

# GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Natural Environment of the Green Wedge

### Introduction

The Greater Dandenong Green Wedge is located between industrial and residential areas in the suburbs of south-east Melbourne. Its location adjacent to an urban environment and the extent of its modification, over time, means that existing environmental and biodiversity values are limited.

However, there are important remnant vegetation and landscape features with some native fauna species present in the area since European settlement.

**Consultation with the community in 2013 and 2014 identified local biodiversity as being important and for it to be protected and enhanced.**

Due to this, the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan (December 2014) included the 'natural environment' as one of five themes for the area.

The vision for the natural environment of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge is that:

*Indigenous vegetation provides a rich and connected habitat for fauna, that supports the biodiversity of the broader metropolitan area with priority given to the protection and management of ecological areas of highest value.*



Swamp Everlasting



Growling Grass Frog

The biodiversity values contained within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge that provide significant local habitat for wildlife include:

- the Eastern Treatment Plant – as a major waterbody complex allowing habitat for waterbirds
- the major watercourses of the Eumemmering Creek, Dandenong Creek, Patterson River, Mordialloc Main Drain (Creek) and the Eastern Contour Drain
- remnant woodland vegetation and scattered trees including River Red Gums
- wetlands (both man-made and natural)
- low lying swampy areas.

The key issues in the Green Wedge include:

- poor water quality in the Dandenong Creek catchment
- loss of natural habitat and corridors
- loss of significant vegetation, in particular River Red Gums
- the spread of significant weed species including Gorse and Blackberry
- impacts from pest animal species including the European Rabbit and Red Fox
- Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils (CASS) which can result in the acidification of waterways, corrosion of building foundations and infrastructure
- the extensive catchment area upstream of the Green Wedge's waterways
- the low elevation makes the area prone to flooding.

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## Regulatory roles and controls in Greater Dandenong

There is a range of government legislation and policy covering environmental issues that affect the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge that may need to be considered when looking to carry out development or works. This includes:

### Commonwealth Legislation

#### Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act), 1999

The EPBC Act applies to developments and other activities that have the potential to significantly impact threatened species and ecological communities, migratory species and wetlands of international importance protected under the Act. These are known as 'Matters of Natural Environmental Significance'.

Within the Green Wedge there are identified potential triggers for the EPBC Act, therefore development and works should be evaluated against the criteria outlined in the relevant *Significant Impact Guidelines* so as to determine whether it will have a significant impact on a 'Matter' such as those described above.

### State Legislation

#### Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG Act), 1988

The FFG Act is the key piece of Victorian legislation for the conservation and management of threatened species and communities. Under the Act a permit is required from the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) to 'take' protected flora species from

public land but generally not required for the removal of protected flora from private land.

#### Catchment and Land Protection Act (CaLP Act), 1994

This is the main piece of legislation covering noxious weed and pest animal management in Victoria.

Under the Act all land owners have legal obligations regarding the management of declared noxious weeds and pest animals on their land.

Specifically, land owners must take all reasonable steps to eradicate regionally prohibited weeds, prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds, and prevent the spread of - and as far as possible eradicate - established pest animals on their land.

#### Planning & Environment Act, 1987

This controls the planning and development of land in Victoria.

Should removal of native vegetation be proposed within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge, then controls and permit requirements contained within the City of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme may become relevant.

#### Municipal Amenity Local Law, City of Greater Dandenong

The relevant Greater Dandenong Local Law is the 'Municipal Amenity Local Law' which is intended to, amongst other things:

- prevent the presence of vermin and noxious weeds on land
- prevent land from becoming unsightly, overgrown, dilapidated or dangerous

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This is achieved by requiring that:

- an owner and occupier of land must not allow or permit any vermin, noxious weed to be present or grow on that land
- an owner and occupier must not allow land or any buildings, structure or item on that land to become unsightly, overgrown, dilapidated or a danger to life or property.

**If you believe that any of the above is occurring, or have any queries regarding the above, please contact Council's Local Laws Team on 8571 1000.**

## What can residents and landowners do to protect and enhance the environmental values of the Green Wedge?

Council strongly encourages residents to plant local native (indigenous) plant species to further enhance the environmental values of the area. Council has a [list of local indigenous nurseries](#) and a [Native Plants of Greater Dandenong booklet](#) for further information.

Council also strongly advises land owners and occupiers to adhere to the local law requirements regarding weeds and vermin and report those who are not compliant.

Council does have information regarding weed management on properties and can provide advice on appropriate revegetation options for landowners and residents.

A local weed identification guide has been produced and is a quick and easy reference to 90 weeds, information on the weed and how to control it. If you would like a copy [contact Council](#).

Council also runs regular tree planting days where you can meet the bushland crew and get some advice regarding appropriate planting on your property.

Council's bushland crew also regularly conduct wildlife walks in local parks where you can learn more about the natural environment and vegetation in the area.

## Further advice and information

If you wish to learn more about weed management, types of planting or other activities run by Council throughout the year, please contact Council on 8571 1000.



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