

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is Council reviewing the Green Wedge Management Plan?

Council, when elected, promised to review the Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan. This decision was made in recognition of the varying views among community members and a State Government requirement for councils to regularly review their Green Wedge Management Plans.

Council has given a commitment that the community engagement process must meet the core principles of inclusiveness, openness and fairness.

Aren't green wedges meant to be untouched?

"Green wedges, like any other place are dynamic and constantly evolving. Changes identified through the preparations of a Green Wedge Management Plan may embrace new productive land uses, investments and developments consistent with state policies for green wedges, environmental enhancements and sustainable resource management (DELWP planning practice note 31).

Plan Melbourne, the State's Metropolitan Planning Strategy, states that 'Green Wedge Management Plans must be in place to support achievement of desired green wedge outcomes. The key task of a Green Wedge Management Plan is to articulate the type, scale and form of change in the green wedge and how those changes will be managed and facilitated.

Is this designed to remove the green wedge?

No. Green wedges are an important part of our environment and are protected by law.

Melbourne's 12 green wedges sit outside the urban growth boundary and have long been identified as a key part of Melbourne's famed 'livability'. They accommodate a mix of agriculture and other activities such as major infrastructure supporting

urban areas including airports and water treatment facilities, quarries, cultural heritage sites, biodiversity conservation areas and water catchments.

The Victorian Government expects each of metropolitan Melbourne's 17 green wedge councils to prepare a Green Wedge Management Plan and review it on a regular basis.

Council made a commitment to review the 2010-2025 Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan when it was elected in 2017.

It did so to ensure that a plan to manage the green wedge is in place that recognises the diverse communities that exist within it and to acknowledge the very real day-to-day issues that people experience as they own, manage, do business or simply enjoy our rural areas.

How will I be able to make my views known?

Throughout this year Council will be consulting widely to prepare a new Plan.

Discussions have already begun with representative groups and property owners to seek initial views. Council will also seek advice from a range of community groups on how to engage with hard-to-reach audiences.

This will be followed by an opportunity for the whole community to put forward their ideas which will be provided to the community panel.

At key points in this four-stage process we will actively seek the community's views. Prior to the final plan being adopted there will also be a three-month community engagement period where you can examine the proposed plan in detail and make formal submissions.

Why is Council doing this now?

Council made a commitment to review the 2010-2025 Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan when it was elected in 2017.

The review of the Green Wedge Management Plan is timely and acknowledges that green wedges like any other place are dynamic and constantly evolving.

The key task of a Green Wedge Management Plan is to articulate the type, scale and form of change in the green wedge and how those changes will be managed and facilitated.

How will you prevent vested interests from getting their way?

What will be unique about Council's approach to reviewing the Green Wedge Management Plan is the extent to which we will engage and consult with the wider community.

We will do this in four-stages, starting with a community engagement plan, which will identify how to connect with hard-to-reach audiences. This will be followed by an opportunity for the whole community to put forward their ideas.

Council will also establish an independent community panel made up of 40 community members. The panel will consider key information, earlier community engagement and expert evidence and will make recommendations to Council.



How confident can I be in the independence of the process?

To ensure the panel's diversity invitations will be randomly sent to 10,000 residents and ratepayers across the municipality. Nominees will be independently filtered to ensure a representative cross section of ages, genders and geographic locations.

Community participation expert, Mosaic Lab, has been engaged to ensure the independence of the community panel and to facilitate a series of panel sessions. These are expected to be held over up to five days and community members are welcome to observe the panel during its sittings.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Regular updates will be provided via Council's website and to interested stakeholders.

 participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gwmp

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