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City of Whittlesea
Strategic Planning and Design

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The City of Whittlesea would like to thank all the individuals and organisations who took the time to contribute ideas on what they value and where improvements should be made to the management of the Whittlesea Green Wedge.

Graphics
This page: Sustainable Living Festival
Transition Towns 2009
# TABLE of CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART 1 - BACKGROUND</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whittlesea Green Wedge</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Consultation</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART 2 – THEMES</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Rural Productivity and Agribusiness</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Rural Land Stewardship</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Landscape Qualities and Rural Design</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Boundaries and Buffers</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Extractive Industry</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Flora, Fauna and Habitat</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Waterways and Catchments</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Communities and Settlements</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Tourism and Recreation</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Heritage and Culture</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART 3 – ACTION PLAN</strong></td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing the Management Plan</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and Review</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPENDIX</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 1:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossary of Terms</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 2:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whittlesea Rate Rebate Scheme</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 3:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whittlesea Visual Character Areas</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REFERENCES</strong></td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST of MAPS

Map 1  Melbourne’s 12 Green Wedge Areas  10
Map 2  Green Wedge Communities and Suburbs  14
Map 3  Whittlesea Green Wedge Planning Zones  16
Map 4  Distribution of Farmland by Property Size  24
Map 5  Distribution of Land Use Throughout the Green Wedge  26
Map 6  Land Systems in Whittlesea  27
Map 7  Distribution of Saline Sites in Whittlesea  34
Map 8  Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Extent February 2009  36
Map 9  Reconciling the Wildfire Management Overlay and Fire Extent  36
Map 10  City of Whittlesea Visual Character Areas  40
Map 11  Significant Landscape Overlay schedule 1 and 2  44
Map 12  Melbourne @ 5 Million Investigation Areas  47
Map 13  Amendment VC55 Proposed Urban Extension  47
Map 14  Distribution of Extractive Industry and Interest Areas  50
Map 15  Distribution of BioSites in Whittlesea  54
Map 16  Current Ecological Vegetation Class Distribution  56
Map 17  Environmental Significance Overlay schedule 1, 2 & 3  62
Map 18  Vegetation Protection Overlay schedule 1 and 2  62
Map 19  Four River Catchments  65
Map 20  Wetlands and Water Storage Reservoirs  68
Map 21  Whittlesea Planning Scheme Waterways Protection Mechanisms  70
Map 22  Tourist Attractions and Recreation Facilities  78
Map 23  Whittlesea Planning Scheme Recreational Zoning  81
Map 24  Indicative Sites of Aboriginal Cultural Sensitivity  83
Map 25  Heritage Overlay  85

LIST of TABLES

Table 1  Community Views – In Summary  19
Table 2  Agricultural Capacity  27
Table 3  EcoMarkets in Victoria  32
Table 4  Sample BioSites of National Significance within Whittlesea  54
The Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan has been developed to meet Victorian Government requirements associated with State planning policy for green wedges. This plan has been jointly funded by the Department of Planning and Community Development and the City of Whittlesea.

The Management Plan aims to provide a framework to sustain the non-urban areas of the City of Whittlesea into the future.

What is a Green Wedge?
The green wedge concept was officially adopted as planning policy in 1968 and introduced into the planning blueprint for Melbourne by the Melbourne Board of Works in 1971. These non-urban areas were to contain the majority of agricultural resources, water storage catchments, significant landscapes, flora and fauna, and heritage places. The vision for these green wedge areas was to protect distinctive features, provide open space and act as the lungs of Melbourne.

In 2002, the previous Victorian Labor Government released its strategy for sustainable growth, Melbourne 2030 (DOI 2002). This strategy formally defined the green wedges, putting policies in place to protect these valuable areas and identifying 12 green wedge areas across 17 municipal councils. Green wedge land was defined in legislation for the first time and specific planning controls were introduced to protect green wedge land. In order to achieve sustainable management outcomes within these areas, each Local Government is required to develop a management plan for its respective green wedge area.

What is a Green Wedge Management Plan?
A Green Wedge Management Plan is a strategy, adopted by the respective Local Council that identifies a vision, objectives and actions for the sustainable management of each green wedge area. It is not within the scope of the Management Plan to change existing zones or overlay controls, however the plan does promote a range of uses consistent with existing zoning provisions.

The Management Plan identifies the values and features of the green wedge, the areas that should be protected and maintained and the current issues and proposed opportunities for action. A Green Wedge Management Plan incorporates the views of the local community and should identify actions that go beyond traditional land use planning tools.

Why is a Green Wedge Management Plan necessary?
Located approximately 20 kilometres north-east of Melbourne CBD, the City of Whittlesea is predominantly rural, despite its designation as a growth municipality. Until recently, the Green Wedge covered an area of 38,300 hectares, however State Government has included 6,570 hectares of green wedge land within an expanded Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

A Green Wedge Management Plan is necessary to provide a framework for sustaining these non-urban areas into the future. The Management Plan will strive to promote and encourage diversity.

The Management Plan will also provide an opportunity for a whole of government approach, in partnership with landholders and local community groups, to prepare and implement a plan that reflects the wider context of sustainable land use. The Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan can be considered a mini ‘Community Plan’ for the non-urban areas of the City of Whittlesea as it recommends actions across all six Community Plan directions.

Community Engagement
The Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan has been developed in conjunction with the community, government and organisations over a two and a half year period.

The Management Plan is informed by community opinion, reflects Council policies, and satisfies the green wedge objectives of the Victorian Government.

Any proposed changes to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme undertaken as an action of this Management Plan, will be placed on public exhibition as part of the usual planning scheme amendment process, creating further formal opportunity for stakeholder and community input.

Management Plan Layout
The Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan has been divided into three parts:
- Part 1: Background
- Part 2: Themes
- Part 3: Action Plan
Implementing the Management Plan

The success of the Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan is dependent upon collaboration between Local Government, State Government Departments, Federal Government, agencies, organisations and the community.

This Management Plan identifies eighty two specific actions identified within the ten sub-themes.

The recommended implementation actions have been developed through consultation, current best practice, reference group meetings, and relevant Council strategies, workshops with government departments, agencies, and organisations with an interest in green wedge matters.

These actions are prioritised in the following manner:

- Short term priority (1-3 years)
- Medium term priority (4-7 years)
- Longer term priority (8-10 years)

Short term actions are those most likely to deliver key sustainable outcomes for our green wedge area. They may also be actions that are relatively simple to instigate. Medium term and long term actions are those that are less urgent, or rely on a range of stakeholders and multiple steps before implementation can occur.

Monitoring and Review

This Management Plan has the capacity to guide a whole-of-Government approach to the coordination and implementation of actions across a ten year period. A five year review of the Management Plan will enable the relevancy and the success of the plan in achieving the vision to be reviewed.

Additionally, it is Council’s intention to release a three and seven year report, based on an annual report to Council on the progress of implementation.

Associated Documents

The Green Wedge Management Plan comprises of three documents:

1. Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan 2011-2021