

# Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan

Engagement Groups - Workshop Notes

**28 April 2018**

**2 May 2018**

# 1. CONTEXT

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Nillumbik Council is committed to designing an engagement process that acknowledges the passion, commitment, skills and knowledge of the people who live work and play in Nillumbik.

Accordingly, Council invited local community leaders to work with council staff members in designing the wider engagement for the Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP). Community leaders are those people who are great connectors, know how to reach people, and can help Council reach community members who don't always get involved in Council projects.

This report is a record of the notes from two workshops held with the community leaders and Council staff on 28 April and 2 May 2018.

# 2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE

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For community leaders and Council staff to work together on key elements of the community engagement planning – stakeholder mapping, how to activate the community, questions that will give us the best data.

# 3. COUNCIL'S PROMISE TO THE GROUP

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Council will work directly with you to ensure that your ideas are directly reflected in the development of a Community Engagement plan for the wider engagement process. If any of your ideas need to be changed, Council will inform you as to why they have been changed.

# 4. HOPES

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## HOPES FOR WORKING TOGETHER ON ENGAGEMENT PLANNING FOR THE GWMP

Hopes about the engagement planning workshops:

- We find out the best ways to encourage everyone in Nillumbik to participate
- Genuine consultation and to protect the GW
- That we engage the youth in the preservation and continuation of the GW
- We are told why a new plan needs to be developed given the previous plan was to run until 2025
- We end up with an inclusive process for involvement of the community and understanding of the values of the GW
- That all groups represented at the workshop are given the opportunity to express their views about the preservation of the GW
- For an engagement process that is inclusive of the entire GW community
- Sensible representative process to develop an efficient sustainable GWMP
- Youth involvement
- Acknowledgment of landowners, friends of groups, etc
- Diversity of communities
- Ensure everyone knows about the opportunity to contribute.
- To bring awareness to Township areas that are also part of GW and encourage youth to be involved in the future
- Meet and talk to people I have not met before
- Hear a collective of ideas about how to preserve and maintain GW
- Meet people from different organisations within the Shire
- Listen to what people who live and work in the community have to say
- How can we work together to create a wonderful future for family and friends
- Local culture beliefs and values are incorporated into the planning process and into the GWMP itself
- Respectful and comprehensive conversation and information gathering
- Transparency from Council as to informing the wider community and the consultation results
- Polite and respectful communication
- To connect with others that want to see the GW continue to grow with community and youth involvement
- Genuine community engagement by tapping into obvious depths of expertise and knowledge within the community
- Realizing complexity and diversity of opinion is good
- Identify the 90% that everyone agrees on
- Start an ongoing and continuous process to improve the outcome for the GW
- Build a platform for robust conversation on the stewardship of the GW

**HOPES ABOUT THE GREEN WEDGE AND THE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- The Nillumbik GW becomes recognised as a state or national treasure and is preserved and sustained for posterity
- To ensure the GW is maintained and supported in the long-term so my grandchildren can be proud to live here
- A new GWMP that the community has been extensively consulted on
- That we can retain unique neighbourhood character that we love and come here for
- That we arrive at a document which is respected and successfully shows a sustainable GW
- Maintaining GW boundary - No thin edge of wedge - more government funding for GW management inclusive in consultation and genuine.
- That others can be educated to respect and protect GW long term
- That Nillumbik flora and fauna becomes a higher priority for all residents
- That the GW be preserved as it is and that the UGB not be shifted out
- For a long-term commitment to the integrity of the planning scheme and the Green Wedge surrounding Melbourne
- That this whole process is not greenwashed. We are the custodians of an important asset to hand onto the following generations in the best condition - biodiversity -all species
- Economic and eco-sustainability
- Smart transport
- Sustainability public transport
- Economics
- Protect and enhance the GW environment
- Support artistic and tourism opportunities
- Sustainable GW with opportunities for local employment
- The GW can be strengthened by community involvement in maintaining the biodiversity of our special environment
- For considered management of the GW. Taking into account agriculture small business managed and minimal development. Looking after our pockets of bush to retain by the diversity
- Preserve GW within a realistic framework. Properly identify areas of significance
- Appropriate representation of people that live within the green wedge
- To preserve protect and value the GW – and awareness is raised to understand this
- To have a plan that will maintain agreed quality of life for me and future generations
- For preservation of the unique biodiversity of this area
- Understanding of threats to environment - we need good news
- To understand the threats to the GW
- That the environment values of the GW remain uppermost in management to ensure that it remains true to the original vision of Rupert Hamer as one of the lungs of Melbourne and bulwark against endless urban growth for future generations
- Recognizing the long-term value of the GW for Nillumbik and Melbourne
- That we come up with two or three themes which are generally acceptable to guide Council and that these lead to preservation of the whole GW concept
- Having become increasingly concerned about the loss of biodiversity which is in decline in Nillumbik and elsewhere, my hope is that we can learn how to protect the GW. I include genuine farming in Nillumbik

- GW and join with others to do so. I do not want to see houses in Bushland. They belong in paddocks
- A better GWMP. A plan that is able to balance competing priorities at the same time as being an aspirational development that inspires the community to take an active interest in the GW
  - Continue sustainable green environment for our future generations and responsible future development
  - That we appreciate and value our environment and stick to a plan once agreed on
  - I hope the Council doesn't sell off our reserves

**5. AGREEMENTS FOR WORKING TOGETHER**

In summary our agreements were:

- Respect each other
- Be inclusive
- Clear agenda and structured
- Listen to each other
- Be open minded
- Speak up

**6. UNDERSTANDING THE TASK - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

An exhibition of posters outlining the whole engagement process for the GWMP was on display in the room. The Council's Director for Planning and the Community Engagement Officer provided a presentation on the context for the review of the GWMP, the planned engagement and the task the group was being asked to undertake in planning the wider engagement process.

Participants held a conversation about the task the group was being asked to undertake in these two workshops and whether they had any questions for Council.The following is the list of questions asked by the group. Council provided answers, though these were not fully recorded and hence not provided in this report.

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|--|---|
| 1. Why is GWMP being reviewed?   | 8. Will what the group comes up with today be used for projects?  |
| 2. Why are we doing something special? Shouldn't community engagement be standard for everything?  | 9. How do you make sure information is accurate and unbiased?     |
| 3. What methods will be used to communicate to the wider community?  | 10. Can we get more information about timeline? Is it too short?  |
| 4. When the last GWMP was drawn up experts were consulted – will that happen this time?  | 11. Does Council assume there are issues with GWMP at the moment? |
| 5. Is it a review or is it a new GWMP?   | 12. How do diverse views get to the community panel?              |
| 6. Engagement with what? What are the issues Council feel they need to engage about?   | 13. What are we doing about involving young people?               |
| 7. What is the level of information required? Local and state level information? How do you define the green wedge? There is a cultural definition and then there is a mapping definition? |   |

# 7. THE PEOPLE

The group was asked to brainstorm all of the categories of people who are impacted by or have an influence over the green wedge land. This list was compiled in a separate document in workshop #1 and was reviewed at workshop #2.

Please see the end of this report for the complete list.

# 8. WHAT ENCOURAGES AND DISCOURAGES PEOPLE FROM PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

WHAT ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE	WHAT DISCOURAGES PEOPLE FROM PARTICIPATING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask people - personal request</li><li>• Good speaker</li><li>• Food and music</li><li>• Access to a special place</li><li>• Clear direction, goals + outcomes</li><li>• Fear of change</li><li>• Go to established groups</li><li>• Positive language and imagery</li><li>• Choices of ways in which to engage: online, face to face, mail</li><li>• Anticipate people's interests</li><li>• Feel value in contributing</li><li>• Know voices are heard</li><li>• Value potential outcomes – Take ownership</li><li>• Accessible + bite sized information – easy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They don't think their opinions will be valued (no action – cynicism)</li><li>• Calendar: class, exams, date night, bad weather, grand-final, early mornings</li><li>• Feeling they are the other (excluded)</li><li>• Too complex, obvious or biased material to respond to</li><li>• Engagement requires 'too much' time. Lack of faith in the process + point / reason for engagement</li><li>• GWMP seems irrelevant to internal groups</li><li>• Cynicism towards engagement / process / politics</li><li>• Lack of knowledge – complexity of the issue</li><li>• Lack of time + apathy</li><li>• Inertia</li></ul>

WHAT ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE	WHAT DISCOURAGES PEOPLE FROM PARTICIPATING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communications needs to appeal to special groups / demographics</li><li>• Appropriate language / visuals</li><li>• Say thank you after!</li><li>• Incentive – appeal to common values - love of nature - \$ remuneration for participants (i.e. Edendale vouchers?).</li><li>• Certificate / letter of appreciation.</li><li>• Appeal to community based on state of Environment / Climate change / Gender.</li><li>• Social responsibility</li><li>• Think global – Act local!</li><li>• Personal phone call – tree</li><li>• Pop ups</li><li>• Chats in street</li><li>• Simple marketing tools</li><li>• Positive</li><li>• Inducement / prize / voucher</li><li>• Everyone's involved!</li><li>• Stimulating / interesting</li><li>• Simple messaging</li><li>• Engage youth through schools compass – allows school</li><li>• Letter box drop (ask a couple of questions)</li><li>• Social media (existing networks e.g. CFA)</li><li>• Regular council updates – monthly</li><li>• Making it personal - they will be affected</li><li>• 1 person can make a difference</li><li>• Your personal contribution to your own wellbeing + that of the planet</li><li>• Contact - effective communication</li><li>• Engagement i.e. Social media / discussion groups</li><li>• Long term considerations for the future generations</li><li>• Single page – Multiple Medias – Plain language</li><li>• Local stores – person</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Time</li><li>• Location</li><li>• Relevance</li><li>• Too much time taken</li><li>• Leaflets good and bad</li><li>• Not aggressive</li><li>• Difficult to engage youth but can be done</li><li>• Information overload</li><li>• Timeline on releasing data documents</li><li>• Isolated communities</li><li>• Complexity – too hard</li><li>• Perceived to be irrelevant to them / unimportant - NIFM.</li><li>• Misunderstand what is being asked (education)</li><li>• Too much information or lack of</li><li>• People too busy with their own lives</li><li>• Don't realise how it affects them</li><li>• Bulky</li><li>• Propaganda</li><li>• Busy professionals</li></ul>

# 9. WHAT WILL ASSIST OR MOTIVATE PARTICULAR GROUPS TO PARTICIPATE

This list was developed at workshop 1 and reviewed at workshop 2. The additional information added at workshop 2 is shown in blue in the table.

YOUTH + SCHOOLS	COMMUNITY GROUP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sense of ideals / future – visionary</li> <li>Curriculum / subjects (science, stem, enviro science, biology) – will this take too long? (Not sure how this works)</li> <li>Engage teachers</li> <li>School councils</li> <li>Co – curriculum groups</li> <li>Student body groups</li> <li>Older students</li> <li>Getting something on CV</li> <li>Community involvement</li> <li>Recognise complexity of GWMP</li> <li>Tailor messaging to audience</li> <li>Scouting groups – activity to gain badge</li> <li>Social media</li> <li>Meet young people where they are – VOX Pop</li> <li>Youth services</li> <li>Nillumbik Youth Theatre</li> <li>Skaters</li> <li>Water Park</li> <li>Eltham and DV library – attend regular program of activities for different age groups and parents</li> <li>Sporting groups</li> <li>School BBQ – Gold coin donation = ideas to GWMP</li> <li>Tap into senior students already in science subjects and cert IV subjects at Eltham College</li> <li>KIS</li> <li>Pizza lunches at school with a quick survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email</li> <li>Attend specific meeting or give an information presentation</li> <li>Have a forum / Dinner / BBQ for different interest groups</li> <li>More lead in time is needed than proposed timeline</li> <li>Newsletters / newspaper – Hard copies – electronic</li> <li>Make sure message is consistent + truth (avoid fake news)</li> <li>Have an engagement kit (standardised + appropriate)</li> <li>Resources language</li> <li>Set of F.A.Q. at beginning</li> <li>Proactive not reactive!</li> <li>Having the ‘right person’ to connect with group – rep from council – someone from the group (internal advocate) – assured of a contact who knows and cares who we are</li> <li>High credibility</li> <li>Design team already well positioned to take the message out</li> <li>Review during wider engagement to see who is missing or hasn’t been included</li> <li>Have a mechanism to bring up to speed</li> <li>Meet community where they are at i.e. CFA, Cafe Benders</li> <li>Social media</li> <li>When – hours available</li> <li>Get it out early</li> <li>Avoid Christmas holiday for draft GWMP</li> </ul>

YOUTH + SCHOOLS	COMMUNITY GROUP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCRCV and Harley Club</li> <li>Edendale farm</li> <li>Pay them as a part time or casual position to become advisors (Yarra Ranges Shire example)</li> <li>Provide transport to venue</li> <li>Alumni groups</li> <li>Intergenerational projects</li> </ul>	

RECREATION USERS + SPORTING GROUPS	FARMING & HOBBY FARMING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Different sporting groups and passive users</li> <li>Flyers in club rooms</li> <li>Short presentation at committee level – good idea</li> <li>Use council data base</li> <li>Use Sports people to promote GW – cyclists?</li> <li>Traders groups</li> <li>Flyers</li> <li>River users</li> <li>Use Green Wedge Branding (logo) – pop ups on vest</li> <li>Liaise with facility management re: handouts – info</li> <li>How is GW relevant to sporting groups?</li> <li>Unique environment</li> <li>Use people form this group to promote</li> <li>Pop ups</li> <li>Information on trails</li> <li>Hand out flyers on trails and during events eg: ParkRun</li> <li>Focus on sporting groups that we know use the GW cycling, orienteering and camping</li> <li>Gyms – private and council run</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farming rates (council) – 150</li> <li>National Farmers Fed</li> <li>Vic Farmers Fed</li> <li>Wildlife</li> <li>Farming Op</li> <li>Pest plants and animals</li> <li>Viticulture Associations</li> <li>Horticulture Associations</li> <li>Hobby farming</li> <li>Riding schools</li> <li>Riding clubs</li> <li>Rural stores</li> <li>Stock feed / Rural supply places / Hay + other supplier’s mailing list</li> <li>CFA – Farmer volunteer</li> <li>Letter/email</li> <li>Newsletter</li> <li>Limitations on farming practices</li> <li>Rural landowner groups</li> </ul>



RESIDENTS (AND SOME GENERAL COMMENTS)	LANDCARE
<p>How to get those people who are not already covered in groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petrol stations</li> <li>• Railway stations (am)</li> <li>• Farmers market / shopping centres</li> <li>• Two – Three messages to get everyone interested</li> <li>• Engage with: Posters – flyers – F2P – on a website</li> <li>• Public notice boards</li> <li>• Go where the people are – pop ups (for all groups)</li> <li>• Public transport pop ups</li> <li>• Home mail</li> <li>• Social media</li> <li>• Local papers</li> <li>• School newsletters</li> <li>• Flyers in shop windows</li> <li>• Unemployment and homeless</li> <li>• Community radio 88.6 and Plenty Valley FM</li> <li>• Live stream shire meeting</li> <li>• MosaicLab to facilitate</li> <li>• More use of social media across the board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network within own group</li> <li>• Network with all groups within Shire</li> <li>• Link with coordinator at Shire</li> <li>• Meet regularly with local councillors</li> <li>• Best way to communicate: email / network / members / community/ via newsletter / website / what's AP / urgent messages / 3 monthly social meetings.</li> <li>• Flyers, text message</li> </ul>

RECREATION USERS + SPORTING GROUPS	FARMING & HOBBY FARMING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a working party of community safety co-ordinators from each of the Brigade in Nillumbik Shire</li> <li>• SES would have a similar network</li> <li>• The Municipal Fire Prevention committee consists of all the interested parties</li> <li>• The Municipal Emergency Management committee has representatives of all the emergency services</li> <li>• Farmers are often members of the Brigades</li> <li>• Community fire guard</li> <li>• Police and ambulance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email</li> <li>• (PALs FB) – Social media e.g. Nillumbik Shire FB / H'Brigade Village Community group etc. + other community groups</li> <li>• Mail – Invitation to ratepayers by mail (as per rates notice)</li> <li>• Letterbox drop (no envelopes – big message – this affects you and future generations – add link to website info) – Nillumbik News</li> <li>• 18+ social media</li> <li>• Year 12 project (box to tick – 'Are your parents Nillumbik landowners?')</li> <li>• Hand deliver at farmers markets, St. Andrews, Eltham markets</li> <li>• Landcare</li> <li>• Community groups and newsletters</li> <li>• Notice trees</li> </ul>

## 10. INFORMATION

The group was asked to identify the information participants in the wider engagement will need, to provide informed advice to the community panel and to Council. Some groups held this discussion in relation to specific groups and others considered the topic more generally.

<p><b>Group 1 - Kids 12 to 25</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the Green Wedge?</li> <li>• Read the governments definition in Plan Melbourne</li> <li>• Read summary of management plan</li> <li>• What will happen with their replies + why is it important for their input?</li> <li>• Consider social media</li> <li>• Map</li> <li>• Inform results</li> </ul>	<p><b>Group 2 - For Businesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map of Green Wedge + Shire boundary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fact sheets (infographics?)</li> <li>• land uses</li> <li>• zonings</li> <li>• tourism numbers</li> <li>• biodiversity facts</li> <li>• threatened species</li> <li>• great photos</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Summary of purpose of GWMP and long term perspective i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vision - sustainability</li> <li>• protection</li> <li>• enhance natural resources.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Group 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you know about the GW?</li> <li>• What am I allowed to do / not allowed to do in the GW?</li> <li>• Why does GW exist, i.e. history, relevant legislation, and other appropriate facts?</li> <li>• Would you be willing to participate in a small group discussion about GW?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in wider engagement – workshops / filling out surveys</li> <li>• Vision – (then and now)</li> <li>• History of Green Wedge(s)</li> <li>• Frameworks: Planning – zones – conservation / GW – overlays – BMO / SLO / ESO</li> <li>• Understanding of what is State and what is local government – controls – authorities – responsibilities</li> <li>• Uses within various zones</li> <li>• Urban growth boundary + townships within the Shire identified as part of GW</li> <li>• Pressures on the GW – growth in nearby municipalities – climate change – biodiversity (loss) – weeds + pests</li> <li>• Funding and financing of GW</li> <li>• Public and private land split</li> <li>• Cultural and artistic heritage associated with the green wedge</li> </ul>	<p><b>Group 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Info – expert information i.e. Michael Buxton – speaker Kohn Franke</li> <li>• Executive summary of existing GWMP – plain language</li> <li>• Statement of experts</li> <li>• What is unique about the GW and how do we ensure it's not lost?</li> <li>• What would enhance / improve the GW?</li> <li>• What environment legacy do you want to leave for your children?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Group 6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of GW</li> <li>• Read current G/W plan</li> <li>• Where is the G/W - Map?</li> <li>• Things you can + can't do in GW</li> <li>• Fire management plan</li> <li>• Summary of action items completed</li> </ul>

<b>Group 7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have 1 sentence on what GW is 'intent'</li> <li>History / context (broader GW) but Nillumbik</li> <li>Rationale for project – clear as to why we are asking – motivate to participate</li> <li>Link for more info i.e. F.A.Q on council website.</li> </ul>	<b>Group 8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purpose of GW + values</li> <li>Scope of GW</li> <li>Themes that make up GWMP</li> <li>The risk of doing nothing</li> <li>How the GW involves them</li> <li>Why does the council want your opinion?</li> <li>Time frames</li> <li>In what format do you want our vision?</li> </ul>	<b>Group 9</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is 'this' all about – information 'group' of the topic, origins, scope, context</li> <li>What the GW is (map)</li> <li>How to find the existing plan</li> <li>Tell them there is a review</li> <li>Where we are with the existing plan actions i.e. 2010...2018 reviews...2025</li> <li>Identify purpose of survey</li> </ul>
<b>Group 10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read the previous GWMP</li> <li>Guidelines for the GWMP including the mandatory information</li> <li>Defining the Green Wedge - culturally – planning sense</li> </ul>	<b>Group 11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define what GM is geographically</li> <li>GW means e.g. planning controls, the intent of the legislation</li> <li>Difference between GW zones, UGB, GW shire and helping people to be able to identify which bit they are in</li> <li>History – how, why and when the GW and UGB were created</li> <li>One pager and links plus video version</li> </ul>	

# 11. COMMUNICATION IDEAS

While communication was not discussed as a separate topic, there are many communication ideas in section 9 on how to motivate people to take part in the wider engagement and how to get in contact with them. One person also suggested using one hashtag for social media for the whole project.



# 12. KEY QUESTIONS

The group was asked to step into the shoes of a particular category of people and consider what questions they need to be asked to elicit their views and opinions about the future of the green wedge.

## People from diverse cultural backgrounds – CALD

- Before asking any questions, start with providing info about GW – do before seeing them as well – chat about the info to ‘test’ understanding.
- What they value about Nillumbik – Why they choose to live in Nillumbik (did GW influence this?)
- Their experiences in our GW or in other GW areas e.g. living, social outings, work.
- What are the challenges of living in Nillumbik?
- Which suburb / township do you live in? Near – township.

## Young People 12 -25

- Explanation of Green Wedge. What does it mean to you?
- What works best for you + what would work better?

## Business people

- What are the opportunities for businesses in the Green Wedge?
- What does the Nillumbik Green Wedge mean for your business?
- What kinds of business support the Nillumbik Green Wedge?
- How does your business support the Nillumbik Green Wedge?

## People who belong to community groups

- What would your group’s interest be in the Green Wedge?
- How does the current GWMP restrict or enable/enhance the activities of your group?
- Would your group be prepared to help or support environmental enhancement / repairs? (e.g. NHAG environmental work outdoors for horse riders to maintain trails)
- What is the key area of the GWMP that is of interest to your group?
- How does the Green Wedge affect the livelihood of your group?
- How important does your group feel that the Green Wedge is to Melbourne?
- How could your group suggest funding for GWMP?

## Environment Groups

- How do you rate Nillumbik’s Green Wedge now - its health re: biodiversity – land use – catchments – pest + feral – weed management – erosion – water quality – tree canopy
- Is your rating evidence based or personal observation?
- How do you believe climate change is affecting the Green Wedge?
- Do you think enough is being done to protect the Green Wedge by our local + State government?
- What are the opportunities to protect + sustain the GW – e.g. economic (tourism) agriculture – social influences?

This group also identified some opportunities and challenges

OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable land practices</li> <li>Facilitate Trust for Nature – caveats by Council – cover the costs</li> <li>Promote net gain – broker</li> <li>Eco tourism</li> <li>Farm tourism</li> <li>Passive tourism – cycling – trains – horse riding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bushfire</li> <li>Climate change</li> <li>Pressure from neighbouring municipalities – their growth</li> </ul>

People who play sport + physical recreation

- What makes participation?
- Is your sport attractive in the Green Wedge?
- Does the Green Wedge need more cafés / coffee shops?
- How does it affect me – what are the benefits to me?
- How do we safeguard the Green Wedge?
- What are the limitations to my sport?
- What sporting facilities are available within GW?
- What are the advantages for my sport / recreation for the GW?
- If the GW is engaged what impact would it have?
- How does the traffic / density affect your safety and participation?

People involved with the arts & culture

- What do you value about the Green Wedge?
- Use the words ‘biodiversity’ ‘decline’ ‘loss’ ‘extinction’
- Not evaluated in economic terms
- Inspired by nature
- Live in rural - non conformity

This group also identified some opportunities and challenges

OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inspiration</li><li>• Serenity</li><li>• Tradition – ongoing</li><li>• Conceptual</li><li>• Let the suburban areas breathe – lungs of Melbourne</li><li>• Show others the beauty through art</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NSC councillors</li><li>• Protection of GW from urban expansion</li><li>• Preservation &amp; enhancement</li><li>• Gentrification</li></ul>

Farmers & owners of Agriculture enterprises incl. 18+

- Can you relate to the Green Wedge or do you know what the GW is?
- What is the impact of the Green Wedge on planning and that impact on farming business?

Everyday people who are not members of community groups

1. How do you interact with the GW?
  2. What do you know about the GW?
  3. What does GW need more of i.e. signage for resources.
  4. What can you do / have you done to protect values of GW?
  5. What is your relationship to GW?
- Make as transparent as possible with data!

All groups

- How the GWMP affects you?

Council's Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee had some pre-prepared questions

1. To what extent has the existence of the Green Wedge influenced your choice to live in Nillumbik?
2. Why do you think the State has legislated the Green Wedge?
3. How important do you believe this legislation is?
4. What, if anything needs to be changed?
5. The current stated ‘broad purposes’ of the Green Wedge focus on social, environmental and economic factors. What weight would you assign to each?
6. What should be the chief goal of the Green Wedge?
7. Do you believe the views of ratepayers living outside of the Green Wedge should carry as much weight as those of those ratepayers living within its boundaries? Why?
8. If you live within the Green Wedge, why did you choose to live there?
9. If you live within the Green Wedge, how does it affect your life?
10. Since the existence of the Green Wedge reduces the capacity of Council to raise revenue, should the State compensate it for the benefits it provides for Melbourne, Victoria and beyond?

13. COMMUNITY WELLBEING

The group was invited to consider how we collectively can safeguard wellbeing during what might become a difficult conversation. The following were suggested:

- Workshop – set ground rules – participants themselves to agree upon
- Time – speakers Q&A time – takes time to engage – duration / fatigue
- People need to feel safe – respect needs to be spelled out – reinforce
- Community needs to feel they have ownership
- Listen with an open mind
- Respect other people’s time when speaking
- General rule be: courteous
- Suspend your voice of judgement
- Suspend your voice of cynicism
- Suspend your voice of fear
- Explain process / be clear with accurate information
- Fact sheets important – start straight to point
- Reassurance – process
- Why
- Acknowledge different news
- Wellbeing ‘after this, we’re all still neighbours’
- Diffusing situations
- Use bribes / rewards chocolate!
- Empower people to create safe environments
- Good facilitation
- Avoid definition of issues + what we’re doing ‘expectation setting’
- Transparency – whole process
- Frequent breaks
- Set agreements / warning about potential differences – be respectful
- Adequate info
- Exploration of why things don’t get taken on board
- Check in system – for participants
- Info pitched correctly for different audiences
- Councillors – good role models
- How can we look after the wellbeing of our community in contentious circumstances?
- Code of conduct
- Rules of engagement
- Majority + minority recording + treated as equality valid
- Clear protocols for meeting conduct
- Professional facilitation + independent
- Grievance and / or conflict resolution process
- Acknowledgement and recognition of participants
- Fact checking mechanisms
- Plain and simple communications (acronyms explained – non technical)
- Get participants to set their own rules for participation
- So facilitator to follow ‘rules’ at engagement as per previous discussion
- Follow up as required to get accurate information to participants
- Summary conclusion & ensure agreement with summary & correct as required
- Outline scope & what is not in scope
- Ensure that ‘facility’ is comfortable and appropriate (time & place) SAFE
- SAFE in every respect i.e. place must be safe but also respect etc. must make participant feel safe
- Agreement – Transparency – who do you represent – procuring interest
- Exercise – aspirations to get to know each other
- Made to feel comfortable
- Be inclusive
- Good facilitation!
- Have Council officers
- Don’t give ‘weight’ to one over another
- Key principles around engagement GWMP for safety & wellbeing of communities (rural)
- Ensure community groups feel ‘listened to’ + at least ‘asked’ for options
- Make sure those engaged with that plan is compliant with guideline for GWMP (planning practice 31) social, economic, environment
- All those things we talked about in ‘agreements’
- Being able to hear – not just keen to listen
- Respect
- Talking stick
- Trust
- Non judgement
- Either individual or representative of a group
- Express views positively
- Separate people from the issue
- Small groups
- Be aware that every community is different – make sure this is always one of the agreements
- Get everyone to introduce themselves where they’re from – a little about themselves – bringing out the similarities, commonalities
- Questions about your own view but also how you think it affects others
- Necessary to bring really opposing groups together (if we know it beforehand)



## 14. WORKSHOP #1: FEEDBACK

### I LIKE

- The energy in the room – ham rolls – good to meet people
- Hearing what engaged people thought should be done to facilitate the process
- Social interaction
- No sense of barriers and feeling arriving at a common point
- Engagement with my peers
- Some good clarification. Effective process to gather info
- Thorough but needs now to be targeting direct answers
- Enlightening for urban residents
- Being asked for input
- The diverse group of people
- Amount of information processed
- That we were being asked, consulted and engaged
- Respect in the room
- General harmony
- More in common than divides us
- Talking to new people with opinions
- Reasonably efficient process
- Well organised - well prepared
- Everyone has had a 'say'
- Diversity of participants
- Opportunity to contribute from the very beginning
- Structured
- The motivation of all the participants
- Learning about something I hadn't been involved in e.g. Heritage groups, landcare

### I WISH

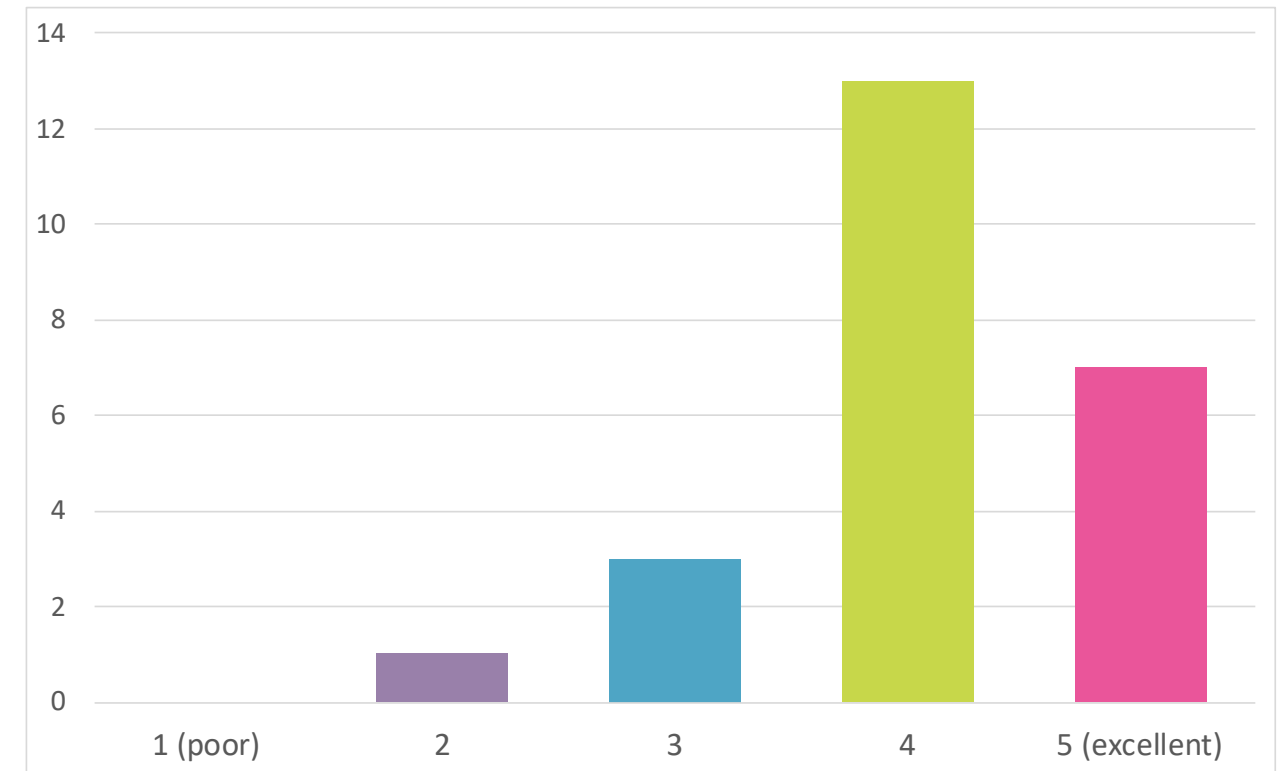
- That the outcome is representative of community feeling
- That huge ambitions were brought down to a practical + realistic level for the sake of implementation
- It brings a positive result
- The values of the Green Wedge are preserved + protected
- There will be short feedback loops i.e. feedback: short + often
- There will be a less complex G.W.M.P. (user friendly)
- Read current Green Wedge Plan
- We had been informed of the latest stats with regard to how residents like to get info
- Everyone works together for the common goal which is to protect + preserve Green Wedge + life style that we cherish
- For rain!
- For not much change to G.W.M.P
- 50 / 50 on community panel is unfair as urban people have a right to have an opinion – group divided on issue
- Green Wedge Protection
- Physical activity mid-session
- Council would articulate the issues – it feels need to be addressed in relation to the Green Wedge
- Everyone would read it before the next session or practice note 31
- Every group we have identified is motivated to have their say in the process

### I WONDER

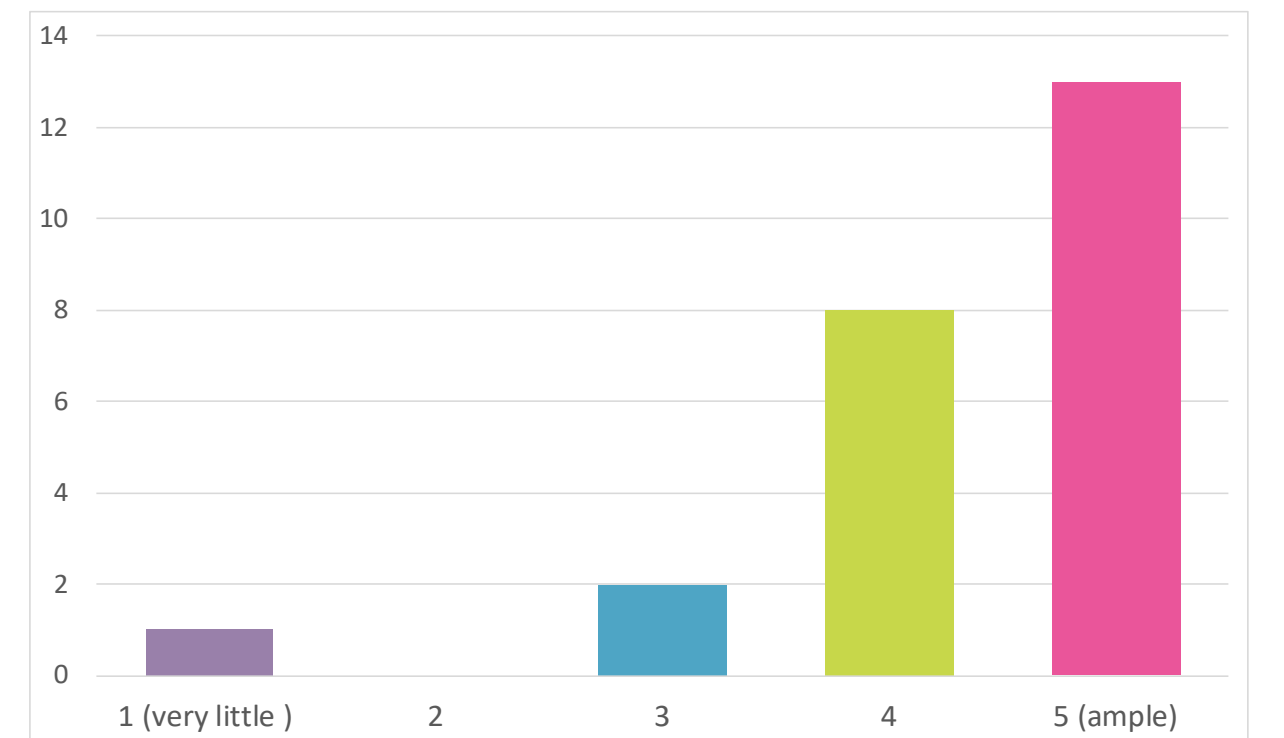
- Are we expected to contact all these people?
- How we distill this information? Who will read it?
- How to engage people?
- How does the consultation play back into broader state plans?
- If we will look at the current GWMP and highlight specific areas that you believe don't work – need reviewing
- What key issues /motives are not being shared?
- Transparency?
- How effective a group of 40 people can be – how will it be managed?
- Keeping it on track in the time line – how will it be managed?
- About the cost of this process?
- If the loudest voices will take over from the quiet ones?
- What needs changing or updating?
- Whether the environment will be protected?
- If previous data will be re – visited?
- Are timelines overly ambitious + will things be sacrificed as a result?
- Is there flexibility to adjust the timelines?
- How much is the review costing in \$\$\$ to the community and benefits have to outweigh the cost
- What is the cost – financial – time of council officers – what is not being completed?
- Will community panel have enough time to really understand information they are given?
- If community will engage?
- How to cut through community perceptive+ cynicism?
- Why do we need to review or replace present Green Wedge plan?
- About the questions for next session?
- If everyone will turn up to the next session because they got so much out of this one...and at the end of the project timeline!

## 15. WORKSHOP #2: FEEDBACK

### How would you rate the format of our two workshops?



### How much opportunity did you have to contribute to the discussions?



WHAT IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY COULD BE MADE TO HOW WE WORKED TOGETHER TODAY?

- Acoustics a little difficult at times in discussion groups, otherwise well-paced and presented – kept interest and participation levels high
- No suggestions
- Some examples of outcomes – case studies at the start
- Not an improvement – more a positive. I think organising people to rotate was great
- Comprehensive for this stage of the process
- The points on the walls worked well
- Discussion with new and interesting people went well
- Time wasted on ‘double-up’ or covering similar points too often
- Could have been done in one session
- Hearing all in our small group
- Less review – more forward looking
- Nil
- Pretty good – just may need a little more clarity on purpose on each exercise when noisy. PS I never give a perfect score
- More time could be 3 or 4 sessions or longer for each session
- Provide information and sheets before the meeting
- Provide structure and ideas before the first meeting
- Sometimes I struggled to understand exactly what you wanted us to do. Maybe a stepwise instruction sheet handed out to each so we could also see the structure of the session
- More time needed to tease out ideas
- Satisfied
- Just to have seen e.g. of process

16. CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE IMPACTED BY OR WHO HAVE AN INFLUENCE OVER GREEN WEDGE LAND

Category	Group
Agriculture	Young Farmers
Agriculture	18+ children of landowners
Agriculture	Farmers
Agriculture	Horticulture
Agriculture	Bee Keepers
Agriculture	Open Cellars
Agriculture	Eltham Farmers Market
Agriculture	Hurstbridge Farmers Market
Agriculture	Hobby Farmers
Agriculture	Vineyards
Agriculture	Orchards
Agriculture	Agribusiness
Arts	Artists groups, collectives, networks & societies
Arts	Cultural groups
Arts	Artists and artisans
Arts	Dunmoochin
Arts	Montsalvat
Arts	Baldessari (?)
Arts	Butterfly Studio
Arts	AOS
Arts	St Andrews Film Society
Arts	ELCG
Arts	ECRC
Arts	DPAC
Arts	Eltham Little Theatre
Arts	YPHG
Arts	Individual LHG's
Business	Traders Association - Diamond Creek
Business	Traders Association - Hurstbridge
Business	Traders Association - Eltham
Business	Cafes
Business	Bed + breakfasts.
Business	Business/traders groups, associations and networks
Business	Business's - subtypes - 20 acre size - 1 acre+
Business	Chamber of Commerce.
Business	Local businesses.

Business	Nillumbik Tourist & Business association.
Business	Orchardists and orchardist association.
Business	Organisers of Farmers Markets.
Business	Makers Markets
Business	Plant nurseries
Business	Tourism operators + interested stakeholders
Business	Wind farms (with advances)
Business	Vineyards
Business	Solar farms
Business	Other professionals
Business	Public interest: Business - Urban land
CALD	Refugees - Syrian - Iraq
CALD	Slovenian Association
CALD	Chinese Association
Charity	Food Connect
Charity	Oxfam
Charity	Amnesty International
Children & youth	Early Years Services
Children & youth	Playgroups
Children & youth	M&CH Groups
Children & youth	Primary + secondary schools
Children & youth	Eltham College
Children & youth	Scouting & Guide groups
Children & youth	VCAL/Post-secondary
Children & youth	Young people
Children & youth	Youth groups and services
Churches	Churches
Churches	St Vincent De Paul
Churches	Neighbourhood Houses
Civic groups	Council advisory committees
Civic groups	Township groups
Civic groups	Community action groups
Civic groups	Transport User group
Civic groups	Ratepayers association
Community groups	Welcome to Eltham
Community groups	Festivals
Community groups	VIEW
Community groups	Yarra River Keepers
Community groups	Animal welfare groups/associations
Community groups	Conservationists - anomalies
Community groups	CWA
Community groups	Dogs for Lower Eltham Park
Community groups	Eltham Community Action group
Community groups	Hobby groups
Community groups	Men's sheds including previous GW community groups - Rep who contributed to current GWMP
Community groups	Nature Plant society

Community groups	PALs
Community groups	Lions
Community groups	RSL
Community groups	Probus
Community groups	Rotary
Community groups	Apex
Community groups	Wider GW reps
Communications	Community newsletters
Communications	Leader paper
Communications	Social Media
Communications	Social noticeboards
Communications	Hurstbridge Round Abouts
Communications	Warrandyte Diary
Council	Council
Emergency services	C.F.A. Shire level and local
Emergency services	Emergency services
Emergency services	Vic Police
Emergency services	Ambulance Vic
Emergency services	Fire Guard
Emergency services	SES
Environment	Vic National Parks association
Environment	Trust for Nature. Registered at State Govt and LGA
Environment	Green Wedge protection group
Environment	Environmental groups
Environment	ATA
Environment	BZE
Environment	Friends of Nillumbik
Environment	Friends of groups
Environment	PHBR and others
Environment	Friends of Diamond Creek
Environment	Friends of Eltham Lower Park
Environment	Friends of Panton Hill
Environment	Bend of Islands Conservation Association BICA
Environment	Landcare groups
Environment	Edendale - school curriculum i.e. environmental studies
Environment	Land for wildlife
Environment	Wildlife experts
Environment	Save Community Reserves
Environment	Wilderness Society
Govt	Gas & fuel pipelines through GW
Govt	DELWP
Govt	Melbourne Water
Govt	Yarra Valley Water
Govt	Parks Vic
Govt	PTV
Govt	Q PACS
Govt	SP Ausnet

Govt	Vic Roads
Govt	Vic Track
Govt	Surrounding Governments
Govt	DHHS- Chief Medical Officer
Govt	Human Rights
Govt	Env Victoria
Govt	Env Justice Vic
Govt	CMAS
Health	NW Mental Health
Health	Austin Health
Health	Healthability
Health	Health services providers
Health	Rural Link
Heritage	Historical societies - 11 in Nillumbik
Heritage	Andrew Ross Museum
Heritage	Arthurs Creek Mechanics Institute
Heritage	Eltham District Historical Society
Heritage	Greensborough Historical Society Inc
Heritage	Hurstbridge and District Local History Group
Heritage	Nillumbik Historical Society Inc
Heritage	Plenty Historical Society Inc
Heritage	Queenstown Cemetery Trust
Heritage	St Andrews-Queenstown Historical Society
Heritage	Warrandyte Historical Society
Heritage	Yarrambat Historical Society
Heritage	YPHG
Heritage	Heritage Vic
Indigenous	Indigenous
Indigenous	Nillumbik Reconciliation Group
Indigenous	Wurrundjeri Land Council
Landowners	Landowners (ratepayers) outside GW
Landowners	Landowners inside GW
Locality	Yarra Valley
Locality	St Andrews community
Locality	Wattle Glen Township
Locality	Warrandyte Township
Locality	Xmas Hills Township
Older people	Aged Carer's network
Older people	Retirement Villages
Older people	Senior citizens
Older people	Aged care providers
Older people	Seniors services
Older people	OMNI
Older people	U3A
Other	Gas + fuel groups
Other	PACs
Places with people	Community halls and hubs

Places with people	Community sports facilities
Places with people	Libraries
Places with people	Living + learning centres/Neighbourhood houses
Political parties	Greens
Political parties	Liberal
Political parties	Labour
Political parties	National
Residents	Bend of Islands - Rc -Special living zones
Residents	People not connected to specific groups / coordination
Residents - Disability	Disability groups - rep
Sport & Recreation	Horse + pony clubs/groups
Sport & Recreation	HDARC
Sport & Recreation	KGARC
Sport & Recreation	Horse riders
Sport & Recreation	Sporting clubs
Sport & Recreation	Sailing Club
Sport & Recreation	Rob Roy Hill climb
Sport & Recreation	Football
Sport & Recreation	Lacrosse
Sport & Recreation	Roller skaters
Sport & Recreation	Skateboarding
Sport & Recreation	Soccer
Sport & Recreation	Tennis clubs.
Sport & Recreation	Trail blazers including cross training groups
Sport & Recreation	Gym clubs
Sport & Recreation	Other sporting groups
Sport & Recreation	Cyclists and cycling groups
Sport & Recreation	Walking groups
Sport & Recreation	Orienteering
Sport & Recreation	Exercise Groups in Community Hubs
Sport & Recreation	Recreation Trail Bike Riders
Visitors	Tourists
Visitors	Visitors - via cafes etc
Visitors	Visitors to GW (cyclists/orienteering/walking/motorcyclists/horse-riders)
Visitors	On the Hill
Visitors	Nillumbik Bus & Tourism Association
Visitors	Passive Recreation
Trusts	Nillumbik Cemetery Trust





**REPORT PREPARED BY:**

**mosaicLAB**

*Bringing conversation & democracy alive*