
VALUE OF MELBOURNE'S GREEN WEDGES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overarching purpose of this project is to quantify the economic, social and environmental value of the Green Wedges and once an understanding of the value is obtained to then identify projects that are consistent with the visions, values and characteristics of the Green Wedge areas and that will add sustainable and desirable value to the Green Wedges going forward.

The information gathered through this project will be used to support future advocacy programs for funding support and the introduction of programs by the Victorian government to enhance and preserve the Green Wedges. It is anticipated this document will exist as a reference tool and information base to support these objectives and may also be used as an input to the development of future Green Wedge Management Plans.

There are a total of twelve Green Wedges around the outskirts of the Melbourne metropolitan area, also referred to as peri-urban Melbourne. For this project the ten Green Wedges that are part of the Interface Councils area were investigated, these include:

- Mornington Peninsula
- Nillumbik
- Southern Ranges
- Sunbury
- Werribee South
- Western Plains North
- Western Plains South
- Western Port
- Whittlesea
- Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges

VALUE OF THE GREEN WEDGES

In determining the value of the Green Wedges a range of criteria and factors were used to provide an estimate of their economic, social and environmental value (Refer to Appendix B). **The total annual value of the Green Wedges was identified to be \$7.6 billion**, comprising \$4.2 billion in economic value, \$706.4 million in social value and \$2.7 billion in environmental value.

The following table provides the total value (economic, social and environmental) for each of the Green Wedges.

Green Wedge Area	Total Value (\$M)	Total Area (Ha)	Value per Ha (\$)
Mornington Peninsula	\$403.0	32,779.67	\$12,294
Nillumbik	\$271.9	33,273.50	\$8,172
Southern Ranges	\$597.1	36,625.44	\$16,303
Sunbury	\$1,964.2	3,267.93	\$601,053
Werribee South	\$131.0	10,323.43	\$12,690
Western Plains North	\$40.0	11,588.53	\$3,452
Western Plains South	\$71.9	12,107.55	\$5,938
Western Port	\$586.2	72,807.49	\$8,051
Whittlesea	\$267.8	17,275.50	\$15,501
Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges	\$3,267.8	247,555.81	\$13,200
Total	\$7,600.8	477,604.85	\$15,914

Source: AEC

It is important to understand that in calculating a 'value' for the Green Wedges a range of different data sources were used to identify an approximate value designed to demonstrate the overall importance of these assets to the region. There are a number of ways value can be determined and therefore it is important to exercise caution when referring to the value calculated in this report.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

A range of priority projects were identified through a consultation process that have the potential to add sustainable and desirable value to each of the Green Wedges into the future. The priority projects that should be focused on for implementation were identified through the use of a Benefit Assessment process (Refer Appendix C).

The outcome of the Benefit Assessment process is a score for each project that represents the impact they are likely to have against the criteria identified. The higher the score the greater the positive impact is against the agreed assessment criteria. The highest score a project can have is a +3 and the lowest is a -3. Therefore a project that scores a +3 demonstrates through the information available that it will have a maximum positive impact against each of the criteria, and likewise a project that scores -3 demonstrates that it will have the maximum negative impact against each of the criteria. However, using this approach the highest score received by any project was 0.92 on the scale of -3 to +3.

The general reason as to why projects did not score closer to the maximum is because they tended to focus on either economic, social or environmental rather than a combination of the three, and where projects did score across each they tended to be lower scores because the projects were not deemed to have been of a magnitude to warrant higher scores.

The final list of priority projects for each Green Wedge area includes:

Mornington Peninsula

- Improve public transport links to the Peninsula Hinterland and Western Port side of the Peninsula. This will increase accessibility of these areas and better facilitate tourist dispersion and support sustainable employment opportunities. Priority public transport needs include:
 - Enhanced train links to Hastings and beyond
 - Buses to hinterland towns such as Red Hill, Flinders, Balnarring, Somers and Main Ridge
- Access to recycled water for the Bunyip Food Bowl and the Peninsula Hinterland, will assist in protecting and supporting this region as a key food producing area for metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria
- Identify financial incentives to support future investment in agriculture and encourage farmers to explore opportunities to diversify their operations and identify alternative revenue streams.

Nillumbik

- Continue to investigate the proposed Maroondah Aqueduct Trail as an opportunity to create an iconic recreation and tourism opportunity for Melbourne
- Extension to the Diamond Creek Trail, Pipeline Trail (Allendale to Diamond Creek-Hurstbridge Road) and the Wattle Glen to Kinglake Trail.
- Explore options to support locally based food production through initiatives such as a marketing campaign to promote Green Wedge produce and by advocating to the Victorian government for support of the industry

Southern Ranges

- Strengthen alignment with local/ neighboring industries, including (but not limited to) cut flowers, mature trees and in turn strengthen the local farmer's markets
- Advocate for funding to facilitate greater connections between key recreational trails and assets
- Encourage development of the Aqueduct walking and cycling trail

Sunbury

- Biodiversity protection and management is important, and can be achieved by ensuring threatened species and eco-communities remain healthy and improve over time. One option to achieve this is to support landowners with grants and education programs.
- Proactively manage the Illegal dumping of household waste, construction waste and soil from development sites
- Support the development of recreational activities on Parks Victoria land in the north-west, including (but not limited to) Woodlands, Organ Pipes, Holden Flora and Fauna Reserve.

Werribee South

- Working with Southern Rural Water to implement the irrigation modernisation project.
- Preparing a City Forest and Habitat Strategy to identify key environmental assets and potential habitat links and corridors.

Western Plains North

- Improve access and use of recycled water to facilitate the sustainable growth of agriculture within the Green Wedge. As part of this develop a Recycled Water Business Plan.
- Seek to create a network of 'environmental features' and establish links between these to improve awareness, celebrate key assets within the Green Wedge and connect existing reserves. Where practicable, identify key environmental features and appropriate linkages and protect their habitat values.
- Seek to enhance understanding of the Green Wedge's biodiversity value and measures necessary to protect and enhance the existing natural environment. As part of this prepare a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for the Green Wedge

Western Plains South

- Preparing a City Forest and Habitat Strategy to identify key environmental assets and potential habitat links and corridors.
- Work with other levels of government to expand on ground land management activities, especially with the Western Grassland Reserve transitioning from freehold to public reserve.

Western Port

- Obtain funding for rural projects, including (but not limited to) drought assistance, RDV Projects, land care projects. As the Green Wedge currently sits within a metropolitan classification, funding generally can't be accessed, and on this basis the classification needs to be reviewed.
- Make better use of and deliver the underutilised recycled water resource in order to provide water security to one of Melbourne's' closest and best-placed growing regions of fresh horticultural produce
- Encourage and support agriculture (food production) in the Green Wedge to support and generate tourism related opportunities

Whittlesea

- Work with the community to support the opening of at least one Farmers Market in the municipality
- Review the Farm Rate recipients, and identify options to increase the Farm Rate differential as a means to incentivise commercial farming in the Green Wedge

Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges

- Develop the Warburton Mountain Bike Hub, which will include a mix of trails to suit all levels of capability. Based on the Feasibility Study completed it is projected that the hub would attract up to 130,000 visitors per year and generate up to \$23 million annually in economic benefits
- Develop the Yarra Valley Trail that will connect Lilydale to Yarra Glen to Healesville and then across to Woori Yallock to join with the Lilydale Warburton rail trail. It is estimated that this trail will attract over 210,000 visitors

per year, and will generate 222 new jobs and generate over \$30 million annually in economic benefits for the local economy

- Increase the use of recycled water through the development of a recycled water pipeline

PRIORITIES GOING FORWARD

Across the Green Wedges there are a number of common themes that are emerging as priorities for the broader region, these include:

- Green Wedge Recreational Trails Strategy
- Access to recycled water
- Agriculture diversification
- Regional collaboration

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Interface Councils is a group of ten municipalities that form a ring around metropolitan Melbourne, including Cardinia Shire Council, City of Casey, Hume City Council, Melton City Council, Mitchell Shire Council, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, City of Whittlesea, Wyndham City Council and Yarra Ranges Council. The Interface Councils are the driving force behind this initiative to measure the overall value and identify opportunities to add sustainable economic value to the Green Wedge regions.

The non-urban areas of metropolitan Melbourne that lie outside the urban growth boundary are known as Green Wedges. There are 12 designated Green Wedges, spanning 17 municipalities, which collectively form a ring around the City.

Land in each green wedge area is unique in terms of its use and appearance ranging from the coastal landscape of Mornington Peninsula to the open basalt plains of the west and to the highly scenic landscapes in the Yarra Valley. Melbourne's Green Wedges contain some of the most iconic destinations, businesses and landscapes, which contribute significantly to Melbourne's liveability. Green Wedges are productive landscapes, providing recreational opportunities for Melbourne's residents, economic and lifestyle benefits, and is the repository of landscape and biodiversity values of State and national significance.

There are often competing pressures for development within the Green Wedge areas, which is why a proactive approach is required to ensure that these pressures are managed and to ensure the natural amenity is not eroded over time.

1.2 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The overarching purpose of this project is to quantify the economic, social and environmental value of the Green Wedges and once an understanding of the value is obtained identify projects that are consistent with the visions, values and characteristics of the Green Wedge areas and that will add sustainable and desirable value to the Green Wedges going forward.

Projects need to be identified across each of the Interface Councils to demonstrate unity around the important issue of sustainably managing and facilitating appropriate growth of the Green Wedge's, through measuring and then building upon the economic, social and environmental value of the area. It is important to recognise that while Green Wedges share some common interests and themes they are also quite diverse, and differ in regard to key issues and priorities. A one size fits all approach is not appropriate in framing policies for the Green Wedges as a whole.

The information gathered through this project will be used to support future advocacy programs for funding support and the introduction of programs by the Victorian government to enhance and preserve the Green Wedges. It is anticipated this document will exist as a reference tool and information base to support these objectives and may also be used as an input to the development of future Green Wedge Management Plans.

1.2.1 Approach

In addressing the priorities for the Interface Councils AEC used the following approach:

- Research and Analysis:
 - A detailed literature review to ensure all existing priorities and information are taken into consideration in determining the current value and future projects. The primary source of information was the Green Wedge Management Plans that have been developed.
 - Identify, collect and analyse relevant economic, social and environmental data for the Green Wedges.
 - Calculate a total economic value for the Green Wedge areas.
- Imperatives for Action:
 - Work with key stakeholders to identify priority projects for each Interface Council area and the region as a whole that are going to add sustainable value to the Green Wedge areas.
- Project Prioritisation:
 - Develop and apply a framework that assesses benefits of projects to determine which initiatives should become priorities for the region.
- Reporting:
 - All the information gathered during the previous stages of the project is collated and presented in a clear and concise manner that effectively informs all Interface Councils where they should focus their attention going forward.
 - This stage also demonstrates the united approach being adopted by the Interface Councils to assessing opportunities across the region consistent with the role of each Green Wedge area.

2. MELBOURNE'S GREEN WEDGES

Melbourne's Green Wedges have a total annual value of **\$7.6 billion**, comprising \$4.2 billion in economic value, \$706.4 million in social value and \$2.7 billion in environmental value.

The non-urban areas of metropolitan Melbourne that lie outside the Urban Growth Boundary are known as Green Wedge. There are a total of twelve designated Green Wedges that together surround the City.

The first Green Wedges were identified in the 1960's and over time other non-urban areas surrounding metropolitan Melbourne were also included. The Green Wedges in their current form were formally designated as part of the Melbourne 2030 strategy in 2002.

The Green Wedges all serve the purpose of protecting and preserving the region from undesirable development by curbing outward growth and consolidating development within the defined Urban Growth Boundary. However, the way in which each Green Wedge achieves this is quite diverse, some Green Wedges are productive landscapes, others include iconic tourism assets, recreational trails and pristine natural assets, while others include a mix of highly productive economic drivers. All of these land uses are vital to the functioning of metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

The Green Wedge's combined contain a diverse range of geology, geo-morphology and climate conditions creating a significant area for bio-diversity. The area has a high diversity of vegetation types and habitats (110 Ecological Vegetation Classes) and includes approximately 44% of Victoria's recorded flora and fauna species.

Over the past decade the Interface Councils have been leaders in supporting the protection of these biodiversity assets through significant investment in staff and resources. Recognising the importance of this rich biodiversity, a separate report has been prepared to complement this report, *Biodiversity Values Assessment for the Interface Council area of Melbourne*. This will be used to ensure the protection and enhancement of biodiversity assets in line with any future development or projects.

The Green Wedges have a common purpose, but how they each achieve this is diverse and unique.

The twelve Green Wedges include:

- Manningham
- Mornington Peninsula
- Nillumbik
- South East
- Southern Ranges
- Sunbury
- Werribee South
- Western Plains North
- Western Plains South
- Western Port
- Whittlesea
- Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges.

This project is focused on the Green Wedges that cross the ten municipalities that make up the Interface Councils. A matrix of these is provided in Table 2.2. A brief description of each Green Wedge is contained in the individual Green Wedge reports contained at Appendix A. Those being investigated as part of this project include:

- Mornington Peninsula
- Nillumbik
- Southern Ranges
- Sunbury
- Werribee South
- Western Plains North
- Western Plains South
- Western Port
- Whittlesea
- Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges.

Why are Green Wedges important?

The Green Wedges were originally set aside to protect valuable agricultural land, landscapes, resources such as sand and stone, environmental features and to provide for recreational uses. The most viable cities in this century will be those with the best quality environments. Preservation of the rural hinterland is critical to the survival of Melbourne as a viable place to live. If this area is sustained, we will continue to enjoy the vineyards of the Yarra Valley, the beautiful landscapes of the Mornington Peninsula and the Keilor Plains, our river valleys and the forested hills of the Dandenongs and St. Andrews.

It is important to preserve Green Wedges not only for the environmental, resource and amenity benefits they give to the city, but also because they would make unsuitable areas for urban settlement. They are generally long distances from public transport, and their development would massively increase Melbourne's car dependency and lead to increased pollution, road congestion, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: Maintaining Melbourne's Green Wedges (2002)

The below map highlights the layout of all twelve Green Wedges surrounding the Melbourne metropolitan area. This map also provides a visual context of the role the Green Wedges play in providing a buffer between urban and non-urban uses.

Figure 2.1: Map of Green Wedges



Source: Interface Councils, 2017

Table 2.1: Size of Green Wedges

Green Wedge Area	Total Area (Ha)
Mornington Peninsula	32,779.67
Nillumbik	33,273.50
Southern Ranges	36,625.44
Sunbury	3,267.93
Werribee South	10,323.43
Western Plains North	11,588.53
Western Plains South	12,107.55
Western Port	72,807.49
Whittlesea	17,275.50
Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges	247,555.81
Total	477,604.85

Source: AEC



Table 2.2: The Green Wedge Matrix

	Werribee South	Western Plains South	Western Plains North	Sunbury	Nillumbik	Whittlesea	Manningham	Yarra Valley & Yarra & Dandenong Ranges	Southern Ranges	Western Port	South East	Mornington Peninsula
Interface Councils:												
Cardinia								5%	75%	70%		
Casey								5%	10%	30%		
Hume				80%								
Melton		40%	100%									
Nillumbik					100%							
Whittlesea						100%						
Wyndham	90%	60%										
Yarra Ranges								90%	10%			
Mornington Peninsula												98%
Mitchell												
Other Councils:												
Manningham							100%					
Frankston												2%
Kingston												
Greater Dandenong									2%			
Knox									3%			
Brimbank				20%								
Maroondah												

Source: AEC

2.1 VALUE OF THE GREEN WEDGES

The Green Wedges have long been recognised as extremely valuable assets to the broader Melbourne region, and beyond this to Victoria.

The Green Wedges were created to preserve these locations for a range of non-urban uses such as agricultural, tourism, recreational and environmental. The Green Wedges include some of Melbourne's more iconic destinations that contribute significantly to the liveability of the region. However, the value of the Green Wedges and the contribution they make to the economy, socially and the environment has never been quantified. This section provides a summary of the approach used to value the Green Wedges and the value that has been estimated. A more detailed overview of the approach is provided in Appendix B.

It is important to understand that in determining the 'value' of the Green Wedges a range of different data sources were used to identify an approximate value designed to demonstrate the overall importance of these assets to the region. There are a number of ways value can be determined and therefore it is important to exercise caution when referring to the value calculated in this report.

2.1.1 Economic Value of the Green Wedges

The economic value was calculated by combining wages and salaries with the productive value of the Green Wedges. When calculating economic value wages and salaries is traditionally part of the overall productive value, but to demonstrate the variance in these two economic factors they were separated for this process.

The overall annual economic value of the Green Wedges is \$4.2 billion. The Green Wedge that contributes the most towards this overall value is Sunbury, which has an economic value of \$1.9 billion. The primary reason for this is due to the presence of the Melbourne Airport, and directly related to this the transport, postal and warehousing industry contributes \$1.3 billion towards industry value add. The Sunbury Green Wedge has a key function in protecting the operational safety and flexibility of the airport as a State significant commercial and tourism facility and gateway to Melbourne.

Table 2.3: Economic Valuation of Green Wedges

Green Wedge Area	Industry Value Added (excl. Wages & Salaries) (\$M)	Economic	
		Wages & Salaries (\$M)	Total Economic (\$M)
Mornington Peninsula	\$156.7	\$110.4	\$267.1
Nillumbik	\$84.5	\$64.6	\$149.1
Southern Ranges	\$196.1	\$94.6	\$290.6
Sunbury	\$1,193.9	\$751.7	\$1,945.6
Werribee South	\$67.1	\$35.7	\$102.7
Western Plains North	\$17.6	\$9.4	\$27.0
Western Plains South	\$7.8	\$3.0	\$10.8
Western Port	\$281.2	\$167.0	\$448.2
Whittlesea	\$91.2	\$60.6	\$151.8
Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges	\$513.4	\$319.7	\$833.1
Total	\$2,609.4	\$1,616.7	\$4,226.0

Source: AEC

2.1.2 Social Value of the Green Wedges

The social value was calculated by measuring the area (in hectares) of cultural/ recreational value and the residential utility value.

Residential utility value is a proxy used to derive a value that residents place on living in a particular area. It is calculated based on the average rental value applied across all dwellings in the Green Wedge areas. Utility of housing applies to not only those dwellings being rented, but all dwellings. As such, the average rental value is applied across all dwellings in the Green Wedge areas.

The overall social value of the Green Wedges is \$706.4 million, with the Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges Green Wedge accounting for the majority of this due largely to its size. This Green Wedge represents more than half of the total area of all the Green Wedges combined.

Table 2.4: Social Valuation of Green Wedges

Green Wedge Area	Social		
	Cultural/ Recreational Value (\$M)	Amenity Value of Housing (\$M)	Total Social (\$M)
Mornington Peninsula	\$8.3	\$38.2	\$46.5
Nillumbik	\$10.5	\$31.6	\$42.1
Southern Ranges	\$28.6	\$43.4	\$72.0
Sunbury	\$0.1	\$7.8	\$7.9
Werribee South	\$1.0	\$8.0	\$9.0
Western Plains North	\$0.8	\$1.5	\$2.3
Western Plains South	\$2.2	\$7.4	\$9.7
Western Port	\$6.8	\$54.2	\$60.9
Whittlesea	\$9.9	\$30.8	\$40.7
Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges	\$239.2	\$176.1	\$415.3
Total	\$307.4	\$399.0	\$706.4

Source: AEC

2.1.3 Environmental Value of the Green Wedge

The environmental value was calculated by measuring the area of native vegetation by vegetation classification within each Green Wedge and then combining that with a quality rating of the native vegetation. Environmental values per hectare by biome type were applied to each Green Wedge area, to provide a total environmental value, and adjustments were made base on a quality rating.

The overall environmental value of the Green Wedges is \$2,668.4 million, with the Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges accounting for the majority of this, due largely to its size that includes National and State Parks with high environmental importance. The Southern Ranges is another with a high environmental value, with the majority of this attributed to inland wetlands (\$162.6 million), which includes the Cardinia Reservoir.

Table 2.5: Environmental Valuation of Green Wedge

Green Wedge Area	Total Environment (\$M)
Mornington Peninsula	\$89.4
Nillumbik	\$80.7
Southern Ranges	\$234.5
Sunbury	\$10.6
Werribee South	\$19.4
Western Plains North	\$10.7
Western Plains South	\$51.4
Western Port	\$77.1
Whittlesea	\$75.3
Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges	\$2,019.3
Total	\$2,668.4

Source: AEC

2.1.4 Annual Total Value of the Green Wedge

When the economic, social and environmental values are combined it calculates that the overall value of the Green Wedges investigated is \$7.6 billion.

It is important to highlight that comparing the value of the Green Wedges is not done to rank the Green Wedges, because attributing a dollar value to them is not the only way to determine value, it is done to demonstrate the difference in focus or key attributes of each Green Wedge. The most important outcome from this exercise is that combined the Green Wedges are extremely valuable economic, social and environmental assets, at over \$7.5 billion, and they need to be preserved, enhanced and protected into the future.

Table 2.6: Annual Total Value of Green Wedges

Green Wedge Area	Annual Total Value (\$M)	Total Area (Ha)	Value per Ha (\$)
Mornington Peninsula	\$403.0	32,779.67	\$12,294
Nillumbik	\$271.9	33,273.50	\$8,172
Southern Ranges	\$597.1	36,625.44	\$16,303
Sunbury	\$1,964.2	3,267.93	\$601,053
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Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges	\$3,267.8	247,555.81	\$13,200
Total	\$7,600.8	477,604.85	\$15,914

Source: AEC

3. INFLUENCING FACTORS & COMPETITIVENESS

This chapter provides a summary of the key influencing factors that are likely to have an impact on the Green Wedge areas. It is very difficult for Local Governments to influence these factors but it is important that as the priority projects are identified that influencing factors such as those highlighted below are considered to ensure the implementation of the priority projects is done in a way that acknowledges the changing national and global market.

3.1 ECONOMY

3.1.1 Skills Availability

Description

Lack of skilled workers is a major impediment to economic growth and innovation. Businesses around Australia are particularly worried that skills shortages and high staff turnover are negatively impacting their business and will continue to do so in the future. All sectors are demanding a higher base of skilled/ qualified labour to support increasingly technological delivery methods. Skill shortages often implies businesses struggle to expand locally, due to difficulties accessing requisite and affordable labour.

Impact for Green Wedges

A lack of skilled workers has the potential to impact upon the evolution of certain industries if workforce needs of the future are not considered and addressed. The priority for the Green Wedge areas from a workforce perspective should be based around understanding the future workforce needs of major industries, including tourism and agriculture, and then working with these industries to develop programs that will assist in responding to future needs.

Some of the initial priorities for Green Wedges are focused around the diversification of the agricultural sector into tourism related opportunities. Making the decision to change the focus of a business from one industry to another will not just happen. Appropriate training programs and workforce development initiatives will need to be developed to ensure this transition and diversification process is successful and sustainable.

3.1.2 The Asian Century

Description

Economies and populations in developing nations in Asia are growing rapidly. The continual growth of the middle-class across Asia is expected to present an increasing array of opportunities for Australia, specifically through an increase in demand for our goods and services.

Impact for Green Wedges

There are significant opportunities that can be facilitated as a result of the size and scope of the economies in Asia, however, they will not happen without applied effort. Local Governments can play a role to help facilitate the development of these opportunities and the associated growth in local jobs.

Global demand, is expected to emerge in industries such as agribusiness (in particular higher value food), international education, tourism and wealth management as well as global demand for energy. Increasing market knowledge and awareness of the opportunities in these industries will help to ensure that economic outcomes can be achieved, but if regions simply wait for the opportunities to arrive it may not happen. Taking advantage of opportunities associated with the Asian Century is about proactively making them happen.

In order to truly benefit from opportunities in the Asian market regions need to explore a range of priorities, such as:

- 'Governance' – establish and grow industry collaboration structures to build the critical mass needed to break into global markets.

- 'Capability' – identify opportunities to build the capability of local businesses to ensure they have the capacity and skills to operate in this market.
- 'Relationships' – identify opportunities and develop strong relationships with strategic Asian markets where mutually beneficial outcomes can be achieved.
- 'Market Knowledge' – there is a need to develop a strong understanding around the current gaps and associated opportunities within these markets and what the key drivers are that influence relationships and business decision making.

3.1.3 Emerging Technologies and Innovation

Description

Continually evolving technology will play a major role in shaping the development of Australia over the next 30 years. Rapidly evolving energy, communications, and transportation technologies will boost economic activity. It also has the potential to revolutionise education and training delivery.

Mobile internet, automation of knowledge work, machine based learning, cloud technology, advanced robotics and autonomous vehicles, next generation genomics, energy storage, 3D printing, advanced materials and renewable energy are just some of the known technologies that will change the face of how we do business and live into the future.

Technology has the potential to stimulate industries already established and lead to higher levels of labour productivity, while also lowering barriers and costs of new and emerging industries.

Impact for Green Wedges

The use of technology means residents and businesses outside of cities are more connected with the outside world than ever before. This provides greater job opportunities in regional areas, and greatly enhances opportunities for business innovation, small business start-up and entrepreneurship in regional Australia. Critical in leveraging new technology is fast and reliable internet connection.

Access to new and emerging technologies, in conjunction with efficient and high quality infrastructure, is resulting in considerable enhancement in productivity, which requires higher levels of technical capability in staff. Accordingly, workers are becoming increasingly highly skilled, well paid, flexible and quite often demanding more from their employer. This is anticipated to continue into the future.

For the Green Wedge areas the implications are similar to the 'Evolving Work Practices' influencing factor. The most proactive regions across Australia are embracing the 'smart city' agenda and putting in place the soft and hard infrastructure required to ensure their region is providing the platform for businesses and the community in general to benefit from these emerging technologies and innovation.

3.1.4 Tourism

Description

Tourism covers the services provided to international and domestic visitors, and is a key driver for many industries throughout the regional, State and Australian economies.

Impact for Green Wedges

The ongoing growth of the domestic tourism market will continue to drive moderate jobs growth and sustainability in this sector throughout Victoria and Australia, while the growing international demand for nature based experiences in safe and affordable destinations will help to drive an increase in international demand, in particular from the Asian market.

The accommodation industry will be the primary beneficiary of tourism growth, with this industry typically accounting for a very large share of overall tourist spend. Other industries will also benefit, such as retail trade, food and beverage services, transport and entertainment-based businesses.

The Green Wedge areas offer a mix of some of the most unique and picturesque nature based tourism experiences in Australia, and these assets need to be managed and maintained for this region to continue to be a sustainable destination that meets the evolving needs of the international and domestic visitor. In addition to this some of the major opportunities for the Green Wedges are tourism related, e.g. various recreation trails, agri-tourism, nature based experiences. These types of authentic Australian experiences are consistent with the evolving needs of the global tourism market, which presents some exciting opportunities for tourism operators in the Green Wedge areas.

3.1.5 Funding Infrastructure

Description

Ongoing population growth will create increased pressure and demand on existing infrastructure and the delivery of future infrastructure. Infrastructure has the capacity to lead or follow development. Good economic outcomes are achieved when the right infrastructure leads development.

Infrastructure plays a crucial role in driving business investment, growth and productivity. Today, both the private and public sector are placing more emphasis on developing basic infrastructure in Australia to promote the growth of the economy and provide for a growing population.

Impact for Green Wedges

Based on a coordinated planning approach, identified priority infrastructure areas will deliver the best economic outcomes for the entire region. This will require an unbiased whole of region approach based on key business centres that have the capacity and potential to deliver economic outcomes.

New funding models that aren't entirely reliant upon government delivery need to be explored. Without new approaches infrastructure will likely continue to be reactive rather than proactive and leading.

Traditional infrastructure financing methods go by many names, but can generally be grouped into five categories – general taxation, government borrowing, user charges, developer contributions and public private partnerships. However, there are many alternative or non-traditional methods of financing public infrastructure in use around the world.

Infrastructure delivery that meets the needs of a growing community and that is consistent with the values of the Green Wedge areas is important, and to address current and future needs it is critical that the region works together to identify new and collaborative approaches to infrastructure funding and delivery.

3.2 SOCIAL

3.2.1 Population Growth

Description

Population growth is often associated with increased economic growth and employment opportunities in a region. Population growth leads to higher demand for various goods and services. It also helps to generate increased consumer and business confidence and stronger levels of local reinvestment and business investment attraction.

Impact for Green Wedges

Population growth has a tendency to support those industries that are generally population driven, including (but not limited to) – public administration and safety, health care and social assistance, education and training and retail trade. Population growth in the Melbourne metropolitan region is likely to have a positive impact on demand for opportunities in tourism, agriculture and recreational activities across the Green Wedge areas. An increase in the number of people in the region will increase the level of demand on associated infrastructure and require regions to consider sustainable expansion opportunities.

One of the challenges for Green Wedge regions relating to population growth is the pressure for urban encroachment and increased residential development. The focus for each of the Green Wedges varies in relation to residential development. In some cases, the need to further investigate rural living is encouraged, whereas in others the focus may be to resist residential growth. The key point is that any future residential growth needs to be consistent with the existing values and priorities within the specific Green Wedge, and in planning for the future of the Green Wedges the potential impact of population growth needs to be taken into consideration.

3.2.2 Ageing Population

Description

The demographic profile of a region has implications for future demand for services such as schools (e.g., children) and hospitals (requirements differ across a broad spectrum of age and demographics), infrastructure, as well as the availability of labour to support industry/ business growth (i.e. working age population).

Impact for Green Wedges

As the Australian population continues to age, there will be enhanced opportunities to capture and leverage expansions of certain markets, such as health services, aged care and residential accommodation.

At the same time, ageing may further escalate skills shortages and it remains critical that investment is made to address foreseeable shortages. This provides opportunities to generate greater connections between the education and health sectors.

Dealing with challenges associated with an ageing population is not traditionally seen as the core responsibility of Local Government, but it will take a collaborative approach across all levels of government to turn this challenge into an opportunity while at the same time addressing the needs of the community in a way that is consistent with the values of the Green Wedges.

In relation to the Green Wedges it is unlikely that an ageing population will have any significant impact. One of the challenges to consider is the competition for land in relation to facilities and infrastructure required to support the needs of an ageing population.

The ageing population is also having an impact on the agricultural industry, with a number of ageing farmers looking at alternative options for their land, such as subdivision.

These types of challenges should be addressed through responsible planning for population growth in general.

3.2.3 Food Security

Description

As global populations increase, global demand for food increases. In addition, the industrialisation of key population centres increases demand for imported foods, providing increased demand for Australian fresh and processed foods.

Impact for Green Wedges

Accompanying forecast growth in the world's population, income levels in key markets such as Asia are expected to grow significantly. Increased income generally leads to an increase in demand for and consumption of higher quality food. When these factors are combined it is clear that global demand for higher value food products will grow significantly.

Australia and Victoria have traditionally strong agricultural sectors, and are well positioned to capture some of the growth in demand for agricultural and higher value food products. However, this growth will be tempered by other factors, such as commodity cycles, climate, exchange rates, costs of production and global competition. Efficient transport networks and infrastructure will be key to supporting this development.

The key to taking advantage of global demand for food is industry working together to cooperate and meet the needs of the market. The global and domestic market is growing rapidly and the demand for high quality product means that the market has certain expectations, and as result the best opportunity for local businesses to meet the demands and expectations of the market will be through industry working together to build critical mass.

The majority of the Green Wedges have a strong focus on agriculture and niche food production, and this has the potential to contribute to the growing demand for locally produced/ grown food, and push for reduction in food miles. Based on this, one of the opportunities for the Green Wedges is for producers within the Green Wedge regions to work together to build critical mass and take advantage of the global and domestic opportunities that are developing. This also relates to the need to protect good quality agricultural land from inconsistent development.

3.2.4 Evolving Work Practices

Description

A growing proportion of workers around the world are choosing to work from home, as technological advancements have made working from home a more viable option for both employees and employers.

Impact for Green Wedges

The ability for people to work from home is one of the reasons why more people choose to live in regional areas as opposed to the city. One of the key drivers of this trend is access to suitable telecommunications infrastructure that ensures home based businesses are able to operate at the same level as they would expect if they were based in the city.

The increasing prevalence of home-based work options can assist regional areas improve retention of working age adults, primarily in industries and professions that historically have been centred in cities (e.g. many knowledge-based industries and professional occupations).

The impact of increased levels of home-based work will mostly be felt in terms of planning requirements, rather than providing a strong impetus for additional jobs in regional parts of Green Wedge areas. Access to high-speed broadband connectivity is required to provide suitable substitutability between home and office-based work environments. The increase in home-based work is also resulting in reduced office floorspace requirements for business and an increasing prevalence for 'hot-desk' or shared workspaces that any employee can readily access as required. Home-based work also has the potential to provide demand for a range of innovative work solutions, such as shared and flexible office-based common use facilities, providing work spaces, meeting spaces and conference facilities available for short term hire as needed.

Additionally, home-based work has the potential to reduce commuter loads each day, reducing transport infrastructure and public transport requirements. At the same time, connectivity is important for mobile workers, and ready access to major long distance transport infrastructure can be an important factor for home-based workers.

3.3 ENVIRONMENT

3.3.1 Natural Values Decline

Description

The natural Values of Victoria are suffering decline on a range of scales and timeframes depending on the stressors placed on them. Natural values such as native vegetation, native flora and fauna and water all have pressures placed on them from the past and present threatening processes. Many flora and fauna species are in some form of decline. The threatening processes are extensive however strongest influences on population decline include vegetation removal and invasion of pest plants and animals. Waterway health across Victoria is heavily influenced by threatening processes associated with changed flow regimes, nutrient and litter pollution and vegetation removal along waterways. Climate Change is also predicted to place significant pressure on the natural values of Victoria over the coming decades.

Impact for Green Wedges

The Interface Councils make a significant contribution to many of the important natural values of Victoria. Given that the study area for the Green Wedges includes only 10 out of 79 Municipalities there is a high proportion of significant natural values in the areas. There are over 210,000 hectares of native vegetation that is in a threatened status in the study area. There is significant diversity of vegetation types across the study area with 111 Ecological Vegetation Classes that range from treeless grasslands, wetlands, Coastal Woodlands, Shrubby Forests, Wet Forests and Rainforests. There are 41% of Victoria's total plant and animal species that are located within the Interface Council area. Out of these species there are 301 species of flora and fauna that are in various threatened status categories and a further 77 species that are near threatened or there is insufficient information.

The study area also makes a significant contribution to nationally significant species of flora and fauna with 76 species recognised as significant due to being threatened at a national level.

The Interface Councils contain significant waterway assets ranging from headwater creeks and rivers, wetlands, estuaries and Port Phillip Bay. Councils currently play a key role in working with state government agencies such as Melbourne Water to mitigate the threats to these assets associated with issues directly associated with Interface Council landuse. Key issues to manage are stormwater and effluent management, rural runoff and reduction in use of potable water for non-drinking purposes.

Population density and associated infrastructure places substantially greater stress on natural values within the Green Wedge regions than other parts of Victoria. The opportunities exist however that there is a high proportion of unique and very significant natural values in close proximity to a large population of Victoria. This can increase the opportunities for connection and stewardship of the natural values in the Green Wedges by all Victorians.

3.3.2 Pressures to be Socially Responsible

Description

There is increasing pressure globally and domestically for Australian businesses and individuals to be more socially responsible. For businesses, this responsibility may take the form of environmental efforts, philanthropy, ethical labour practices and volunteering.

Impact for Green Wedges

Environmental efforts to reduce the impact businesses/ industries have on the environment may take many forms. Businesses may introduce a paperless office initiative, reduce emissions or reduce business-related travel. At an individual level residents and visitors make a range of choices relating to social and environmental responsibility, relating to waste management, resource usage, consumption trends such as buying locally produced goods and services, to name a few.

Given the importance of effectively managing the sustainability of the Green Wedge areas it is important that businesses with a strong focus on social responsibility are recognised and celebrated. At the same time business diversification and development strategies should focus on working with businesses to help them understand the values of the Green Wedge areas and what they can do within their businesses to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the region.

At an individual level it is important to continue to promote opportunities for people to be socially and environmentally responsible, and for them to understand the impact of their actions. The Green Wedges are highly valuable natural assets and businesses and individuals through education and awareness can play a major role in leading the preservation of these areas.

4. PRIORITY PROJECTS

4.1 PRIORITY PROJECT THEMES

There are a wide range of projects that have been identified for implementation within key strategic documents such as the Green Wedge Management Plans. Provided below is a distillation and summary of the common themes identified across all of the Green Wedges under the categories of:

- Tourism
- Recreation
- Agriculture
- Environment
- Other.

It is important to note many of the common themes and projects identified cross over the above categories, and the list below has been compiled based on the 'best fit' for each project.

The final list of priority projects has been assessed using a Benefit Assessment Framework that assesses the economic, social and environmental impact of the identified projects, which in turn has determined the priorities that each Council within each Green Wedge should focus on that will enhance the Green Wedge's in a manner consistent with the existing vision and values of the area.

4.1.1 Tourism

- Facilitation of events that serve a range of purposes, such as attraction of visitors, building the capacity of local businesses and educating people on the rural lifestyle. Some different examples of events highlighted include:
 - Farmers markets
 - Educational field days
- Identify opportunities for new tourism initiatives that are consistent with the values and characteristics of the Green Wedges, e.g. eco-tourism, camping, geotourism, golf courses, etc.
- Across the various Green Wedge Management Plans there were recommendations to explore the viability of a range of tourism related infrastructure projects. Some of the priorities include:
 - Conference facilities (Mornington Peninsula) – under construction at Cape Schanck RACV Resort
 - Arthur's Seat chairlift (Mornington Peninsula) – recently completed
 - Eco-tourism accommodation (Nillumbik)
 - Maroondah Aqueduct Trail (Nillumbik)
 - Edendale Farm (Nillumbik)
 - Bay Trail (Werribee South)
 - Werribee River Regional Park (Werribee South)
 - Werribee Plains Zoo (Werribee South)
 - Point Cook Airfield and Coastal Park (Werribee South)
- The development of a landuse framework and planning policies that support the development of low impact, sustainable tourism was consistent across regions. The establishment of controls that protect the Green Wedge regions from inappropriate development, while supporting low impact tourism activities was highlighted as a priority.

4.1.2 Recreation

- A number of planning priorities were highlighted across the regions, with a strong focus on multi-use recreational trails, such as walking, cycling and riding trails.
- Promote and expand recreation opportunities, such as the Maroondah Aqueduct Trail, which has the potential to be an iconic tourism opportunity for the broader region (Nillumbik)

4.1.3 Agriculture

- Diversification of the agricultural industry and the identification of alternative revenue streams to facilitate the long term sustainability of this sector in a manner that is consistent with the values of the Green Wedges. Some of the areas highlighted across each of the regions to diversify and strengthen this sector include:
 - Agri-tourism
 - Intensive agriculture (horticulture)
 - Local food production with Green Wedge branding
 - Equine
 - Environmental (carbon sinks, recycled water, renewable energy)
- The need for increased access to business support and advice for farmers was highlighted across most Management Plans. It is also listed below as one of the generic themes, because the support required goes beyond the agricultural sector to land owners in general.
- Increase the level of information and data available about the agriculture industry to educate land owners on priority issues that need to be considered in relation to land management, and also as a means to educate visitors and residents on the importance of supporting local farmers. Some examples of tools recommended for development that would help to achieve this include:
 - Produce a 'Living in the Green Wedge' kit
 - Rural information packs
 - Market campaign to promote the value of farming
 - Local communication campaign, including regular newsletters
- Planning controls are highlighted in the section below, but it is also worth noting in this section as the importance of establishing planning controls and policy to protect quality agricultural land from the intrusion of inappropriate development was highlighted as a priority across all regions.
- Identify and implement incentive based programs designed to encourage land owners and farmers to protect and enhance good quality agricultural land.

4.1.4 Environment

- Diversification of the agricultural industry is a priority, a number of environmentally focused opportunities were identified including carbon sinks, recycled water, irrigation modernisation and renewable energy.
- Need to understand the potential impact of climate change on the land and identify ways to manage this.
- Land management, water quality management, revegetation activities and a range of other initiatives designed to support and enhance the natural environment and associated assets.

4.1.5 Other

- Access to resources to assist in building knowledge and capacity of the land owners, farmers and businesses across the Green Wedges. Some examples of resource requirements include:
 - Land broker
 - Business/ land owner/ farmer advisory service
- Strong focus on working collaboratively as a broader region to facilitate partnerships and advocate for the needs of key stakeholder groups.
- Advocacy was identified as a priority across all of the Green Wedge Management Plans. The form of advocacy and the target varied from region to region, but ultimately all priorities relate to the provision of funding or resource support or the development of policies and planning controls that protect and enhance the values and character of the Green Wedges.
- Development of sustainable and connected public transport infrastructure and associated networks. Any new transport infrastructure needs to identify why it is required and how it can be developed in a way that won't negatively impact the environment.
- The development of various plans, strategies and policy documents were recommended across all Management Plans as a way to protect and enhance the integrity, character and values of the Green Wedges. Some of the strategic documents identified include:
 - Township/ precinct strategies
 - Tourism plans and land use frameworks
 - Cultural plans
 - Recreation trails strategies
 - Open space strategy
 - Biodiversity strategies
 - Invasive species management plans
 - City Forest and Habitat Strategy
- Build knowledge and understanding of indigenous and cultural heritage. This initiative also has linkages to the tourism category, but is highlighted here because of its overall focus on not just tourism opportunities but also links to the need to build the knowledge of the broader community around this topic.
- Increase the level of information and data available about the Green Wedges in general to educate residents and visitors about their importance and value to the community, e.g. Publish a 'Guide to the Green Wedge'

4.2 FINAL PRIORITY PROJECTS

Based on stakeholder engagement each participating Interface Council prepared a consolidated list of priority projects for analysis under the Benefit Assessment Framework. Provided below is the list of priority projects for each Green Wedge.

4.2.1 Mornington Peninsula

The Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge is almost entirely (98%) in the Mornington Peninsula Shire. For this area eleven priority projects have been identified, they include:

- Agriculture:
 - **Access to recycled water for Bunyip food bowl and Peninsula Hinterland.** This will help to provide water security for agricultural production, to support natural water flows in streams, reduce pressure on aquifers, and ensure water security for fire-fighting.

- Inclusion of the **Green Wedge as 'Regional'** rather than 'interface' or 'peri-urban' to enable equitable access to regional grants and funding programs. It is believed that Interface Councils are disadvantaged in obtaining State Government funding opportunities through Green Wedge areas not being classed as 'regional'. Classing Green Wedge zones as regional, or specifically including the Green Wedges within regional programs, would support future agricultural investment and allow peri-urban agricultural enterprises to function in a similar way to their more 'rural' counterparts.
- **Financial incentives to support future investment in agriculture.** Undertake a study to evaluate financial measures that could be undertaken to improve the security/ viability of agricultural investment and to support ongoing agricultural use of land in the Green Wedge. For example, evaluating the rural rates subsidies, are they high enough, could they be further offset by setting higher rates for 'rural living' dwellings.
- Recreation:
 - There are gaps in the **'Two Bays Walking Track'** that need to be connected. This track is used for a range of recreational activities.
 - Investigate means to **support the experience of recreational driving**, including infrastructure/ safety improvements such as car parking, overtaking lanes, bike lanes and directional/ informational signage.
 - Undertake a **recreational facilities/ assets audit** and develop a plan to identify opportunities for investment and development of existing recreational amenities.
- Tourism:
 - **Review the opportunities and constraints for emerging tourism business types** e.g. glamping, agri-tourism, etc, and analyse where they fit in the broader tourism strategy. Include a review of minimum site area and maximum scale requirements for different areas under the Green Wedge zone to support sustainable tourism businesses
 - **Improve public transport links** to the Peninsula hinterland and Western Port side of the Peninsula. This would then increase accessibility of these areas to facilitate better tourist dispersion and support employment opportunities in tourism for youth. Suggested improvements include:
 - Enhanced train links to Hastings and beyond
 - Buses to hinterland towns such as Red Hill, Flinders, Balnarring, Somers and Main Ridge
 - **Review Vic Roads and Tourism Victoria's policy for tourism signage** and develop a new strategy that adequately meets the needs of today's tourism businesses.
- Environment:
 - **Model future climate and population scenarios for potential economic, environmental and social impacts.** Develop a long-term vision for Green Wedge zones in mitigating climate change and providing amenity for future populations.
- Other:
 - **Conduct a review of each Interface Council's strategies for reinforcing Green Wedge objectives**, in particular in relation to the development of dwellings in the Green Wedge Zone. Investigate whether farm management plans are necessary and effective and identify other strategies across the Green Wedges that are working and share information.

4.2.2 Nillumbik

The Nillumbik Green Wedge under the management of the Shire of Nillumbik is entirely in the Nillumbik Shire Council area. For this area the following priority projects have been identified, they include:

- Agriculture:
 - Create a brand and marketing campaign for Green Wedge produce in support of local agriculture and business:
 - **Explore options to support growth of locally based food production**
 - Advocate to the Victorian government for support of agricultural enterprises
- Recreation - **promote creation and participation in recreational trails that facilitate access to the Green Wedge** and its landscapes, including interpretation strategies. These are within individual Council areas and cross Council boundaries and cater for both local communities and tourism.
 - Implement Nillumbik Shire Council's Recreation Trails Strategy with emphasis on the **extension to the Diamond Creek Trail, Pipeline Trail (Allendale to Diamond Creek-Hurstbridge Road) and the Wattle Glen to Kinglake Trail.**
 - Continue investigate the proposed **Maroondah Aqueduct Trail** as an opportunity to create an iconic recreation and tourism opportunity for Melbourne
 - Investigate **establishing a regional trails network** (walking, riding and cycling) that crosses the entire Green Wedge and links with adjoining Green Wedges and Council areas of Yarra Ranges, Murrindindi, Whittlesea, Manningham and Banyule. Include an analysis of the economic benefits such as potential visitor spend.
 - Investigate the **production of a Green Wedge interpretation strategy**, with individual plans for each of the recreation trails and Council owned reserves that might include maps, self-guided walks, on and off site interpretation and action.
 - Develop an **education program** for a variety of audiences directed by the aims and objectives of the Green Wedge Management Plan.
 - Support Nillumbik Destination Management Plan, actions as follows:
 - **Investigate future equine recreation opportunities** and promote trails
 - Continue to invest in the shared use trail network in Nillumbik
- Tourism:
 - **Cycling tourism:**
 - Prepare a guide and information sheet that promotes the advantages of supporting cycle tourism and tips on how better to cater for cyclist needs. This may be targeted to food, beverage and accommodation businesses.
 - Continue to support the Council appointed Recreation Trails Advisory Committee to monitor the use of cycling routes and destinations of regional interest.
 - Engage a graphic designer to map routes and information in an online and hard copy brochure with links to Strava GPS program.
 - Advocate to VicRoads for improved road safety supporting on-road cycling.
 - **Review the current planning scheme to facilitate increased business opportunities in the Green Wedge** that are compatible with current values. This includes investigation into whether rural zones in addition to the Rural Conservation Zone and Green Wedge Zones are needed in the Green Wedge to broaden the range of uses permitted and investigation of the intensity of permitted uses.

- **Develop a model of ecotourism** suited to the Green Wedges and assess potential tourism demand (size and location of market).
- Environment:
 - **Develop a plan that identifies biodiversity conservation priorities in the Green Wedges on a landscape scale**, i.e. cross-Council boundaries. This document will provide an overview of Melbourne's Green Wedges collectively for the first time and identify priorities agreed by all Interface Councils. The project has been discussed by the Interface Environmental Managers Network.
 - Identify and manage biodiversity at a landscape scale for conservation
 - Support the participation of rural landholders and communities in conserving biodiversity
- Other:
 - **Consider alternative governance arrangements for the Green Wedges**, which view them on a landscape scale i.e. cross-Council boundaries.

4.2.3 Southern Ranges

The Southern Ranges Green Wedge is primarily in Cardinia Shire Council (75%) The remainder is in the Local Government Areas of Casey (10%), Yarra Ranges (10%), Knox (3%) and Greater Dandenong (2%). For this area three priority projects have been identified, they include:

- Agriculture:
 - **Encourage land practices and alternative uses of soil affected by PCN and Dieldrin.**
 - **Protecting agricultural land from urban expansion to not only preserve and encourage agricultural investment, but also to retain the rural experience of Puffing Billy.**
 - **Strengthen alignment with local/ neighboring industries**, e.g. cut flowers, mature trees and in turn strengthen local farmer's markets.
- Recreation:
 - **Advocate for funding for key recreational connections as identified in key Council recreation strategies.**
 - **Encourage development of the Aqueduct walking and cycling trail.**
 - **Advocate for regional equestrian centre and horse trails funding.**
- Tourism:
 - Support Puffing Billy in the implementation of the **Puffing Billy Railway Master Plan to enhance the visitor experience and protect agricultural land from urban expansion to not only preserve and encourage agricultural investment, but also to retain the rural experience of Puffing Billy.**
 - **Advocate for funding to develop and construct connections from the growth corridor to the existing Aqueduct Trail** as detailed in Councils Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy.
 - **Advocate for funding to improve equestrian trails throughout the Green Wedge.**
- Other:
 - **Advocate for funding to undertake work to understand the economic role and function of each of the towns within all of the Green Wedges.** Identify what the relationships are between each of the towns and how they can work together to achieve optimum outcomes.
 - **Understand the impacts of various factors**, such as climate change, population growth, change in eating habits, cultural influence on agricultural land in the Green Wedge and what the future of farming really looks like as a result of these.

- **Undertake a metropolitan housing strategy for Melbourne** to inform LGA Housing Strategies to ensure adequate development is increased in the inner and middle suburbs, targeting greyfield and brownfield sites to increase development. This would reduce the pressure on urban expansion and protect the Green Wedges of Melbourne.

4.2.4 Sunbury

The Sunbury Green Wedge is primarily in the Hume City Council area (80%). For this area three priority projects have been identified, they include:

- There are issues with **illegal dumping of household waste, construction waste and soil from development** that needs to be managed, including the long-term management of active and uncomplete tip sites.
- Biodiversity protection and management is important, and can be achieved by **ensuring threatened species and eco-communities remain healthy and improve over time**. One option to achieve this is to support landowners with grants and education programs.
- **Support the development of recreational activities on Parks Victoria land in the north-west**, including (but not limited to) Woodlands, Organ Pipes, Holden Flora and Fauna Reserve.

4.2.5 Werribee South

The Werribee South Green Wedge is primarily in Wyndham City (90%). For this area the following priority projects have been identified:

- **Irrigation modernisation project** - Wyndham City is supporting the local water authority, Southern Rural Water, in the implementation of this project, which is approximately one third complete and requires additional government support to complete the project. The required funding is estimated to be \$19 million.
- **City Forest and Habitat Strategy** – Wyndham City is currently preparing this strategy to identify key environmental assets and potential habitat links and corridors. This strategy is currently in draft format, however additional support will be required for mapping and ongoing consultation.

4.2.6 Western Plains North

The Western Plains North Green Wedge is entirely in the Melton City Council area. For this area five priority projects have been identified, they include:

- **Recycled Water Business Plan – improve access and use of recycled water to facilitate agriculture within the Green Wedge:**
 - Work with Western Water to prepare a 'recycled water based agriculture' business plan
 - On the basis of the findings of the agricultural business plan, pursue any required updates to the identified subdivision controls to best facilitate agricultural uses.
- **Enhance tourism trails and information signage across the Green Wedge:**
 - Continue to promote the existing Dry Stone Wall Driving Trail.
 - Consider additional measures to appropriately protect key heritage assets along the Dry Stone Wall Driving Trail.
 - Consider an 'environmental' driving trail similar to the Dry Stone Wall Driving Trail, which could take in areas such as the 'environmental destination', the roadside grassland reserves as well as the viewpoint from Melton–Gisborne Road.
- **Develop trails, linkages, connections within the Green Wedge:**
 - Seek to establish walking, cycling and biodiversity links between towns and through the Green Wedge:
 - Seek to develop other walking track linkages along roads or other corridors to link key settlements

- Seek to create a network of ‘environmental features’ and establish links between these to improve awareness, celebrate key assets within the Green Wedge and connect existing reserves:
 - Where practicable, identify key environmental features and appropriate linkages and protect their habitat values.
- **Seek to enhance understanding of the Green Wedge’s biodiversity value and measures necessary to protect and enhance the existing natural environment:**
 - Prepare a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for the Green Wedge.
- **Promote public viewing of key landscape areas** that include interpretation that describes pre and post contact history. Examples of sites are included in the Melton Significant Landscape Features Strategy.

4.2.7 Western Plains South

The Western Plains South Green Wedge is primarily in the Wyndham City Council area (60%) and the remainder is in Melton City Council (40%). For this area the following priority projects have been identified:

- **City Forest and Habitat Strategy** – Wyndham City is currently preparing this strategy to identify key environmental assets and potential habitat links and corridors. This strategy is currently in draft format, however additional support will be required for mapping and ongoing consultation.
- The **Western Grassland Reserve** is a future 15,000 ha native grassland national park of which approximately 12,000 ha is within Wyndham. As the site is transitioning from freehold to public reserve, a large portion of the site is suffering environmental degradation via the threat of invasive weeds. Wyndham City runs a localised Land Protection Grant Scheme which helps landholders in active land management and weed control. Additional support from varying levels of government to improve engagement and supplement on ground controls is required.

4.2.8 Western Port

The Western Port Green Wedge is primarily in Cardinia Shire Council (70%) and the remainder is in Casey City Council (30%). For this area the following priority projects have been identified:

- Agriculture:
 - Advocate to government for funding to investigate ways to **better use and deliver the underutilised recycled water resource in order to provide water security** to one of Melbourne’s’ closest and best-placed growing regions of fresh horticultural produce.
 - **Advocate for permanency in relation to Green Wedge policy** and the urban growth boundary to protect Green Wedge land in the following ways:
 - Ensure right to farm is maintained
 - Remove non-compatible/ urban uses
 - Encourage and increase agriculture and associated investment.
 - **Obtain funding for rural projects**, e.g. drought assistance, RDV Projects, land care projects. As the Green Wedge currently sits within a metropolitan classification, funding generally can’t be accessed, and on this basis the classification needs to be reviewed.
- Recreation:
 - **Advocate for funding for key trail connections**, including:
 - Advocate for the construction of a shared trail from Beaconsfield to Nar Nar Goon along the Gippsland Railway Line rail reserve (also known as the Bairnsdale Line) through to Bunyip and connecting to Baw Baw Shire.

- Advocate for the construction of a shared trail from Dalmore through to Lang Lang along the former South Gippsland Railway Line rail reserve.
 - Advocate for the construction of a shared path along Koo Wee Rup Road.
 - Trail connections identified in the City of Casey, Paths and Trails Strategy
 - Land situated along the former South Gippsland Railway Line rail reserve be included in future shared trails
- **Develop horse, cycling and walking paths and trails along the coast and inland.**
- Tourism:
 - **Encourage and support agriculture (food production) in the Green Wedge to support related tourism opportunities.**
 - **Advocate for funding for recreational trails as identified above.**
 - **Support the growth of Gumbuya Park as an active recreation, biodiversity and tourism facility.**
 - Undertake a joint farming 'the future' project that includes initiatives such as:
 - **Preserve and enhance tourist infrastructure and attractions** such as the potential Western Port coastal trail and provide encouragement to private and public tourism ventures (e.g. Pearcedale Moonlit Sanctuary/Boating and Fishing).
 - **Bunyip Food Trail**
- Environment:
 - Work with the Victorian Government to improve the environmental protection for Western Port Ramsar wetlands and to assist in the **mitigation of sea level rise** in conjunction with private land owners as outlined in Plan Melbourne 2017 -2050. This work is required in order to protect and preserve the Western Port Green Wedge and the adjoining Western Port Bay.
- Other:
 - Continue to **advocate for the development of an airport for Melbourne's south east region** to occur and to be undertaken in a way that has minimal negative impact on the green wedge. Work with the Victorian government to ensure streamlined planning processes are in place to facilitate the timely development and delivery of the airport.
 - Advocate for funding to undertake work to **understand the economic role and function of each of the towns within all of the Green Wedges.**
 - **Build a better understanding of the impacts of a range of factors on agricultural land** and how to proactively manage them, e.g. climate change, population growth, change in consumption, cultural influence on agricultural land.
 - **Undertake a metropolitan housing strategy** for Melbourne to inform Local Government Housing Strategies to ensure adequate development is increased in the inner and middle suburbs, targeting greyfield and brownfield sites to increase development. This would reduce the pressure on urban expansion and protect the Green Wedges.
 - **Support the development of the Racing Industry (horses and greyhounds)**, which will in turn enhance the broader regions reputation in this sector and generate flow on economic outcomes.

4.2.9 Whittlesea

The Whittlesea Green Wedge is entirely within the City of Whittlesea, and the priority projects identified for the area include:

- Agriculture:

- **Undertake a Land Capability Assessment to understand the economic potential of the Green Wedge** and its agricultural value under various climate scenarios. This work is to be completed as part of a project with Deakin University and will include a range of interactive mapping and an agri-business prospectus.
- **Develop a landholder education program with a focus on agribusiness and land management.** The program would provide landholders with information and support on sustainable management practices and innovative farming systems. The program would also include the opportunity for one-on-one support from the Agribusiness Officer.
- **Work with the community to support the opening of at least one Farmers Market in the municipality.**
- **Review the Farm Rate** recipients, and identify options to increase the Farm Rate differential as a means to incentivise commercial farming in the Green Wedge.

4.2.10 Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges

The Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges Green Wedge is primarily in the Yarra Ranges area (90%), with the remainder in Casey and Cardinia. Priority projects identified for this Green Wedge include:

- Agriculture:
 - **Increase the use of recycled water through the development of a recycled water pipeline.** This would include Class B recycled water with the option for Class A.
 - **Formulate an Interface Councils Rural Advisory Committee** to increase the value placed on the importance of agricultural enterprises. The Committee would address and advocate for priorities relating to the importance of the industry, pressure on agricultural areas by other land users and land management practices.
 - **Encourage alternative uses of soil affected by PCN and Dieldrin.**
 - **Protecting agricultural land from urban expansion** to not only preserve and encourage agricultural investment, but also to retain the rural experience of Puffing Billy.
 - **Strengthen alignment with local/ neighboring industries**, e.g. cut flowers, mature trees and in turn strengthen local farmers markets.
- Recreation:
 - Work in partnership with Parks Victoria to **advocate for funding to maintain key recreational assets**, e.g. O'Shannassy Trail, 1,000 steps, Mt Donna Buang.
 - **Improve wayfinding/ directional signage of all trails across the Green Wedge**, e.g. the Dandenong/ Hills region and O'Shannassy Trail.
 - **Advocate for funding for key recreational trail connections** as identified in Cardinia Shire Council's Pedestrian and Bicycle strategy.
 - **Advocate for funding to develop an equestrian centre and horse trails.**
- Tourism:
 - **Develop Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Project**, which will include a mix of trails to suit all levels of capability. Based on the Feasibility Study completed it is projected that Warburton would attract up to 130,000 visitors per year and generate up to \$23 million annually in economic benefits.
 - **Develop the Yarra Valley Trail** that will connect Lilydale to Yarra Glen to Healesville and then across to Woori Yallock to join with the Lilydale Warburton rail trail. It is estimated that this trail will attract over 210,000 visitors per year, and will generate 222 new jobs and generate over \$30 million annually in economic benefits for the local economy.
 - **Develop the Ridge Walk project** that will link a number of towns across the region and increase tourism opportunities for local operators.

- **Support implementation of the Puffing Billy Railway Master Plan** to enhance the visitor experience and protect agricultural land from urban expansion to not only preserve and encourage agricultural investment, but also to retain the rural experience of Puffing Billy.
- Advocate for funding to develop and construct connections from the growth corridor to the existing **Aqueduct Trail** as detailed in the Cardinia Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy.
- Environment:
 - **Obtain better environmental data on the Green Wedge** and be clear about what is required and what it is to be used for.
 - **Develop a suite of policies for land owners/ land used in the Green Wedge zone** that encourage improved land stewardship/ management, and that address co-existing agricultural and residential uses.
- Other:
 - **Advocate for funding to undertake work to understand the economic role and function of each of the towns** within all of the Green Wedges and how they all interrelate and work together.
 - **Build a better understanding of the impacts of a range of factors on agricultural land** and how to proactively manage them, e.g. climate change, population growth, change in consumption, cultural influence on agricultural land.
 - **Undertake a metropolitan housing strategy** for Melbourne to inform Local Government Housing Strategies to ensure adequate development is increased in the inner and middle suburbs, targeting greyfield and brownfield sites to increase development. This would reduce the pressure on urban expansion and protect the Green Wedges.

5. PRIORITY PROJECTS BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

A range of priority projects were identified through a consultation process that have the potential to add sustainable and desirable value to each of the Green Wedges into the future. The priority projects that should be focused on for implementation were identified through the use of a Benefit Assessment framework (Refer Appendix C).

A Benefit Assessment framework is considered the most applicable framework to account for the benefits associated with different types of projects. It allows for a consistent framework to be applied across economic, social and environmental impacts. The assessment uses a qualitative approach based on knowledge and information available for each project.

The outcome of the Benefit Assessment process is a score for each project that represents the impact they are likely to have against the criteria identified. The higher the score the greater the positive impact is against the agreed assessment criteria. The highest score a project can have is a +3 and the lowest is a -3. Therefore a project that scores a +3 demonstrates through the information available that it will have a maximum positive impact against each of the criteria, and likewise a project that scores -3 demonstrates that it will have the maximum negative impact against each of the criteria. However, using this approach the highest score received by any project was 0.92 on the scale of -3 to +3.

The general reason as to why projects did not score closer to the maximum is because they tended to focus on either economic, social or environmental rather than a combination of the three, and where projects did score across each they tended to be lower scores because the projects were not deemed to have been of a magnitude to warrant higher scores.

A complete list of the benefit assessments for each priority project is provided at Appendix D. Below are the top three priority projects for each of the Green Wedges and some further detail relating to what needs to happen next to implement these projects.

5.1 MORNINGTON PENINSULA

5.1.1 Improve public transport links

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 8
Benefit Assessment Score	0.67
Description	<p>Improve public transport links to the Peninsula Hinterland and Western Port side of the Peninsula would the increase accessibility of these areas to facilitate better tourist dispersion and support employment opportunities in tourism. Suggested public transport improvements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced train links to Hastings and beyond • Buses to hinterland towns such as Red Hill, Flinders, Balnarring, Somers and Main Ridge <p>Improving access to different tourism destinations for visitors is likely to have a reasonable economic impact, and will also assist in exposing more people to various nature based and recreational activities. Increased public transport is not likely to have an impact on either of the environmental factors.</p>
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify all key stakeholders that need to be part of the discussion around future public transport needs • Work together to develop a Business Case that quantifies the need and demand for increased public transport • Identify stakeholders/ decision makers that need to be targeted to advocate for the implementation of the Business Case • Develop an advocacy program focused on delivering the key messages within the Business Case • Monitor, evaluate and reassess the implementation of the Business Case

Source: AEC

5.1.2 Access to recycled water for the Bunyip Food Bowl and the Peninsula Hinterland

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 1
Benefit Assessment Score	0.67
Description	<p>The Bunyip Food Bowl and Peninsula Hinterland contain extremely fertile and valuable agricultural land, and there is a strong focus on protecting and supporting the growth of this region as a key food producing area for metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria. Access to recycled water will provide valuable irrigation for high value food crops.</p> <p>The protection and enhancement of this valuable agricultural land will assist in retaining jobs, and could have a minimal impact on job creation</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to recycled water is a priority for a number of Green Wedges, so the next steps should revolve around the key stakeholders from each relevant Green Wedge working collaboratively to develop a plan to address this priority • The initial priority should be to develop an understanding about where each region is at in its plans to access recycled water • For major infrastructure projects such as this one, the priority will then be to build a Business Case that demonstrates the value that this infrastructure will bring to the broader community, and then promoting/ communicating this Business Case to the relevant decision makers across industry and relevant government departments.

Source: AEC

5.1.3 There are gaps in the 'Two Bays Walking Track' that need to be connected

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 4
Benefit Assessment Score	0.66
Description	<p>The Two Bays Walking Track is the longest continuous walking track on the Mornington Peninsula, stretching over 26km across some of the most scenic terrain in Victoria. There is a need to continuously upgrade, maintain and improve this track, including completing gaps that exist to ensure it continues to be a popular destination for a range of recreational pursuits.</p> <p>Improvements to the walking track are unlikely to create a significant number of sustainable jobs, although it may generate additional visitors, but it is expected to positively impact various social and environmental factors if developed sustainably.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with other key stakeholders prepare a plan to maintain and upgrade this tourism asset • As part of this plan identify opportunities, including funding to connect any gaps that exist, that will in turn complete the track and facilitate the attraction of increased recreational users and visitors.

Source: AEC

5.2 NILLUMBIK

5.2.1 Continue investigate the proposed Maroondah Aqueduct Trail

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 3
Benefit Assessment Score	0.5
Description	Continue to investigate the proposed Maroondah Aqueduct Trail as an opportunity to create an iconic recreation and tourism opportunity for Melbourne.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails are a common theme across all Green Wedge priority project lists • On this basis the next steps revolve around ensuring where possible connections are established, duplications are avoided and feasibility studies are developed that allow for the costs and benefits to be quantified • With this information available the next steps revolve around promoting the opportunity to potential 'investors', whether the target be government or non-government funding providers.

Source: AEC

5.2.2 Extension to the Diamond Creek Trail, Pipeline Trail (Allendale to Diamond Creek-Hurstbridge Road) and the Wattle Glen to Kinglake Trail

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 2
Benefit Assessment Score	0.5
Description	<p>Promote participation in recreational trails that facilitate access to the Green Wedge and its landscapes, including interpretation strategies. These are within individual Council areas and cross Council boundaries and cater for both local communities and tourism.</p> <p>As part of the above, implement Nillumbik Shire Council's Recreation Trails Strategy with emphasis on the extension to the Diamond Creek Trail, Pipeline Trail (Allendale to Diamond Creek-Hurstbridge Road) and the Wattle Glen to Kinglake Trail.</p> <p>Increased participation in recreational trails and the extension of the trails has the potential to general positive social benefits, some minimal job opportunities subject to existing business related infrastructure in the area. The only potential for negative impact relates to the use of land to extend the tracks, and these impacts can be managed and mitigated through the development process.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shire of Nillumbik has already done extensive planning relating to recreation trails, therefore the next steps need to be consistent with these • Trails are a common theme across all Green Wedge priority project lists • On this basis the next steps revolve around ensuring where possible connections are established, duplications are avoided and feasibility studies are developed that allow for the costs and benefits to be quantified • With this information available the next steps revolve around promoting the opportunity to potential 'investors', whether the target be government or non-government funding providers.

Source: AEC

5.2.3 Explore options to support growth of locally based food production

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 1
Benefit Assessment Score	0.41
Description	<p>Explore options to support growth of locally based food production through initiatives such as the creation of a brand and marketing campaign for Green Wedge produce, and by advocating to the Victorian government for support of the industry.</p> <p>Increased promotion of local produce will raise awareness of the regions capabilities and the produce available for purchase in the area, this is likely to have a positive impact on the retention of jobs in the region, but minimal impact on the creation of jobs. This particular initiative is unlikely to have an impact on most other factors, however the positive promotion of the region is likely to have a positive impact on community cohesion and general pride in the area.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to develop a marketing campaign that promotes locally based food production the first step is to complete an audit of the food that is produced • The next step is to identify the target market for this produce. The branding and the overall marketing campaign will vary depending on the target audience • The next step is to develop the relevant messaging and material to support the campaign and distribute to the identified target market • The bigger picture step with an initiative such as this one is to identify opportunities for producers to work collaboratively across Green Wedge regions and then promote their product to larger national and potentially global markets.

Source: AEC

5.3 SOUTHERN RANGES

5.3.1 Strengthen alignment with local/ neighboring industries

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 3
Benefit Assessment Score	0.5
Description	<p>Strengthen alignment with local/ neighboring industries, including (but not limited to) cut flowers, mature trees and in turn strengthen local farmer's markets.</p> <p>Identifying opportunities to diversify the agricultural sector and creating new opportunities has the potential to generate economic opportunities, while at the same time retaining existing agricultural outputs. This project also has the potential to general minimal social benefits, in the areas of amenity and cohesion.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This initiative is about local farmers diversifying their operations, and as a result will follow similar next steps as other related projects, which includes the following • Provide the opportunity for local farmers to come together to discuss and understand their needs and the opportunities for them to diversify their operations. • There is an important role to play in working with the farmers to streamline the process for them to obtain the necessary approvals for the new business operations, and to also facilitate the development of programs that are designed to build the capacity and capability of farmers to diversify their operations into a chosen area.

Source: AEC

5.3.2 Advocate for funding for key recreational connections

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 4
Benefit Assessment Score	0.5
Description	<p>Advocate for funding for key recreational connections as identified in key Council recreation strategies (e.g. Shire of Cardinia's Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy and City of Casey's Paths and Trails Strategy). Based on the information available this project is focused on social benefits associated with increase recreation and activity, which leads to a number of benefits in the social area. Increased recreational connections also have the potential to generate some jobs associated the increased level of infrastructure and the tourism related opportunities that flow from this.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project is about connecting recreational trails • To achieve this a Business Case/ feasibility study will be required that quantifies the costs and benefits associated with facilitating the connections • This Business Case would then be used to advocate for the necessary funding.

Source: AEC

5.3.3 Encourage development of the Aqueduct walking and cycling trail

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 5
Benefit Assessment Score	0.5
Description	Increased recreational trails have the potential to benefit the local economy through minimal job creation, and also generate significant social benefits, mostly in the areas of amenity, recreation and health.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails are a common theme across all Green Wedge priority project lists • On this basis the next steps revolve around ensuring where possible connections are established, duplications are avoided and feasibility studies are developed that allow for the costs and benefits to be quantified • With this information available the next steps revolve around promoting the opportunity to potential 'investors', whether the target be government or non-government funding providers.

Source: AEC

5.4 SUNBURY

5.4.1 Ensuring threatened species and eco-communities remain healthy and improve over time

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 2
Benefit Assessment Score	0.91
Description	<p>Biodiversity protection and management is important, and can be achieved by ensuring threatened species and eco-communities remain healthy and improve over time. One option to achieve this is to support landowners with grants and education programs.</p> <p>This project will have significant environmental benefits and some social benefits. This project will also help to preserve and maintain agricultural land, but it is unlikely to generate additional benefits.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the species that are under threat and define what the threat is • Using a similar framework to what has been used in this study need to value the impact of the threat • Work with other levels of government to attract funding to mitigate the threat.

Source: AEC

5.4.2 Illegal dumping of household waste, construction waste and soil from development needs to be managed

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 1
Benefit Assessment Score	0.58
Description	<p>There are issues with illegal dumping of household waste, construction waste and soil from development that needs to be managed, including the long-term management of active and uncomplete tip sites.</p> <p>The impacts of this site are likely to be greatest in the social and environmental areas, with little to no economic benefit.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a regulatory issue that Council's need to proactively manage.

Source: AEC

5.4.3 Support the development of recreational activities on Parks Victoria land in the north-west

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 3
Benefit Assessment Score	0.5
Description	<p>Support the development of recreational activities on Parks Victoria land in the north-west, including (but not limited to) Woodlands, Organ Pipes, Holden Flora and Fauna Reserve.</p> <p>This project is entirely focused on recreational activities, which will generate a range of social benefits, but very little in relation to environmental and economic.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the State government to identify most appropriate recreational activities and a plan for the implementation of the identified priorities.

Source: AEC

5.5 WERRIBEE SOUTH

5.5.1 Irrigation modernisation project

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 1
Benefit Assessment Score	0.51
Description	Wyndham City is supporting the local water authority, Southern Rural Water, in the implementation of this project, which is approximately one third complete and requires additional government support to complete the project. The required funding is estimated to be \$19 million.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue implementation of this project • Develop a business case to support the need for additional funding • Work with government stakeholders to advocate for funding to complete the project

Source: AEC

5.5.2 City Forest and Habitat Strategy

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 2
Benefit Assessment Score	0
Description	Wyndham City is currently preparing this strategy to identify key environmental assets and potential habitat links and corridors. This strategy is currently in draft format, however additional support will be required for mapping and ongoing consultation.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise strategy • Identify priorities within the strategy and potential funding sources to commence implementation. The benefits will not be realised until the strategy is implemented.

Source: AEC

5.6 WESTERN PLAINS NORTH

5.6.1 Improve access and use of recycled water to facilitate agriculture within the Green Wedge

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 1
Benefit Assessment Score	0.67
Description	<p>Develop a Recycled Water Business Plan to improve access and use of recycled water to enhance agriculture within the Green Wedge. This will include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Western Water to prepare a 'recycled water based agriculture' business plan • On the basis of the findings of the agricultural business plan, pursue any required updates to the identified subdivision controls to best facilitate agricultural uses. <p>The focus of this project is about farmers being able to access recycled water to facilitate more productive outcomes for the industry where currently or previously land has been affected by challenges such as low rainfall, poor soils or land management issues. Implementation of an initiative such as this one has the potential to improve the economic contribution of this sector. The protection and enhancement of agricultural land will assist in retaining jobs, and could have a minimal impact on job creation. It will also protect and enhance the amenity and environmental value of the area.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to recycled water is a priority for a number of Green Wedges, so the next steps should revolve around the key stakeholders from each relevant Green Wedge working collaboratively to develop a plan to address this priority • The initial priority should be to develop an understanding about where each region is at in its plans to access recycled water • For major infrastructure projects such as this one, the priority will then be to build a Business Case that demonstrates the value that this infrastructure will bring to the broader community, and then promoting/communicating this Business Case to the relevant decision makers across industry and relevant government departments.

Source: AEC

5.6.2 Seek to create a network of 'environmental features'

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 4
Benefit Assessment Score	0.59
Description	<p>Seek to create a network of 'environmental features' and establish links between these to improve awareness, celebrate key assets within the Green Wedge and connect existing reserves. Where practicable, identify key environmental features and appropriate linkages and protect their habitat values.</p> <p>This project is about raising the awareness of environmental features, attracting more visitors and also protecting and preserving these environmental assets. This initiative should generate benefits across economic, social and environmental factors.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like most projects, the next steps revolve around identifying/ defining the specifics of the opportunity and then putting in place a program to promote and celebrate the identified environmental features.

Source: AEC

5.6.3 Seek to enhance understanding of the Green Wedge's biodiversity value and measures necessary to protect and enhance the existing natural environment

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 5
Benefit Assessment Score	0.58
Description	<p>Seek to enhance understanding of the Green Wedge's biodiversity value and measures necessary to protect and enhance the existing natural environment. As part of this prepare a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for the Green Wedge.</p> <p>This project will primarily generate environmental benefits for the Green Wedge.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the description this priority project will initially involve the development of a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy The real benefits from this project will come from the implementation of the Strategy, and on this basis the project should quickly move to implementation stage so that these benefits can be realised.

Source: AEC

5.7 WESTERN PLAINS SOUTH

5.7.1 City Forest and Habitat Strategy

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 2
Benefit Assessment Score	0
Description	Wyndham City is currently preparing this strategy to identify key environmental assets and potential habitat links and corridors. This strategy is currently in draft format, however additional support will be required for mapping and ongoing consultation.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise strategy • Identify priorities within the strategy and potential funding sources to commence implementation. The benefits will not be realised until the strategy is implemented.

Source: AEC

5.7.2 Western Grassland Reserve

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 3
Benefit Assessment Score	0.83
Description	The Western Grassland Reserve is a future 15,000 ha native grassland national park of which approximately 12,000 ha is within Wyndham. As the site is transitioning from freehold to public reserve, a large portion of the site is suffering environmental degradation via the threat of invasive weeds. Wyndham City runs a localised Land Protection Grant Scheme which helps landholders in active land management and weed control. Additional support from varying levels of government to improve engagement and supplement on ground controls is required.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a business case/ plan that supports the need for funding to extend the reach of these land management/ protection programs • Implement programs in line with the Reserves transition to a public reserve.

Source: AEC

5.8 WESTERN PORT

5.8.1 Obtain funding for rural projects

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 3
Benefit Assessment Score	0.83
Description	<p>Obtain funding for rural projects, e.g. drought assistance, RDV Projects, land care projects. As the Green Wedge currently sits within a metropolitan classification, funding generally can't be accessed, and on this basis the classification needs to be reviewed.</p> <p>If funding for these types of projects is obtained it has the potential to generate a range of economic and environmental benefits.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first step is to define the rural projects that are required that will add value to the land owners • Build a Business Case that quantifies the value and importance of the identified rural projects • Work with other levels of government to attract funding to implement these projects. • Another of the priorities within this project is about Green Wedge Councils working together to redefine the zoning of the Green Wedge areas so that they are eligible for funding that is normally only given to rural areas.

Source: AEC

5.8.2 Better use and deliver the underutilised recycled water resource in order to provide water security

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 1
Benefit Assessment Score	0.67
Description	<p>Advocate to government for funding to investigate ways to better use and deliver the underutilised recycled water resource in order to provide water security to one of Melbourne’s closest and best-placed growing regions of fresh horticultural produce.</p> <p>The protection and enhancement of valuable agricultural land will assist in retaining jobs, and could have a minimal impact on job creation. It will also protect and enhance the amenity and environmental value of the area.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to recycled water is a priority for a number of Green Wedges, so the next steps should revolve around the key stakeholders from each relevant Green Wedge working collaboratively to develop a plan to address this priority • The initial priority should be to develop an understanding about where each region is at in its plans to access recycled water • For major infrastructure projects such as this one, the priority will then be to build a Business Case that demonstrates the value that this infrastructure will bring to the broader community, and then promoting/communicating this Business Case to the relevant decision makers across industry and relevant government departments.

Source: AEC

5.8.3 Encourage and support agriculture (food production) in the Green Wedge to support related tourism opportunities

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 6
Benefit Assessment Score	0.67
Description	Encourage and support agriculture (food production) in the Green Wedge to support related tourism opportunities. This project is about opportunities for farms to diversify into other business opportunities, which will create new job opportunities and generate a range of other economic benefits, while at the same time protecting and preserving the natural environment.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per previous priorities, the next steps revolve around defining the current food production capabilities of the region and the diversification opportunities • Beyond this the next steps revolve around developing programs designed to build the capacity and capability of the businesses looking to diversify • Another role for Councils to play is to ensure the planning framework is supportive of agricultural businesses diversifying and changing the type of business they are operating

Source: AEC

5.9 WHITTLESEA

5.9.1 Work with the community to support the opening of at least one Farmers Market in the municipality

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 3
Benefit Assessment Score	0.5
Description	The establishment of a farmers market provides an alternative means for local food producers to sell their products and generate alternative revenue streams. Farmers markets also generate flow on social benefits, resulting from bringing the community together on a regular basis.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the current market and the types of producers in the region that would participate in a Farmers Market • Develop a Feasibility Study for the proposed market • Promote the opportunity to manage the Farmers Market

Source: AEC

5.9.2 Review the Farm Rate

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 4
Benefit Assessment Score	0.41
Description	Review the Farm Rate recipients, and identify options to increase the Farm Rate differential as a means to incentivise commercial farming in the Green Wedge. This type of initiative will help to retain productive commercial farms, and potentially lead to minimal job creation. Successful farms also generate flow on social benefits.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the project description

Source: AEC

5.10 YARRA VALLEY AND YARRA AND DANDENONG RANGES

5.10.1 Develop Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Project

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 10
Benefit Assessment Score	0.92
Description	Develop Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Project, which will include a mix of trails to suit all levels of capability. Based on the Feasibility Study completed it is projected that Warburton would attract up to 130,000 visitors per year and generate up to \$23 million annually in economic benefits.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Feasibility Study/ Plan already exists for this project, therefore the priority is to work with the proponent to remove obstacles and help facilitate the development

Source: AEC

5.10.2 Develop the Yarra Valley Trail

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 11
Benefit Assessment Score	0.92
Description	Develop the Yarra Valley Trail that will connect Lilydale to Yarra Glen to Healesville and then across to Woori Yallock to join with the Lilydale Warburton rail trail. It is estimated that this trail will attract over 210,000 visitors per year, and will generate 222 new jobs and generate over \$30 million annually in economic benefits for the local economy.
Next Steps	A Feasibility Study/ Plan already exists for this project, therefore the priority is to work with the proponent to remove obstacles and help facilitate the development

Source: AEC

5.10.3 Increase the use of recycled water through the development of a recycled water pipeline

Criteria	Description
Project Reference	Project 1
Benefit Assessment Score	0.67
Description	Increasing the use of recycled water will provide valuable irrigation for farmers. The protection and enhancement of agricultural land will assist in retaining jobs, and could have a minimal impact on job creation. It will also protect and enhance the amenity and environmental value of the area.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to recycled water is a priority for a number of Green Wedges, so the next steps should revolve around the key stakeholders from each relevant Green Wedge working collaboratively to develop a plan to address this priority • The initial priority should be to develop an understanding about where each region is at in its plans to access recycled water • For major infrastructure projects such as this one, the priority will then be to build a Business Case that demonstrates the value that this infrastructure will bring to the broader community, and then promoting/communicating this Business Case to the relevant decision makers across industry and relevant government departments.

Source: AEC

6. NEXT STEPS

A diverse mix of priority projects have been identified across each of the Green Wedges, but within these there are some common themes and opportunities for collaboration to occur across the Green Wedges to generate the best and most effective outcomes.

6.1 GREEN WEDGE RECREATIONAL TRAILS STRATEGY

Of particular note is the consistent theme relating to the development or connection of various recreational trails across each of the Green Wedges. On this basis there appears to be demand for a Recreational Trail Strategy that goes across all of the Green Wedges and identifies opportunities for increased levels of collaboration. This type of strategy will assist in demonstrating regional benefits and opportunities for economic opportunities generated by increased visitor numbers. This type of collaboration is particularly appealing to the organisations (government and/or non-government) that would potentially fund this type of program.

6.2 ACCESS TO RECYCLED WATER

Another of the priorities that crossed numerous Green Wedge priority project lists was the need for access to recycled water to ensure the sustainability of the agriculture industry. There is the opportunity for the councils across each of the relevant Green Wedges to work together to develop a Business Case/ Feasibility Study for the development of the necessary infrastructure and processes to achieve this. A major project such as this is more likely to have the critical mass required to be viable and also be successful in attracting the necessary funding if the regions work together and demonstrate cross boundary costs and benefits.

6.3 AGRICULTURE DIVERSIFICATION

The diversification of the agricultural sector was identified as a priority across all of the Green Wedges, and while it is important to progress the next steps at an individual Green Wedge level it is also important for the Green Wedges councils to come together and share information and ideas about how they can support this priority more effectively as a region. There are many opportunities at a national and global level that relate to the various agricultural diversification opportunities. These should be explored and developed collaboratively across each of the Green Wedges if the best possible results are going to be achieved.

6.4 REGIONAL COLLABORATION

There are a series of next steps that need to be taken to progress each of the priority projects at a Green Wedge level, but there are also a range of next steps that should be taken to progress the above mentioned priority projects that cross Green Wedge boundaries. There are a number of recommendations in the priority projects for the establishment of networks and reference groups to progress collaborative initiatives. In completing the project benefit assessment these individually scored quite low, but in relation to next steps these governance frameworks are an important, if not critical, aspect to progress those initiatives that have the potential to generate major benefits for the region.

It is also important at a regional level that Green Wedge Management Plans are completed for all Green Wedges to ensure a united approach is adopted to protecting and managing the Green Wedges going forward.

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APPENDIX A: GREEN WEDGE PROFILES

MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Green Wedge Overview

The Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge is located within the Shire of Mornington Peninsula with a small portion extending into the City of Frankston.

The Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge occupies an area of approximately 32,000 hectares, comprised of natural and semi-natural rural areas that are used for highly productive agriculture, National and State Parks and a variety of rural businesses and land uses.

The Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge is recognised for its biodiversity. It contains a number of important bushland reserves, including the Mornington Peninsula National Park, the Arthurs Seat State Park, and Green Bush, as well as wetlands that are recognised by several international treaties. It is unique among all the Green Wedges in being bounded on two sides by Western Port and Port Phillip Bays and having 192 kilometres of coastline.

Recreational and tourism activities in the Green Wedge are largely based around key natural attributes such as leisure driving, bushwalking, horse riding and golf courses.

Economic, Social and Environmental Value

Criteria	\$(M)
Economic	\$267.1
Social	\$46.5
Environmental	\$89.4
Total	\$403.0

The total area of the Green Wedge is 32,779.67 hectares and based on above the value per hectare is \$12,294.

Priority Projects Summary

Provided below is a list of the priority projects identified through the benefit assessment process:

- Improve public transport links to the Peninsula Hinterland and Western Port side of the Peninsula would help increase accessibility of these areas to facilitate better tourist dispersion and support employment opportunities in tourism. Suggested public transport improvements include:
 - Enhanced train links to Hastings and beyond
 - Buses to hinterland towns such as Red Hill, Flinders, Balnarring, Somers and Main Ridge
- Access to recycled water for the Bunyip Food Bowl and the Peninsula Hinterland. These areas contain extremely fertile and valuable agricultural land, and there is a strong focus on protecting and supporting the growth of this region as a key food producing area for metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria. Access to recycled water will provide valuable irrigation for high value food crops. The protection and enhancement of this valuable agricultural land will assist in retaining jobs, and could have a minimal impact on job creation.
- The Two Bays Walking Track is the longest continuous walking track on the Mornington Peninsula, stretching over 26km across some of the most scenic terrain in Victoria. There is a need to continuously upgrade, maintain and improve this track, including completing gaps that exist to ensure it continues to be a popular destination for a range of recreational pursuits. Improvements to the walking track are unlikely to create a significant number of sustainable jobs, although it may generate additional visitors, but it is expected to positively impact various social and environmental factors if developed sustainably.

Funding Sources

Some of the identified funding source opportunities include:

- Food Source Victoria (State Government)

- Grow Your Business (State Government)
- Small Business Mentoring Program (State Government)
- National Stronger Regions Fund
- Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund
- Funding for projects relating to infrastructure of the nature described above would generally be sourced through the State Government, and therefore beyond specific grant programs relevant stakeholders should engage with the State Government to advocate for funding to support these initiatives.

Linkages

The primary focus areas in the Green Wedge Management Plan revolve around opportunities in agriculture and tourism. The priority projects listed above are closely linked to these focus areas.

Furthermore, the priority projects are linked to the common themes that have been identified across the different Green Wedges. In particular, the projects for the Mornington Peninsula are closely linked to priorities relating to accessing recycled water designed to support the agricultural sector, and the general diversification of the agricultural sector focused on ensuring this industries long term sustainability as an important contributor the region and also Victoria.

As there are commonalities between the priorities of the Mornington Peninsula and other Green Wedges working collaboratively with the other Green Wedges should be a priority.

NILLUMBIK

Green Wedge Overview

Located on Melbourne's north-east fringe, approximately 25 kilometres from the CBD, Nillumbik is known as the Green Wedge Shire.

The Nillumbik Green Wedge is unique based on the quality of its environment and natural bushland. The environmental qualities, such as the topography, the dense bushland and isolated spaces, the rivers and streams, and the diverse townships create a sense of place that attracts people to the region.

Nillumbik Green Wedge is characterised by steep ridges and gently sloping hills. The Shire's northern boundary is framed by the mountains of the Kinglake Ranges with elevations typically over 400 metres.

Key opportunities for the Nillumbik Green Wedge are centred around the following:

- Tourism – based on the Shire's clean and green image, its arts and cultural heritage with potential for access to open spaces including trails, boutique wineries, cafes/ restaurants, art galleries/ studios, bike riding and B&B's. Tourism is considered to be low impact and sustainable.
- Agriculture – retain agricultural land and look at diversification opportunities such as farm stays, restaurants, wineries, small scale intensive primary production plus paid land management.
- Social Assets – providing recreation, employment and wellbeing with access to open spaces and the natural environment.

Economic, Social and Environmental Value

Criteria	\$(M)
Economic	\$149.1
Social	\$42.1
Environmental	\$80.7
Total	\$271.9

The total area of the Green Wedge is 33,273.5 hectares and based on above the value per hectare is \$8,172.

Priority Projects Summary

Provided below is a list of the priority projects identified through the benefit assessment process:

- Continue to investigate the proposed Maroondah Aqueduct Trail as an opportunity to create an iconic recreation and tourism opportunity for Melbourne.
- Promote participation in recreational trails that facilitate access to the Green Wedge and its landscapes, including interpretation strategies. These are within individual Council areas and cross Council boundaries and cater for both local communities and tourism. As part of this, implement Nillumbik Shire Council's Recreation Trails Strategy with emphasis on the extension to the Diamond Creek Trail, Pipeline Trail (Allendale to Diamond Creek-Hurstbridge Road) and the Wattle Glen to Kinglake Trail.
- Explore options to support growth of locally based food production through initiatives such as the creation of a brand and marketing campaign for Green Wedge produce, and by advocating to the Victorian government for support of the industry. Increased promotion of local produce will raise awareness of the regions capabilities and the produce available for purchase in the area.

Funding Sources

Some of the identified funding source opportunities include:

- Food Source Victoria (State Government)
- Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Program (State Government)
- Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund

- Funding for projects relating to infrastructure such as significant recreational trails would generally be sourced through the State Government, and therefore beyond the specific grant programs highlighted relevant stakeholders should engage with the State Government to advocate for funding to support these initiatives.
- Funding for the development of marketing campaign to promote locally based food production should be approached as a collaborative initiative between Local, State Government and local businesses.

Linkages

The priority projects for the Nillumbik Green Wedge are closely linked to the vision and key features of the Green Wedge Management Plan. The focus for this area revolves around its nature based and environmental qualities with key opportunities relating to tourism, agriculture and its social assets. Each of the priority projects listed above are closely linked to these focus areas.

Furthermore, the priority projects are linked to the common themes that have been identified across the different Green Wedges. In particular, the projects for Nillumbik are closely linked to priorities relating to recreational trails and support for the agricultural sector, and the focus on locally based food production.

As there are commonalities between the priorities of Nillumbik and other Green Wedges working collaboratively with the other Green Wedges should be a priority.

SOUTHERN RANGES

Green Wedge Overview

The Southern Ranges Green Wedge includes the area between Rowville and Lysterfield in the foothills of the Dandenong ranges, encompassing parts of Knox, Yarra Ranges and Cardinia. It extends over the south-eastern sections of the City of Knox that includes sensitive environmental areas such as Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park.

Economic, Social and Environmental Value

Criteria	\$(M)
Economic	\$290.6
Social	\$72.0
Environmental	\$234.5
Total	\$597.1

The total area of the Green Wedge is 36,625.44 hectares and based on above the value per hectare is \$16,303.

Priority Projects Summary

Provided below is a list of the priority projects identified through the benefit assessment process:

- Strengthen alignment with local/ neighbouring industries, including (but not limited to) cut flowers, mature trees and in turn strengthen local farmer's markets. Identifying opportunities to diversify the agricultural sector and creating new opportunities has the potential to generate economic opportunities, while at the same time retaining existing agricultural outputs.
- Advocate for funding for key recreational connections as identified in key Council recreation strategies (e.g. Shire of Cardinia's Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy and City of Casey's Paths and Trails Strategy). Based on the information available this project is focused on social benefits associated with increase recreation and activity, which leads to a number of benefits in the social area. Increased recreational connections also have the potential to generate some jobs associated the increased level of infrastructure and the tourism related opportunities that flow from this.
- Encourage development of the Aqueduct walking and cycling trail, which has the potential to benefit the local economy through some job creation, and also generate significant social benefits, mostly in the areas of amenity, recreation and health.

Funding Sources

Some of the identified funding source opportunities include:

- Food Source Victoria (State Government)
- Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Program (State Government)
- Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund
- Funding for projects relating to infrastructure such as significant recreational trails would generally be sourced through the State Government, and therefore beyond the specific grant programs highlighted relevant stakeholders should engage with the State Government to advocate for funding to support these initiatives.

Linkages

There are strong linkages between the priority projects of the Southern Ranges Green Wedge and the common themes. In particular, the focus on developing a connecting recreational trails is a common priority for the majority of the Green Wedges, and the opportunity to explore connections should be considered at a regional level. Similarly, the focus on supporting opportunities to diversify the agricultural sector is a common priority and presents an excellent opportunity for the various regions to work together and learn from each other.

SUNBURY

Green Wedge Overview

The Sunbury Green Wedge covers the non-urban areas of the City of Hume, surrounding urban Sunbury and Bulla both within the City of Hume, and extends into a small part of the Brimbank City Council area.

The Melbourne Airport is a key feature in the southern part of the area. The Green Wedge has a key function in protecting the operational safety and flexibility of the airport as a State significant commercial and tourism facility and gateway to Melbourne.

Other key features of the Green Wedge include:

- The Maribyrnong River and Valley are important natural assets
- The Green Wedge supports important regional quarries, conservation reserves, heritage sites and landscape features.
- Agriculture includes traditional market gardening and a growing equine industry, as well as broad-acre grazing.
- Woodlands Historic Park and Organ Pipes National Park are important regional assets

Economic, Social and Environmental Value

Criteria	\$(M)
Economic	\$1,945.6
Social	\$7.9
Environmental	\$10.6
Total	\$1,964.2

The total area of the Green Wedge is 3,267.93 hectares and based on above the value per hectare is \$601,053.

Priority Projects Summary

Provided below is a list of the priority projects identified through the benefit assessment process:

- Biodiversity protection and management is important, and can be achieved by ensuring threatened species and eco-communities remain healthy and improve over time. One option to achieve this is to support landowners with grants and education programs. This project will have significant environmental benefits and some social benefits. This project will also help to preserve and maintain agricultural land.
- There are issues with illegal dumping of household waste, construction waste and soil from development that needs to be managed, including the long-term management of active and uncomplete tip sites. The impacts of this are likely to be greatest in the social and environmental areas.
- Support the development of recreational activities on Parks Victoria land in the north-west, including (but not limited to) Woodlands, Organ Pipes, Holden Flora and Fauna Reserve. This project is entirely focused on recreational activities, which will generate a range of social benefits.

Funding Sources

Some of the identified funding source opportunities include:

- Local Government grants, subsidies and education programs
- Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Program (State Government)
- Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund

Linkages

The main linkage for the Sunbury Green Wedge in relation to common priorities across the Green Wedges is the focus on recreational activities, which is connected to the focus on recreational trails and supporting infrastructure development or upgrades prioritised by the majority of the Green Wedges.

WERRIBEE SOUTH

Green Wedge Overview

The Werribee South Green Wedge lies between Port Phillip Bay and the Werribee growth corridor in the City of Wyndham. The area contains environmentally significant coastal wetlands, grasslands and waterways. It is also home to some of the State's most important agricultural regions.

Some of the key features of the Werribee South Green Wedge include:

- Highly quality agricultural areas
- Recognised tourist attractions such as Werribee Park and the Werribee Open Range Zoo
- Significant parkland and reserves such as Point Cook Coastal Park, Cheetham Wetlands and Point Cooke Marine Sanctuary
- Recreational and tourism opportunities such as boat access to Port Phillip Bay, the Coastal Reserve and a potential marina site at Werribee South
- The internationally recognised Port Phillip Bay and Bellarine Peninsula
- Point Cook airfield

Economic, Social and Environmental Value

Criteria	\$(M)
Economic	\$102.7
Social	\$9.0
Environmental	\$19.4
Total	\$131.0

The total area of the Green Wedge is 10,323.43 hectares and based on above the value per hectare is \$12,690.

Priority Projects Summary

Provided below is a list of the priority projects identified through the benefit assessment process:

- Wyndham City is supporting the local water authority, Southern Rural Water, in the implementation of the irrigation modernisation project, which is approximately one third complete and requires additional government support to complete the project. The required funding is estimated to be \$19 million.
- Wyndham City is currently preparing the City Forest and Habitat Strategy to identify key environmental assets and potential habitat links and corridors. This strategy is currently in draft format, however, additional support will be required for mapping and ongoing consultation.

Funding Sources

- No specific grant programs have been identified relating to the irrigation modernisation project. There was a program called the Victorian Farm Modernisation Project, but it is unclear whether this program is still open. Funding for initiatives such as this would generally be funded as a collaborative initiative, with the State Government playing a lead role. Therefore, to pursue options to continue to fund this project key stakeholders should liaise with the State Government to advocate for support.
- Funding for initiatives such as the City Forest and Habitat Strategy would traditionally be funded by the Local Government

Linkages

The main linkage between the Werribee South priority projects and other Green Wedges relates to the irrigation modernisation project, which has linkages to the common priorities around agriculture diversification and the need to support farmers and their long-term sustainability.

These priority projects are also closely linked to the Green Wedge Management Plan focus on opportunities relating to agricultural innovation and diversification, biodiversity conservation and environmental sustainability.

WESTERN PLAINS NORTH

Green Wedge Overview

The Western Plains North Green Wedge is located within the City of Melton. The northern extent of the Green Wedge is defined by the boundary with Macedon Ranges Shire. To the east the Calder Freeway forms a clear boundary with suburb of Hillside defining the south-east corner. The boundary with Moorabool Shire forms the western boundary and is defined by Pyrete Range and Djerriwarrh Creek corridor, both of these areas are heavily vegetated. The southern boundary of the Green Wedge is defined by the Urban Growth Boundary, which generally follows the alignment of Melton Highway, Minns Road and Harkness Road.

The Western Plains North Green Wedge has three main landscape types, all of which are bisected by a number of creeklines that run on a north-south alignment through the Green Wedge. The south of the Green Wedge is characterised by relatively flat grassy plains, with Mount Kororoit being the only landform of note in this area apart from the aforementioned creeklines. To the north-west, there are the Toolern Vale Hills which add interest and provide an attractive backdrop to the lower plains. The north-east is also characterised by grassy plains, but has a much more pronounced topography and greater elevation than the southern parts of the Green Wedge.

Unlike many other green wedges around Melbourne, the vast majority of the Green Wedge is in private ownership with less than 10% of the area being in public ownership. This publicly owned land is generally located in the Pyrete Range (part of the Lerderderg State Park) and within the water supply catchment in the north-west corner of the Green Wedge.

Economic, Social and Environmental Value

Criteria	\$(M)
Economic	\$27.0
Social	\$2.3
Environmental	\$10.7
Total	\$40.0

The total area of the Green Wedge is 11,588.53 hectares and based on above the value per hectare is \$3,452.

Priority Projects Summary

Provided below is a list of the priority projects identified through the benefit assessment process:

- Develop a Recycled Water Business Plan to improve access and use of recycled water to enhance agriculture within the Green Wedge. This will include (but not limited to) work with Western Water to prepare a 'recycled water based agriculture' business plan and then based on the findings of the business plan, pursue any required updates to the identified subdivision controls to best facilitate agricultural uses. The focus of this project is about farmers being able to access recycled water to facilitate more productive outcomes for the industry where currently or previously land has been affected by challenges such as low rainfall, poor soils or land management issues.
- Seek to create a network of 'environmental features' and establish links between these to improve awareness, celebrate key assets within the Green Wedge and connect existing reserves. Where practicable, identify key environmental features and appropriate linkages and protect their habitat values. This project is about raising the awareness of environmental features, attracting more visitors and also protecting and preserving these environmental assets.
- Seek to enhance understanding of the Green Wedge's biodiversity value and measures necessary to protect and enhance the existing natural environment. As part of this prepare a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for the Green Wedge.

Funding Sources

The Victorian State Government has a number of grant programs that support environmentally focused initiatives such as those highlighted above. There does not appear to be a current program that matches the priority initiatives identified for Western Plains North, but key local stakeholders should liaise with relevant State Government contacts to advocate for funding.

Linkages

The main connection between the Western Plains North priority projects and the other Green Wedges is the focus on recycled water. Quite a few of the Green Wedge areas are focused on recycled water plans to support the agricultural sector, this presents an opportunity for the relevant regions to work together to build a business case to support this type of initiative.

These priorities are also closely linked to the focus areas in the Green Wedge Management Plan around the environment, the land and the people.

WESTERN PLAINS SOUTH

Green Wedge Overview

The Western Plains South Green Wedge lies north of the Werribee growth corridor, between it and the urban fringes of Brimbank and Melton. It is primarily in the Cities of Wyndham and Melton, but also includes a small section of Brimbank. The area is part of Melbourne's western basalt plains and contains valuable native grasslands, some areas of remnant red gums stands, and the environmentally sensitive Werribee River catchment.

Economic, Social and Environmental Value

Criteria	\$(M)
Economic	\$10.8
Social	\$9.7
Environmental	\$51.4
Total	\$71.9

The total area of the Green Wedge is 12,107.55 hectares and based on above the value per hectare is \$5,938.

Priority Projects Summary

Provided below is a list of the priority projects identified through the benefit assessment process:

- Wyndham City is currently preparing the City Forest and Habitat Strategy to identify key environmental assets and potential habitat links and corridors. This strategy is currently in draft format, however, additional support will be required for mapping and ongoing consultation.
- The Western Grassland Reserve is a future 15,000 ha native grassland national park of which approximately 12,000 ha is within Wyndham. As the site is transitioning from freehold to public reserve, a large portion of the site is suffering environmental degradation via the threat of invasive weeds. Wyndham City runs a localised Land Protection Grant Scheme which helps landholders in active land management and weed control. Additional support from varying levels of government to improve engagement and supplement on ground controls is required.

Funding Sources

- Funding for initiatives such as the City Forest and Habitat Strategy would traditionally be funded by the Local Government

Linkages

The main linkage between the Western Plains South priorities and the other Green Wedges relates to the Western Grassland Reserve and the focus on land management and weed control and the links to recreational trails and activities for assets such as this one.

WESTERN PORT

Green Wedge Overview

The Western Port Green Wedge lies between Narre Warren South and Cranbourne in the Cities of Cardinia and Casey, and includes the land between the Princes and South Gippsland Highways, and Western Port Bay.

Opportunities in the Western Port Green Wedge are driven by the area's internationally recognised environment, its established agriculture industry, rich agricultural soils, ready access to water, and its extensive transportation network, which connects farmers with nearby local markets and to ports for interstate or overseas markets.

The Pakenham Racing Club is one of the current and future contributors to the economic, recreational and cultural value of the Green Wedge. This facility is going through a number of staged developments and upgrades, which are anticipated to have a positive impact on the region.

Economic, Social and Environmental Value

Criteria	\$(M)
Economic	\$448.2
Social	\$60.9
Environmental	\$77.1
Total	\$586.2

The total area of the Green Wedge is 72,807.49 hectares and based on above the value per hectare is \$8,051.

Priority Projects Summary

Provided below is a list of the priority projects identified through the benefit assessment process:

- Obtain funding for rural projects (e.g. drought assistance, RDV Projects, land care projects). As the Green Wedge currently sits within a metropolitan classification, funding generally can't be accessed, and on this basis the classification needs to be reviewed. If funding for these types of projects is obtained it has the potential to generate a range of economic and environmental benefits.
- Advocate to government for funding to investigate ways to better use and deliver the underutilised recycled water resource in order to provide water security to one of Melbourne's' closest and best-placed growing regions of fresh horticultural produce. The protection and enhancement of valuable agricultural land will assist in retaining jobs, and could have a minimal impact on job creation. It will also protect and enhance the amenity and environmental value of the area.
- Encourage and support agriculture (food production) in the Green Wedge to support related tourism opportunities. This project is about opportunities for farms to diversify into other business opportunities, which will create new job opportunities and generate a range of other economic benefits, while at the same time protecting and preserving the natural environment.

Funding Sources

Some of the identified funding source opportunities include:

- Food Source Victoria (State Government)
- Grow Your Business (State Government)
- Small Business Mentoring Program (State Government)
- Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Program (State Government)
- Funding for projects relating to recycled water infrastructure would generally be sourced through the State Government, and therefore beyond specific grant programs relevant stakeholders should engage with the State Government to advocate for funding to support these initiatives.

Linkages

All of the priority projects identified for the Western Port Green Wedge are linked to the common priorities across each of the Green Wedges. The focus on agricultural sustainability and diversification and access to recycled water are priorities for the majority of the Green Wedges, as a result opportunities should be pursued to work collaboratively on these types of initiatives.

The priority projects are also closely linked to the priorities and vision identified in the existing Green Wedge Management Plan.

WHITTLESEA

Green Wedge Overview

The Whittlesea Green Wedge is the land between the urban areas along the Hume Highway and the Plenty growth corridor, that is, the land in between Craigieburn and the growth areas of South Morang and Mernda. It is predominantly in the City of Whittlesea, with a small section of the City of Hume.

The Whittlesea Green Wedge contains environmental values associated with its hills, gorges, woodlands and grasslands. The Green Wedge areas contribute to the local economy through agriculture, tourism and other businesses. Other key features include recreational facilities and parklands that contribute to the health and social wellbeing of local people and visitors.

Economic, Social and Environmental Value

Criteria	\$(M)
Economic	\$151.8
Social	\$40.7
Environmental	\$75.3
Total	\$267.8

The total area of the Green Wedge is 17,275.5 hectares and based on above the value per hectare is \$15,501.

Priority Projects Summary

Provided below is a list of the priority projects identified through the benefit assessment process:

- The establishment of a farmers market provides an alternative means for local food producers to sell their products and generate alternative revenue streams. Farmers markets also generate flow on social benefits, resulting from bringing the community together on a regular basis.
- Review the Farm Rate recipients, and identify options to increase the Farm Rate differential as a means to incentivise commercial farming in the Green Wedge. This type of initiative will help to retain productive commercial farms, and potentially lead to minimal job creation. Successful farms also generate flow on social benefits.

Funding Sources

Some of the identified funding source opportunities include:

- Food Source Victoria (State Government)

Linkages

The Whittlesea priority projects are closely connected to the common priorities across the Green Wedges. The focus on supporting farmers and the sustainability of the agriculture sector is a common focus for the majority of the Green Wedges. In addition to this, agriculture is connected to the themes in the Green Wedge Management Plan.

YARRA VALLEY & YARRA & DANDENONG RANGES

Green Wedge Overview

The Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges Green Wedge encompasses a diverse mix of activities such as rural living, agriculture, rural industry, water catchments, tourism facilities and State and National parks.

The majority of the Green Wedge falls within the boundary of the Yarra Ranges Council, however small parts of it extend into the neighbouring municipalities of Casey, Cardinia, Maroondah and Knox.

This Green Wedge encompasses approximately 247,000 hectares making it the largest of all the Green Wedges.

Iconic tourism attractions in the Green Wedge include Healesville Sanctuary, Puffing Billy and the fine food and wine producing region of the Yarra Valley. Other attractions include health and wellbeing facilities, B&B's and craft and produce markets.

Some of the major leisure activities and assets include National Parks such as Kinglake, Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Ranges. The 39 km Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail is a popular bike/ horse trail. The O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail in the Yarra Ranges National Park provides spectacular views of the Yarra Valley.

Economic, Social and Environmental Value

Criteria	\$(M)
Economic	\$833.1
Social	\$415.3
Environmental	\$2,019.3
Total	\$3,267.8

The total area of the Green Wedge is 247,555.81 hectares and based on above the value per hectare is \$13,200.

Priority Projects Summary

Provided below is a list of the priority projects identified through the benefit assessment process:

- Develop Warburton Mountain Bike Hub, which will include a mix of trails to suit all levels of capability. Based on the Feasibility Study completed it is projected the hub would attract up to 130,000 visitors per year and generate up to \$23 million annually in economic benefits.
- Develop the Yarra Valley Trail that will connect Lilydale to Yarra Glen to Healesville and then across to Woori Yallock to join with the Lilydale Warburton rail trail. It is estimated that this trail will attract over 210,000 visitors per year, and will generate 222 new jobs and generate over \$30 million annually in economic benefits for the local economy.
- Increasing the use of recycled water will provide valuable irrigation for farmers. The protection and enhancement of agricultural land will assist in retaining jobs, and could have a minimal impact on job creation. It will also protect and enhance the amenity and environmental value of the area.

Funding Sources

Some of the identified funding source opportunities include:

- Food Source Victoria (State Government)
- Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Program (State Government)
- Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund
- Funding for projects relating to infrastructure such as significant recreational trails would generally be sourced through the State Government, and therefore beyond the specific grant programs highlighted relevant stakeholders should engage with the State Government to advocate for funding to support these initiatives.

Linkages

The priority projects identified are closely connected to the common priorities across other Green Wedges. The development and/ or upgrade of recreational trails and increasing the use of recycled water are consistent priorities across a number of the Green Wedges. These priorities are also closely connected to the vision and key features in the Green Wedge Management Plan.

APPENDIX B: DATA FRAMEWORK FOR GREEN WEDGES VALUATION

This appendix outlines the approach and data framework for valuing Melbourne's Green Wedges.

DATA SETS USED

The estimation of the social, economic and environmental value of green wedges used a number of data sources. Two primary types of data were used:

- Data to **quantify** social, economic and environmental areas. Quantification involved using GIS data to overlay relevant social, economic and environmental attributes on the Green Wedge areas. This included:
 - The following GIS layers:
 - Native Vegetation - Modelled Extent 2005 from the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
 - Planning Scheme Urban Growth Boundary (identifying Green Wedge Areas) from the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
 - Destination Zones (DZ) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics
 - Statistical Area 1 (SA1) boundaries from the Australian Bureau of Statistics
 - Census of Population and Housing data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics regarding:
 - Number of dwellings by SA1
 - Employment by industry (4-digit ANZSIC) by DZ
 - Correspondence data outlining concordances between SA1 and local government area and DZ by local government area
- Data to **value** social, economic and environmental areas. Valuation involved using appropriate unit valuations with which to apply to identified quantum for social, economic and environmental attributes (from 1 above). This included:
 - Gross value added activity (1-digit ANZSIC) per employee by local government area, using AEC Group's Gross Regional Product model
 - Income per employee by industry data by local government area from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing
 - Rental prices by SA1 from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing
 - Environmental valuation data per hectare of habitat (by biome type), by de Groot *et al* (2012)
 - Cultural/ recreational valuation data per hectare of habitat (by biome type), by de Groot *et al* (2012)
 - AUD/USD exchange rates from the Reserve Bank of Australia
 - Australian inflation rates (CPI) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

QUANTIFICATION AND VALUATION OF BENEFITS

The following table outlines the key measures AEC used to quantify and value the social, economic and environmental benefits of green wedges, as well as the approach to valuation and rationale for inclusion.

There are many ways and data sets that ‘could’ be used in developing a social, economic and environmental assessment and valuation of an area. A primary objective was to ensure the valuation would avoid double counting of benefits wherever possible. Care was also taken in identifying the most appropriate measures for valuing an area. After the review of a wide range of potential datasets (including the websites suggested by the client representatives) the below table provides the list of measures and approaches AEC adopted for quantifying and valuing benefits with the information available.

Quantification and Valuation of Benefits

Measure	How it was Valued	Rationale
Social		
Cultural/ Recreational Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area (in ha) of native vegetation by vegetation classification within each green wedge was identified using the Native Vegetation - Modelled Extent 2005 GIS layer Area by vegetation classifications were grouped to their most relevant biome types listed in de Groot <i>et al</i> (see Table 2) Cultural/ recreational values per ha by biome type from de Groot <i>et al</i> were applied to ha per biome type in each green wedge area, to provide a total cultural/ recreational value 	<p>Cultural/ recreational values outlined by de Groot <i>et al</i> are based on the median results of numerous studies undertaken around the world regarding the cultural/ recreation value of various biome types, and are considered a reasonable approximation of the cultural/ recreational value provided by green wedge areas.</p>
Residential Utility Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of dwellings in each green wedge area was identified using Census of Population and Housing data (2011) by SA1 SA1s do not entirely match with the green wedge boundaries. Desktop review of SA1s overlaid on Google Earth was used to identify relevant SA1s for inclusion. To ensure a conservative estimate, SA1s not wholly encompassed within green wedge areas were included only where desktop review of GIS mapping indicated the vast majority of dwellings in the SA1 were within the green wedge boundary Residential utility value was estimated based on the annual rental value of dwellings. This was calculation based on the average rental price within each SA1 as indicated in Census of Population and Housing data (2011) applied to total dwellings 	<p>Rental price reflects a proxy for the utility residents derive from residing in the area (i.e. representative of what they are willing to pay to live there).</p> <p>Utility of housing applies to not only to those dwellings being rented, but all dwellings. As such, the average rental value is applied across all dwellings in the green wedge areas.</p> <p>It is possible for some double counting with other measures in this value (i.e., rents will reflect people’s desire to live near certain assets). However, this is expected to be sufficiently small as to not significantly impact on the assessment.</p>

Measure	How it was Valued	Rationale
Economic		
<p>Wages and Salaries Supported</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment (by 1-digit ANZSIC) in each green wedge area was identified using Census of Population and Housing data (2011) by DZ • DZs do not entirely match with the green wedge boundaries. Desktop review of DZs overlaid on Google Earth was used to identify relevant DZs for inclusion. To ensure a conservative estimate, DZs not wholly encompassed within green wedge areas were included only where desktop review of GIS mapping indicated the vast majority of employment areas in the DZ were within the green wedge boundary • Average incomes by LGA by 1-digit ANZSIC were applied to employment within each DZ in the green wedge areas, based on which LGA each DZ is located within. Average income by LGA rather than DZ was used as this data is not available by DZ 	<p>Wages and salaries measure the value of the employment supported by the Green Wedges.</p> <p>To avoid double counting this is included in the economic benefits, though the value of employment can also be viewed as a social benefit.</p>
<p>Productive Value</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment by DZ and green wedge area was identified as per wages and salaries above. • Industry value added per employee by 1-digit ANZSIC and LGA was identified from AEC's Gross Regional Product Model, and applied to employment within each DZ in the green wedge areas, based on which LGA each DZ is located within. Average value added per employee by LGA rather than DZ was used as this data is not available by DZ • The wages and salaries value was then subtracted from the industry value added value, to avoid double counting (as employee compensation is part of the industry value added measure) 	<p>The productive value of the land (net of costs of production, including labour) is considered the best measure for assessing the economic benefit of the Green Wedges.</p>

Measure	How it was Valued	Rationale
Environmental		
Ecosystem Services Value of Habitats Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area (in ha) of native vegetation by vegetation classification within each green wedge was identified using the Native Vegetation - Modelled Extent 2005 GIS layer. This also provided a quality rating of the native vegetation (a score between 0 and 100) • Area by vegetation classifications and quality rating were grouped to their most relevant biome types listed in de Groot <i>et al</i> (see Table 2) • Environmental values per ha by biome type from de Groot <i>et al</i> were applied to ha per biome type in each green wedge area, to provide a total environmental value. The following adjustment were made to the value applied based on quality rating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No rating: 100% of value ○ Rating 1-20: 25% of value ○ Rating 21-30: 50% of value ○ Rating 31-40: 75% of value ○ Rating 41-60: 100% of value ○ Rating 61-70: 125% of value ○ Rating 70 or above: 150% of value • Values per ha presented by de Groot <i>et al</i> were in US\$2007. These were converted to AU\$2016 by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Converting to AU\$2007 using the AUD/USD exchange rate for the 2006/07 financial year ○ Converting AU\$2007 to AU\$2016 using Australian CPI change between financial year 2006/07 to 2015/16 	<p>In our experience there can often be considerable double counting of environmental benefits, especially when attempting to include specific environmental components that co-exist within an area such as vegetation, animals, water quality, soil quality, etc.</p> <p>Ecosystem services values outlined by de Groot <i>et al</i> are based on the median results of numerous studies undertaken around the world regarding the value of ecosystem service functions of various biome types, and are considered a good approximation of the environmental value provided by green wedge areas.</p>

Source: AEC

BIOME CLASSIFICATION

In order to generate ecosystem services and cultural/ leisure value estimates for habitat types, the area by types of habitats present in the green wedge areas was identified using the Native Vegetation - Modelled Extent 2005 GIS layer. This provided the area (in ha) of habitat by native vegetation classifications. These classifications were then allocated to their most relevant biome type reflected in de Groot *et al* (2012), to identify relevant values per ha to apply. The following table outlines the biome type each native vegetation classification was allocated to.

The total area by biome type and quality rating for each green wedge area is provided in a separate Excel Workbook.

Correspondence between Native Vegetation Classification and Biome Type Used

Native Vegetation Classification	Biome Type
Aquatic Herbland	Inland Wetlands
Bare Rock/Ground	Rock
Berm Grassy Shrubland	Woodlands
Blackthorn Scrub	Woodlands
Box Ironbark Forest	Temperate Forest
Cane Grass Wetland	Inland Wetlands
Clay Heathland	Grasslands
Clay Heathland/Wet Heathland/Riparian Scrub Mosaic	Woodlands
Coast Banksia Woodland	Woodlands
Coastal Alkaline Scrub	Woodlands
Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic	Woodlands
Coastal Headland Scrub	Woodlands
Coastal Headland Scrub/Coastal Tussock Grassland Mosaic	Grasslands
Coastal Saltmarsh	Coastal Wetlands
Coastal Saltmarsh/Mangrove Shrubland Mosaic	Coastal Wetlands
Cool Temperate Rainforest	Temperate Forest
Creekline Grassy Woodland	Woodlands
Creekline Herb-rich Woodland	Woodlands
Damp Forest	Temperate Forest
Damp Heathland	Grasslands
Damp Heathy Woodland	Woodlands
Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland	Woodlands
Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland/Heathy Woodland Mosaic	Woodlands
Escarpment Shrubland	Woodlands

Native Vegetation Classification	Biome Type
Estuarine Flats Grassland	Grasslands
Estuarine Wetland/Estuarine Swamp Scrub Mosaic	Inland Wetlands
Floodplain Riparian Woodland	Woodlands
Granitic Hills Woodland	Woodlands
Grassy Dry Forest	Temperate Forest
Grassy Forest	Temperate Forest
Grassy Riverine Forest	Temperate Forest
Grassy Woodland	Woodlands
Grey Clay Drainage-line Aggregate	Rock
Gully Woodland	Woodlands
Heathy Dry Forest	Temperate Forest
Heathy Woodland	Woodlands
Herb-rich Foothill Forest	Temperate Forest
Hills Herb-rich Woodland	Woodlands
Lowland Forest	Temperate Forest
Mangrove Shrubland	Coastal Wetlands
Mangrove Shrubland/Coastal Saltmarsh/Berm Grassy Shrubland/Estuarine Flats Grassland Mosaic	Coastal Wetlands
Montane Damp Forest	Temperate Forest
Montane Dry Woodland	Woodlands
Montane Riparian Thicket	Woodlands
Montane Wet Forest	Temperate Forest
Plains Grassland	Grasslands
Plains Grassland/Plains Grassy Woodland Mosaic	Woodlands
Plains Grassy Wetland	Inland Wetlands
Plains Grassy Woodland	Woodlands
Plains Grassy Woodland/Swamp Scrub/Plains Grassy Wetland Mosaic	Woodlands
Plains Sedgy Wetland	Inland Wetlands
Plains Swampy Woodland	Woodlands
Plains Woodland/Plains Grassland Mosaic	Woodlands
Red Gum Swamp	Inland Wetlands

Native Vegetation Classification	Biome Type
Riparian Forest	Temperate Forest
Riparian Scrub	Woodlands
Riparian Scrub/Swampy Riparian Woodland Complex	Woodlands
Riparian Thicket	Woodlands
Riparian Woodland	Woodlands
Rocky Chenopod Woodland	Woodlands
Sand Heathland	Coastal Systems
Sedge Wetland	Inland Wetlands
Shrubby Dry Forest	Temperate Forest
Shrubby Foothill Forest	Temperate Forest
Stream Bank Shrubland	Woodlands
Sub-alpine Treeless Vegetation	Grasslands
Sub-alpine Woodland	Woodlands
Swamp Scrub	Inland Wetlands
Swamp Scrub/Plains Grassy Forest Mosaic	Inland Wetlands
Swamp Scrub/Wet Heathland Mosaic	Inland Wetlands
Swampy Riparian Complex	Inland Wetlands
Swampy Riparian Woodland	Inland Wetlands
Swampy Riparian Woodland/Swamp Scrub Mosaic	Inland Wetlands
Swampy Woodland	Inland Wetlands
Valley Grassy Forest	Temperate Forest
Valley Grassy Forest/Herb-rich Foothill Forest Complex	Temperate Forest
Valley Heathy Forest	Temperate Forest
Water Body - man-made	Rivers and Lakes
Wet Forest	Inland Wetlands
Wetland Formation	Inland Wetlands

Source: AEC

APPENDIX C: BENEFIT ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

A benefit assessment framework is considered the most applicable framework to account for various types of projects. It allows for a consistent framework to be applied across economic, social and environmental impacts.

Impacts of a project or proposal can be either positive or negative, and the scoring system is designed to enable this assessment. All criteria are scored in a range between 0 and 3 (either negatively or positively, depending on the impact), with 0 representing no impact and 3 representing a high impact.

Scores for economic, social and environmental impacts will be summed within their sphere of influence (i.e. all economic criteria will be summed together, all social criteria summed together, and all environmental criteria summed together) and rebased to a score between -1 and 1. The scores for economics, social and environmental will then be summed to a final score between -3 and 3, with each sphere given equal weighting.

The final outcome of this process is a score for each project that represents the impact they are likely to have against the criteria identified, meaning that the higher the score the greater their positive impact is against the agreed assessment criteria. Therefore a project that scores a +3 demonstrates through the information available that it will have a maximum positive impact against each of the criteria, and likewise a project that scores -3 demonstrates that it will have the maximum negative impact against each of the criteria.

Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0 = No impact +/- 1 = Small change in jobs within a small, localised area +/- 2 = Small change in jobs over a large, dispersed area +/- 2 = Medium/ large change in jobs within a small, localised area +/- 3 = Medium/ large change in jobs over a large, dispersed area
Impact on industry productivity	0 = No impact +/- 1 = Small change in productivity within a small group of SMEs +/- 2 = Small change in productivity across many businesses/ organisations +/- 2 = Small change in productivity within a small group of large businesses +/- 2 = Medium/ large change in productivity within a small group of SMEs +/- 3 = Medium/ large change in productivity across many businesses/ organisations +/- 3 = Medium/ large change in productivity within a small group of large businesses
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0 = No impact +/- 1 = Small impact on amenity within a small, localised area +/- 2 = Small impact on amenity over a large, dispersed area +/- 2 = Medium/ large impact on amenity within a small, localised area +/- 3 = Medium/ large impact on amenity over a large, dispersed area

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	<p>0 = No impact</p> <p>+/- 1 = Small impact on social/ community cohesion within a small cohort of the community</p> <p>+/- 2 = Small impact on social/ community cohesion over a large cohort of the community</p> <p>+/- 2 = Medium/ large impact on social/ community cohesion within a small cohort of the community</p> <p>+/- 3 = Medium/ large impact on social/ community cohesion over a large cohort of the community</p>
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	<p>0 = No impact</p> <p>+/- 1 = Small change in recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities targeting a small cohort of the community</p> <p>+/- 2 = Small change in recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities targeting a medium/ large cohort of the community</p> <p>+/- 2 = Medium/ large change in recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities targeting a small cohort of the community</p> <p>+/- 3 = Medium/ large change in recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities targeting a medium/ large cohort of the community</p>
Impacts on health and/ or safety	<p>0 = No impact</p> <p>+/- 1 = Small impact on health/ safety within a small cohort of the community</p> <p>+/- 2 = Small impact on health/ safety over a large cohort of the community</p> <p>+/- 2 = Medium/ large impact on health/ safety within a small cohort of the community</p> <p>+/- 3 = Medium/ large impact on health/ safety over a large cohort of the community</p>

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	<p>0 = No impact</p> <p>+/- 1 = Small impact on extent of low value environmental areas within a small, localised area</p> <p>+/- 2 = Small impact on extent of low value environmental areas over a large, dispersed area</p> <p>+/- 2 = Small impact on extent of medium/ high value environmental areas within a small, localised area</p> <p>+/- 2 = Medium/ large impact on extent of low value environmental areas within a small, localised area</p> <p>+/- 3 = Small impact on extent of medium/ high value environmental areas over a large, dispersed area</p> <p>+/- 3 = Medium/ large impact on extent of medium/ high value environmental areas within a small, localised area</p> <p>+/- 3 = Medium/ large impact on extent of low/ medium/ high value environmental areas over a large, dispersed area</p>
Impact on quality of environmental areas	<p>0 = No impact</p> <p>+/- 1 = Small impact on quality of environmental areas within a small, localised area</p> <p>+/- 2 = Small impact on quality of environmental areas over a large, dispersed area</p> <p>+/- 2 = Medium/ large impact on quality of environmental areas within a small, localised area</p> <p>+/- 3 = Medium/ large impact on quality of environmental areas over a large, dispersed area</p>

Source: AEC

APPENDIX D: PRIORITY PROJECTS BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

A benefit assessment framework is considered the most applicable framework to account for the benefits associated with different types of projects. It allows for a consistent framework to be applied across economic, social and environmental impacts.

Impacts of a project or proposal can be either positive or negative, and the scoring system is designed to enable this assessment. All criteria are scored in a range between 0 and 3 (either negatively or positively, depending on the impact), with 0 representing no impact and 3 representing a high impact. The complete Assessment Criteria is provided in Appendix C.

The assessment uses a qualitative approach based on knowledge and information available for each project.

Scores for economic, social and environmental impacts were summed within their sphere of influence (i.e. all economic criteria will be summed together, all social criteria summed together, and all environmental criteria summed together) and rebased to a score between -1 and 1. The scores for economic, social and environmental factors are then summed to a final net impact score between -3 and 3, with each sphere given equal weighting.

Provided below is the benefit assessment for each of the final list of priority projects using the assessment criteria.

MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Project 1 - Access to recycled water for the Bunyip Food Bowl and the Peninsula Hinterland

The Bunyip Food Bowl and Peninsula Hinterland contain extremely fertile and valuable agricultural land, and there is a strong focus on protecting and supporting the growth of this region as a key food producing area for metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria. Access to recycled water will provide valuable irrigation for high value food crops.

The protection and enhancement of this valuable agricultural land will assist in retaining jobs, and could have a minimal impact on job creation. It will also protect and enhance the amenity and environmental value of the area.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+1 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.67

Project 2 - Inclusion of the Green Wedge as ‘rural’ rather than ‘interface’ or ‘peri-urban’ to enable equitable access to grants and funding

This project is about changing the definition of the Green Wedge areas so as to be eligible for more grants and funding programs. Access to funding has the potential to generate benefits across each of the criteria areas, but changing the eligibility criteria on its own is not likely to have an impact.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 3 – Identify financial incentives to support future investment in agriculture

Financial incentives are designed to encourage farmers to explore opportunities to diversify their operations and identify alternative revenue streams. This type of initiative can assist in retaining and maintaining current operations, with the potential to generate a small number of jobs. Social was allocated a positive score on the basis that a thriving agricultural sector in the region is good for overall community cohesion and resilience. Depending on the type of new operation there is also the potential for some minor impact on the environment. Based on the lack of information about what future agricultural activities might be a score of zero has been allocated for the environmental category, this is on the basis that some initiatives might have a positive or negative impact.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.41

Project 4 - There are gaps in the 'Two Bays Walking Track' that need to be connected

The Two Bays Walking Track is the longest continuous walking track on the Mornington Peninsula, stretching over 26km across some of the most scenic terrain in Victoria. There is a need to continuously upgrade, maintain and improve this track, including completing gaps that exist to ensure it continues to be a popular destination for a range of recreational pursuits.

Improvements to the walking track are unlikely to create a significant number of sustainable jobs, although it may generate additional visitors, but it is expected to positively impact various social and environmental factors if developed sustainably.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+2
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+4 (0.33)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	+1
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+2 (0.33)
TOTAL SCORE	0.66

Project 5 - Support the experience of recreational driving

Recreational driving is considered a positive way to view the region and gain a better understanding about the experiences available, prior to potentially coming back and spending more time in the area. Recreational driving on its own is not likely to generate major economic benefits for the region but may achieve social benefits, including improved safety.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+2 (0.16)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.16

Project 6 - Undertake a recreational facilities/ assets audit

Undertaking an audit of recreational facilities and assets is a good way to build a better understanding about current strengths as well as gaps/ opportunities for the future. However, an audit on its own is unlikely to have an impact on the region.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 7 - Review the opportunities and constraints for emerging tourism business types

Review the opportunities and constraints for emerging tourism business types e.g. glamping, agritourism, etc, and analyse where they fit in the broader tourism strategy. Include a review of minimum site area and maximum scale requirements for different areas under the Green Wedge zone to support sustainable tourism businesses.

Addressing constraints on new tourism opportunities has the potential to generate positive economic outcomes. In addition to this, a thriving tourism industry has the potential to positively impact community cohesion and relationships. From an environmental perspective, diversification of rural land may have an impact on the extent of the environmental areas, but if done sustainably is unlikely to impact the quality.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	-1
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	-1 (-0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.24

Project 8 - Improve public transport links

Improve public transport links to the Peninsula hinterland and Western Port side of the Peninsula. This would then increase accessibility of these areas to facilitate better tourist dispersion and support employment opportunities in tourism. Suggested improvements include:

- Enhanced train links to Hastings and beyond
- Buses to hinterland towns such as Red Hill, Flinders, Balnarring, Somers and Main Ridge

Improving access to different tourism destinations for visitors is likely to have a reasonable economic impact, and will also assist in exposing more people to various nature based and recreational activities. Increased public transport is not likely to have an impact on either of the environmental factors.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+2
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+3 (0.5)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.67

Project 9 - Review Vic Roads and Tourism Victoria's policy for tourism signage

Review Vic Roads and Tourism Victoria's policy for tourism signage and develop a new strategy that adequately meets the needs of today's tourism businesses. Changing the policy on its own won't have any impact on the various economic, social and environmental factors, but if positive change is implemented then more effective signage has the potential to increase visitor numbers and ongoing movement of visitors around the region.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 10 - Model future climate and population scenarios for potential economic, environmental and social impacts

Model future climate and population scenarios for potential economic, environmental and social impacts. Develop a long-term vision for Green Wedge zones in mitigating climate change and providing amenity for future populations.

The modelling of these scenarios will be an important part of planning for the future, and while the modelling will provide a good foundation it won't have an impact on economic, social and environmental factors.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 11 - Conduct a review of each Council's strategies for reinforcing Green Wedge objectives

Conduct a review of each Interface Council's strategies for reinforcing Green Wedge objectives, in particular in relation to the development of dwellings in the Green Wedge. Investigate whether farm management plans are necessary and effective, and identify other strategies across the various Green Wedges that are working and share information.

Enforcing land management strategy objectives is likely to have a positive impact on the environmental factors in particular.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	+1
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	+1 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.25

NILLUMBIK

Project 1 - Explore options to support growth of locally based food production

Explore options to support growth of locally based food production through initiatives such as the creation of a brand and marketing campaign for Green Wedge produce, and by advocating to the Victorian government for support of the industry.

Increased promotion of local produce will raise awareness of the regions capabilities and the produce available for purchase in the area, this is likely to have a positive impact on the retention of jobs in the region, but minimal impact on the creation of jobs. This particular initiative is unlikely to have an impact on most other factors, however the positive promotion of the region is likely to have a positive impact on community cohesion and general pride in the area.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.41

Project 2 - Extension to the Diamond Creek Trail, Pipeline Trail (Allendale to Diamond Creek-Hurstbridge Road) and the Wattle Glen to Kinglake Trail

Promote participation in recreational trails that facilitate access to the Green Wedge and its landscapes, including interpretation strategies. These are within individual Council areas and cross Council boundaries and cater for both local communities and tourism.

As part of the above, implement Nillumbik Shire Council’s Recreation Trails Strategy with emphasis on the extension to the Diamond Creek Trail, Pipeline Trail (Allendale to Diamond Creek-Hurstbridge Road) and the Wattle Glen to Kinglake Trail.

Increased participation in recreational trails and the extension of the trails has the potential to general positive social benefits, some minimal job opportunities subject to existing business related infrastructure in the area. The only potential for negative impact relates to the use of land to extend the tracks, and these impacts can be managed and mitigated through the development process.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+2
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+4 (0.33)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

Project 3 - Continue investigate the proposed Maroondah Aqueduct Trail

Continue to investigate the proposed Maroondah Aqueduct Trail as an opportunity to create an iconic recreation and tourism opportunity for Melbourne.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+2
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+4 (0.33)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

Project 4 - Investigate establishing a regional trails network

Investigate establishing a regional trails network (walking, riding and cycling) that crosses the entire Green Wedge and links with adjoining Green Wedges and Council areas of Yarra Ranges, Murrindindi, Whittlesea, Manningham and Banyule. Include an analysis of the economic benefits such as potential visitor spend.

A regional trails network has the potential to generate significant benefits for the broader region. However, the investigation and planning for this network won't have an impact, and without further information about the network it is difficult to assess the benefit.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 5 - Investigate the production of a Green Wedge interpretation strategy

Investigate the production of a Green Wedge interpretation strategy, with individual plans for each of the recreation trails and Council owned reserves that might include maps, self-guided walks, on and off site interpretation and action.

The key words in this project are ‘investigate’ and ‘strategy’, similar to above the strategy itself won’t generate any benefits, but the implementation of the strategy could, and without further information it is difficult to estimate the associated benefits.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 6 - Develop an education program

Develop an education program for a variety of audiences directed by the aims and objectives of the Green Wedge Management Plan.

An education program has the potential to raise awareness about the values and importance of the Green Wedge, and the more widespread this program is implemented across the community the more it will impact on social factors such as cohesion and relationships. An education program targeting land management and environmental values also has the potential to assist in protecting the environment and retaining jobs, but not adding value to either of these factors.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.08

Project 7 - Investigate future equine recreation opportunities and promote trails

Support Nillumbik Destination Management Plan, such as investigate future equine recreation opportunities and promote trails.

Equine recreation opportunities linked to the trail network adds to the diversity of options in the region, and has the potential to generate some social benefits, but is unlikely to generate impacts in the other areas.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.08

Project 8 - Cycling tourism

The cycling tourism initiative includes the following key activities:

- Prepare a guide and information sheet that promotes the advantages of supporting cycle tourism and tips on how better to cater for cyclist needs. This may be targeted to food, beverage and accommodation businesses.
- Continue to support the Council appointed Recreation Trails Advisory Committee to monitor the use of cycling routes and destinations of regional interest.
- Engage a graphic designer to map routes and information in an online and hard copy brochure with links to Strava GPS program.
- Advocate to VicRoads for improved road safety supporting on-road cycling.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+3 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.34

Project 9 – Review Planning Scheme

Review the current planning scheme to facilitate increased business opportunities in the Green Wedge that are compatible with current values. This includes investigation into whether rural zones in addition to the Rural Conservation Zone and Green Wedge Zones are needed in the Green Wedge to broaden the range of uses permitted and investigation of the intensity of permitted uses.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+2
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.33

Project 10 – Develop a model of eco-tourism

Develop a model of ecotourism suited to the Green Wedges and assess potential tourism demand (size and location of market).

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 11 – Develop a plan that identifies biodiversity conservation priorities

Develop a plan that identifies biodiversity conservation priorities in the Green Wedges on a landscape scale, i.e. cross-Council boundaries. This document will provide an overview of Melbourne’s Green Wedges collectively for the first time and identify priorities agreed by all Interface Councils. The project has been discussed by the Interface Environmental Managers Network.

- Identify and manage biodiversity at a landscape scale for conservation
- Support the participation of rural landholders and communities in conserving biodiversity

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 12 – Consider alternative governance arrangements for the Green Wedge

Consider alternative governance arrangements for the Green Wedges, which view them on a landscape scale i.e. cross-Council boundaries.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

SOUTHERN RANGES

Project 1 - Encourage land practices and alternative uses of soil affected by PCN and Dieldrin

Encourage land practices and alternative uses of soil affected by PCN and Dieldrin. Identifying alternative uses for land under threat is unlikely to generate new economic benefits, and is more likely to see existing jobs and productivity levels maintained if successful. Identifying alternative uses for land does have the potential to generate certain benefits in the social and environmental factors.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+1 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.34

Project 2 - Protecting agricultural land from urban expansion to not only preserve and encourage agricultural investment, but also to retain the rural experience of Puffing Billy

Protecting agricultural land from urban expansion to not only preserve and encourage agricultural investment, but also to retain the rural experience of Puffing Billy.

Ensuring urban expansion is managed is most likely to have a positive impact on the environmental factors and to a certain extent social amenity factors. The retention of Puffing Billy is important, but this initiative is more about retaining the benefits it generates rather than creating new ones.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	+1
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	+1 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.34

Project 3 - Strengthen alignment with local/ neighboring industries

Strengthen alignment with local/ neighboring industries, including (but not limited to) cut flowers, mature trees and in turn strengthen local farmer’s markets.

Identifying opportunities to diversify the agricultural sector and creating new opportunities has the potential to generate economic opportunities, while at the same time retaining existing agricultural outputs. This project also has the potential to general minimal social benefits, in the areas of amenity and cohesion.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

Project 4 - Advocate for funding for key recreational connections as identified in Councils Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy

Advocate for funding for key recreational connections as identified in key Council recreation strategies (e.g. Shire of Cardinia's Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy and City of Casey's Paths and Trails Strategy). Based on the information available this project is focused on social benefits associated with increase recreation and activity, which leads to a number of benefits in the social area. Increased recreational connections also have the potential to generate some jobs associated the increased level of infrastructure and the tourism related opportunities that flow from this.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+2
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+4 (0.33)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

Project 5 - Encourage development of the Aqueduct walking and cycling trail

Increased recreational trails have the potential to benefit the local economy through minimal job creation, and also generate significant social benefits, mostly in the areas of amenity, recreation and health.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+2
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+4 (0.33)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

Project 6 - Advocate for regional equestrian centre and horse trails funding

Advocate for regional equestrian centre and horse trails funding. Equine recreation opportunities have the potential to generate some social benefits, but is unlikely to generate impacts in the other areas.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.08

Project 7 - Implementation of the Puffing Billy Railway Master Plan

Support Puffing Billy in the implementation of the Puffing Billy Railway Master Plan to enhance the visitor experience and protect agricultural land from urban expansion to not only preserve and encourage agricultural investment, but also to retain the rural experience of Puffing Billy.

Implementation of the Puffing Billy Master Plan has the potential to increase visitor numbers, and the most relevant benefits to flow from this relate to economic outcomes.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.41

Project 8 - Advocate for funding to undertake work to understand the economic role and function of each of the towns

Advocate for funding to undertake work to understand the economic role and function of each of the towns within all of the Green Wedges. Identify what the relationships are between each of the towns and how they can work together to achieve optimum outcomes.

This project is essentially designed to access funding to define the economic role of each town and how they complement each other. There are no real benefits generated from the development of this plan.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 9 - Understand the impacts of various factors

Understand the impacts of various factors, such as climate change, population growth, change in eating habits, cultural influence on agricultural land in the Green Wedge and what the future of farming really looks like as a result of these.

It is important to understand the impact of each of these factors for future planning, but the impact it will have on the Green Wedges in relation to adding value is minimal at best. If anything the learnings obtained will help to preserve and maintain current standards/ levels relating to economic, social and environmental factors.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 10 - Undertake a metropolitan housing strategy for Melbourne

Undertake a metropolitan housing strategy for Melbourne to inform LGA Housing Strategies to ensure adequate development is increased in the inner and middle suburbs, targeting greyfield and brownfield sites to increase development. This would reduce the pressure on urban expansion and protect the Green Wedges of Melbourne.

Implementation of the Strategy should lead to less pressure on the region relating to urban encroachment, which will maintain current economic levels relating to employment and production. The major benefits from an initiative such as this are environmental. The development of the Strategy is an important part of this process, but until the Strategy is implemented the benefits won't be realised.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

SUNBURY

Project 1 - Illegal dumping of household waste, construction waste and soil from development needs to be managed

There are issues with illegal dumping of household waste, construction waste and soil from development that needs to be managed, including the long-term management of active and uncomplete tip sites.

The impacts of this site are likely to be greatest in the social and environmental areas, with little to no economic benefit.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+2
Total Social	+3 (0.25)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+2
Total Environmental	+2 (0.33)
TOTAL SCORE	0.58

Project 2 - Ensuring threatened species and eco-communities remain healthy and improve over time

Biodiversity protection and management is important, and can be achieved by ensuring threatened species and eco-communities remain healthy and improve over time. One option to achieve this is to support landowners with grants and education programs.

This project will have significant environmental benefits and some social benefits. This project will also help to preserve and maintain agricultural land, but it is unlikely to generate additional benefits.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	+2
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+3
Total Environmental	+5 (0.83)
TOTAL SCORE	0.91

Project 3 - Support the development of recreational activities on Parks Victoria land in the north-west

Support the development of recreational activities on Parks Victoria land in the north-west, including (but not limited to) Woodlands, Organ Pipes, Holden Flora and Fauna Reserve.

This project is entirely focused on recreational activities, which will generate a range of social benefits, but very little in relation to environmental and economic.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+2
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+2
Total Social	+6 (0.5)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

WERRIBEE SOUTH

Project 1 – Irrigation modernisation project

Wyndham City is supporting the local water authority, Southern Rural Water, in the implementation of this project, which is approximately one third complete and requires additional government support to complete the project. The required funding is estimated to be \$19 million.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+1 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.51

Project 2 – City Forest and Habitat Strategy

Wyndham City is currently preparing this strategy to identify key environmental assets and potential habitat links and corridors. This strategy is currently in draft format, however additional support will be required for mapping and ongoing consultation.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0 (0)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0 (0)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0 (0)
TOTAL SCORE	0

WESTERN PLAINS NORTH

Project 1 - Improve access and use of recycled water to facilitate agriculture within the Green Wedge

Develop a Recycled Water Business Plan to improve access and use of recycled water to facilitate agriculture within the Green Wedge. This will include (but not limited to):

- Work with Western Water to prepare a 'recycled water based agriculture' business plan
- On the basis of the findings of the agricultural business plan, pursue any required updates to the identified subdivision controls to best facilitate agricultural uses.

The focus of this project is about farmers being able to access recycled water to facilitate outcomes for the industry, that will ultimately improve the economic contribution of this sector. The protection and enhancement of agricultural land will assist in retaining jobs, and could have a minimal impact on job creation. It will also protect and enhance the amenity and environmental value of the area.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	+0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+1 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.67

Project 2 - Enhance tourism trails and information signage across the Green Wedge

Enhance tourism trails and information signage across the Green Wedge. Opportunities connected to this project include:

- Continue to promote the existing Dry Stone Wall Driving Trail.
- Consider additional measures to appropriately protect key heritage assets along the Dry Stone Wall Driving Trail.
- Consider an 'environmental' driving trail similar to the Dry Stone Wall Driving Trail, which could take in areas such as the 'environmental destination', the roadside grassland reserves as well as the viewpoint from Melton–Gisborne Road.

This project is about promoting the existing Dry Stone Wall trail, and also protecting and preserving the dry stone walls along the trail. The project is also about identifying similar driving trails, but with an environmental focus. This initiative generates the potential for increased visitation and associated economic outcomes.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

Project 3 - Seek to establish walking, cycling and biodiversity links between towns and through the Green Wedge

Seek to establish walking, cycling and biodiversity links between towns and through the Green Wedge and seek to develop other walking track linkages along roads or other corridors to link key settlements.

This project is about linking trails and as a result promoting a more holistic network of trails that link towns and other trails. This has the potential to increase visitor numbers and also generate a range of social benefits.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.34

Project 4 - Seek to create a network of 'environmental features'

Seek to create a network of 'environmental features' and establish links between these to improve awareness, celebrate key assets within the Green Wedge and connect existing reserves. Where practicable, identify key environmental features and appropriate linkages and protect their habitat values.

This project is about raising the awareness of environmental features, attracting more visitors and also protecting and preserving these environmental assets. This initiative should generate benefits across economic, social and environmental factors.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+3 (0.25)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+1 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.59

Project 5 - Seek to enhance understanding of the Green Wedge's biodiversity value and measures necessary to protect and enhance the existing natural environment

Seek to enhance understanding of the Green Wedge's biodiversity value and measures necessary to protect and enhance the existing natural environment. As part of this prepare a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for the Green Wedge.

This project will primarily generate environmental benefits for the Green Wedge.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+3
Total Environmental	+3 (0.5)
TOTAL SCORE	0.58

Project 6 - Promote public viewing of key landscape areas

Promote public viewing of key landscape areas that include interpretation that describes pre and post contact history. Examples of sites are included in the Melton Significant Landscape Features Strategy. This project will aim to increase visitor numbers and will generate flow on economic benefits.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.25

WESTERN PLAINS SOUTH

Project 1 – City Forest and Habitat Strategy

Wyndham City is currently preparing this strategy to identify key environmental assets and potential habitat links and corridors. This strategy is currently in draft format, however additional support will be required for mapping and ongoing consultation.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0 (0)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0 (0)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0 (0)
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 2 – Western Grassland Reserve

The Western Grassland Reserve is a future 15,000 ha native grassland national park of which approximately 12,000 ha is within Wyndham. As the site is transitioning from freehold to public reserve, a large portion of the site is suffering environmental degradation via the threat of invasive weeds. Wyndham City runs a localised Land Protection Grant Scheme which helps landholders in active land management and weed control. Additional support from varying levels of government to improve engagement and supplement on ground controls is required.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0 (0)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+4 (0.33)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	+2
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+3 (0.5)
TOTAL SCORE	0.83

WESTERN PORT

Project 1 - Better use and deliver the underutilised recycled water resource in order to provide water security

Advocate to government for funding to investigate ways to better use and deliver the underutilised recycled water resource in order to provide water security to one of Melbourne's closest and best-placed growing regions of fresh horticultural produce.

The protection and enhancement of valuable agricultural land will assist in retaining jobs, and could have a minimal impact on job creation. It will also protect and enhance the amenity and environmental value of the area.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+3 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.67

Project 2 - Advocate for permanency in relation to Green Wedge policy

Advocate for permanency in relation to Green Wedge policy and the urban growth boundary to protect Green Wedge land in the following ways:

- Ensure right to farm is maintained
- Remove non-compatible/ urban uses (noting that limited rural-residential subdivision may be appropriate in certain locations)
- Encourage and increase agriculture and associated investment.

Protecting Green Wedge land from non-compatible uses will help to ensure current uses are maintained and protected into the future. While this policy is important, in terms of an initiative that adds value to the region consistent with the current values, it doesn't add any additional value. This doesn't diminish the importance of the project, it just means in the context of this study it is less of a priority.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 3 - Obtain funding for rural projects

Obtain funding for rural projects, e.g. drought assistance, RDV Projects, land care projects. As the Green Wedge currently sits within a metropolitan classification, funding generally can't be accessed, and on this basis the classification needs to be reviewed.

If funding for these types of projects is obtained it has the potential to generate a range of economic and environmental benefits.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	+1
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+2 (0.33)
TOTAL SCORE	0.83

Project 4 - Advocate for funding for key trail connections

Advocate for funding for key trail connections, including:

- Advocate for the construction of a shared trail from Beaconsfield to Nar Nar Goon along the Gippsland Railway Line rail reserve (also known as the Bairnsdale Line) through to Bunyip and connecting to Baw Baw Shire.
- Advocate for the construction of a shared trail from Dalmore through to Lang Lang along the former South Gippsland Railway Line rail reserve.
- Advocate for the construction of a shared path along Koo Wee Rup Road.
- Trail connections identified in the City of Casey, Paths and Trails Strategy
- Land situated along the former South Gippsland Railway Line rail reserve be included in future shared trails

The construction of new trails will generate a range of benefits across economic, social and environmental factors.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+4 (0.33)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

Project 5 - Develop horse, cycling and walking paths and trails along the coast and inland

Develop horse, cycling and walking paths and trails along the coast and inland. Similar to the above project, this one has the potential to generate a range of economic, social and environmental benefits.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.34

Project 6 - Encourage and support agriculture (food production) in the Green Wedge to support related tourism opportunities

Encourage and support agriculture (food production) in the Green Wedge to support related tourism opportunities. This project is about opportunities for farms to diversify into other business opportunities, which will create new job opportunities and generate a range of other economic benefits, while at the same time protecting and preserving the natural environment.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+1 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.67

Project 7 - Support the growth of Gumbuya Park as an active recreation, biodiversity and tourism facility

Gumbuya Park has a range of family related activities, including amusement rides, playground facilities, picnic and BBQ facilities, a café and a native animal sanctuary. Proposed investment in the Park will assist in attracting new visitors to the region, with projections estimating up to 500,000 visitors within two years, which would generate a range of flow on economic benefits. The rejuvenation of the park would also generate a range of social benefits.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+3 (0.25)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.58

Project 8 - Preserve and enhance tourist infrastructure and attractions

Preserve and enhance tourist infrastructure and attractions such as the potential Western Port coastal trail and provide encouragement to private and public tourism ventures (e.g. Pearcedale Moonlit Sanctuary/Boating and Fishing).

New sustainable tourism development in the region that is consistent with Green Wedge values will help to generate economic outcomes, which in turn will generate a range of social benefits for the region as well, relating to amenity, community pride and community relationships.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+3 (0.25)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.42

Project 9 - Bunyip Food Trail

The Bunyip Food Bowl contains extremely fertile and valuable agricultural land, and there is a strong focus on protecting and supporting the growth of this region as a key food producing area for metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria. Access to recycled water will provide valuable irrigation for high value food crops.

The protection and enhancement of this valuable agricultural land will assist in retaining jobs, and could have a minimal impact on job creation. It will also protect and enhance the amenity and environmental value of the area.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

Project 10 – Mitigation of sea level rise

Work with the Victorian Government to improve the environmental protection for Western Port Ramsar wetlands and to assist in the mitigation of sea level rise in conjunction with private land owners as outlined in Plan Melbourne 2017 -2050. This work is required in order to protect and preserve the Western Port Green Wedge and the adjoining Western Port Bay.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+3 (0.25)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+1 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.59

Project 11 - Advocate for the development of an airport for Melbourne’s south east region

Continue to advocate for the development of an airport for Melbourne’s south east region to occur and to be undertaken in a way that has minimal negative impact on the green wedge. Work with the Victorian government to ensure streamlined planning processes are in place to facilitate the timely development and delivery of the airport.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+2
Impact on industry productivity	+2
Total Economic	+4 (0.67)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	-1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	-1 (-0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	-1
Impact on quality of environmental areas	-1
Total Environmental	-2 (-0.3)
TOTAL SCORE	0.29

Project 12 - Understand the economic role and function of each of the towns within all of the Green Wedges

Undertake work to understand the economic role and function of each of the towns within all of the Green Wedges. Identify what the relationships are between each of the towns and how they can work together to achieve optimum outcomes.

This project is essentially designed to access funding to define the economic role of each town and how they complement each other. There are no real benefits generated from the development of this plan.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 13 - Build a better understanding of the impacts of a range of factors on agricultural land

Understand the impacts of various factors, such as climate change, population growth, change in eating habits, cultural influence on agricultural land in the Green Wedge and what the future of farming really looks like as a result of these.

It is important to understand the impact of each of these factors for future planning, but the impact it will have on the Green Wedges in relation to adding value is minimal at best. If anything the learnings obtained will help to preserve and maintain current standards/ levels relating to economic, social and environmental factors.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 14 - Undertake a metropolitan housing strategy

Undertake a metropolitan housing strategy for Melbourne to inform LGA Housing Strategies to ensure adequate development is increased in the inner and middle suburbs, targeting greyfield and brownfield sites to increase development. This would reduce the pressure on urban expansion and protect the Green Wedges of Melbourne.

Implementation of the Strategy should lead to less pressure on the region relating to urban encroachment, which will maintain current economic levels relating to employment and production. The major benefits from an initiative such as this are environmental. The development of the Strategy is an important part of this process, but until the Strategy is implemented the benefits won't be realised.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 15 - Support the development of Racing Industry

Support the development of Racing Industry (horses and greyhounds), which will in turn enhance the broader regions reputation in this sector and generate flow on economic outcomes.

Expansion of the racing industry has the potential to generate a range of economic outcomes and contribute to the diversification of the agricultural sector. The growth of this section will also have a minimal flow on effect in a range of social areas.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.41

WHITTLESEA

Project 1 - Undertake a Land Capability Assessment to understand the economic potential of the Green Wedge

Undertake a Land Capability Assessment to understand the economic potential of the Green Wedge and its agricultural value under various climate scenarios. This work is to be completed as part of a project with Deakin University and will include a range of interactive mapping and an agri-business prospectus.

The outcomes of this initiative are likely to generate a range of benefits, but the assessment itself isn't. Further detail would be required to determine the anticipated benefits from this project.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 2 - Develop a landholder education program with a focus on agribusiness and land management

Develop a landholder education program with a focus on agribusiness and land management. The program would provide landholders with information and support on sustainable management practices and innovative farming systems. The program would also include the opportunity for one-on-one support from the Agribusiness Officer.

An education program has the potential to raise awareness about the values and importance of the Green Wedge, and the more widespread this program is implemented across the community the more it will impact on social factors such as cohesion and relationships. An education program targeting land management and environmental values also has the potential to assist in protecting the environment and retaining jobs, but not adding value to either of these factors.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	
Social	
0	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.08

Project 3 - Work with the community to support the opening of at least one Farmers Market in the municipality

The establishment of a farmers market provides an alternative means for local food producers to sell their products and generate alternative revenue streams. Farmers markets also generate flow on social benefits, resulting from bringing the community together on a regular basis.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

Project 4 - Review the Farm Rate

Review the Farm Rate recipients, and identify options to increase the Farm Rate differential as a means to incentivise commercial farming in the Green Wedge. This type of initiative will help to retain productive commercial farms, and potentially lead to minimal job creation. Successful farms also generate flow on social benefits.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.41

YARRA VALLEY AND YARRA AND DANDENONG RANGES

Project 1 - Increase the use of recycled water through the development of a recycled water pipeline

Increasing the use of recycled water will provide valuable irrigation for farmers. The protection and enhancement of agricultural land will assist in retaining jobs, and could have a minimal impact on job creation. It will also protect and enhance the amenity and environmental value of the area.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+1 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.67

Project 2 - Formulate an Interface Councils Rural Advisory Committee

Formulate an Interface Councils Rural Advisory Committee to increase the value placed on the importance of agricultural enterprises. The Committee would address and advocate for priorities relating to the importance of the industry, pressure on agricultural areas by other land users and land management practices.

The outcomes that this Advisory Committee could achieve have the potential to generate outcomes for the Green Wedge, but the establishment of the group alone is unlikely to add any tangible value. This does not diminish the potential value of the group, but this project is about prioritising initiatives that will add sustainable value to the Green Wedges.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 3 - Encourage alternative uses of soil affected by PCN and Dieldrin

Encourage land practices and alternative uses of soil affected by PCN and Dieldrin. Identifying alternative uses for land under threat is unlikely to generate new economic benefits, and is more likely to see existing jobs and productivity levels maintained if successful. Identifying alternative uses for land does have the potential to generate certain benefits in the social and environmental factors.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+1 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.34

Project 4 - Protecting agricultural land from urban expansion

Protecting agricultural land from urban expansion to not only preserve and encourage agricultural investment, but also to retain the rural experience of Puffing Billy.

Ensuring urban expansion is managed is most likely to have a positive impact on the environmental factors and to a certain extent social amenity factors. The retention of Puffing Billy is important, but this initiative is more about retaining the benefits it generates rather than creating new ones.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	+1
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	+1 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.25

Project 5 - Strengthen alignment with local/ neighboring industries

Strengthen alignment with local/ neighboring industries, including (but not limited to) cut flowers, mature trees and in turn strengthen local farmer’s markets.

Identifying opportunities to diversify the agricultural sector and creating new opportunities has the potential to generate economic opportunities, while at the same time retaining existing agricultural outputs. This project also has the potential to general minimal social benefits, in the areas of amenity and cohesion.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

Project 6 - Advocate for funding to maintain key recreational assets

Work in partnership with Parks Victoria to advocate for funding to maintain key recreational assets, e.g. O'Shannassy Trail, 1,000 steps, Mt Donna Buang.

Maintaining and improving these assets will help to attract additional visitors, which will generate a range of economic and social benefits.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+2
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+4 (0.33)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

Project 7 - Improve wayfinding/ directional signage of all trails across the Green Wedge

Improve wayfinding/ directional signage of all trails across the Green Wedge, e.g. the Dandenong/ Hills region and O'Shannassy Trail. Improvements to signage will make it easier for visitors to move around the region, which will make their experience more positive. This type of initiative is likely to generate minimal economic and social benefits.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.34

Project 8 - Advocate for funding for key recreational trail connections

Advocate for funding for key recreational connections. Based on the information available this project is focused on social benefits associated with increase recreation and activity, which leads to a number of benefits in the social area. Increased recreational connections also have the potential to generate some jobs associated the increased level of infrastructure and the tourism related opportunities that flow from this.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+2
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+4 (0.33)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

Project 9 - Advocate for funding to develop an equestrian centre and horse trails

Advocate for equestrian centre and horse trails funding. Equine recreation opportunities have the potential to generate some social benefits, but is unlikely to generate impacts in the other areas.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.08

Project 10 - Develop Warburton Mountain Bike Hub

Develop Warburton Mountain Bike Hub, which will include a mix of trails to suit all levels of capability. Based on the Feasibility Study completed it is projected that the hub would attract up to 130,000 visitors per year and generate up to \$23 million annually in economic benefits.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+2
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+3 (0.5)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+2
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+5 (0.42)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.92

Project 11 - Develop the Yarra Valley Trail

Develop the Yarra Valley Trail that will connect Lilydale to Yarra Glen to Healesville and then across to Woori Yallock to join with the Lilydale Warburton rail trail. It is estimated that this trail will attract over 210,000 visitors per year, and will generate 222 new jobs and generate over \$30 million annually in economic benefits for the local economy.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+2
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+3 (0.5)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+2
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+5 (0.42)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.92

Project 12 - Develop the Ridge Walk project

Develop the Ridge Walk project that will link a number of towns across the region and increase tourism opportunities for local operators. The benefits associated with this project are not specified, but it is likely to generate a range of economic and social benefits.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+1
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+4 (0.33)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.66

Project 13 - Support implementation of the Puffing Billy Railway Master Plan

Support Puffing Billy in the implementation of the Puffing Billy Railway Master Plan to enhance the visitor experience and protect agricultural land from urban expansion to not only preserve and encourage agricultural investment, but also to retain the rural experience of Puffing Billy.

Implementation of the Puffing Billy Master Plan has the potential to increase visitor numbers, and the most relevant benefits to flow from this relate to economic outcomes.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+2 (0.33)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+1 (0.08)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.41

Project 14 - Aqueduct Trail

Advocate for funding to develop and construct connections from the growth corridor to the existing Aqueduct Trail as detailed in the Cardinia Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	+1
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	+2
Impacts on health and/ or safety	+1
Total Social	+4 (0.33)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0.5

Project 15 - Obtain better environmental data on the Green Wedge

Obtain better environmental data on the Green Wedge and be clear about what is required and what it is to be used for. Access to good quality and current data is important to make informed decisions. However, while this project is important, it won't add any value to the Green Wedge.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 16 – Develop a suite of policies for land owners/ land used in the Green Wedge zone

Develop a suite of policies for land owners/ land used in the Green Wedge zone that encourage improved land stewardship/ management, and that address co-existing agricultural and residential uses.

Improved land management has the potential to generate a range of benefits across all factors. Some examples include, improved land management can help to generate greater productivity from crops, it can also help to improve visual amenity and improve the quality of environmental land.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	+1
Total Economic	+1 (0.17)
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	+1
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	+1
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	+2 (0.17)
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	+1
Total Environmental	+1 (0.17)
TOTAL SCORE	0.51

Project 17 – Advocate for funding to undertake work to understand the economic role and function of each of the towns

Undertake work to understand the economic role and function of each of the towns within all of the Green Wedges. Identify what the relationships are between each of the towns and how they can work together to achieve optimum outcomes.

This project is essentially designed to access funding to define the economic role of each town and how they complement each other. There are no real benefits generated from the development of this plan.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 18 – Build a better understanding of the impacts of a range of factors on agricultural land

Understand the impacts of various factors, such as climate change, population growth, change in eating habits, cultural influence on agricultural land in the Green Wedge and what the future of farming really looks like as a result of these.

It is important to understand the impact of each of these factors for future planning, but the impact it will have on the Green Wedges in relation to adding value is minimal at best. If anything the learnings obtained will help to preserve and maintain current standards/ levels relating to economic, social and environmental factors.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

Project 19 - Undertake a metropolitan housing strategy

Undertake a metropolitan housing strategy for Melbourne to inform LGA Housing Strategies to ensure adequate development is increased in the inner and middle suburbs, targeting greyfield and brownfield sites to increase development. This would reduce the pressure on urban expansion and protect the Green Wedges of Melbourne.

Implementation of the Strategy should lead to less pressure on the region relating to urban encroachment, which will maintain current economic levels relating to employment and production. The major benefits from an initiative such as this are environmental. The development of the Strategy is an important part of this process, but until the Strategy is implemented the benefits won't be realised.

Criteria	Impact Scoring
Economic	
Impact on jobs/ employment	0
Impact on industry productivity	0
Total Economic	0
Social	
Impact on amenity (e.g. visual impacts, noise impacts, etc)	0
Impacts on social/ community cohesion and relationships	0
Impacts on recreational/ cultural/ leisure opportunities	0
Impacts on health and/ or safety	0
Total Social	0
Environmental	
Impact on extent of environmental areas	0
Impact on quality of environmental areas	0
Total Environmental	0
TOTAL SCORE	0

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