

21.04 VISION -STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

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21.04-1 Overview

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The Shire of Nillumbik is and will remain a metropolitan 'green wedge' maintaining a large natural resource in Melbourne for the benefit of all Melburnians. The forward planning objectives, strategies and policies of Nillumbik Shire Council will continue to focus on the ongoing sustainability of the Shire's 'green wedge' in physical, social and economic terms. These activities will recognise the importance of community initiatives and education as key ways of implementing the vision, in partnership with effective statutory land use and development regulations.

The Shire of Nillumbik exists due to a vision of many individuals and groups interested in preservation of the natural environment and rural character, sustainable use of resources, maintaining a strong sense of community identity and effective long term planning. All future land use and development will enhance the aesthetic qualities of the urban and rural environment, responding in particular to the character defined by land form, landscapes and vegetation cover.

The Shire's social infrastructure will be equitably provided and concentrated in accessible locations recognising the individual needs for each township or community. Economic development that builds on the competitive strengths of the Shire and does not have negative environmental effects, will be encouraged.

The energies of the Nillumbik Shire Council will be directed to enhancing the environmental conditions that enrich the area and promoting development which meets present needs without compromising the future well-being of the Shire. In this way, the Shire of Nillumbik will achieve an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable future.

21.04-2 Nillumbik Shire 'Council Plan'

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The Municipal Strategic Statement builds on the guiding principles of the Nillumbik Shire Council Plan which is prepared every four years.

The Council Plan establishes the future corporate direction for the Shire and provides a framework for improving the environmental, social and economic well being of the community. The Council Plan lists goals and strategies to meet the expectations of the Nillumbik community. The goals are as follows:

- To enable a better future for Nillumbik residents and encourage healthy, safe and resilient communities through the provision of quality services.
- To preserve and nurture the natural environment of the Green Wedge for future and current generations through responsible leadership and stewardship.
- To provide infrastructure and plan for a built environment which respects and preserves the unique character of the Green Wedge.
- To develop a prosperous local economy through partnerships with local business, governments and the community, consistent with our Green Wedge values.
- To provide good governance, leadership and responsible financial management and to make decisions in an inclusive and transparent manner.

21.04-3 Nillumbik 2020 - A Preferred Future

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Nillumbik 2020 (Ellyard, 1997) is a strategic document prepared for Nillumbik Shire Council, which provides a vision for the municipality based on views and desired outcomes

of the community. Consultation was a key component of *Nillumbik 2020*. The document provided a basis for the preparation of the Municipal Strategic Statement.

The key ideas expressed in *Nillumbik 2020 - A Preferred Future* are:-

- Conserving the natural environment, historical buildings and sites, while allowing for the progress and development of the area.
- Maintaining balance between being economically viable and maintaining a predominantly environmentally-friendly place to live.

This became the basis for a number of goals for the municipality's future, including to:-

- Conserve and consolidate the 'green wedge'.
- Retain the semi-rural/township lifestyle.
- Retain productive farmlands.
- Encourage sustainable development.
- Encourage the development of environmentally sensitive/appropriate buildings.
- Retain natural and cultural heritage.
- Nurture and support the development and practice of the arts
- Increase opportunities for employment within the Shire and encourage home-based employment.

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The Framework Plan

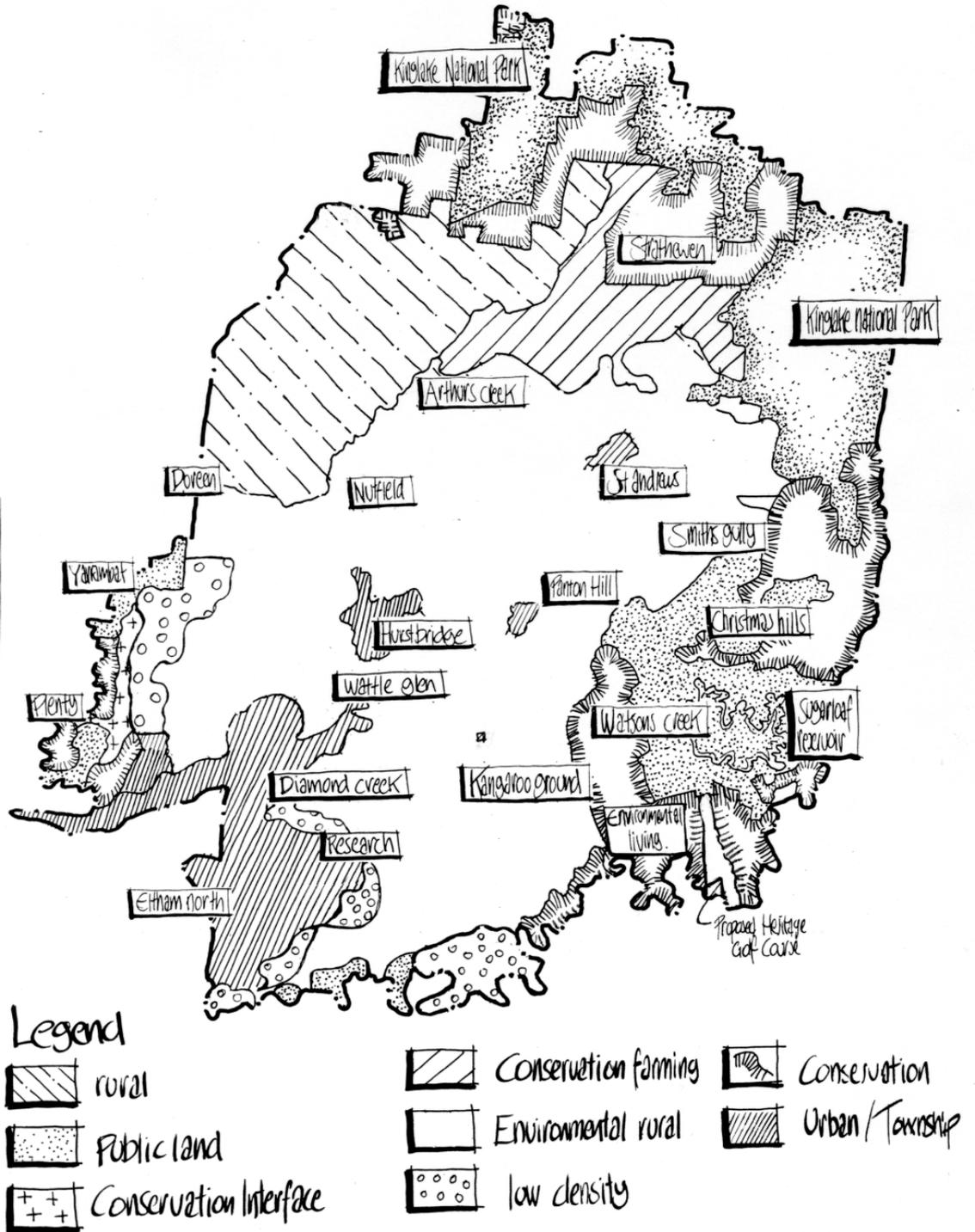
The Framework Plan (Map 8) outlines the major land use categories in the Shire and shows conceptually the strategy for land use and development including settlement, rural land use, environmental management activity centres.

In identifying future land use directions, the Framework Plan builds on the following elements:

- The Diamond Creek "axis" which provides a focus for the Shire, drawing together the major activity centres of Eltham and Diamond Creek as the main commercial and community centres and Hurstbridge as the main neighbourhood activity centre, supported by small local convenience centres, rural townships, and rural stores. This pattern of activity reinforces the historic, environmental and lifestyle attributes of the region and the pedestrian/cycle, rail and road transport routes which follow the Diamond Creek.
- Residential development focussed in the existing township areas.

Map 8 - Framework Plan

Fig 8. Framework Plan.



- Medium density housing focussed in close proximity to commercial, community, public open space and public transport facilities.
- A low-density residential corridor at Plenty and Yarrambat.
- Conservation farming (comprising a mix of bushland management and farming) and compatible rural activities on land along the Diamond Creek axis, extending north east to the Kinglake Ranges and south to Yarra River generally via Watsons Creek and in the Christmas Hills and Smiths Gully areas.
- Broad scale farming across the north-west of the Shire.
- A nature and landscape conservation focus throughout the Shire, enhancing the natural features of the rivers and mountains.
- A network of strategic habitat links north-south along the waterways (from Kinglake National Park to Yarra River) and east-west along roadsides and natural features.
- Protection and enhancement of indigenous vegetation in urban and green wedge areas.
- Bushland conservation through the Kinglake Ranges, Yarra Valley Parklands and Plenty Gorge Park, including substantial areas of public land, and environmental living areas at the Bend of Islands, Dunmoochin and along the Plenty Gorge fringe.
- Commercial development concentrated within major areas and neighbourhood activity centres, local convenience centres and townships serving local and district needs.
- Industrial development limited to existing industrial zones at Eltham, Research and Diamond Creek.
- A road network which joins the centres and allows access to and from non-urban and urban areas.
- The Sugarloaf Reservoir and the catchment area which provides water for metropolitan Melbourne.
- Provision of a broad range of recreational opportunities.