

**How *Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan – Draft for Consultation, June 2019* aligns with *Planning Practice Note 31 – Preparing a Green Wedge Management Plan, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, June 2015*.**

<b>Planning Practice Note 31</b>	<b>Draft Nillumbik GWMP</b>
<b>What is a Green Wedge Management Plan?</b>	
<p>A Green Wedge Management Plan is a council adopted strategy that identifies a vision, objectives and actions for the sustainable use and development of each green wedge. The plan will identify the values and features of each green wedge, the preferred future land use, environmental and natural resources that should be protected, and the needs of the local community. Green wedges, like any other place are dynamic and constantly evolving. Changes identified through the preparation of GWMPs may embrace new productive land uses, investments and developments consistent with state policies for green wedges, environmental enhancement and sustainable resource management initiatives.</p>	<p>Contains a vision, goals, 34 objectives and 50 key actions.</p> <p>Values and features identified in section entitled “managing what is valuable to us”.</p> <p>Plan Melbourne desired planning outcomes for green wedges are referenced.</p>
<p>To ensure the sustainable management of green wedges, a GWMP should include a broad range of implementation tools that include regulatory and non-regulatory measures. For example, regulatory actions may encompass changes to existing local planning schemes to encourage and facilitate land uses and developments that protect and enhance each green wedge. A GWMP should also provide non-regulatory actions focusing on education and incentive programs aimed at encouraging landowners to adopt sustainable practices. Achievement of sustainable land uses and land management practices are the critical elements in the development of GWMPs.</p>	<p>The recommended actions are broadly based and predominantly managerial rather than regulatory.</p> <p>Four of the five “key moves for the shire” relate to knowledge creation, sharing and transfer.</p>
<b>Why prepare a Green Wedge Management Plan?</b>	
<p>Green wedges will experience change over time. In many cases the condition of their environment and natural resource base needs considerable improvement. A GWMP provides a framework managing change and the actions that will facilitate it. The preferred direction for future change and improvements and how this will be managed is an essential element of the planning for the future of Melbourne’s green wedges.</p>	<p>Prepared as the result of a review of an existing Nillumbik GWMP that is eight years old. Plan Melbourne recommends that GWMP’s should be periodically reviewed.</p>
<p>A GWMP provides the opportunity to clearly articulate the kinds of development or activities that are likely to be supported in the green wedge. It will provide clarity and greater certainty for all stakeholders, including landowners.</p>	<p>Goals 1 to 4 articulate the type and manner of development and activities that are desired.</p>
<b>What is expected for green wedges?</b>	
<p>The green wedges accommodate agricultural and recreational uses, as well as a variety of important functions that support Melbourne. These include major assets such as airports, sewage treatment plants, extractive industry and landfill sites – uses that support urban activity but which cannot be located amongst normal urban development. The green wedges include</p>	<p>Goal 2 addresses recreational and heritage uses.</p> <p>Goal 3 addresses environmental and landscape issues.</p> <p>Goal 4 addresses agricultural and</p>

areas that have strong environmental, landscape, built and Koori heritage value for Victorians – many of which are of state, national or international significance. They provide important resources for recreation and tourism. Each green wedge has unique features and will require a management approach that promotes and encourages its diversity.	tourism issues.
Collectively, green wedges have a broad range of purposes. This means that each GWMP will need an individual, tailored approach to establish the clear role, purpose, objectives and related actions for each area. To ensure a metropolitan and regional approach, a GWMP can be prepared either by an individual council or by a group of councils where appropriate.	Contains a vision, goals, 34 objectives and 50 key actions.
A series of actions have been undertaken to establish and protect green wedges that includes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• application of the Urban Growth Boundary around Melbourne and townships within the green wedges (this has been implemented)</li> </ul>	Accepted and described in section entitled “the Victorian Government’s planning framework for green wedges.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• new planning measures including new green wedge zoning and the Core Planning Provisions at Clause 57 (this has been implemented).</li> </ul>	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• new legislation that ensures protection of green wedges (this has been implemented)</li> </ul>	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development of individual action plans for each green wedge – the Green Wedge Management Plan (this is being implemented)</li> </ul>	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management of residential development in green wedges (this is being implemented and will be further enhanced through the preparation of GWMPs)</li> </ul>	As above and section entitled “Population, settlements and local services”.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management of the outward growth of Melbourne</li> </ul>	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identification of key features and related values for each green wedge (The GWMP will provide an opportunity to further identify and refine key features and related values).</li> </ul>	Values and features identified in section entitled “managing what is valuable to us”.
Opportunities in the green wedge include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agricultural uses, such as market gardening, viticulture and broad acre farming, as well as forestry and land-based aquaculture</li> </ul>	See Goal 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assisting the preservation of rural and scenic landscapes</li> </ul>	See Goal 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring the conservation of important environmental assets close to where people live</li> </ul>	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• managing renewable and non-renewable resources and natural areas (such as water supply catchments)</li> </ul>	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing and safeguarding infrastructure sites that support urban areas (for example, sewage treatment plants)</li> </ul>	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allowing industries such as sand and stone extraction to operate close to major markets</li> </ul>	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing opportunities for tourism and recreation</li> </ul>	See Goals 2 and 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recognising and conserving heritage features.</li> </ul>	See Goal 2

<p><b>What are the aims of the Green Wedge Management Planning process?</b></p>	
<p>The key task of a GWMP is to articulate the type, scale and form of change in the green wedge and how those changes will be managed and facilitated. Many councils have already undertaken strategic planning, policy and resource management studies, projects and action in their green wedges. This work will provide a relevant basis for the finalisation of the plan.</p>	
<p>In summary, a GWMP should:</p>	
<p>1. Develop a vision, role and purpose for the green wedge. This should be determined through community consultation and research.</p>	Page 7
<p>2. Identify the values and features within the green wedge that are to be protected and enhanced. This should be based on a detailed environmental and land use inventory and community consultation.</p>	Pages 10-11
<p>3. Establish a strategic direction for land use and development within the green wedge that is consistent with government policies and strategies that will protect and enhance the values and features identified within the green wedge. This should be based on identification of key opportunities and constraints identified through research.</p>	The proposed vision, goals and objectives articulate the strategic direction.
<p>4. Articulate the strategic direction for the green wedge through the relevant planning scheme. This should involve:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring the vision, role and purpose of the green wedge is identified in the Municipal Strategic Statement</li> </ul>	The section entitled “Monitoring and Evaluation” declares that the GWMP will be used to inform the four-yearly reviews of the planning scheme (including the municipal strategic statement). The illustration on page 15 shows how the GWMP relates of council policy and strategy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• confirmation of the green wedge zoning and the schedules to these zones</li> </ul>	Some of the objectives and key actions foreshadow review of certain aspects of the planning scheme relating to zones and overlays.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring identified values, environmental assets and resources are appropriately identified and protected by the planning scheme by such tools as planning scheme overlays and local planning policies</li> </ul>	As above.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consideration of the need to provide further guidance in relation to discretionary uses and developments within the green wedge through the Local Planning Policy Framework.</li> </ul>	“Key move” no 1 is to create a comprehensive landowners’ information and support service for land use and management.
<p>5. Establish a framework to encourage sustainable land management practices and appropriate resource management. This should involve:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reviewing the adequacy of resources and programs</li> </ul>	By proposing to build the GWMP into Council’s annual planning

	and resource allocation processes, the adequacy of resources and programs will be regularly reviewed in line with the goals and objectives of the plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assessing the effectiveness of existing incentive and education programs</li> </ul>	As above and valuable existing programs are named for continuance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>developing new initiatives aimed at encouraging sustainable land management practices</li> </ul>	By addressing environmental, social and economic objectives in an integrated manner throughout, the plan as a whole attempts to address sustainability and innovation concurrently.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifying and supporting sustainable land use options</li> </ul>	As above.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consideration of relevant plans and strategies related to natural resource management including fire management plans, catchment management plans and stream flow management plans.</li> </ul>	The draft GWMP references Council's bushfire mitigation strategy and domestic wastewater management plan as well as Victorian policies relating to water management, climate change and emergency management.
6. Identify the needs of green wedge landowners and the wider community. Issues that should be examined include demographic considerations, economic sustainability, employment opportunities, sustainable land use options, community facilities and other required levels of infrastructure.	The plan has been produced with extensive community engagement over a 12 month period. All the issues named at point 6 are referenced.
7. Establish a clear monitoring and review process to ensure the plan remains relevant and its performance can be measured. This should involve determining appropriate indicators and a commitment to review the plan in five years.	The plan is proposed to provide direction over a decade with priorities determined every four years through the preparation of the Council Plan.
Broadly, the plan should focus on the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support or incorporate existing plans, strategies and activities that align with green wedge policies, such as Regional Catchment Strategies, Regional Management Plans and Natural Resource Plans</li> </ul>	The key State Government policies that are referenced in the plan are named at page 9.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reflect Government policies and strategies</li> </ul>	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>examine opportunities for agricultural and alternative land use options</li> </ul>	See Goal 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>involve key stakeholders and landowners in developing the plans, to reflect a range of expertise and knowledge</li> </ul>	The plan has been produced with extensive community engagement over a 12 month period.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>promote community participation and ownership of the values and actions for the green wedge</li> </ul>	This is a heavy feature of Goal 5 and the "key moves for the shire"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>promote environmentally sustainable development and land management</li> </ul>	See Goals 3 and 4

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>integrate resource development and management with fire management and protection plans</li> </ul>	See Goal 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have a monitoring process for actions built into the management process</li> </ul>	The section entitled “Monitoring and Evaluation” covers this.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop and expand land management programs and support mechanisms for landholders in achieving improved land stewardship</li> </ul>	See Goal 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop new, and expand upon current, environmental enhancement initiatives</li> </ul>	See Goal 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify and set priorities for investment in land use and development consistent with government policies and strategies.</li> </ul>	See Goal 4
<p><b>What is the process for preparing a Green Wedge Management Plan?</b></p>	
<p>Each green wedge is different. The nature of land uses and developments are diverse, the number of landowners and stakeholders varies. The level of knowledge about the quality of the natural resource base and the resource levels of each council also varies. These differences will influence the scope and detail of the process to be used in the preparation of each GWMP. The following diagram provides a typical model for preparing a GWMP.</p>	
<pre> graph TD     A[Preparation work] --&gt; B[Information gathering]     B --&gt; C[Green Wedge Vision and Objectives]     C --&gt; D[Review existing policies and programs]     D --&gt; E[Developing Actions]     E --&gt; F[Implementation]     G[Monitoring and Review] --&gt; C     F --&gt; G   </pre>	<p>Over 1000 people participated in the wider community engagement. A citizen’s panel of 40 people reviewed this data and provided recommendations to Council. The draft plan will be exhibited for further feedback.</p> <p>The entire process of review and preparation of the plan has been open to public view through Council’s Participate Nillumbik website.</p>
<p><b>Preparation work</b></p>	
<p>Determine the key stakeholders, project teams, consultation methods, scope of tasks and resources.</p>	<p>Design workshops with community leaders helped create the wider engagement program.</p>
<p><b>Information gathering</b></p>	
<p>Explore existing information, the policy context, identify gaps, undertake research and identify community views and issues.</p>	<p>Over 1000 people participated in the wider community</p>

	engagement.
<b>Green Wedge Vision and Objectives</b>	
Develop a vision that outlines the preferred future direction for the green wedge. Determine objectives that will achieve the vision. Explore key indicators that will be able to measure whether the objectives are being achieved.	Vision, goals and objectives included. Expenditure and activity associated with this plan will be tagged and reported through Council's annual budget and performance statements.
<b>Review existing policies and programs</b>	
Review the existing policies and programs that apply or influence the green wedge. Will they deliver the vision and objectives? Do they need to be changed, enhanced and/or better resourced?	This plan has been prepared as the result of a review of an existing Nillumbik GWMP that is eight years old.
<b>Developing Actions</b>	
Develop a series of actions that are designed to achieve the vision and objectives. Various options may need to be explored and tested with key stakeholders before arriving at the preferred actions.	The plan and its 50 key actions will be exhibited for public comment before Council finalises it.
<b>Implementation</b>	
This process will identify responsibilities, priorities and time lines and required resources. It should identify whether additional work is required such as future planning scheme amendments.	The plan commits to the setting of four-yearly priorities and annual implementation plans.
<b>Monitoring and Review</b>	
This process should be twofold. Firstly it should establish a mechanism to measure the progress of implementation. This may involve establishing an annual reporting process to council. Secondly, it should establish a process to review the GWMP to ensure the plan remains relevant and to measure the success of the plan in achieving the agreed vision and objectives.	See "Monitoring and Evaluation".
<b>Principles that should underpin preparation of a GWMP</b>	
Five principles have been developed that should underpin the preparation of a GWMP. These principles will ensure that a GWMP is consistent with government policy and it has been prepared using a collaborative and inclusive approach.	
<b>Consistency with Victorian State Government policies and strategies</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A GWMP should be consistent with relevant state government policies and strategies.</li> </ul>	See the section entitled "the Victorian Government's planning framework for green wedges."
<b>A common basis for the preparation of plans</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A GWMP should be prepared in partnership with government and councils, in their role as the funding agencies implementing government policies, and with landowners and the community, in their role as the custodians of the area who have a duty of care for the resource base.</li> </ul>	This plan has been produced as the result of an extensive community engagement. Government agencies have been briefed and feedback will be sought on the draft.
<b>A well informed, inclusive plan preparation process</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A GWMP should reflect the regional and local circumstances and needs of each green wedge, as well as the</li> </ul>	The plan has a high priority within the current Council Plan.

<p>circumstances and needs that are shared with other relevant green wedge areas. It should provide a clear purpose that council is able and willing to implement and defend.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of a GWMP should take into account the varying levels of knowledge about each green wedge area shared between the relevant councils, government departments and agencies, community groups and organisations, landowners and the general public.</li> </ul>	<p>The entire process of review and preparation of the plan has been open to public view through Council's Participate Nillumbik website. Liaison with DWELP has been maintained through the process.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previous relevant work that is consistent with the strategic and policy intent of state government policies and strategies can be included in the process and can provide a useful basis for the preparation of the plan.</li> </ul>	<p>The plan has been prepared as the result of an extensive review of an existing Nillumbik GWMP that is eight years old.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information held by government sources can be made available to assist the preparation of the plan. A range of external information sources, such as Regional Catchment Strategies, Regional Management Plans, and ABS data can inform development of the plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Government policies and ABS data have been used to inform the plan.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The process for the preparation of a GWMP should involve a process of active engagement with the full range of stakeholders to assist commitment to long term resourcing and implementation of the plan. This may include groups of councils where values and attributes are shared.</li> </ul>	<p>Over 1000 people participated in the wider community engagement. A citizen's panel of 40 people reviewed this data and provided recommendations to Council. The draft plan will be exhibited for further feedback.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The processes used in the preparation of a GWMP should demonstrate transparency, inclusiveness and consultation and seek to build partnerships and shared ownership.</li> </ul>	<p>The entire process of review and preparation of the plan has been open to public view through Council's Participate Nillumbik website.</p>
<p><b>A common approach to the preparation of GWMPs</b></p>	
<p>While the circumstances of each green wedge area will vary, the points below set out the core components expected to be used in the process. This is summarised in the figure below.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council should establish a project steering group (chaired by the council), with representatives from key stakeholders to oversee the preparation of the plan. The project steering group should provide support guidance and oversight of progress and would have the following roles:</li> </ul>	<p>See page 8 for information on how this plan was created.</p> <p>The process relied heavily on extensive community participation facilitated by Council rather than a select member "steering group".</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide input into the preparation of a project plan</li> </ul>	<p>Design workshops with community leaders helped create the wider engagement program.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>endorse key milestones of the GWMP</li> </ul>	<p>The role was played by Council in its public meetings.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>oversee publicity and promotion about the preparation of the GWMP and the process to be used</li> </ul>	<p>As above.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>oversee project briefs for tasks to be undertaken to assist in the preparation of the GWMP</li> </ul>	<p>This was done by Council administration.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensure relevant and practicable levels of engagement and</li> </ul>	<p>Over 1000 people participated in</p>

consultation to assist in research and preparation of the GWMP	the wider community engagement. A citizen's panel of 40 people reviewed this data and provided recommendations to Council. The draft plan will be exhibited for further feedback.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>oversee a publicised program of public display of draft plans and formal input to the development of the GWMP.</li> </ul>	The entire process of review and preparation of the plan has been open to public view through Council's Participate Nillumbik website.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council should establish a working group to assist the project steering group in preparing the GWMP.</li> </ul>	A cross-corporate internal working group of Council participated in the review process and the drafting of the plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council should identify the required actions to implement the GWMP, such as partnership agreements with organisations, agencies or community groups and any other necessary mechanisms.</li> </ul>	The key actions identify relevant partners.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council should formally adopt the GWMP.</li> </ul>	This is proposed, following community feedback to the draft.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council should identify appropriate mechanisms to oversee, monitor and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the GWMP.</li> </ul>	See "Monitoring and Evaluation".
<b>Involvement of stakeholders and landowners</b>	
The development of the plan is not intended to re-open debates regarding existing government policies and strategies. While there are divergent views regarding green wedges, an important element in preparing a GWMP is to ensure that representatives of all relevant stakeholders including landowners have been identified and effectively engaged. There is great diversity in green wedge areas in the number and range of landowners and the groups and organisations with direct and indirect interests in the ongoing management and future direction of particular areas and attributes. It is essential that these groups are informed and that realistic and meaningful measures have been implemented to engage them in the process. Any previous relevant consultation should be reflected in the final plan.	Over 1000 people participated in the wider community engagement. A citizen's panel of 40 people reviewed this data and provided recommendations to Council. The draft plan will be exhibited for further feedback.  The entire process of review and preparation of the plan has been open to public view through Council's Participate Nillumbik website.
<b>How will Green Wedge Management Plans be implemented?</b>	
Each GWMP will set out a series of actions and measures that need to be undertaken, and identify resource requirements, roles and responsibilities, time lines, outcomes and evaluation. This implementation program will include council, government departments and agencies, relevant organisations, landowners and the community. A range of partnership agreements, memorandum of understanding and implementation tools may be utilised.	Potential collaborators are identified in relevant actions.  The plan commits to the setting of four-yearly priorities and annual implementation plans.
<b>Status of Green Wedge Management Plans</b>	
A GWMP should be adopted by Council. Where relevant, it is anticipated that aspects of the plan will be included or referenced in the Local Planning Policy Framework and will	This is intended as part of future four yearly reviews of the planning scheme. Changes to municipal

provide the strategic basis for reviewing existing planning provisions of the green wedge. Any proposed changes to a planning scheme will require a planning scheme amendment which involves separate consultation processes and other requirements specified under the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> . Similarly, any proposed changes to a council's municipal laws will also require statutory processes required under the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> .	laws are not proposed.
Preparation of a GWMP consistent with the practice note will enable government departments and agencies to recognise and reference it in their ongoing programs. As GWMPs are also likely to be recognised and referenced in other relevant land and resource management plans, such as Regional Catchment Strategies.	The draft plan will be provided to government agencies for feedback prior to adoption by Council.
<b>Role of the department</b>	
Department officers are available to assist councils in the preparation of a GWMP. The department will provide support and assistance to councils by:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>participating in the project steering and working groups as needed</li> </ul>	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>liaising with councils and groups of councils</li> </ul>	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contributing to partnership arrangements or funding programs where possible.</li> </ul>	N/A
It is anticipated that the department will be involved in the development of each GWMP and be provided with an opportunity to comment on the draft GWMP prior to it being adopted by Council.	DWELP was briefed at the outset of the review, invited to participate or at least follow it through Council's website and will be requested to provide feedback on the draft.
This practice note provides a guide for the preparation of Green Wedge Management Plans and sets out the general requirements that should be met. The practice note covers the policy context and basis for the plans, their content and status.	It is believed that the general requirements of the practice note have been or will be met.
There are 12 green wedge areas in the municipal districts of 17 councils. There is substantial variation in the land management conditions and circumstances in each green wedge. The preparation of each Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) will need to recognise those variations including the area involved, the level of information available, the resources available, the range of land uses, the condition of the natural resource base and the needs of the local community.	See page 10.
DOCUMENT ENDS	