

Green Wedge MANAGEMENT PLAN BULLETIN 4 - DECEMBER 2018



Nillumbik Shire Council is reviewing the Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP). The project, due for completion in mid-2019, is being delivered with significant input from the community over four stages.

The project is now in stage four after Council responded to the Community Panel in December 2018.

The question Council asked the Panel to consider over six full-day sessions and countless more hours of reading and discussion was this:

“What is the best way for Council to manage the Green Wedge now and into the future?”

The panel process has been an enormous collective effort and for Council, an unprecedented and innovative approach to community engagement and consultation.

We would like to thank the Panel for representing the community's diversity of views with such distinction.

A brief recap of the process to date:

- More than 1,000 community members provided their views and input at the earlier phases of consultation.
- A 42 member community Panel – selected by an independent third party – was formed.
- The Panel sat for six days to consider the community's views and receive presentations on topics ranging from economics to environment through to social issues.
- For recommendations to be included in the final report they required a super majority of 80% support. Recommendations that did not achieve 80% support on voting could still be put forward.
- The Panel process was managed by an independent facilitator – MosaicLab.



Council's Response to Community Panel Recommendation

From the outset, Council committed to careful consideration of all recommendations put forward by the Community Panel.

Council decided not to consider what was known as Minority Report #1 as this was prepared outside the Panel process. Council welcomes a submission from these Panel members – and the wider community – on the draft GWMP, which will be released for broader engagement in early 2019.

At Council's December Ordinary Meeting, Council issued its formal response to the Panel's recommendations contained in the GWMP Community Panel report. A copy of Council's response is available online at participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gwmp

Council's response to each recommendation fell within the following categories:

Support: These will appear in the draft GWMP.

Support-in-principle: The essential direction of the recommendation was supported but certain detail aspects cannot be committed to at this time. The essential direction will appear in the draft GWMP.

Partially support: Only part of the recommendation was supported. The part that was supported will appear in the draft GWMP.

Not support: This recommendation will not appear in the draft GWMP.



Of the 32 recommendations made by the Panel only part of one recommendation was not supported by Council. All the others were either 'supported', 'supported in principle' or 'partially supported'. Council did not support the one minority report recommendation.

Next steps:

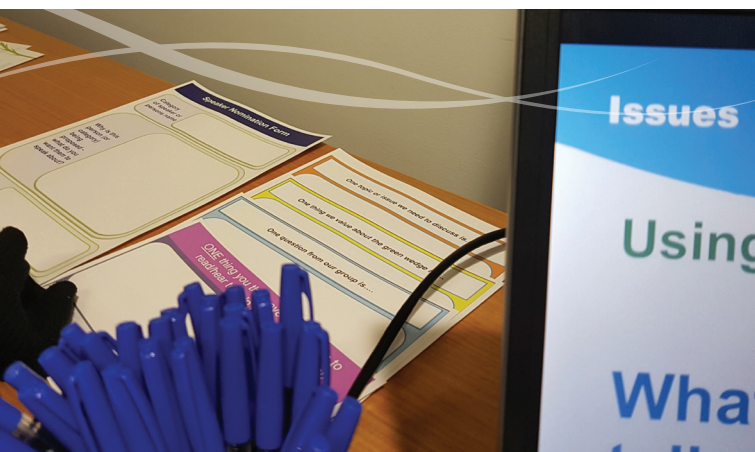
Council's response to the Panel's recommendations, community feedback from the earlier phases of consultation and input from various experts will inform the draft GWMP.

In addition, Council has also engaged the services of former Emergency Management Commissioner Craig Lapsley in order to assist it with the development of a comprehensive Bushfire Mitigation Strategy. This work is currently underway and will also help inform the updated GWMP. Community consultation for this project will also occur in 2019.

It is proposed Council will consider the draft Plan in late March 2019 for wider community consultation. Engagement will run for six weeks, allowing all members of the community the opportunity to provide feedback before it returns to Council for final consideration. It is anticipated that the GWMP will be finalised by July 2019.

As part of the development of the draft GWMP, Council will also formulate an action plan for the implementation phase.

It is likely that planning scheme amendments will be required in order to reference the GWMP in the planning scheme at a later stage – a process which will also involve further community consultation.



The review of the Green Wedge Management Plan is a large and complex project

STAGE 1 Designing the broader community engagement Completed May 2018	Council worked with community stakeholders to help design the broad community engagement program with activities designed to maximise community awareness, interest and involvement.
STAGE 2 Broader community engagement program Completed July 2018	There were a range of ways the community got involved and shared their ideas and experiences. More than 1,000 people participated.
STAGE 3 Community Panel Completed December 2018	<p>A 42-person community panel was selected by a third party independent of Council.</p> <p>Everything we heard through the stage 2 community engagement phase was summarised and presented to the Community Panel. The Panel sat for six days to listen and consider the community's views, and from speakers invited by the Panel covering economic, social and environmental values and regulatory impacts. The Panel was facilitated by experienced deliberative engagement practitioners MosaicLab.</p> <p>The Panel formally presented their recommendations to Council at the November Ordinary Meeting of Council.</p> <p>At the December Ordinary Meeting Council meeting, Council responded to each recommendation.</p>
STAGE 4 Preparation of the Green Wedge Management Plan December 2018 - July 2019	<p>Council's response together with feedback from the wider community captured during the project's earlier phase and input from experts will help shape the preparation of the draft Green Wedge Management Plan in early 2019.</p> <p>Council will consider the draft Plan in March and then conduct community engagement for six weeks.</p> <p>Council will consider community feedback on the draft Plan prior to formally adopting it in late July 2019.</p>

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Green Wedge Management Plan implementation

Planning Scheme Amendments	It is likely that planning scheme amendments will be required to reference the GWMP in the Planning Scheme or to make any changes required to implement the GWMP. These will also have phases of exhibition and opportunity for public comment and may take several years.
Delivery of Plan's actions	Action plan to be confirmed through the development the draft GWMP, and will be subject to resourcing and prioritisation.