

Caring for your Green Wedge property

Information for new residents

Living in the Green Wedge

The Manningham Green Wedge includes parts of the non-urban suburbs of Warrandyte, Warrandyte South, Donvale, Templestowe and Park Orchards, plus all of Wonga Park. All have a unique quality which is protected by planning controls in order to retain the rural character.

This is one of the few areas close to Melbourne city that has retained a 'natural' character. It is an area rich in biodiversity, providing valuable habitat for many life forms.

The Green Wedge contains areas of state, regional and local significance, with rare and threatened species of botanical and zoological importance. Many of the significant areas of native vegetation are on private land and are under threat from clearing for development, lack of ecological burning, agriculture and over grazing, rabbit and deer grazing, erosion, weed invasion and neglect.

The Green Wedge environment requires careful management to maintain its quality and integrity and to ensure that the area continues to thrive and be a valuable community asset.

While there are responsibilities that come with living in the Green Wedge, these are far outweighed by the benefits of living in such a wonderful environment and Manningham City Council is committed to working with residents to fulfil these responsibilities.

To ensure that your property thrives and the environmental value is maintained, it is important to consider the following:

Land management

Land management is especially important for Green Wedge residents.

Land degradation is much easier to prevent than repair, so it is important to be aware of potential problems and your options for combating them. In-depth information on land management is included in Council's *Land Management Guide*, <https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/plants-animals-and-ecology>.

Extensive state and local planning regulations exist in the Green Wedge. Removing, destroying or lopping vegetation is subject to strict regulations and significant penalties can apply for unapproved works.

A site visit from one of Council's Environment and Land Management Officers may assist you to better understand your property and the planning regulations it is subject to.

To arrange a site visit, call Council's Environment Team on 9840 9177.



A beautiful landscape on a Green Wedge property shows the positive results of effective land management and vegetation protection.

Weed control

Weeds may simply be plants growing in the wrong place, but they can threaten endangered species with extinction and annually cost Victorians hundreds of millions of dollars through control methods and lost agricultural production.

Weeds invade and degrade pasture, poison stock, contaminate produce, provide a harbour for rabbits and foxes and can seriously damage the health and biodiversity of our native vegetation.

Council's *Weeds: Identification and control of common weeds in Manningham* booklet provides detailed information on weeds in Manningham. For more information, visit www.manningham.vic.gov.au/pests-and-weeds.

Indigenous plants

In Manningham there are more than 600 species of local native indigenous plants that are naturally suited to the local climate and thrive with little or no water, fertiliser or sprays. As well as reflecting the original charm and character of the area, these plants provide food and shelter for local native birds, insects and other animals.

Council's *Native Splendour a guide to local plants* booklet is an indigenous plant gardening guide and can be helpful in the identification and management of indigenous plants. Please call Council on 9840 9177 for a copy or visit www.manningham.vic.gov.au/plants-animals-and-ecology. You can also visit the Friends of Warrandyte State Park indigenous nursery for more information, www.fowsp.org.au

Pest animals – rabbits, foxes and deer

Under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP), all landholders are legally required to control rabbits on their land.

Rabbits are the most serious of Australia's pest animals. They damage native vegetation, compete with native wildlife for food and shelter, contribute to the extinction of numerous native species and erode soil. They also compete with livestock for food.

Council's *Rabbit Control in Urban and Peri-urban areas* brochure provides information about managing rabbits on your property. For a copy, or more information on the assistance available, including grants for rabbit management, please call Council on 9840 9177 or visit www.manningham.vic.gov.au/rabbit-control.

Fox control grants are also available from Council. For more information call Council on 9840 9177.

The presence of deer is increasing in the Green Wedge. Deer graze heavily on shrubs and small trees and can cause damage to bushland, revegetation efforts and waterways. Increasing feral deer populations are causing environmental problems, particularly for the middle storey vegetation that is often heavily grazed by the animals. For information on environmental impacts and control options call Council on 9840 9177.



Sweet Pittosporum is not native to the Manningham area and is highly invasive, often out competing neighbouring indigenous vegetation. It is a significant concern to Green Wedge conservation.

Environment Assistance Initiatives

Manningham City Council funds a number of programs aimed at improving the biodiversity of the Green Wedge and encouraging sustainable land management practice. These initiatives are listed below. For more information, visit www.manningham.vic.gov.au/land-management-grants

- Grants for:
 - » Local Environment Assistance Fund (LEAF)
 - » Protection through covenanting
 - » Fox control
 - » Rabbit control
 - » Deer control
- Educational opportunities:
 - » Environmental seminars and field trips
 - » Interpretive nature walks
- Community groups:
 - » Middle Yarra Landcare Network
- Bush and fire management:
 - » Being prepared and minimising risk
 - » Emergency guidelines

For more information about bushfire management, please visit www.manningham.vic.gov.au/bushfire-vegetation-management



A typical Green Wedge landscape and the perfect habitat birds and wildlife.