

## Key inputs to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan

Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan Community Engagement Report, Wayfarer Consulting, August 2018 (also some additional references to responses included in the Community Engagement Verbatim Report).	Recommendations of the Community Panel majority report, Nov 2018	Council's response to the recommendations of the Community Panel majority report, Dec 2018	Recommendations of a minority report by five community panel members, April 2019	Other relevant Council Policies	Objectives and strategies of the existing GWMP 2010-2015	Remaining actions from the existing GWMP 2010-2025 - sourced from an officer review and update of GWMP implementation plans, 2018	How these inputs are responded to in the draft GWMP June 2019
	<p><b>The existing plan</b> It should serve as a base from which to prepare an updated plan, and any actions that are yet to be completed should be carried over, unless specifically contradicted by our recommendations.</p>	<p><b>Note</b> - Council notes the Panel's advice that the existing plan should serve as a base for preparing the new draft plan but reserves its right to improve clarity and efficiency, remove redundant or duplicated clauses and fill-in any gaps.</p>					<p>A number of actions in the existing GWMP have been completed, abandoned or re-interpreted in other ways. The remaining ones are included in this table. Many of these are replaced at a higher level in the new plan and made consistent with current Council policies and plans. The structure of the draft plan is different to the existing one to remove duplication, reduce the number of layers, include more discussion under headings generally in line with the desired planning outcomes for green wedges expressed in the state government's Plan Melbourne and to better align it with the current Council Plan (the original was aligned with the Council Plan of 2009-13).</p>
<p><b>Key Findings</b> <i>What I like about the green wedge:</i> Space, peace, healthy 'feel', freedom Natural environment Community Recreation and leisure activities, Lifestyle Urban/ rural living, Access to services Mental health and wellbeing/ respite from the urban environment Village-rural community idyllic lifestyle <i>What are the opportunities for the green wedge?:</i> Health and wellbeing services and industries Improve infrastructure. Community building Sustainable tourism Environmental Protection <i>What are the challenges of living, working and visiting the green wedge?:</i> Over development and over population Transport issues The risk of bushfire Environmental degradation Costs for individuals Finding the balance between people and the environment and between different groups Difficult, costly and time intensive and unfair planning processes. <i>What are the challenges the green wedge will face in the future?:</i> As above with the addition of: The possible lack of job and business opportunities. Climate change and the associated risks such as bushfire, lack of water and environmental damage.</p>	<p><b>Vision</b> Management of the Nillumbik green wedge will lead the way in supporting a vibrant, resilient, connected and diverse community, living with the landscape to enhance the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Shire.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council supports the Panel's vision with the alteration of "living in the landscape" rather than "with the landscape" so as to be consistent with its Council Plan. Council notes that the vision does not need to be time limited as it reflects an ongoing approach to good and comprehensive management.</p>	<p><b>Vision</b> Our vision is of a safe, peaceful, prosperous countryside, where landowners and land managers are supported to manage an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable and healthy environment for people to live in and visit.</p> <p><b>Values</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leadership: Lead by example.</li> <li>2. Collaboration: Committed teams – one vision.</li> <li>3. Fairness: Equitable and practicable solutions.</li> <li>4. Engagement: Work closely with our community and stakeholders.</li> <li>5. Innovation: Identify opportunity, nurture ideas and act.</li> <li>6. Excellence: Positive attitude, strive for success.</li> <li>7. Communication: Consistent, concise and timely.</li> <li>8. Respect: Respect each other and our stakeholders.</li> </ol> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bushfire risk to be mitigated from extreme to moderate/medium.</li> <li>2. Community health and wellbeing outcomes are known and are comparable with other green wedges areas.</li> <li>3. Land owner and manager roles and efforts are acknowledged and valued.</li> <li>4. Economic Operation and land holding asset performance is comparable with other green wedge areas and broader metropolitan Melbourne.</li> <li>5. Areas of high value biodiversity are identified protected and conserved.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Council Plan 2017-21 Vision:</b> Nillumbik is Australia's most liveable Shire</p> <p><b>Council Plan 2017-21 Goals:</b> Engaged, connected communities: A place where communities and ideas thrive, underpinned by trust, confidence and continuous learning. Active and creative people: Active lifestyles and artistic expression are fostered through participation and innovation. Safe and healthy environments: Healthy and safe communities enjoy living in our iconic green wedge environment. A prosperous economy: A strong local economy that supports business growth, jobs and community wealth. Responsible leadership: Collaborative and consultative leadership that builds trust and makes the best use of available</p>			<p>The vision identified by the majority panel report and supported by Council with one modification, has been included in the draft plan with further elaboration that takes a human-centric and triple bottom line view, stressing collaboration and engagement and acknowledging the need to manage risk. The elaboration picks up some of the sentiments in the minority report alternative vision. Engaged and connected communities are addressed in goal one and safety in goal three.</p> <p>Council's adopted values of respect, collaboration, integrity, adaptability and community have been included in the principles of the draft plan under the heading of leadership.</p> <p>The draft plan adopts the five goals of the Council Plan as its high level objectives so as to ensure that the GWMP is fully integrated with Council's planning budgeting and reporting cycle. Objectives are included under each of the five goals, including bushfire mitigation, health and wellbeing and economic development. The draft emphasises a people centric approach throughout and has a number of actions intended to provide support for landowners specifically.</p> <p>Under the heading of managing what is valuable to us in the introduction, the draft plan directly references the key findings of the community engagement report.</p> <p>The principles (see below) include the Shire of Nillumbik's values.</p> <p>Minority report objectives 1 and 4 are not considered to be feasible because of Nillumbik's characteristics and the variation between Melbourne's various green wedges.</p>

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				resources to the benefit of all in the pursuit of excellence.  <b>The Shire of Nillumbik's values</b> Respect Collaboration Integrity Adaptability Community			
	<p><b>Principles</b> The Panel reviewed the current principles guiding the green wedge Management Plan. All remain relevant. The green wedge Management Panel identified several other principles that the plan must address:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Focus on the future: there is a danger that short-term pragmatics compromise our stewardship responsibilities. Council and stakeholders must assume responsibility for a focus on the long term, because of the precautionary principle and the need to respect future generations.</li> <li>2. Indigenous voice: we have much to learn from our First Peoples, particularly about caring for country.</li> <li>3. Whole of Shire approach: the green wedge is a whole of shire responsibility; both urban and rural areas are co-dependent and should have a voice about the green wedge future.</li> <li>4. Relationship to Metropolitan Melbourne: Nillumbik's role as the green wedge Shire has increased significance, as</li> </ol>	<p><b>Support-in-principle -</b> Council takes the Panel's advice that the principles in the existing plan remain relevant and that four other principles should be incorporated. Council also believes that a new principle relating to safety, well-being and resilience needs to be added to be consistent with the vision and the meanings of each principle need to be further clarified. Keeping the list at ten principles (with explanatory notes) is also desirable. With some careful rationalisation, it should be possible to incorporate and clarify all of these sentiments.</p>	<p><b>Principles</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keeping people, property and resources safe is the first priority of government.</li> <li>2. Wellbeing of landowners and managers is vital for the Nillumbik green wedge to be sustainable.</li> <li>3. Connectedness between landowners and land managers of the Nillumbik green wedge, council and the broader community is crucial to effective management of the green wedge.</li> <li>4. The social, economic and environmental aspects of the Nillumbik green wedge are mutually supporting.</li> <li>5. Council leadership facilitates implementation of the plan.</li> <li>6. It is important to continue to learn from local indigenous people about caring for each other and country.</li> <li>7. Coordination of risk mitigation activities cross agencies and property boundaries is to be encouraged.</li> <li>8. Conservation of high-value biodiversity is a priority on public and private lands across the green wedge.</li> <li>9. Respect and acknowledgement that the green wedge is a home for some, and a visiting place for many others.</li> <li>10. The co-dependence across Nillumbik urban and rural communities is based on mutually acknowledged benefit.</li> <li>11. Council systems should be streamlined and cost effective.</li> <li>12. Regulation is acknowledged to be an imperfect method of influencing behaviour.</li> <li>13. Regulation should be kept to a minimum and only introduced when essential for the safety of the Nillumbik green wedge residents, assets and high value biodiversity resources.</li> <li>14. Regulations should be clear and comprehensible.</li> <li>15. Regulations should be enforceable.</li> <li>16. The cost of permits should be</li> </ol>	<p><b>Draft Bushfire Mitigation Strategy: Operating principles</b> Protection of human life Balancing environmental protection with bushfire risk Shared responsibility Reducing managing and modifying fuels</p>	<p><b>Guiding Principles</b> Collaboration Sustainability: social, environmental, economic Leadership Connectedness Conserve and enhance Embrace change Social equity Celebrate local identity Precautionary principle (anticipate the possibility of detrimental social, health or environmental outcomes of any action and act to avoid serious or irreversible harm) Appreciation and enjoyment</p> <p><b>Strategies:</b> Manage the Nillumbik Green Wedge in accordance with the GWMP and its guiding principles.</p>		<p>The draft plan combines the ten principles of the existing GWMP, the additional four identified by the majority report, the health and wellbeing principle required by Council, the minority report's references to safety and the role of landowners and the Shire of Nillumbik's values into a new set of 10 principles and explanatory statements. The operating principles of the draft Bushfire Mitigation Strategy are consistent with those in the draft plan referring to a whole-of-shire approach; collaboration &amp; connectedness; safety, wellbeing and resilience; and sustainability and the precautionary principle.</p> <p><b>principles:</b> 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</p>

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	Melbourne expands within the urban growth boundaries. Nillumbik's role in protecting biodiversity and natural landscape must be supported.		kept to a minimum. 17. Decisions will be made using an objective evidence-based approach recognising that the community's goals are best served when scientific evidence is used rigorously and comprehensively to inform decisions.				
			<b>Rigorous scientific evidence to support plan priorities</b> Where this report provides no direction on an issue council believes should be prioritised in the Nillumbik green wedge Management Plan, council should refer to the Objectives and Principles sections of this report. These should be used to guide the assessment of established, credible, current, independent, relevant evidence to inform and address the issue.				The draft plan applies the approach recommended by the minority report to the purpose of the principles (see above).
<p><b>Bushfire</b> The threat of bushfire was cited regularly as a specific challenge for people living in the green wedge. Issues related to bushfire preparation and management were also raised. Managing pressures of maintaining the bush feel of the green wedge while making it safe from bushfire was a common theme. Other respondents were concerned about regulations preventing them from making their properties safe from bushfire threat. Comments relating to bushfires indicated a general concern over the potential for bushfire and the threat to life, property and the environment, along with some concerns over the capacity for landowners to sufficiently prepare for bushfire.</p>	<p><b>Bushfire preparedness, mitigation and management</b> 1. Encourage and support the use of, and further research into the impacts of, indigenous cool burning practices for ecological management and fuel reduction. 2. Promote and support community education that provides a clear understanding of risks, action, obligations and opportunities to protect people and property. This includes consideration of fire bunkers where appropriate, community safe areas, etc. 3. Council collaborate with all levels of government and residents to mitigate the risk of bushfire and resultant impacts on residents, assets and resources in the green wedge. 4. Ensure the Municipal Fire</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council supports the Panel's recommendations and its positioning of bushfire preparedness, mitigation and management as an overarching issue for management of the green wedge. Council has statutory responsibilities in this area and is committed to developing a comprehensive fire mitigation strategy and expects this work to be completed in 2019.</p>	<p><b>Bushfire preparedness, mitigation and management</b> 1. Encourage and support the use of, further research into, and trials of indigenous fire stick burning for ecological management and fuel reduction. 2. Promote and support community information providing an understanding of risk, actions, obligations and opportunities to protect people and property, including fire bunkers where appropriate, community safe areas, fuel reduction on a landscape level, and other options. 3. Council work in partnership with all levels of government and emergency services and residents and land owners to mitigate the risk of bushfire and resultant impacts on residents, assets, resources and biodiversity in the green wedge. 4. Council improve the management of the roadside fuel load, advocating for the Shire with VicRoads as necessary.</p> <p><b>Climate change</b> 3. Council work with agencies, land owners and land managers to prioritize mitigating the risk of bushfire from severe to moderate.</p>	<p><b>Draft Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-23: Strategic Priorities</b> Reduce the number and impact of bushfire incidents Creating a community focussed approach to bushfire Creating a coordinated approach between key agencies and the communities of Nillumbik Shire Council Ensuring strong advocacy</p>		<p>Investigate opportunities to conduct ecological burns on private and public land. Encourage the use of sustainable and bushfire resistant design, materials and energy sources. Review vegetation controls, fuel modification practices and fire protection in the context of climate change, Victorian Government policy changes and the outcomes of the Royal Commission into the February 2009 bushfires and the latest scientific research. In partnership with the CFA, provide support for community fireguard groups and other community education initiatives. Regularly review the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan and facilitate increased opportunities for community education and bushfire preparedness in the green wedge.</p>	<p>The strategic priorities of the draft Bushfire Mitigation Strategy are repeated in the draft GWMP as objectives under Goal 3 with the key action being to implement the Bushfire Management Strategy. This also replaces, at a higher level, all of the individual remaining actions from the existing GWMP.</p> <p>O3.3 Reduce the number and impact of bushfire incidents. O3.4 Create a community focussed approach to bushfire, a coordinated approach between key agencies and the communities of Nillumbik and ensure strong advocacy in relation to bushfire and bushfire risk. A3.7 Finalise and implement Council's draft Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-23. O3.2 Enhance community understanding, resilience and adaptability for the impacts of climate change and a bushfire prone environment. A1.1 Create a Green Wedge Conversations program and facilitate local communities to develop resilience, leadership, knowledge-transfer and cooperation between people involved with land management, agriculture, nature conservation, public land management and bushfire mitigation and management. Seek on-going government funding assistance to support the program. 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 difficult conversations on the natural environment and biodiversity values, bushfire risk reduction, economic development, agriculture, economic and community rebuilding post events, human health, well-being and safety and water catchment planning.</p>

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	Prevention Plan is up to date, appropriate and compliant with Bushfire Royal Commission recommendations.						
<p><b>Governance issues</b> Managing competing interests was cited as a challenge. These competing interests included business, tourism, nature, environment, people and development. Some respondents indicated there was an opportunity to balance competing needs. These needs were between the environment and people, as well as particular groups of people such as farmers, horse riders and environmentalists. Other environmental challenges related to the challenge of managing the green wedge for the needs of people and the environment, and the difficulty in getting the balance right. The problem of land not being managed appropriately and the difficulty that regulation placed on landowners and the rights of owners to manage their land as they consider appropriate were also raised. There were a number of responses relating to community. Some indicated a dislike or distrust of other community members while others were more positive about how the community worked together and coexisted. Some concerns related to changes in the community and community expectations. A range of challenges relating to community were cited including changes to the community, a lack of community interaction and a lack of shared values. Some respondents had challenges with individual people or neighbours. Many respondents indicated an opportunity to improve planning processes. Comments indicated that the current process was confusing and subject to time delays and high costs</p>	<p><b>Strengthened governance for the green wedge Management Plan</b> Governance of the GWMP should be strengthened through: 1. Commit to establish a GWMP advisory committee. Subsuming these responsibilities within Environment and Sustainability Committee has led to a reduced focus on monitoring GWMP implementation. 2. Publish an annual budget statement relating to the GWMP about resource allocation and actual expenditure in each financial year, and reasons for variation. This should be accompanied by an annual statement of performance against GWMP performance indicators.</p>	<p><b>Partially support</b> - Council supports part 2 of the Panel's recommendation and commits to regular reporting against the new GWMP when it is adopted. Council believes that this will assist overall management and transparency to the community. Council's capacity to differentiate its financial reports between urban and non-urban areas will be enhanced in the next few years. Council does not wholly support part 1 because it believes that it would be more consistent with the Panel's "whole-of-shire" principle to refer the relevant parts of the new GWMP to the specialist municipality-wide committees advising Council on emergency management, economic, social and environmental issues. This will ensure that Council receives advice that is well-informed and relevant to the whole community.</p>	<p><b>Strengthening governance of the green wedge Management Plan</b> 1. Council report progress on implementing the green wedge management plan to the community every two years. 2. Engage the Nillumbik green wedge community in the implementation of the plan by establishing a Nillumbik green wedge Advisory Committee comprised of landowners and managers of the green wedge to assist council in prioritising and implementing recommendations.</p>		<p><b>Objectives:</b> Implement the Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan. Work collaboratively and transparently with community and stakeholders to find the best ways in which to deliver the GWMP.</p>	<p>Undertake four-yearly reviews of the GWMP and report on its implementation annually. The first review to take place after publication of the Royal Commission report into the February 2009 bushfires. Establish an expert committee to advise on green wedge funding and undertake investigations into a new possible governance arrangement. Consider an advisory group to assist in implementing the GWMP. Advocate to the Victorian Government for interface councils to be eligible for rural and regional funding programs.</p>	<p>Council's response (which addresses both the majority and minority reports) is incorporated into the monitoring and evaluation chapter of the draft plan. This, together with the section entitled Funding and resourcing of green wedge management, also replaces, at a higher level, all of the individual remaining actions from the existing GWMP.</p> <p>O5.2 Take a joined up approach to working with the community to help it balance and cope with the competing demands of living and working in our green wedge. A5.2 Implement a whole of organisation approach to community resilience addressing climate change, emergency management and a range of matters in an integrated manner. This will include difficult conversations on the natural environment and biodiversity values, bushfire risk reduction, economic development, agriculture, economic and community rebuilding post events, human health, well-being and safety and water catchment planning. O5.3 Support community strengthening through sharing its knowledge and capabilities. A5.3 Create a Green Wedge Conversations program and facilitate local communities to develop resilience, leadership, knowledge-transfer and cooperation between people involved with land management, agriculture, nature conservation, public land management and bushfire mitigation and management. Seek on-going government funding assistance to support the program. O5.6 Enhance and update Council's knowledge base to support informed management of critical issues in our green wedge. A5.5 Undertake stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural activity and practices, including hobby farming, that need to be protected for the future and 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.</p>
<p><b>Costs</b> The cost of living and maintaining the green wedge was cited as a challenge. This related to personal finances and the capacity of Nillumbik Council and residents to fund the green wedge. Issues relating to the cost of living in the green wedge were cited as key challenges. Key costs related to rates, housing, transport and access to services. Some respondents linked the cost of living to the need to find additional ways to fund the green wedge including assistance from other levels of government or increasing the rate base.</p>	<p><b>Lobby state government for green wedge funding</b> Lobby the State Government to be recognised as a semi-rural Shire and for increased funding to support the management of the green wedge.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council supports the Panel's recommendation as well as continuing to seek funding from relevant state and national government programs that apply to metropolitan areas.</p>	<p><b>Nillumbik's economic sustainability</b> 1. Lobby the Victorian government for recognition that the rural part of the shire should receive an increased grant funding allowance to support the management of Nillumbik's green wedge. 2. Consider amalgamation with one or more adjoining shires in order to enjoy the benefits of a large rate base that Nillumbik, as a shire with a relatively small, mostly urban population and mostly rural land mass, cannot currently claim.</p>			<p>Advocate to the state government for increased support for land management, advice and financial resources. Advocate to the Victorian Government for research into the community's awareness of green wedges and the willingness of the wider community to support them financially. Lobby Victorian Government for an increase in funding for the rural sectors of the Shire.</p>	<p>The need for government funding is addressed in the draft plan in the Introduction.</p> <p>These also replace, at a higher level, all of the remaining actions from the existing GWMP. Council amalgamation, as recommended by the minority report, is beyond the scope of this plan.</p> <p>O5.8 Attract external funding for green wedge management. A5.1 Create a comprehensive landowners information and support service for land use and management, including annual reporting on trends and outcomes. Seek on-going government funding to support the service. A5.3 Create a Green Wedge Conversations program</p>

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							and facilitate local communities to develop resilience, leadership, knowledge-transfer and cooperation between people involved with land management, agriculture, nature conservation, public land management and bushfire mitigation and management. Seek on-going government funding assistance to support the program. A5.5 Undertake stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural activity and practices, including hobby farming, that need to be protected for the future and 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. A5.9 Identify and pursue all funding opportunities from government, philanthropy and corporations to support implementation of this plan.
<p><b>Environment</b> The environment including plants, animals and the bush was also considered important by respondents from all engagement activities. The challenge to manage the environment and concerns over environmental damage were cited as a challenge. It was suggested that there are opportunities to use the natural assets of the green wedge to educate residents and the wider community around a number of topics including the environment and sustainability. The green wedge was seen as a place where people could experience or be educated on practical environmental sustainability. The need to protect the environment and its biodiversity was often mentioned in conjunction with the theme of 'keep it as it is'. While this is strictly not an opportunity a number of respondents provided it as an answer to this question. Respondents indicated the opportunity for Nillumbik and the green wedge to promote itself as a leader in sustainability with the potential to educate communities and other organisations in sustainability. Some respondents suggested that Nillumbik should be a leader in sustainability and environmental protection. Some suggested that Nillumbik could help promote and educate other councils and individuals on sustainability.</p>	<p><b>Biodiversity</b> 1. Develop a broad-scale land management plan to undertake regular review of biodiversity values to protect and enhance remnant vegetation, water resources, fauna and flora, and habitat corridors, and to guide landholders on biodiversity management practices. 2. Review the placement of the Environmental Significance Overlays on private land, and appropriately fill schedules to ensure all areas of significant biodiversity are protected. These reviews should be conducted by appropriately qualified independent contractors. 3. Review Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy to bring into line with recently revised state environment policy.</p>	<p><b>Support-in-principle -</b> Council agrees that it is necessary to update the on-ground evidence of biodiversity assets to ensure that what is valuable is as accurately identified as possible. Council also recognises that the localised statutory controls that protect these assets may also have to be altered to ensure they are well directed in light of up-to-date evidence and changed state environment policy. Council notes that these are expensive and lengthy pieces of research and may need the financial and technical assistance of other levels of government and research institutions. An additional land management plan as suggested by the Panel is not needed.</p>	<p><b>Biodiversity</b> 1. Council advocate for Victorian and/or Commonwealth government funding of university research study of biodiversity at green wedge sites 25 years post NEROC. Research to be published in peer reviewed journals and repeated using the same research methodology every 10 years. 2. Published research of high value biodiversity sites be used in conjunction with a social, economic and environmental impact assessments in the Nillumbik green wedge to inform land management planning, and the Nillumbik Planning Scheme. 3. Council to work with landowners and land managers to consider appropriate actions necessary to protect and conserve sites identified as having high value biodiversity in the Nillumbik green wedge.</p>	<p><b>Biodiversity Strategy 2012</b></p>	<p><b>Objectives:</b> Protect and enhance remnant vegetation. Protect and enhance sites of faunal and habitat significance and strategic habitat links. <b>Strategies:</b> Identify and manage biodiversity at a landscape scale for conservation. Support the participation of rural landholders and communities in conserving biodiversity. Pursue the protection and restoration of significant sites and wildlife corridors.</p>	<p>Seek partnerships with and involve neighbouring municipalities and agencies in land and biodiversity management. Investigate the extension of the Trust for Nature Covenants in the green wedge areas. Investigate the feasibility of pursuing Habitat 141-type initiatives which reconnect landscapes over a large geographic area. In priority areas for biodiversity, investigate applying permit conditions to require land management plans. Provide increased support for vegetation management on Council controlled, as well as private, land in the green wedge.</p>	<p>O3.1 Identify, protect and enhance valuable biodiversity and habitats. A3.1 Undertake stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural activity and practices, including hobby farming, that need to be protected for the future and 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. A3.5 In partnership with relevant government agencies, encourage biodiversity conservation and responsible land management on public and private land by: • implementing Council's Biodiversity Strategy 2012; Roadside Management Plan and Invasive Species Action Plan 2015 • supporting Landcare and Friends groups • providing an advisory service for land management • providing rebates for Trust for Nature covenanted land and agriculture with a land management plan • delivering Council's land management incentive program and other conservation protection projects • administering state planning policies that apply to native vegetation and • delivering targeted environment and sustainability education experiences. Working at the landscape scale is referenced in the narrative on pages 30-31 under the heading of "Environmental conservation".</p>

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<p><b>Environmental protection</b> Environmental protection continued as a theme with a particular focus on how this could be done. Although this is not strictly an opportunity a number of respondents provided it as a response to this question.</p>	<p><b>Planning scheme, environmental overlays and rural considerations for GW zones</b> Give priority to evaluating current overlays (ESO &amp; SLO) and schedules for applicability to actual on ground conditions i.e. flora and fauna, land usage &amp; purposes, historical uses, environmental characteristics, for conformity to green wedge Management Plan objectives. Ensure that all assessment and investigative works are undertaken by independent experts Where overlays currently apply, actions of landowners that lead to degradation of environmental values should be addressed by Council officers.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - This recommendation is supported.</p>	<p><b>Council planning overlays</b> 1. Review existing vegetation overlays with the view of ensuring that areas where evidence shows high value biodiversity are appropriately protected and conserved, within the footprint of the overlay, and areas where evidence shows they do not contain high value biodiversity are not burdened by irrelevant regulation. 2. Ensure that green wedge landowners and managers, regardless of the value of biodiversity on their land, are aware of how to enter into a Trust for Nature Agreement if they should choose to. 3. Council and landowners and managers consider alternatives to the imposition of regulation as an effective land management tool to provide for the sustainability of the Nillumbik green wedge.</p>		<p><b>Strategies:</b> Conserve biodiversity through implementing sustainable land use planning and encouraging sustainable land management.</p>		<p>A3.2 Subject to the findings of the data base described by A3.1, review the Environmental Significance Overlay in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.</p>
<p><b>Environmental degradation</b> Concerns over the environment were raised. These particularly related to the current state of the environment. Some respondents believed that the environment was not being well managed and indicated issues related to weeds and feral and other animals (such as kangaroos). There were concerns relating to environmental degradation. These were varied and included wild and feral animals, weed species, pollution and rubbish, and the loss of tree canopy.</p>	<p><b>Feral animals and pest species</b> Increase and prioritise the focus on feral animal and pest species reduction programs, and measure their effectiveness, in conjunction with other councils and State Government.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council recognises the importance to the community of controlling feral animals and pest species and will work with relevant agencies to expand information and incentives that support and engage landowners and managers, as well as managing land under its direct control.</p>	<p><b>Invasive animals, weeds and pests</b> 1. Increase and prioritise the focus on pest animal and weed reduction programs in conjunction with other councils, Nillumbik green wedge residents, land owners, interested communities and the Victorian Government.  Biodiversity (cont.) 4. With land owners and land managers, council revises and executes the full funding and implementation of weed and pest management plans across public and private lands in the Nillumbik green wedge.</p>	<p><b>Invasive Species Action Plan 2015</b></p>	<p><b>Objectives:</b> Achieve sustainable land management. <b>Strategies:</b> Minimise the impact of pest plants and animals.</p>	<p>Implement the Weed Action Plan 2008. Work with Victorian Government agencies such as Melbourne Water, in coordinating pest plant and animal programs. Implement the Nillumbik Rabbit Action Plan. Investigate the development of a policy to restrict planting of environmental weeds within bushland environments. Continue to investigate and implement improvements to weed and feral animal control programs. Advocate to Victorian Government to conduct Starling and Indian Myna control programs.</p>	<p>A3.4 Increase and prioritise Council's focus on feral animal and pest plant species reduction, education and programs on private and public land. A3.5 In partnership with relevant government agencies, encourage biodiversity conservation and responsible land management on public and private land by: • implementing Council's Biodiversity Strategy 2012; Roadside Management Plan and Invasive Species Action Plan 2015 • supporting Landcare and Friends groups • providing an advisory service for land management • providing rebates for Trust for Nature covenanted land and agriculture with a land management plan • delivering Council's land management incentive program and other conservation protection projects • administering state planning policies that apply to native vegetation and • delivering targeted environment and sustainability education experiences. Reference to current plans such as the Invasive Species Action Plan 2015 replaces, at a high level, all of the individual remaining actions from the existing GWMP.</p>

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<p><b>Open space</b> The most cited response from all engagement activities indicated the appreciation of the green wedge for the space, peace and healthy feel. The lifestyle outlined included the space and access to land and the community spirit. There was a strong focus on maintaining the green wedge. This included managing it to protect the environment, recognising the responsibility of current generations to keep the green wedge intact, and the understanding that if it is lost it could never be replaced.</p>	<p><b>Conserving the landscape</b> 1. Conserve and enhance bush and rural landscapes to maintain the natural beauty of the green wedge. 2. Complete an assessment of the green wedge Landscape Character and implement planning controls and other recommendations arising from this study.</p>	<p><b>Support-in-principle</b> - Council agrees that the natural beauty of the green wedge and its bush and rural landscapes are important values to be conserved. At this point Council is not sure that the action described in point 2 is the only way to do this and will want a range of planning actions investigated, including better use of the current planning scheme.</p>			<p><b>Objectives:</b> Conserve the landscapes of the Green Wedge for aesthetic, environmental and cultural values. <b>Strategies:</b> Identify, document and protect the character of the diverse landscapes of the Nillumbik Green Wedge.</p>		<p>O3.5 Conserve the bush and rural landscapes to maintain the natural beauty of the green wedge. 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. The value of the landscape is discussed in the narrative on page 32 under the heading of "Landscape and open space".</p>
<p><b>Climate Change</b> Climate change was cited as a challenge in itself and also relating to other challenges such as bushfire, damage to the local environment and water supply.</p>	<p><b>Responding to the challenge of climate change</b> That Council develop action plans, within the next 3 years, for the mitigation and adaptation to climate change in its many dimensions.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council has its Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020 in place with actions aimed at reducing council and community emissions. Council recognises that further work will be required to fully understand and commit to the adaptation actions necessary to respond to a changing climate that is expected to be drier overall and subject to more frequent extreme weather events.</p>	<p><b>Climate change (cont.)</b> 1. Council investigate the impact of climate change on the Nillumbik green wedge communities, assets, resources and biodiversity.</p>		<p><b>Strategies:</b> Adopt best practice on a local basis to address climate change.</p>	<p>Implement the Climate Change Action Plan. Undertake appropriate monitoring of impacts of climate change, especially on land capability and water resources and assist the agricultural sector to adapt where necessary. Develop and implement programs to support community resilience and adaptation to the social, health and community impact of climate change.</p>	<p>Goal three discusses the need to adapt to a changing climate and a bushfire prone environment.  O3.2 Enhance community understanding, resilience and adaptability for the impacts of climate change and a bushfire prone environment. 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 difficult conversations on the natural environment and biodiversity values, bushfire risk reduction, economic development, agriculture, economic and community rebuilding post events, human health, well-being and safety and water catchment planning. 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: • an updated climate change action plan and/or • a new climate change and community resilience strategic framework built from a local context that recognises the unique features of our communities, its landscapes and natural environment. It will be informed by appropriate evidence, independent expertise and strong community participation.</p>

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<p><b>Services</b> The general lack of services or poor functioning services was cited as a challenge. This included telecommunications, recreational infrastructure and basic services such as water and sewage.</p>	<p><b>Water planning</b> Increase priority from medium to high of existing GWMP actions to improve water conservation (supply, use, recycling). Better protect stream flows in the green wedge by ensuring the construction of new dams on private property takes into account water conservation and sustainability.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - In supporting this recommendation, Council notes that some detailed matters (e.g. bores and extraction licences) are regulated by other water authorities. Council also notes (consistent with its response to recommendation 7) that management of water in the landscape will become more important as the climate dries.</p>	<p><b>Climate change (cont.)</b> 2. Council investigate the best ways to provide water security for residents in the Nillumbik green wedge.</p> <p><b>Housing development</b> 4. Consideration of rural and un-serviced conditions in all permit applications, which provide for water collection so as to protect residents from risk and harm (tanks and dams as of right).</p>	<p><b>Domestic Wastewater Management Plan 2019</b></p>	<p><b>Objectives:</b> Protect and enhance catchments and manage water responsibly.</p> <p><b>Strategies:</b> Ensure land use and development is addressed in the context of its potential effect on the wider catchment.</p>	<p>Investigate the appropriateness of further water extraction and diversion including dams and bores, given the incremental impact on environmental flows in waterways with reduced rainfall and climate change impacts. Work with Melbourne Water to improve water conservation (supply, use, recycling) in all spheres of human activity. Implement the Nillumbik Sustainable Water Management Plan (replaced by Melbourne Water's Integrated Water Management Strategy. Utilise water sensitive urban design in developments where this is possible.</p>	<p>The issue of water security and management is discussed in the narrative on page 32-33 under the heading of "Water supply and catchments". O3.6 Support Melbourne Water and the Catchment Management Authority to improve stream condition, water flows, water quality and catchment quality. 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 difficult conversations on the natural environment and biodiversity values, bushfire risk reduction, economic development, agriculture, economic and community rebuilding post events, human health, well-being and safety and water catchment planning. A3.7 Promote water sensitive design, balance amenity uses of our waterways with environmental considerations and balance demand for private use of water flows through extraction and diversion with broader community and environmental considerations. A3.8 Finalise and implement Council's Domestic Waste Water Management Plan 2019.</p>
	<p><b>Light pollution</b> Manage light pollution in the green wedge so that visibility of the night sky is enhanced and to minimise adverse effects on nocturnal native animals.</p>	<p><b>Support-in-principle</b> - Council agrees that managing light pollution is a desirable objective but safety concerns and community activity also need to be taken into account. Sufficient techniques exist to ensure that lighting is directed to where it is needed with minimised overspill and glare where it may cause environmental degradation or nuisance. Council commits to managing light pollution on its own properties and use current planning controls to achieve appropriate outcomes elsewhere.</p>	<p><b>Amenity and safety</b> 1. Ensure that Nillumbik green wedge community amenity and safety is supported when considering permit applications. 2. Educate residents about the benefits of darkness for some local wildlife and encourage them to turn off unnecessary lighting and use smart lights as far as possible</p>				<p>The value of the night sky is discussed in the narrative on page 32 under the heading of "Landscape and open space". A3.5 Consider, through development approvals and management of Council property, the limitation of light spill not directly associated with safety or community activity to reduce impacts on nocturnal animals and the night time amenity of the landscape.</p>
	<p><b>Right of tenure</b> Provide clear guidelines on use rights for ALL lots. The Shire Council to be responsible for education and updating new and existing landowners.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council recognises that the provision of accurate, up-to-date and understandable land use planning information is critical for landowners and the efficient functioning of the Shire. Whilst this happens now through a variety of channels, Council will look for ways to make this better for the community.</p>	<p><b>Addressing Risk in Zones and Schedules</b> 1. Restructure zones and schedules so that zones imposed over areas are consistent with the settlement patterns of landholdings within them to rectify the housing security and right of tenure risks in the Nillumbik green wedge.</p>		<p><b>Strategies:</b> Increase opportunities to understand the Nillumbik Green Wedge.</p>		<p>Goal 5 discusses the need to better inform and work with landowners. O5.1 Recognise and support landowners maintaining land in the green wedge with up-to-date information. A5.1 Create a comprehensive landowners information and support service for land use and management, including annual reporting on trends and outcomes. Seek on-going government funding to support the service.</p>

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			<p><b>Addressing Risk in Zones and Schedules (cont.)</b>            2. Investigate and review the current planning zones and schedules to ascertain whether the purposes of the Nillumbik green wedge are adequately supported by the current regimen of zoning and schedules, and whether areas and residents of the Nillumbik green wedge would be better served by Rural Activity Zone, Rural Living Zone, Rural Conservation Zone, green wedge Zone, green wedge Zone A, Farming Zone, or other zones with accompanying schedules that recognise and accommodate the diversity of activities and land sizes across the Nillumbik green wedge.</p>				<p>O5.5 Work with the Victorian Government to ensure that the Nillumbik planning scheme supports the principles, goals and objectives of this plan.            A5.6 Consider reviewing the current application of zoning controls in the green wedge to better reflect the actual use of land.</p>
	<p><b>Renewable energy</b>            Investigate opportunities to support community-based, distributed, clean energy solutions (from Glossop report). Council to consider developing an Energy Plan.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council is already investigating the feasibility of large scale solar and is working with Clean Energy Nillumbik to progress renewable energy generation and development of an energy plan</p>	<p><b>Renewable energy</b>            1. Investigate opportunities to support community based, distributed, clean energy solutions.            2. Council investigate the development of an Energy Strategy and Plan.</p>		<p><b>Strategies:</b>            Support renewable energy initiatives in Nillumbik Green Wedge and township communities.</p>	<p>Investigate the applicability to Nillumbik of renewable energy initiatives such as the Hepburn Springs Project and Bendigo solar city project.</p>	<p>A3.6 Investigate opportunities to support community-based renewable energy solutions.</p>

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<p><b>Access to Services</b> Easy access to a range of services such as public transport, shops and education was something people liked about the green wedge. The importance of the community, the friendliness, shared understanding and 'village feel' of the area.</p>	<p><b>Township plans</b> Articulate a vision and develop a plan for each green wedge township, which will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be a vibrant and attractive gateway to the green wedge for visitors.</li> <li>2. Provide support and essential services for green wedge residents.</li> <li>3. Ensure that future development is in line with environmentally sensitive design principles.</li> <li>4. Ensure that future development emphasises each town's unique characteristics and remains within existing township boundaries.</li> <li>5. Increase the range of housing diversity to service the needs of visitors and specific community requirements, e.g. "aging in place".</li> </ol>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council agrees that the townships are very important to the functioning of the green wedge and are important places where many of our community live, work and visit. Council agrees that forward plans are necessary and the Panel's five points of direction are a good starting point for discussion with each town community. Council is already committed to reviewing or preparing a variety of township strategies for St Andrews, Hurstbridge, Wattle Glen, Yarrambat, Kangaroo Ground, Panton Hill and Research.</p>	<p><b>Township plans</b> Articulate a vision and develop a plan for each Nillumbik green wedge Township (Panton Hill, Wattle Glen, Hurstbridge, St Andrews and others) in partnership with local communities, that will help it to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be a gateway to the Nillumbik green wedge for visitors;</li> <li>2. Embed Environmentally Sensitive Design Principles;</li> <li>3. Ensure future development is in keeping with the vision and plan for each township; and</li> <li>4. Increase housing diversity.</li> </ol>		<p><b>Objectives:</b> Improve the economic viability of the Nillumbik Green Wedge and its townships and settlements: Hurstbridge, Panton Hill, St Andrews, Yarrambat, Arthurs Creek and Kangaroo Ground. Maintain non-urban breaks between existing urban areas and townships. <b>Strategies:</b> Achieve economic development in townships of St Andrews, Hurstbridge and Panton Hill and in the Green Wedge, in keeping with township structure plans.</p>	<p>Undertake township strategies for St Andrews, Panton Hill, Kangaroo Ground, Yarrambat, Arthurs Creek, Christmas Hills and Strathewen. As each strategy is completed, a series of recommendations will be made in relation to the planning provisions for each area, to give effect to the desired outcomes for each township. Review planning policies in order to encourage increased diversity of housing in green wedge townships of Hurstbridge, Panton Hill and St Andrews and the settlements of Kangaroo Ground, Yarrambat and Arthurs Creek to accommodate a range of household sizes. This is in line with existing structure plans or, where they do not exist, involves producing them in consultation with the community. Develop design policies for the green wedge townships of Hurstbridge, Panton Hill, St Andrews and settlements of Kangaroo Ground, Yarrambat and Arthurs Creek.</p>	<p>O1.4 Work with local communities to articulate a vision and develop plans appropriate to their scale and capacity for Hurstbridge, St Andrews and Panton Hill as green wedge service centres and visitor gateways. Where possible, encourage housing diversity to enable ageing in place. Align future development with environmentally sensitive design principles and ensure that future development emphasises each town's unique characteristics. 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. A1.4 Better utilise multi-use community spaces to create community hubs in the townships. A1.8 Encourage the location of aged care services within the townships and programs to facilitate people ageing in the community where they have lived for many years. Encourage volunteer and community groups to support aging landowners with land management, where needed. Implement Council's Positive Ageing Strategy.</p>

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<p><b>Development</b></p> <p>The issue of development is a consistent theme throughout the consultation. In terms of the environmental challenge, development, particularly related to population growth, was considered a particular threat to the environment of the green wedge.</p> <p>The pressure of development and the impacts on infrastructure, people and the environment was the most commonly cited challenge.</p> <p>Over development of the green wedge in terms of housing growth and business growth was cited as a challenge, particularly large business or tourist development and activities.</p> <p>Development, over development (as described by respondents), particularly related to population growth was a common theme. Pressure from developers and Melbourne's growing population was also mentioned. Some respondents commented on the pressure on infrastructure and green space as a result of this development.</p> <p>Development and population growth was the most cited response. Most comments were general in nature indicating a desire to resist development. Some comments indicated a concern over the impact of general population growth on the green wedge. A few comments related to concerns over subdividing bush blocks and incremental population growth. A few respondents indicated a concern that Council was pro development and would weaken existing controls.</p> <p>Over development (as described by respondents) was the most commonly cited response. Predominantly this was housing and large developments. There were a very limited number of responses relating to 'inappropriate' business and tourism developments that was out of keeping with the area.</p> <p>The (future) challenge of over development (as described by respondents) was the most often cited response. This included generic comments related to over development as well as concerns about the watering down or changing of current regulations.</p> <p>Specific responses from the Community Engagement Verbatim Report included descriptions of and concerns with the difficulties of managing rural land on the fringe of the urban growth boundary.</p>	<p><b>Housing development - setting the limits</b></p> <p>Articulate a vision and develop a plan for each green wedge township, which will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advocate to maintain current Urban Growth Boundary (i.e. hard boundary)</li> <li>2. Monitor and regularly review existing overlays and zones.</li> <li>3. Require environmentally sustainable design and construction techniques in new developments to work in harmony with nature and fit the character of the town in green wedge townships (Panton Hill, Hurstbridge and St. Andrews)</li> <li>4. Maintain consistent transparency about policy intent and approach to development outcomes within the green wedge</li> </ol>	<p><b>Support-in-principle -</b></p> <p>Council intends to produce a whole-of-shire housing strategy to holistically consider the strategic housing needs of the municipality. Council currently advocates maintaining the existing urban growth boundary and is obliged under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to regularly review its planning scheme. Encourage environmentally sustainable design through the planning controls for the townships but if it is to require it, that will require a planning scheme amendment.</p>	<p><b>Housing development (cont.)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council and the community advocate for maintaining the current Urban Growth Boundary.</li> <li>2. Council continue to advocate for limiting the use of the Nillumbik green wedge for future further major Melbourne Infrastructure.</li> <li>3. Better provision in the Nillumbik green wedge for ageing in place and multi-generational site occupancy in areas covered by Bushfire Management Overlay.</li> </ol>		<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <p>Provide for housing and a population which meets the social and economic aims of the Green Wedge and its townships without compromising environmental, landscape or neighbourhood character values or undermining agricultural viability.</p> <p><b>Strategies:</b></p> <p>Encourage a diversity of housing types in townships of St Andrews, Hurstbridge, Panton Hill and settlements of Kangaroo Ground, Yarrambat and Arthurs Creek to provide for smaller household sizes and ageing in communities. Support the placement of the Urban Growth Boundary in accordance with Victorian Government policy. Encourage high quality development that achieves the preferred character for rural and urban landscapes.</p>	<p>Prepare a land use framework for settlement to be incorporated into the Nillumbik Planning Scheme. This will include detailed mapping of locations where housing will be encouraged and discouraged and include details of permitted and prohibited uses.</p>	<p>O1.5 Recognise the limits on housing development in the rural areas.</p> <p>The role of the Urban Growth Boundary are described in the narrative on pages 22-23 under the heading of "Population, settlements and local services". No particular action is recommended because the objective is governed by State planning policy.</p> <p>O5.5 Work with the Victorian Government to ensure that the Nillumbik planning scheme supports the principles, goals and objectives of this plan.</p> <p>A5.6 Consider reviewing the current application of zoning controls in the green wedge to better reflect the actual use of land.</p> <p>O5.4 Clearly articulate and support the future of our green wedge townships.</p> <p>O1.4 Work with local communities to articulate a vision and develop plans appropriate to their scale and capacity for Hurstbridge, St Andrews and Panton Hill as green wedge service centres and visitor gateways. Where possible, encourage housing diversity to enable ageing in place. Align future development with environmentally sensitive design principles and ensure that future development emphasises each town's unique characteristics.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>O5.7 Keep the community appraised of and represent its interests in government policy reforms affecting our green wedge.</p> <p>A5.8 Advocate Council's position on all government policy reform affecting the Shire, including reform of green wedge policy and planning provisions. Particular issues relating to rural living are discussed in the narrative on pages 23-24 under the heading of "Rural Living", including concerns with rural land management on the fringe of the Urban Growth boundary, raised in the community engagement. In response to this particular issue, the following action is recommended.</p> <p>A1.7 Review the impacts of proximity to urban communities on rural land adjoining the urban area and investigate options to maintain the amenity and productivity of those areas.</p> <p>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.</p>

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	<p><b>Small lots</b>            1. Maintain current Local Planning Policy which governs building on small lots (e.g. RCZ3 &lt;8ha) with a view to its increased enforcement            2. Investigate the feasibility of a buy-back/consolidation scheme in which vacant small lots are purchased by State or Council and resold where they can be amalgamated into adjoining land. Where not possible, encourage neighbouring property owners to do so</p>	<p><b>Not support/support-in-principle</b> - Council does not support part 1 of the Panel's recommendation. The Local Planning Policy (Residential Use and Development on Small Lots in green wedge Areas) expired on 30 November 2009 and cannot be revived without a new planning scheme amendment. Current planning controls require decisions be made one-by-one on how lots are used according to their land capability and risk. Council supports part 2 in principle and will investigate options for encouraging consolidation and amalgamation of lots smaller than the minimum subdivision size, where it is desirable to do so. The assistance of the State will be required if this process is to included public acquisition.</p>	<p><b>Housing development (cont.)</b>            5. Lobby the Victorian government to provide that vacant green wedge landholdings are able to be developed for rural residential use or purchased by government for a capital sum negotiated by the land owner and to be maintained by the owner (government) in a pest and weed free bushfire safe state in perpetuity.</p>		<p><b>Strategies:</b>            Discourage further rural residential development of undersized allotments in the Green Wedge.            Discourage rural residential and small lot development on rural land.            Discourage further residential development of under-sized allotments in the Green Wedge.</p>		<p>This issue is described in the narrative on page 23 under the heading of "Population, settlements and local services".            O1.5 Recognise the limits on housing development in the rural areas.            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.</p>
	<p><b>Right to rebuild</b>            Residents should have a right to rebuild on existing structure footprints subject to overlays and building permit approvals. This recommendation refers to rebuilding on lots that are below the zone minimum subdivision size.</p>	<p><b>Support-in-principle</b> - Council supports the Panel's underlying premise that people should have the opportunity to rebuild on their property if they have unfortunately lost their home due to fire or other disasters. However, as the Panel rightly notes this is and needs to be subject to overlays and building approval considerations, including BAL requirements, so that the design and siting of replacement buildings reduce future risks to occupants, not repeat them. This applies regardless of lot size and may mean that another location on the property is a better option to deal with fire risk. Under the present planning controls created by the State,</p>					<p>O1.5 Recognise the limits on housing development in the rural areas.            This issue is explained in line with the Council response in the narrative on pages 23-24 under the heading of "Rural Living". No specific action is needed.</p>

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		rights to re-use land for its previous purpose remain after the destructive event but planning and building permits are required to enable development. Council is a responsible planning authority and cannot provide a guarantee about its statutory response in advance of any application process. Therefore the ability to rebuild is a qualified "right". Change to a full "right" would require Victorian Government action.					
<p><b>Regulation</b> The number and types of regulations that must be adhered to was cited as a challenge. These included how land could be managed, and issues relating to building additional homes on allotments. The most commonly cited regulatory challenge related to over regulation (as defined by the respondent) and planning issues. This included the time and cost of obtaining permits and the volume of regulation related to living and running businesses in the green wedge. Over regulation was cited as a future challenge. The difficulties of running a business or maintaining land within current or future regulations was raised. One of the challenges cited was regulation and protection for the green wedge. This related to the need to maintain or increase current protection and the fear of future weakening of protections. Some respondents indicated that there were not sufficient regulations or they were not adequately enforced to protect the green wedge. Respondents indicated that working with Council particularly in relation to planning issues was a challenge with complex and time consuming processes. Some respondents indicated a lack of faith in Council process and councillors.</p>	<p><b>Regulation, enforceability and cost</b> To support a better relationship between landowners and council staff, education and mediation should be preferred to regulation. Council should be more aware of the cost of these regulations, and should strongly endeavour to lower the cost and therefore the barriers to the planning system. Council regulations should be as far as possible 1. Practicable 2. Enforceable 3. Fair and reasonable in cost 4. Necessary</p>	<p><b>Partially support</b> - Council agrees with the Panel's underlying premise but notes that planning fees and policy settings are largely set by the State. Council has and will continue to advocate for a simplified planning scheme.</p>	<p><b>Regulation, enforceability and cost</b> 1. Bureaucracy be reduced as far as possible. 2. Eliminate the cost of permitting linked to essential services and safety (e.g. water tanks). 3. Eliminate the cost of permitting to replace like for like. 4. No requirement of permit reports when council intends to site validate (eliminate duplication). 5. Permit applications only be required by council when they are necessary to ensure adherence to the building code. 6. The offset scheme removes financial penalties, and limits permit conditions to the no-net loss principle. 7. Discontinue regulation that imposes penalty payments for replacement of vegetation with no market based mathematical formula</p>				<p>An approach to regulation is discussed in the narrative on page 41 under the heading of "Governance and engagement".</p>

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<p><b>Access</b> Respondents indicated they enjoyed the easy access to a range of activities including horse riding, cycling, bushwalking, sports and other activities such as visiting wineries and markets. Respondents indicated that improving facilities and infrastructure would encourage visitors into the green wedge and improve conditions for residents. The types of infrastructure mentioned included transport, cultural and recreation facilities such as horse trails, walking and cycling tracks.</p>	<p><b>Develop trail network</b> Complete a purpose built trail network for walking, cycling and horse riding within the next 5 years. Refer to Recreation Trails Strategy (2001) and points 10.1-10.4 &amp; PC 8.3 of current GWMP.</p>	<p><b>Support-in-principle -</b> Council supports the Panel's objective of completing the trail network but cannot commit at this stage to the Panel's proposed timeframe.</p>	<p><b>Mixed use trails</b> 1. Renew the Recreation Trails Strategy to integrate with the Yarra Ranges Trails Strategy and ensure walking, cycling and horse riding is incorporated in all public destination and circuit trails across the Nillumbik green wedge. 2. Continue to advocate with Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria for mixed use access to trails to link to broader trail networks. 3. Consult with Yarra Ranges regarding linking the trails in Nillumbik with those in Yarra Ranges to create a combined network of trails.</p>	<p><b>Nillumbik Trails Strategy 2011</b>  <b>Open Space Strategy 2005</b></p>	<p><b>Strategies:</b> Promote and expand passive recreation opportunities.</p>	<p>Implement Nillumbik Shire Council's Recreation Trails Strategy (2001) with emphasis on the extension to the Diamond Creek Trail, Pipeline Trail (Allendale to Diamond Creek-Hurstbridge Road) and the Wattle Glen to Kinglake Trail. Continue investigation into the proposed Maroondah Aqueduct Trail as an opportunity to create an iconic recreation and tourism opportunity for Melbourne. Implement Nillumbik Shire Council's Open Space Strategy (2005) with particular emphasis on rural open spaces and on the development of trails networks. Include investigation of the feasibility of a park and ride scheme linked to the trails network.</p>	<p>O2.1 Encourage active living and enhanced mental wellbeing. O2.2 Provide a diversity of open spaces with a range of high quality regional, district and neighbourhood parks linked by a network of trails. O2.3 Complete the trail network for walking, cycling and horse riding in Nillumbik, connecting to the regional trails network covering neighbouring municipalities. A2.2 Review and update the Nillumbik Open Space Strategy and Recreation Strategy. A2.3 Implement the Nillumbik Trails Strategy 2011.</p>
<p><b>Community development</b> Community development and supporting existing groups was seen as a key opportunity. Many respondents indicated that there was already a strong community and this could be built on and utilised more widely.</p>	<p><b>Volunteers</b> Council should continue to encourage, support, promote and celebrate volunteering that assists the Nillumbik Shire to manage the green wedge.</p>	<p><b>Support -</b> Council's support for volunteering within the community is committed in the Council Plan 2017-2021, Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 and Nillumbik Volunteer Development Strategy 2015-2020.</p>	<p><b>Volunteers</b> 1. Continue to encourage, support, promote and celebrate volunteering in the Nillumbik green wedge, and investigate opportunities for volunteers to assist to manage the Nillumbik green wedge. 2. Investigate innovative green wedge management volunteering programs, adopt a road for road side reserve fuel management, community road side management, and others that assist to manage the green wedge, protect high value biodiversity and provide for the safety of residents, land owners, assets, resources and high value biodiversity assets.</p>	<p><b>Nillumbik Volunteer Development Strategy 2015-20</b></p>	<p><b>Strategies:</b> Support volunteering.</p>	<p>Implement existing land care programs e.g. community rabbit control, school environmental education. Promote the involvement of Nillumbik communities in Landcare and 'Friends of' groups.</p>	<p>O1.2 Encourage, support, promote and celebrate the roles that landowners and volunteers play in the management of the green wedge. A1.2 Implement Council's Nillumbik Volunteer Development Strategy 2015-2020.</p>

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<p><b>Aged care</b> Some respondents believed there were opportunities to put more than one house on a block. One respondent also suggested there was an opportunity to build an aged care facility.</p>	<p><b>Ageing population / Community health</b> 1. Better support the ageing population of Nillumbik, specifically those living within the green wedge. Options should include the need for aged care services within green wedge townships, and programs &amp; services to facilitate people ageing in the community where they have lived for many years. Review current progress against action items in the Positive Ageing Strategy and continue to work with community to implement. 2. Provide support for ageing landholders to maintain the biodiverse qualities of their land.</p>	<p><b>Support/Support-in-principle - Council</b> Council supports part 1 of the Panel's recommendation and will consider the specific needs of ageing green wedge residents in forming its positive ageing strategy and housing strategy in 2019. Council is also currently consulting the community on Ageing Well in Nillumbik, covering community transport, social isolation and accessing Australian Government services through its myagedcare portal. Council supports-in-principle part 2 of the Panel's recommendation but does not envisage implementation of this recommendation to be direct service delivery. Alternatively, assistance with health and well-being, land management and bushfire preparedness could be supported through the promotion of volunteer and community groups.</p>	<p><b>Ageing population and community health</b> Support the ageing population of the Nillumbik green wedge by investigating how best to assist elderly Nillumbik green wedge residents to: 1. Maintain their properties in bushfire prepared state; 2. Gain access to services and supports to support their health and wellbeing; 3. Implement the Positive Ageing Strategy; and 4. Encourage multi-generational land occupancy so that people can remain on their properties safely for as long as possible</p>				<p>O1.6 Better support the ageing population of the green wedge to age in place with its benefits to retaining local knowledge, community cohesiveness, engagement and involvement in local groups. A1.8 Encourage the location of aged care services within the townships and programs to facilitate people ageing in the community where they have lived for many years. Encourage volunteer and community groups to support aging landowners with land management, where needed. Implement Council's Positive Ageing Strategy.</p>
			<p><b>Mental health and wellbeing of Nillumbik green wedge communities</b> 1. In recognition of higher levels of distress and mental illness in Nillumbik green wedge communities, council work with local mental health, drug and alcohol service providers to improve pathways to service access.</p>	<p><b>Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-21</b></p>			<p>O2.1 Encourage active living and enhanced mental wellbeing. A2.1 Implement the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021</p>
<p><b>Services</b> The general lack of services or poor functioning services was cited as a challenge. This included telecommunications, recreational infrastructure and basic services such as water and sewage. The importance of the community, the friendliness, shared understanding and 'village feel' of the area.</p>	<p><b>Supporting community facilities in the green wedge</b> Develop and better utilize existing multi-use community spaces in green wedge townships and identify possible gaps in terms of services and infrastructure.</p>	<p><b>Support-in-principle - Council</b> Council will consider this recommendation as part of its on-going service, community infrastructure and asset management planning. Implementation will be subject to resources and physical constraints</p>	<p><b>Community facilities in the Nillumbik green wedge</b> 1. Work in collaboration with agency and service providers to maximise the utilisation of valuable community assets in the Nillumbik green wedge and ensure they are maintained in good condition for public use.</p>		<p><b>Objectives:</b> Work towards creating socially sustainable communities. <b>Strategies:</b> Encourage actions that contribute to sustainable communities including local food production, transport and social connectedness.</p>		<p>O1.3 Support community facilities in the green wedge. 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. A1.4 Better utilise multi-use community spaces to create community hubs in the townships.</p>

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<p><b>Activities</b> More activities such as arts and sporting events were cited by some respondents as an opportunity.</p> <p>Other responses from the Community Engagement Verbatim Report included a need to better recognise cultural heritage and to make efforts to revive the industry of mud-brick building.</p>	<p><b>Cultural development</b> Support the creation of a high quality, regional art gallery, supporting the artists of the Nillumbik green wedge which in turn support the importance of cultural heritage and sense of place and wellbeing.</p>	<p><b>Support-in-principle</b> - Council's full support for the recommendation will be subject to Council's feasibility study into a regional art gallery, the results of which are expected in the near future.</p>	<p><b>Community facilities in the Nillumbik green wedge (cont.)</b> 2. Support the creation of a high-quality regional gallery to showcase Nillumbik green wedge artists and promote the importance of local cultural heritage, support our sense of place and wellbeing, and create economic prosperity in the local arts communities.</p>	<p><b>Nillumbik Arts and Cultural Plan 2018-22</b></p>	<p><b>Objectives:</b> Conserve local arts, heritage, culture and township/settlement character. <b>Strategies:</b> Identify and conserve the cultural heritage of the Nillumbik Green Wedge.</p>	<p>Promote the use of traditional construction techniques and styles e.g. mud brick and rammed earth in support of the traditional 'Nillumbik style'.</p>	<p>O2.4 Support, celebrate and enable public access to Nillumbik's rich tradition of local artists and makers. A2.4 Implement the Nillumbik Arts and Cultural Plan 2018-2022. A2.5 Investigate the establishment of a regional art gallery. O2.5 Work with Heritage Victoria, the Wurundjeri Land Council and other government agencies to support local heritage protection. O2.6 Ensure that council owned heritage places are accessible and sustainable and make better use of our heritage assets to support cultural tourism initiatives and leverage further economic benefits for green wedge communities. A2.6 Develop and implement a heritage interpretation plan. 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. Mud brick building is discussed in the narrative on page 28 under the heading of "Conserving and celebrating our cultural heritage".</p>
<p><b>Services</b> The general lack of services or poor functioning services was cited as a challenge. This included telecommunications, recreational infrastructure and basic services such as water and sewage.</p>	<p><b>Internet connectivity</b> Continue lobbying government/NBN Co. to prioritise the green wedge in providing internet connectivity to particularly support landowners, services and local businesses, and providing enhanced mobile phone coverage.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council agrees with the Panel recommendation that internet and mobile phone connectivity is vital to the community and will work with government and telecommunications providers to overcome identified black spot areas.</p>	<p><b>Internet connectivity</b> 1. Continue to lobby government to prioritise Nillumbik internet connectivity to support land owners, emergency services, services and business.</p>			<p>As part of the Economic Development Strategy, consider opportunities for enterprises that embrace the principles of 'intelligent communities'. These communities use high speed broadband to support local enterprises that may have national and international impact.</p>	<p>O4.7 Encourage government to make reliable mobile phone and internet access available across the Shire. A4.12 Identify and document areas of low mobile and internet connectivity and black spots. Identify opportunities to rectify areas affected. 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. 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.</p>

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<p><b>Business and employment</b> The lack of both business and employment opportunities was considered a challenge. Removing the impediments to business and job growth was considered important by some. The types of potential business suggested varied from small specialist businesses to agriculture to tourism. The challenge of lack of business and job growth was cited. This related to all forms of business including agriculture and tourism. A number of respondents indicated the opportunity to build on existing and develop new small business. These included traditional business such as agriculture and newer business such as food production and other artisan businesses.</p>	<p><b>Rural business activities</b> Support and promote supplementary rural business activities such as farm gate sales, farm stays, and other low environmental and amenity impact enterprise which are consistent with green wedge values.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council will give this recommendation high priority in forming its new economic development strategy in 2019 and notes that this may require some future planning scheme changes.</p>	<p><b>Commerce</b> 1. Seek a clear understanding of the economy of the Nillumbik green wedge and its relationship to the rest of the Shire in order to be able to ensure decisions and actions promote the health of the local economy, including protecting the asset value of green wedge land. 4. Identify small scale business types consistent with agricultural, environmental and tourism pursuits, currently excluded by the "in conjunction" test. Council partners with local Chambers of Commerce and green wedge communities to investigate the viability of these business types. Where economic, social and environmental analysis supports the benefits of these business types, council should consider advocating the Victorian government for the "in conjunction" clause to be accordingly modified. 6. Business types should be consistent with the rural nature of the green wedge. Businesses not in keeping with the peaceful bucolic character of the green wedge should not be supported.</p>		<p><b>Strategies:</b> Prioritise expansion in the following identified business sectors: homebased business and services to business in the Green Wedge.</p>	<p>As part of the Economic Development Strategy, promote home-based business and services to business which are compatible with amenity of green wedge areas. Review the current planning scheme to facilitate increased business opportunities in the green wedge which are compatible with green wedge values. This includes clarifying the full extent of 'in conjunction use'; investigation into whether rural zones in addition to the Rural Conservation and green wedge Zones are needed in the green wedge to broaden the range of uses permitted and investigation of the intensity of permitted uses in the existing zones around townships.</p>	<p>O4.1 Encourage investment to improve the economy and create local employment while at the same time preserving the green wedge. A4.1 Finalise and implement a new Nillumbik Economic Development Strategy. A4.2 Engage with and support the existing business base across the shire to promote local economic growth. O4.6 Encourage growth in professional services and home-based business. A4.11 Create an investment attraction plan and investigate innovative land use solutions to attract professional services to locate within the townships of the green wedge. A4.13 Analyse the needs of home based business and identify the barriers to growth. 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.</p>
	<p><b>Right to farm</b> green wedge landholders should be able to exercise their 'right to farm' on pre-existing cleared agricultural land. Discourage bush block conversion to agricultural or pastoral use, or any other use that would otherwise degrade/impact vegetation and biodiversity values.</p>	<p><b>Support/Partially support</b> - Council supports part 1 of the Panel's recommendation. Right-to-farm will be considered as part of Council's new economic development strategy and Council looks forward to State planning reform in this direction. Council does not fully support part 2 of the recommendation because of its absoluteness. Such matters are subject to planning controls and decision-making.</p>	<p><b>Addressing risk in zones and schedules (cont.)</b> 3. Recognising that low density hobby farming is one of the primary uses and purposes of the green wedge, advocate for the as-of-right grazing of livestock on both green wedge and Rural Conservation zones and consider the removal of animal exclusions and limitations in current zones and schedules.</p>			<p>Develop a pilot program to address the potential conflicts between farmers and non-agricultural residents of the rural areas. This should consider a country-code type approach combined with welcoming people into the area and done in conjunction with real estate agents.</p>	<p>O4.2 Encourage sustainable, diversified and productive agriculture, access to markets and the right to farm. A4.8 Advocate to the Victorian Government that: • planning and other controls be altered to allow landholders a right to farm on pre-existing cleared agricultural land and be able to adapt to changing agricultural practice • the support and promotion of supplementary rural business activities such as farm gate sales, farm stays and other low environmental amenity impact enterprises which are consistent with green wedge values need to be prioritised and • the role of hobby farms be defined, recognised and policy and program be developed to support sustainable land management and agriculture at their scale. O5.5 Work with the Victorian Government to ensure that the Nillumbik planning scheme supports the principles, goals and objectives of this plan. A5.6 Consider reviewing the current application of zoning controls in the green wedge to better reflect the actual use of land.</p>
	<p><b>Regulation regarding grazing</b> Hoofed grazing domestic animals to be restricted to grazing/agricultural private land-holdings appropriate for livestock or properties with low biodiversity values. Grazing to be under guidance and</p>	<p><b>Partially support</b> - Council agrees with the Panel's underlying premise that the grazing of hoofed domestic animals needs to be managed responsibly, ideally on land suitable for grazing and not in places with fragile high biodiversity values. Council also recognises that the keeping of</p>					<p>The need for agriculture to co-exist with nature conservation is discussed in the narrative on page 38 under the heading of "Agriculture".</p>

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	education of a vegetation management plan, which will be enforceable.	livestock is an important part of the rural life of the shire and many people do exercise responsible animal management. Consistent with a number of other Panel recommendations, Council prefers to invest in information and support for responsible animal ownership and land management by landowners in preference to increasing regulation and policing.					
<p><b>Business and employment</b> The lack of both business and employment opportunities was considered a challenge. Removing the impediments to business and job growth was considered important by some. The types of potential business suggested varied from small specialist businesses to <u>agriculture</u> to tourism. The challenge of lack of business and job growth was cited. This related to all forms of business including <u>agriculture</u> and tourism. A number of respondents indicated the opportunity to build on existing and develop new small business. These included traditional business such as <u>agriculture</u> and newer business such as food production and other artisan businesses.</p>	<p><b>Agriculture</b> A. Further fragmentation of agricultural lands to be discouraged, and consolidation of smaller lots in single ownership encouraged - council to facilitate consolidation of titles at zero cost to affected landholders. B. Identify opportunities to support community sustainable agriculture (as recommended in previous GWMP Action 7.1, P.48) C. Any proposal to change land use should demonstrate that the land is fit for purpose for the new use by preparation of a land management plan</p>	<p><b>Partially support/Support-in-principle /Support -</b> Council partially supports part A of the Panel's recommendation to discourage fragmentation of agricultural lands and to encourage consolidation of smaller lots in single ownership. Council can facilitate this through the planning scheme but does not see its role as being to cover the costs of consolidation of titles. Council supports-in-principle part B of the Panel's recommendation but also wishes to encourage sustainable agriculture in general and leave open the opportunity for new forms of practice. Council supports part C of the Panel's recommendation as it is already common practice as part of the planning permit application process.</p>	<p><b>Agriculture</b> 1. Further fragmentation of land holdings across the Nillumbik green wedge not be encouraged, except to provide for reduction of bushfire risk and the protection of people, assets, resources and high value biodiversity. 3. Support the equine enthusiast community.  <b>Commerce (cont.)</b> 2. Investigate opportunities to expand agriculture sector commercial opportunities such as farm stays, bed and breakfast facilities, restaurants, wineries, agistment, small scale intensive primary production, fresh produce and other cottage industries. 5. Acknowledge the benefit to the economy that hobby farms and horse agistment properties provide and encourage horse riding amenities, promoting the expansion of this existing green wedge role.</p>		<p><b>Objectives:</b> Ensure that agriculture remains technically viable in the Green Wedge. <b>Strategies:</b> Retain existing agricultural land for soil-based agricultural production. Discourage fragmentation of existing agricultural land.</p>	<p>Investigate how incentives can be used to ensure property rating does not over-ride the agricultural value of land. Investigate the best ways in which to provide an advisory service to farmers on business opportunities and to farmers and major land owners on land use and land management including whole farm and landscape scale management. Investigate and implement opportunities to support new, economically viable, agricultural opportunities in the green wedge. Advocate to the Victorian Government for support for agricultural enterprises. Investigate funding for development of a brand and marketing strategy aimed at attracting growers and visitors to the region. This is allied to the sustainable tourism plan action. Seek funding and commission an update to the 1998 Land Capability Study. Identify opportunities to support community sustainable agriculture. Support programs that reduce food and shopping miles.</p>	<p>O4.2 Encourage sustainable, diversified and productive agriculture, access to markets and the right to farm. A4.3 Undertake stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural activity and practices, including hobby farming, that need to be protected for the future and 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. A4.4 To ensure that land remains available for agriculture, use the Nillumbik planning scheme to encourage consolidation of smaller agricultural lots in common ownership and discourage the further fragmentation of agricultural lands. A4.5 Continue to apply the sustainable agricultural rate rebate and the primary producer rate rebate. 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. A4.7 Continue to support sustainable land and animal management and access to markets by providing education programs, promotion, events and innovative partnership solutions. O4.4 Recognise and support the sustainable management of the equine community in the green wedge. A4.9 Finalise and implement a new Nillumbik Equine Strategy.</p>

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	<p><b>Hobby farms</b> To recognise the contribution well managed "hobby farms"* can make to the beauty and biodiversity of Nillumbik and that they form a significant part of the green wedge. Hobby farmers should be required to maintain their land using sustainable land management practices.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council supports the essence of the Panel's recommendation in that it is time to define and recognise the role of hobby farms within Nillumbik and that policy and program development is necessary to support and encourage sustainable land management and agriculture at their scale.</p>	<p><b>Agriculture (cont.)</b> 2. Encourage hobby farms and rural residential living in the Nillumbik green wedge, recognising that they enhance community safety and improve biodiversity outcomes.</p> <p><b>Commerce (cont.)</b> 5. Acknowledge the benefit to the economy that hobby farms and horse agistment properties provide and encourage horse riding amenities, promoting the expansion of this existing green wedge role.</p>		<p><b>Strategies:</b> Support agriculture in all its forms whether it is broadacre or hobby farming.</p>		<p>O4.3 Recognise the contribution of hobby (or small-scale) farming in the green wedge with supportive policy put in place. A4.8 Advocate to the Victorian Government that: • planning and other controls be altered to allow landholders a right to farm on pre-existing cleared agricultural land and be able to adapt to changing agricultural practice • the support and promotion of supplementary rural business activities such as farm gate sales, farm stays and other low environmental amenity impact enterprises which are consistent with green wedge values need to be prioritised and • the role of hobby farms be defined, recognised and policy and program be developed to support sustainable land management and agriculture at their scale.</p>
<p><b>Tourism</b> The opportunities to promote sustainable and boutique tourism was considered by many respondents to be an excellent use of the green wedge. The opportunity to promote tourism within the green wedge was a commonly cited idea. The particular areas of tourism mentioned include artisan food, sustainability, and health and wellbeing. Respondents to the survey indicated that they believed there were opportunities to use the green wedge to promote personal health, wellbeing and environmental understanding by linking people to nature. Respondents indicated that improving facilities and infrastructure would encourage visitors into the green wedge and improve conditions for residents. The types of infrastructure mentioned included transport, cultural and recreation facilities such as horse trails, walking and cycling tracks.</p>	<p><b>Tourism</b> We recommend that council refer to the existing management plan, specifically points 3.1, 4.1, 5.1 &amp; 5.2 (economy actions). We also recommend that council aim to implement "destination points" within the Shire to capture 'through traffic' where possible. We would also like council to regularly maintain and/or upgrade the existing tourist destinations, such as Watsons Creek Indigenous Trail.</p>	<p><b>Support-in-principle</b> - Council agrees that tourism is a very important opportunity for the green wedge will take this recommendation into account when forming its economic development strategy in 2019.</p>	<p><b>Commerce (cont.)</b> 3. Evaluate the performance of the Artisan Hills Strategy with a view to its improvement and expansion.</p>	<p><b>Nillumbik Destination Management Plan 2015</b></p>	<p><b>Objectives:</b> Expand tourism opportunities compatible with the Green Wedge, in Green Wedge townships and in identified Green Wedge locations (these will be identified in the proposed land use framework). <b>Strategies:</b> Support only low impact sustainable tourism in the Green Wedge. Provide information about what types of tourism business can be established in the Green Wedge and where. Provide for land uses that encourage expanded, compatible, tourism activity in the Green Wedge and its townships in keeping with township structure plans.</p>	<p>Prepare a land use framework for tourism to be incorporated into the Nillumbik Planning Scheme. This will include detailed mapping of locations where tourism will be encouraged and discouraged and will include details of permitted and prohibited uses. It will also include the number, type and location. Assess the current level of tourism-related accommodation provision in the green wedge – number of beds, location etc. If a shortfall is indicated e.g. camping, youth hostel...pursue opportunities to increase appropriate tourism-related accommodation in identified green wedge locations. Explore models for 'ecotourism' or back-to-nature tourism, including Italy for its agritourism. Investigate the viability of a visitor centre which provides information about what to see and do in the area.</p>	<p>O4.5 Encourage growth in the visitor economy through regional promotion and facilitation of new visitor experiences consistent with Nillumbik's economic, social and environmental characteristics. A4.10 Review and update Council's Destination Management Plan to: • improve awareness of the benefits of cycle tourism and mapping information • invest in digital interpretation of heritage, cultural and natural assets • develop tourism through trail investment • develop festivals and an events attractions plan • build on the arts and cultural product through development of curated content and packaging • add to the food and wine offerings by facilitating diversity of product and infrastructure • manage and avoid detrimental on sensitive environmental areas • increase strategic marketing and promotion and • improve and develop products suited to family experiences.</p>

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	<p><b>Recognition &amp; support for landowners maintaining land</b>            Improve communication between council and landowners in the green wedge with respect to their rights &amp; responsibilities for land management, and the support &amp; services available to them. This information should be provided in a clear concise and accessible manner. Develop an online portal providing a user friendly one-stop-shop for everything a landowner need to know about a property.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council values landowners as its citizens and for their fundamental role in managing the green wedge and recognises that enhanced information sharing is very important. Whilst supporting the recommendation Council does not subscribe to some of the language used in the Panel's rationale that refers to misinformation or ignorance amongst landowners.</p>	<p><b>Support owners and managers of Nillumbik green wedge land</b>            1. Improve communications between council and Nillumbik green wedge land owners and managers.            2. Ensure Nillumbik green wedge grant opportunities are available and accessible to all Nillumbik green wedge land owners.            3. Encourage community input to Nillumbik green wedge issues in the form of personal effect statements.</p>		<p><b>Strategies:</b>            Support the participation of rural landholders and communities in conserving biodiversity.</p>	<p>Provide an advisory service for land management which is targeted to areas of identified need.            Investigate the effectiveness of enforcement.            Develop a model pilot of sustainable practice/whole farm planning as a beacon-type project based on existing DPI pilots (investigate environmental management systems with farmers).            Implement education programs for sustainable land management including horse, cattle and alpaca grazing.            Continue to provide incentives and grants for re-planting vegetation and rehabilitation.</p>	<p>O1.1 Enable our people to take greater shared responsibility for the future of our green wedge.            O1.2 Encourage, support, promote and celebrate the roles that landowners and volunteers play in the management of the green wedge.            O5.1 Recognise and support landowners maintaining land in the green wedge with up-to-date information.            A5.1 Create a comprehensive landowners information and support service for land use and management, including annual reporting on trends and outcomes. Seek on-going government funding to support the service.            A5.3 Create a Green Wedge Conversations program and facilitate local communities to develop resilience, leadership, knowledge-transfer and cooperation between people involved with land management, agriculture, nature conservation, public land management and bushfire mitigation and management. Seek on-going government funding assistance to support the program.            A5.5 Undertake stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural activity and practices, including hobby farming, that need to be protected for the future and 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.</p>
<p><b>Travel and Transport</b>            The most cited response to the current social challenges was related to travel and transport. This included the <u>quality of roads</u>, congestion and poor public transport services and difficulties parking at train stations.            Travel and transport was the most commonly cited social challenge for the future, particularly poor public transport and <u>road infrastructure</u> that was not able to cope with population growth and was congested and poorly maintained.</p>	<p><b>Improved road management</b>            Undertake seasonal review of road conditions to improve management, and review current Road Sealing Program to ensure high use roads are prioritised.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council agrees that many roads will remain unsealed and Council's road inspection frequency and works are contained within its municipal road management plan. Higher use and higher maintenance roads are prioritised for sealing which is considered to be of environmental benefit to reduce dust, silt and debris run-off into waterways. Council will look at ways to extend engagement with user communities and notes that roadside management is equally important for safety and environmental management reasons.</p>	<p><b>Road management</b>            1. Improve the condition and safety of public roads in the Nillumbik green wedge.            2. Prioritise roadside fuel reduction rural roads to reduce bushfire risk.            3. Monitor and report on the implementation of the Road Management Plan.            4. Review the current road sealing program and ensure the sealing of roads is prioritised to reduce run-off from dirt roads to minimise silt, debris and pollution in water courses.            5. Advocate for a roundabout to be constructed by Vic Roads on the intersection of the Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Road and the Kangaroo Ground-Wattle Glen Road.            6. Council consult with the residents on their attitudes and preferences regarding unsealed roads.</p>				<p>Road management issues are discussed in the narrative on page 24 under the heading of "Transport and accessibility".            A1.11 Undertake seasonal review of road conditions to improve management and review the road sealing program to ensure high use roads are prioritised.</p>

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<p><b>Travel and Transport</b> Easy access to Melbourne, its services, job opportunities and facilities was considered important. Issues relating to transport included road congestion, lack of public transport and the frequency of public transport services. The most cited response to the current social challenges was related to travel and transport. This included the quality of roads, congestion and poor public transport services and difficulties parking at train stations. Travel and transport was the most commonly cited social challenge for the future, particularly poor public transport and road infrastructure that was not able to cope with population growth and was congested and poorly maintained.</p>	<p><b>Public transport and related infrastructure</b> Improve public transport options within the green wedge.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Council supports the Panel's recommendation and consistent with the Council Plan, will advocate for enhanced community transport and public transport in remote areas.</p>			<p><b>Objectives:</b> Promote improved access to the Green Wedge. <b>Strategies:</b> Support alternative forms of transport to the private, driver-only, car.</p>	<p>Work with communities to seek opportunities for expanding transport connections including carpooling, buses and park and ride schemes. Advocate for more accessible public transport systems, particularly those recommended in the Victorian Government's North East Integrated Transport Systems Strategy 2007 and Meeting our Transport Challenges (2006) as related to the green wedge. Expand and improve the safety of off-road bicycle routes and walking paths in the green wedge, particularly those linking townships and tourism destinations and strategic public transport systems. In particular, consider connections with Whittlesea's path networks providing car-free east-west links. Investigate the feasibility of introducing park and ride areas which link public transport to destinations within the green wedge e.g. recreation trails, shops, markets and other tourism and recreation opportunities.</p>	<p>Public transport issues are discussed in the narrative on page 24 under the heading of "Transport and accessibility". O1.7 Facilitate linked public, community and shared transport options connected to the existing railway network and destinations within the green wedge. A1.9 Advocate for improved public transport, traffic management and reduced road congestion. 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.</p>
	<p><b>Green wedge management authority</b> Advocate for the establishment of a body that provides expert advice and support to both state and local government on green wedge issues.</p>	<p><b>Not support</b> - Council does not support this recommendation because the creation of a state based authority would result in less local control and the ability to respond to our community.</p>					<p>Not included in line with Council response.</p>
						<p>Actively promote the brand and lifestyle of the Nillumbik green wedge.</p>	<p>Not included.</p>