

12.6**Directorate****Director****Manager****Attachment(s)****Brimbank Green Wedge Management Plan
Implementation Status - June 2024**

City Futures

Kelvin Walsh

Leanne Deans

1. Brimbank Green Wedge Management Plan 2010 Implementation Status Report [**12.6.1** - 16 pages]
2. Brimbank Green Wedge Management Plan 2010 Map [**12.6.2** - 1 page]

Purpose

For Council to note the Brimbank Green Wedge Management Plan 2010 Implementation Status Report at **Attachment 1**.

Officer Recommendation

That Council notes the Brimbank Green Wedge Management Plan 2010 Implementation Status Report at Attachment 1.

Background

The Sunbury Green Wedge is one of 12 designated green wedge areas, which comprise the non-urban areas of metropolitan Melbourne located outside the urban growth boundary. The Green Wedge is the location of key agricultural activities, biodiversity areas, cultural heritage sites and water bodies.

A small portion of the Sunbury Green Wedge is in Brimbank, and is referred to as the Brimbank part of the Sunbury Green Wedge (Brimbank Green Wedge). Land within the Brimbank Green Wedge is shown at **Attachment 2**.

On 3 August 2010, Council adopted the Brimbank Green Wedge Management Plan (BGWMP) which sets out a 20-year vision and series of long-term objectives for the sustainable use and development of land in the Brimbank Green Wedge. The BGWMP contains a series of four-year action plans that are categorised under 11 themes and intended to support the realisation of the vision.

This report reviews the progress of implementation of actions to date.

Matters for Consideration**Options**

- A. Note the BGWMP Implementation Status Report shown at **Attachment 1**.
- B. Note the BGWMP Implementation Status Report with changes.

Council has significantly advanced the implementation of the BGWMP and are recommending Option A.

Analysis

The BGWMP takes an integrated approach to managing biodiversity and environmental assets/resources in the Brimbank Green Wedge. It recognises several key challenges,

including a lack of access to a sustainable and affordable water supply, the marginal status of horticulture and the need for funding for implementation and coordination across government and the community.

The BGWMP adopts a collaborative approach involving partnerships with internal and external stakeholders to implement actions and ongoing activities to achieve the stated long-term objectives. The plan considers the multidimensional functions and benefits of the Green Wedge to implement actions spanning the conservation of biodiversity, water resources, and cultural heritage while enhancing the environmental amenities through recreation, tourism, agricultural and rural uses. In maximising the above benefits, a range of actions also consider improving landscaping and infrastructure.

The BGWMP has provided strategic direction and justification for the introduction of land use planning policy in the Brimbank Planning Scheme. This has included the application of zones and overlays to support the objectives of the BGWMP and policy direction for non-urban land uses. Additionally, the BGWMP has provided Council with advocacy priorities which have informed submissions to the State Government on reforms.

Implementation

An implementation status report is provided at **Attachment 1**, reporting on progress against the 96 actions contained in the 20-year BGWMP. This shows that:

- 23 actions (24%) have been completed
- 58 actions (60%) are ongoing or business as usual
- 15 actions (16%) have not been commenced.

When Council adopted the BGWMP there was an expectation that State Government funding would be available to support some of the initiatives identified. However, this was not forthcoming. Notwithstanding, 84% of the 96 actions have been commenced or completed. Some of the actions that have not commenced can still be considered over the remaining six-year term to implement the BGWMP, while others may no longer be relevant or appropriate for Council to deliver or are beyond current Council resources.

It is considered that the overarching strategic guidance provided by the BGWMP remains relevant and Council continues to implement the objectives of the BGWMP through consistent application of adopted green wedge policy in relation to land use planning decisions, environmental management and ongoing advocacy.

Key actions and activities implemented from the BGWMP in 2023/24 includes:

- A verbal presentation to the Independent Review of the Maribyrnong River flood event
- Ongoing advocacy to the State Government including a submission to the consultation and engagement for the Legislative Assembly Inquiry into Securing Victorian Food Supply
- The renaming of Sydenham Park as Yaluk Barring Park in recognition of the Aboriginal cultural history, which was gazetted on 30 May 2024.
- Successful and ongoing environmental management and pest animal and weed eradication including invasive noxious weeds like Serrated Tussock and Artichoke Thistle.
- Ongoing collaboration and partnership with community groups and stakeholders in undertaking activities on Council's Environmental Events Calendar, including tree planting, field days and seminars.
- The commencement of processes towards the restoration of Robertson's Homestead

Fifteen actions have not yet commenced. Of the 11 thematic areas, Agriculture-related actions are the least implemented, with 5 out of 10 not yet commenced and mostly related to the limited farming that now occurs in the area. Council's advocacy to State Government has included exploring the viability of agriculture and other uses for the land.

Green Wedge Reforms

In 2018 the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (now Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)) commenced a review of existing policy and legislation in relation to Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land. This included proposed planning system reforms to strengthen planning protections for green wedge and peri urban areas.

At the Council Meeting on 16 February 2021, Council endorsed a Submission to the Planning for Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land Consultation Paper (GWALCP Submission). This followed two previous rounds of consultation undertaken by the State Government in 2018 and 2019.

In March 2024, the State Government released a three-year action plan, 'Planning for Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land Action Plan 2024' that sets its short-to-medium-term strategy for protecting the green wedges in the metropolitan area. Part of the actions include updating Planning Practice Note 31 (PPN31) which will offer guidance to local councils and other stakeholders on the management of Melbourne's green wedge.

Next steps

Once the updated PPN31 has been released Council officers will review the implications for the Brimbank Green Wedge and provide a report to Council. This could necessitate a review or update to the BGWMP. If this is the case, officers will identify any required resourcing to program the work as part of the Council budget process.

Notwithstanding, Council officers will continue to implement the objectives of the BGWMP through consistent application of adopted green wedge policy in relation to land use planning decisions, environmental management and ongoing advocacy.

Community Engagement

Council officers engage with a range of stakeholders through the delivery of the Strategy.

No external consultation was required in the preparation of this report.

Resource And Risk Implications

Resource requirements can be met within the Annual Budget 2023/2024.

Community: potential impact on community, including public trust and customer service impact

- Yes - The status of the BGWMP and the significant progress Council has made in terms of its implementation should engender public trust in Council's ongoing commitment and service to the Brimbank Green Wedge.

Environmental: impacts on environmental sustainability, including water/waste management, climate change, and contaminated land

- Yes - The BGWMP continue to provide relevant environmental objectives and actions for the Brimbank Green Wedge.

Financial: significant financial impacts

- Yes - The implementation of most ongoing actions mainly forms part of Council's routine duties and should be catered for in operational budget. However, requirement to prepare a revised strategy or undertake work that is yet to commence may require additional resourcing and budget allocation.

Legislation/Council Plan/Policy Context

This report supports the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategic direction and objective of:

2. Places and Spaces - Liveable and connected neighbourhoods that support healthy and sustainable futures - A green place for all

- Liveable and Connected - Inviting and liveable spaces and facilities, connected so people can get around
- Sustainable and Green - Protect natural environments for current and future generations.

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report, have no conflicts of interests to declare.



BRIMBANK CITY COUNCIL

BRIMBANK GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010

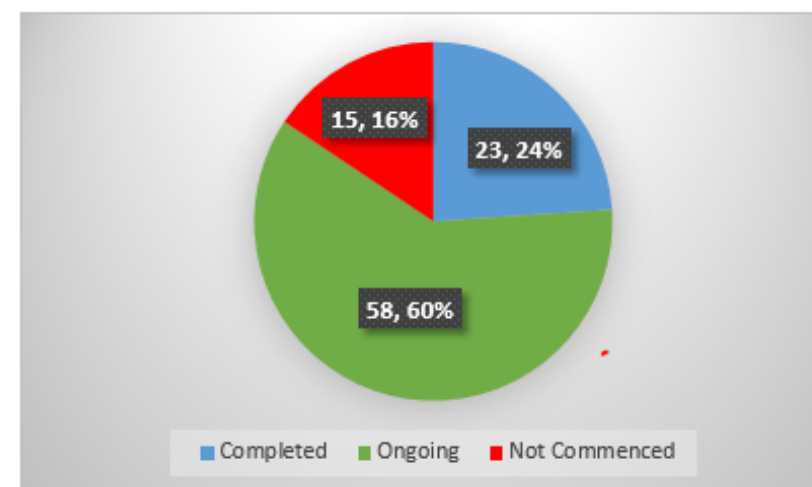
IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT – JUNE 2024

Ongoing (Business as usual)	Not Commenced	Complete
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Summary

A review of the implementation of the 96 actions is summarised below:

Theme/Action Group	Completed	Ongoing	Not Commenced	Total
A. Biodiversity Actions	4	18	0	22
B. Water Actions	2	3	3	8
C. Cultural Heritage Actions	1	7	0	8
D. Landscape Actions	2	5	1	8
E. Recreation Actions	6	3	0	9
F. Agriculture Actions	1	4	5	10
G. Rural Living Actions	3	2	1	6
H. Tourism Actions	0	3	1	4
I. Non-Green Wedge Uses Actions	4	2	1	7
J. Infrastructure Actions	0	3	1	4
K. Community Actions	0	8	2	10
Total	23	58	15	96



1.1 Theme A: Biodiversity Action Plan

	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where we are now?
A1	Advocate for development of a government agency coordination group for the Maribyrnong Valley. Utilise the Group to: - Identify priority issues and actions - Coordinate monitoring of natural assets and biodiversity values - Coordinate advocacy initiatives - Coordinate funding submissions for joint conservation projects	Ongoing		Council is a key partner of the Maribyrnong Valley Connection Project that comprises relevant local councils, Aboriginal organisations and State Government agencies which aims to coordinate high threat weed control in the upper Maribyrnong catchment. Council also seeks to work with the Maribyrnong River and Waterways Association (MRWA) which was founded in 2022 and advocates for the protection and addressing challenges in the Valley. It also supports the implementation of the Waterways of the West Community Vision and Action Plan.
A2	Liaise regularly with Hume City Council to coordinate conservation activities, cross promote field days and community events and administer joint projects	Ongoing		Council regularly liaises with Hume City Council through the Maribyrnong Valley Connection Project. This project promotes relevant community events within project area across both councils. Eg Friends of Organ Pipes and Friends of Holden Reserve Working Bees.
A3	Hold and participate in networking opportunities that facilitate the coordination of conservation activities	Ongoing		Council facilitates, engages with or is otherwise involved in the Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley, Friends of Organ Pipes National Park, and Friends of Sydenham Park. Conservation activities have been conducted targetting grassland management across land tenure on the border of Organ Pipes National Park and Sydenham Park
A4	Prepare and implement a Biodiversity Strategy that sets out priorities for conservation activities and a process for monitoring the biodiversity values of Council reserves.	2009/10		Following this strategic action, the Brimbank Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2022 was adopted in 2012 and reviewed in 2018.
A5	Participate in regional conservation works and activities	Ongoing		Council hosts the facilitator of the Maribyrnong Valley Connection Project (MVCP). On-ground weed control on Council land aligns with strategic goals of the MVCP to coordinate weed control at a regional level. In addition Council regularly participates in regional conservation works, including conservation activities with 'Friends of' groups
A6	Assess the feasibility of developing a recreation and habitat corridor through the Brimbank Green Wedge that connects Brimbank Park to Organ Pipes National Park. Include an assessment of opportunities to transfer environmentally significant riparian and escarpment land into public ownership.	2010/11		The Maribyrnong River Shared Trail Feasibility Study was undertaken in 2013. The purpose of the study was to determine if a shared path connecting Brimbank Park and Apex Park, Sunbury (via Organ Pipes National Park) was physically feasible. The Brimbank Cycling and Walking Strategy Update 2016 proposes key walking and cycling networks to connect these areas.

Attachment 12.6.1

	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where we are now?
A7	Develop a program of coordinated action on public and private land aimed at improving the biodiversity values of escarpments	2010/11		Council engages in ongoing discussions with owners of public and private land aimed at improving the biodiversity values of inclusive escarpments, particularly in relation to high threat weed and pest control.
A8	Complete Amendment C53 which proposes to include sites of biological significance in an Environmental Significance Overlay	2010/11		Amendment C53 which sought to apply Environmental Significance Overlay to places of biological significance was approved and gazetted in November 2012.
A9	Include a local policy in the revised MSS requiring approval of a Land Management Plan by Council as a condition of approval for new development in the green wedge	Ongoing		The Brimbank Planning Scheme includes provisions for protecting environmental, landscape and valuable ecosystem systems including biodiversity assets, in the green wedges. Development approval in the green wedge zones requires the preparation of an integrated land management plan. Applications for development in the Green Wedge require an assessment against local policy at Clause 21.05-2 (Green Wedge Area) in the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS). The new Planning Policy Framework format was introduced into planning schemes across Victoria via Amendment VC148 in 2018. This replaced the MSS with a new Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS), and a <i>Practitioner's Guide to Victorian Planning Schemes</i> April 2022, which does not allow for application requirements in the MPS.
A10	Continue to undertake weed and pest animal control on Council land.	Ongoing		Annual rabbit control, fox control, monitoring for pest animals and monitoring for high threat weeds is regularly undertaken. Annual program of weed control is also conducted across four Council Conservation Assets, covering an area of 214 ha.
A11	Review Council's local laws to ensure they do not conflict with the protection of biodiversity, especially in relation to fire abatement and burn off controls	2010/11		An internal procedure has been developed to ensure land and fire abatement notices maintain biodiversity values on private land.
A12	Investigate opportunities to secure legal access to publicly owned land locked sites	2010/11		Council officers are engaged in informal, ongoing discussions with relevant landowners in order to gain access to public land, when required.
A13	Develop a pilot / research project in partnership with Victoria University to determine effective revegetation techniques, especially for direct seeding	2010/11		There is no ongoing research partnership with Victoria University for this action. However, Council undertake some internal activities that support this action. A direct seeding trial paddock was established circa 2012. Sydenham Park Restoration Management Plan was a Year 1 Action of the Sydenham Park Masterplan (completed in 2021) and nominates further trial pilot projects and partnerships. Monitoring of direct seeding sites and revegetation trials are regularly implemented.

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	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where we are now?
A14	Facilitate establishment of community Rabbit Action Groups	2009/10		While rabbit control groups do not exist, Council runs the Sustainable Land Management Grant (refer Action A17) which provides funding to eligible properties. Applicants are encouraged to undertake rabbit and serrated tussock control. Council participates in the Victorian Rabbit Action Network, and provides information to residents as relevant.
A15	Actively pursue corporate volunteers to participate in conservation activities	Ongoing		Corporate volunteers are engaged where possible. However, there was limited capacity for volunteering over 2020 to 2023 due to COVID restrictions. Nonetheless, an average of two 2-hour corporate volunteer groups sessions are held per year, with 20 people attending per session. 2023/24 saw significant limitations on volunteering opportunities due to the Cultural Heritage Management Plan and capital works project restrictions at Sydenham Park. A separate cultural heritage permit is being sought for conservation works which should allow increased activities in 2024/25.
A16	Hold environmental land management seminars and field days for local land owners and residents	2010/11		A number of events are held annually at Sydenham Park, as scheduled in the Environmental Events Calendar. These included walks and talks providing history and land management information of the sites in 2023/24.
A17	Continue to administer the Sustainable Land Management Incentive Scheme which provides financial assistance for environmental works on private land. Coordinate the scheme with Melbourne Water's River Health Incentives Programs and target specific, high priority environmental problems as they arise.	Ongoing		The Sustainable Land Management Grant provides eligible land holders up to \$1,500 (with funding matched on a 1:1 basis) in financial assistance to conduct environmental improvement works that will promote sustainable land management practices on private land. The fund administers approximately \$20K per year.
A18	Support private land owners to prepare 5 year Land Management Plans.	Ongoing		Land Management Plans (LMPs) are required as part of planning permit applications, where relevant, particularly where river frontage interface issue are identified as part of preliminary planning assessments. The Environment Team contributes by offering strategic technical advice where possible.
A19	Engage students at Overnewton College and Lowther Hall in conservation activities	Ongoing		There is access to the River Detectives Program through Melbourne Water, and Overnewton College students have been invited to participate in planting days along the Maribyrnong River. Overnewton participates in our Wildflower in Schools program, and conservation officers are currently supporting the school to develop a revegetation program and apply for grants. Lowther Hall land was sold to Overnewton College in 2016.
A20	Develop regular community newsletters that update land owners on current environmental, land management and biodiversity projects, activities and grant opportunities.	2010/11		Council's Environment team distributes a municipal-wide bi-monthly community newsletter to people on a mailing list and available on council website. Updates have included environmental, land management and biodiversity projects.

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	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where we are now?
A21	Advocate for improved environmental management of Somerset Quarry	Ongoing		Council officers have engaged with Hume City Council over compliance and other related matters. Officers have attended after-hours meetings with residents at Hume City Council library.
A22	Support land owners access to financial support for environmental works, including native vegetation offsets	Ongoing		Support was offered prior to 2013. Post 2013, a change in legislation made access to native vegetation offsets more difficult. Notwithstanding this, Council officers continue to alert the community to available schemes, including access to works and funding for river frontages, where possible. Melbourne Water have been conducting significant capital works projects along Jacksons Creek and Maribyrnong River, conducting streamside restoration, alongside the capital works projects, they actively advertise their Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways incentive program to landholders.

1.2 Theme B: Water Action Plan

	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where are we now?
B1	Investigate the feasibility of implementing a water harvesting and re-use scheme to supply water to the Keilor Market Gardens	2011/12		While a number of conversations with key stakeholders, including with Melbourne Water, have taken place over the years, no formal feasibility study has been undertaken. Notwithstanding, Council officers engage in dialogue as opportunities arise.
B2	Advocate for development of a diversion compliance program for diverters in the Brimbank Green Wedge	Ongoing		Melbourne Water is responsible for compliance and enforcement of rules and legislative requirements for the take and use of water and in June 2021 updated their Waterways & Catchment Operations Compliance & Enforcement Statement for Surface Water Diversions.
B3	Advocate for a review of water discharges from the Sunbury Treatment Plant and farm activities to determine their impact on the health of the catchment	Ongoing		There are a range of impacts on the Maribyrnong River, along with a reduction in farming activities in the Green Wedge. Officers are programming future work to better understand what farming activity is occurring in the green wedge to inform a better understanding about water requirements.
B4	Continue to monitor water quality through Waterwatch	Ongoing		Waterwatch exists as a citizen science program for monitoring waterway health. However, the Environment team no longer participate because Melbourne Water have changed their model and only request Waterwatch at certain sites. Friends of Organ Pipes conduct water monitoring and invertebrate monitoring within Organ Pipes National Park, and Melbourne Water monitor water quality in the green wedge area.

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B5	Include a local policy in the revised MSS aimed at ensuring a water assessment and water plan is completed for new water intensive uses. The Plan should show how the water consumption and discharge needs of the new use will be met without compromising the health of the catchment	2010/11		Local policy in the MSS seeks to protect and enhance the environmental health of Brimbank's waterways, and the decision guidelines of the Green Wedge Zone require the Responsible Authority to consider, as appropriate, the need to prepare a sustainable land management plan. Schedule 5 to the Environmental Significance Overlay requires water assessment and water plans to be prepared for uses in the Maribyrnong Valley and its environs, identifying consumption and discharge needs while protecting the health of the waterway.
B6	Ensure new development incorporates storm water harvesting and treatment measures to minimise negative environmental impacts on the health of the Maribyrnong River	Ongoing		The impact of development on river health is assessed as part of planning permit applications, where state and local planning policy requires appropriate measures to assist the protection of waterways, including the Maribyrnong River.
B7	Develop a Water Strategy that sets out priorities and criteria for the allocation of Council's water resources	2009/10		<i>The Brimbank Sustainable Water Management Strategy 2013 – 2023</i> was adopted in 2013 and revised in 2018. A new Integrated Water Management Strategy is currently being prepared and it is anticipated this will be presented to Council for consideration in 2025
B8	Advocate for the regular review of the effectiveness of existing fish ladders	2010/11		Multiple fish ladders exist in Brimbank. Both Brimbank Park and McNabbs Weir fishways have been upgraded since 2016. Council officers will continue to advocate as opportunity arises as part of river health strategies.

1.3 Theme C: Cultural Heritage Action Plan

	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where are we now?
C1	Undertake structural repairs to Robertson's Homestead to facilitate its future re-use and investigate workforce training programs as a part of future renovations	2010/11		Structural repairs have been undertaken to maintain the integrity of the building. Its renovation for reuse is currently ongoing as part of the Robertson's Homestead Restoration Project, in accordance with the Sydenham Park Master Plan. Opportunities for any reuse, including for workforce training programs, will be subject to feasibility investigations.
C2	Continue to offer financial assistance for repair and restoration works to private heritage properties as part of the Brimbank Heritage Assistance Fund	Ongoing		Council provided financial assistance through a Heritage Restoration Program that operated until 2015. The program provided financial grants of up to \$2,000 for small scale heritage restoration projects for properties. Council continues to provide a free heritage advisor service when property owners are seeking planning approval for a heritage place.

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C3	Incorporate interpretive displays and heritage trails as part of any public access through the area	As required		As part of implementation of the Sydenham Park Master Plan, Council is progressing with development of design of an interpretive signage package for existing and future trails in Sydenham Park. Council engaged with a range of stakeholders including Wurundjeri representatives about Sydenham Park. The delivery of these packages will be subject to funding approval.
C4	In consultation with the local indigenous community, investigate the feasibility of developing an Aboriginal Keeping Place at Sydenham Park or Organ Pipes National Park	Ongoing		Council continues to liaise with the Wurundjeri community about a range of cultural heritage matters at Sydenham Park and has expanded the membership of the Sydenham Park Consultative Committee to include three family members representing Wurundjeri.
C5	Administer or support an oral histories project for the Keilor Market Gardens	2010/11		Growing Stories – Keilor’s Market Gardening Tradition was developed in 2013, with funding from the Federal Government. The project included the production of a DVD and booklet, and captured stories from market gardening families in the area.
C6	Establish a heritage promotion program that includes, amongst other things: - support and capacity building for historical societies - promotion of the municipality’s history, including the history of the Green Wedge, through programs, publications and events	2011/12		Council continues to provide support to local historical societies through Library services. Historical Societies are also represented on the Brimbank Heritage Advisory Committee. Council has also developed an Experience Brimbank webpage which promotes Brimbank destinations, including the Organ Pipes National Park. Council also has an events page on its webpage for promoting community events. As part of implementation of the Heritage strategy, the Libraries Team is exploring opportunities for promoting arts and history through online digital platforms such as ‘Recollect’.
C7	Continue to inform the community about the area’s history as a part of environmental education and conservation activities	Ongoing		Historical information is included as part of Council communications and on Council’s website and newsletters. Recently, following extensive consultation, an indigenous name has been proposed for Sydenham Park to reflect, inform and educate the community about the park’s Aboriginal cultural history. The new name Yaluk Barring Park has been approved of the Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) and was gazetted on 30 May 2024.
C8	Hold or facilitate Aboriginal Cultural Heritage seminars with the relevant indigenous representatives for community members, government and non-government organisations	2010/11		Activities have included the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for Sydenham Park Master Plan, and the adoption of Terms of Reference to establish a Sydenham Park Consultative Group, which includes a range of local government, community and other stakeholders. Council officers also undertake training on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS) with the most recent training occurring on 24 May 2024.

Attachment 12.6.1

1.4 Theme D: Landscape Action Plan

	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where are we now?
D1	Apply a Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) or Design and Development Overlay (DDO) to protect views to and within the Maribyrnong Valley (especially highly visible landscapes) from inappropriate development	2010/11		While neither an SLO nor DDO have been applied to land in the Green Wedge, new local policy is proposed at clause 11.01-1L (Sunbury Green Wedge) as follows: - Protect views and sightlines to highly visible landscapes within the Maribyrnong River Valley from visually dominant buildings and works, including signage. - Protect views and sightlines along the Maribyrnong River escarpment, and to and from the city skyline. This policy forms part of Amendment C225brim (Planning Policy Framework Translation), which is currently with the Minister for approval.
D2	Apply a Design and Development Overlay to the Calder Freeway corridor to protect significant views of the Maribyrnong Valley, City skyline and airport and protect the corridor from unsympathetic advertising signs	2010/11		Refer Action D1 response.
D3	Explore opportunities to incorporate viewing platforms into the design and development of Sydenham Park	When required		Viewing platforms have been incorporated into the Sydenham Park Master Plan, which has been adopted by Council in 2022.
D4	Assess the feasibility of developing a recreation corridor through the Brimbank Green Wedge that connects Brimbank Park to Organ Pipes National Park (see Action A6)	2009/10 (funds permitting)		As per Action A6, Council in collaboration with Parks Victoria and Hume City Council commissioned the Maribyrnong River Shared Trail Feasibility Study in 2013. The study explored the feasibility of extending trail from Brimbank Park via Organ Pipes National Park to Apex Park in Sunbury. The Brimbank Cycling and Walking Update 2016 also proposes key networks to connect these areas.
D5	Undertake a program of tree planting and landscaping along the Calder Freeway to improve the appearance of the corridor	2011/12		As the Calder Freeway is a declared road, it is not within Council's power to undertake these types of works. Notwithstanding, Council advocates to the State Government about the importance of tree planting on major roads throughout Brimbank. During the period under review, the Parks and Public Realm Department has been engaging with VicRoads about the landscaping opportunities along the corridor under the 'More Trees for a Cooler Greener West' initiative.
D6	Work with the City of Hume to improve the appearance of Somerset Quarry	Ongoing		As per Action A21, Council officers have engaged with Hume City Council over compliance and other related matters.
D7	Work with the owners of Calder Park Raceway to improve the external appearance of the facility through planning provisions and landscaping	2010/11		Council officers have engaged with the owners of Calder Park Raceway over the years, including discussions relating to improving the appearance of the site and ongoing maintenance. Landscaping and appearance would be considered as part of any future development request.

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D8	Support development of public art along the Calder Freeway and the Sydenham Train Line that enhances the entrance to Melbourne without compromising the area's landscape values.	2011/12		Council's Public Arts Unit have recently worked with state level agencies such as the Level Cross Removal Authority and the Department of Transport and Planning to integrate public arts into level crossing removing along the Sydenham Train Line.
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1.5 Theme E: Recreation Action Plan

	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where we are now?
E1	Review the <i>Sydenham Park Strategy Plan 2004</i> , especially in terms of community need for active and passive recreation spaces and the environmental and financial sustainability of the proposed facilities	2011/12		Sydenham Park Master Plan was adopted by Council in March 2022.
E2	Advocate for provision of walking and cycling connections across the Calder Freeway into the green wedge as part of the proposed Kings Road, Calder Park Drive and Sunshine Avenue interchanges	As required		The State Government's Strategic Cycling Corridor network extends to the north of the Calder Freeway and is intended to connect the northern suburbs of Brimbank to Organ Pipes National Park. Council's Cycling and Walking Strategy Update 2016 also identifies opportunities to improving pedestrian and cycling connections to the area. In terms of results, a shared path was integrated into the construction of the Kings Road Interchange in 2013 that provided pedestrian and cycling connection option to the Green Wedge. Officers continue to advocate for connections, including through the preliminary designs for Calder Park Drive level crossing removal and Calder Park Drive interchange, which have included shared user paths to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists when completed in 2025.
E3	Rezone Sydenham Park from Green Wedge and Rural Conservation to Public Park and Recreation or Public Conservation and Resource to reflect the site's public land ownership and future public use). Inclusion of planning provisions such as an Incorporated Plan that prevents further subdivision of the site	2010/11		Sydenham Park is zoned Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) and Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ). As Sydenham Park is located outside of the Urban Growth Boundary, further subdivision is discouraged and any amendment seeking to do so, must be ratified by Parliament.
E4	Rezone Caroline Chisholm Reserve on Flora Street from Rural Conservation to Public Park and Recreation to reflect the sites public land ownership and current use as a recreation reserve Inclusion of planning provisions such as an Incorporated Plan that prevents further subdivision of the site.	2010/11		Caroline Chisholm Reserve is zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ). As the Caroline Chisholm Reserve is located outside of the Urban Growth Boundary, further subdivision is discouraged and any amendment seeking to do so, must be ratified by Parliament.
E5	Rezone the Keilor Golf Course and associated driving range from Rural Conservation to Public Park and Recreation to reflect the current use of the land). Inclusion of planning provisions such as an Incorporated Plan that prevents further subdivision of the site.	2010/11		Keilor Golf Course is zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ). As the Keilor Golf Course is located outside of the Urban Growth Boundary, further subdivision is discouraged and any amendment seeking to do so, must be ratified by Parliament.
E6	Investigate options to expand recreation activities along the Maribyrnong River as part of the Sydenham Park Strategy Plan 2004 review (as per Action E1)	2010/11		Sydenham Park Master Plan was adopted by Council in March 2022. This includes a new path network to support accessibility and recreation opportunities.

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E7	Advocate for increased bus services and bus stops that provide access to the area's passive and active recreation facilities.	Ongoing		<i>Council's Transport Priorities Paper 2022</i> calls for an increase in State funding to the metropolitan bus network to improve service coverage and reliability for all. Recent submissions to the Department of Transport's Bus Reform Team by Council include advocacy for new bus routes to Brimbank including the Green Wedge.
E8	Continue to support walking groups and other recreation clubs	Ongoing		Council continues to support recreation clubs, including the Keilor and Districts Model Aircraft Society (based at Sydenham Park) and the Keilor Golf Club (based at the Keilor Golf Course).
E9	Continue to pursue water re-use schemes to irrigate the Keilor Golf Course	2009 - 2011		A stormwater harvesting scheme was implemented in 2013.

1.6 Theme F: Agriculture Action Plan

	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where are we now?
F1	Rezone the Keilor Market Gardens to Green Wedge to reflect the existing land use (see Appendix 2)	2010/11		Rezoning implemented through Amendment C147 in 2013.
F2	Work with current producers to develop and implement a marketing strategy for the region aimed at attracting growers as well as visitors	2011/12		Given the lack of access to a sustainable and affordable water supply and the marginal status of horticulture in the Green Wedge, a marketing strategy to attract growers is no longer considered appropriate.
F3	Advocate for extension of drought assistance initiatives to farmers in Brimbank	Ongoing		The drought ended in 2010 and on this basis this action is no longer relevant.
F4	Assist Keilor Market Gardens farmers access local food distribution networks across metropolitan Melbourne such as farmers markets	2010/11		Council supports farmers to access to food distribution networks as opportunities arise. In February 2013, Council supported the Keilor Village Traders to host a <i>Keilor Village Traders Fair</i> that connected farmers and local businesses to the community, offering opportunity to the latter to taste local produce. Council officers are examining if there are opportunities to connect operating farmers to food distribution networks through Council's membership Melbourne's North Food Group.
F5	Investigate the feasibility of engaging local farmers in the Western Region to contract grow produce for local markets such as green grocers, restaurants, cafes and community cooperatives	2011/12		This action is not considered appropriate as it requires work to be undertaken at regional level, which is beyond Council resourcing. Given the lack of access to a sustainable and affordable water supply and the marginal status of horticulture in the Green Wedge there is limited farming occurring and Council officers will seek to understand what type of farming continues to operate to better understand the type of support that is required.

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F6	Advocate for State and Commonwealth funding and policy initiatives that support local and peri-urban food production	Ongoing		Council continues to advocate for productive uses for land in the Green Wedge, including through its submissions to the State Government about Planning for Green Wedges and Agricultural Land in 2021 and the Legislative Assembly Inquiry into Securing Victoria Food Supply in 2024. An action is also included in the Economic Development Strategy 2022 – 2027, to 'encourage State Government Agencies and other research institutions (e.g. CSIRO) to investigate the feasibility of productive use of Green Wedge Zoned (GWZ) land'.
F7	Provide information packs to farmers about funding sources and business support services as part of regular newsletter bulletins	2010/11		Council delivers an annual program of business information, training, networking and other support, which is promoted through the Brimbank Business ebulletin.
F8	Advocate for advisory services and financial support to assist farmers on marginal land exit the land	2010/11		Council continues to advocate for assistance and recognition of the marginal status of land in the Brimbank Green Wedge. This has occurred through its recent submission to the State Government about Planning for Green Wedges and Agricultural Land in 2021, the Submission to the Melbourne Airport Environs Safeguarding Standing Advisory Committee, also in 2021, and a Legislative Assembly Inquiry into Securing the Victorian Food Supply in 2024.
F9	Undertake a feasibility study that assesses the viability of establishing a small scale local food growing social enterprise in the Keilor Market Gardens	2011/12		This action requires budget to appoint an expert consultant to undertake this work and may no longer be appropriate given the lack of access to a sustainable and affordable water supply and the marginal status of horticulture in the Green Wedge. Council continues to advocate to the State Government about the need for funding opportunities and support for Brimbank Green Wedge landowners to identify and encourage ongoing agricultural uses that are sustainable, innovative, productive and viable.
F10	Work with education institutions to research viable farming and alternative land use opportunities for the area	2011/12		Council officers will write to appropriate education institutes to encourage research into viable farming and continue to advocate to the State Government about the need for funding opportunities and support for Green Wedge landowners to identify and encourage ongoing agricultural uses that are sustainable, innovative, productive and viable.

1.7 Theme G: Rural Living Action Plan

	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where are we now?
G1	Develop design guidelines for development, within the green wedge, including housing that sets out requirements for the siting, layout, scale and design of new buildings. Incorporate the design guidelines into a DDO where relevant (as per Action D1)	2011/12		Refer to D1 response. A DDO was not introduced however planning policy directs development in the green wedge to minimise its visual impact particularly where visible from escarpments, ridgelines and roads.

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G2	Include local policies in the revised MSS discouraging further residential subdivision in the green wedge and encouraging the appropriate siting and design of buildings	2010/11		Clause 21.05 of the Scheme discourages further residential subdivision in green wedge areas and proposed Amendment C225brim includes local policy discouraging the expansion of non-rural uses beyond existing site boundaries.
G3	Hold sustainable land management seminars and field days for existing land owners and residents (as per Action A16)	2010/11		A number of events are held annually at Sydenham Park, as scheduled in the Environmental Events Calendar.
G4	Prepare an Urban Design Framework for the Oakbank Road Rural Living precinct that sets out a program of public realm improvements	2012/13		The public realm predominantly consists of unmade roads in this area, which Council maintains through regular grading. Any investment into the construction of the roads would most likely require funding from property owners through a Special Rate. Currently there isn't a proposal for a Special Rate and on this basis Council continues to maintain the unmade roads. A proposal for a special rate in another section of the Green Wedge was not supported by property owners.
G5	Investigate opportunities to expand the Oakbank Road rural living precinct under specified conditions as per dot point 3 of the "Directions" above (see Appendix 1 for the boundaries of the proposed Investigation Area)	2011/12		The Rural Living Investigation Area Land Use Review 2016 examined this and concluded that it was not appropriate.
G6	Ensure new housing close to Calder Park Raceway incorporates appropriate noise attenuation to protect the amenity of future residents	Ongoing		Amendment C225brim proposes a strategy at Clause 13.05-1L for the Brimbank Planning Scheme to ensure new housing adjacent Clader Park includes appropriate noise attenuation measures. Note this is only applicable when a planning permit is triggered for residential development.

1.8 Theme H: Tourism Action Plan

	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where are we now?
H1	Develop a visitor centre in Sydenham Park once the park is open to the public	As need arises		This action was identified as an opportunity in the original Sydenham Park Master Plan 2020. A feasibility study for the Robertson's Homestead was conducted in 2021 which recommended restoration works to maintain its structural integrity and cultural significance. However, it concluded that any adaptive reuse, including for the delivery of a visitor centre at the current location or relocation to anywhere in Sydenham Park would be subject to future feasibility investigations.
H2	Develop a brand and marketing strategy aimed at attracting growers and visitors to the region (as per Action F2)	2011/12		There is no dedicated marketing strategy on growers however, the tourism potential of the region is actively pursued through newsletters and promotion information on Council's Experience Brimbank website. Preparation of new Visitor Economy Strategy will identify how Council should approach the development of its visitor economy.

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H3	Integrate visitor amenities and interpretive information into public open spaces and recreation corridors	As need arises		Council has considered this as part of the Sydenham Park Master Plan, and continues to consider this for other Council owned land as appropriate and where budget allows. In 2022/23, visitor amenities were delivered at the Sydenham Park under Council's capital works program. The design of interpretive signage package for existing and future trails is progressing and delivered subject to funding approval.
H4	Advocate for changes to the Victorian Planning Provisions to enable farm related retailing in green wedge areas	Current and ongoing		Refer to response at F8. In 2021 Council advocated to the State government for economically viable uses for land in the Green Wedge. This was further emphasised in Council's submission to the Legislative Assembly Inquiry into Securing Victoria's Food Supply in 2024.

1.9 Theme I: Non-Green Wedge Uses Action Plan

	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where are we now?
I1	Develop local policies as part of the revised MSS that discourage further expansion of non-conforming uses in the area	2010/11		Clause 11.01-1L – Allow the expansion of existing non-rural uses only within existing site boundaries. Non-conforming land uses within the Green Wedge are identified on maps at Clause 02.04 (Strategic Framework Plans).
I2	Review Special Use Zone 1 and other State and Local planning policies applicable to Calder Park Raceway to ensure these provisions reflect the preferred future use of the site and provide for improved visual and environmental outcomes	2010/11		Council officers considered the need for a formal review of the planning framework applying to the Calder Park Raceway, however given that the SUZ1 suited the existing use of the site (a motor racing track is prohibited in the Green Wedge Zone) a formal review of the planning framework was not progressed.
I3	Ensure any redevelopment of Calder Park Raceway includes appropriate landscaping and noise attenuation to minimise impacts on surrounding residential areas.	As need arises		Council officers have engaged with the owners of Calder Park Raceway over the years, including discussions relating to improving the appearance of the site and ongoing maintenance. Landscaping and noise attenuation would be considered as part of any future development request. No redevelopment is currently proposed.
I4	Advocate for the re-alignment of the Urban Growth Boundary with the Calder Park Drive / Calder Freeway interchange	2010/11		The Rural Living Investigation Area Land Use Review 2016 examined this and concluded that it was not appropriate.
I5	Include local policies in the revised MSS that require new high trip generating uses to prepare traffic impact assessments and transport / travel plans showing how the use will be accessible to all people, minimise traffic and congestion and facilitate non-motorised travel	2010/11		Applications for high trip generating uses are accompanied by relevant traffic impact studies. The recent changes to introduce the new Planning Policy Framework format do not allow for application requirements to be included in the MPS (which replaces the MSS).
I6	Implement a TravelSmart program with Overnewton College aimed at achieving a mode shift from private vehicle use to walking, cycling and public transport	2011/12		The TravelSmart Program seeks to improve access to sustainable modes of transport as an option to car travel. In addition, to Overnewton College running their own bus services to students, PTV operates Bus 476 which services the school and its surrounding area.

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17	Advocate for improved environmental management of Somerset Quarry (see Action A21)	Ongoing		Council officers continue to engage with Hume City Council over compliance related matters and use this platform to advocate for improved environmental management of the Quarry. Officers have attended after-hours meetings with residents at Hume City Council library.
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2.0 – Theme J: Infrastructure Action Plan

	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where we are now?
J1	Upgrade local roads within the green wedge to Council standards	2010 - 2014		This action continues to be implemented as part of Council's capital works program as identified. Thompsons Road and Grogan Road were rehabilitated in 2012-2013. Any future upgrades to local roads in the area are subject to Council's capital works program.
J2	Advocate for provision of walking and cycling connections across the Calder Freeway as a part of the development of the Freeway interchanges at Sunshine Avenue, Kings Road and Calder Park Drive (as per Action E2)	As required		The Strategic Cycling Corridor network extends to the north of the Calder Freeway and is intended to connect the northern suburbs of Brimbank to Organ Pipes National Park. Preliminary designs for Calder Park Drive level crossing removal and Calder Park Drive interchange have included shared user paths to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Kings Road interchange has walking and cycling connections over the Calder Freeway.
J3	Monitor traffic volumes on Arundel Road and develop strategies to ensure levels of through-traffic does not compromise the amenity of the area	2010 – 2014		Traffic surveys are conducted on Arundel Road as part of Council's Strategic Traffic Count Program. Surveys conducted in 2012 and 2016 indicated that traffic volumes had remained steady. However, a recent survey conducted in 2023 showed continuous increase in traffic but the levels do not compromise the amenity of the area. Council has implemented traffic calming along the road (including road humps and traffic light signals at Green Gully Rd). Continuous monitoring is ongoing. Additionally, Council continues to advocate about the increasing traffic on Arundel Road as the Melbourne Airport project and has also raised this as an issue in its submission to the 2022 Melbourne Airport Master Plan.
J4	Assess the feasibility of installing upgraded telecommunications and reticulated services to the green wedge through a special rate or charge	2011 - 2012		Installation of utilities is the responsibility of the various utility providers and Council has limited control regarding where or when they may be upgraded.

Attachment 12.6.1

2.1 Theme K: Community Involvement Action Plan

	Actions	Timeframe	Status	Where are we now?
K1	Establish an external advisory group responsible for overseeing the implementation, monitoring and review of the Green Wedge Management Plan	2010/11		Council is currently resourcing the Sydenham Park Consultative Committee of which its composition includes an independent chair, Wurundjeri community representatives and representatives of community and the Sydenham Historical Society.
K2	Develop a regular community newsletter about services, programs, networking opportunities, sustainable land management, biodiversity and environmental projects and events relevant to the area (as per Action A20)	Ongoing		Council's Environment team distributes a municipal-wide bi-monthly community newsletter to people on a mailing list and available on council website.
K3	Enhance Council website to provide information about agency contacts, areas of responsibility and sustainable land management practices	2010/11		Council's website is regularly updated with information about the natural environment, external resources and sustainable land management practices.
K4	Support land owners and residents access grants for neighbourhood improvements and environmental projects	Ongoing		Council ran the Sustainable Land Management Incentive Scheme, offering financial support to land owners for eligible projects. Council's community grants program offers one-off financial support to community groups (such as the 'Friends of' groups) to deliver projects and activities, including community strengthening and climate emergency. Council also supports community groups to apply for grants.
K5	Support land owners and community groups access funding for conservation activities through local and state government grant programs	Ongoing		Council runs the Sustainable Land Management Incentive Scheme (refer Action A17), offering financial support to land owners for eligible projects. Council's community grants program offers one-off financial support to community groups (such as the Friends of Organ Pipes and Friends of Maribyrnong Valley) to deliver projects and activities, including community strengthening and climate emergency. Council also supports community groups to apply for grants, where possible.
K6	Hold training programs for community groups in self-governance, marketing and skills development	2010 – 2014		Council offers a range of training and skills development programs and resources to the community, including Council Business Development and Networking Program, which is regularly promoted through the business ebulletin. Council regularly runs a community governance program based on identified community needs. The Brimbank Community Leadership Program also incorporated climate emergency leadership for young people.
K7	Involve the community in conservation activities through Council's regular planting days and targeted programs for specific groups such as businesses and schools	Ongoing		Council runs regular planting days each year as part of the Environmental Events Calendar. These are attended by friends groups (e.g. Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley) and the public.
K8	Work with employment agencies and training organisations to utilise the Robertson's Homestead Restoration Project for skills development	As required		Restoration works is being undertaken to preserve the structural integrity of the Robertson's Homestead. Any opportunities for adaptive reuse may be subject to future feasibility investigations and can potentially consider opportunities for skills development at the time.

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K9	Advocate for greater community representation on State Government reference groups relevant to green wedges	Ongoing		Council regularly advocates for the Brimbank Green Wedge, including specifically for the recognition of the unique needs of the community. Recent examples include the Council submission to State government consultation on Planning for Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land (2021) and the Legislative Assembly Inquiry into Securing Victorian Food Supply (2024).
K10	Involve existing community groups in the monitoring of biodiversity values, including fauna and flora	Ongoing		Community groups have been involved, over the years. For example, Council works with the Friends groups (e.g., Friends of the Organ Pipes) for bird surveys and other regular monitoring activities. The sugar glider program at Sydenham Park, involved monitoring nesting boxes and was supported by the community and Victoria University.

Brimbank Part of the Sunbury Green Wedge

