

Draft Green Wedge Management Plan: Vision, Objectives & Strategic Directions

VISION

Our Green Wedge is part of a connected ecosystem where biodiversity, natural assets and resources are enhanced and protected from urban encroachment.

Our Green Wedge provides for rural land uses and development, and supports economic opportunities in sustainable agriculture and the visitor economy¹ that respect the environmental significance, rural and landscape character of the Green Wedge.

Our Green Wedge protects and promotes its rich Aboriginal and post contact heritage.

Our Green Wedge connects and supports a diverse, resilient and respectful community who are empowered to take care of the land.

¹ Visitor economy here refers to tourism, recreation and hospitality industries.

Whittlesea 2040 Goal - Sustainable Environment

Green Wedge Objectives

- Our Green Wedge's natural landscapes are valued, healthy and biodiverse.
- Our Green Wedge is sustainably managed and is resilient to climate change and natural disasters.
- Our Green Wedge waterways are healthy and clean.
- Our Green Wedge protects and enhances greening on both council and non-council land.

Strategic Directions

- 1.1 Improve the management and protection of biodiversity.
- 1.2 Partner with landowners and land managers to ensure water is managed in an integrated and effective manner in the Green Wedge.
- 1.3 Ensure our residents and our environment benefit from a diverse, colourful, and healthy City Forest that connects people to people, people to nature, and people to place.
- 1.4 Partner with landowners and other government agencies to improve soil health.

Whittlesea 2040 Goal - Liveable Neighbourhoods

Green Wedge Objectives

- High value landscape features and significant views² are identified and protected in the Green Wedge.
- Communities understand the purpose of the Green Wedge zones and are supported to conduct appropriate land use, development and management on the land.
- Settlement in our Green Wedge is sensitive to the environment and is resilient to climate change and natural disasters.
- Our Green Wedge enjoys a safe and fit for purpose transport network that meets the needs and expectations of our community.
- Our Green Wedge has a clearly defined, permanent urban-rural interface that offer high ecological, recreational, agricultural values.

Strategic Directions

- 2.1 Protect non-urban breaks and enhance landscape amenity and rural character.
- 2.2 Discourage new settlement in areas prone to extreme natural hazards.
- 2.3 Provide safe and fit for purpose local road network and support active travel modes.
- 2.4 Protect the Green Wedge from further urban encroachment and improve management of the urban and rural interface.
- 2.5 Direct urban uses towards designated Whittlesea township area and areas within the Urban Growth Boundary

² Such as the non-urban break between Masons Road and the Whittlesea Township along the Plenty Road corridor and the views to the Plenty Ranges, the Great Dividing Range and Quarry Hills.

Whittlesea 2040 Goal - Strong Local Economy

Green Wedge Objectives

- The importance of agriculture in the Green Wedge is well understood by our community.
- Our Green Wedge supports activities that enhance agricultural and environmental values and discourages uses that are incompatible with the purposes of the Green Wedge.
- Local agribusinesses are supported to facilitate ongoing viability and are encouraged to apply sustainable and innovative practices.
- Our Green Wedge supports a visitor economy that is sustainable and sensitive to the environmental and social impacts. The natural and built assets are recognised in the destination promotion activities.
- Our Green Wedge supports renewable energy production, protects existing operation and future opportunities for extractive industry and regionally significant waste management assets that are compatible with Green Wedge values.

Strategic Directions

- 3.1 Improve understanding of the value of agriculture in the Green Wedge to provide for appropriate use and development.
- 3.2 Support local agribusinesses and the visitor economy to grow, be sustainable and prepared for climate change.
- 3.3 Work with State Government to provide for future infrastructure and green energy needs.

Whittlesea 2040 Goal - Connected Community

Green Wedge Objectives

- Our Green Wedge community takes pride in Green Wedge and is empowered with the knowledge and opportunities to look after it.
- Our Green Wedge community enjoys better accessibility to open space facilities, safe and fit-for-purpose road and public transport infrastructure for greater social and economic resilience.
- Our Green Wedge enhances, protects and promotes places of cultural significance.
- Our Green Wedge community and Council, partner with Traditional Owners in various practices that Care for Country.

Strategic Directions

- 4.1 Understand and support the diverse needs of our rural community for environmental, social and economic resilience.
- 4.2 Better connect the Green Wedge with our communities via communication, placemaking and programs.
- 4.3 Engage and empower community members on various aspects of caring for and managing the Green Wedge.
- 4.4 Partner with Traditional Owners to support the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage, improve land and water management and other Caring for Country practices in the Green Wedge