

# Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes



**Date:** Wednesday 31 July 2019  
**Time:** 7.00pm – 9.00pm  
**Venue:** Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Greensborough  
**Chair:** Cr Grant Brooker  
**Minute taker:** Lisa Pittle

## 1. Welcome

Present: Cr Grant Brooker, Lisa Pittle, Kirsten Reedy, John Huf, Narelle Campbell, , David Turner, Alan Thatcher, Tom Fisher, Stephen Hadley

Apologies: Cr Jane Ashton, John Brenan, Areej Hashmi-Weyman

## 2. Conflict of interest

Conflict of interest provisions are contained in section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the Councillor's Governance Code, the Employee Code of Conduct and the Volunteer Handbook.

## 3. Confirmation of minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10 July 2019.

Moved: Alan Thatcher

Seconded: Tom Fisher

## 4. Draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Review of draft ESAC response to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

The subcommittee including Tom Fisher, Narelle Campbell, Alan Thatcher and John Huf met between 10 and 31 July to draft the ESAC response based on the members individual submissions.

Discussion of the draft and process for finalising the submission:

- The Committee agreed on the substance of the draft.
- Tom Fisher volunteered to do final editing based on the discussion at this meeting.
- Editing includes strengthening the requirement for Council to respond to aspects of the submission, improve logical flow heirarchy and general tidying of repetition.
- Alan and Narelle to articulate 'wicked problems' as case studies of 100 words.
- Final draft to be sent to Lisa by Monday 5 August and circulated to the committee on the same day. Committee members will need to provide

approval by Thursday 8 August to Lisa. ESAC response will be submitted on Friday 9 August.

Discussion of the way in which the ESAC submission will be reviewed as part of the community engagement process:

- The ESAC submission will be a public document as it will be tabled at a Council meeting as part of the normal Committee reporting process.
- As a submission to the draft GWMP consultation, the ESAC submission will have the same status as all other submissions.

**5. Opportunity to share information about community environment and sustainability initiatives (10 min)**

**6. Other business (10 min)**

- a. Tom raised the change of language in the ESAC Terms of Reference – specifically the change from environmental sustainability to environment, land management and sustainability. This appears to broaden the scope of the committee.
- b. ESAC Committee renewal update – Kirsten provided an update on the renewal process.
- c. Caring for our local environment grants – community led projects to be funded through a grant process. Also funding the ‘Gardens for Wildlife’ project which has its first forum on 28 August.
- d. Tree cover mapping – Living Melbourne – to be circulated with minutes.
- e. Spring Outdoors brochures available in hard copy and on the website.
- f. Wildlife Victoria have now linked to the Snap Send Solve app to enable people to record wildlife deaths on roads.
- g. Small lots review update - officers are continuing to conduct research for the review and there is currently no timeframe for presentation to Council.
- h. Update on SKM closure.
- i. Update on Victorian government’s Ewaste landfill ban and Nillumbik’s response.

**7. Meeting dates 2019**

Wednesday 21 August 2019 – Renewable energy

Wednesday 16 October 2019

Wednesday 11 December 2019

**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Report to Council on the *Draft for Consultation: Green Wedge Management Plan***  
**8 August 2019**

## Introduction

Council's Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee ('the Committee' or 'ESAC') has certain responsibilities according to the Objectives contained in its Terms of Reference:

Terms of Reference (March 2017 – March 2019)	Terms of Reference (May 2019 to current)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising environmental issues of interest and concern for Nillumbik for information to, and consideration by, Council on all aspects of the environment.</li> <li>• Assist in the preparation or review of key environmental sustainability strategies and policies.</li> <li>• Provide input and advice to Council on issues of environmental sustainability.</li> <li>• Check the progress of the Green Wedge Management Plan implementation including environmental, economic and social impacts.</li> <li>• Provide coordination, liaison and communication with other Council advisory groups and key external stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising issues of interest and concern for Nillumbik for information to, and consideration by, Council on all aspects concerning environment and sustainability.</li> <li>• Assist in the preparation or review of key environmental, land management and sustainability strategies and policies.</li> <li>• Provide input and advice to Council on issues of environment, land management and sustainability.</li> <li>• Check the progress of actions in the Green Wedge Management Plan with regard to environment and sustainability outcomes.</li> <li>• Provide coordination, liaison and communication with other Council advisory groups and key external stakeholders.</li> </ul>

To meet these objectives, ESAC has given considerable time and thought to preparing a response to the *Draft for Consultation: Green Wedge Management Plan* ('the Draft').

- ESAC spent more than an hour in discussion with Geoff Lawler about the Draft at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June.
- Members then circulated individual written responses to the Committee, which were discussed at a subsequent special meeting on 10 July 2019.
- A sub-committee then consolidated these points at the special meeting to create a draft response.
- The committee considered the draft response at a third meeting on 31 July 2019 to suggest amendments and finally forward this agreed text to Council.

ESAC followed the principles articulated in its 'Agreed Ways of Working' (20 Sept 2017), including a preference for consensus, allowing for dissenting opinions to be acknowledged.

Our formal response is organised under five headings that contain observations and recommendations concerning the Draft and about which ESAC expects a response from Council:

1. Things we liked
2. Greater emphasis needed

3. Concerns
4. Accountability, resources and tracking
5. Technical and editorial matters

### **HIGHLIGHTS (WHAT WE LIKED)**

Foremost among the items Committee members highlighted are the following aspects of the Draft, though several require more nuanced comments which appear elsewhere in other sections of this report:

1. A 'friendly' style and presentation, including its conceptual framework, plain language, and simplicity of its goals, all of which promoted reader accessibility.
2. An acknowledgment that stewardship of the Green Wedge is shared primarily between Council and landowners and those living in this area and that a constructive relationship among the parties is vital to the sustainability and ongoing viability of the Green Wedge for the benefit of all residents in the Shire. We welcome the implementation of innovative measures such as the Green Wedge Conversation Program to build trust and co-operation across the community as a whole.
3. A clear appreciation of the place of the Green Wedge within the wider scope of State legislation limiting Council's unilateral actions, while recognising the inadequate resourcing from the State to the contribution the Nillumbik Green Wedge makes to the health of Melbourne.
4. An explicit recognition of the role of Traditional Custodians
5. An acknowledgement of both the risk of bushfires and the importance of an accurate stocktake of biodiversity
6. A vision that attempts to balance the interests of 'people' and 'place'
7. The reiteration of the Precautionary Principle as stated in the existing Green Wedge Management Plan (Part 2, page 8) designed to 'anticipate the possibility of detrimental social, health or environmental outcomes of any action and act to avoid serious or irreversible harm'

### **GREATER EMPHASIS NEEDED**

The Committee also identified certain areas that require greater emphasis.

8. The Green Wedge Management Plan ('the Plan') is a Shire-wide planning document – particularly relating to People and Place. Many residents in the urban areas of the Shire identify with and value the lifestyle qualities of the Green Wedge, but the focus of the Plan must be on the Green Wedge itself.

***Recommended Action A: More specific focus on the Green Wedge area and the townships located within it.***

9. Greater acknowledgment that the ‘rebalance’ between People and Place will be welcomed by some Green Wedge residents, who have felt ignored or devalued by the previous plan, but also will displease others, who place greater emphasis on the maintenance and enhancement of the current natural environment.

***Recommended Action B: More explicit recognition of this important difference in viewpoints.***

10. The Shire is well known for its high levels of community engagement. The Draft proposes to tap into these qualities through measures aimed at encouraging and empowering the community to take greater shared responsibility with the Council for the management of the Green Wedge. The outcome envisaged by the Draft would be a more culturally tolerant community bound by common interests rather than fixed positions of difference. Nevertheless, the Committee has reservations about the effectiveness of any community-wide ‘healing’ process, given the history of deep-seated community division and lack of civility, despite well-intentioned interventions. A ‘Conversations’ program certainly is worth trying, if properly and appropriately resourced.

***Recommended Action C: Combine the intimate scale of the ‘St Andrews’ Conversations’ with the provision of ‘expert’ information of the larger-scale ‘Melbourne/Sydney Conversations’ in introducing a ‘Green Wedge Conversations’ program.***

11. The management of the Green Wedge is governed by State legislation and is subject to some extent to external funding.

***Recommended Action D: Place greater emphasis on acknowledging these limiting factors in the Plan.***

12. The Draft acknowledges that the Shire’s environmental assets can contribute to a prosperous economy and could benefit from a higher profile in this segment of the Plan. However, environmental risks also may be involved.

***Recommended Action E: Give explicit recognition to the careful management of tourism, as an economic driver for instance, so as not to degrade vulnerable environments.***

13. The Draft pays insufficient attention to some issues of biodiversity.

***Recommended Action F: Give greater emphasis to the safeguarding and protection of high value biodiversity on private and public land.***

14. Some planning issues may be too complex for the general reader to grasp immediately.

***Recommended Action G: Include case studies to help clarify key issues for landowners in relation to a variety of planning and management matters, e.g. those that result in housing insecurity across the Green Wedge area. Two examples follow:***

### CASE STUDY 1: Rural Land Use

Many types of rural land use exist in the Nillumbik Green Wedge, depending on the specific way in which the landholder uses their land.

These include Amenity Lifestylers and Green Lifestylers, the former occurring where activities are undertaken for enjoyment (e.g. hobby farms) and the latter because of a passion for nature conservation (e.g. bush blocks). There also are Part-time Farmers, for whom the scale of farming falls between those of Lifestylers and Commercial Farmers and who are at least partially dependent on farm income. And there are a number of types of Commercial Farmers, for whom farming activities provide the major or sole income for the household.

It is important that this diversity of rural land use be identified and mapped in the strategic planning for future of land use and development in the Nillumbik Green Wedge. These are rural land uses that properly planned, where any proposed built development is subordinate to and supportive of nature conservation and/or soil-based farming, can be consistent with protecting the rural values that fundamentally underpin the Green Wedges.

### CASE STUDY 2: Housing Insecurity

The Nillumbik Planning Scheme (Planning Scheme) does not provide rebuild certainty and existing use protection to Green Wedge home-owners should their home be destroyed in a bushfire (or other disaster event). The risk of housing loss by fire in the Green Wedge is high. The likelihood of risk realisation is inevitable. This creates housing insecurity for Green Wedge home-owners.

Private property ownership and use is governed by laws, including the Planning Scheme. Temporary permit exemptions made by the state government available after the 2009 fires are not guaranteed in future.

Mitigating the housing insecurity risk and providing rebuild certainty for Green Wedge home-owners requires permanent changes to the Planning Scheme.

15. The Draft recognises the concern of residents to rebuild homes after bushfire but lacks detail.

***Recommended Action H: Identify the risks and critical importance of timeliness in obtaining the necessary permits and the inappropriateness of levying significant cost imposts and imposing new conditions and limitations of land use, should such a catastrophe occur.***

16. There is a need to be more explicit about resourcing and monitoring the implementation of the Plan. See below.

### **CONCERNS**

17. There is no reference to the State's suggested format for a Green Wedge Management Plan.

***Recommended Action I: Acknowledge in the 'Introduction' the State Government's Planning Practice Note 31 Preparing a Green Wedge Management Plan that provides the expected scope and content for a Green Wedge Management Plan.***

18. There is a failure to make any significant progress on major issues dividing the community.

***Recommended Action J: Directly address the central issues about which the community is divided, e.g. conflicting values between bush maintenance and repair (including wildlife corridors) and rural land usage, or between biodiversity maintenance/enhancement and bushfire mitigation or other vegetation clearing.***

19. There are important concerns in some sectors of the community that have not been explicitly addressed.

***Recommended Action K: Specifically address unresolved issues about meeting some of the basic needs of Green Wedge residents in the Green Wedge Zone and Rural Conservation Zone. These include housing security and the provisions for re-establishing residences in a timely fashion in the event of a catastrophe as well as concerns about land usage (including the right to farm).***

20. Issues of climate change deserve more attention.

***Recommended Action L: Provide specific acknowledgment of the role of local government in tackling climate change.***

21. Insufficient attention has been given to issues of biodiversity.

***Recommended Action M: Accord equal importance to biodiversity to that given to People and Place.***

22. Some Committee members believe there is a lack of transparency about how the Community Panel 80+% recommendations have been recognised and translated into the Draft.

***Recommended Action N: Make direct reference to the document produced by the Council in December 2018 entitled 'Green Wedge Management Plan – Community Panel Response to Recommendations' and to Council's detailed 'Key inputs to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan' (June 2019).***

23. The Draft's scope and direction are unclear. There is ambivalence as to whether the Draft is referring to only the Green Wedges zones or reflecting a Shire-wide approach. Strictly speaking the Green Wedge is comprised solely of those privately owned areas zoned Green Wedge Zone (GWZ) and Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) and public land zoned as reserves, special and public use (SUZ and PUZ) and National Park, but the rural townships have also been included in the Draft, leading to confusion.

***Recommended Action O: Eliminate ambivalence and increase clarity throughout Plan about exactly what areas and zones are being discussed.***

24. There is an inappropriate and misleading emphasis on rural residential land use. It is incorrect to show large areas of the Green Wedge as 'rural resident' as in the 'Rural Land Uses' map on page 25. While the RCZ allows consideration for the use of land for a dwelling, the purpose of the Zone specifically does not support residential type development.

***Recommended Action P: Revise the map to give greater clarity to these differences.***

25. The diversity of rural land usages within the Green Wedge lacks sufficient definition. These include:

- Amenity lifestyler
- Green lifestyler
- Part-time farmer
- Commercial farmer
- Green commercial farmer
- Hybrid farmer<sup>1</sup>

***Recommended Action Q: Provide clear definition and acknowledgment of the diversity of rural land uses within the Green Wedge.***

26. Council will continue to be subject to sustained pressure to relax or modify planning provisions that would degrade the values of the Green Wedge.

***Recommended Action R: Emphasise that Council must remain resolute in safeguarding against such pressures and incremental change that, over time, can irrevocably diminish the intrinsic qualities of the Green Wedge for the residents of Nillumbik and the Melbourne metropolitan area as a whole.***

## ACCOUNTABILITY, TRACKING AND RESOURCING

27. The Draft currently states:

- budget will be identified in financial reports
- performance against objectives will be reported; and
- objectives and performance measures will be incorporated into and inform all other council plans and strategies.

***Recommended Action S: Council improves the specificity of reporting, monitoring and evaluation section of the Draft.***

28. Tables are often used to provide clarity and specificity. Two examples are provided in a separate file that contains:

- Attachment 1 - Table 1: Accountability and Resourcing
- Attachment 2 - Table 2: Tracking Key Actions Suggested Approach and Listing

***Recommended Action T: Council strengthens the final Plan by articulating in tabular format specifically how its objectives and actions will be tracked, accounted for, recorded and reported against.***

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to the 'Green pegs in green wedges?' Published by the Department of Primary Industries (Victoria) and the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA, Melbourne 2008. (p43).



29. The Draft does not include performance measures.

***Recommended Action U: Council develops a meaningful and appropriate series of performance measures to assist it, and more importantly the community, to measure achievement of Plan goals, objectives and key actions over the term of the Plan. These should allow comparison with benchmark best practice, which requires performance measures to be meaningful, useful and specific.***

30. Insufficient attention is paid to governance mechanisms of the Plan.

***Recommended Action V: Council implements a best practice governance framework, including appropriate terms of reference, and an executive governance committee, so that the implementation of this Green Wedge Management Plan achieves appropriate priority over the life of its term.***

#### **TECHNICAL AND EDITORIAL MATTERS**

31. There are a number of concerns expressed by the Committee about the Draft design:

- *It is too parochial for external readers.*
- *It needs to improve the quality of the graphics.*
- *Modelled Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVCs) is valueless at the scale used in the Draft.*
- *Bushfire map is of questionable value at the scale used in the Draft.*

## ACCOUNTABILITY, TRACKING AND RESOURCING

Table 1: Accountability and Resourcing

Goal	Objectives	Key Actions	Accountable Plan	Responsible Leader	Resourcing
3. Safe and healthy environments	O3.3 Reduce the number and impact of bushfire incidents	A3.7 Finalise and implement council's draft <i>Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2023</i>	<i>Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2023</i>	Manager Emergency Services ?	Council (Maintenance & Compliance) Melbourne Water Vic Roads Parks Victoria Landowners – of private land

**Table 2: Tracking Key Actions Suggested Approach and Listing**

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
		2020	2024	2028	
<b>Goal 1.</b>					
A1.1 Create a Green Wedge Conversations program to provide local communities with a forum to discuss resilience, leadership, knowledge transfer and cooperation between people involved with land management, agriculture, nature conservation, public land management and bushfire mitigation and management. Seek ongoing government funding assistance to support the program	Manager – Health and Wellbeing? Manager – Green Wedge Land Management Information and Support Service?	Performance measure not articulated – to be developed Year 1	Report performance against base measure	Report performance against base measure	Council Health and Wellbeing? Green Wedge Land Management Information and Support Service? Public Land Managers EMV, DELWP and others Volunteers
A1.2 Implement council’s Nillumbik Volunteer Development Strategy 2015-2020	Manager – Health and Wellbeing?				Council Health and Wellbeing? Volunteers Nillumbik Residents
A1.3 Develop and manage community infrastructure for the green wedge as part of the Shire’s overall approach to service and asset management planning	Manager – Asset Management and Works				Council Asset Management and Works EMV, DELPW, Melbourne Water, Parks Vic, Community Sporting Organisations, Public Land/Facility Managers

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
					Volunteers
A1.4 Better Utilise multi-use community spaces to create community hubs in the townships	Manager – Asset Management and Works				Council Asset Management DEECD EMV/SES/CFA/Vic Pol Parks Vic, Melb Water Volunteers, Community Sporting Organisations
A1.5 Create a comprehensive planning and place management service for the townships to strengthen their identities and attractiveness as service, population, tourism, community and cultural centres	Manager – Planning Services Manager – Economic Development				Council
A1.6 Investigate options for consolidation and amalgamation of small rural lots that are not capable of supporting a dwelling in their current configuration. Where appropriate and with owner consent, consider government purchase of such lots where they are adjacent to public land	Manager – Planning Services				Council Melb Water Parks Vic Green Wedge Landowners
A1.7 Review the impacts of proximity to urban communities on rural land adjoining the urban area and investigate options to maintain the amenity and productivity of these areas	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners
A1.8 Encourage the location of aged care services within the townships and programs to facilitate people ageing in the community where they have	Manager – Health and Wellbeing Manager –				Council Department Economic

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
lived for many years. Encourage volunteer and community groups to support ageing landowners with land management, where needed. Implement Council's Positive Ageing Strategy	Economic Development				Development Australian Department of Health Aged Care Service Providers
A1.9 Advocate for improved public transport, traffic management and reduced road congestion	Manager – Asset Management and Works				Council Vic Roads Victorian Government
A1.10 Advocate for improved internet access and mobile phone coverage to support the ability to create application based services such as ride sharing and on-call transport	Manager – Health and Wellbeing	Performance measure not articulated – to be developed Year 1	Report performance against base measure	Report performance against base measure	Council NNBN Co Australian Government
A1.11 Undertake seasonal review of road conditions to improve management and review the road sealing program to ensure high use roads are prioritised.	Manager – Asset Management and Works				Council Vic Roads Victorian Government
<b>Goal 2</b>					
A2.1 Implement the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021	Manager – Health and Wellbeing				Council Volunteers Health/Wellbeing service providers Nillumbik Residents
A2.2 Review and update the Nillumbik Open Space Strategy and Recreation Strategy	Manager – Health and Wellbeing Manager Asset Management and Works				Council Community sporting organisations Nillumbik Residents Volunteers

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A2.3 Implement the Nillumbik Trails Strategy 2011	Manager – Health and Wellbeing Manager – Economic Development Manager – Asset Management and Works				Council Grants – Victorian government Grants – Commonwealth government Volunteers Community Trails Groups Nillumbik Residents Green Wedge Landowners
A2.4 Implement the Nillumbik Arts and Culture Plan 2018-2022	Manager – Asset Management and Works Manager – Economic Development				Council Grants, gifts and bequests Volunteers Arts and culture groups in the community Nillumbik Residents
A2.5 Investigate the establishment of a regional art gallery	Manager – Economic Development				Commercial, bequests and gifts Arts and culture groups and businesses in the community Volunteers
A2.6 Develop and implement a heritage interpretation plan	Manager – Strategic Planning Manager –				Council Heritage Victoria Volunteers

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
	Economic Development				Heritage groups in the community Nillumbik Residents
A2.7 Use the Nillumbik Planning Scheme as a positive means to encourage heritage conservation and management, including support of adaptive reuse of heritage places and allowing prohibited uses, if they help support the conservation of a heritage place and are in line with planning policy objectives	Manager – Strategic Planning Manager – Economic Development				DELWP Grants and seed funding to trial initiatives on viable sites Heritage groups in the community Volunteers
<b>Goal 3</b>					
A3.1 Undertake stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural activity and practices including hobby farming, that need to be protected for the future and the pests that need to be managed by sourcing information from formal research bodies and landowners. Seek government funding assistance to establish and maintain this data base into the future for landowner information program prioritisation and policy development	Manager – Strategic Planning Manager – Communications				Council DEECD Universities (LaTrobe) DELWP Grants – Victorian and Commonwealth Government Green Wedge Landowners
A3.2 Subject to the findings of the data base described by A3.1 review the Environmental Significance Overlay in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners
A3.3 Implement a whole of organisation approach to community resilience addressing climate change, emergency management, and a range of matters in an integrated manner. This	Manager – Health and Wellbeing Manager - Communications				Council EMV University partners, researchers and

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
will include robust conversations on the natural environment and biodiversity values, bushfire risk reduction, economic development, agriculture, economic and community rebuilding post events, human health, wellbeing and safety and water catchment planning.					professors. Grants Nillumbik Residents Green Wedge Landowners
A3.4 Increase and prioritise council's focus on feral animal and pest plant species reduction, education and programs on private and public land	Manager – Asset Management and Works	Performance measure not articulated – to be developed Year 1	Report performance against base measure	Report performance against base measure	Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners
A3.5 In partnership with relevant government agencies, encourage biodiversity conservation and responsible land management on public and private land by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing Council's Biodiversity Strategy 2012; Roadside Management Plan, and Invasive Species Action Plan 2015</li> <li>Supporting Landcare and Friends groups</li> <li>Providing an advisory service for land management</li> <li>Providing rebates for Trust for Nature covenanted land and agriculture with a land management plan</li> <li>Delivering Council's land management incentive program and other conservation protection projects</li> <li>Administering state planning policies that apply to native vegetation and</li> <li>Delivering targeted environmental and sustainability education experiences</li> </ul>	Manager – Communications Manager – Strategic Planning Manager – Asset Management and Works				Victorian government agencies (DELWP, EMV, DEECD etc) Council Green Wedge Landowners



Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
<p>A3.6 In conjunction with key stakeholders, review Council’s approach to climate change to develop a best practice response. This will incorporate our statutory requirements and respond to all key state government frameworks but will need to remain agile and adaptive to changing policy settings. It will adopt an integrated approach that brings together the key local issues that have been identified in every goal in this plan. This will result in either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An updated climate change action plan and/or</li> <li>• A new climate change and community resilience strategic framework build from a local context that recognises the unique features of our communities, it’s landscapes and natural environment. It will be informed by appropriate evidence, independent expertise and strong community participation</li> </ul>	Manager – Strategic Planning				DELWP EMV Council University partners Nillumbik residents Green Wedge Landowners
A3.7 Finalise and implement council’s draft Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2023	Manager – Strategic Planning				EMV Council Green Wedge Landowners Township Landowners (BMO)
A3.8 Advocate for improved mobile and broadband connectivity to help improve the ability to communicate information and improve community safety, particularly to those most vulnerable during extreme weather events (See	Manager – Strategic Planning				EMV Council Victorian Government Australian

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A1.10)					Government
A3.9 AS part of a future review of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme consider identified landscape character and quality through the current policies and overlays that apply	Manager – Strategic Planning				DELWP Council Green Wedge Landowners
A3.10 Consider, through development approvals and management of Council property, the limitation of light spill not directly associated with safety or community activity to reduce impacts on nocturnal animals and the night time amenity of the landscape	Manager – Planning				Council Green Wedge Landowners
A3.11 Investigate opportunities to support community based renewable energy solutions	Manager – Strategic Planning	Performance measure not articulated – to be developed Year 1	Report performance against base measure	Report performance against base measure	Council Victorian Government Volunteers Commercial providers
A3.12 Promote water sensitive design, balance amenity uses of our waterways with environmental considerations, and balance demand for private use of water flows through extraction and diversity with broader community and environmental considerations	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELPW Melbourne Water Nillumbik residents
A3.13 Finalise and implement Council’s Domestic Waste Water Management Plan 2019	Manager – Planning				Council Nillumbik residents Green Wedge Landowners Nillumbik Landowners
<b>Goal 4</b>					

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A4.1 Finalise and implement a new Nillumbik Economic Development Strategy	Manager – Economic Development				Council Business operators Agricultural enterprises Tourist operators Nillumbik residents
A4.2 Engage with and support the existing business base across the shire to promote local economic growth	Manager – Economic Development				Council Business operators Agricultural enterprises Tourist operators Nillumbik Residents
A4.3 refer A3.1	Manager – Strategic Planning Manager – Communications				Council DEECD Universities (LaTrobe) DELWP Grants – Victorian and Commonwealth Government Green Wedge Landowners
A4.4 To ensure land remains available for agriculture, use the Nillumbik planning scheme to encourage consolidation of smaller agricultural lots in common ownership and discourage the further fragmentation of agricultural lands	Manager – Planning				Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners
A4.5 Continue to apply the sustainable agriculture rate rebate and the primary producer rate rebate (see A3.5)	Manager - Planning				Council Green Wedge Landowners

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A4.6 Consider policy and land use options to allow agricultural enterprises to diversify income sources by supporting complementary activities such as farm gate sales, events, education and accommodation	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners
A4.7 Continue to support sustainable land and animal management and access to markets by providing education programs, promotion, events and innovative partnership solutions	Manager – Communications Manager – Asset Management and Works				Council DEECD Green Wedge Landowners
A4.8 Advocate to the Victorian Government that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and other controls be altered to allow landholders a right to farm on pre-existing cleared agricultural land and be able to adapt to changing agricultural practice</li> <li>• The support and promotion of supplementary rural business activities such as farm gate sales, farm stays, and other low environmental amenity impact enterprises which are consistent with green wedge values need to be prioritised and</li> <li>• The role of hobby farms be defined, recognised and policy and program be developed to support sustainable land management and agriculture at their scale</li> </ul>	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELPW Green Wedge Landowners
A4.9 Finalise and implement a new Nillumbik Equine Strategy	Manager – Strategic Planning Manager – Health and Wellbeing Manager –				Council Equine business operators Equestrian clubs Local equine

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
	Economic Development				enthusiasts
<p>A4.10 Review and update Council’s Destination Management Plan to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve awareness of the benefits of cycle tourism and mapping information</li> <li>• Invest in digital interpretation of heritage, cultural and natural assets</li> <li>• Develop tourism through trail investment</li> <li>• Develop festivals and an events attractions plan</li> <li>• Build on the arts and cultural product through development of curated content and packaging</li> <li>• Add to the food and wine offerings by facilitating diversity of product and infrastructure</li> <li>• Manage and avoid detrimental impacts on sensitive environmental areas</li> <li>• Increase strategic marketing and promotion and</li> <li>• Improve and develop products suited to family experiences</li> </ul>	<p>Manager – Economic Development  Manager – Asset Management and Works</p>				<p>Council  Parks Vic  DELWP  Yarra Ranges Council  Community recreation groups associated with trails use  Commercial market and event operators  Local business, agriculture, arts and tourism operators  Green Wedge Landowners  Business Development Victoria  Volunteers</p>

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A4.11 Create and investment attraction plan and investigate innovative land use solutions to attract professional services to locate within the townships of the green wedge	Manager – Economic Development	Performance measure not articulated – to be developed Year 1	Report performance against base measure	Report performance against base measure	Council Small Business operators Residents interested in small business operation Commercial professional service providers
A4.12 Identify and document areas of low mobile and internet connectivity and black spots. Identify opportunities to rectify areas affected (see A1.10 and A3.8)	Manager – Economic Development				Council Business Victoria Small business operators
A4.13 Analyse the needs of home based business and identify barriers to growth	Manager – Economic Development				Council Business Victoria Small home based business operators University partners
A4.14 Understand the demand for co-working spaces in Nillumbik and facilitate the needs of home based business through township and activity centre plans and community hubs	Manager – Economic Development				Council Business Victoria Small home based business operators
<b>Goal 5</b>					

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A5.1 Create a comprehensive landowners information and support service for land use and management including annual reporting on trends and outcomes. Seek ongoing government funding to support the service	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council Green Wedge Landowners
A5.2 = A3.3 Implement a whole of organisation approach to community resilience addressing climate change, emergency management, and a range of matters in an integrated manner. This will include robust conversations on the natural environment and biodiversity values, bushfire risk reduction, economic development, agriculture, economic and community rebuilding post events, human health, wellbeing and safety and water catchment planning.	Manager – Health and Wellbeing Manager - Communications	Performance measure not articulated – to be developed Year 1	Report performance against base measure	Report performance against base measure	Council EMV University partners, researchers and professors. Grants Nillumbik Residents Green Wedge Landowners
A5.3 = A1.1 Create a Green Wedge Conversations program to provide local communities with a forum to discuss resilience, leadership, knowledge transfer and cooperation between people involved with land management, agriculture, nature conservation, public land management and bushfire mitigation and management. Seek ongoing government funding assistance to support the program	Manager – Health and Wellbeing? Manager – Green Wedge Land Management Information and Support Service?				Council Health and Wellbeing? Green Wedge Land Management Information and Support Service? Public Land Managers EMV, DELWP and others Volunteers

Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A5.4 = A1.5 Create a comprehensive planning and place management service for the townships to strengthen their identities and attractiveness as service, population, tourism, community and cultural centres	Manager – Planning Services Manager – Economic Development				Council
A5.5 = A3.1 Undertake stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural activity and practices including hobby farming, that need to be protected for the future and the pests that need to be managed by sourcing information from formal research bodies and landowners. Seek government funding assistance to establish and maintain this data base into the future for landowner information program prioritisation and policy development	Manager – Strategic Planning Manager – Communications				Council DEECD Universities (LaTrobe) DELWP Grants – Victorian and Commonwealth Government Green Wedge Landowners
A5.6 Consider reviewing the current application of zoning controls in the green wedge to better reflect the actual use of land	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners
A5.7 Consider reviewing the potential range of land uses that could assist owners to be better manage rural land that abuts the Urban Growth Boundary	Manager – Strategic Planning				Council DELWP Green Wedge Landowners
A5.8 Advocate Council’s position on all government policy reform affecting the Shire including reform of Green Wedge policy and planning provisions	Chief Executive Officer				Council Green Wedge Issues – Green Wedge Landowners All of Shire Issues – all residents and landowners



Key Actions	Responsible Leader	Performance Benchmark			Resourcing
A5.9 Identify and pursue all funding opportunities from government, philanthropy and corporations to support the implementation of this plan	Chief Executive Officer				Council Victorian Government Australian Government Grants, donations and bequests

\*council consider if there is alignment between social, economic and environmental impacts, and resourcing and if this may inform future directed community engagement and input for implementation of initiatives.

\*\* this plan is overwhelmingly concerned with the environment but attempts to incorporate social and economic considerations in a more comprehensive way than the previous plan.

# Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes



**Date:** Wednesday 21 August 2019  
**Time:** 7.00pm – 9.00pm  
**Venue:** Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Greensborough  
**Chair:** Cr Jane Ashton  
**Minute taker:** Lisa Pittle

## 1. Welcome

Present: Cr Jane Ashton, Lisa Pittle, Kirsten Reedy, Ian Culbard, Jon Miller, John Huf, John Brenan, David Turner, Narelle Campbell, Alan Thatcher, Stephen Hadley, Areej Hashmi-Weyman

Apologies: Tom Fisher

## 2. Conflict of interest

Conflict of interest provisions are contained in section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the Councillor's Governance Code, the Employee Code of Conduct and the Volunteer Handbook.

## 3. Confirmation of minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 31 July 2019.

Moved: John Brenan replaced by John Huf via email 22 July 2019 as John Brenan was not present at the meeting on 31 July 2019.

Seconded: Alan Thatcher

## 4. Renewable energy

Ian Culbard Council's Sustainability Officer provided an overview of Council's renewable energy programs and achievements. See attached presentation.

The committee discussed the following topics:

### **17% target**

- The purpose is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, purchasing green power will offset emissions, buying offsets is last resort, avoid and minimise should be first options.
- 17% is a modest target and will require expenditure, for example solar installation at Eltham Leisure Centre. Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre requires funding for sustainability initiatives as part of the redevelopment.
- Meeting or exceeding targets is important and the next target ought to be higher. Align with State government targets.

- Recognition that we need to both meet targets while providing community infrastructure and services.

### ***Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020***

- Due for review in 2020 and ESAC will have input in reformulating the plan and its scope – addressing Council only or whole community
- Important to engage broadly both interested and not interested people. The ‘Nillumbik Conversations’ described in the draft Green Wedge Management Plan would be a way of engaging with the wider community.

### ***Climate Emergency***

Link to the Darebin Climate Change Emergency Plan

[www.darebin.vic.gov.au/en/Darebin-Living/Caring-for-the-environment/EnergyClimate](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/en/Darebin-Living/Caring-for-the-environment/EnergyClimate)

The committee expressed a range of views on declaration of a Climate Emergency:

- Declaring a Climate Emergency is not controversial, council could engage with concept and back up with action plan.
- The potential for divisiveness in the community is an issue and declaring a climate emergency may play into this.
- Issue with using the term ‘emergency’, for some it triggers the experience of emergencies which have been personally distressing.
- Its urgency of action that’s needed and innovative ways of addressing climate change.
- Signing up to a Climate Emergency means council needs to consider climate change impacts of all decisions.
- Range of tools for assessing sustainability – Living Community Challenge <https://living-future.org/lcc/> and Living Building Challenge <https://living-future.org/lbc/>, Green Star Rating System <https://new.gbca.org.au/green-star/>
- Agreement that Council needs to be briefed on the concept of declaring a climate emergency with the pros and cons and that the diversity of responses from ESAC will be considered.

## **5. Feedback on ESAC priorities (30 min)**

Sub-Committee members to provide updates on progress:

**Green Wedge Management Plan** – Narelle Campbell, Alan Thatcher, Tom Fisher, John Huf

Kirsten provided feedback on the submission received – more than 700 responses received and the project team have advised that the ESAC submission is useful and constructive and will be highlighted to Council as the response from the advisory committee.

**Biodiversity** – Stephen Hadley and Alan Thatcher

- Alan Thatcher provided a discussion paper on Biodiversity and Climate Change to bring to Council’s attention the loss of tree canopy in urban areas and its impact on future liveability, contribution to climate change and the urban heat island effect.

- Loss of tree cover in Diamond Creek and Eltham, particularly relates to subdivision of larger blocks with no space for vegetation.
- It was noted that the State Government has brought in the garden area requirement.
- What are the checks and balances, can areas be identified for denser development and then how can the potential urban heat increase be offset?

**Action:** Presentation from Planning on loss of canopy cover within the Urban Growth Boundary including:

- Does planning regulation in Nillumbik prevent loss of tree cover within the UGB in Eltham and Diamond Creek.
- What State/Local controls apply.
- What is the experience of tree canopy loss in Nillumbik and how is it or can it be mitigated.
- What is the garden area requirement.
- What can be done to encourage retention of canopy cover.

#### **6. Recycling update (10 min)**

An update was provided on the current situation with Council's recycling facility SKM, particularly the underlying structural problems in recycling industry. There was support for Council understanding the whole of life of waste products.

#### **7. Edendale Community Environment Farm Service Review (10 min)**

Hold over for another meeting and pending development of a consultation framework.

#### **8. ESAC renewal update (10 min)**

The committee renewal process was discussed. Kirsten to arrange feedback for those submitting applications as the website is not sending automated acknowledgement.

#### **9. Opportunity to share information about community environment and sustainability initiatives (10 min)**

- Caring for our Local Environment grants now open, committee members encouraged to notify networks.
- John Brenan advised that Valley Finance/Bendigo Bank are to receive a price from Ausnet on connection for solar farm with Clean Energy Nillumbik as community partner. The farm is proposed to be located on property in Doreen. Alternative proposal to place solar on rooftops within the municipality.
- Sustainable House Day in Nillumbik is on 15 September and Speed date a Sustainability Expert is on 13 October – these events are a partnership with CEN, Renew and Nillumbik Council.
- Fitzsimons Lane upgrade – Council has written to MRPV about planning requirements, objecting to the design and request to waive planning requirements. ESAC to draft letter to be circulated within the group for approval. This will then be presented (if agreed) to the September Council meeting for endorsement and then (if endorsed) forwarded to MRPV/Planning Minister.

- Future agenda items:
  - Environmental Upgrade agreements [www.energy.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency/environmental-upgrade-agreements](http://www.energy.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency/environmental-upgrade-agreements)
  - Solar Savers scheme starting in approx. 1 month

#### **10. Presentation of certificates of appreciation to all Committee members**

All committee members were presented with a gift and a certificate of appreciation as this is the last meeting of the current ESAC.

#### **11. Meeting dates 2019 and 2020**

Wednesday 16 October 2019

Wednesday 11 December 2019

Wednesday 19 February 2020

Wednesday 15 April 2020

Wednesday 17 June 2020

Wednesday 19 August 2020

Wednesday 21 October 2020

Wednesday 16 December 2020

#### **12. Confirmation of minutes of final committee meeting**

The minutes from the meeting of the committee were circulated by email for confirmation as this was the last meeting of this committee.

Moved: John Huf

Seconded: John Brenan

**MINUTES**  
**Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting**  
 Friday 1 November 2019  
 12.00pm – 2.00pm  
 Manna Gum 1 & 2, Civic Centre Greensborough

**Accepted:** Katie Camilleri (NSC), Rebecca Burton (NSC), Cr Grant Brooker (NSC), Philip Green, Sabi Buehler, Pam Johnson, Ray Carroll, Ingrid Motchall, David Nichols, Anne Fitzpatrick, Deanna Finn,

**Apologies:** Karen Coulston, Norm Wearne

No.	Agenda item	Owner
1	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country <b>Chair</b>	
2.	Confirmation of meeting minutes Outstanding actions – Action Summary <b>Chair</b>	Move: Ray Carroll Second: Philip Green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ageless Play – Community Support Services working with Early Years – Early years have made contact with Estia Health in Wattle Glen to get an intergenerational Project off the ground</li> <li>• Other actions on hold for new Positive Ageing Officer to action</li> </ul>
3.	Guest speaker: Rotary Club of Eltham – Community Directory <b>Kevin Hadingham</b>	Kevin currently part of a Rotary Police Mentoring Program as a mentor, with the aim of Strengthening local Police understanding of Community.  Part of this program was to develop a Community resilience project. The project that has come out of his involvement in the mentor program was a project to support vulnerable people during heat events. The model is to mobilise community organisations to identify (through their membership base and networks), who would be vulnerable at times during extreme heat stress and encourage members of those organisations to strengthen their relationships with those people and play a role to ensure they are ok and assist where possible.  Kevin's role to support this project was to get a list of community organisations, which is when he discovered that

		<p>this information was all segregated and found there was a need for a single source of information.</p> <p>The objective for Kevin was to then establish a consolidated listing of local organisations which would include a website of Facebook.</p> <p>Current status: The current draft of the Community Directory has been compiled from existing lists held by Rotary, online searches and searches through CAV and support from Nillumbik Shire Council.</p> <p>A copy of the draft Community Directory will be included in the minutes for feedback and input from the PAAC and other members of the community.</p> <p>Hoping to have the final version available on website, downloadable as a PDF document / electronic file to use live links, by the end of November. Council has also expressed their support to provide a link to the Directory through their main website as well.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Katie to provide a copy of the draft directory to the committee to look over and provide feedback direct to Kevin.</p>
4	<p>Nillumbik Community Connect Project – updates <b>Katie</b></p>	<p>Katie provided an update of the Community Connect Project. 3 Phases:</p> <p>Phase 1 – Community Directory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the current phase of the project</li> <li>• Council currently finalizing an online portal for the website where community organisations can register and include their listings</li> <li>• More information to be provided on this including how to register and who to contact for help shortly</li> <li>• Katie highlighted that we will need support from PAAC members to help get various groups across the community registered before the Launch</li> <li>• The online Community Directory will be launched at the Healthy &amp; Active Ageing Expo on Sunday 1 March</li> <li>• Incentives will be provided to encourage groups to register by this date (e.g., register and go in the draw to win 1 of 5 \$100 gift vouchers)</li> </ul> <p>Phase 2 – Community Connectors</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the volunteer program that will complement the directory</li> <li>• Volunteers will be recruited and trained to provide one on one support to vulnerable older people to access information and activities / clubs that might be of interest to them as a way to stay connected to their communities</li> <li>• The volunteer program will commence around Feb / March and be an ongoing program for residence to access in Nillumbik Shire Council</li> </ul> <p>Phase 3 – Welcoming &amp; Age-Friendly Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will take place around April, working with various community groups and organisations to ensure when older people are referred to their group, they coming in to a welcoming and age-friendly environment that will encourage them to keep coming back</li> </ul> <p>Anne highlighted that the due date to ensure this is promoted in the Roundabout Newspaper is before the 20<sup>th</sup> November for the December edition.</p>
5	Discover on the Green update <b>Philip Green</b>	<p>Philip provided presentation overview on the Discover on the Green Seniors Festival event. A copy of the report has been included with the meeting minutes.</p> <p>Philip noted contribution from Nicole Jackson at Greensborough Plaza, who was imperative in making the event a success.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Letter on behalf of the Mayor to Greensborough Plaza thanking them for their involvement and support</p> <p>Other suggestions from Philip: Need to include as an agenda item for April at PAAC meeting in 2020 and included in Nillumbik Shire Councils event calendar early on. Ensure included in Victorian Seniors Festival Program next year.</p>
6	5 minute break	
7	Seniors Festival – Debrief / Feedback <b>All</b>	<p>*Free entry on Monday at Montsalvat- 55; 15; 2; 21</p> <p>*Hard to get attendees at event</p>



8	Healthy & Active Ageing Expo - updates	<p>Call for help from the PAAC to assist with encouraging various groups and organisations to register to take part as an exhibitor in the Healthy &amp; Active Ageing Expo.</p> <p>A copy of the flyer will be included with the meeting minutes for members to forward on.</p> <p>More information about the Expo can be found on our website here <a href="https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/People-and-family/Community-Support-Services/Healthy-Active-Ageing-Expo">https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/People-and-family/Community-Support-Services/Healthy-Active-Ageing-Expo</a>.</p> <p>Currently 22 exhibitors registered – needing 50 in total.</p>
9	Roundtable	<p><u>Katie</u> Summer Preparedness Forum – Tuesday 19 November, 11am at Hurstbridge Community Hub. Flyer provided with meeting minutes.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Mental Health Training – Katie to follow up who is registered. Resend to Ray and Philip.</p> <p><u>David</u> Community fireguard meetings have commenced – ensuring older people in community are covered.</p> <p><u>Deanna</u> Thank Katie and Rebecca for a wonderful day at Government house for Victorian Seniors Festival</p> <p><u>Philip</u> Acknowledge meeting with Colleen Doyle – Philip been asked to present at Aged Care Facilities as a follow on.</p> <p><u>Anne</u> Friend in a wheelchair who is reluctant to go out in the community unless she knows there are toilets available that she can use. Some toilets that list as disability friendly are not.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Grant Brooker to follow up with Inclusion committee – Businesses have disability access but cannot get to the toilet. Perhaps a resource of businesses and community spaces that are fully accessible.</p> <p><u>Ray</u> Attended MAV End of Life forum.</p>

		<p>Interested in projects from Mansfield and Whittlesea. Interesting talk about diversity of ceremonies across the world. Interested in what happens from here in terms of Policies and how Council will react to this policy development.</p> <p><u>Ingrid</u> Also attended MAV conference. Key message was that Council should have a lifespan approach to end of life. As a culture 'death' is a taboo subject so we need to be encouraging death literacy.</p> <p><u>Gertraud</u> Royal Commission into Aged Care – interim report has just been released. Katie to add to December Agenda.</p> <p><u>Sabi</u> Went to repair café at Eltham Library that was brilliant. A lot of the repairers were older people. Grant mentioned that Living and Learning are currently looking at running workshops around this. Perhaps it could fit in with the Healthy &amp; Active Ageing Expo.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Katie to follow up with Eltham Library if they want to a repair café type activity at Healthy &amp; Active Ageing Expo</p>
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**Next Meeting:** Friday 6 December, 12-2pm  
Manna Gum 1 & 2, Civic Centre Greensborough

## Action Summary

Agenda item	Responsibility	Start date	Action required	Progress to date
a) Guest speakers	Katie Camilleri	3 May 19	Katie to make contact with North East Chinese Community Group and invite along as guest speakers to a future meeting	<b>On hold</b> Will explore for future meeting
b) Eltham & Diamond Creek Structure plans	Katie Camilleri	7 June 19	Katie to follow up with Paul and invite to a future meeting for an update.	<b>On hold</b> Next Milestone is release of draft plans for public consultation in October.
c) Discover on the Green Seniors Festival event	ALL	7 June 19	Katie to organise letter on behalf of the Mayor to Greensborough Plaza thanking them for their involvement and support.	<b>In progress</b>
d) Dementia Café	Katie Camilleri / Philip Green	6 September 19	Katie to add Dementia Café on agenda for next meeting – Philip to present and perhaps for group to discuss. Dementia awareness months in September – opportunity to plan for 2020	<b>Follow up 2020</b>
e) Ageless play	Rebecca Burton	6 September 19	Rebecca to follow up with Early Years to see if there is a possibility of partnering to run this in Nillumbik	<b>In Progress</b> Update at next meeting
f) Intergenerational projects 2020	Katie Camilleri / Gertraud	6 September 19	Katie to organise meeting with Arts & Culture to discuss ideas for intergenerational arts project. Gertraud to follow up with Bunnings about concrete wall for community arts project	<b>Follow up 2020</b>