prove that some areas of vegetation are more valuable than others is may lead to greater degradation of the environment which is already under pressure. Some councillors refer to biodiversity hotspots to protect particular prime vegetation like orchids and then use that as a reason for Council to not protect the rest of the Green Wedges biodiversity in bush areas and bush properties. Every objective and action ought to aim for preservation and reinvigoration of the environment. This document seems to enable the already stressed environment to be slowly nibbled away due to one sanctioned compromise or another.

Goal 4: A prosperous economy DO NOT SUPPORT

Comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 4: I do not support any form of animal agriculture in the Shire due to the impact on the environment. This is an inefficient use of precious resources and is not essential for a “prosperous economy”. We should instead be encouraging more sustainable farming such as Hurstbridge Farmgate that provides quality food for locals. 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.

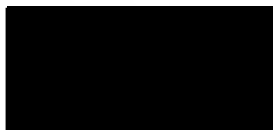
Goal 5: Responsible leadership DO NOT SUPPORT

Comments about Goal 5 : Strong leadership would recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play in the global climate crisis and state it in the GMWP. Advice to residents on a range of topics such as ‘avoid - reduce - reuse - recycle’, reducing meat-consumption, buying local produce and growing your own, responsible waste disposal, reduction of car-dependence, benefits of native vegetation etc. would be useful. 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.

Other comments

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 which will address this problem to ensure the long term health of the Green Wedge. 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, and urgent climate change mitigation.

Signature



Address/Street



E-Mail



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the GWMP

There are too many headings in the current draft, all with potentially equal weighting when it comes to decision making and many of them will conflict when there are aissues. The plan 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.

Regulatory opportunities



Responses: 246



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the draft GWMP

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 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 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, I do not support the draft GWMP.

Name/Signature



Joelle Abrahall

Address/Suburb



E-mail



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the draft GWMP

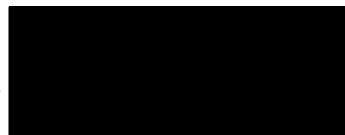
The current document seems to gloss over the fact that climate change is putting so much pressure on the already fragile ecosystem that supports our green wedge. There are numerous scientific works that confirm that biodiversity, eco systems and many species are at critical and endangered levels (see the Governments IPBES report that states "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global").

Nillumbik Council should take this very valuable and timely opportunity to publicly recognise and act at a local level. This document does not have any brave actions, there is nothing we could offer as class leading. 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 which will address this problem to ensure the long term health of the Green Wedge.

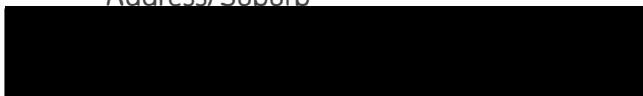
It appears to have less protection that the current plan which has seen biodiversity loss. This would indicate that a new plan should have more protection included.

Name/Signature

Bede Carman



Address/Suburb



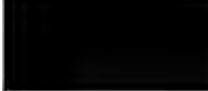
E-mail



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the draft GWMP

I would like to see more reference to the people and practices of our first people. 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.

Name/Signature Nathan Thompson 

Address/Suburb 

E-mail 

Reference: Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

I do not support the draft green wedge management plan as there is far too little emphasis on the growing climate emergency we are facing. We need to take extraordinary action to face this complex issue. This should be recognised under the "Leadership" heading.

The dialogue throughout the document is about trade-offs and compromises. There is never a single sentence in the whole document that upholds the value of our environmental assets as a priority. This suggests to me that they will constantly get traded off for all the other myriad of principles you have stuffed into the document.

- I want you to recognise the significance of our special, natural landscape
- I want you to recognise how important this was in the community survey – it was the TOP priority
- I want you to protect our natural assets against development and human greed
- I do not want you to support animal agriculture as it has a devastating impact on the environment. I do support sustainable crop ag.
- I want you to recognise climate change and take some leadership

If Nillumbik can't do it – who will?

Please re-draft this document recognising what can and will be lost if we do not act to protect it.

Name

PIRJO "TINDE" VARY

Address/Suburb

E-mail

Response to: Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

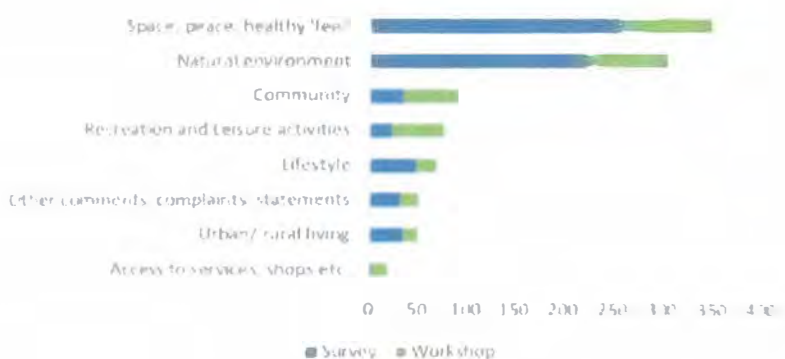
I have read the draft document outlining Nillumbik's intention for management of our green wedge and I DO NOT support the draft plan.

There is no mention of the fact that Nillumbik is considered a Conservation Shire

There is no mention of the high value bio diversity assets and specific actions to protection for them

There is no emphasis towards the results of the community engagement survey which unanimously wanted protection of the environment (see below)

What I like about the Green Wedge



Responses: 1012

I would like to see the first priority 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.

I would like to see that Nillumbik Council recognise climate changes AND want to address them, not just look to plan around them with "conversations". I would like to see climate change actions clearly spelled out of this very complicated document. I would like to see climate change actions clearly spelled out.

I personally think it would be better to use more succinct headings - maybe those used throughout the survey i.e. economy, regulation, environment and social. Shoe-horning them under the Council Plan headings makes for repetition and the points are not naturally grouped.

I would like to see more protection for native flora and fauna and stocktaking and care for our wildlife that is also disrupted by climate change.

Signed [Redacted] OSCAR YANES C.

Address [Redacted]

E-Mail [Redacted]

Nilumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE DRAFT GWMP

This plan fails to clearly articulate an Implementation plan based on clearly stated Objectives and Actions and the Council Department responsible for implementation. I do not believe the current GWMP adequately follows the guidelines laid out 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.

This document is very long and wordy. I understand the actions but the principles that underlie the actions 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 – as reflected in the community survey – see below .

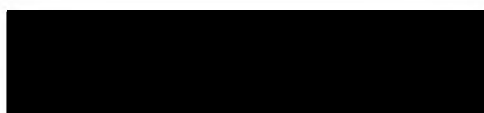
The GWMP must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised in keeping with the State Government's policies *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* and *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*, which is 'Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for.' 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. Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

What I like about the Green Wedge



Responses: 1012

Name/Signature



Peter LAURENCE

Address/Suburb



E-mail



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission
I do not support the draft GWMP

I do not support zoning or permit changes in 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.

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 this zoning should only be applied to land with higher conservation values. This 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 plan 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.

Janine Laurence

Name

Address/Suburb

E-mail

Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE DRAFT GWMP

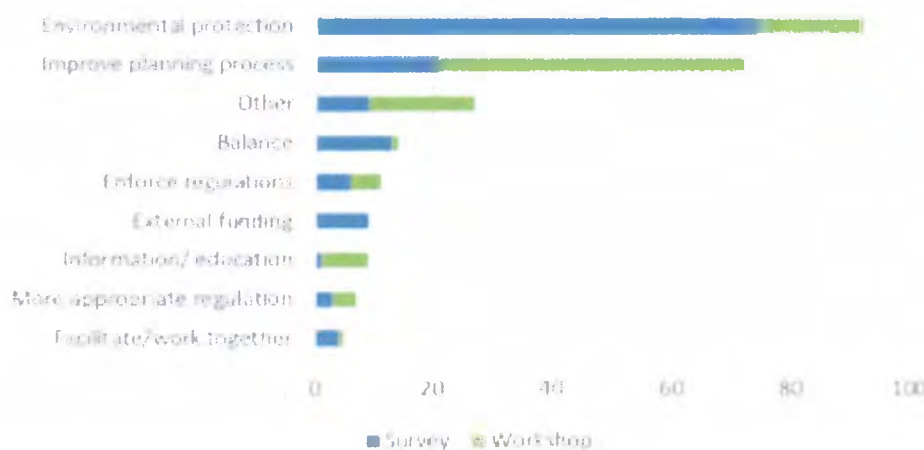
The draft speaks of (and we are aware of) polarised and diverse views and how conversations must be respectful and robust. The best way to prevent these frustrations is to have a very clear hierarchy of principles. It is the ambiguity that can lead to a lot of frustration. In my opinion this document 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.

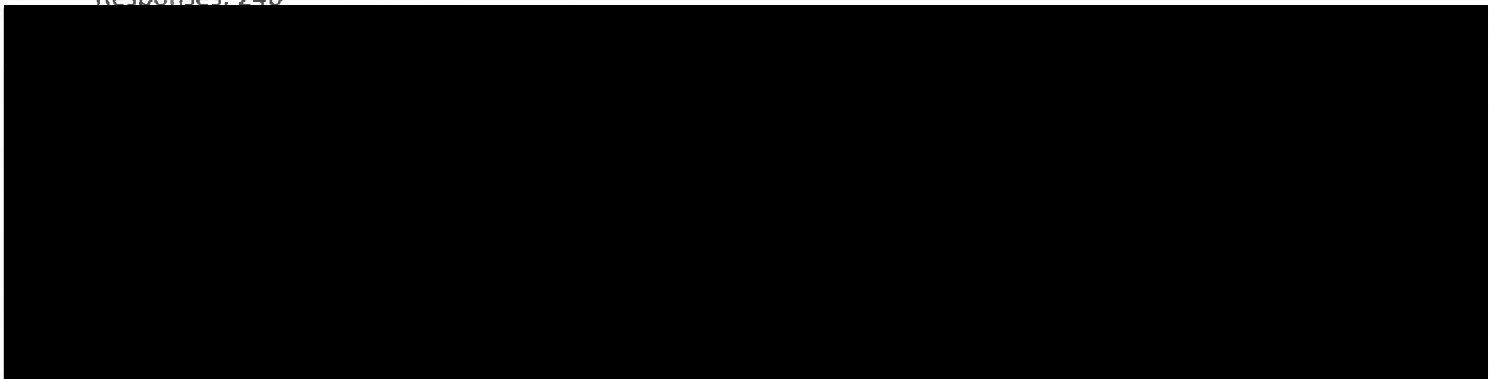
I do not support animal agriculture of any type due to the devastating impact to the economy. It is a total inefficient use of land, water and other resources. I support plant based agriculture but must always provide for the continuing health of the environment. New systems that respect and promote 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 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, I do not support the draft GWMP.

Regulatory opportunities

Regulatory opportunities



Responses: 246



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the draft GWMP

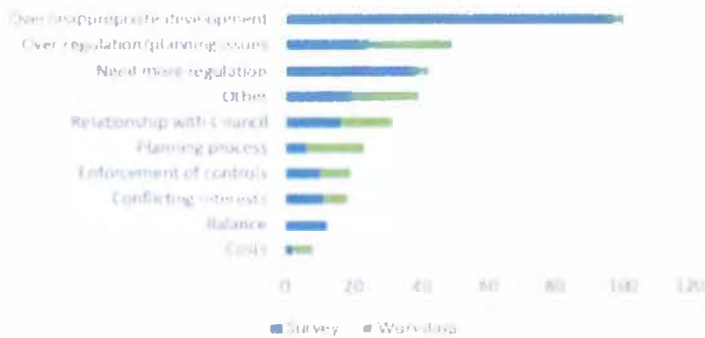
I do not support zoning or permit changes in the Green Wedge. The draft suggests that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) no permit should be required if the land has been previously cleared and used for farming. This definition of 'cleared land' needs greater detail – much of Nillumbik 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 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.

Future regulatory challenges

Regulatory challenges - future



Responses:342

Name/Signature

Tamika Leeds



Address/Suburb



E-mail



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE DRAFT GWMP

I would like to see Nillumbik state more clearly their 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 there is some leadership items added around climate change.

Environmental opportunities



Responses: 460

Name/Signature

DAVE ALLPRESS

Address/Suburb

E-mail

Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the draft Nillumbik GWMP

What I like about the Green Wedge



Responses: 1012

The result of the extensive community survey made it clear 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 *Michael Dukes*



Address/Suburb



E-mail



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the draft GWMP

The draft plan does not provide enough certainty for the long term protection of the natural environment within the Nillumbik green wedge.

The draft plan 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); 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.

Name/Signature *FRANK SORTINO* 

Address/Suburb 

E-mail 

Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I DO NOT support the draft GWMP

I believe the plan should have more focus on environmental protection. The actions in each section should be measureable with respect to the impact on the environment. 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'. I don't see any explicit actions that would produce biodiversity gain. This draft reads very much as BAU and business as usual is not good enough – we are in an environmental crisis. 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.

Name/Signature **KARTHICK UDAIPPAN**

Address/Suburb

E-mail

Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the draft GWMP

Nillumbik Council – it is imperative you recognise and act on the fact we are facing a climate emergency. We need you to show leadership with respect to this. I believe there is nothing more important to address with our GWMP than climate change mitigation. It must drive 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.

Name/Signature

Rachael Dewan



Address/Suburb



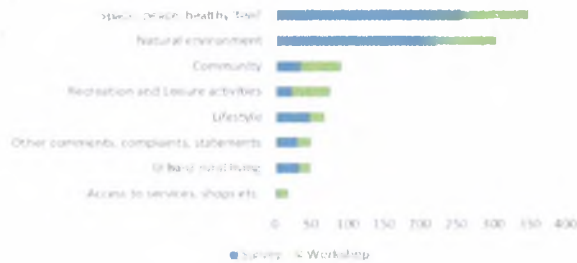
E-mail



Nillumbik DRAFT Green Wedge Management Plan - Response

I do not support the Nillumbik draft GWMP as I do not believe it aligns it with the outcome of the community survey which overwhelmingly wanted protection for the environment. I do not see this stated as a mandate anywhere in the draft GWMP.

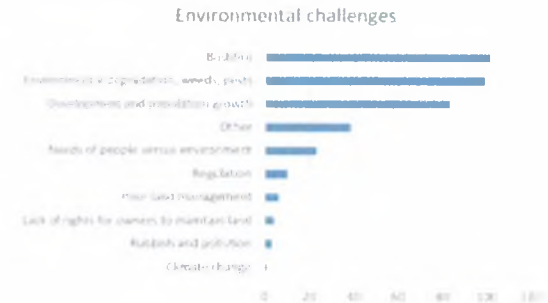
What I like about the Green Wedge



Responses: 1012

Page 11

Environmental challenges



Responses: 668

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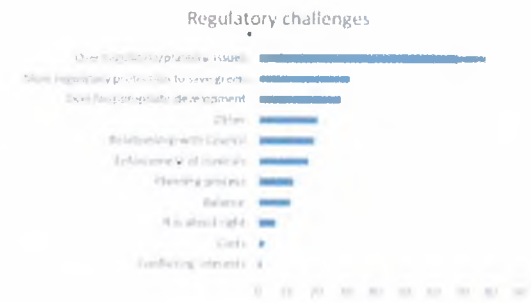
Economic challenges



Responses: 149

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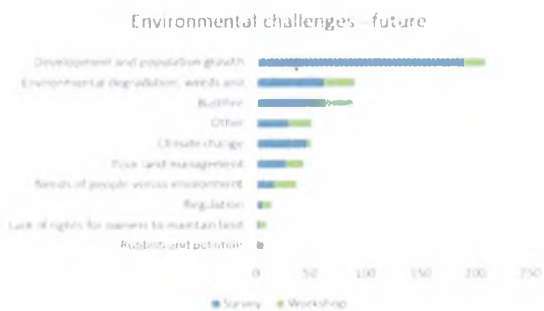
Regulatory challenges



Responses: 225

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Future environmental challenges



Responses: 599

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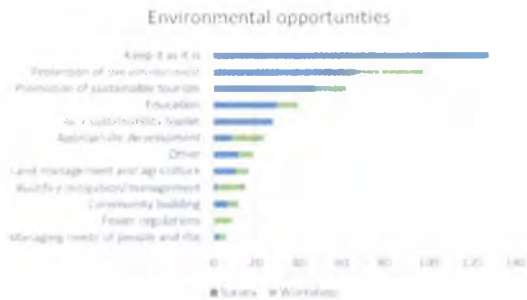
Future regulatory challenges



Responses: 342

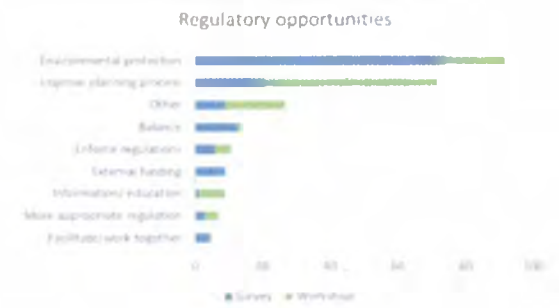
Page 30

Environmental opportunities



Responses: 460

Regulatory opportunities



Responses: 246

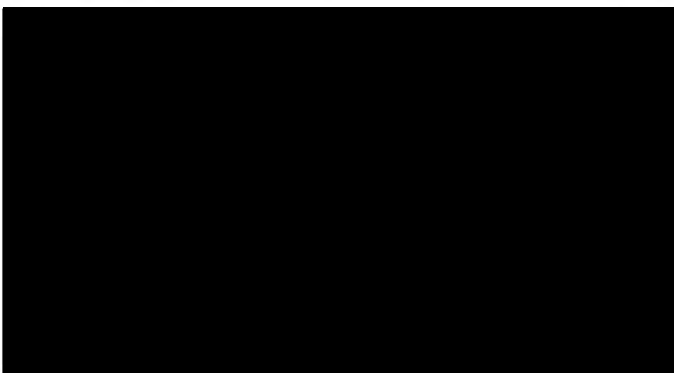
The overall summary from this (expensive) independent consultant was:

What I like about the Green Wedge

Respondents indicated that the key elements they liked about the Green Wedge were:

- 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.

There is not enough protection for the environment in this GWMP, it must be clearly stated that this Shire is considered a conservation shire and the plan should ensure 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.



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the GWMP Draft

I would like to ensure there is a holistic view to the green wedge in this management plan. There is so many words in the document it is very hard to understand exactly who has overall responsibility for our environmental values, how they will be managed as a whole and who will be responsible and accountable.

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.

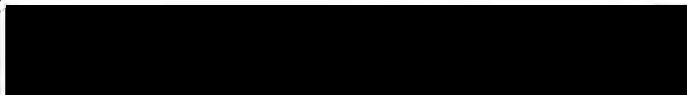
Name/Signature JAKE RODWELL



Address/Suburb



E



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I DO NOT SUPPORT NILLUMBIK'S DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

I love the Nillumbik environment and I do not support the draft GWMP. I think 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 like to see more wildlife protection – for their habitat, corridors and the ecosystems that support them. I would like to see every protection possible for them on our roads, on public and private land. 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.

Name/Signature *Kim O'Neill*

Address/Suburb

E-mail

Nilumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the draft GWMP

This document is very long and wordy. I understand the actions but the principles that underlie the actions 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 – as reflected in the community survey – see below .

The GWMP 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.' 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. Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

What I like about the Green Wedge



Responses: 1012

Name/Signature JASMINE AKUZEVSKA .

Address/Suburb

E-mail

Dear Nillumbik GWMP Team, I do not support the draft GWMP for the following reasons:

Vision

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.

Key Moves

- Landowners information and support service – I would not support this until it is clear what it involves. I have heard poor management processes discussed and am worried this will be at the expense of the environment.
- Talking about climate issues and resilience is very fluffy – what are the intended outcomes for this idea. Are we to become resilient to climate change or resilient to calls to ignore it?
- I am happy for support for townships but do not support any changes around the UGB.
- A stocktakes of assets – does this include environmental assets? I thought the Mayor had said this wasn't possible? I'm happy to support a database. Please include wildlife.

Principles

- The words are all great but give no priorities. How exactly would decisions be made based on these statements? Environmental protection is not stated as a number one priority in the vision, none of the components are prioritised. They are all there to be traded to the highest bidder.
- The GWMP needs to reaffirm the shire's conservation role.

Engaged and Connected Communities

- There is a lot of focus on "talking it out" in this section rather than how the issues we know we face could actually be resolved.
- I support help with an ageing population and improved transport options.
- Rural and townships want wildlife protected, please add new measures to address this.

Active and Creative People

- Health and wellbeing came right at the top of the community survey, the next was natural environment. So more items to protect the natural environment should be added to this section.
- I am slightly concerned to see the Mayor is running a (fairly unpleasant) FB page that advocates the natural environment to be used for a whole range of activities which may not add to people's feeling of "space, peace and healthy feel". I hope this wont impact on our management plan.

Safe and Healthy Environment

- All indigenous vegetation is important, I don't think we should make the distinction between high value and other.
- I find this constant hedging/fence sitting a waste of paper. Statements like "It (BD Strategy 2037) acknowledges that native plants and animals have intrinsic value **but** that there is also a need for balanced outcomes. Maintaining a healthy natural environment is vital but creates a complex challenge to find the right balance between protection and how we use land." That, of course, is the issue but we need clear priorities to address it and this document does not spell them out.

Prosperous Economy

- This should focus on the latest climatic conditions, we should have a prosperous **eco-friendly** green wedge economy
- I would support more local food production that was sustainably grown. I DO NOT support animal agriculture, this is very harmful to the environment.
- While we are developing a visitor economy we need to be mindful of the impact to our wildlife. I would like to see more protection and care for our animals.

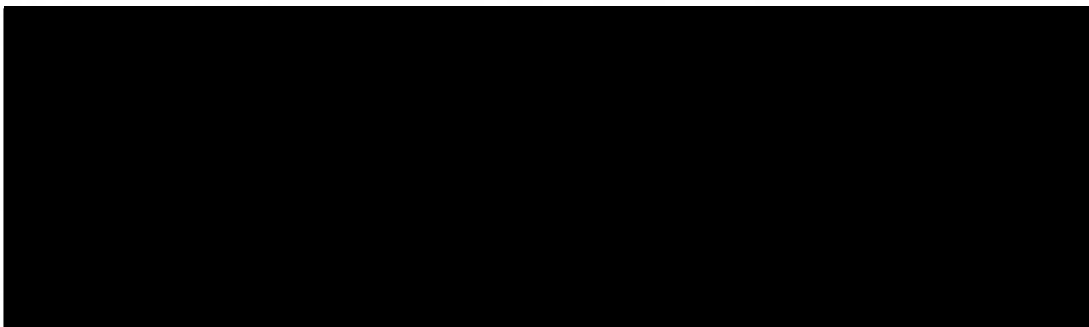
Leadership

- Leadership is key for environmental protection as long term solutions are required. 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 - painting a bleak outlook for the state's native plants and animals; concerning the impact on biodiversity of horses, grazing and bushfire protection on private land; that more private land needs to be conserved; and the two global crises of climate change and biodiversity extinction.
- I am not very uncomfortable with your claim that you want to move green wedge management towards the "towards the empowering end of the spectrum". This suggests less regulation for the environment.
- I support the Council working with government and trying to attract appropriate external funding.
- Climate change and environmental actions always seem to have a trade off in every statement you make in this document.
- The Urban Growth Boundary is supported. However, the Council's draft urges 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.

Comments

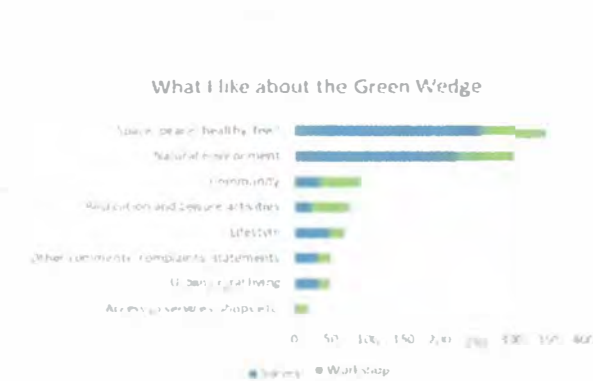
- There is a general lack of detail in this document that makes it very difficult to judge its significance but it is clear that the comments from the community survey and panel process have not been taken seriously. There is no specific support for protecting the environment and our beautiful, special and unique features. This has to be addressed in a plan such as this.

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.



Nillumbik DRAFT Green Wedge Management Plan - Response

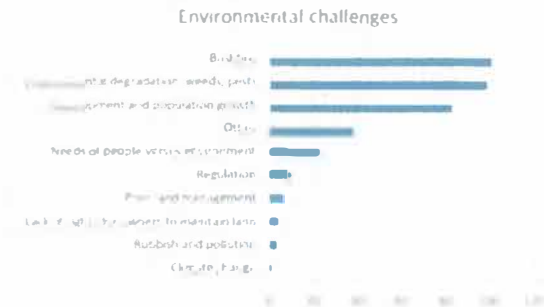
I do not support the Nillumbik draft GWMP as I do not believe it aligns it with the outcome of the community survey which overwhelmingly wanted protection for the environment. I do not see this stated as a mandate anywhere in the draft GWMP.



Responses: 1012

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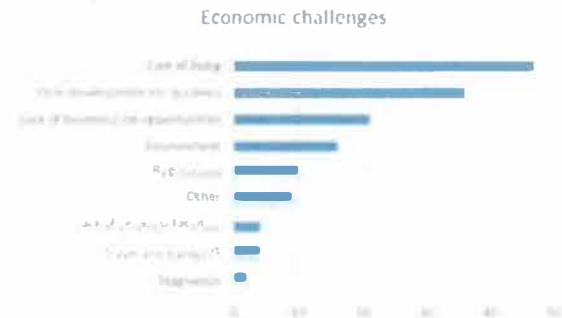
Environmental challenges



Responses: 668

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Economic challenges



Responses: 149

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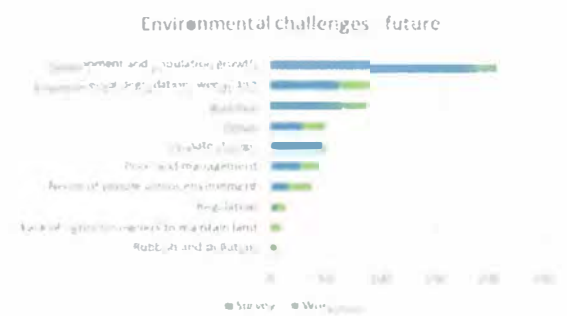
Regulatory challenges



Responses: 225

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Future environmental challenges



Responses: 599

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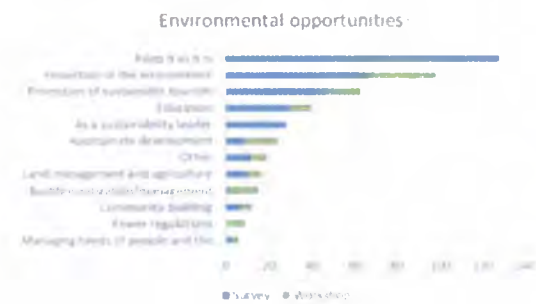
Future regulatory challenges



Responses: 342

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Environmental opportunities



Responses: 460

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Regulatory opportunities



Responses: 246

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The overall summary from this (expensive) independent consultast was:

What I like about the Green Wedge

Respondents indicated that the key elements they liked about the Green Wedge were:

- 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.

There is not enough protection for the environment in this GWMP, it must be clearly stated that this Shire is considered a conservation shire and the plan should ensure 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.

Name/Signature

Donald Vary

[Redacted signature area]

E-mail

[Redacted email address]

Dear Nillumbik GWMP Team, I do not support the draft GWMP for the following reasons:

Vision

I would like to see more meaningful protection for our native plants and animals. This is also how I interpret the results of the community engagement survey and panel input. The first priority should be 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

Key Moves

This section needs more specific reference to environmental protection and actions. It needs to refer to the fact that our **unique** issue in the shire is the huge range of biodiversity it homes. Biodiversity that needs our protection. We need to halt the rate our native flora and fauna are sliding towards extinction and this needs to happen at a local level. This aim should be explicitly stated.

Principles

In this section it appears that the best we are going to do for the environment is –“*we need to anticipate and avoid any actions that may cause serious or irreversible harm to the environment and the people who live within it*”. That is our sustainability aim? It is not good enough and, as with every environmental statement it comes with a trade-off. No mention of our **unique** flora and fauna, no mention of protecting them and our wildlife. No mention of the final comment from the survey “don’t mess it up”.

Engaged and Connected Communities

I would like to see more help and support for our wildlife volunteers. We need an IT system that all users can access, that allows the public to easily log accidents. centralised system to allow people to easily call in accidents. This can also be used to log hot spots and even ‘stocktake’ wildlife. We need reduced speed limits. We need education about wildlife behaviour and the importance of respecting it. We need Council to set an example of that respect. This could be helped, in part, by recognising the wildlife volunteers.

Active and Creative People

- Protecting our biodiversity should be a top priority as this sets the scene for all of the health benefits stated in the plan.

- The natural landscape has been the inspiration for many of the artists and creative members of our community. The current plan does not recognise our area as the **unique** and inspiring place it is.

Safe and Healthy Environment

- This needs to spell out the actions for protecting our environmental assets.
- It should include what Council are prepared to take action on to protect wildlife and how that may be funded.

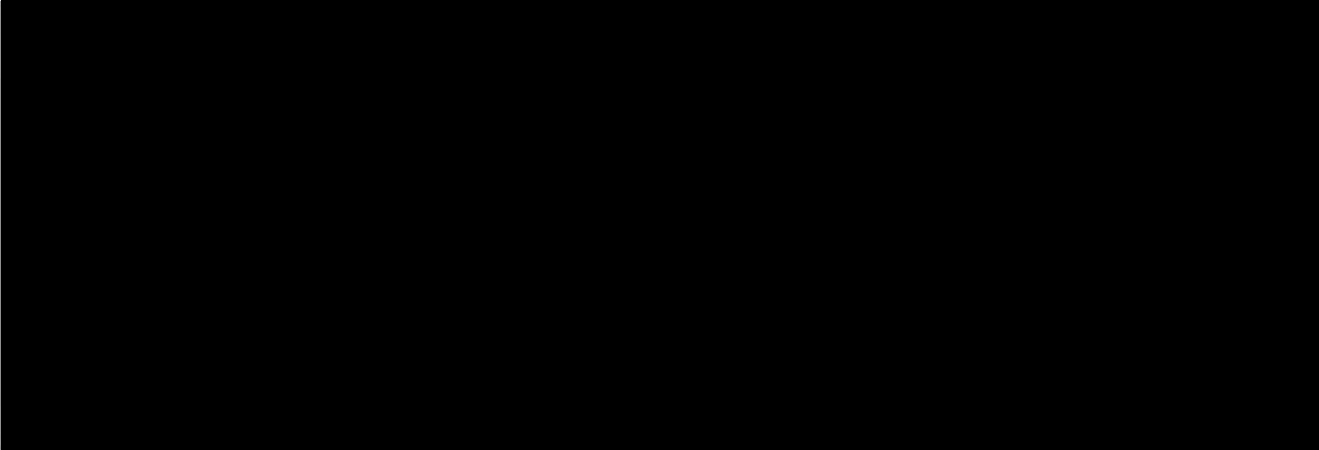
Prosperous Economy

- The current budget allocation (in the 2019 budget) for this section is 1.55% so I assume that none of the actions here can be very costly or is more money to be allocated given it has its own heading in the plan?
- I do not support any animal agriculture in the shire, the impact on the environment is devastating. I would support sustainable plant based farming such as Hurstbridge Farmgate.
- Council's Draft argues that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required. The need for a permit in this zone should **remain**.
- Developing the economy and tourism will come at a cost to our wildlife and this needs to be recognised and budgeted for. We need more recognition and support for our wildlife groups who will deal with the increased fall out from additional visitors to the Shire.

Leadership

- Moving leadership towards the “empowering end of the spectrum” does not sounds like a robust plan for environmental protection? This sounds as though we are going t let people do as they see fit, the environment rarely comes out well with a framework like this.

Comments

- The decline in our biodiversity is at critical levels – this should be explicitly addressed with explicit actions – NO TRADE OFFS.
 - The plan should address the Shires conservation role for all Melbournians.
- 

Reference: Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

I do not support the draft green wedge management plan as there is far too little emphasis on the growing climate emergency we are facing. We need to take extraordinary action to face this complex issue. This should be recognised under the “Leadership” heading.

The dialogue throughout the document is about trade-offs and compromises. There is never a single sentence in the whole document that upholds the value of our environmental assets as a priority. This suggests to me that they will constantly get traded off for all the other myriad of principles you have stuffed into the document.

- I want you to recognise the significance of our special, natural landscape
- I want you to recognise how important this was in the community survey – it was the TOP priority
- I want you to protect our natural assets against development and human greed
- I do not want you to support animal agriculture as it has a devastating impact on the environment. I do support sustainable crop ag.
- I want you to recognise climate change and take some leadership

If Nillumbik can't do it – who will?

Please re-draft this document recognising what can and will be lost if we do not act to protect it.

Name *MAYA GREEN*

Address/Suburb



E-mail



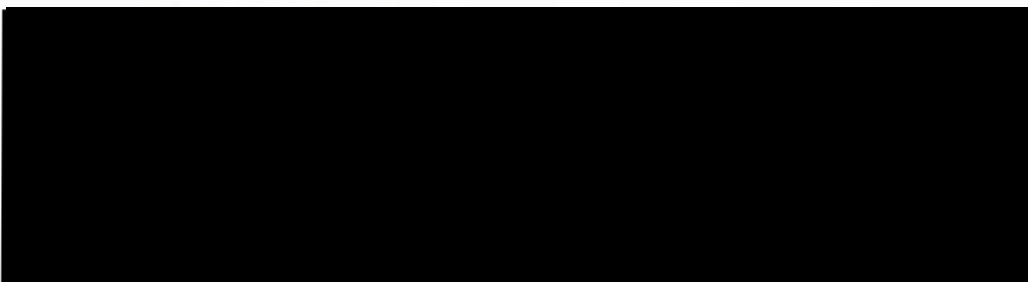
July 2019

To Nillumbik Council,

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

- 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; 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.
- **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** - painting a bleak outlook for the state's native plants and animals; concerning the impact on biodiversity of horses, grazing and bushfire protection on private land; that more private land needs to be conserved; and 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**. So 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 fails the basics of what's required.



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the draft GWMP

I do not support zoning or permit changes in 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.

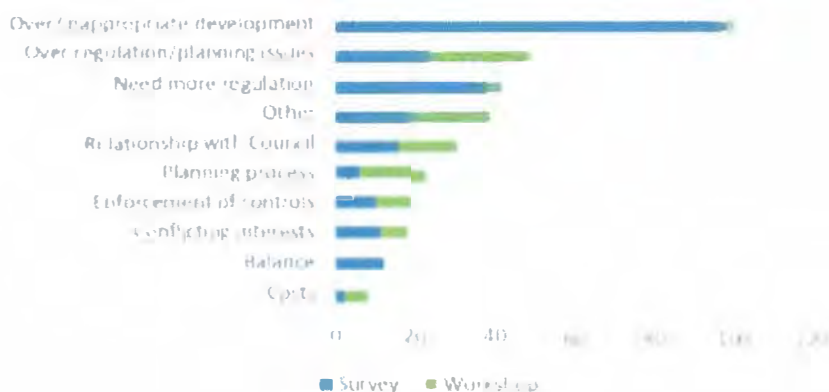
I do not support animal agriculture of any type due to the devastating impact to the economy. It is a total inefficient use of land, water and other resources. I support plant based agriculture but must always provide for the continuing health of the environment. New systems that respect and promote 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 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, I do not support the draft GWMP.

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 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.

Future regulatory challenges

Regulatory challenges – future



Responses:342

Name/Signature

JENNY A. SMITH

Address/Suburb

E-mail N.A.

Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

Question 1: A Vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

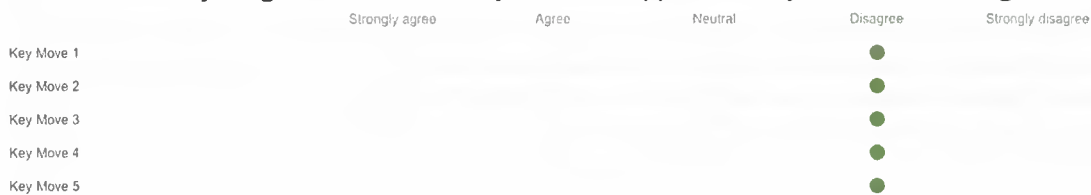
- Yes
- No
- Partially
- Not sure

Comments about the Vision?

I would like to see more environmental protection in Nillumbik's Vision of its Green Wedge. There is nothing more important to protect in these times of climate change and species extinction than environment and habitat. I would like to see more emphasis on the input the community gave during the very expensive "engagement" survey.

Five Key Moves

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

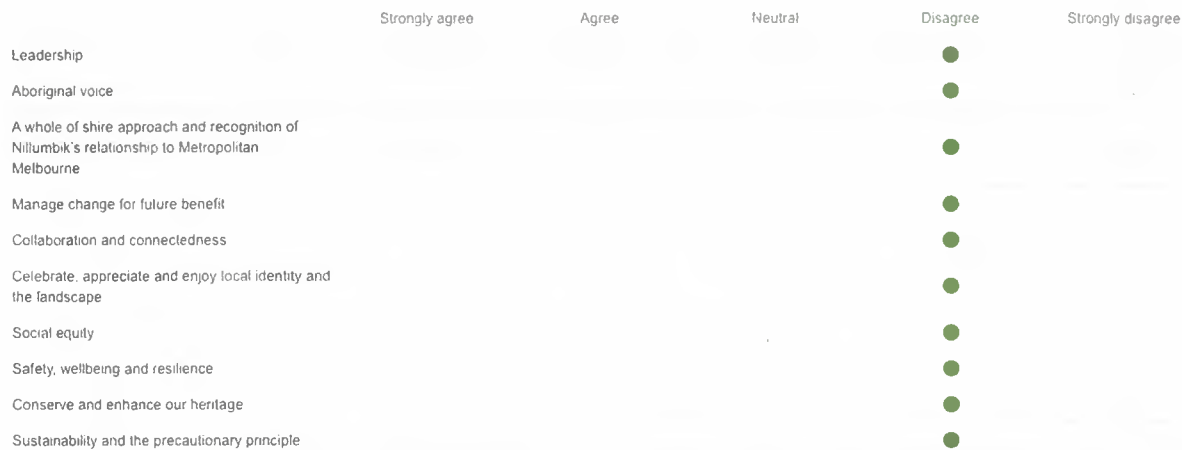


Comments about the Five Key Moves

I would like to see more detail on how exactly our native flora and fauna are going to be protected by this document. It needs specific action points not "could be protect but may not be" type of statements.

Principles

To what extent do you agree with the Principles to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?



Comments about the Principles

Could this focus more on preservation of environment and biodiversity? It needs to state the urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity and effects of climate change – this should be added to the GWMP. Biodiversity protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

GOAL 1: Engaged Connected Communities **DO NOT SUPPORT**

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Strongly do not support

Comments for Goal 1

I think this section should discuss more about the unique features of Nillumbik Green Wedge. It should celebrate the rich biodiversity and beautiful habitat, the secret habitat links, the amazing native vegetation that sustains so much of these things. This is what brings so much of our community together – this uniqueness. The community will come

together to protect this if the framework is in place but this GWMP draft allows for our Shire to become just like every other. To slash and burn, to concrete and asphalt. Then what will we put in our new gallery – pictures of what used to be here?

GOAL 2: Active and Creative People DO NOT SUPPORT

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Strongly do not support

Comments for Goal 2

More dialogue should be held with the traditional owners of the land.

GOAL 3: Safe and Healthy Environments DO NOT SUPPORT

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Strongly do not support

Comments for Goal 3

I would like to see actions that increase habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what the 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. Currently every positive statement has a potential trade off attached to it which just negates it.

Goal 4: A prosperous Economy DO NOT SUPPORT

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Strongly do not support

Comments for Goal 4

I do not support any form of animal agriculture in the Shire as this has dire repercussions on the environment. I would like us to send this message as a progressive Shire that really cares about the future.

Economic activities must recognise 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'.

I support local, sustainable agriculture that has a positive impact on the environment – such as Hurstbridge Farmgate. The obvious link between sustainable agricultural practices, climate change mitigation and a healthy Green Wedge, must be central to the GWMP

Goal 5: Responsible Leadership DO NOT SUPPORT

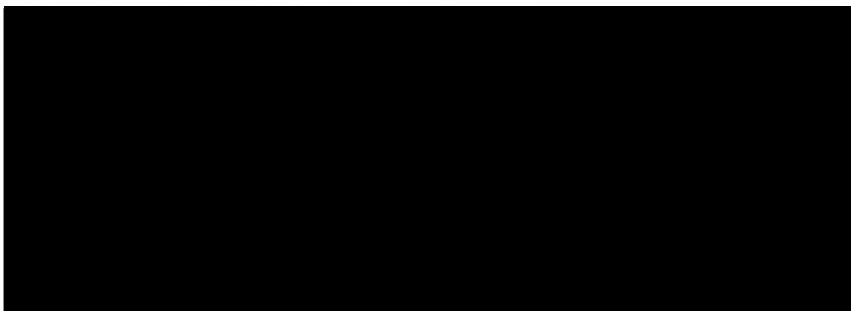
- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Strongly do not support

Comments for Goal 5

I do not support any changes the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ). This would result in more little nibbles of protected land being unlocked for clearing. 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.

Other comments

Please incorporate into this plan some level of hierarchy with respect to the myriad of issues included. At the moment it is finely balanced on the fence. It's hard to say it would cause offence and that is because it doesn't really provide any focus – just lots of nice ideas under LOTS of headings.

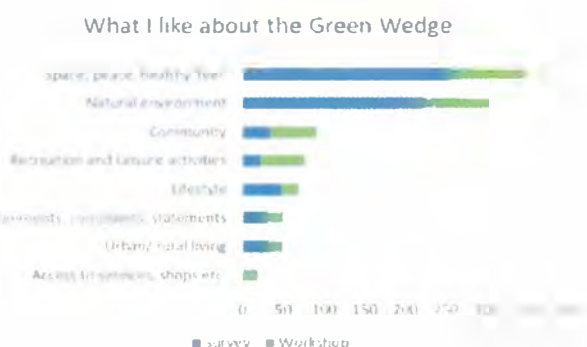


Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the draft GWMP

I find this document is too long and fluffy – far too many words leading to too few conclusions. I understand the actions but the principles that underlie the actions 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 – as reflected in the community survey – see below .

The GWMP 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.' 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. Biodiversity Protection should be given the status of a Goal in the Plan.

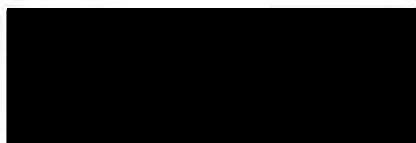


Responses: 1012

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”.

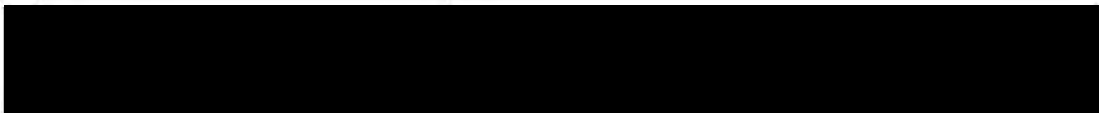
It is vital that these discussions are supported by current science, particularly in relation to the need for environmental repair and preservation, and urgent climate change mitigation. I do not support the draft plan as I think the key issue of “diverse views” we are grappling is not adequately addressed, the words are just being used as an ointment to reduce the burning.

Name/Signature



CATE FRAMPTON

Address/Suburb



E-mail



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

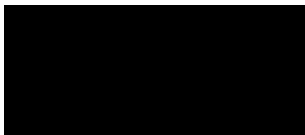
I DO NOT support the draft GWMP

It currently does not contain enough measureable environmental protection. 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'. I don't see any explicit actions that would produce biodiversity gain but I see lots that could cause erosion of assets . This draft reads very much as BAU which is not good enough - we are in an environmental crisis. 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 current document seems to gloss over the fact that climate change is putting so much pressure on the already fragile ecosystem that supports our green wedge. This simply talks about resilience to climate change. Simply recognising it or hoping Nillumbik's climate mitigation document should just stand alone and not be linked to the GWMP is unrealistic It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global".

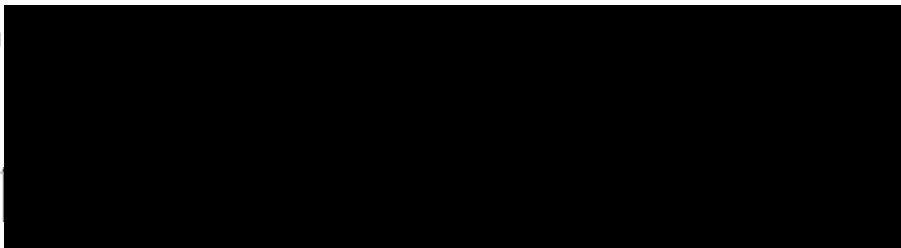
Nillumbik Council should take this very valuable and timely opportunity to publicly recognise and act at a local level. This document does not have any brave actions, there is nothing we could offer as class leading. There is a lack of detail throughout the document regarding the protection and enhancement of the Shire's biodiversity in all its forms and varying quality. Clearly defined actions need to be included which will address this problem to ensure the long term health of the Green Wedge.

Name/Signature



Graeme Sells

Address/Subu



E-mail

Dear Nillumbik GWMP Team, I do not support the draft GWMP for the following reasons:

Vision

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.

Key Moves

- Landowners information and support service – I would not support this until it is clear what it involves. I have heard poor management processes discussed and am worried this will be at the expense of the environment.
- Talking about climate issues and resilience is very fluffy – what are the intended outcomes for this idea. Are we to become resilient to climate change or resilient to calls to ignore it?
- I am happy for support for townships but do not support any changes around the UGB.
- A stocktakes of assets – does this include environmental assets? I thought the Mayor had said this wasn't possible? I'm happy to support a database. Please include wildlife.

Principles

- The words are all great but give no priorities. How exactly would decisions be made based on these statements? Environmental protection is not stated as a number one priority in the vision, none of the components are prioritised. They are all there to be traded to the highest bidder.
- The GWMP needs to reaffirm the shire's conservation role.

Engaged and Connected Communities

- There is a lot of focus on "talking it out" in this section rather than how the issues we know we face could actually be resolved.
- I support help with an ageing population and improved transport options.
- Rural and townships want wildlife protected, please add new measures to address this.

Active and Creative People

- Health and wellbeing came right at the top of the community survey, the next was natural environment. So more items to protect the natural environment should be added to this section.
- I am slightly concerned to see the Mayor is running a (fairly unpleasant) FB page that advocates the natural environment to be used for a whole range of activities which may not add to people's feeling of "space, peace and healthy feel". I hope this wont impact on our management plan.

Safe and Healthy Environment

- All indigenous vegetation is important, I don't think we should make the distinction between high value and other.
- I find this constant hedging/fence sitting a waste of paper. Statements like "It (BD Strategy 2037) acknowledges that native plants and animals have intrinsic value **but** that there is also a need for balanced outcomes. Maintaining a healthy natural environment is vital but creates a complex challenge to find the right balance between protection and how we use land." That, of course, is the issue but we need clear priorities to address it and this document does not spell them out.

Prosperous Economy

- This should focus on the latest climatic conditions, we should have a prosperous **eco-friendly** green wedge economy
- I would support more local food production that was sustainably grown. I DO NOT support animal agriculture, this is very harmful to the environment.
- While we are developing a visitor economy we need to be mindful of the impact to our wildlife. I would like to see more protection and care for our animals.

Leadership

- Leadership is key for environmental protection as long term solutions are required. 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 - painting a bleak outlook for the state's native plants and animals; concerning the impact on biodiversity of horses, grazing and bushfire protection on private land; that more private land needs to be conserved; and the two global crises of climate change and biodiversity extinction.
- I am not very comfortable with your claim that you want to move green wedge management towards the "towards the empowering end of the spectrum". This suggests less regulation for the environment.
- I support the Council working with government and trying to attract appropriate external funding.
- Climate change and environmental actions always seem to have a trade off in every statement you make in this document.
- The Urban Growth Boundary is supported. However, the Council's draft urges 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.

Comments

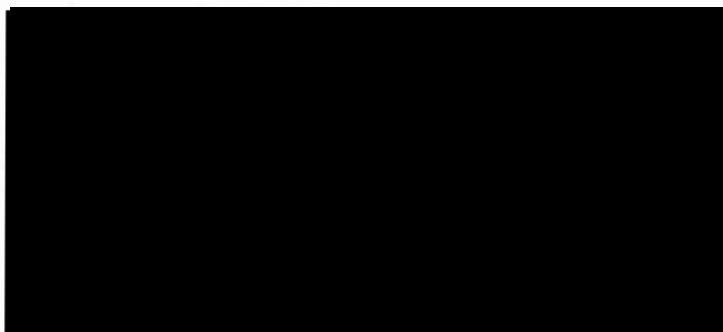
- There is a general lack of detail in this document that makes it very difficult to judge its significance but it is clear that the comments from the community survey and panel process have not been taken seriously. There is no specific support for protecting the environment and out beautiful, special and unique features. This has to be addressed in a plan such as this.

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.

Signature

Address

E-mail



Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019



I have lived in Eltham all my life and my favourite thing about it has always been the parks, open Greenland hills and trees! Please don't build one more apartment building or take away what makes our home special away from us as it would be absolutely devastating!

Jesse

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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.

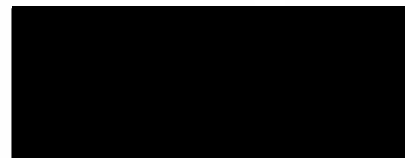
The draft GWMP should do more to acknowledge the importance of all indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it across the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity, preserving biodiversity, valuing 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 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. 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.

Sam Shacklock

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019



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 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.

Lesley

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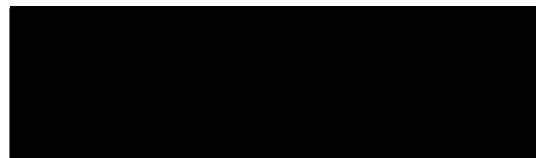
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The draft speaks of (and we are aware of) polarised and diverse views and how conversations must be respectful and robust. The best way to prevent these frustrations is to have a very clear hierarchy of principles. It is the ambiguity that can lead 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.

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Glen Ditchfield

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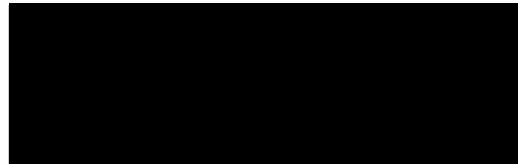
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Kristina Ditchfield

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019



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 agree with all the below but would like to add some personal comments. We have lived in the area for over 40 years and over the last decade or so have seen massive, not always good, development in the area. This has resulted in loss of many trees and we now have local congested roads. The Green Wedge is important not only for human health but also to protect our wildlife and birds.

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. - Edwin and Lynne Trueman

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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 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 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.

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

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019

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.

Cathy Dean

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019



Dear Nillumbik Shire Council,

My submission to declare that I do not support the draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

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 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 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.

Sophie Shabbir

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019



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Catherine Croke

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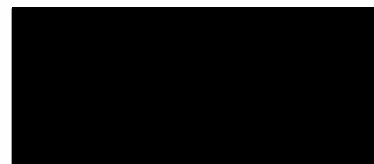
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I do not support animal agriculture of any type due to the devastating impact to the economy. It is a total inefficient use of land, water and other resources. I support plant-based agriculture where it provides for the continuing health of the environment. 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.

Kathy leenaerts

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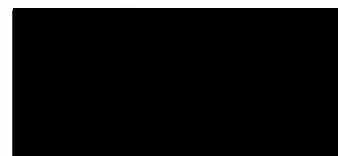
I want an eco friendly Green Wedge economy! One that nurtures all residents within our interdependent eco system. One where all kinds prosper - those with big voices, those who are quieter and those with no voice at all in this laborious process.

Animal farming should not be considered a sustainable "economic" attribute and should not be encouraged in Nillumbik. Animal agriculture is very resource intensive and takes huge amount of water and feed to produce relatively small amounts of food. It also generates emissions and waste products. Farmed animals are also at high risk from bushfire, drought and flood so encouraging the keeping of them is ethically poor. Sustainable plant based agriculture should be prioritised in the Shire.

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. 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 idea 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.

M J Nelson

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019



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 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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Sebastian Lyons

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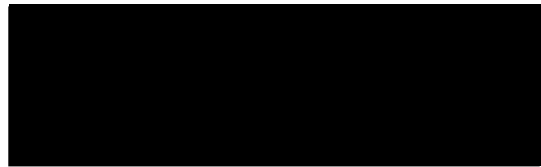
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Kaitlin Thompson

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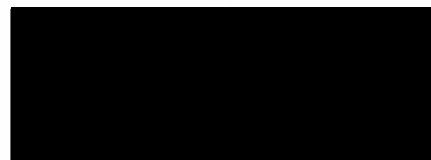
I DO NOT support the draft GWMP because I believe it should have more accountability and measurable focus on environmental protection. The draft does not state this strongly enough, despite it being a Strategic Focus for the Shire. The State Government's 'Plan Melbourne 2017-2050', says the first priority 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.

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For me the Nillumbik Council are guardians and have an obligation to protect and enhance the ecology and habitat for the other-than-human users of this place. 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.

Fiona Harrisson

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019



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 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.

Arwen Pagon

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019



To Nillumbik Shire Council,

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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 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.

Yours Respectfully,

Angie Macmillan

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019



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Ethan Bricknell

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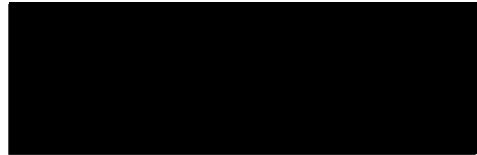
I do not support the draft GWMP. There are numerous scientific works that confirm that biodiversity, eco systems and many species are at critical and endangered levels (see the Governments IPBES report that states "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more 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 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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Mark Cornell

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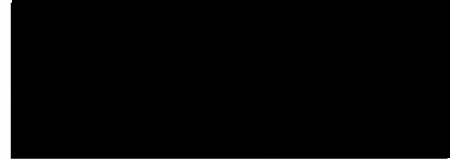
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Sandy Cornell

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019



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.

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 a democratically elected Council and other authorities, and demonstrates a lack of good governance.

Green Wedges are vital. 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.

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.

It is essential that discussion be backed by current science, particularly with regard to the need for environmental repair and preservation and urgent climate mitigation. 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 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.

Delsha Rees

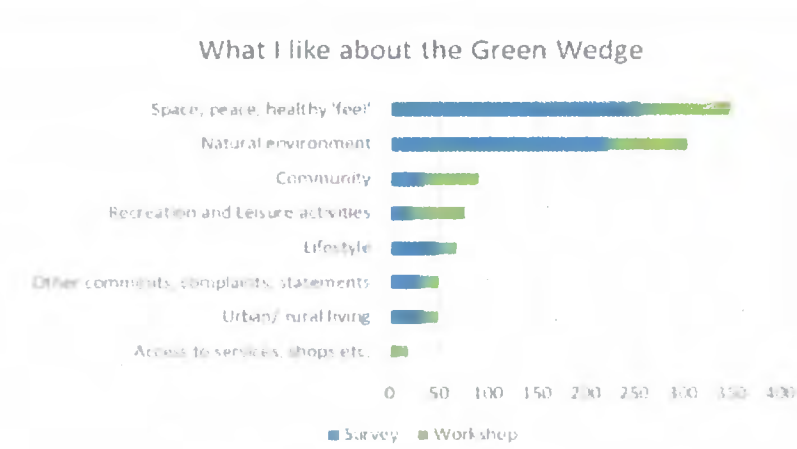
Response to: Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

I have read the draft document outlining Nillumbik's intention for management of our green wedge and I DO NOT support the draft plan.

There is no mention of the fact that Nillumbik is considered a Conservation Shire

There is no mention of the high value bio diversity assets and specific actions to protection for them

There is no emphasis towards the results of the community engagement survey which unanimously wanted protection of the environment (see below)



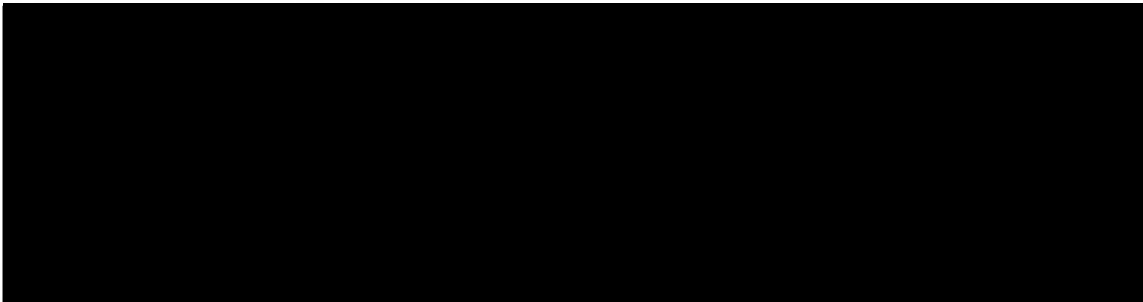
Responses: 1012

I would like to see the first priority 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.

I would like to see that Nillumbik Council recognise climate changes AND want to address them, not just look to plan around them with "conversations". I would like to see climate change actions clearly spelled out of this very complicated document. I would like to see climate change actions clearly spelled out.

I personally think it would be better to use more succinct headings - maybe those used throughout the survey i.e. economy, regulation, environment and social. Shoe-horning them under the Council Plan headings makes for repetition and the points are not naturally grouped.

I would like to see more protection for native flora and fauna and stocktaking and care for our wildlife that is also disrupted by climate change.



Dear Nillumbik GWMP Team, I do not support the draft GWMP for the following reasons:

Vision

I would like to see more meaningful protection for our native plants and animals. This is also how I interpret the results of the community engagement survey and panel input. The first priority should be 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

Key Moves

This section needs more specific reference to environmental protection and actions. It needs to refer to the fact that our **unique** issue in the shire is the huge range of biodiversity it homes. Biodiversity that needs our protection. We need to halt the rate our native flora and fauna are sliding towards extinction and this needs to happen at a local level. This aim should be explicitly stated.

Principles

In this section it appears that the best we are going to do for the environment is –“*we need to anticipate and avoid any actions that may cause serious or irreversible harm to the environment and the people who live within it*”. That is our sustainability aim? It is not good enough and, as with every environmental statement it comes with a trade-off. No mention of our **unique** flora and fauna, no mention of protecting them and our wildlife. No mention of the final comment from the survey “don’t mess it up”.

Engaged and Connected Communities

I would like to see more help and support for our wildlife volunteers. We need an IT system that all users can access, that allows the public to easily log accidents. centralised system to allow people to easily call in accidents. This can also be used to log hot spots and even ‘stocktake” wildlife. We need reduced speed limits. We need education about wildlife behaviour and the importance of respecting it. We need Council to set an example of that respect. This could be helped, in part, by recognising the wildlife volunteers.

Active and Creative People

- Protecting our biodiversity should be a top priority as this sets the scene for all of the health benefits stated in the plan.

- The natural landscape has been the inspiration for many of the artists and creative members of our community. The current plan does not recognise our area as the **unique** and inspiring place it is.

Safe and Healthy Environment

- This needs to spell out the actions for protecting our environmental assets.
- It should include what Council are prepared to take action on to protect wildlife and how that may be funded.

Prosperous Economy

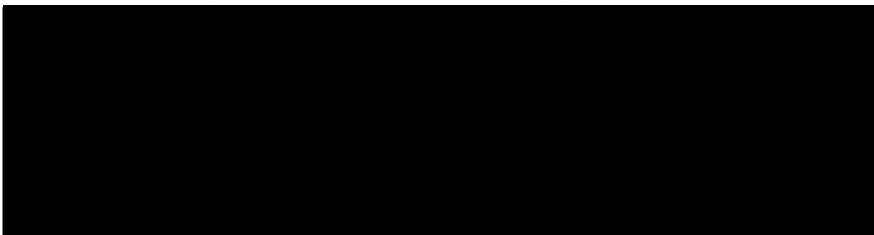
- The current budget allocation (in the 2019 budget) for this section is 1.55% so I assume that none of the actions here can be very costly or is more money to be allocated given it has its own heading in the plan?
- I do not support any animal agriculture in the shire, the impact on the environment is devastating. I would support sustainable plant based farming such as Hurstbridge Farmgate.
- Council's Draft argues that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required. The need for a permit in this zone should **remain**.
- Developing the economy and tourism will come at a cost to our wildlife and this needs to be recognised and budgeted for. We need more recognition and support for our wildlife groups who will deal with the increased fall out from additional visitors to the Shire.

Leadership

- Moving leadership towards the "empowering end of the spectrum" does not sounds like a robust plan for environmental protection? This sounds as though we are going t let people do as they see fit, the environment rarely comes out well with a framework like this.

Comments

- The decline in our biodiversity is at critical levels – this should be explicitly addressed with explicit actions – NO TRADE OFFS.
- The plan should address the Shires conservation role for all Melbournians.



Reference: Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

I do not support the draft green wedge management plan as there is far too little emphasis on the growing climate emergency we are facing. We need to take extraordinary action to face this complex issue. This should be recognised under the “Leadership” heading.

The dialogue throughout the document is about trade-offs and compromises. There is never a single sentence in the whole document that upholds the value of our environmental assets as a priority. This suggests to me that they will constantly get traded off for all the other myriad of principles you have stuffed into the document.

- I want you to recognise the significance of our special, natural landscape
- I want you to recognise how important this was in the community survey – it was the TOP priority
- I want you to protect our natural assets against development and human greed
- I do not want you to support animal agriculture as it has a devastating impact on the environment. I do support sustainable crop ag.
- I want you to recognise climate change and take some leadership

If Nillumbik can't do it – who will?

Please re-draft this document recognising what can and will be lost if we do not act to protect it.

Name

Fionna Madigan

Address/Suburb

E-mail

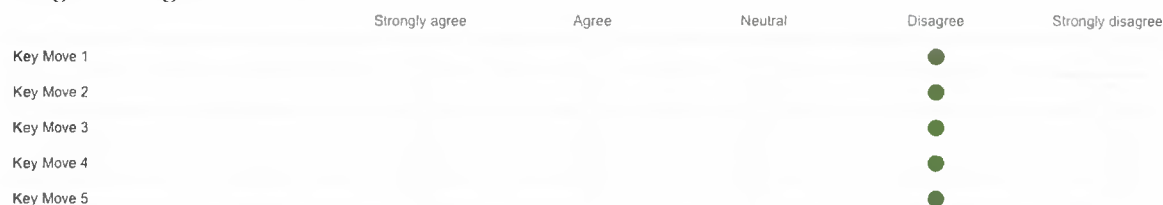
Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan - Submission

Question 1: A Vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge. Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

- Yes
 No
 Partially
 Not sure

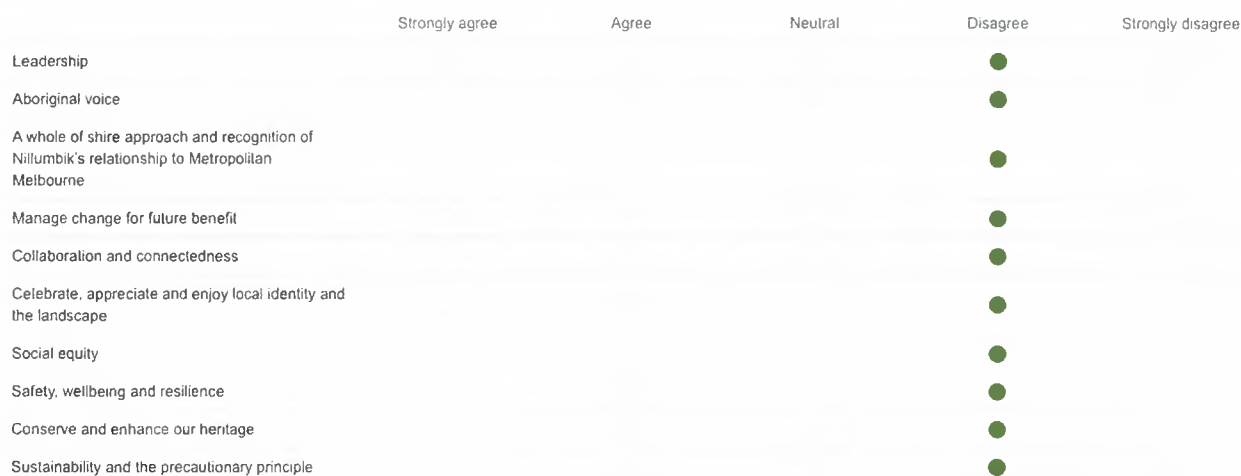
Comments about the Vision: I didn't get the impression that Nillumbik Council were addressing the gravity of climate change in this document. Mitigation of climate change must be the top priority for GWMP and therefore should feature in the Vision.

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



Comments about the Five Key Moves? I would like to see more detail on how exactly our native flora and fauna are going to be protected by this document. Every descriptor needs to clearly indicate how it will contribute to the protection and reinvigoration of biodiversity for the long term. I prefer the level of detail in the current GWMP plan.

Principles: To what extent do you agree with the Principles to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?



Comments about the Principles: The Principles need to reflect the community's desire to protecting the Green Wedge. This statement was very clear in the community survey. The GWMP 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.'

GOAL 1: Engaged connected communities DO NOT SUPPORT

Comments about the objectives or key actions for 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.

GOAL 2: Active and creative people DO NOT SUPPORT

Comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 2: I believe active and creative people are more likely to be inspired by a unique protected. They will be inspired to know that they are leading the way in taking climate change seriously at a local level. This document does not provide that leadership aspiration.

GOAL 3: Safe and healthy environments DO NOT SUPPORT

Comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 3: The action of trying to prove that some areas of vegetation are more valuable than others is may lead to greater degradation of the environment which is already under pressure. Some councillors refer to biodiversity hotspots to protect particular prime vegetation like orchids and then use that as a reason for Council to not protect the rest of the Green Wedges biodiversity in bush areas and bush properties. Every objective and action ought to aim for preservation and reinvigoration of the environment. This document seems to enable the already stressed environment to be slowly nibbled away due to one sanctioned compromise or another.

Goal 4: A prosperous economy DO NOT SUPPORT

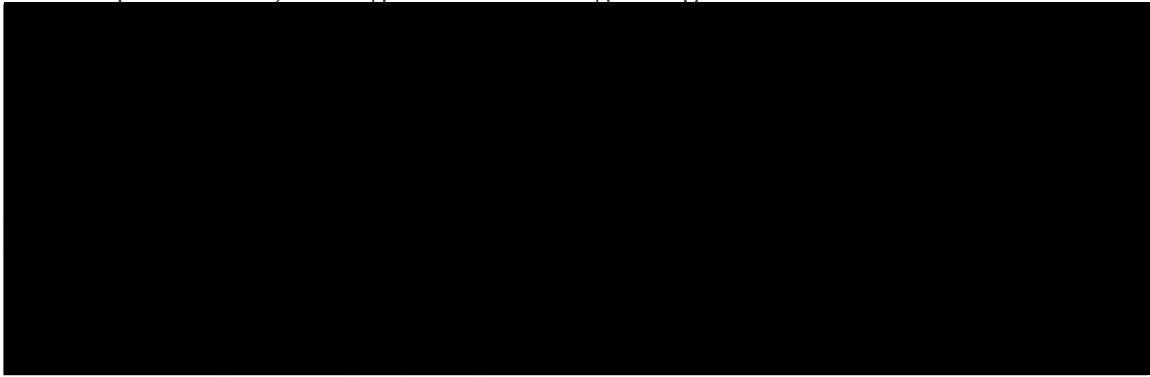
Comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 4: I do not support any form of animal agriculture in the Shire due to the impact on the environment. This is an inefficient use of precious resources and is not essential for a “prosperous economy”. We should instead be encouraging more sustainable farming such as Hurstbridge Farmgate that provides quality food for locals. 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.

Goal 5: Responsible leadership DO NOT SUPPORT

Comments about Goal 5 : Strong leadership would recognise the leading role that Nillumbik can play in the global climate crisis and state it in the GMWP. Advice to residents on a range of topics such as ‘avoid - reduce - reuse - recycle’, reducing meat-consumption, buying local produce and growing your own, responsible waste disposal, reduction of car-dependence, benefits of native vegetation etc. would be useful. 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.

Other comments

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 which will address this problem to ensure the long term health of the Green Wedge. 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, and urgent climate change mitigation.



Dear Nillumbik GWMP Team, I **do not** support the draft GWMP for the following reasons:

Vision

There needs to be more emphasis on flora and fauna protection. Every sentence in this document allows for its demise if something more important comes up.

Key Moves

More about species extinction.

Principles

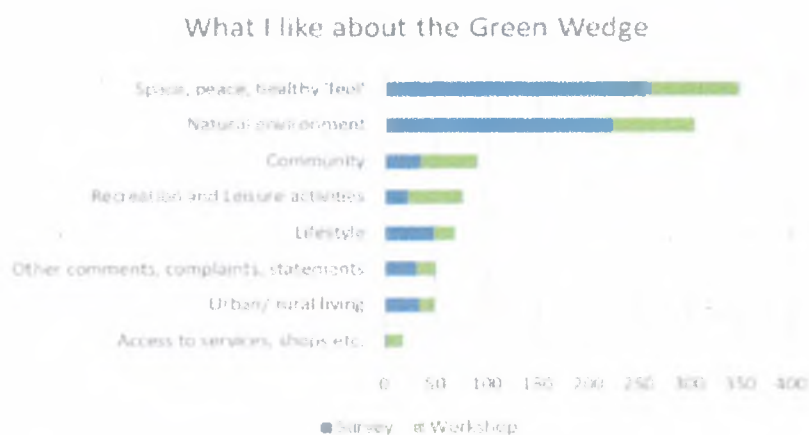
The GWMP needs to reaffirm the shire's conservation role. The council's "Business as Usual" approach is not good enough.

Engaged Connected Communities

I'm glad volunteers are celebrated in the GWMP but I would like to see more specific support for pet and wildlife volunteers. There are land management grants available for individuals and landcare groups but there does not seem to be any money available for those that spend their own time and money rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife or supporting abandoned pets. Please add more recognition and value to these groups.

Active and Creative People

The community survey wants the environment protected to contribute towards active and creative people. That "space, peace and healthy feel" will need protecting if we want it there for years to come.



Responses: 1012

Safe and Healthy 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.' The draft GWMP ignores this priority.

- More about wildlife

Prosperous Economy

- The current budget allocation (in the 2019 budget) for this section is 1.55% so I question how sincere Council is with this big section?
- I do not support any animal agriculture in the shire, the impact on the environment is devastating. I would support sustainable plant based farming such as Hurstbridge Farmgate.
- Council's Draft argues that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required. The need for a permit in this zone should **remain**.
- 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; the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society.
- Developing the economy and tourism will come at a cost to our wildlife and this needs to be recognised and budgeted for. Please add specific objectives and action points.

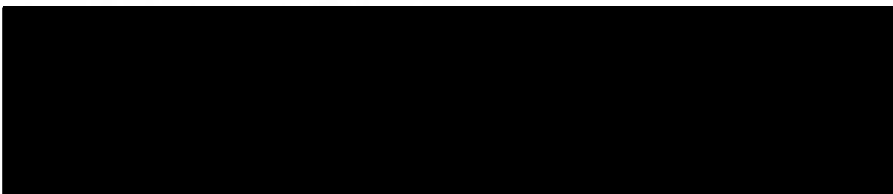
Leadership

- Leadership is key for environmental protection as long term solutions are required. 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 - painting a bleak outlook for the state's native plants and animals; concerning the impact on biodiversity of horses, grazing and bushfire protection on private land; that more private land needs to be conserved; and the two global crises of climate change and biodiversity extinction.

Comments

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 future generations.

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



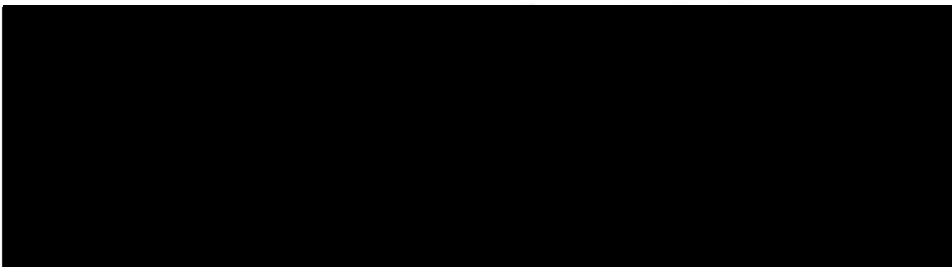
July 2019

To Nillumbik Council,

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

- 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; 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.
- **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** - painting a bleak outlook for the state's native plants and animals; concerning the impact on biodiversity of horses, grazing and bushfire protection on private land; that more private land needs to be conserved; and 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**. So 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 fails the basics of what's required.



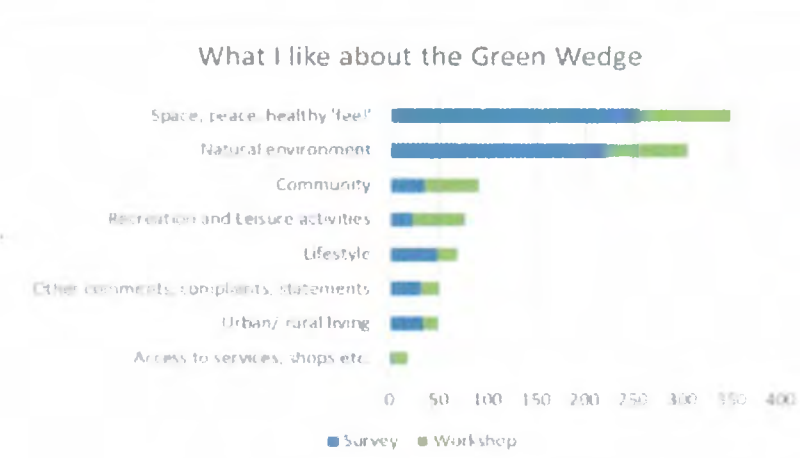
Response to: Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

I have read the draft document outlining Nillumbik's intention for management of our green wedge and I DO NOT support the draft plan.

There is no mention of the fact that Nillumbik is considered a Conservation Shire

There is no mention of the high value bio diversity assets and specific actions to protection for them

There is no emphasis towards the results of the community engagement survey which unanimously wanted protection of the environment (see below)



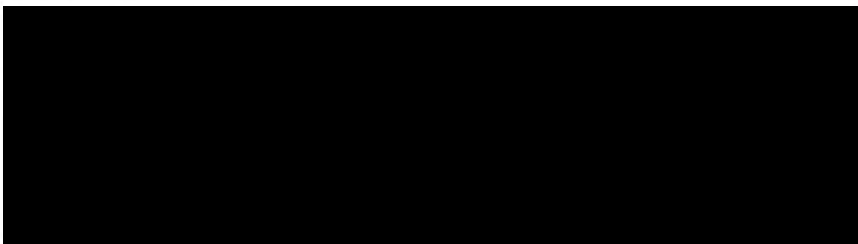
Responses: 1012

I would like to see the first priority 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.

I would like to see that Nillumbik Council recognise climate changes AND want to address them, not just look to plan around them with "conversations". I would like to see climate change actions clearly spelled out of this very complicated document. I would like to see climate change actions clearly spelled out.

I personally think it would be better to use more succinct headings - maybe those used throughout the survey i.e. economy, regulation, environment and social. Shoe-horning them under the Council Plan headings makes for repetition and the points are not naturally grouped.

I would like to see more protection for native flora and fauna and stocktaking and care for our wildlife that is also disrupted by climate change.



Dear Nillumbik GWMP Team, I **do not** support the draft GWMP for the following reasons:

Vision

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.

Key Moves

- Landowners information and support service – I would not support this until it is clear what it involves. I have heard poor management processes discussed and am worried this will be at the expense of the environment.
- Talking about climate issues and resilience is very fluffy – what are the intended outcomes for this idea. Are we to become resilient to climate change or resilient to calls to ignore it?
- I am happy for support for townships but do not support any changes around the UGB.
- A stocktakes of assets – does this include environmental assets? I thought the Mayor had said this wasn't possible? I'm happy to support a database. Please include wildlife.

Principles

- The words are all great but give no priorities. How exactly would decisions be made based on these statements? Environmental protection is not stated as a number one priority in the vision, none of the components are prioritised. They are all there to be traded to the highest bidder.
- The GWMP needs to reaffirm the shire's conservation role.

Engaged and Connected Communities

- There is a lot of focus on "talking it out" in this section rather than how the issues we know we face could actually be resolved.
- I support help with an ageing population and improved transport options.
- Rural and townships want wildlife protected, please add new measures to address this.

Active and Creative People

- Health and wellbeing came right at the top of the community survey, the next was natural environment. So more items to protect the natural environment should be added to this section.
- I am slightly concerned to see the Mayor is running a (fairly unpleasant) FB page that advocates the natural environment to be used for a whole range of activities which may not add to people's feeling of "space, peace and healthy feel". I hope this wont impact on our management plan.

Safe and Healthy Environment

- All indigenous vegetation is important, I don't think we should make the distinction between high value and other.
- I find this constant hedging/fence sitting a waste of paper. Statements like "It (BD Strategy 2037) acknowledges that native plants and animals have intrinsic value **but** that there is also a need for balanced outcomes. Maintaining a healthy natural environment is vital but creates a complex challenge to find the right balance between protection and how we use land." That, of course, is the issue but we need clear priorities to address it and this document does not spell them out.

Prosperous Economy

- This should focus on the latest climatic conditions, we should have a prosperous **eco-friendly** green wedge economy
- I would support more local food production that was sustainably grown. I DO NOT support animal agriculture, this is very harmful to the environment.
- While we are developing a visitor economy we need to be mindful of the impact to our wildlife. I would like to see more protection and care for our animals.

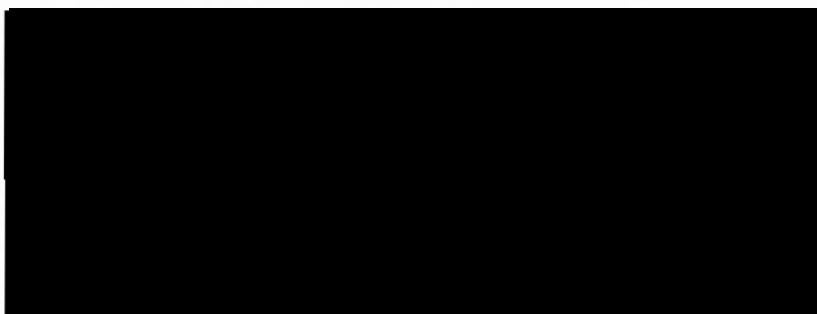
Leadership

- Leadership is key for environmental protection as long term solutions are required. 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 - painting a bleak outlook for the state’s native plants and animals; concerning the impact on biodiversity of horses, grazing and bushfire protection on private land; that more private land needs to be conserved; and the two global crises of climate change and biodiversity extinction.
- I am not very uncomfortable with your claim that you want to move green wedge management towards the “towards the empowering end of the spectrum”. This suggests less regulation for the environment.
- I support the Council working with government and trying to attract appropriate external funding.
- Climate change and environmental actions always seem to have a trade off in every statement you make in this document.
- The Urban Growth Boundary is supported. However, the Council's draft urges 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.

Comments

- There is a general lack of detail in this document that makes it very difficult to judge its significance but it is clear that the comments from the community survey and panel process have not been taken seriously. There is no specific support for protecting the environment and out beautiful, special and unique features. This has to be addressed in a plan such as this.

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.



Dear Nillumbik GWMP Team, I do not support the draft GWMP for the following reasons:

Vision

I would like to see more meaningful protection for our native plants and animals. This is also how I interpret the results of the community engagement survey and panel input. The first priority should be 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

Key Moves

This section needs more specific reference to environmental protection and actions. It needs to refer to the fact that our **unique** issue in the shire is the huge range of biodiversity it homes. Biodiversity that needs our protection. We need to halt the rate our native flora and fauna are sliding towards extinction and this needs to happen at a local level. This aim should be explicitly stated.

Principles

In this section it appears that the best we are going to do for the environment is –“*we need to anticipate and avoid any actions that may cause serious or irreversible harm to the environment and the people who live within it*”. That is our sustainability aim? It is not good enough and, as with every environmental statement it comes with a trade-off. No mention of our **unique** flora and fauna, no mention of protecting them and our wildlife. No mention of the final comment from the survey “don’t mess it up”.

Engaged and Connected Communities

I would like to see more help and support for our wildlife volunteers. We need an IT system that all users can access, that allows the public to easily log accidents. centralised system to allow people to easily call in accidents. This can also be used to log hot spots and even ‘stocktake’ wildlife. We need reduced speed limits. We need education about wildlife behaviour and the importance of respecting it. We need Council to set an example of that respect. This could be helped, in part, by recognising the wildlife volunteers.

Active and Creative People

- Protecting our biodiversity should be a top priority as this sets the scene for all of the health benefits stated in the plan.

- The natural landscape has been the inspiration for many of the artists and creative members of our community. The current plan does not recognise our area as the **unique** and inspiring place it is.

Safe and Healthy Environment

- This needs to spell out the actions for protecting our environmental assets.
- It should include what Council are prepared to take action on to protect wildlife and how that may be funded.

Prosperous Economy

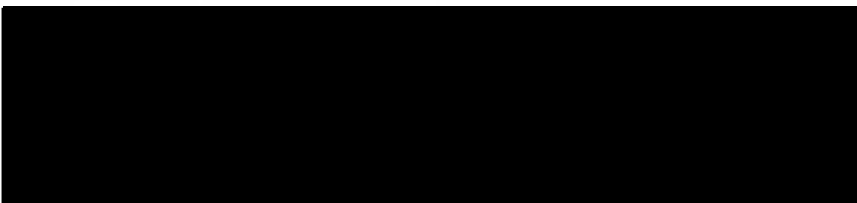
- The current budget allocation (in the 2019 budget) for this section is 1.55% so I assume that none of the actions here can be very costly or is more money to be allocated given it has its own heading in the plan?
- I do not support any animal agriculture in the shire, the impact on the environment is devastating. I would support sustainable plant based farming such as Hurstbridge Farmgate.
- Council's Draft argues that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required. The need for a permit in this zone should **remain**.
- Developing the economy and tourism will come at a cost to our wildlife and this needs to be recognised and budgeted for. We need more recognition and support for our wildlife groups who will deal with the increased fall out from additional visitors to the Shire.

Leadership

- Moving leadership towards the "empowering end of the spectrum" does not sounds like a robust plan for environmental protection? This sounds as though we are going t let people do as they see fit, the environment rarely comes out well with a framework like this.

Comments

- The decline in our biodiversity is at critical levels – this should be explicitly addressed with explicit actions – NO TRADE OFFS.
- The plan should address the Shires conservation role for all Melbournians.



Page 1 of 1
Attention: Jeremy Livingston
FAX 94333777 Willumbrook Shire Council

11/8/19
Submission 714
Pty Ltd

E.Caspi

Submission to Draft GWMP Review
by [redacted]

1. We request to be heard separately from our Individ. submissions by director or nominee of above.
2. We request to be heard by Willumbrook Future Committee on topic and Independent Panel
3. We have family acreage over many decades now and the family was dependent on this for their security and protection - all impacted severely by GWMP - including Review which has not alleviated our concerns continually pointed out.
4. We object on many aspects - too numerous for this submission but most importantly WE RESERVE ALL OUR RIGHTS.
5. We are the most impacted on [redacted]
We, with much sacrifice, kept the [redacted] acreages to 'best use of' our established services to enable 'fruition' of our long term planning which Council has received different applications over years which were not able to 'move' because of Green Wedge aspirations on our lands.
6. Basically G.WMP from start to now 'cripples' all our long term aspirations with devastating impacts on us financially, personally and 'health'.
7. The G.WMP impacts on all efforts of "sustainability" and thus future.
8. It punishes/penalizes us for protecting environment.
9. We would have been 'better off' destroying it. We thus request Council to reward those whom like us protected with compensation, removal of rates, 'trade offs' where land is required for environment in development plans that are approved, and other positive measures that 'respect' landowners such as ourselves
10. All points covered by individual submission by [redacted] and group submission by [redacted] are multiplied with impact on this large parcel of land (40 acres)

In 'good faith' we hope Council will review its decisions of G.WMP on this land (and in view other lands so that we move in some form of positive partnership) ^{whom also had established urban services thus land capability} VOLUNTARY NOT MANDATORY

Thank you; [redacted]

11/8/19

Attention: Jeremy Livingston or whomever responsible if away.
To FAX - Willumbik Shire Council
9433-3777

Fax - 2 pages.
Cover page plus
Submission.



Submission
Draft GWP Review

Hi, Jeremy. In my 'stress' I sent 'draft' notes
[redacted] submission. 25 to 5 p.m, today 11/8/19

Please 'replace' with correct submission sent
now.

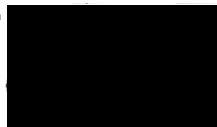
Also, if possible I prefer all names of Family
Trust not 'publicised' with others - but I would
like content to be publicized with all others that
will be likewise shown. etc

As always, we strive for friendly communication
and goodwill between our family and
Council, and understanding and empathy.

Our family (and extended) have been destroyed
by impact of new planning since adoption
of new Willumbik planning scheme and
following strategies and policies particularly
our treasured "40 acres"! (early decisions that has
kept us in limbo so many years!)

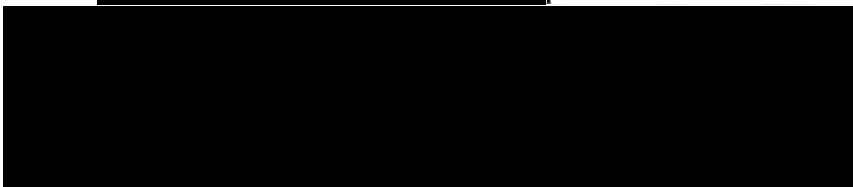
Please forward this to relevant Councillors estate

Thank you
From



Esther Caspi
behalf of family trust
members.

11/8/19



*
(PS. PLEASE CONFIRM this
submission replaces draft.)

11/8/19

OBJECTION - Draft GWMP

From
ESTHER CASPI

- * We wish and to be heard by independent panel
Willum/bik Future Committee on topic.
- ① We have family owned acreage (OVER 50 years!) on [redacted] Diamond Creek severely impacted by G.W.M.P and therefore family trust must be heard separately by Esther Caspi on nominee.
 - ② We are the MOST IMPACTED on [redacted] Diamond Creek!
 - ③ We object vehemently on many aspects - too numerous for this submission but importantly WE RESERVE ALL OUR RIGHTS.
 - ④ It basically "cripples us" for any type of sustainability.
 - ⑤ It does not allow for any partnership with local Council.
 - ⑥ It destroys our long term financial planning over 50 years now.
 - ⑦ It prevents us from protecting the urban land uses we paid for over many years.
 - ⑧ It actually "sterilizes" full use of land.
 - ⑨ It punishes/penalizes us for protecting environment.
 - ⑩ All points covered by my individual submission but multiplied with impact on [redacted]. Also covered by group submission by [redacted].
- Thank you [redacted] director
ESTHER CASPI

Fax to

94333777

EASTKEW

Submission 715
Esther Caspi

PAGE

Millamorbik Shire
Council

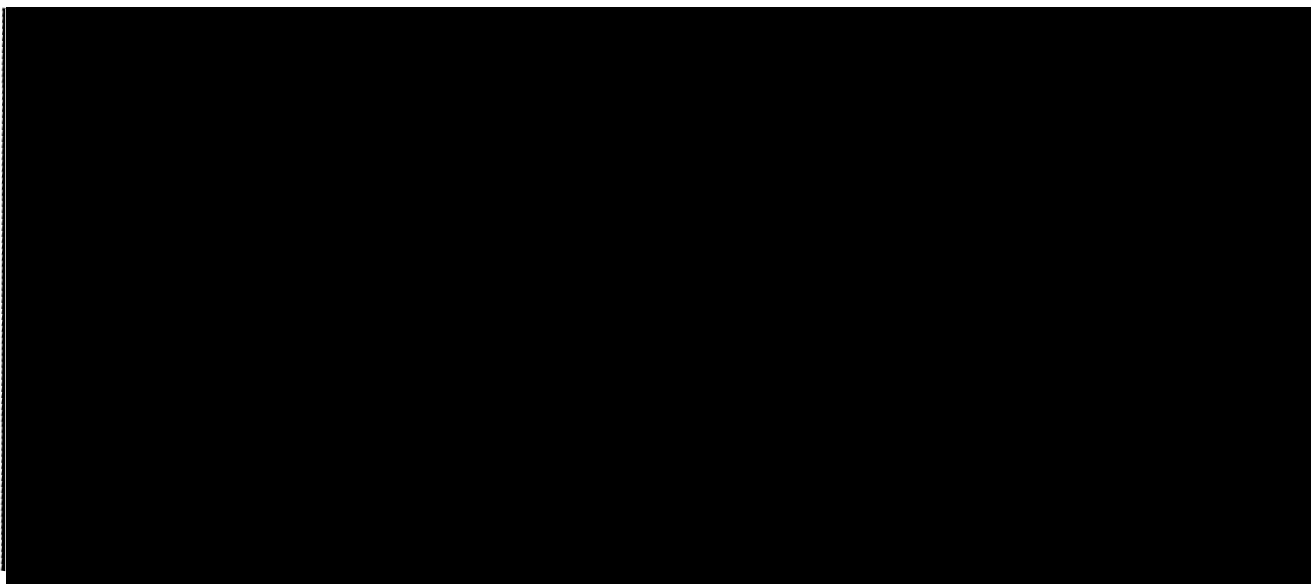
9/8/19

To Jeremy Livingston or whoever responsible
if not available
FOR Draft GWMP Review

Submission

Consisting 3 pages } Part A 13 points for Public - one page
Part B Confidential - whole page (not for public)
Cover page

From Esther Caspi



7/01/1

Jeremy MILLUMBOK SHIRE

Livingston PR Submission to Review Draft Green Wedge Management Plan (For nearly 20yrs)

- ① I am an exhausted (GWMP) OBJECTOR.
- ② It has forged ahead without really taking into account the landowners/stakeholders whom are adversely impacted. (ANY of my submissions!)
- ③ The application on my lands on [redacted] have been astronomical! This is known yet no redress has occurred! (only cement of)
- ④ The reality of GWMP is that it FREEZES the land from any Sustainability at all!
- ⑤ It DEVALUES the land and prevents normal use (ANY USE.)
- ⑥ It DISRESPECTS the Rights of landowners as the rules are (mandatory) Wipes out the past and Future!
- ⑦ In our family's case - it has made us SICK! I quote "It makes ill those whom know and understand!"
- ⑧ It has allowed IMPACT on our ESTABLISHED URBAN services on the premise it appears that we will no longer need it!
- ⑨ In our case - it Contradicts the Bushfire Mitigation Plan AS WE NEED ALL OUR HISTORICAL URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE PRESSURES and FLOWS more than ever otherwise our acreages are a HUGE FIRE RISK!
- ⑩ IN ACTUALITY ALL GREEN WEDGE LANDS SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH URBAN WATER PRESSURES and PROPERTIES, neighbouring properties and COMMUNITY NEAR and FAR.
- ⑪ The PLAN TOTALLY IGNORES THIS ASPECT - THE MOST VITAL! The GWMP is MANIFESTLY UNFAIR!
- ⑫ I wish to be heard by Independent Panel by State Govt / Council and other. (I WAS NOT INVITED on council's PANEL etc.) (the most impacted on ironbark and the most ignored)

⑬ Sincerely, Esther Caspi
 Reserve my rights to have GWMP removed.

To Willumbik Shire Council

Submission 716
David and Christina Bennett

Our submission to Green Wedge Management Plan

David & Christina Bennett

We strongly agree with and share the views of Willumbik PALS.
Thank you for the chance to share our views.

has lived in Yarrambat for over 50 years, I was born here.
We love living here, but the bureaucratic restrictions and red tape over the past years, and still now exist will eventually force us out of our home unless something changes.

Being in our 70's and living on 8 acres is becoming difficult to manage staying here on a smaller property would be ideal.

We are abutted by 3 acre lots, across the road there is a house on 2 acres further to the South are 10-20 acre lots. We are zoned RCZ 3.

A buffer zone around the township could allow other people may be in the same situation as us to downsize on their own properties.

Over the years we have had 4 name changes to the shire which have been of no benefit to us. Sorry we had our road sealed, supposed to be a benefit to us, instead it is more dangerous and noisy as they break and hit the uneven surface of the road outside our house. We were forced to pay more than \$20,000 even though on our titles it was a Government Road.

We are very conscious of the fire threat around us, made worse by neighbours that go to work and could not access their boundaries for fallen trees if they needed to, and they don't fix the broken fences. My parents did their bit for the area and I was involved in many community activities with them, now our wish is to get something changed so we can remain at

Christina & David Bennett

I have enclosed an article on my father and his life in Yarrambat. you maybe interested in all he achieved by hard work and not much money at the time

I am amazed at how much the shire spends on studies eg. Yarrambat Township Study & others. Branding Mulumbit just a couple of examples -



ARCHIBALD GEORGE ADIE

Helped community grow

Orchardist

Born: March 26, 1901**Died:** March 14, 1997

ARCHIBALD Adie was an important part of the Yarrambat community for more than 50 years, working tirelessly for the local fire brigade, school and progress associations.

Arch, as he was always known, was born to Anne and Adam Adie in West Melbourne.

He spent his youth in Collingwood, and became a dedicated football player and supporter.

He joined the West Melbourne team and played in four premier-ship teams in the late 1920s.

In 1943 he moved to an orchard property in Yarrambat and thrived in his new surroundings.

His sons fondly remember working in the orchard with their father, and helping out on roadside stalls at weekends.



Helper: Archibald Adie

Arch was extremely proud of his orchard and its produce, and loved to talk to those who stopped to buy his fresh fruit.

He would show people around his grounds at every opportunity, pointing out places of interest and the spectacular view of Melbourne.

He quickly became an important member of the local community, joining committees and taking part in many organisations and action groups.

He was a founding member of the local fire brigade, and was a vocal member of the Yarrambat Progress Association, which was fundamental in getting the suburb connected to SEC power and running water.

The group also campaigned successfully for the sealing of local roads.

MR Adie was also part of the team that organised the construction of the Yarrambat Hall, the fire brigade headquarters, and St Michael's church.

Yarrambat was his passion. He compered many local functions and was always surrounded by children.

He was a great storyteller with an excellent sense of humor, who entertained young people with stories of his escapades growing up in the era of famous gangster Squizzy Taylor.

He was a very "with it" grandfather and even in his 90s was still able to relate to his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

His love of football, and more particularly, the Collingwood Football Club, continued through his life, and he attended games well into his 80s.

He was a caring and generous person and will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege of being part of his life.

COMMENT on the NILLUMBIK GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

by DAVID NICHOLLS

Summary

In summary, it seems that the policy and much of the detail in the draft are driven by the 2017 Council Plan published after the council election and before ANY consultation. Layers of consultation and representation since have been correctly recorded. These records show an unambiguous support for the recognition and protection of the environment and habitat. This has not been reflected in the draft (except for some motherhood statements) as council provides counter measures and actions in support of their social and economic imperatives. This balance fails because the threats to the environment by people pressure and associated climate change are not recognised.

It fails also because Council also does not recognise the character of our land and its unsuitability for denser living and agricultural development. Its 'Living in the Landscape' theme suggests an examination at a superficial landscape scale. Our increasing environmental and agricultural problems must be seen on a finer scale (biodiversity and soil retention) and also a much larger scale (climate).

Ours is a Green Wedge community that loves living in our natural environment of bush and its creatures and is used to moving gently through it. The social and economic aspects are very important but not so much as to call for reduction of environmental protection.

Process of draft review (summary)

The process of review has been competent but Council's 'take' on community feedback has been deeply upsetting.

At the outset I was buoyed by the deep knowledge of our community on the intrinsic and human values of our natural environment during community consultation and this is reflected in the Council summary report on the consultation. Then I cheered the deep understanding of our Green Wedge and its special aspects by the large majority of the community panel. But then its review I found Council judgements tended all in one direction of policy and

when alterations were made these were never for the environment. I understand that the decision to accept the minority report was not by council but was at a higher level of authority where there was some misunderstanding on the nature of its authorship.

Despite a successful consultation process, the umpiring on the community opinions and +80% panel recommendations was neither impartial nor expert. At recent briefings and discussions with the public on the draft there was concerted audience criticism on lack of balance and actions, but the co-author present made no concession.

The explanation is perhaps provided in the DELWP Biodiversity 2037 report which in Chapter 2 on the degraded health of Victoria's biodiversity states: "Even today, decision makers in government, business and land management too often fail to fully consider the impacts of their actions on biodiversity – and are not routinely required to do so."

Outcomes of draft review

1. Precedence of the Council Plan. The outcomes of community feedback and panel recommendations for environmental protection were never to be accepted by Council if they were at variance with the Council Plan. This was published in 2017 shortly after the Council election and has not been informed by Council experience since or invited community discussion.

The Council Plan quite openly elevated social and financial advantage above the protection of the environment. These remain as the key actions in the draft GWMP despite the passage of time and experience and despite an obligation to follow the Community and the Panel preferences and recommendations. These are recorded and reflect a great love and respect for our environment and a fear for its future.

2. Council suggests a change in the application of 2 planning zones for private land...that the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) is too restrictive of farming practices ("the right to farm") and that its coverage should be reduced to land primarily with vegetation deserving of conservation. This puts at risk scattered areas of bushland and tree cover (e.g. the threatened paddock trees)

not covered by the broad brush mapping of zones. Responsible leadership would address this obvious problem.

Responsible Council Leadership would also have compared the map of **Rural Land Uses** (page 25 of plan) with the map of Nillumbik Planning Scheme Zones which shows that the great majority of farming properties are already covered by the Green Wedge Zone. The much larger number of much smaller lots identified as rural residential properties are contained appropriately in the Rural Conservation Zone. Size matters to viable agriculture and Council should not apply the GWZ to small cleared lots existing as islands in surrounding bush and treed landscapes properly zoned RCZ. Council should explain that the GWZ (compared with the RCZ) allows greater proximity between intensive animal industries and neighbouring homes so that noise, light, effluent and odour will be more intrusive. The draft GWMP needs a correction of the case presented by Council.

3. The “Right to Farm”. 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” (as also promoted by Landcare) 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 that the effects of soil erosion and pest invasion are reversed; for bush properties, biodiversity has been improved. Nillumbik Landcare Network has produced a document on the “Culture of Community Custodianship of Land” which explains this concept. Council, on the other hand, have not provided a sufficiently detailed explanation of the “right to farm”. It is a banner headline and a call to action, not explained or justified by examples.

The ‘right to farm’ carries an obligation of stewardship made more difficult by adverse conditions for agriculture (soil, slope, water, scale). Hobby farming can have difficulties of scale and inexperience with closer housing introducing impacts on near neighbours. The report needs a statistic on the number of farmers in the shire registered for the sustainable agriculture rate rebate and the primary producer rebate.

With the scenario of **polarised views by landowners/stewards**, “responsible” Council leadership could have listed and described landowner’s frustrations,

e.g. with a list of practices, beneficial to farming that are thwarted by zoning. This would enable some appreciation by others of council's main plan for change.

Council acts for farmers and hobby farmers and the horse industry. At Goal 5, the GWMP draft advocates for landowner empowerment with less emphasis on regulation and enforcement. For a more balanced view, Council should also use the plan to present the case for the environment, biodiversity and habitat that benefits all residents, including farmers. Residents and tourists are attracted by our country towns, bushland, waterways and cleared land, with tree lined roads and many reserves on the edge of a large city. The land, as it is at present, provides a service to tourists who in turn are customers for local small business providing meals and services.

DELWP Biodiversity- 2037 lists many environmental services such as health and well being, clean air and water, shelter and retirement living. Equestrians enjoy the bush, not to mention (and they are hardly mentioned) the much, much larger number of cyclists and walkers using our country roads and trails.

4. Advice of experts. Council have not transparently called on **advice of experts** in related fields and have not heeded the requirements of relevant state policies such as **Practice Note 31**. Council should also accept the findings of the recent DELWP report on **Protecting Melbourne's strategic agricultural land**. In its media release of March, 2019 the opening statement is about state government's delivery on commitment to permanently tighten controls to better protect Melbourne's Green Wedges against overdevelopment. Council should not dismiss the reports finding that most of our Nillumbik rural land is at agricultural class 5 (lowest) in regard to soil quality and slope.

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 requires a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation in the Green Wedges. (refer page 44 of the GWMP). The Age newspaper of July 29, 2019, quoting research on Melbourne's tree canopy loss by RMIT University, reported that Nillumbik lost 1% of canopy while Whittlesea gained 1% in the 2014-2018 period. (This is evidence of clearing in Nillumbik so not supporting claim of impact of conservation on farming, rather the reverse.)

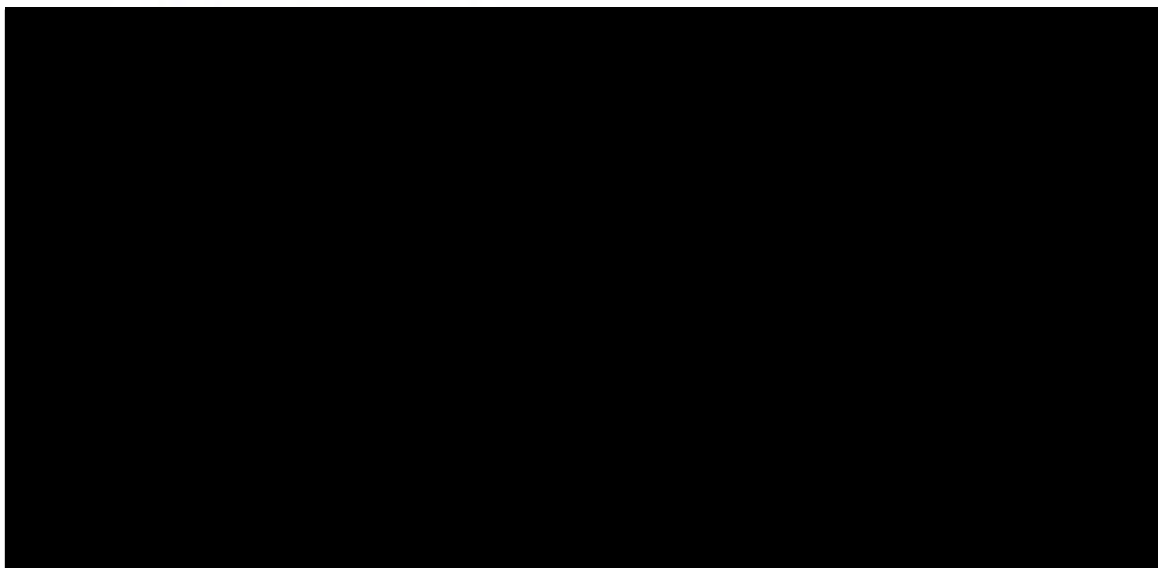
My copy of the plan lacks any references. Maybe I have missed pages. Otherwise this is an extraordinary omission...the shire has a great library of its own publications on the nature of the shire including the 2010 GWMP which is an excellent reference.

5. The Future. Councils detailed planning horizon is necessarily limited but more vision is required in the face of dramatic change expected over the next 30 years.

We need more emphasis on **climate change mitigation** in accordance with **the uncertainty principle**. Certainty comes with a recent Age report (July 16) of first public evidence of an extensive forest loss in Victoria due to climate change. This was on a well cared for property owned by Bush Heritage.

A Melbourne population increase from 5 million to expected 8 million will threaten our culture and scene. Even the completion of Eastlink in 7 years will provide a link to the city that will change us. We should monitor the description of assets by Real Estate Agents, particularly in regard their prediction of development. We should preserve our artistic and scientific description of our heritage which records our success to date and may slow over-development.

Finally The draft features specific actions for the advancement of agriculture and motherhood statements for the protection of the environment. They are pitched as competing objectives....they are truly not!



Comment on Green Wedge Management Plan by Jean Nicholls

Introduction

I am an artist living in the Dunmoochin area and have painted a number of the local landscapes and the wild creatures and plants living in it. I am interested in your vision for the Green Wedge as one of "Living in the Landscape". Dictionary definitions of "landscape" suggest that this is usually of a natural scene, particularly if depicted, but I would assume that the Nillumbik landscape could also include scenery with land cleared, in the past, for farming.

"Living" would be for all life forms..... human, wildlife and insects, farm stock and pest animals, indigenous plants and organisms, weeds, etc.

However the draft plan concentrates on what seems to be the overarching rights of humans to clear, control and profit from the existence or forced absence of other life forms living in the landscape. This is often the fate of natural landscapes and its nature. Government regulation attempts to control excesses but, even where there are recognised threatened species, rates of species decline and even extinction continue. This is recorded with increasing desperation.

The plan recognises that our "iconic" natural world, next to a metropolis, has worth as a tourist attraction. It also acknowledges that there is a part of the population dedicated to its defence and enhancement. But the draft plan does not give conservation effort much visible support unless it is directed at an area identified as of "high biodiversity". Rather there is a proposal to reduce environmental protection if it interferes with the 'right to farm'.

Other risks to the environment are clear. The primacy of human life in an area of bushfire risk leads to permission to clear around the home and wildfire itself can have a devastating effect on bushland. Traffic and pets take a toll on wildlife. Climate change will certainly adversely affect our natural world.

I do not support the new direction that the draft plan takes against the increasingly important protection of our natural environment which is already under threat. In that regard the 2010 Green Wedge Plan was a superior document.

I would hope that our landscapes remain rural and natural and in years to come they are painted for their natural beauty and richness.



Dear Nillumbik GWMP Team,

I **DO NOT** support the draft GWMP for the following reasons:

Vision

There needs to be more emphasis on flora and fauna protection. Every sentence in this document allows for its demise if something more important comes up.

Key Moves

More about species extinction is needed.

Principles

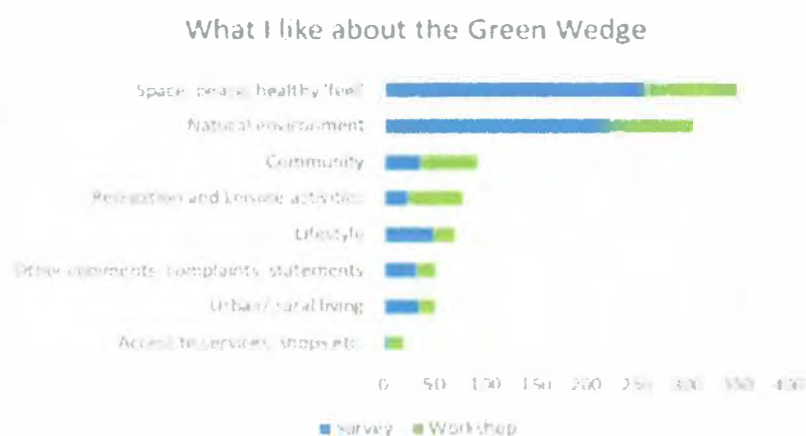
The GWMP needs to reaffirm the shire's conservation role. The council's "Business as Usual" approach is not good enough.

Engaged Connected Communities

I'm glad volunteers are celebrated in the GWMP but I would like to see more specific support for pet and wildlife volunteers. There are land management grants available for individuals and landcare groups but there does not seem to be any money available for those that spend their own time and money rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife or supporting abandoned pets. Please add more recognition and value to these groups.

Active and Creative People

The community survey wants the environment protected to contribute towards active and creative people. That "space, peace and healthy feel" will need protecting if we want it there for years to come.



Responses: 1012

Safe and Healthy 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." The draft GWMP ignores this priority.

- More about wildlife is needed.

Prosperous Economy

- The current budget allocation (in the 2019 budget) for this section is 1.55% so I question how sincere Council is with this big section?
- I do not support any animal agriculture in the shire, the impact on the environment is devastating. I would support sustainable plant based farming such as *Hurstbridge Farmgate*.
- Council's Draft argues that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required. The need for a permit in this zone should **remain**.
- 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; the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society.
- Developing the economy and tourism will come at a cost to our wildlife and this needs to be recognised and budgeted for. Please add specific objectives and action points.

Leadership

- Leadership is key for environmental protection as long term solutions are required. 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 - painting a bleak outlook for the state's native plants and animals; concerning the impact on biodiversity of horses, grazing and bushfire protection on private land; that more private land needs to be conserved; and the two global crises of climate change and biodiversity extinction.

Comments

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 future generations.

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

Name

C Spranger

Signature

Address/Suburb

E-mail

Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

Question 1: A Vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge? NO [because there is a worrying lack of detail]

- Yes
- No
- Partially
- Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

- Environmental protection and reinvigoration must be central to the Vision for the Green Wedge. The draft does not state this strongly enough, despite it being a Strategic Focus for the Shire. 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.
- The GWMP must reflect the fact that Nillumbik's Green Wedge is the most environmentally intact of Melbourne's Green Wedges, is a significant part of the wider Green Wedge system, and is for the benefit of everyone, whether they live in the area or not.
- 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 such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy. Throughout the draft, the repeated mention of just adapting to climate change leaves the reader with the impression that Council has basically thrown their hands up in the air suggesting there is nothing that they nor Nillumbik residents can do to tackle climate change. This is not true and must be part of every day action.
- 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.

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, because there is a worrying lack of detail]

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|------------|----------------|-------|---------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Key Move 1 | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | |
| Key Move 2 | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | |
| Key Move 3 | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | |
| Key Move 4 | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | |
| Key Move 5 | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | |

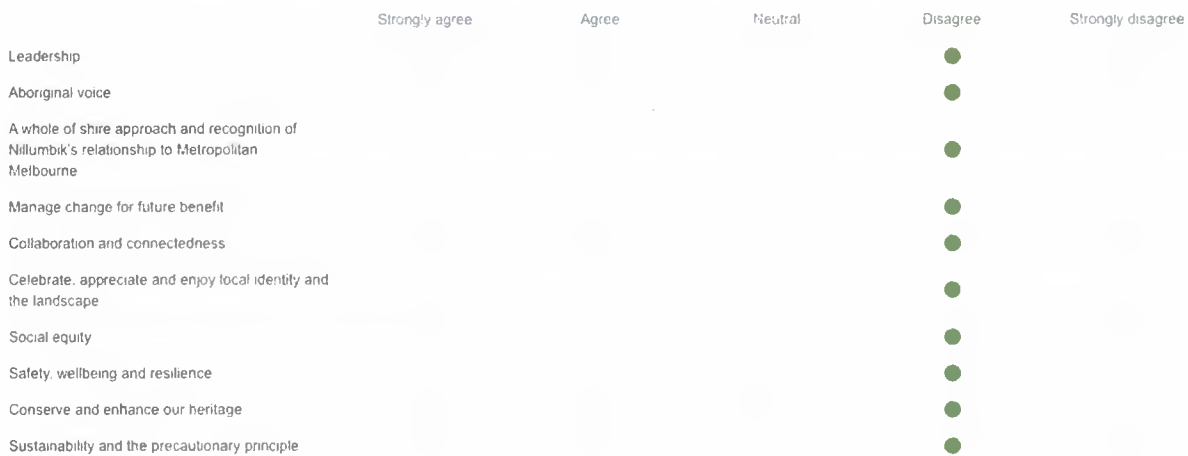
Do you have any comments about the Five Key Moves?

- It appears that Council has failed to follow State Government policy requirements in the preparation of the GWMP. This throws into question the entire document and associated processes. Planning Practice Note 31 describes specific requirements for the development of a GWMP, including the establishment of a Project Steering Group chaired by Council with key stakeholder representatives. This did not occur.
- This draft fails to clearly articulate an Implementation Plan based on clearly stated Objectives and Actions and the Council Department responsible for implementation. As stated in the State Government's Planning Practice Note 31, '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.' The current GWMP has much greater detail than this new draft, and should be used as a basis for improvement. [Click here for Planning Practice Note 31](#) .
For a comparison to the draft GWMP, [Click here for the current GWMP](#) .
- 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.

Principles

To what extent do you agree with the Principles to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan? DISAGREE [all, because there is a worrying lack of detail]



Do you have any comments about the Principles?

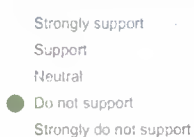
- Each Principle is a very broad statement and it is unclear how they will be interpreted and applied while ensuring care for the environment.
- The Principles need to reflect the community's commitment to protecting the Green Wedge. The GWMP must describe how the values of the Green Wedge will be prioritised 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.'
- 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. 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 [because there is a worrying lack of detail]



Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for 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 plan must state more clearly that the Shire and Green Wedge areas have particular needs that are different to those in an area not established as a Green Wedge. 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 'What can we get out of the land?'.
- 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.

GOAL2: Active and creative people

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 2?

DO NOT SUPPORT [because there is a worrying lack of detail]

- 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?

- 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.
- 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.

GOAL 3: Safe and healthy environments

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 3?

DO NOT SUPPORT [because there is a worrying lack of detail]

- 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?

- 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.

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 4?

DO NOT SUPPORT [because there is a worrying lack of detail]

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?

- 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 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.
- 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.
- I do not support any animal agriculture due the environmental impact.

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 5? DO NOT SUPPORT

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?

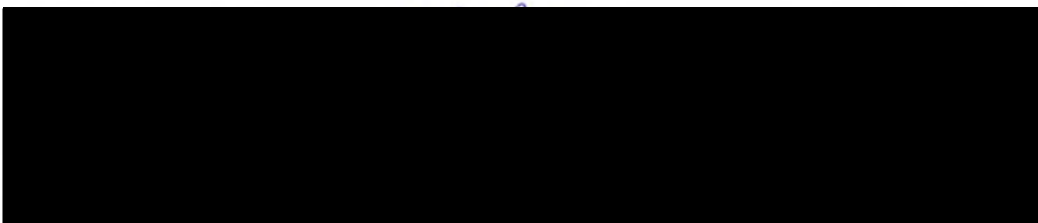
- Stewardship of the land is mentioned in the draft plan, and its role must be better defined in Goal 5, Responsible Leadership. It needs to explain that Nillumbik residents have an obligation to care for the land, not degrade it, and this must be for the entirety of their tenure. Responsible stewardship 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.

- 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.
- Responsible Leadership should have a section dealing with climate change mitigation in accordance with the precautionary principle.
- Council ought to provide education and free, easily accessible advice to residents on a range of topics such as 'avoid - reduce - reuse - recycle', reducing meat-consumption, buying local produce and growing your own, responsible waste disposal, reduction of car-dependence, benefits of native vegetation etc.
- 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). 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 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?

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 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.
- 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".
- 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.
- The impact of invasive species – flora and fauna – is significant and this must be better addressed.
- 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, and urgent climate change mitigation.
- **It is necessary that we uphold the highest of professional standards throughout the Shire and its Leadership.**





Nillumbik Ratepayers Association



SUBMISSION TO DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Can high intensity fires be suppressed?

There is a perception that bushfires can be extinguished and that the effectiveness of modern technology and fire fighting organisation provides a safety net. To explore this idea consider Figure 4.

This shows the fire intensity level at which the main forest fire fighting methods cease to be effective. How does this compare with the fire intensity of typical high intensity forest fires?

| TECHNIQUE | FIRE INTENSITY LIMIT (kW/m) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| experienced hand tool crew | 800 |
| bulldozer and tanker crew | 2000 |
| air tanker (fire retardant) | 2500 |

FIGURE 4 INTENSITY AT WHICH FIRE SUPPRESSION IS LIKELY TO FAIL ON A FIRE BURNING IN EUCALYPT FOREST

Figure 5 shows the data in Figure 3 converted to fire intensities. The shaded cells on the lower side of the diagram represent fire intensity levels that are beyond the capability of direct attack on the fire front. Note that in heavy fuels this "suppression threshold" may be exceeded even at moderate fire intensities. This is borne out by data showing property loss and fire intensity on Ash Wednesday at Macedon (Figure 6).

| FIRE DANGER CLASS FDI | FIRE INTENSITY (kW/m) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|-------|--|
| | LOW | MOD | | | HIGH | | VERY HIGH | | EXTREME | | | |
| FUEL t/ha | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 80 | 100 | |
| 5 t/ha | 75 | 150 | 225 | 300 | 350 | 425 | 575 | 700 | 850 | 1125 | 1400 | |
| 10 t/ha | 300 | 600 | 900 | 1150 | 1450 | 1700 | 2250 | 2800 | 3350 | 4450 | 5550 | |
| 15 t/ha | 675 | 1350 | 1950 | 2625 | 3225 | 3825 | 5100 | 6375 | 7850 | 10125 | 12600 | |
| 20 t/ha | 1200 | 2400 | 3600 | 4800 | 6000 | 7200 | 9600 | 12000 | 14400 | 18200 | 22800 | |
| 25 t/ha | 1750 | 3750 | 5625 | 7500 | 9375 | 11250 | 15000 | 18700 | 23500 | 30000 | 37500 | |

FIRES CONTROLLABLE

FIRES NOT CONTROLLABLE

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Review

11 August 2019

We wish to address the Future Nillumbik Committee

1. The draft Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) must recognise that humans are an integral part of the green wedge and therefore part of the environment.
2. The GWMP must be considered alongside and as an extension of Nillumbik's bushfire Mitigation Strategy.
3. The protection of human life must be the core focus of this GWMP.
4. The protection of property, ecosystems, flora and fauna to be considered only after first considering the protection of human life.
5. The vast majority of land outside the UGB and Township Zones is privately owned and should be appropriately zoned Green Wedge.
6. The GWMP must recognise that Nillumbik's flora and fauna as a part (small) of a much wider ecosystem.
7. Recognise that lot sizes ONLY refers to the minimum subdivision size within a zone, and must have no influence on an owners ability to build/develop a dwelling within the zone.
8. Accept the David Packham report "Bushfire Threat to Nillumbik Shire " (2003) be incorporated into this GWMP.
9. Accept the Rod Incoll report " An Overview of the Fire Hazard and Vegetation Controls in the Shire of Nillumbik (2003) be incorporated into this GWMP.
10. Use buffer Zones along and around the UGB and Township Zones, as is used around Eltham.

1. Recognition that humans are a part of the environment

The first priority of planning, including this GWMP, must have the protection of human life as its primary focus, and that we humans own the majority of the land in the green wedge.

For far too long humans have been deliberately left out of planning. Amendments, Overlays. Local laws and other planning tools have ignored humans to the point where some even pretend that we don't exist.

Rural Conservation Zone, Significant Landscape Overlay and Environmental Significance Overlay are just 3 examples of zonings/overlays that are in our opinion designed to stifle or restrict human activity in these areas even on private land.

When planners, and others can argue that 'conservation' 'the environment' are the primary focus for a zone area, and remember we are mostly discussing **privately owned land** and that a dwelling or a shed should not be allowed because the primary focus of the zone is something other than that which benefits the landowner.

2. Bushfire Mitigation

The GWMP must be considered alongside and as an extension of the Nillumbik Bushfire Mitigation Strategy.

The GWMP and the Nillumbik Bushfire Mitigation Strategy (BMS) should in many ways be one document with bushfire mitigation (always) as the primary or overriding focus.

With the BMS sitting above the GWMP it is easy to see how good bushfire mitigation works can enhance and even be able to save the green wedge on extreme days. Whereas a GWMP that ignores bushfire mitigation or sits above BMS can easily be seen as a plan that is actually 'building bushfires' on the pretence of saving the GW, and not putting human life above all else.

You say (page 30 GWMP) *“balancing environmental protection and preparedness for bushfire will continue to present a challenge within Nillumbik's landscape.”* **THERE IS NO CHALLENGE.** If bushfire mitigation is not given priority then you again run the risk of having another event like we had in 2009 when 23% of the green wedge was blackened and 41 Nillumbik residents died, 173 in Victoria.

We must stop building bushfires, and recognise that bushfire mitigation, by burning or other means, is the most effective way of not only saving human life but also of saving this GW in an extreme bushfire event.

3. The protection of human life must be the core focus of this GWMP

If you accept that we humans are an integral part of this GW and the environment,

and

If you accept that bushfire mitigation should sit above this GWMP, then we are very close to accepting the protection of human life as the 'core' focus of this GWMP.

This GW, Nillumbik in general, has been shaped by humans for thousands of years. Without human intervention we would not have the environment we have here today. ((prof. Bill Gammage The biggest estate on earth)

The Aboriginal people, put human life as a priority when burning/modifying the landscape. As [REDACTED] said in her Memorial speech for the Black Saturday fire 'that the lack of prescribed burning was a serious and damaging neglect of the land'.

4. The protection of property, ecosystems, flora and fauna after first considering the protection of human life.

Once you have accepted the first 3 points, then you can concentrate on how to best protect/enhance the flora and fauna of the area. Acknowledging that the majority of the land is privately owned and that landowners are entitled to use their land with as little interference from council as possible.

5. The vast majority of the land outside the UGB and the township zones is privately owned and should be zoned GW.

The majority of Nillumbik green wedge land is privately owned, and the majority of that private land is used for purposes other than conservation. Therefore as such we say the use of the RCZ zoning is inappropriate and unreasonable.

All private land should be zoned GWZ which would more accurately reflect the land use within the GW.

We acknowledge that lots that have 'trust for nature' or other similar covenants on them, a zoning of RCZ would probably be appropriate for these lots.

6. The GWMP must recognise that Nillumbik's flora and fauna are a small part of a much wider ecosystem.

This GWMP must recognise that Nillumbik's majority vegetation type, dry sclerophyll forest, is one of the most fire prone in the world, and hence Nillumbik is recognised as one of the most fire prone areas in the world.

Therefore to manage Nillumbik's GW you must first manage the fire risk.

Nillumbik's vegetation type is the least threatened most abundant vegetation type in Victoria, it is **not** endangered, as Nillumbik makes up only a small part of this extensive Victorian vegetation type, much of which is in State and National Parks and reserves.

7. Recognise that 'lot sizes' ONLY refers to the minimum subdivision size within the zone, and must have no influence on owners rights and ability to build/develop a dwelling within the zone.

The wording on this GWMP, and other documents, should be clear that a minimum lot size in any zone ONLY refers to the minimum sub divisional size for a lot in that zone.

Wording in documents should be clear so it cannot be misinterpreted or manipulated by planners or 'others', particularly for use at VCAT. Perhaps wording similar to the following should be used:-

'All lots in a zone are equal with equal rights, it is only when on application for subdivision is received that the minimum lot size for the zone is to be taken into account.'

8. Incorporate the David Packham Report into the GWMP

Incorporate: The Bushfire Threat to Nillumbik Shire 21 July 2003 by David Packham

9. Incorporate the Rod Incoll Report into the GWMP

Incorporate: An Overview of the Fire Hazard and Vegetation Controls in the Shire of Nillumbik by Rod Incoll. July 2003

10. Use buffer zones, along the UGB and around township zones.

Buffer zones work, I have never had a contact/complaint from anyone living in these current buffer

zones in Nillumbik, I have had many complaints/contacts from people where there is a 'hard edge', ie acreage, sometimes 10-20 acres or more that abut the UGB or township zones.

These complaints range from

- people cutting fences to access a private property for motorcycling.
- using private property as a short cut and getting angry when challenged.
- dumping rubbish and lawn clippings which can kill horses.
- flying drones or model aeroplanes
- dog walking, off leash and chasing stock and killing sheep and goats.

Buffer zones from around 4000M2 are an effective tool available to help alleviate the stress the above encroachments cause landowners abutting residential lots. Consideration of legal issues with the above trespass, particularly if someone is injured.

The Victorian Government asks that all green wedge councils prepare and regularly review a green wedge management plan to identify a vision, objectives and actions for **the sustainable use and development of each green wedge**.

We see in your 'A vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge' a group of councillors that recognise that Nillumbik **is not** an island. We also see in that 'vision' the recognition that Nillumbik and this GW must support itself to a greater extent, as greater Melbourne has shown no interest in supporting the concept that this GW is for the benefit for greater Melbourne, be it true or not we are on our own.

We are more than encouraged to see this group of councillors willing to accept the fact that humans have shaped this area, and support the rural and agricultural activities that have supported this area, since whenever, and that these opportunities will be encouraged into the future, along with recreation, tourism, sporting and conservation activities.

Whilst we applaud in general this councils' 'vision' we have concerns that there are instances within this document that threaten the return of the outrageous and discredited Amendments C81 & C101. Any reference that could be seen as considering or reviving these 2 discredited Amendments should be removed from this Draft GWMP.

Another concern is a home-owners right to rebuild after a disaster such as the Black Saturday fires. Whilst most who lost their houses that day have been given the 'right' to rebuild, that 'right' was to start the planning process over again, with all the pitfalls and angst that can carry, and there was a time frame that did not take into account personal circumstances such as trauma.

It is outrageous that a person affected by such an event should be pressured into doing all works within a limited time frame, and even worse that works already commenced are halted by officers due to we say red tape.

To actually be on-site and watch everything around you house, sheds, vehicles ect, destroyed by the mega fire yet survive the inferno (just) then be told you can rebuild get part way through construction and then forced to 'discontinue works' is devastating.

Goal 1.

Also of concern are some of the Objectives & Key Actions on page 24.

We support the premise that each title was purchased with the intent of erecting a dwelling on that lot at sometime in the future.

We reject 01.5 that there are limits, other than multiple houses on a single lot. We support the development a single house and relevant outbuilding on each lot within the GW.

Also 01.7, when did public transport become a council issue, few if any people move to rural properties and expect public transport at their door or nearby?

We reject totally key action A 1.6 the idea of consolidation of lots in the rural GW areas or anywhere. This action should be removed from this document. Amalgamation of lots was attempted by previous councils. Some argued that a dwelling should not be allowed on a lot under the minimum subdivision size unless lots were consolidated.

Goal 2

We strongly object to your objective (A2.2-A2.3 02.2 and 02.3) when, as they have already, for the Hurstbridge trail, include the acquisition of private land, for non essential purposes.

Goal 3

Safe and healthy environment

We could not agree more with the statement (para 4 page 29)

“Furthermore, as it is an environment that is bushfire prone, risk to human life and the environment constantly need to be considered and managed.”

The most effective way of managing the local environment is to keep the fuel loads low.

Low fuel (loads) = low fire intensity

High fuel (loads) = High fire intensity

Talking about people being 'passionate, informed and engaged about maintaining and enhancing our natural environment' can generally be translated to mean people planting native vegetation across the shire. While this may seem admirable this planting is most often, if not always, done with no 'management maintenance plan' of the fuel loads these plantings create, now and in the future.

We disagree with the SPPF 'no net loss' policy, and the 'net gain' policy, regarding native vegetation particularly within Nillumbik. These policies do not acknowledge the fact that the Aboriginal people who burnt the landscape regularly to keep the area reasonably open for hunting. This GW is on the edge of suburbia and is part of suburban Melbourne, also it is no longer burnt across the landscape. Therefore we say, that the policy of 'no net loss and 'no net gain' can and are putting residents of Nillumbik in danger. Remember this area is recognised as one of the highest bushfire prone areas in the world and our native vegetation is recognised as some of the most, if not the most bushfire prone vegetation in the world.

We Nillumbik residents must keep in mind 'less fuel = less fire'

Another concerning statement is *“Balancing environmental protection and preparedness for bushfires will continue to present a challenge within Nillumbik's landscape.”*

There is NO balancing, you either put people and their safety first, or you don't! This area is one one of the highest bushfire prone areas in the world, the native vegetation was formed around and by fire, the Aboriginal people burnt the landscape regularly. We say if you prepare for fire, particularly by regular burning across the landscape, then you are protecting and enhancing the environment. Also by doing this you are putting the protection of people as you priority and saving lives.

Goal 4 A prosperous economy

It is good to see in this GWMP the recognition and the contribution that businesses have to the area, particularly those businesses listed under 'Agriculture' (P36) as in the past many of these businesses have been neglected and in some cases actively discouraged.

The majority of land in the GW is privately owned, and these landowners should be encouraged to make their properties profitable. There has been talk in the past of allowing businesses such as Conference Centres etc within Melbourne's green wedges, we believe this type of development should be further investigated.

Rather than designating individual properties as having a 'right to farm' we believe that objective O4.2 should read, '...every property outside the UGB and TZ has the right to farm'.

We say abandon key action A 4.3. We believe that every property landowner should be able to use their land as they see fit (other than for prohibited uses). We see a 'stock take of activities, practices and uses' as restrictive which does not allow landowners the flexibility to change their use if they see fit without applying to council. These 'listed stock take items' or 'Doomsday Book' lists have only ever been used as a restrictive tool to control legitimate uses by landowners.

NB. We agree with the need to control pests such as deer, rabbits, feral animals as well as the need to control invasive and noxious weeds.

Scrap A4.4 This offensive idea has been around for some time, it devalues property, causes enormous angst for landowners and will not protect the land for agriculture.

A previous Nillumbik Mayor encouraged this idea sometime ago, she lives in Eltham with a house on 2 titles. When asked if she was willing to set the example and amalgamate her two lots she vehemently refused.

We support A4.8. 1, if re worded to say '...on land outside the urban areas.

We support A4.13 for home based businesses within the Green Wedge, with as few restrictions as possible.

Goal 5 Responsible leadership

10 words no one wants to hear:

'hi, I'm from the council and I'm here to help'

We totally reject the idea of 'shared responsibility and shared obligation'

If I live next to a Council, State or National Park, I cannot go into that park and carry out fire mitigation work BUT council can, under the CFA Act, send a contractor onto my land to do fire mitigation works and send me the bill.

Responsible leadership is in our opinion is;

- keeping out of peoples lives as much as possible
- helping people to achieve their goals such as developing their property with a dwelling
- reducing red, green and all other tape to a minimum
- recognising that councillors and council staff work FOR the community

Land use planning

The majority of land in Nillumbik's green wedge is privately owned, and the majority of that privately owed land is not used for conservation purposes. As the majority of land is not used for conservation purposes then the zoning as Green Wedge Zone would be most appropriate for the vast majority of land outside the UGB/TZ.

We support the idea that private land where owners have a 'trust for nature' or similar covenant on their land then that land should be zoned RCZ, as the land IS used for conservation.

We reject key action A5.1, as stated previously we see this as restricting uses or change of use. We believe the planning scheme and GWMP should NOT be specific on land uses.

Providing it is not a 'restricted or illegal use' then there is no need for a Doomsday Book. This type of information has only ever been used as a restrictive tool in planning. Scrap A5.1.

Brian Murray

President

Draft Green Wedge Management Plan for public consultation

Nillumbik Shire Council is asking the community to help prepare a new Green Wedge Management Plan. Over the last year, the community has shared their ideas and knowledge to help us understand -

What is the best way for us to manage Nillumbik's Green Wedge, now and in the future?

We've now prepared a Draft Green Wedge Management Plan and want the community's feedback. ,

The Draft Green Wedge Management Plan includes:

- **a vision** for the future of Nillumbik's Green Wedge
- **five key moves** for the Shire that are intended to achieve the community panel's recommendations on multiple fronts
- **principles** that informed the creation of this plan and will guide how it is to be implemented
- **goals** that describe desired overall outcomes for the community
- **specific objectives** that describe what is to be achieved in support of the goals
- **key actions** to effect change in the direction of the objectives.

Submissions

Written submissions can be made until **11.59pm on Sunday 11 August 2019**, and will be considered by Council to September, prior to finalisation and adoption.

Submissions can be made:

- via the electronic form available online at participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gwmp
- lodged in person at one of Council's staffed community facilities:
 - Council offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough
 - Hurstbridge Community Hub, 50 - Graysharps road, Hurstbridge
 - Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham
- or mailed to Attention: The Project Team, PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088

What are the next steps?

- A summary of all community engagement will be presented to Council at a Future Nillumbik Meeting in September 2019.
- Following the Future Nillumbik Meeting, the summary will be made available to the community.
- Council will consider all submissions received and will use the feedback to inform the development of the final Green Wedge Management Plan.
- The final Green Wedge Management Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in October 2019

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.' See **page 5** of the draft plan for more details about the **Vision**.

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

Yes No Partially Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

Our picture speaks a thousand words.



ona & Syd

Five Key Moves

The five Key Moves below outline organisational changes for the long-term to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan. See **page 13** of the draft plan for more details about the **five key moves**.

1. A comprehensive landowner's 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.

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?

NO 3 STOP WASTING OUR RATES ON THIS & PROTECT OUR PRECIOUS GREEN WEDGE - do not water down our protections already in place.

Principles

The principles informed the creation of the Green Wedge Management Plan and will guide its implementation. See **page 19** of the draft plan more for details about each of the Principles.

To what extent do you agree with the Principles that are designed to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

| Principles | 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?

Stick to the original principles of the Green Wedge. - originally was organized as a 15 year plan → 2025 to keep conservation principles as a foremost priority.

Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

The Plan includes five goals which describe the desired overall outcomes for the community.

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities

See **page 24** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 1**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

In Goal 1.
Climate change mandates us to protect what we have... do not water down paradise & put up a parking lot next to all the grey townhouses.

Goal 2: Active and creative people

See **page 27** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 2**.

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 / Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Re traditional Custodians a key action of goal 2 - greater dialogue must be actioned & kept strong for now & the future.

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments

See pages 32-33 of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for Goal 3

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Green Wedge designed to protect "Lungs of Melbourne"
... let it breathe & not suffocate under tar, cement & bricks and modern houses.



Goal 4: A prosperous economy

See pages 38-39 of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for

Goal 4.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Tourism development, inappropriate uses of the Green Wedge, come small the piggeries, view the grey townhouses, wall to wall over development, as a drive thru point to the proper Yarra (green) Valley - do not even stop for a coffee!! Great tourism incentive plan!! NOT.

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

See **page 41** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 5**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

wildlife habitat, indigenous plants
must be maintained & expanded.
we need tighter controls
with regard to Responsible
leadership.



Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan?

re: less strict draft. The plan is against the Green Wedge principles... we need tighter controls.

With respect to the new Gray logo... with indigenous green environs & a little black box floating in the distance (where development should be minimised & left to expand the growth corridors)

Please attached any further pages you would like to include in your feedback.

Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting

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**?

Yes No

To register to speak, you will need to complete the online form at nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call **9433 3271**.



Contact details

Please provide the following contact details. This will allow us to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or if we need to clarify any details of your feedback.

Privacy Statement

Nillumbik Shire Council is collecting your information for the purpose of clarifying details of feedback received on the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan. The information provided will not be shared with third parties unless we are required to or permitted to by law. This information is being collected in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. If all the requested information is not provided, Nillumbik Shire Council will be unable to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or to clarify details of your feedback. You may access your information by contact Council's Privacy Officer 03 9433 3111 or by email privacy@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

NILLUMBIK SHIRE COUNCIL

SUBMISSION TO DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

11 August 2019

Submission to Draft Green Wedge Management Plan August 11 2019

Mary McDonald


The review of this GWMP and the supposed random selection of an independent Community Panel was, I believe, not random and resulted in a flawed process.

I attended many of the sessions and witnessed several former mayors, councillors, former employees along with a council consultant, on the community panel. The same people had considerable influence into the original GWMP, & Green Wedge Management Implementation Plan. These people, I believe came with a predetermined view and with what I and many others consider a radical agenda. This panel selection looked at best to be 'rigged'. I believe some of these same people were behind the disgraceful Amendments C81 & C101.

This council was elected in a landslide mainly to stop proposed Amendments C81 and C101.

C81 & C101 must never be allowed to be revived through this Plan any other plan or policy.

We now have a council that has worked hard to address the concerns of the silent majority of residents. Issues council have addressed are the exorbitant rates, efficiencies through a council re-structure, facilities for families, e.g. new family friendly playgrounds and a huge improvement in the culture of council and staff. Well done.

For many years we have been fed the lie that Nillumbik is environmentally sensitive. The existing vegetation type (dry foothill forest) is the most abundant, least threatened in Victoria with over 70% remaining and it is also the most fire prone. (Port Phillip and Westernport Native Vegetation Plan)

I grew up in what is now Nillumbik. My grandparents moved here in July 1937. Nillumbik Shire, was made up of small hobby farms consisting mainly of orchards, horses, cattle, sheep and pigs with the landscape open, lightly treed and well grazed. Until the second world war there was 1675 hectares of orchards in this area.

People managed their properties without Management plans, restrictive Zonings, Policies, Overlays, Schedules to the overlays, enforcement Officers, studies requiring large expensive bureaucracies and unbelievably high rates. The environment was well cared for. It was a great place to live and unfortunately attracted many new arrivals.

Most people (the silent majority) are busy with the daily commute to work, raising families, running businesses and have no understanding or time for these reports to bother with submissions. But they do care and are concerned with their own land management, enjoyment of their properties and of course bushfire risk. These are the silent majority of landowners in the green wedge.

It is the activists and local pressure groups that have had influence and input to policy especially through reference committees, and they remain active. For many years these groups have had an unhealthy influence on council resulting in policies, that I call trees before people or environment before people. Many of the pressure groups and activists do not live in the green wedge and do not recognise the majority of land within the green wedge is privately owned land.

There are instances of landowners that are unable to build a house on their land and worse some that were devastated in the Black Saturday fires unable to rebuild. Others were presented with onerous conditions, expense and time delays before being able to restore their properties after the fires. This should be addressed by the GWMP.

The Bushfire Mitigation Strategy is to be incorporated into the GWMP. This strategy speaks to us in reassuring terms, with acknowledgement of the fire risk. I am not reassured as I fail to see how and when the fuel loads will be reduced. I would like an action schedule with dates of completion to reduce the fuel loads. How and when? So many reports over the years say the right thing but fail to deliver. The CFA Act 1958 allows council to issue notices to reduce fuel on private land. (Section 41 notices can be issued) There are penalties for non compliance. It used to occur and worked. The CFA once fuel reduced the roadsides on a fairly regular basis. The roadsides in many places where I once rode my horse are now impassable.

The comments in the Bushfire Mitigation Report such as 'shared responsibility' and 'shared obligation' concern me. How can **we** share responsibility when most people are not sure of what rights they have and if a permit is required to lop or remove vegetation? We have a 10/50 rule but that can be confusing to some. Over the last few decades Nillumbik has been known for enforcement and prosecutions creating a climate of fear and mistrust. Therefore in many cases people are afraid to contact council or reduce fuel. Never forget in 2008 just prior to Black Saturday the responsible authority, Nillumbik Council applied to itself for a permit to trim a dead branch off a dead tree in Eagles Nest Road Strathewen, with arborists report, photos and all. This unhealthy culture remains to some extent in the administration today.

State Government and Nillumbik Council share the responsibility for policies that will protect human life above all else. State Government and Council have a duty of care to protect the people.

State and National Parks are a problem as many surround Nillumbik. Fuel loads remain high. These areas were a disaster for Nillumbik on Black Saturday. These should be included in this plan with the authorities responsible for undertaking fuel reduction throughout. These park areas are overrun with high fuel loads, weeds and feral animals. The cost of fuel reduction management, is, I suspect the main reason this is ignored. But the cost will be lost lives.

Leave and live.

This will not work in Nillumbik. The series of gateways to exit Nillumbik are inadequate for large scale evacuation. It is even difficult in peak hour particularly if there is an accident, breakdown or fallen tree on the road.

Leave the day before. That will not work either. Weather predictions can be inaccurate or alter and if there are say 6 high risk days where we are advised to 'leave and live', where do 60,000 residents leave to? Mum puts the 3 kids in the car with the dog and cat and some fortunately go to relatives across town but others go the shopping centres. Say we do this twice and the third high risk day mum is likely to say it is not feasible. The centre was full in searing heat with dogs cat and kids. Water toilets, air conditioning and space is essential to cater for them. The shopping centre cannot be responsible for this.

It seems to me a way for State Government to avoid responsibility and their duty of care to safeguard people. The way to reduce the fire risk is simple.

Reduce the fuel loads to reduce the intensity of the fire. The higher the fuel load the higher the intensity of the fire and the higher the loss of life.

GWMP

It should not require a planning permit to rebuild a house that is lost especially after a bushfire. Every title should as of right be able to erect a dwelling and if it is deemed unsafe or not suitable then council or State Government should purchase that land. Is Nillumbik still charging double rates for undeveloped blocks? The GWMP needs to include a right to build on a title.

Melbourne Water were able to do a deal to sell their blocks with planning permits in place for a dwelling despite subdivision being under the zone size in the planning scheme at the time. Why not a similar deal for all vacant lots within the Green Wedge?

Zoning

The RCZ is too restrictive and inappropriate and should be re-zoned to Green Wedge to better reflect the uses within that zone. It is not a national park it is lifestyle properties, farms and hobby farms.

A GWMP should deal with pest animals like feral deer, foxes, rabbits and the plague of kangaroos. I grew up here and a kangaroo was a rare sight. They are breeding because we have created ideal conditions with abundant water and food provided by private landowners.

Nillumbik has always been a horse area. My grandparents relied on horses for transport and farming and my mother rode her horse to work. The pressure groups have for years attempted to demonise the horse and have them restricted and removed. I would like the GWMP to ensure the right to keep horses is preserved.

The plan should have buffer zones to separate residential land from farming activities. The hard edge was a planning mistake and failed to account for the inevitable problems for people that have livestock. I keep horses on a few acres abutting residential land and the problem of grass clippings thrown over the fence leads to a painful death for the horse and or expensive vet bills. The other problem is dogs chasing the horses into fences and I lost several pet sheep to dog attacks. Rubbish is dumped over the fence and fences have been cut although in recent years it is the kangaroos that have wrecked my fences.

Cut the red tape, put people first. Care for our people and our people will care for the land as they always have.

Mary McDonald



Draft Green Wedge Management Plan for public consultation

Nillumbik Shire Council is asking the community to help prepare a new Green Wedge Management Plan. Over the last year, the community has shared their ideas and knowledge to help us understand -

What is the best way for us to manage Nillumbik's Green Wedge, now and in the future?

We've now prepared a Draft Green Wedge Management Plan and want the community's feedback.

The Draft Green Wedge Management Plan includes:

- **a vision** for the future of Nillumbik's Green Wedge
- **five key moves** for the Shire that are intended to achieve the community panel's recommendations on multiple fronts
- **principles** that informed the creation of this plan and will guide how it is to be implemented
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 - Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham
- or mailed to Attention: The Project Team, PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088

What are the next steps?

- A summary of all community engagement will be presented to Council at a Future Nillumbik Meeting in September 2019.
- Following the Future Nillumbik Meeting, the summary will be made available to the community.
- Council will consider all submissions received and will use the feedback to inform the development of the final Green Wedge Management Plan.
- The final Green Wedge Management Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in October 2019

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.' See **page 5** of the draft plan for more details about the **Vision**.

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

Yes No Partially Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

A picture by us speaks thru' the



generations to your children's children.

Ona & Syd

Five Key Moves

The five Key Moves below outline organisational changes for the long-term to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan. See **page 13** of the draft plan for more details about the **five key moves**.

1. A comprehensive landowner's 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.

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?

3. We have had extensive community panel hearings, & only 50% has been taken up in the recommendations. This is a waste of rates/time, etc.

Principles

The principles informed the creation of the Green Wedge Management Plan and will guide its implementation. See **page 19** of the draft plan more for details about each of the Principles.

To what extent do you agree with the Principles that are designed to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

| Principles | 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?

The principles seem on paper to be too non-specific & not easily actionable, considering the process so far - i.e. we not following the panels recommendations to a large extent

We need tighter controls, not weakened goals.

Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

The Plan includes five goals which describe the desired overall outcomes for the community.

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities

See **page 24** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 1**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

We need the current context honoured: the conservation Shire needs 'Green Wedge' as its main focus - not as a side point. The detail is now less specific than in the original plan (15 year plan → 2025)

Goal 2: Active and creative people

See **page 27** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 2**.

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 / Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Our environment needs to be protected more + more - so stricter controls needed, due to climate change factors, that have been proven by 95% of all scientists. This applies to all the Objectives / key Actions.

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments

See pages 32-33 of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for Goal 3

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Re Principle 2: Aboriginal Voice...

If we understand ^{cool} burning + fire management of grasslands + forests: "fire stick farming" as explained in "Dark Emu" by Bruce Pascoe ... then we would manage our bush/forest/grasslands in a safer, & more sustainable way.



We do not want to lose any more trees or any more wildlife. We were designed to be the lungs of Melbourne, not another satellite suburb.

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

See pages 38-39 of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for

Goal 4.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

A prosperous economy is not needing to be contingent on more farming in the shire. We must have permits. Next door to us is the huge chook farm which stinks for most of summer. Do you want more of that in the new plan? NO.

I have regenerated my acreage from a horse paddock in the 1970s full of thistles, to a native grassland / bush block. But it took me 20 years to get rid of the thistles (from horse manure).

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

See **page 41** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 5**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Maintain indigenous plants + wildlife habitat at all costs. This stewardship is not clear enough in the Draft plan. (See Key Action A5.6 + A5.7 page 40) The Urban Growth Boundary must be a strong border.

Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan?

re economic development:

Come & see our new 'near-same'
suburban sprawl, & be excited
by all this 'point of difference'.
NO.

We need the "lungs of Melbourne"
to be more green than our
neighbouring suburbs.

Please attached any further pages you would like to include in your feedback.

Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting

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**?

Yes No

To register to speak, you will need to complete the online form at nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call **9433 3271**.

Contact details

Please provide the following contact details. This will allow us to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or if we need to clarify any details of your feedback.

Name:

Ona Henderson

Postal Address:

Email:

Phone:

Privacy Statement

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- or mailed to Attention: The Project Team, PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088

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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.' See **page 5** of the draft plan for more details about the **Vision**.

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

Yes No Partially Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

There does not appear to be any effort to help wildlife in our area, Tourism is not required in the area as it has been this way for a long time, We live here to enjoy the peace & quite not to listen to more vehicles on the roads.

Five Key Moves

The five Key Moves below outline organisational changes for the long-term to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan. See **page 13** of the draft plan for more details about the **five key moves**.

1. A comprehensive landowner's 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.

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?

This section need more info very little substance, as mention before the area does not need tourism, This area needs to be aware that no sub divisions occur.

Principles

The principles informed the creation of the Green Wedge Management Plan and will guide its implementation. See **page 19** of the draft plan more for details about each of the Principles.

To what extent do you agree with the Principles that are designed to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

| Principles | 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?

The areas in the green wedge need to be embraced, the beauty of this area are the trees and quite lifestyle. I don't think that the areas need to be enhanced leave as is.

Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

The Plan includes five goals which describe the desired overall outcomes for the community.

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities

See **page 24** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 1**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Still talking about more building and service hubs not what we want, more vehicles more death of wildlife in area.

Goal 2: Active and creative people

See **page 27** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 2**.

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 / Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Walking + riding tracks are good however as long as they don't disturb Wildlife areas. Less cyclist on roads would also help area.

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments

See **pages 32-33** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 3**

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Consideration need to be given to the use of plastic around the bush areas and fencing of areas that have survived for many decades, with paths + track come recreational motor bike these are not welcomed in green wedge area. May be not your responsibility but the amount of roadside signs has spoilt the area over the years.

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

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Goal 4.

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 4?

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Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 4?

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A410 Tourism in the shire should remain in area that have a commercial shopping strip. Other areas have rubbish + traffic problems due to many narrow road in area.

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

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Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 5?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

A.S.C Does this mean (Sub Division) not wanted.

Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan?

This report need to be more user friendly a lot of the areas mentioned are to hard to understand, the main thing is we don't need tourism in our small towns, we don't need subdivision also one of the main things we love about this area are the wildlife and peace + quite, take that away and the area will become just another suburb.

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Name:

L. Bellinger

Postal Address:

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Phone:

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Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

Yes No Partially Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

I think that one of the biggest challenges we face is climate change. Environmental protection is of supreme importance. We are very lucky to have an established green wedge ^{+ enhanced it} everything must be done to protect it into the future. This includes water management, we are in a drought, waste management education so that everyone ~~understands~~ ^{understands why things} are happening.

Five Key Moves

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4. A comprehensive planning and place management service for the townships.
5. Stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural practices.

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 | | | | X | |
| Key Move 2 | | | X | | |
| Key Move 3 | | | | X | |
| Key Move 4 | | | | X | |
| Key Move 5 | | | | X | |

Do you have any comments about the Five Key Moves?

We need more emphasis on the natural environment, who is the voice for the environment. We can never regain it once it is lost, how will all the current native vegetation, fauna and flora be protected and enhanced. How will any actions be evaluated, how and when. The Nillumbik shire green wedges magnificent we need to protect it for future generations

Principles

The principles informed the creation of the Green Wedge Management Plan and will guide its implementation. See **page 19** of the draft plan more for details about each of the Principles.

To what extent do you agree with the Principles that are designed to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

| Principles | Strongly agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|---|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| Leadership | | | | X | |
| Aboriginal voice | | | | X | |
| A whole of shire approach and recognition of Nillumbik's relationship to Metropolitan Melbourne | | | X | | |
| Manage change for future benefit | | | | X | |
| Collaboration and connectedness | | | | X | |
| Celebrate, appreciate and enjoy local identity and the landscape | | | | X | |
| Social equity | | | | X | |
| Safety, wellbeing and resilience | | | | X | |
| Conserve and enhance our heritage | | | | X | |
| Sustainability and the precautionary principle | | | | X | |

Do you have any comments about the Principles?

We need to improve the Biodiversity of the Green Wedge, what is there now need protection from people ^{feral animals} + climate change so everyone can enjoy the area. Stress with crowded roads and living spaces can be ameliorated within a green environment. This protection and enhancement need to be a long term undertaking with measured outcomes and detail about how they will be achieved. More detail please.

Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

The Plan includes five goals which describe the desired overall outcomes for the community.

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities

See **page 24** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 1**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

We need the whole community to understand the importance of our environment, our precious Green Wedge. We need serious action now to ~~mit.~~ reduce our carbon foot print. We have only 1 world. Nillumbik has a unique position we can demonstrate how important our green wedge is in our lives and the future lives of our children we need maximum environmental protection now.

Goal 2: Active and creative people

See **page 27** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 2**.

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 / Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Green spaces are important for people's physical and mental health. Green space + biodiversity must be Nillumbik's top priority. We have the opportunity now to strengthen the protection + enhancement of our green wedge

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments

See **pages 32-33** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 3**

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

I am concerned about Goal 3 as I believe it is of national & state importance importance that we prioritise the health of our environment I am particularly concerned about private water extraction, the Diamond creek is not flowing as it would normally at this time of year. How can we have a healthy water system if ① we are in drought ② water is being

extracted regardless of the state of the creek/river. Dry landscapes are a bigger bushfire risk.

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

See pages 38-39 of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for

Goal 4.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

I am concerned that this goal does not ~~address~~ ^{enforce} sustainable eco land management. Small scale producers need access to local shops to sell their produce it happens with apples + pears in a small way now. Grow local/sell local forget about big business with their plastic wrapped fruit / the plastic that is now going to landfill - this is not ecofriendly or sustainable. Any new division of land with creek frontage must be required to fence a wildlife corridor along the creek to fully protect area from damage from domestic animals and farming.

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

See **page 41** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 5**.

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?

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I have several concern "RC2 land zone" - it is important to maintain the current system when a planning permit must be granted before any new agricultural land use is started as it is important to look at all aspects - water that may be required where from ?? Noise or contamination of ground water, waste disposal.

A 5.7 land that abuts UGB must remain as such no creeping of boundaries. We have the opportunity to continue as a green carbon sink, we must not start nibbling away at the boundaries.

Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan?

We have a very important role to protect + enhance the biodiversity of the green wedge. The impact of invasive species needs urgent attention both Flora + fauna. Encourage small business, ecotourism + give everyone in Nillumbik an environment which will improve the mental health and wellbeing of our community. Outdoor activities walking, bike riding and many more activities are welcomed here. We need to do our utmost to help combat climate change.

Please attached any further pages you would like to include in your feedback.

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Yes No

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Contact details

Please provide the following contact details. This will allow us to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or if we need to clarify any details of your feedback.

Name:

Clare Dunlop

Postal Address:

[Redacted]

Email:

[Redacted]

Phone:

[Redacted]

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The Draft Green Wedge Management Plan includes:

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What are the next steps?

- A summary of all community engagement will be presented to Council at a Future Nillumbik Meeting in September 2019.
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'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.' See **page 5** of the draft plan for more details about the **Vision**.

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

Yes No Partially Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

THERE IS NO PRIORITISING OF THE WELFARE + HABITATION OF WILDLIFE.
THE ATTRACTION OF LIVING IN PANTON HILL IS THE NATURAL BUSHLAND + WILDLIFE (WHAT IS LEFT OF IT) + THE PEACE + QUIET ENJOYED BY RESIDENTS WHO VALUE IT. TOURISM + INFRASTRUCTURE WILL DESTROY THESE TREASURES.

Five Key Moves

The five Key Moves below outline organisational changes for the long-term to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan. See **page 13** of the draft plan for more details about the **five key moves**.

1. A comprehensive landowner's 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.

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?

I HAVE TICKED 4 NEUTRAL BOXES BECAUSE THEY NEED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC IN THEIR INFORMATION

Principles

The principles informed the creation of the Green Wedge Management Plan and will guide its implementation. See **page 19** of the draft plan more for details about each of the Principles.

To what extent do you agree with the Principles that are designed to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

| Principles | 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?

I AM YET TO SEE ANY OF THE LEADERSHIP POINTS. YOU LOVE PUBLIC MEETINGS + SUCH BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET A PERSONAL REPLY OR ACTION BY OUR COUNCILLORS.

Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

The Plan includes five goals which describe the desired overall outcomes for the community.

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities

See **page 24** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 1**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

1-4 DEVELOPE PLANS FOR GATEWAY SERVICE CENTRES ETC.
SOUNDS LIKE DEVELOPEMENT IN RURAL GREEN WEDGE
HOW'S THAT MAINTAIN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT?

1-6 THE CURRENT RURAL LOTS HAVE HELP MAINTAIN OUR
GREEN IDENITY. ~~BY~~ CONSOLIDATING & AMALGAMATING
THEM LEAVES OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOPEMENT &
CONSTRUCTION.

Goal 2: Active and creative people

See **page 27** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 2**.

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 / Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

2.3 TRAIL NETWORK WHEN PUSHED THROUGH BUSHLAND IS BEING USED BY MOTOR BIKES, (NOT WELCOMED)

2.6 WHILE INTERPRETATION SIGNS ARE USEFUL IN TOWNSHIPS THEY DESTROY & LITTER THE NATURAL BUSHLAND

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments

See pages 32-33 of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for Goal 3

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

3-5 STRONGLY SUPPORT IF YOU INCLUDED THE WELFARE OF OUR WILDLIFE
3-6 STRONGLY SUPPORT
3-3 BUSHFIRE RISK IS PART OF LIVING IN THE GREEN WEDGE TO MAKE IT LOW RISK WOULD MEAN DESTRUCTION OF IT.
3-4 COUNCIL CURRENTLY SPRAYS PEST PLANT WHERE THEY SHOULD BE PULLED OUT BY HAND TO AVOID POISON RUNOFF WHICH HAS HAD A TERRIBLE IMPACT ON THE FROGS IN OUR BUSHLAND

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

See **pages 38-39** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 4**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

ALL KEY ACTIONS . THESE APPEAR TO BE MONEY
DRIVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT. THEY APPEAR PRO DEVELOPMENT.
MORE DEVELOPMENT WOULD DESTROY OUR
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT EVEN FURTHER & WE HAVE
A RESPONSIBILITY TO SUSTAIN WHAT WE HAVE
IN THE GREEN WEDGE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
OF LOCALS & THE BENEFIT OF MELBOURNE AT LARGE

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

See **page 41** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 5**.

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?

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?

MOST OF THIS DRAFT IS VERY VAGUE & NEEDS MORE DETAIL.
THERE IS NEXT TO ZERO CONSIDERATION OF OUR WILDLIFE
& THE EFFECTS THESE ISSUES WILL HAVE ON THEM.
ALSO COUNCIL SEEMS VERY FOCUSED ON WAYS TO INCREASE
REVENUE AT THE EXPENSE OF DESTROYING OUR UNIQUE
ENVIRONMENT.

Please attached any further pages you would like to include in your feedback.

Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting

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**?

Yes No

To register to speak, you will need to complete the online form at nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call **9433 3271**.

Contact details

Please provide the following contact details. This will allow us to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or if we need to clarify any details of your feedback.

Name:

CATHERINE BELLINGER

Postal Address

Email:

Phone:

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Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

Yes No Partially Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

Environmental protection and increasing biodiversity in an age of Climate Change should be the focus of a Green Wedge Management Plan.
Due to lack of detail in the 'vision' I cannot agree.

Five Key Moves

The five Key Moves below outline organisational changes for the long-term to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan. See **page 13** of the draft plan for more details about the **five key moves**.

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4. A comprehensive planning and place management service for the townships.
5. Stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural practices.

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?

Many of the points are already covered adequately in other Plans or Strategies. Again a lack of detail directed me to disagree (on most points)

Principles

The principles informed the creation of the Green Wedge Management Plan and will guide its implementation. See **page 19** of the draft plan more for details about each of the Principles.

To what extent do you agree with the Principles that are designed to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

| Principles | 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?

Very hard to address positively when there is no detail to speak of. Many points are open to all sorts of interpretation and other points simply don't belong in a QWMP.

Again the Environment + biodiversity protection and enhancement should be the main focus of this plan.

Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

The Plan includes five goals which describe the desired overall outcomes for the community.

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities

See **page 24** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 1**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

more detail please !!!
Yes, by all means engage with community, but in regard to what they can do for the Environment in which they live and not what they can get out of the Environment.
Again points covered under other Plan/ Strategies and don't belong in a GWMP
eg - volunteerism / Aged care accommodation development WITHIN townships etc etc.
Just to name a few.

Goal 2: Active and creative people

See **page 27** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 2**.

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?

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The existance of natural untouched places has been shown to have ongoing health benefits.

many of the things mentioned in this goal already exist and do not need adding to via a awmp.

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments

See **pages 32-33** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 3**

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?

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GWMP - It's all about the Environment, or it should be!
Again very vague, open to interpretation.
Not enough focus on wildlife, wildlife corridors,
the importance of indigenous flora and
not enough consideration given to the
effects and consequences of Climate Change.

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

See **pages 38-39** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for

Goal 4.

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?

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Wow. why are Tourism, festivals and events even being discussed in a awmp ?? They simply do not belong.
Who decided that keeping and breeding horses is agriculture? we don't eat them.
Let's use strategies like the Trails strategy instead of trying to re-invent the wheel.
And can we please stop calling Lifestyle properties 'Hobby Farms'.

Again not enough focus on Climate Change and it's effects. Climate Change will have more effect on Nillumbik's economy than the Great Depression!

Why not enter into dialogue about carbon credits etc. All those trees will be worth big bucks soon.

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

See **page 41** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 5**.

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 5?

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Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 5?

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Details please.
Never have I read a more arrogant phrase than 'all places are created by people'!
Changes to RCZ and GWAZ - NO
The Future of the GW Townships is already clearly articulated via their township strategies where is the leadership on Climate change.
Proposed 'farming without a permit' will open a huge can of worms and has the potential to cause even MORE division in the community.

Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan?

A Green Wedge Management plan must strongly reaffirm the Council's role in conserving and enhancing the Green Wedge as it's main focus.
Reading and re-reading the Draft I believe it fails to do so.
c/m below

Please attached any further pages you would like to include in your feedback.

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Yes No

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The GWMP is NOT a tourism plan, a plan to assist hobbyists and lifestyle property owners, an aged care plan, a health and well being plan.

It is a plan that must speak for those things that have no voice - our precious environment and the other creatures that call the Green wedge of Nillumbik home.

Protecting and enhancing the environment is the most valuable thing we can do for future generations and it's they that will need all the help they can get.



Contact details

Please provide the following contact details. This will allow us to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or if we need to clarify any details of your feedback.

Name:

Sharon Turner

Postal Address:

[Redacted]

Email:

[Redacted]

Phone:

[Redacted]

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Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

Yes No Partially Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

Five Key Moves

The five Key Moves below outline organisational changes for the long-term to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan. See **page 13** of the draft plan for more details about the **five key moves**.

1. A comprehensive landowner's information and support service.
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3. A "Green Wedge Conversations" program.
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5. Stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural practices.

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 | | | | X | |
| Key Move 2 | | | | X | |
| Key Move 3 | | | | X | |
| Key Move 4 | | | | X | |
| Key Move 5 | | | | X | |

Do you have any comments about the Five Key Moves?

Principles

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To what extent do you agree with the Principles that are designed to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

| Principles | Strongly agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|---|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| Leadership | | | | X | |
| Aboriginal voice | | | | X | |
| A whole of shire approach and recognition of Nillumbik's relationship to Metropolitan Melbourne | | | | X | |
| Manage change for future benefit | | | | X | |
| Collaboration and connectedness | | | | X | |
| Celebrate, appreciate and enjoy local identity and the landscape | | | | X | |
| Social equity | | | | X | |
| Safety, wellbeing and resilience | | | | X | |
| Conserve and enhance our heritage | | | | X | |
| Sustainability and the precautionary principle | | | | X | |

Do you have any comments about the Principles?

Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

The Plan includes five goals which describe the desired overall outcomes for the community.

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities

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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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

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To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 5?

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Name: CRAIG TURNER

Postal Address:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone:

[REDACTED]

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02 AUG 2019

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 - Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham
- or mailed to Attention: The Project Team, PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088

What are the next steps?

- A summary of all community engagement will be presented to Council at a Future Nillumbik Meeting in September 2019.
- Following the Future Nillumbik Meeting, the summary will be made available to the community.
- Council will consider all submissions received and will use the feedback to inform the development of the final Green Wedge Management Plan.
- The final Green Wedge Management Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in October 2019

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.' See **page 5** of the draft plan for more details about the **Vision**.

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

Yes No Partially Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

Protection and enhancement of the natural environment must be the guiding principal of a WMP. This was expressed in the initial community engagement. Climate Change is a real threat to the environment and must be added to the vision.

Aboriginal knowledge must be included
Five Key Moves heard and acknowledged.

The five Key Moves below outline organisational changes for the long-term to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan. See **page 13** of the draft plan for more details about the **five key moves**.

1. A comprehensive landowner's 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.

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 principles informed the creation of the Green Wedge Management Plan and will guide its implementation. See **page 19** of the draft plan more for details about each of the Principles.

To what extent do you agree with the Principles that are designed to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

| Principles | 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?

vague - no overarching core of
 the environment.
 address the decline of biodiversity
 and effects of climate change needs to
 be added

Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

The Plan includes five goals which describe the desired overall outcomes for the community.

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities

See **page 24** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 1**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

In terms of education of the wider community in Nillumbik's Green Wedge, on the scene of environmental protection and knowledge it is imperative to form actions and outcomes with community input.

Goal 2: Active and creative people

See **page 27** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 2**.

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 / Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Nillumbik's biodiversity is the principal priority. A natural green environment has health benefits not just physical but emotional and mental well being and social connections.

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments

See pages 32-33 of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for Goal 3

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

All indigenous vegetation is important to the C.W. and the need to conserve it on public and private land. Action Map areas of native habitat, plan to enhance degraded areas and farm wild life corridors

no more rabbiting around the edges, eg land clearing, removing stard along trees and over grazing.

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

See pages 38-39 of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for Goal 4.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

To borrow a phrase
'a prosperous eco friendly Green
Wedge' is the key.
Local agriculture is important but not at
the expense of the natural environment.
Regenerative Farming and water conservation
are new systems that really will
the environmental and long economic
benefits.
Negative effects of Tourism on local
townships must be acknowledged.
eg. lack of parking spaces to enable
local community to enjoy all Hastings.

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

See **page 41** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 5**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Responsible leadership will be assessed in the improvement of the diverse ecosystems and wetlands in the C.W. There is an ongoing loss of native vegetation "every year". Wide spread education of residents in this matter is imperative.

RCZ needs to be maintained across the C.W. to protect single trees and remnant habitat, a permit required to start farming. It is imperative that appropriate resources are allocated to the enforcement of policy standards.

Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan?

After all the words the most important
to Nillumbik residents is the value they
place on Natural & environmental conservation
It be protected and endorsed. There
is a lack of detail regarding this.
The problem of invasive species - please
focus has not been addressed.

Please attached any further pages you would like to include in your feedback.

Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting

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**?

Yes No

To register to speak, you will need to complete the online form at nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call **9433 3271**.

Contact details

Please provide the following contact details. This will allow us to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or if we need to clarify any details of your feedback.

Name:

AYNE FITZPATRICK

Postal Address:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone:

[REDACTED]

Privacy Statement

Nillumbik Shire Council is collecting your information for the purpose of clarifying details of feedback received on the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan. The information provided will not be shared with third parties unless we are required to or permitted to by law. This information is being collected in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. If all the requested information is not provided, Nillumbik Shire Council will be unable to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or to clarify details of your feedback. You may access your information by contact Council's Privacy Officer 03 9433 3111 or by email privacy@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

The vision for Nillumbik's green wedge, as stated in the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, is for the management of the Nillumbik green wedge to "lead the way in supporting a vibrant, resilient, connected and diverse community" (p. 5) and for Nillumbik "to become Australia's most liveable shire with: engaged, connected communities" (p. 7), and like the rest of Australia, that community is getting older.

The demographic change that is facing Nillumbik needs to be factored into the management of the Green Wedge in a creative way.

Many of our residents in rural and conservation zones have lived and worked on their properties all their lives, and some have connections to the land here for several generations.

They care about the environment and value the space around them. Of equal importance to them is being part of a close community. They know their neighbours and many members of the community through working with them to benefit the community through such things as Landcare, the local CFA, and fundraising activities to support the local hall or primary school. They know that, should they need it, the community will support them just as they will support others.

In regional Victoria, when land owners in their senior years become unable to manage their acreage they move into their local town where their children have gone to school, where they have shopped, attended functions, visited services such as the doctor, etc. Though they have moved house they have remained in and connected to their community.

Because there is no flexibility in the Rural Conservation Zone planning zones to alternative housing options, senior people in the Nillumbik green wedge who are moving off their land are forced to leave their community and move to a new one, usually in the suburbs. This dislocation can lead to isolation and loneliness, an emerging mental health issue for Australians.

If Nillumbik green wedge management plan's vision really is to support resilient, connected communities, serious consideration has to be given to the needs of senior people retiring off their acreage. To allow them to remain in their community there needs to be retirement options in their community centre, such as Arthurs Creek, Hurstbridge, St Andrews and Panton Hill.

What these options might be, and how they can meet environmental and conservation aims should be a consideration of the Management Plan.

Aging members of the community are acutely aware that any weakening of Rural/Conservation zones could open the floodgates to the unwanted demand for

subdivision that they have fought against for decades. But there are options that have been implemented here and overseas that could be appropriate for our community.

These retirement accommodation options should be investigated with the community and be dictated by their needs and not by a developer's need of profit.

Signed by:



Date:

7-8-19

Address:



Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

Question 1: A Vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge? NO [because there is a worrying lack of detail]

- Yes
- No
- Partially
- Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

- Environmental protection and reinvigoration must be central to the Vision for the Green Wedge. The draft does not state this strongly enough, despite it being a Strategic Focus for the Shire. 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.
- The GWMP must reflect the fact that Nillumbik's Green Wedge is the most environmentally intact of Melbourne's Green Wedges, is a significant part of the wider Green Wedge system, and is for the benefit of everyone, whether they live in the area or not.
- 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 such as regenerative agriculture, fire management, waste management, bush regeneration, education, and economic strategy. Throughout the draft, the repeated mention of just adapting to climate change leaves the reader with the impression that Council has basically thrown their hands up in the air suggesting there is nothing that they nor Nillumbik residents can do to tackle climate change. This is not true and must be part of every day action.
- 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.

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, because there is a worrying lack of detail]

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|------------|----------------|-------|---------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Key Move 1 | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | |
| Key Move 2 | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | |
| Key Move 3 | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | |
| Key Move 4 | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | |
| Key Move 5 | | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | |

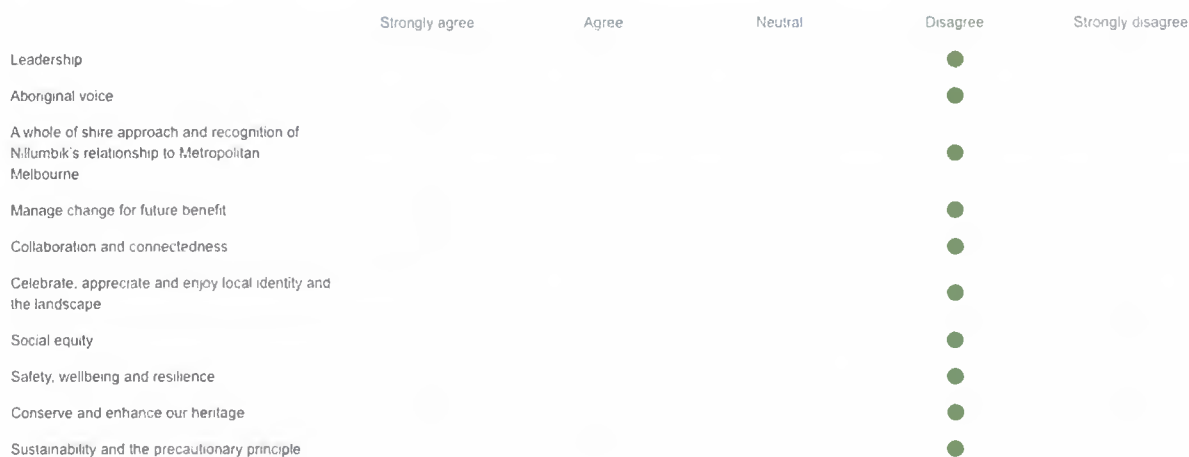
Do you have any comments about the Five Key Moves?

- It appears that Council has failed to follow State Government policy requirements in the preparation of the GWMP. This throws into question the entire document and associated processes. Planning Practice Note 31 describes specific requirements for the development of a GWMP, including the establishment of a Project Steering Group chaired by Council with key stakeholder representatives. This did not occur.
- This draft fails to clearly articulate an Implementation Plan based on clearly stated Objectives and Actions and the Council Department responsible for implementation. As stated in the State Government's Planning Practice Note 31, '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.' The current GWMP has much greater detail than this new draft, and should be used as a basis for improvement. [Click here for Planning Practice Note 31](#) .
For a comparison to the draft GWMP, [Click here for the current GWMP](#) .
- 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.

Principles

To what extent do you agree with the Principles to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan? DISAGREE [all, because there is a worrying lack of detail]



Do you have any comments about the 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 GWMP 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.'
- 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. 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 [because there is a worrying lack of detail]



Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for 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 plan must state more clearly that the Shire and Green Wedge areas have particular needs that are different to those in an area not established as a Green Wedge. 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 'What can we get out of the land?'.
- 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.

GOAL2: Active and creative people

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 2?

DO NOT SUPPORT [because there is a worrying lack of detail]

- 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?

- 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.
- 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.

GOAL 3: Safe and healthy environments

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 3?

DO NOT SUPPORT [because there is a worrying lack of detail]

- 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?

- 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.

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 4?

DO NOT SUPPORT [because there is a worrying lack of detail]

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?

- 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 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.
- 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.
- I do not support any animal agriculture due the environmental impact.

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 5? DO NOT SUPPORT

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?

- Stewardship of the land is mentioned in the draft plan, and its role must be better defined in Goal 5, Responsible Leadership. It needs to explain that Nillumbik residents have an obligation to care for the land, not degrade it, and this must be for the entirety of their tenure. 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.

- 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.
- Responsible Leadership should have a section dealing with climate change mitigation in accordance with the precautionary principle.
- Council ought to provide education and free, easily accessible advice to residents on a range of topics such as ‘avoid - reduce - reuse - recycle’, reducing meat-consumption, buying local produce and growing your own, responsible waste disposal, reduction of car-dependence, benefits of native vegetation etc.
- 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). 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 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?

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 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.
- 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”.
- 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.
- The impact of invasive species – flora and fauna – is significant and this must be better addressed.
- 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, and urgent climate change mitigation.
- **It is necessary that we uphold the highest of professional standards throughout the Shire and its Leadership.**

Signature

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Title/Address]

The vision for Nillumbik's green wedge, as stated in the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, is for the management of the Nillumbik green wedge to "lead the way in supporting a vibrant, resilient, connected and diverse community" (p. 5) and for Nillumbik "to become Australia's most liveable shire with: engaged, connected communities" (p. 7), and like the rest of Australia, that community is getting older.

The demographic change that is facing Nillumbik needs to be factored into the management of the Green Wedge in a creative way.

Many of our residents in rural and conservation zones have lived and worked on their properties all their lives, and some have connections to the land here for several generations.

They care about the environment and value the space around them. Of equal importance to them is being part of a close community. They know their neighbours and many members of the community through working with them to benefit the community through such things as Landcare, the local CFA, and fundraising activities to support the local hall or primary school. They know that, should they need it, the community will support them just as they will support others.

In regional Victoria, when land owners in their senior years become unable to manage their acreage they move into their local town where their children have gone to school, where they have shopped, attended functions, visited services such as the doctor, etc. Though they have moved house they have remained in and connected to their community.

Because there is no flexibility in the Rural Conservation Zone planning zones to alternative housing options, senior people in the Nillumbik green wedge who are moving off their land are forced to leave their community and move to a new one, usually in the suburbs. This dislocation can lead to isolation and loneliness, an emerging mental health issue for Australians.

If Nillumbik green wedge management plan's vision really is to support resilient, connected communities, serious consideration has to be given to the needs of senior people retiring off their acreage. To allow them to remain in their community there needs to be retirement options in their community centre, such as Arthurs Creek, Hurstbridge, St Andrews and Pantan Hill.

What these options might be, and how they can meet environmental and conservation aims should be a consideration of the Management Plan.

Aging members of the community are acutely aware that any weakening of Rural/Conservation zones could open the floodgates to the unwanted demand for

subdivision that they have fought against for decades. But there are options that have been implemented here and overseas that could be appropriate for our community.

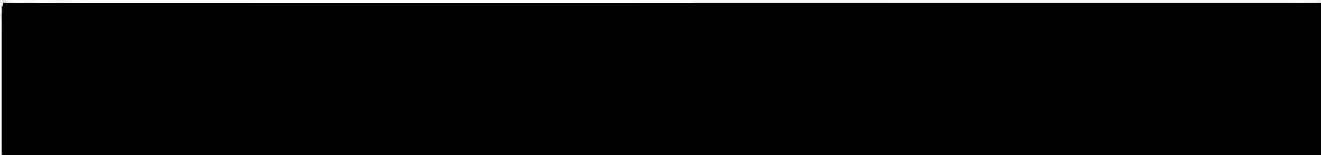
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Signed by:



Date:

6/8/19



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In regional Victoria, when land owners in their senior years become unable to manage their acreage they move into their local town where their children have gone to school, where they have shopped, attended functions, visited services such as the doctor, etc. Though they have moved house they have remained in and connected to their community.

Because there is no flexibility in the Rural Conservation Zone planning zones to alternative housing options, senior people in the Nillumbik green wedge who are moving off their land are forced to leave their community and move to a new one, usually in the suburbs. This dislocation can lead to isolation and loneliness, an emerging mental health issue for Australians.

If Nillumbik green wedge management plan's vision really is to support resilient, connected communities, serious consideration has to be given to the needs of senior people retiring off their acreage. To allow them to remain in their community there needs to be retirement options in their community centre, such as Arthurs Creek, Hurstbridge, St Andrews and Panton Hill.

What these options might be, and how they can meet environmental and conservation aims should be a consideration of the Management Plan.

Aging members of the community are acutely aware that any weakening of Rural/Conservation zones could open the floodgates to the unwanted demand for

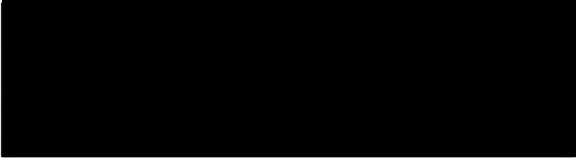
subdivision that they have fought against for decades. But there are options that have been implemented here and overseas that could be appropriate for our community.

These retirement accommodation options should be investigated with the community and be dictated by their needs and not by a developer's need of profit.

Signed by: *Sandra Verdum -*
(Amesbury)

Date: *5-8-2019*

Address:



Draft Green Wedge Management Plan for public consultation

Nillumbik Shire Council is asking the community to help prepare a new Green Wedge Management Plan. Over the last year, the community has shared their ideas and knowledge to help us understand -

What is the best way for us to manage Nillumbik's Green Wedge, now and in the future?

We've now prepared a Draft Green Wedge Management Plan and want the community's feedback.

The Draft Green Wedge Management Plan includes:

- **a vision** for the future of Nillumbik's Green Wedge
- **five key moves** for the Shire that are intended to achieve the community panel's recommendations on multiple fronts
- **principles** that informed the creation of this plan and will guide how it is to be implemented
- **goals** that describe desired overall outcomes for the community
- **specific objectives** that describe what is to be achieved in support of the goals
- **key actions** to effect change in the direction of the objectives.

Submissions

Written submissions can be made until **11.59pm on Sunday 11 August 2019**, and will be considered by Council to September, prior to finalisation and adoption.

Submissions can be made:

- via the electronic form available online at participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gwmp
- lodged in person at one of Council's staffed community facilities:
 - Council offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough
 - Hurstbridge Community Hub, 50 - Graysharps road, Hurstbridge
 - Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham
- or mailed to Attention: The Project Team, PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088

What are the next steps?

- A summary of all community engagement will be presented to Council at a Future Nillumbik Meeting in September 2019.
- Following the Future Nillumbik Meeting, the summary will be made available to the community.
- Council will consider all submissions received and will use the feedback to inform the development of the final Green Wedge Management Plan.
- The final Green Wedge Management Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in October 2019

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.' See **page 5** of the draft plan for more details about the **Vision**.

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

Yes No Partially Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

THE VISION WILL BE FINE AS LONG AS THE COUNCIL & GWMP DOES NOT FORCE FARMERS IN THE GREEN WEDGE TO CHANGE THEIR WAYS OF FARMING PRACTICES TO SUIT THE WHIMS & WAYS OF THE GREEN ELEMENT THAT TRY TO TELL US FARMERS THAT WE ARE RUINING OUR BEAUTIFUL LAND. WE ARE THE ONES THAT LOOK AFTER OUR LAND

Five Key Moves

The five Key Moves below outline organisational changes for the long-term to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan. See **page 13** of the draft plan for more details about the **five key moves**.

1. A comprehensive landowner's 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.

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 principles informed the creation of the Green Wedge Management Plan and will guide its implementation. See **page 19** of the draft plan more for details about each of the Principles.

To what extent do you agree with the Principles that are designed to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

| Principles | 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?

THE NILLUMBİK SHIRE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO ADJUST THE GREEN WEDGE TO SUIT THE REST OF MELBOURNE'S POPULATION.

Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

The Plan includes five goals which describe the desired overall outcomes for the community.

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities

See **page 24** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 1**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Goal 2: Active and creative people

See **page 27** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 2**.

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 / Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments

See **pages 32-33** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 3**

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

THE CWMP & COUNCIL TAKE MORE NOTICE OF THE CFA & THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AS WHAT TO DO AS FAR AS FIRE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY TOO MUCH BUSH & UNDERGROWTH AROUND HOUSES. IN THE SHIRE, THERE IS SUCH A THING AS COMMON SENSE TO BE ALLOWED TO BE USED ON YOUR OWN PROPERTIES TO CLEAN UP AROUND YOUR PROPERTY TO REDUCE FIRE

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

See **pages 38-39** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for

Goal 4.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO MAKE IT EASIER & CHEAPER WAY TO APPLY FOR PLANNING PERMITS BUILDING PERMITS ETC. NILLUMBIK COUNCIL & SOME OF THE OFFICE STAFF GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO MAKE IT HARDER & MORE COSTLY FOR PEOPLE TO DO SOME THINGS ON THEIR LAND. IE AFTER A BUSINESS YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO REBUILD ON THE SAME LOCATION ON YOUR LAND IF YOU WANT TO, NOT BE FORCED TO BUILD ON SOME OTHER PORTION OF THEIR PROPERTY

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

See **page 41** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 5**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

my comments are farming areas be allowed to stay as they are or put into a CWZ zone & not be controlled by the CWMP plan

Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan?

more subdivision could be allowed in certain areas, there are not enough trees on some farm land which ~~is not~~ is not possible to make a living of because it is very marginal country. 20 acre lots would mean a lot more trees would be planted in the area. if more beautification more ~~shade~~ shade, council should make landowners clear their land of noxious weeds ie: blackberry etc

Please attached any further pages you would like to include in your feedback.

Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting

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**?

Yes No

To register to speak, you will need to complete the online form at nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call **9433 3271**.

Contact details

Please provide the following contact details. This will allow us to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or if we need to clarify any details of your feedback.

Name:

LINDSAY BRAIN

P

Email:

Phone:

Privacy Statement

Nillumbik Shire Council is collecting your information for the purpose of clarifying details of feedback received on the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan. The information provided will not be shared with third parties unless we are required to or permitted to by law. This information is being collected in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. If all the requested information is not provided, Nillumbik Shire Council will be unable to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or to clarify details of your feedback. You may access your information by contact Council's Privacy Officer 03 9433 3111 or by email privacy@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

The vision for Nillumbik's green wedge, as stated in the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, is for the management of the Nillumbik green wedge to "lead the way in supporting a vibrant, resilient, connected and diverse community" (p. 5) and for Nillumbik "to become Australia's most liveable shire with: engaged, connected communities" (p. 7), and like the rest of Australia, that community is getting older.

The demographic change that is facing Nillumbik needs to be factored into the management of the Green Wedge in a creative way.

Many of our residents in rural and conservation zones have lived and worked on their properties all their lives, and some have connections to the land here for several generations.

They care about the environment and value the space around them. Of equal importance to them is being part of a close community. They know their neighbours and many members of the community through working with them to benefit the community through such things as Landcare, the local CFA, and fundraising activities to support the local hall or primary school. They know that, should they need it, the community will support them just as they will support others.

In regional Victoria, when land owners in their senior years become unable to manage their acreage they move into their local town where their children have gone to school, where they have shopped, attended functions, visited services such as the doctor, etc. Though they have moved house they have remained in and connected to their community.

Because there is no flexibility in the Rural Conservation Zone planning zones to alternative housing options, senior people in the Nillumbik green wedge who are moving off their land are forced to leave their community and move to a new one, usually in the suburbs. This dislocation can lead to isolation and loneliness, an emerging mental health issue for Australians.

If Nillumbik green wedge management plan's vision really is to support resilient, connected communities, serious consideration has to be given to the needs of senior people retiring off their acreage. To allow them to remain in their community there needs to be retirement options in their community centre, such as Arthurs Creek, Hurstbridge, St Andrews and Panton Hill.

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Aging members of the community are acutely aware that any weakening of Rural/Conservation zones could open the floodgates to the unwanted demand for

subdivision that they have fought against for decades. But there are options that have been implemented here and overseas that could be appropriate for our community.

These retirement accommodation options should be investigated with the community and be dictated by their needs and not by a developer's need of profit.

Signed by



Date:

6.8.19

Address:

Deanna & Gary Finn



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Signed by:

[Redacted signature]

Date:

8-8-2019

Brian R. Stuble

Address:

[Redacted address]

ADDRESS

[Redacted address]

CAROLE STUBLEY

8/8/2019

[Redacted address]

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

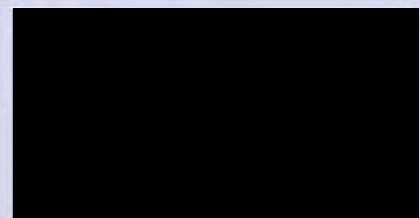
activities respect the land. It also means that residents will be informed about the piggery etc proposed for next door.

- 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,

Name *Frank Dempsey*
Address 



31.07.2018

Dear Nillumbik GWMP Team,

I **DO NOT** support the draft GWMP for the following reasons:

Vision

There needs to be more emphasis on flora and fauna protection. Every sentence in this document allows for its demise if something more important comes up.

Key Moves

More about species extinction is needed.

Principles

The GWMP needs to reaffirm the shire's conservation role. The council's "Business as Usual" approach is not good enough.

Engaged Connected Communities

I'm glad volunteers are celebrated in the GWMP but I would like to see more specific support for pet and wildlife volunteers. There are land management grants available for individuals and landcare groups but there does not seem to be any money available for those that spend their own time and money rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife or supporting abandoned pets. Please add more recognition and value to these groups.

Active and Creative People

The community survey wants the environment protected to contribute towards active and creative people. That "space, peace and healthy feel" will need protecting if we want it there for years to come.



Responses: 1012

Safe and Healthy 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." The draft GWMP ignores this priority.

- More about wildlife is needed.

Prosperous Economy

- The current budget allocation (in the 2019 budget) for this section is 1.55% so I question how sincere Council is with this big section?
- I do not support any animal agriculture in the shire, the impact on the environment is devastating. I would support sustainable plant based farming such as *Hurstbridge Farmgate*.
- Council's Draft argues that to start farming in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), no permit should be required. The need for a permit in this zone should **remain**.
- 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; the need to transform to an ecologically sustainable society.
- Developing the economy and tourism will come at a cost to our wildlife and this needs to be recognised and budgeted for. Please add specific objectives and action points.

Leadership

- Leadership is key for environmental protection as long term solutions are required. 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 - painting a bleak outlook for the state's native plants and animals; concerning the impact on biodiversity of horses, grazing and bushfire protection on private land; that more private land needs to be conserved; and the two global crises of climate change and biodiversity extinction.

Comments

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 future generations.

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

Name *ATANU E. LENCH*

Signature

Address/St

E-

DRAFT GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

SUBMISSION

FROM: ANDREW BEAN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

This submission specifically relates to the need for this council to address the low rate base and consequent lack of revenue and the under utilization of vital transport and town services that exists in a small section of the shire.

The area proposed is the corridor between Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge including the hamlet of Wattle Glen.

Existing infrastructure along this corridor includes:

- A soon to be expanded rail service with the potential for additional stations and parking
- A bus service with multiple stops
- A wide well-constructed bitumen road with bicycle lanes on both sides
- Recently upgraded mains water
- Domestic gas supply
- A large capacity sewerage system

The proposal involves the creation of a **buffer zone** such as the one that exists around Eltham that would extend up the corridor with its western boundary being Broadgully Rd and its Eastern boundary being Flatrock Rd. It would extend from Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge with a “bubble” around the township.

The **buffer zone** would allow a variety of block sizes ranging in size from 1 to 2 Hectares depending on the terrain and proximity to roads and services.

The positives of this proposal are many and include:

- Utilization of existing infrastructure and services
- Relieving the growing pressure on the shires existing residential centres caused by infill and multi-unit developments
- Allowing older owners of large allotments to downsize the area of land they have to maintain while still remaining in their homes. It also allows other family to return to their family land build their own home and be close enough to care for and help older family members.
- Increase in rate base and therefore revenue for council
- The smaller allotments would be far more popular meaning their value would equal or even exceed the existing 8 Hectare blocks there by increasing rate revenue
- The agricultural value of the land is low with the majority being low lying dry hills with a very stable mud rock base ideal for building. It would include some fertile creek flats currently used for grazing but this is only a small percentage of the overall proposed area and there is a huge potential for recreational pursuits.
- The majority of land on the Eastern side of the corridor is in large allotments and owned by long term owners who would look at this proposal favourably

- The rezoning of this area would enable the council to acquire the creek flats as public open space and develop them into a huge recreational corridor complementing the existing yet to be completed trail. There is potential for income producing facilities utilizing these flats and adjacent foot hills such as a Golf course, Equestrian centre, Velodrome and Mountain Bike Track to name a few. Unlike the yet to be completed trail owners would not have to be put through the stress and anger of having their land taken by compulsory acquisition

This proposal would mean abolishing the RCZ which the council considers a difficult and complicated matter. The RCZ is the bane of all landowners affected by it and easily the issue that annoys us the most. It does not exist in any of the other Green Wedges and this proves it is unnecessary and its removal shire wide should be the first task of the new management plan.

If removing the RCZ is complicated then the sooner the process is started the sooner it is done.

The area I am proposing is only a small section of the overall shire and parts of it already contain smaller lots from earlier sub divisions. It will leave the rural areas to the north and east untouched (which many consider to be the true Green Wedge) but at the same time enhancing the liveability of the buffer zone with its many recreational facilities and natural bush settings while contributing to the council's financial viability.

I hope my contribution proves helpful and I thank the council for the opportunity to make a submission

Andrew Bean

Submission 741
Roadsides and Roadside Ecology
Northern Nillumbik (RARE NN)

From: [sue.mckinnon](mailto:sue.mckinnon@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [council.nillumbik](mailto:council.nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)
Subject: Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 9:55:00 PM
Attachments: [rare_submission_gwmp_mel_JM_ST_SM.pdf.pdf](#)

To the GWMP team
Please see submission from community group RARE NN (Roadsides and Roadside Ecology Northern Nillumbik)
Regards
Sue McKinnon
Contact for RARE submission
Mel Nelson
[REDACTED]

Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan
Roads and Roadside Ecology Northern Nillumbik (RARE) Submission

Contact person

Mel Nelson

Email 

Dear Nillumbik GWMP Team, this submission is written by and represents the Roads and Roadside Ecology Northern Nillumbik (RARE) group.

RARE **DO NOT** support the draft GWMP for the following reasons:

Vision

RARE would like to see more meaningful protection for our native plants and animals around our existing roadsides. The first priority should be to maintain and enhance the diversity of indigenous flora and fauna habitats and links. To achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of native vegetation for the continued sustenance of our unique eco-system.

Key Moves

This section needs more specific reference to environmental protection and actions. It needs to refer to the fact that our unique assets in this shire are the huge range of biodiversity it accommodates. Biodiversity that needs our protection. We need to halt the rate our native flora and fauna are sliding towards extinction and this needs to happen at a local level. This aim should be explicitly stated.

Documentation needs to be made available online such documentation in regards to roadsides should include:

All new infrastructure plans including footpaths and trails

- Nillumbik Council tree register for trees removed along roadsides as described in the Tree Management Guidelines 2015
- Documentation of roadside maintenance plans to show that roadsides are treated in accord with their environmental significance as described in the Nillumbik Roadside Management Plan 2012.
- Roadside Tree removal plans with arborist assessments. And all roadside tree removals and significant pruning works have documented Level 3 arborist assessment reports available online.
- Compliance of planned Trails with the 2011 trail strategy.
- Compliance of all infrastructure work with the Australian Standards 4970—2009 Protection of trees on development sites and Planning Schedule clause 52.17 without exemption by amendments.

Council advocacy – include in Key Moves

Yan Yean Rd advocacy

- Nillumbik Council advocacy for NO RE-DIRECTION of traffic from the north onto Yan Yean Rd.
- Nillumbik Council advocacy for compliance with Nillumbik Local Planning Framework Clause 21.05

VicRoads advocacy

- Undertake road speed review to ensure speeds are appropriate and are not causing wildlife road toll and possible related human road toll. Undertake regular assessment of traffic volume to ascertain if areas are becoming routes for through traffic for residents coming from other shires through Nillumbik. As a Green Wedge Council we need to protect the wildlife by controlling through traffic (suggest by speed) we also need to protect roadside vegetation from pressures to widen road – again it is speed control that will reduce this pressure.
- Advocate to VicRoads to allow lower speeds within shire roads in order to protect our flora and fauna and our residents. Default rural speed limits on rural roads need to be reviewed as the urban fringe location means that the roads here which have some rural characteristics which define them as ‘rural roads’ are not the same as rural roads in the country areas. Unlike country areas, our roads have significant commuter traffic and traffic from neighbouring densely populated areas travelling and commuting on these roads.

Key Moves – Sustainability

Infrastructure projects will all be assessed under the Sustainability Rating for infrastructure Projects and all consumption materials such as road building materials be recycled where available. All infrastructure to be designed in compliance with Melbourne Water Water sensitive urban design guidelines

Principles

In this section it appears that the best we are going to do for the environment is –“*we need to anticipate and avoid any actions that may cause serious or irreversible harm to the environment and the people who live within it*”. Council processes which may impact the environment need to be put through a rigorous evaluation to determine that none of these processes may cause serious loss irreversible environmental harm. If it is assessed that they may, then the process must be changed or ceased. The evaluation must be transparent and proactively encompass all processes and works which may impact on the environment in a serious or irreversible manner

Engaged Connected Communities

RARE recognises the need for rural residents to stay connected and endorses Council advocating for improved public transport (Action 1.9) and transport sharing options. It is very unclear what the rest of the document is advocating for in terms of improved transport as it is mentioned in several places such as “economy” with no real context or actions. RARE would not support the loss of roadside vegetation to accommodate increased traffic flows.

RARE is happy that this section recognises local volunteers. RARE would like to see more help and support for our wildlife volunteers.

- Wildlife carers need an IT system that all users can access, that allows the public to easily log accidents. A centralised system accessible to Council and registered volunteers to allow people to easily call in and/or log accidents.
- This can also be used to log hot spots and even ‘stocktake” wildlife.
- Wildlife carers need reduced speed limits where wildlife is active or where roads have been built across their paths and habitat links.
- Wildlife carers need education and communication program about wildlife behaviour and the importance of respecting it.
- Wildlife carers need Council to set an example of that respect. This could be helped, in part, by recognising the wildlife volunteers.

Wildlife carers need to see funding allocated in the budget for the items above that require it.

Engagement is not possible without information :

- Availability of documentation online will facilitate engagement and transparency. Documentation which should be available online include:
- All plans and processes relating to roads and roadsides.
- Plans for roadside tree works, footpaths and trails.
- Refer to the existing neighbourhood character statements and township strategies for all new infrastructure. Develop new ones for those towns which don’t have them in consultation with community

Active and Creative People

- Protecting our biodiversity and ecology should be a top priority as this sets the scene for all of the health benefits stated in the plan.
- Cultural and environmental heritage may be enhanced by recognising officially the significance of all plants and plat communities over 100 years old on publicly owned land

Safe and Healthy Environment

- This needs to spell out the actions for protecting our environmental assets around our roadsides.
- It should include what Council are prepared to take action on to protect wildlife and how that may be funded.
- Advocacy for reduced speed on our roads including all hours and dawn to dusk hours.
- Advocacy for wildlife crossing structures to be installed on our roads.

Prosperous Economy

- Developing the economy and tourism will come at a cost to our wildlife and this is not the role of the Council.
- Council need to ensure wildlife toll from ever increasing traffic is reduced .
- RARE would also like to understand if any future transport infrastructure will impact existing eco systems.
- Trails planned should be in keeping with the 2011 trail strategy. The Australian Standards 4970—2009 Protection of trees on development sites and Planning Schedule clause 52.17 to be adhered to for all trails without exemption by amendments.

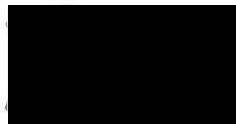
Leadership

- Moving leadership towards the “empowering end of the spectrum” does not sounds like a robust plan for environmental protection? This sounds as though we are going to let people do as they see fit – and the environment rarely comes out well with a framework like this.

Comments

- The decline in our biodiversity is at critical levels – this should be explicitly addressed with explicit actions – NO TRADE OFFS.
- The plan should address the Shires conservation role for all Melbournians.

Signed



Date 11/8/19

Address/Suburb RARE community group c/o Sue McKinnon



Contact person Mel Nelson Email



From: [Jim Connor](#) [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [nillumbik](#)
Subject: Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019 - Jim Connor
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 2:12:46 PM

Submission by:

Jim Connor
[REDACTED]

This is my Submission on Nillumbik's Draft Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019

1. I do not support the draft Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan, 2019 and believe the current GWMP should be retained.
2. If this current plan is not to be retained then the views and ideas contained in the Majority Report from Council's promoted consultation panel process should be accurately and completely reflected in any revised GWMP. The later Minority Report should not be considered.
3. The current Urban Growth Boundary must be strictly adhered to as a hard boundary, with no softening of controls or permitted uses around the edges.
4. No changes should occur to zoning that would impact negatively on the environment and buffer zones must not be introduced.
5. Rural Conservation Zoned land must be protected and maintained and the current zoning retained, with no changes to local planning zones.
6. The GWMP must provide for stronger vegetation controls and protection, especially to help offset the loss of canopy tree cover resulting from intensive subdivisions and residential development in urban areas of Nillumbik.
7. Actual practical environmental protection needs to be reinforced in the GWMP, not reduced and watered down. The natural environment of the Green Wedge, including flora and fauna are highly valued.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

cheers

Jim Connor
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: gwnp@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Subject: Protecting the Green Wedge
Date: Sunday, 11 August 2019 10:03:27 AM

I am emailing to say that it would be a disaster for the natural environment and the liveability of Nillumbik if the Green Wedge is compromised in any way.

I have lived in this part of the world for nearly 70 years and I have seen the disappearance of vast tracts of bushland and farmland, including the Montmorency Bush, the bush off Old Eltham Road where my class from Lower Plenty State School went on Nature Study excursions and big chunks of bush in Eltham North.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for over 40 years now and the exponential threats to our local environment from global warming, deer and private landowners destroying good bush by running horses through it have created a situation where the whole local ecology is at risk.

The Council must act to save what we have left AS ITS TOP PRIORITY.

Robbo Bennetts

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] from my iPhone

Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

I do not support the draft GWMP

I do not support zoning or permit changes in 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.

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 this zoning should only be applied to land with higher conservation values. This 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 plan 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.

Name/Signature

CATH MURPHY /

Address/Suburb

E-mail

Nillumbik Draft Green Wedge Management Plan Submission

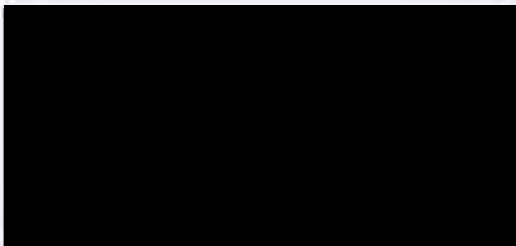
I do not support the draft GWMP

I would like to see more recognition of the state of the climate globally and how Nillumbik could contribute to climate change mitigation (I have heard planting trees is very useful) . The current document seems to gloss over the fact that climate change is putting so much pressure on the already fragile ecosystem that supports our green wedge. 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. It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global".

Nillumbik Council should take this very valuable and timely opportunity to publicly recognise and act at a local level. This document does not have any brave actions, there is nothing we could offer as class leading. 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 which will address this problem to ensure the long term health of the Green Wedge.

It appears to have less protection than the current plan which has seen biodiversity loss. This would indicate that a new plan should have more protection included. The draft plan does not provide enough certainty for the long term protection of the natural environment within the Nillumbik green wedge.

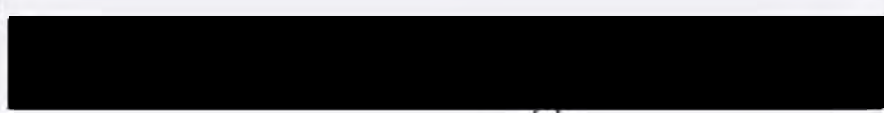
The draft plan should do more to acknowledge the importance of all indigenous vegetation and address the urgent need to conserve it across the Shire, on private and public land. The community must work together to focus on increasing habitat for wildlife and connectivity; preserving biodiversity; valuing what ecosystems provide; developing a 'systems view' (that ALL is interdependent); 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.



Address/S



E-mail



Draft Green Wedge Management Plan for public consultation

Nillumbik Shire Council is asking the community to help prepare a new Green Wedge Management Plan. Over the last year, the community has shared their ideas and knowledge to help us understand -

What is the best way for us to manage Nillumbik's Green Wedge, now and in the future?

We've now prepared a Draft Green Wedge Management Plan and want the community's feedback.

The Draft Green Wedge Management Plan includes:

- **a vision** for the future of Nillumbik's Green Wedge
- **five key moves** for the Shire that are intended to achieve the community panel's recommendations on multiple fronts
- **principles** that informed the creation of this plan and will guide how it is to be implemented
- **goals** that describe desired overall outcomes for the community
- **specific objectives** that describe what is to be achieved in support of the goals
- **key actions** to effect change in the direction of the objectives.

Submissions

Written submissions can be made until **11.59pm on Sunday 11 August** 2019, and will be considered by Council to September, prior to finalisation and adoption.

Submissions can be made:

- via the electronic form available online at participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gwmp
- lodged in person at one of Council's staffed community facilities:
 - Council offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough
 - Hurstbridge Community Hub, 50 - Graysharps road, Hurstbridge
 - Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham
- or mailed to Attention: The Project Team, PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088

What are the next steps?

- A summary of all community engagement will be presented to Council at a Future Nillumbik Meeting in September 2019.
- Following the Future Nillumbik Meeting, the summary will be made available to the community.
- Council will consider all submissions received and will use the feedback to inform the development of the final Green Wedge Management Plan.
- The final Green Wedge Management Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in October 2019

Submitted 13/8/19 as online submission didn't go through when I attempted to send it last week

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.' See **page 5** of the draft plan for more details about the **Vision**.

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

Yes No Partially Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

WE feel *in Agricultural & Hospitality Businesses*
ZONING should be appropriate to already established Land use.

Please see Re "Other comments" at the end of this form.

Sorry it is a bit messy as this was a last minute thing.

If you have any trouble with the writing on the last page - feel free to contact me.

Thanks - Best Regards, Donally Kwak

Five Key Moves

The five Key Moves below outline organisational changes for the long-term to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan. See **page 13** of the draft plan for more details about the **five key moves**.

1. A comprehensive landowner's 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.

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 principles informed the creation of the Green Wedge Management Plan and will guide its implementation. See **page 19** of the draft plan more for details about each of the Principles.

To what extent do you agree with the Principles that are designed to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

| Principles | 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?

Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

The Plan includes five goals which describe the desired overall outcomes for the community.

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities

See **page 24** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 1**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Goal 2: Active and creative people

See **page 27** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 2**.

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 / Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments

See **pages 32-33** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 3**

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

See **pages 38-39** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for

Goal 4.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

See **page 41** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 5**.

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?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

* Rated by Trip advisor - ^{No.} 131 out of 496 things to do in Melbourne

* Chosen by MASTERCARD AS one of T special destinations in Australia to experience

DOROTHY KWAK - [redacted]

Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan?

* We feel zoning for agriculture + hospitality businesses should be appropriate For established HAND USE.

As a Family owned + founded winery (land bought 1973 + vines planted 1988) + continually functioning agriculture + hospitality - winery - business in Nillumbik - we wanted to leave our comments re. ZONING OVERLAYS page 40 + 45 in the proposed Framework mentioned that zoning needs to be appropriate in the areas it has been overlaid. We are a good example, as grape vines were already growing when an overlay was put on that paddock saying it should be only indigenous native vegetation. We have been making wine from these vines for 30 yrs. now.

Please attached any further pages you would like to include in your feedback.

Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting

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**?

Yes No

To register to speak, you will need to complete the online form at nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call **9433 3271**.

The overlay over our house, (built 1973) and winery buildings - built in the 1990's states that "function centres" prohibited.

Every weekend for almost 20 years the winery buildings have been enjoyed by locals + outside tourists for wine tasting + food - we are a major drawcard to the area in terms of tourism + hospitality including celebratory events.

Many people - locals + outsiders use wineries to celebrate all kinds of events - essentially called functions. Even if we are not running what could be termed a "function" - the number of visitors on the property could exceed 50 people at one time.



Thanks Regards Dorothy Kwak

Contact details

Please provide the following contact details. This will allow us to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or if we need to clarify any details of your feedback.

Name:

Postal Address:

Email:

Phone:

Privacy Statement

Nillumbik Shire Council is collecting your information for the purpose of clarifying details of feedback received on the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan. The information provided will not be shared with third parties unless we are required to or permitted to by law. This information is being collected in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. If all the requested information is not provided, Nillumbik Shire Council will be unable to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or to clarify details of your feedback. You may access your information by contact Council's Privacy Officer 03 9433 3111 or by email privacy@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

From: Lucienne Harrison (DELWP) [REDACTED] >

Sent: Thursday, 15 August 2019 1:51 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: DELWP comment on draft Nillumbik GWMP

Dear Geoff and Nichole,

Thank you for your invitation to the department to provide feedback on the draft Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) 2019.

The department supports council's intent to regularly review and update strategic policies and notes the significant work undertaken to prepare the draft currently on consultation. Strengthening protection and management of green wedge land is a focus of the state government as outlined in *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*.

We have reviewed the draft GWMP in light of the existing Nillumbik GWMP completed in 2010, along with the requirements for the preparation and form and structure of GWMPs as outlined in the state government's Planning Practice Note 31: Preparing a Green Wedge Management Plan (PPN31). In particular, the Department would like to make the following observations:

- It is a key principle of a GWMP to ensure alignment with Victorian State Government policies and strategies. It is current state government policy to ensure new residential development is concentrated within existing settlements and townships and this is reinforced in council's local planning policy framework at Clause 21.05. It is noted that the revised draft GWMP suggests council may have to "re-examine" this strategic policy direction (pp.22).
- It is also noted there are differences in the level of clarity of strategic guidance provided to discretionary uses and development when comparing the draft GWMP with the existing GWMP currently in place.

It is further noted that a significant number of key implementation actions, including three of the five overall "key moves", are dependent upon external funding sources. The department is keen to promote the development of independently robust and resilient GWMPs and implementation actions that are able to be delivered primarily by council and in partnership with key local stakeholders. While the department is committed to supporting local policy and programs, it suggests council further consider the viability of an approach that nominates a significant number of implementation actions to be reliant on external funding.

The department is happy to meet with council officers to discuss its comments if required. Please contact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for further enquiries.

Yours sincerely

Lucienne Harrison

