

Draft Green Wedge Management Plan 2019 Submission Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the feedback received in response to the draft Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP).

Background and Context

The target groups for feedback were:

- Nillumbik community members
- Nillumbik community groups and organisations
- State and local government agencies
- Wurundjeri Aboriginal community
- Council's advisory committees

The request for feedback was publicised through:

- Social media and Council's online engagement portal – Participate Nillumbik
- Direct mail out of the Bulletin no. 5 to 5119 Green Wedge residents
- 81 emails sent to a stay informed list , 475 emails sent to GWMP data base and 24 letters sent to 24 government agencies (which included a copy of Bulletin no.5)
- Posters, postcard and bulletins and hard copy submission forms were distributed throughout the Shire
- Information sessions held in July 2019
- Attendance at Council's advisory committee meetings

Feedback collection methods

Participate Nillumbik Survey

Community members were invited and encouraged to provide feedback on the draft GWMP through an online feedback form on Participate Nillumbik.

The survey was publicised and circulated to the target groups. The Nillumbik community were able to access the survey via Council's Participate electronic platform or request a hard copy version of the questionnaire.

The feedback form asked participants to rate their level of agreement with or support for each element of the draft plan:

1. Nillumbik's green wedge vision
2. Five key moves-organisational changes for the long-term delivery of the GWMP
3. 10 Principles to guide and inform goals, objectives and key actions
4. Five goals and related objectives and key actions
5. Other comments about the GWMP

Each question also used open ended text fields, which invited participants to provide additional comments. Responders could also upload other additional documentation to support or supplement their answers.

The full list of questions from the survey can be found in **Appendix 1**

A total of 280 community members completed the feedback form online. A further 11 hard copy versions of the feedback form were also submitted.

The Participate Nillumbik platform allows data to be collected and reported on. The results reported below are only the answers to the survey questions and does not include verbatim feedback.

Note: 72 of the 280 people who completed the Participate Nillumbik feedback form gave the same response to all questions. 63 responded negatively to all questions and 9 answered positively to all questions.

The results of these survey questions are summarised in graphs in **Appendix 2**.

Other submissions

Respondents were also able to submit feedback via email, mail and through delivery of hardcopies.

The process of summarising the feedback

The responses submitted through Participate Nillumbik can be categorised as:

- Quantitative responses to Likert scale responses (**Appendix 2**)
- Comments on each question
- Uploaded files

All qualitative feedback received via Participate Nillumbik, along with all the other submissions received via email, file upload and hard copy, were recorded, collated and analysed in order to identify key themes. To analyse the rich community feedback, a panel of officers read all comments to identify themes within each individual submission. Themes and sub-themes were categorised, coded, counted and documented. Common themes and sub themes were grouped and examined, allowing the council officer panel to identify and document the key themes of the commentary.

The procedure for reviewing the content of all the submissions is shown below:

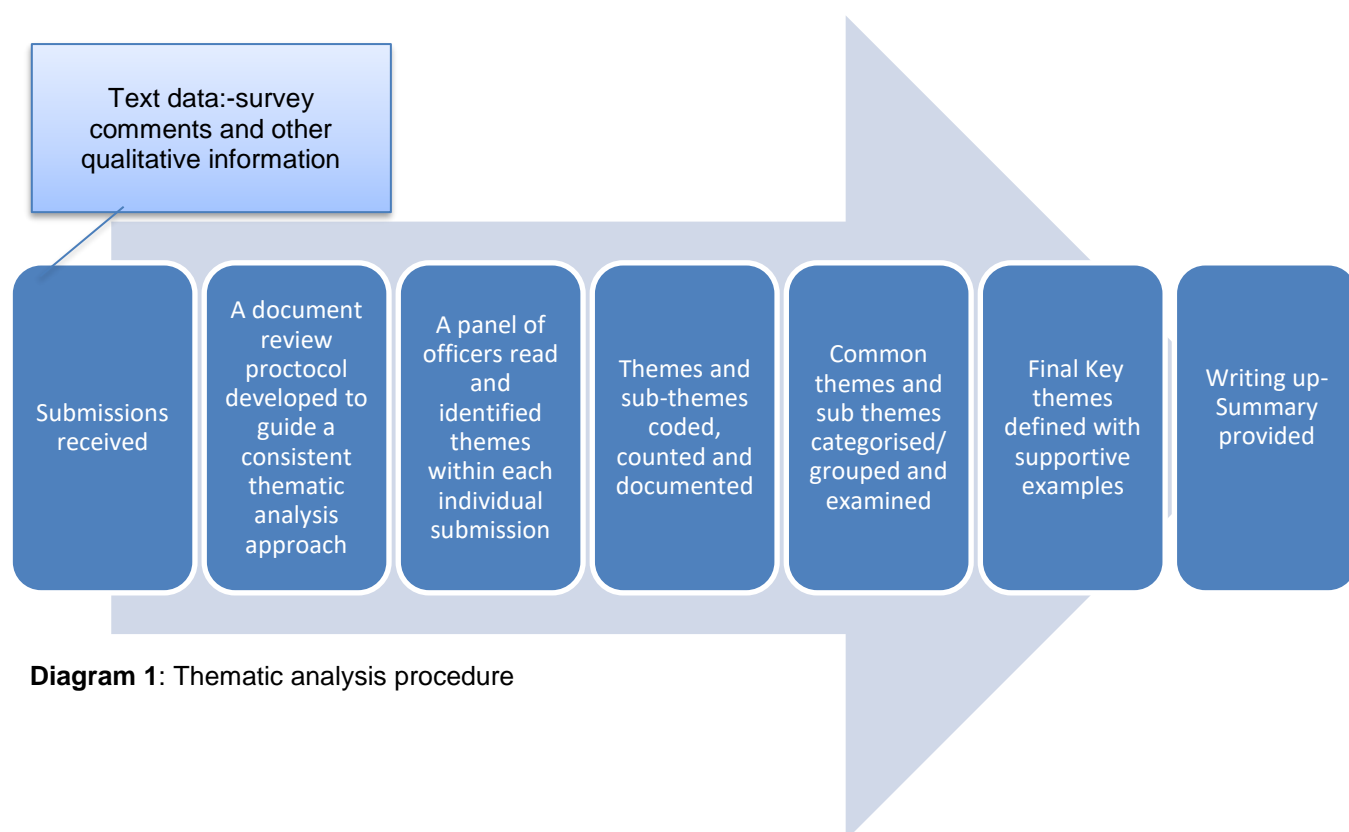


Diagram 1: Thematic analysis procedure

Results

1. A total of 746 submissions were received in the following forms:

Form	Submissions
Participate Nillumbik electronic platform with 30 of these submissions providing an additional attachment/detail to their submission	280
Hard copy versions of the feedback form	11
Emails	232
Hardcopies	213
Mail	10
TOTAL	746

2. Submissions were received from:

Group	Submissions
Local Governments	2
Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee of Council	1
*Department of Environment Land Water and Planning	1
Individuals	717
Other Government Agencies	0
Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	1
Community Groups	15
Groups – other	9
TOTAL	746

*A copy of the email received from the Department is attached as **Appendix 3**

Themes

Most submissions did not support the draft. A smaller number provided qualified support.

Key themes of the commentary within submissions related to:

- 1: Planning and regulation
- 2: Environment and conservation
- 3: Detail and structure of the draft
- 4: Climate change mitigation
- 5: Process for developing the GWMP
- 6: Agriculture
- 7: Economic activity
- 8: Bushfire mitigation
- 9: Traditional owners
- 10: Equine
- 11: Prioritising people

Key theme 1: Planning and regulation

533 people raised concerns, for and against, with aspects of planning and regulation. In particular:

- 147 submitters mentioned the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and an overwhelming majority were in favour of retaining the current alignment. However 14 submitters questioned the challenges of having a ‘hard’ edge and suggested the concept of buffer zones to be introduced on the edge of the UGB. The issue of anomalies (land parcels some believe should be included in the UGB) was also raised
- 178 submitters mentioned zones, 146 submitters wanted the current zones retained with the conservation element of the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) highlighted in many submissions. A significant number of these submitters also

indicated that the RCZ should be retained in favour over the Green Wedge Zone (GWZ).

- 32 submitters want the zoning restriction and permit requirements to be removed or reduced. Many of these submitters supported the idea of changing the RCZ to GWZ
- 161 submitters did not want more residential development in the Green Wedge, including on the periphery of the townships
- A minority want reference to lot size removed from consideration in developing vacant rural lots.
- 24 submitters want more residential development, including the option to subdivide
- 33 submitters want less regulation
- 47 submitters want the right to rebuild their home after bushfire without the need for a planning permit

Key theme 2: Environment and conservation

523 submitters want the draft GWMP to prioritise the protection and enhancement of the environmental aspects of the Green Wedge.

In particular a strong emphasis was put on more detail aimed at safeguarding and protecting biodiversity. Also mentioned was the need for education about conserving the environment and the importance of stewardship, protecting water resources and vegetation.

Key theme 3: Detail and structure of the draft

463 submitters want more detailed actions, particularly in relation to environmental conservation and protection, biodiversity and climate change. Some of these submitters criticised the amount of introductory material and were confused by the purpose and intention of the Five Key Moves. Of this group:

- 49 submitters want strengthened implementation measures
- A number of group submissions provided qualified support for key moves 1, 3 and 4

Key theme 4: Climate Change Mitigation

333 submitters want a strong overall focus on mitigation of climate change in addition to adaptation in the GWMP.

Key theme 5: Process for developing the GWMP

308 submitters commented on the process for developing the GWMP:

- 184 submitters were critical of the process (in particular: no stakeholder steering committee was created, all community panel recommendations should have been accepted, claimed insufficient recognition of community feedback on the environment, and the minority panel report should not have been recognised)
- 18 submitters were supportive of the process of creating the plan
- 106 submitters sought clarification on aspects of the plan

Key theme 6: Agriculture

224 submitters generally want agriculture to be consistent with environmental conservation. In particular:

- 89 submitters indicated their support for sustainable and regenerative agriculture
- 120 submitters wanted the retention of the conservation focus and the permit requirements for farming activity within the RCZ
- 6 submitters indicated that there should be less planning regulation in the RCZ
- Concern with changing the RCZ zone to GWZ zone because it may allow agriculture uses that might have an impact on the environment and local amenity
- Concern that allowing farming to occur on 'cleared land' within the RCZ without the need for planning permits will lead to poor environmental outcomes
- Support for local food production and food security
- Some criticism of prioritising agriculture because it was claimed that the soil is of poor quality

Key theme 7: Economic activity

- 91 submitters wanted less economic focus
- 36 submitters expressed concern about increased tourism
- 35 submitters provided support for sustainable economic growth consistent with green wedge values
- 11 submitters supported tourism

Key theme 8: Bushfire mitigation

124 submitters made reference to bushfire mitigation and recognised that it was important to address in the GWMP and through the newly adopted Bush Fire Mitigation Strategy.

Key theme 9: Traditional owners

114 submitters supported respect for traditional owner knowledge and cultural heritage.

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation wrote in their submission:

“The Elders are happy with the consultation that has occurred with Gail and Julieanne, and have no extra comments to make on the Green Wedge Management Plan. My one note is that the Wurundjeri Corporation name needs to be updated within the document”.

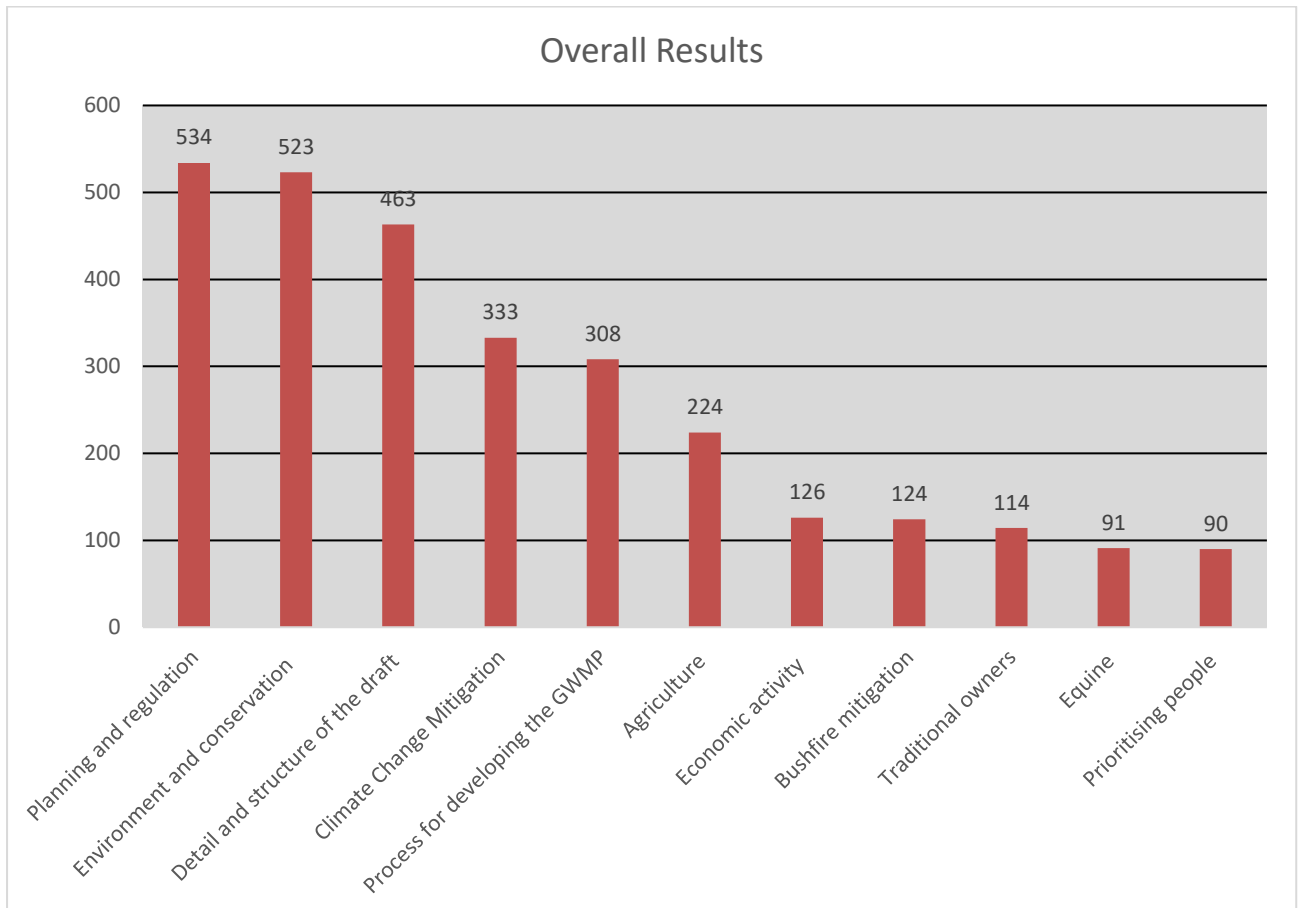
Key theme 10: Equine

- 68 submitters had reservations about the impact of keeping horses or other hard hoofed animals and potential damage to the environment
- 23 submitters expressed support for keeping of horses

Key theme 11: Prioritising people

- 90 submitters want greater recognition of landowners' contributions, responsibilities and rights
- 30 submitters want greater social focus (including health and wellbeing)

Overall themes



Appendices:

Appendix 1: Participate Nillumbik survey questions

Appendix 2: Participate Nillumbik survey results

Draft Green Wedge Management Plan for public consultation

Nillumbik Shire Council is asking the community to help prepare a new Green Wedge Management Plan. Over the last year, the community has shared their ideas and knowledge to help us understand -

What is the best way for us to manage Nillumbik's Green Wedge, now and in the future?

We've now prepared a Draft Green Wedge Management Plan and want the community's feedback.

The Draft Green Wedge Management Plan includes:

- **a vision** for the future of Nillumbik's Green Wedge
- **five key moves** for the Shire that are intended to achieve the community panel's recommendations on multiple fronts
- **principles** that informed the creation of this plan and will guide how it is to be implemented
- **goals** that describe desired overall outcomes for the community
- **specific objectives** that describe what is to be achieved in support of the goals
- **key actions** to effect change in the direction of the objectives.

Submissions

Written submissions can be made until **11.59pm on Sunday 11 August 2019**, and will be considered by Council to September, prior to finalisation and adoption.

Submissions can be made:

- via the electronic form available online at participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gwmp
- lodged in person at one of Council's staffed community facilities:
 - Council offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough
 - Hurstbridge Community Hub, 50 - Graysharps road, Hurstbridge
 - Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham
- or mailed to Attention: The Project Team, PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088

What are the next steps?

- A summary of all community engagement will be presented to Council at a Future Nillumbik Meeting in September 2019.
- Following the Future Nillumbik Meeting, the summary will be made available to the community.
- Council will consider all submissions received and will use the feedback to inform the development of the final Green Wedge Management Plan.
- The final Green Wedge Management Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in October 2019

A Vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge

'Management of the Nillumbik green wedge will lead the way in supporting a vibrant, resilient, connected and diverse community; living in the landscape to enhance the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Shire.' See **page 5** of the draft plan for more details about the **Vision**.

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

Yes No Partially Not sure

Do you have any comments about the Vision?

Five Key Moves

The five Key Moves below outline organisational changes for the long-term to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan. See **page 13** of the draft plan for more details about the **five key moves**.

1. A comprehensive landowner's information and support service.
2. A whole of organisation approach to community resilience.
3. A "Green Wedge Conversations" program.
4. A comprehensive planning and place management service for the townships.
5. Stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural practices.

To what extent do you agree with the Five Key Moves to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Key Move 1					
Key Move 2					
Key Move 3					
Key Move 4					
Key Move 5					

Do you have any comments about the Five Key Moves?

Principles

The principles informed the creation of the Green Wedge Management Plan and will guide its implementation. See **page 19** of the draft plan more for details about each of the Principles.

To what extent do you agree with the Principles that are designed to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

Principles	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Leadership					
Aboriginal voice					
A whole of shire approach and recognition of Nillumbik's relationship to Metropolitan Melbourne					
Manage change for future benefit					
Collaboration and connectedness					
Celebrate, appreciate and enjoy local identity and the landscape					
Social equity					
Safety, wellbeing and resilience					
Conserve and enhance our heritage					
Sustainability and the precautionary principle					

Do you have any comments about the Principles?

Goals, Objectives and Key Actions

The Plan includes five goals which describe the desired overall outcomes for the community.

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities

See **page 24** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 1**.

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 1?

Strongly support Support Neutral Do not support Strongly do not support

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 1?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Goal 2: Active and creative people

See **page 27** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 2**.

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 2?

Strongly support Support Neutral Do not support Strongly do not support

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 2?

Please note the number of the Objective / Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Goal 3: Safe and healthy environments

See **pages 32-33** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 3**

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 3?

Strongly support Support Neutral Do not support Strongly do not support

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 3?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Goal 4: A prosperous economy

See **pages 38-39** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for

Goal 4.

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 4?

Strongly support Support Neutral Do not support Strongly do not support

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 4?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Goal 5: Responsible leadership

See **page 41** of the draft plan for more details about the objectives and key actions for **Goal 5**.

To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 5?

Strongly support Support Neutral Do not support Strongly do not support

Do you have any comments about the objectives or key actions for Goal 5?

Please note the number of the Objective or Key Action that each of your comments relates to.

Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan?

Please attached any further pages you would like to include in your feedback.

Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting

As an indication for meeting arrangements at this stage are you intending to speak to your submission at the Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting on **Tuesday 10 September 2019**?

Yes No

To register to speak, you will need to complete the online form at nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call **9433 3271**.

Contact details

Please provide the following contact details. This will allow us to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or if we need to clarify any details of your feedback.

Name:

Postal Address:

Email:

Phone:

Privacy Statement

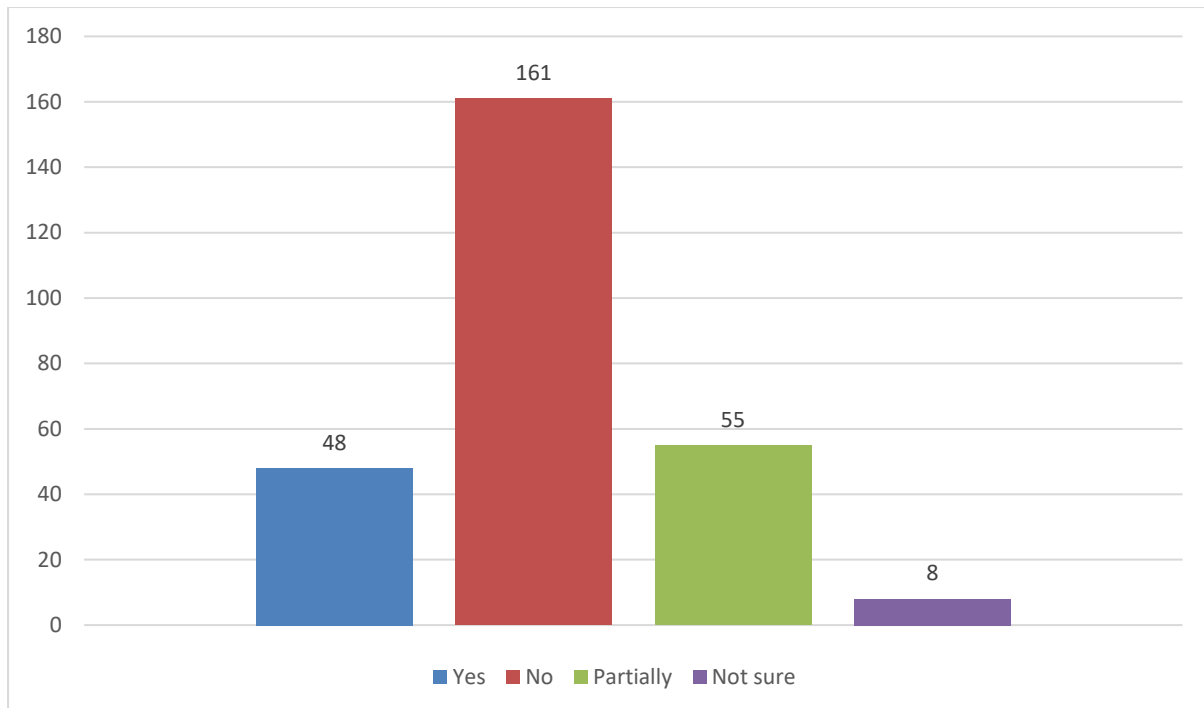
Nillumbik Shire Council is collecting your information for the purpose of clarifying details of feedback received on the Draft Green Wedge Management Plan.

The information provided will not be shared with third parties unless we are required to or permitted to by law. This information is being collected in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. If all the requested information is not provided, Nillumbik Shire Council will be unable to contact you to acknowledge that we have received your submission or to clarify details of your feedback. You may access your information by contact Council's Privacy Officer 03 9433 3111 or by email privacy@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Participate Nillumbik survey results

A Vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge

Do you agree with the vision for Nillumbik's Green Wedge?

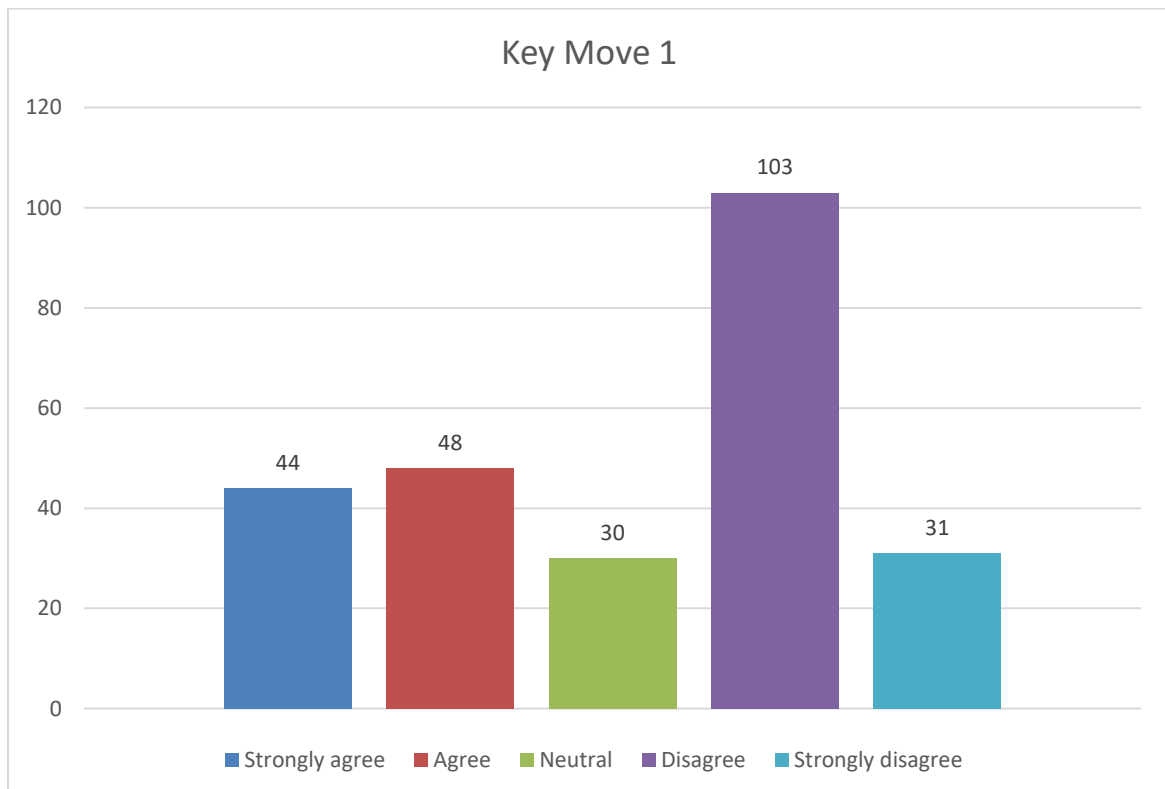


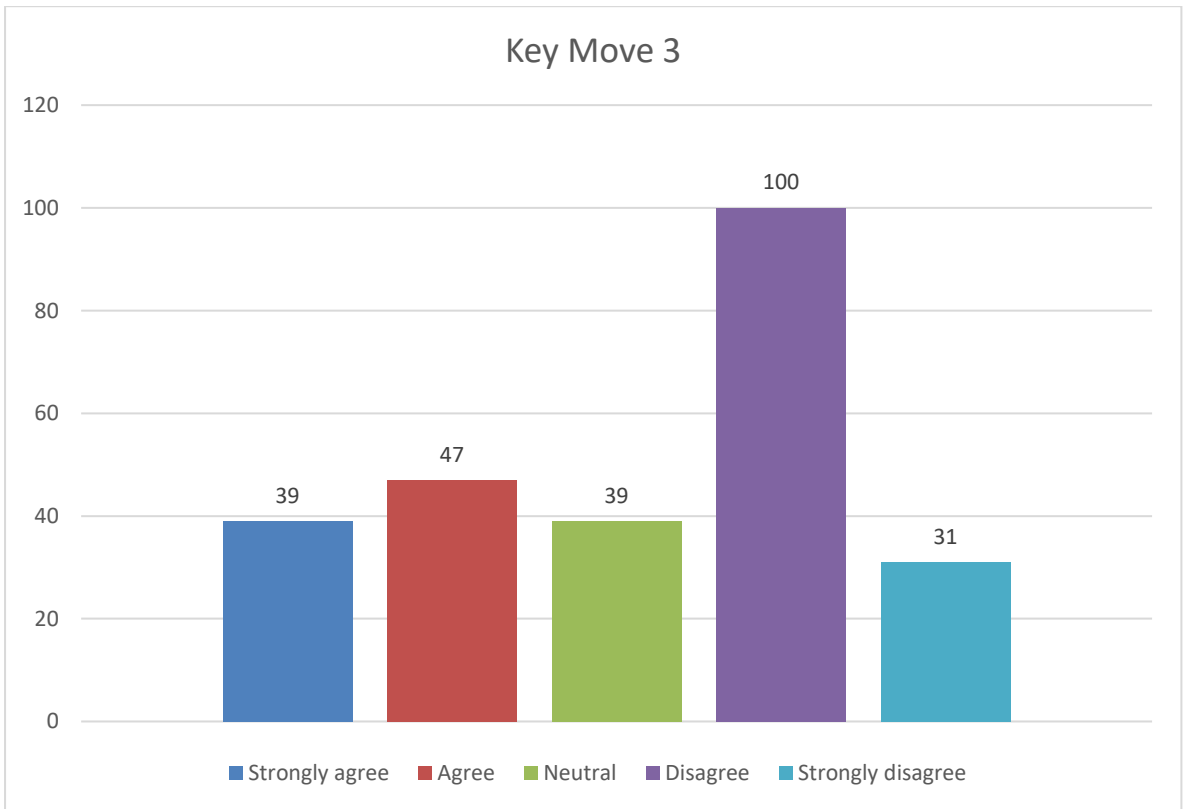
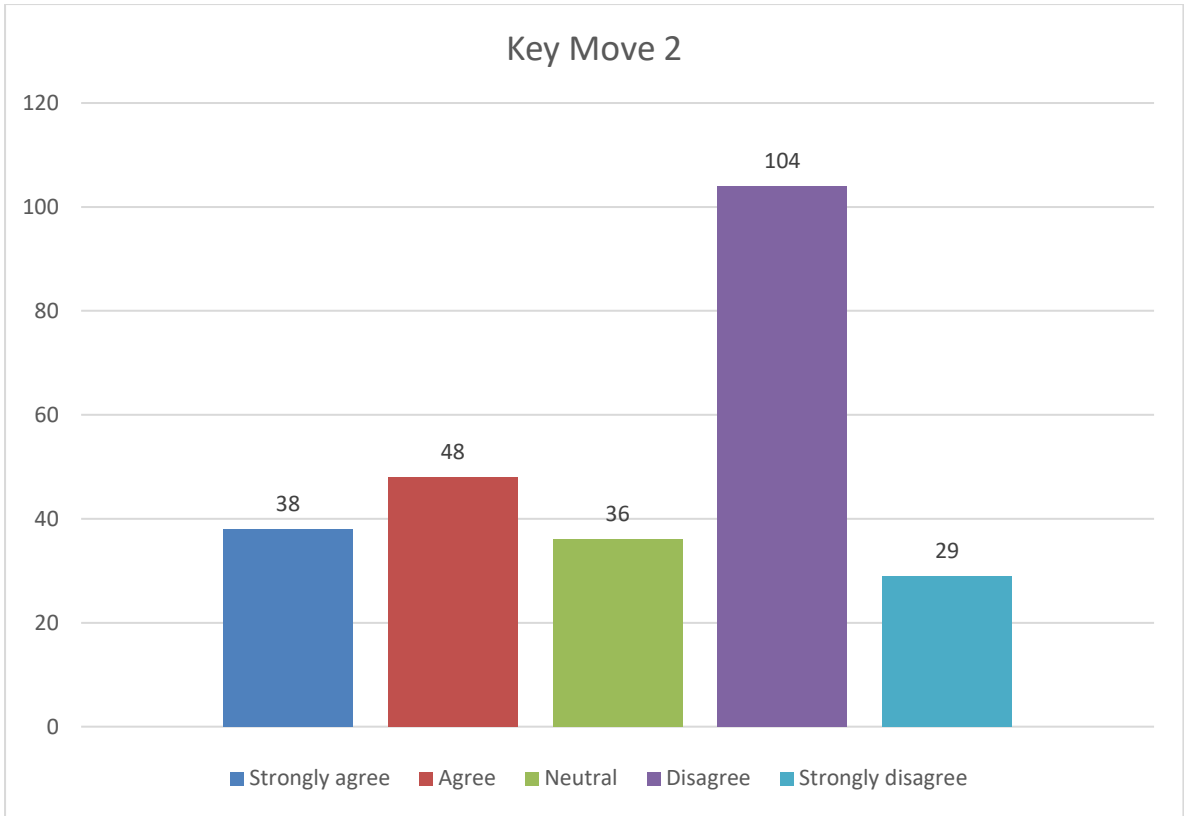
Five key moves

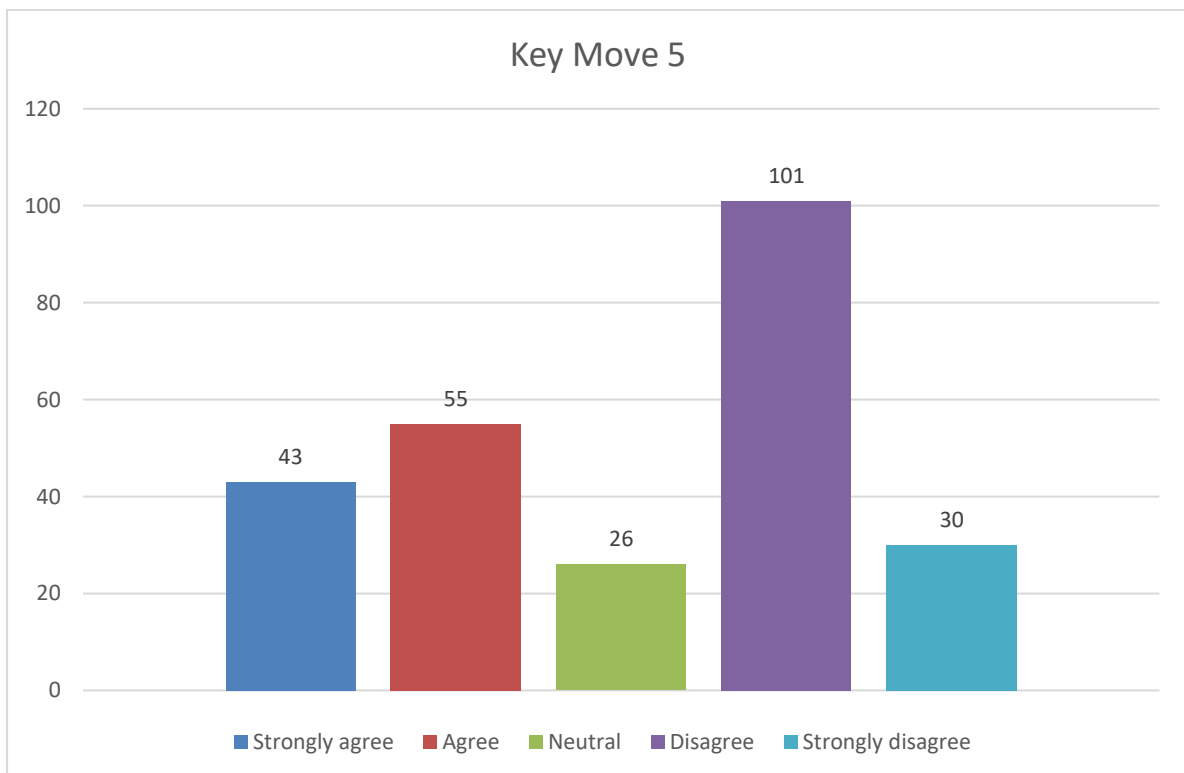
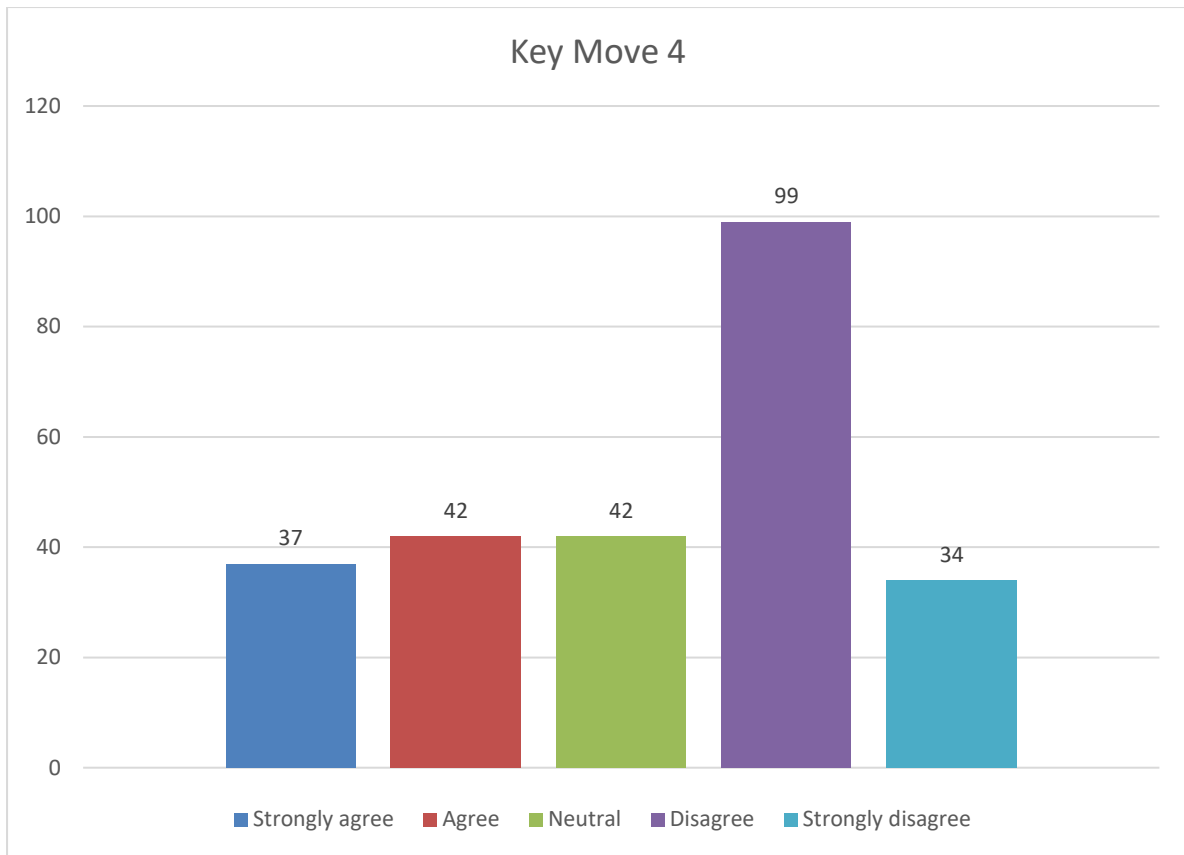
1. Create a comprehensive landowners' information and support service for land use and management, including annual reporting on trends and outcomes. Seek on-going government funding to support the service.
2. Implement a whole of organisation approach to community resilience addressing climate change, emergency management and a range of matters in an integrated manner. This will include robust conversations on the natural environment and biodiversity values, bushfire risk reduction, economic development, agriculture, economic and community rebuilding post events, human health, well-being and safety and water catchment planning.

3. Create a Green Wedge Conversations program to provide local communities with a forum to discuss resilience, leadership, knowledge-transfer and cooperation between people involved with land management, agriculture, nature conservation, public land management and bushfire mitigation and management. Seek on-going government funding assistance to support the program.
4. Create a comprehensive planning and place management service for the townships to strengthen their identities and attractiveness as service, population, tourism, community and cultural centres.
5. Undertake stocktakes of environmental assets and agricultural activity and practices, including hobby farming, that need to be protected for the future and the pests that need to be managed by sourcing information from formal research bodies and landowners. Seek government funding assistance to establish and maintain this data base into the future for landowner information, program prioritisation and policy development.

To what extent do you agree with the Five Key Moves to support delivery of the Green Wedge Management Plan?

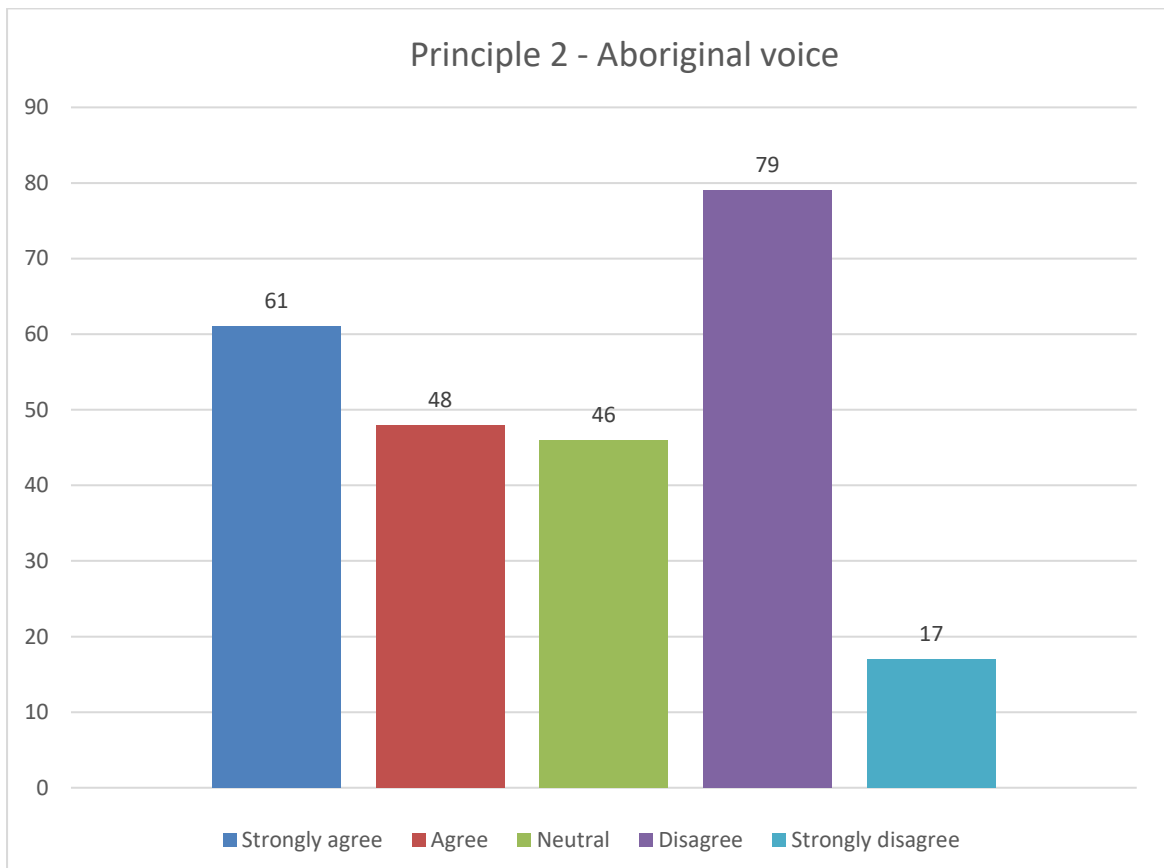
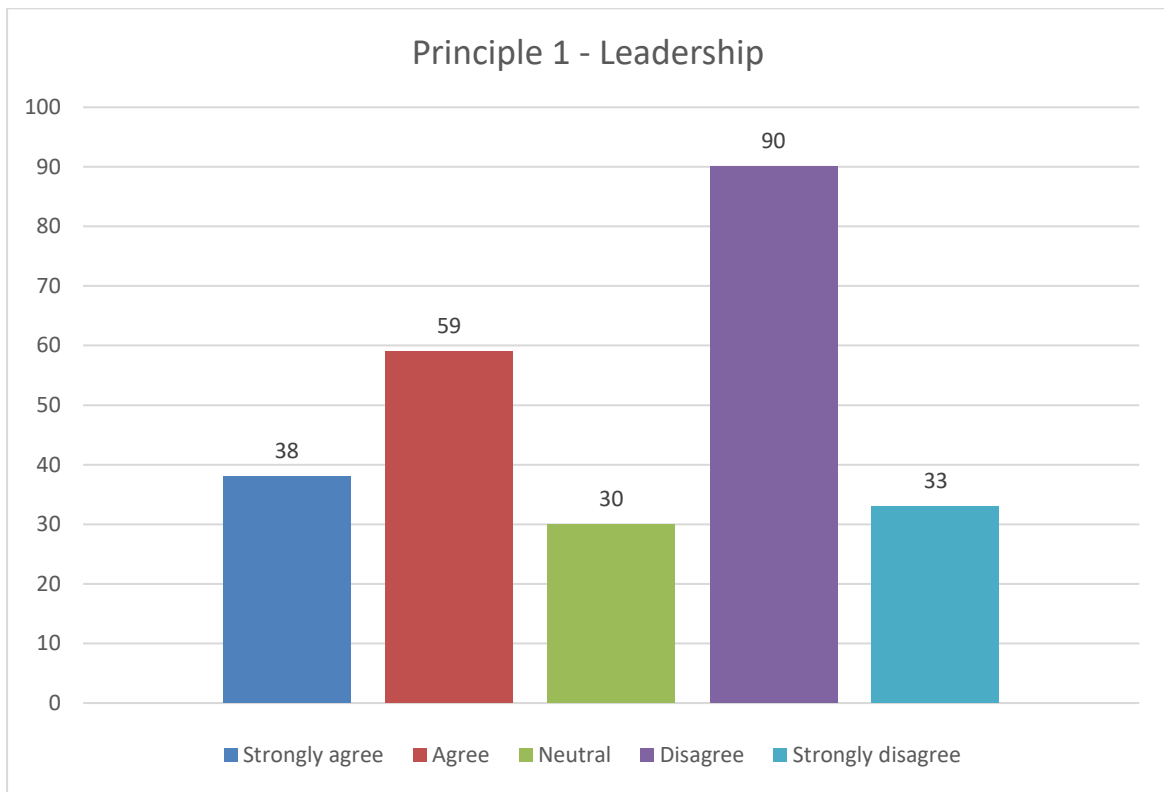




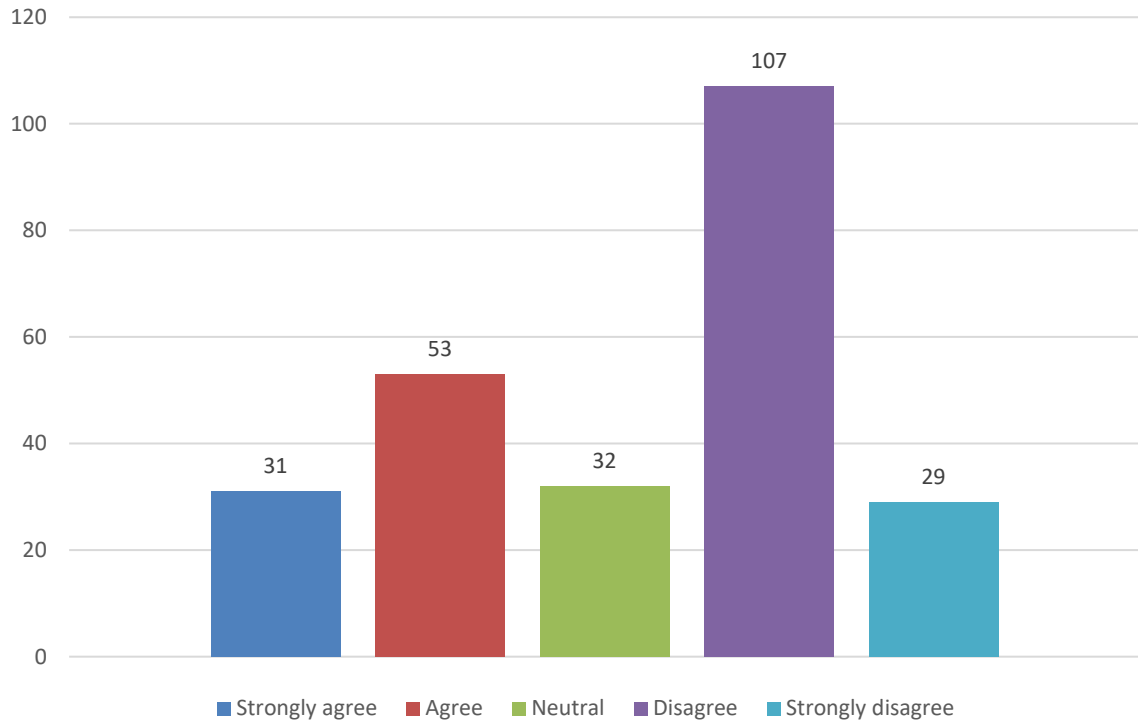


Principles

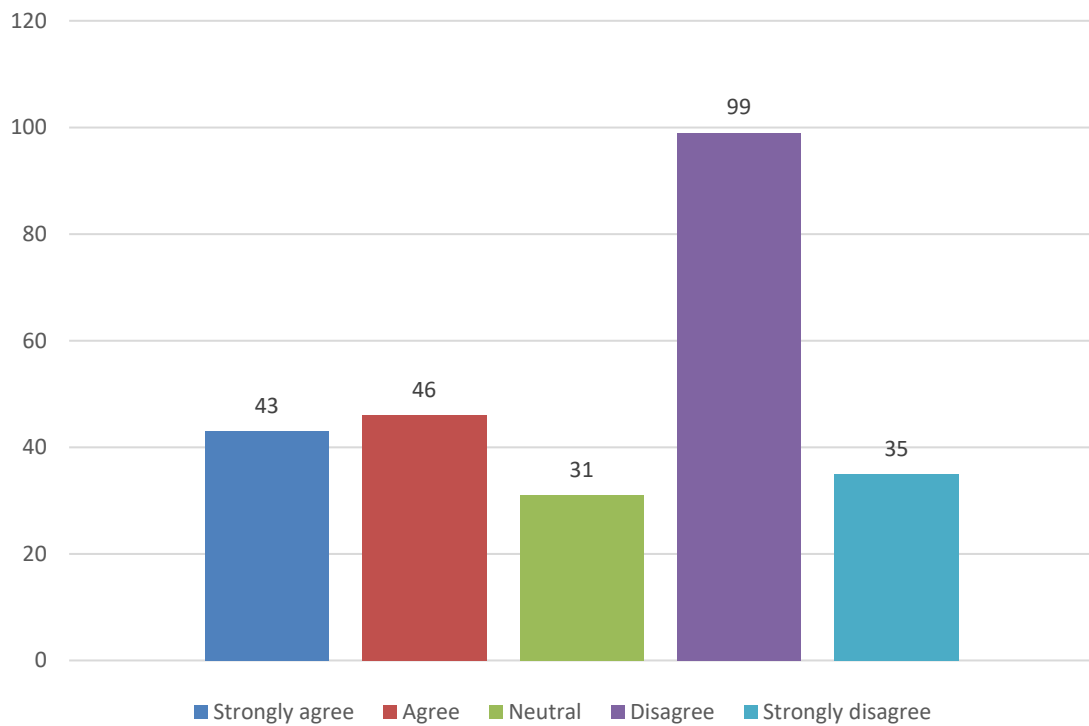
To what extent do you agree with the Principles to guide the implementation of the Green Wedge Management Plan?



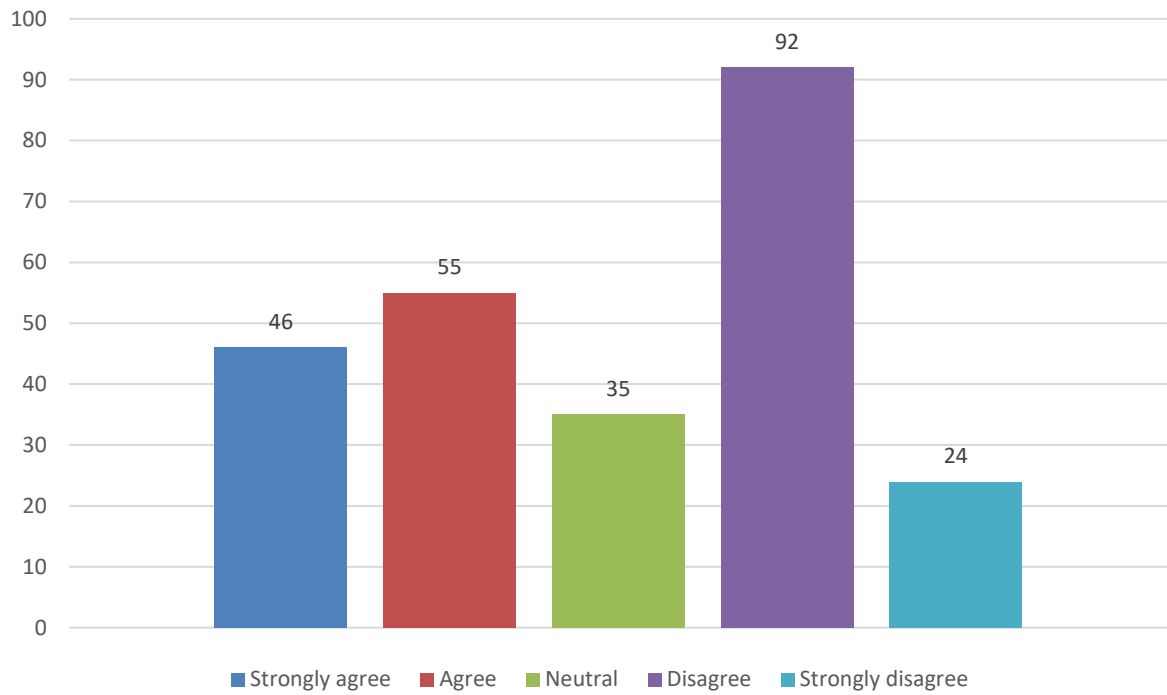
Principle 3 - A whole of shire approach and recognition of Nillumbik's relationship to Metropolitan Melbourne



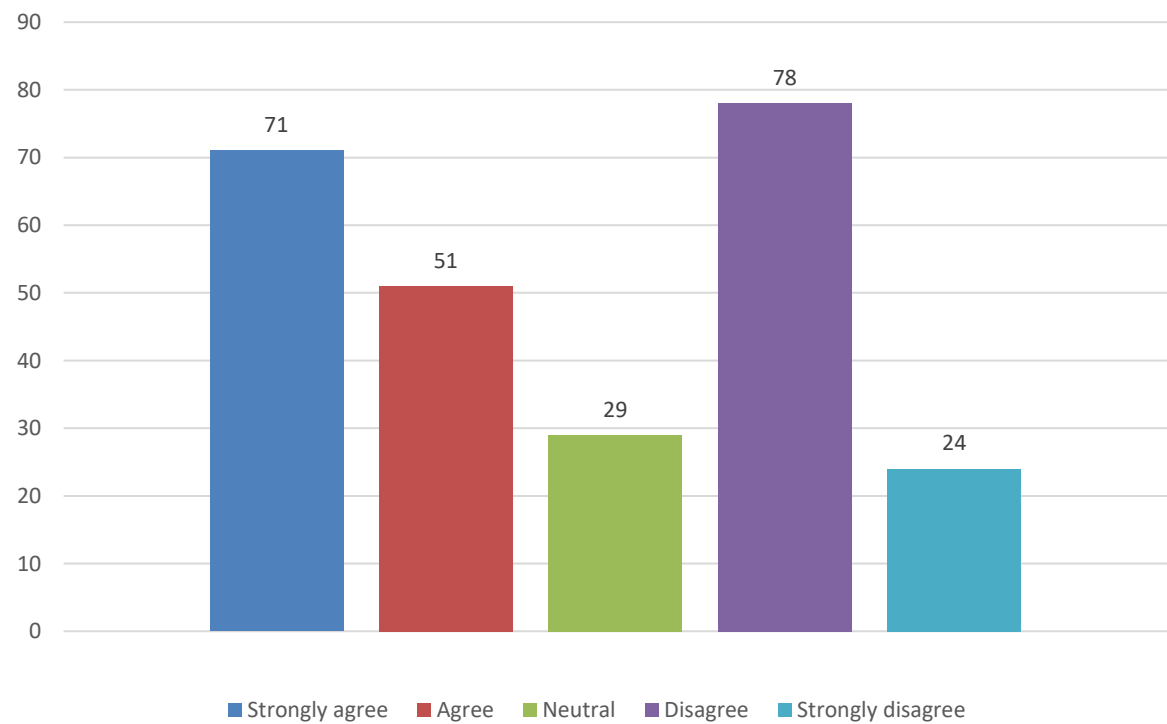
Principle 4 - Manage change for future benefit

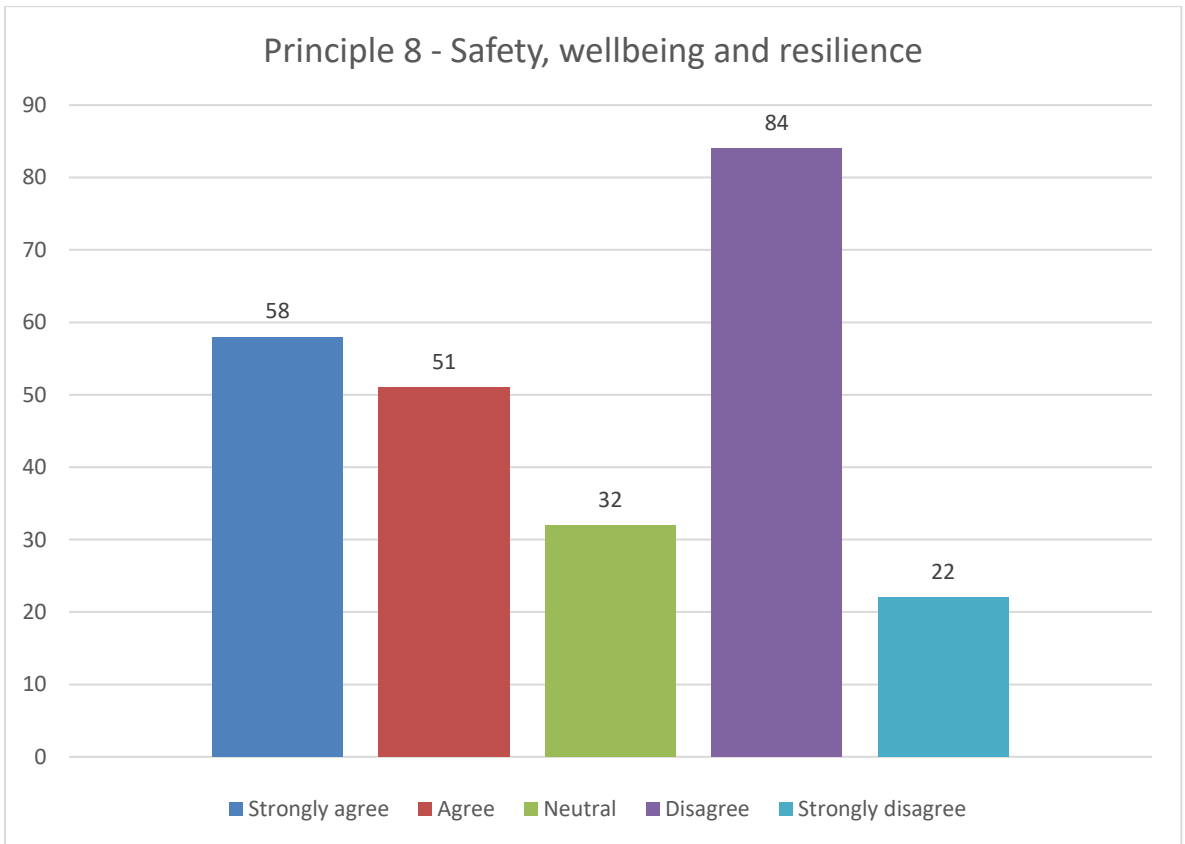
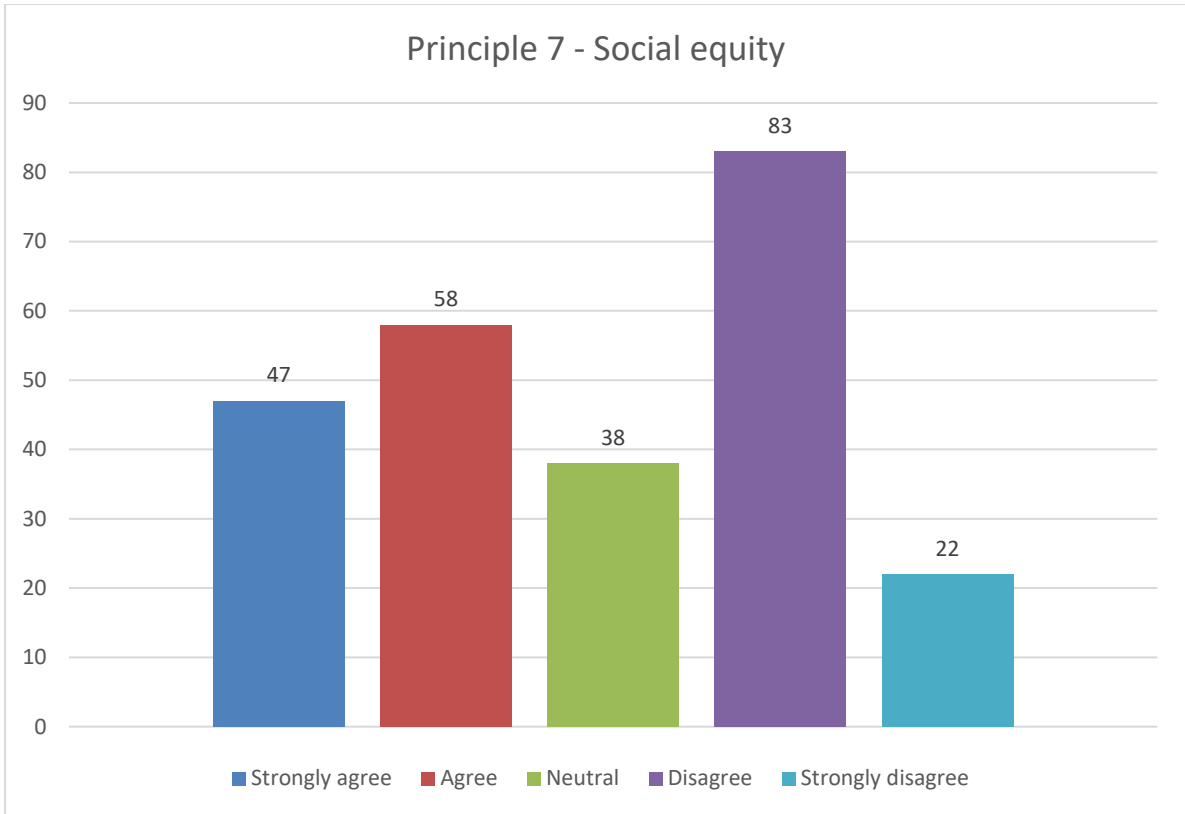


Principle 5 - Collaboration and connectedness

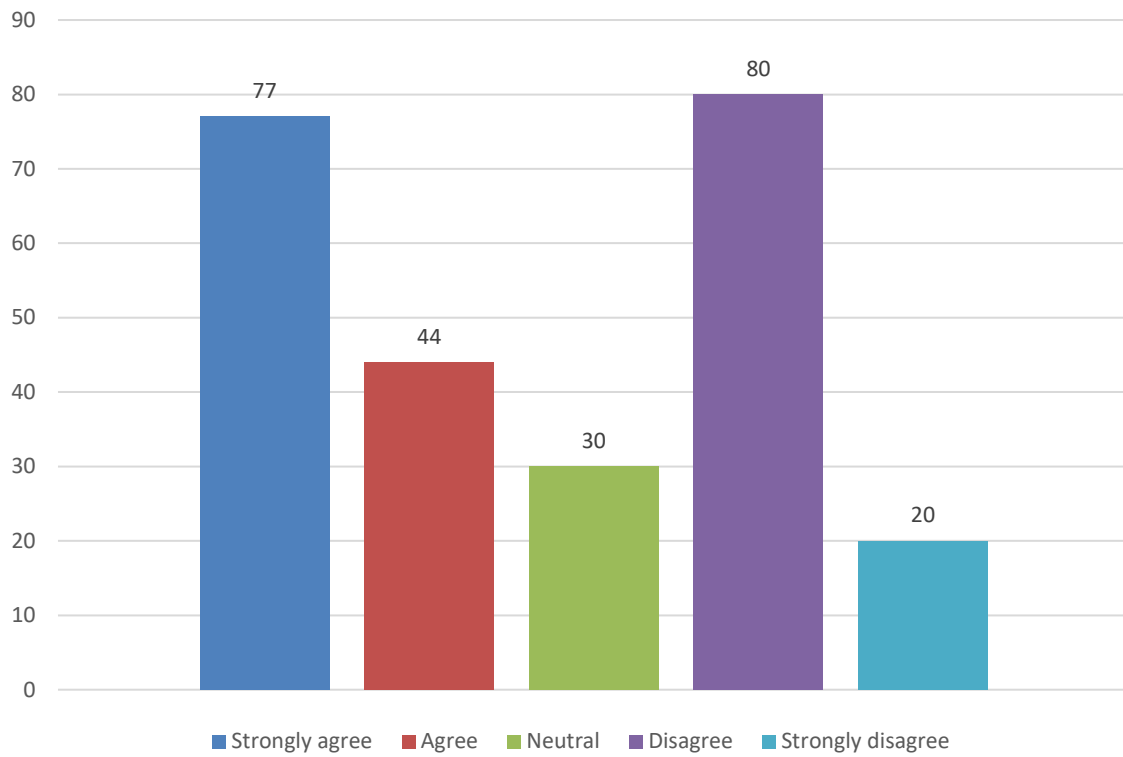


Principle 6 - Celebrate, appreciate and enjoy local identity and the landscape

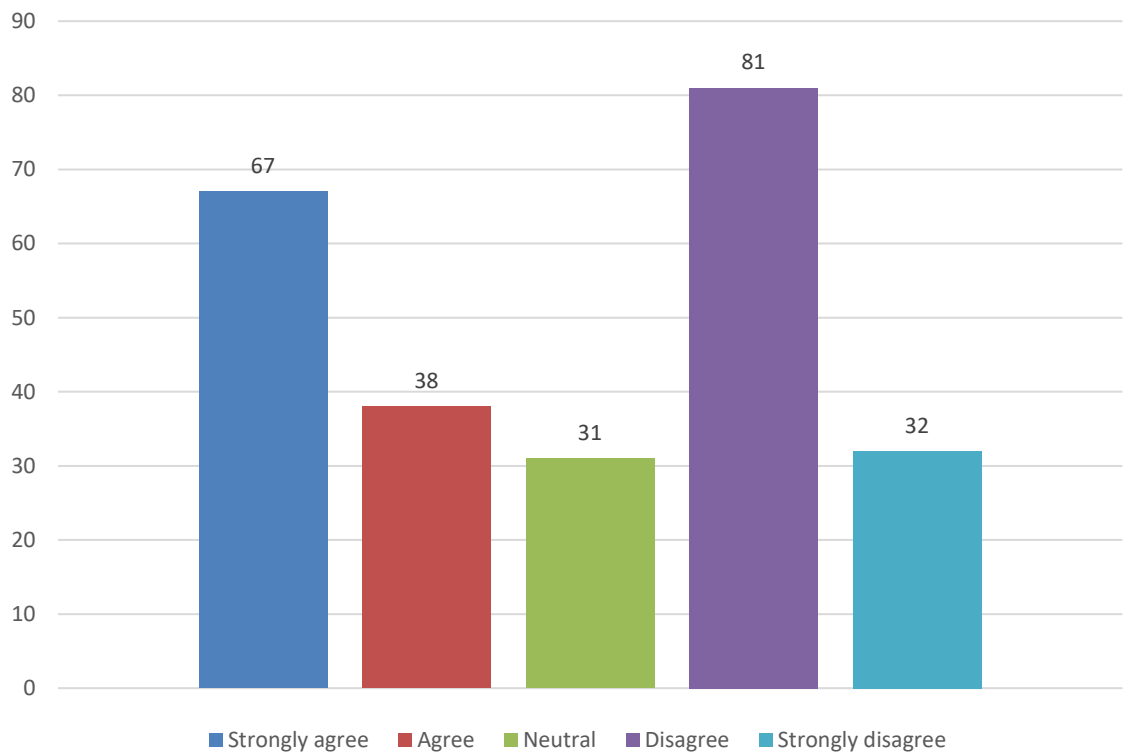




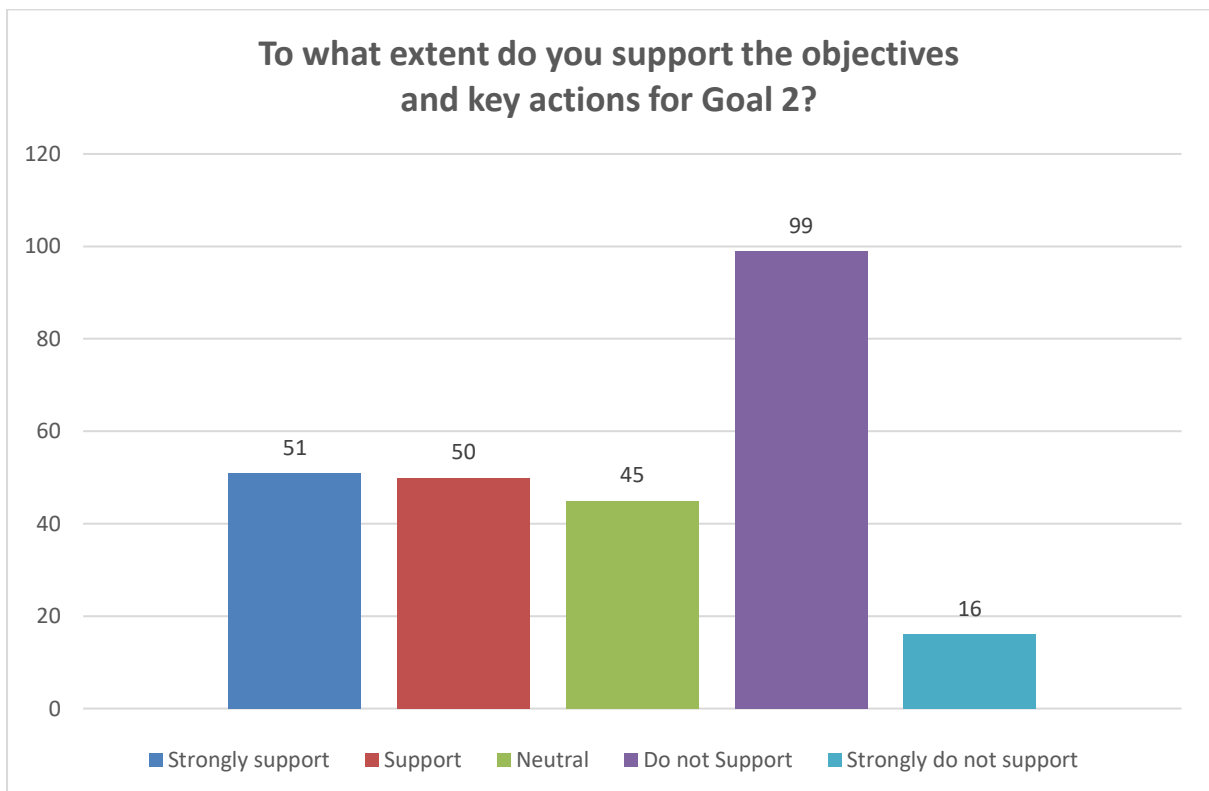
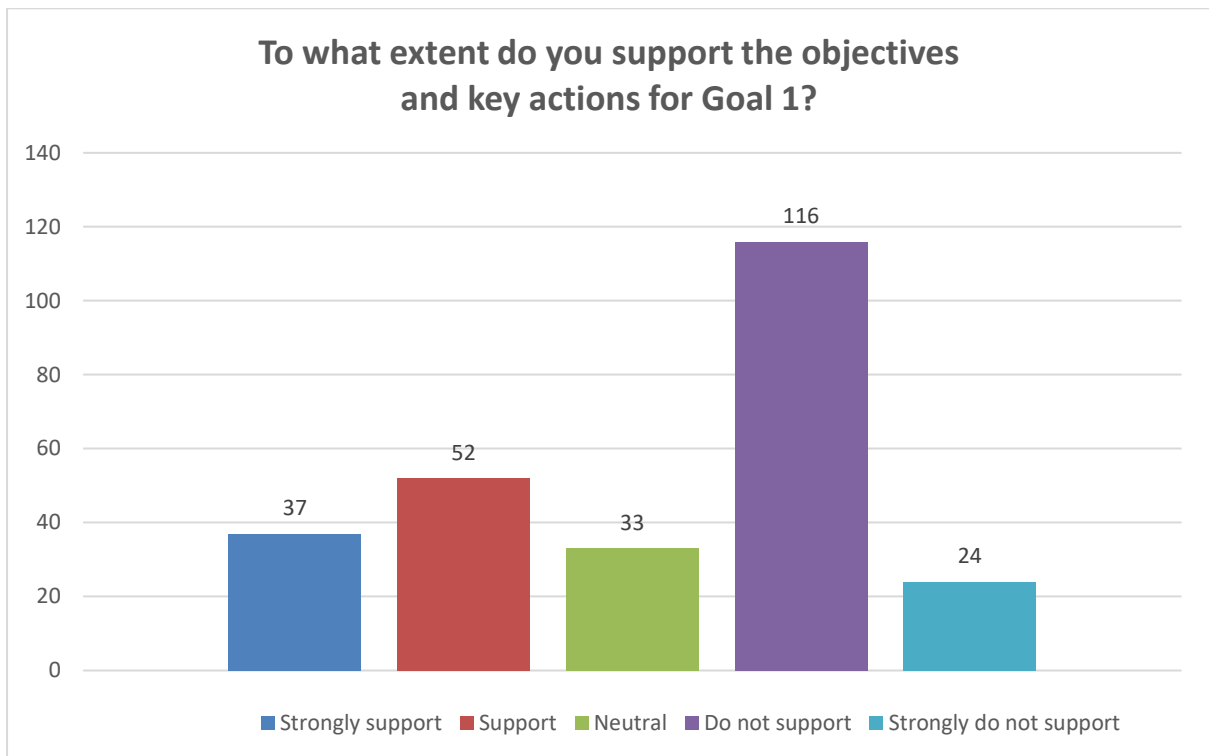
Principle 9 - Conserve and enhance our heritage



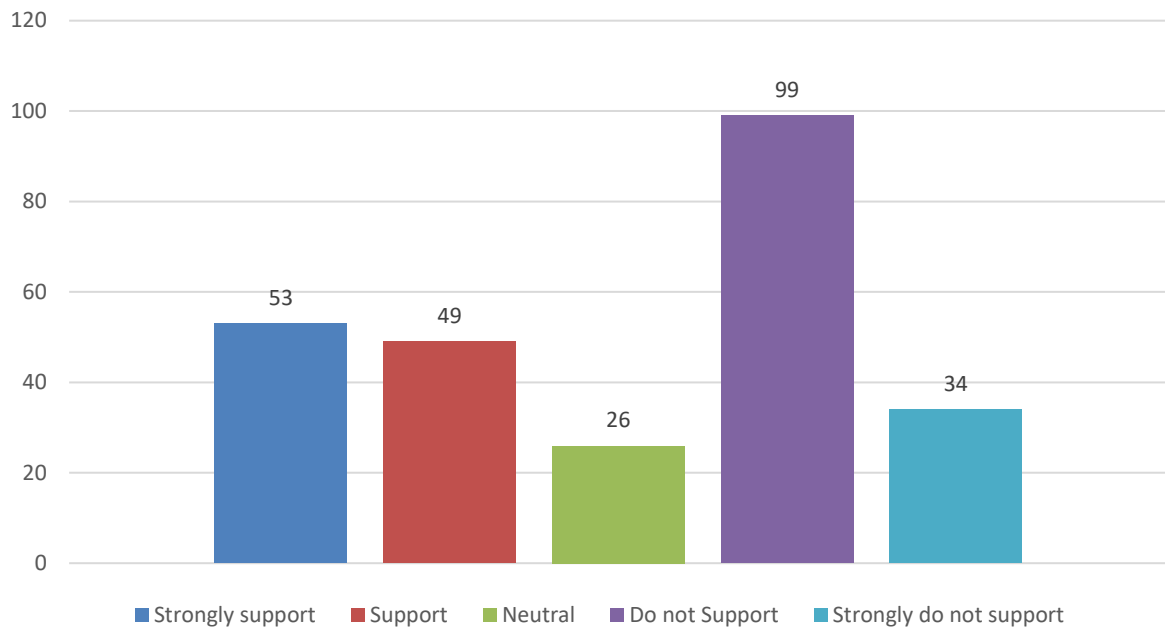
Principle 10 - Sustainability and the precautionary principle



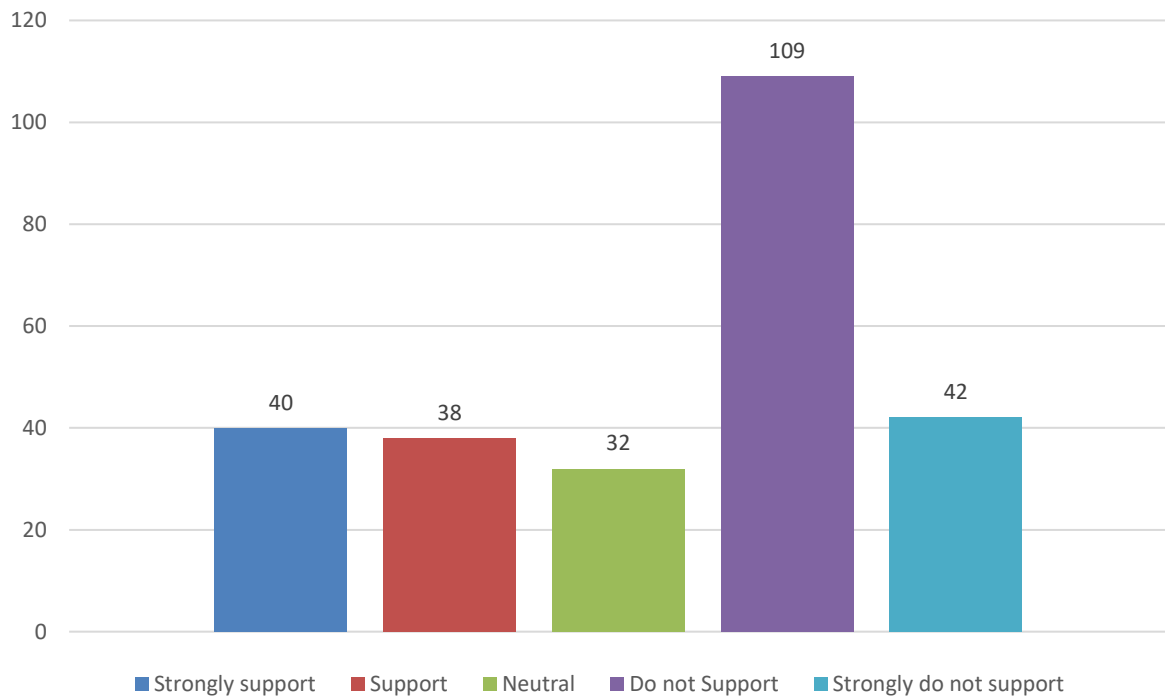
Goals, Objectives and Key Actions



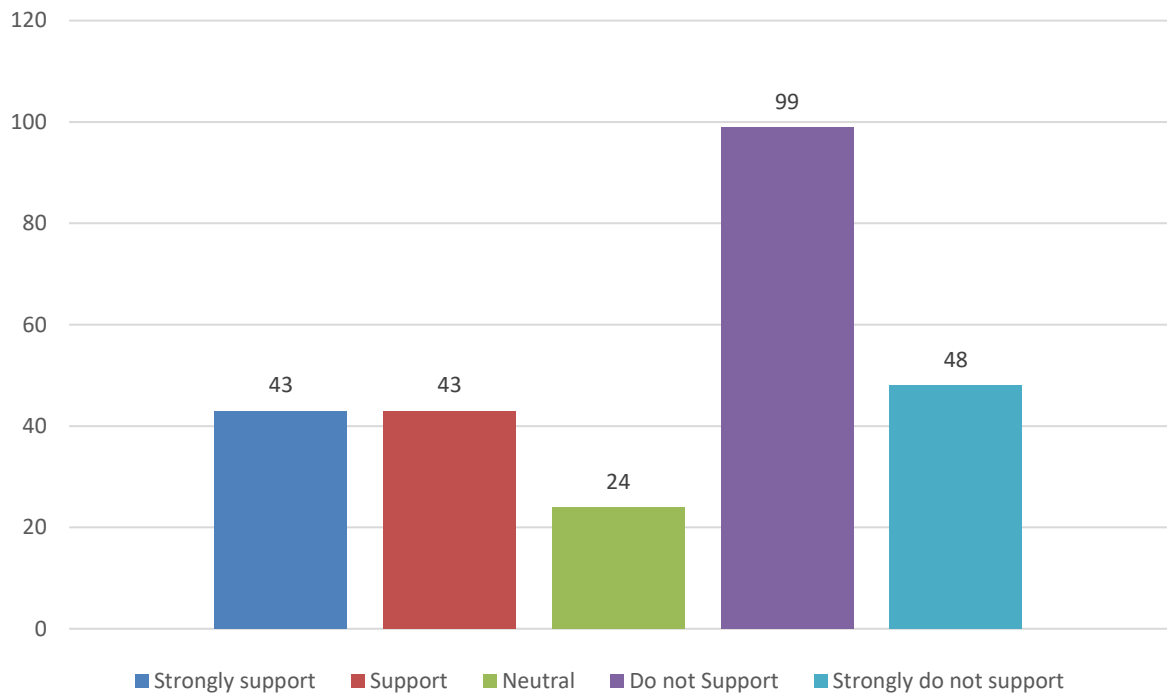
To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 3?



To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 4?



To what extent do you support the objectives and key actions for Goal 5?



From: Lucienne Harrison (DELWP) [REDACTED] >

Sent: Thursday, 15 August 2019 1:51 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: DELWP comment on draft Nillumbik GWMP

Dear Geoff and Nichole,

Thank you for your invitation to the department to provide feedback on the draft Nillumbik Green Wedge Management Plan (GWMP) 2019.

The department supports council's intent to regularly review and update strategic policies and notes the significant work undertaken to prepare the draft currently on consultation. Strengthening protection and management of green wedge land is a focus of the state government as outlined in *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*.

We have reviewed the draft GWMP in light of the existing Nillumbik GWMP completed in 2010, along with the requirements for the preparation and form and structure of GWMPs as outlined in the state government's Planning Practice Note 31: Preparing a Green Wedge Management Plan (PPN31). In particular, the Department would like to make the following observations:

- It is a key principle of a GWMP to ensure alignment with Victorian State Government policies and strategies. It is current state government policy to ensure new residential development is concentrated within existing settlements and townships and this is reinforced in council's local planning policy framework at Clause 21.05. It is noted that the revised draft GWMP suggests council may have to "re-examine" this strategic policy direction (pp.22).
- It is also noted there are differences in the level of clarity of strategic guidance provided to discretionary uses and development when comparing the draft GWMP with the existing GWMP currently in place.

It is further noted that a significant number of key implementation actions, including three of the five overall "key moves", are dependent upon external funding sources. The department is keen to promote the development of independently robust and resilient GWMPs and implementation actions that are able to be delivered primarily by council and in partnership with key local stakeholders. While the department is committed to supporting local policy and programs, it suggests council further consider the viability of an approach that nominates a significant number of implementation actions to be reliant on external funding.

The department is happy to meet with council officers to discuss its comments if required. Please contact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for further enquiries.

Yours sincerely

Lucienne Harrison

