



**HAVE
YOUR SAY**

Lysterfield Valley and Hills

Share your feedback on the future of Knox’s green and rural areas.

Have your say on how we protect and enhance five precincts that have environmental and landscape significance in Knox.

This fact sheet summarises PRECINCT 2a - Lysterfield Valley and Hills in the draft [Green Areas and Rural Strategy](#). We prepared the Strategy in response to what we heard from community feedback in March - April 2020.

Have your say on this draft Strategy by Sunday 12 December 2021.

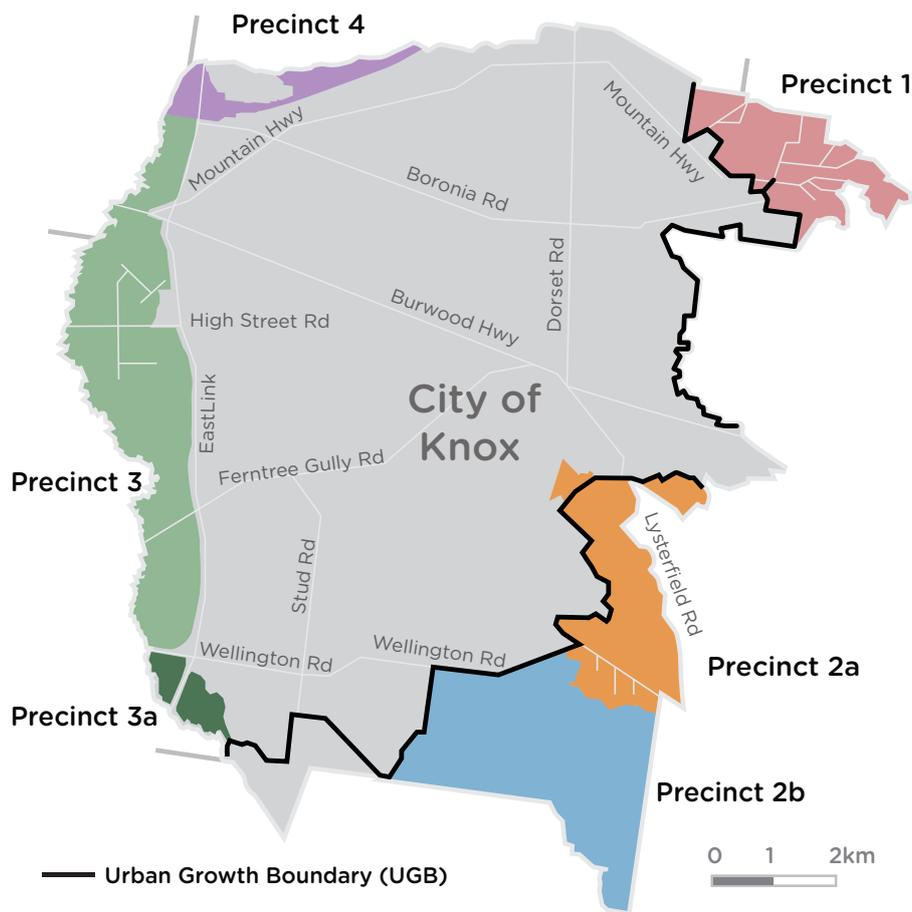
View the draft Green Areas and Rural Strategy and share your feedback at haveyoursay.knox.vic.gov.au/gars

ABOUT THE DRAFT GREEN AREAS & RURAL STRATEGY

The draft Strategy sets out the land usage directions for the next 20 years. This is your chance to have your say on the vision and actions, for the following precincts:

- Precinct 1:** The Basin Rural Landscape
- Precinct 2a:** Lysterfield Valley and Hills
- Precinct 2b:** Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds
- Precinct 3 & 3a:** Dandenong Creek Valley
- Precinct 4:** Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds

KNOX GREEN & RURAL PRECINCTS



Values

These precincts contain some of the most important bushland, green wedge, open space and rural landscapes in Knox.

Environmental and social values of the precincts include:

- Waterways and native vegetation
- Habitat for wildlife species
- Floodplains to help manage stormwater and prevent flooding
- Cultural heritage sites
- Nature-based recreation and leisure areas
- Scenic landscapes
- Health and wellbeing benefits of open space
- Avoiding intense development in bushfire prone areas
- Preventing an urban heat island effect through vegetation cover

Challenges

Emerging challenges that these green areas and rural spaces face include:

- Climate change and more extreme weather events
- Inappropriate subdivision or development that impact the environmental and social values
- Intense or high impact uses that change local character
- Loss of agricultural land
- Incremental loss of vegetation, biodiversity and wildlife connectivity
- Urban encroachment into floodplains which results in increased flood risk in urban areas
- Degradation of waterway health and habitat values
- Limited understanding of cultural heritage values
- Threats to the rural and natural character
- Loss of significant views and natural landscapes

ABOUT LYSTEFIELD VALLEY AND HILLS

The creeks, pockets of native vegetation and farm dams in this precinct provide an important connection for wildlife to move between Lysterfield Park and the Upper Ferntree Gully block of the Dandenong Ranges National Park. The precinct is characterised by a noticeable land use transition from suburb to pastoral and agricultural open landscapes. The primary land uses within this precinct are agricultural, including grazing, hobby farming, horse agistment and larger lifestyle residential allotments. Excellent views across the landscape are available from Glenfern Road and Lysterfield Road highlighting the visual transition between the metropolitan edge and the forested slopes of the Dandenong Ranges.



Monbulk Creek floodplains play an important role in flood management.

What makes this precinct unique?



The bare Lysterfield ridgeline surrounded by open pastoral land is an important landscape element in the area.



There are opportunities for small-scale, rural based businesses (for example agri-tourism) and some more intense agriculture (for example livestock grazing, perennial horticulture, nurseries and large format supplies).



There are well-connected roads with limited public transport.



Significant areas with Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Sensitivity.



The planned Dorset Road extension will run through this precinct and its impacts on the landscape and wildlife connectivity need to be managed.



A VISION FOR LYSTERFIELD VALLEY AND HILLS

Feedback from the community in early 2020 helped to shape the vision for this area:

“The Lysterfield Valley and Hills will be protected as a distinct landscape of natural and pastoral character providing an open green buffer on the edge of the urban area with important biodiversity and wildlife connectivity values. The precinct supports agriculture, rural industries and lifestyle living while providing an important role in flood management and water quality.”

Objectives for this precinct:

We have identified several objectives to help achieve the vision:

- To protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity.
- To protect and increase tree and vegetation canopy cover.
- To improve waterway health and flood management.
- To protect and enhance local character and landscape values.
- To identify, protect, celebrate and promote the heritage values and history, including Indigenous cultural heritage and post-contact heritage.
- To recognise and protect the values of Knox Green Wedges
- To ensure land uses are carefully located and managed to be consistent with the values and functions of the Study Area.
- To facilitate connectivity and safe movement for all users.



A summary
of proposed actions for
this precinct are provided
in the following pages.

View the draft
Green Areas and
Rural Strategy at

haveyoursay.knox.vic.gov.au/gars

Objective:

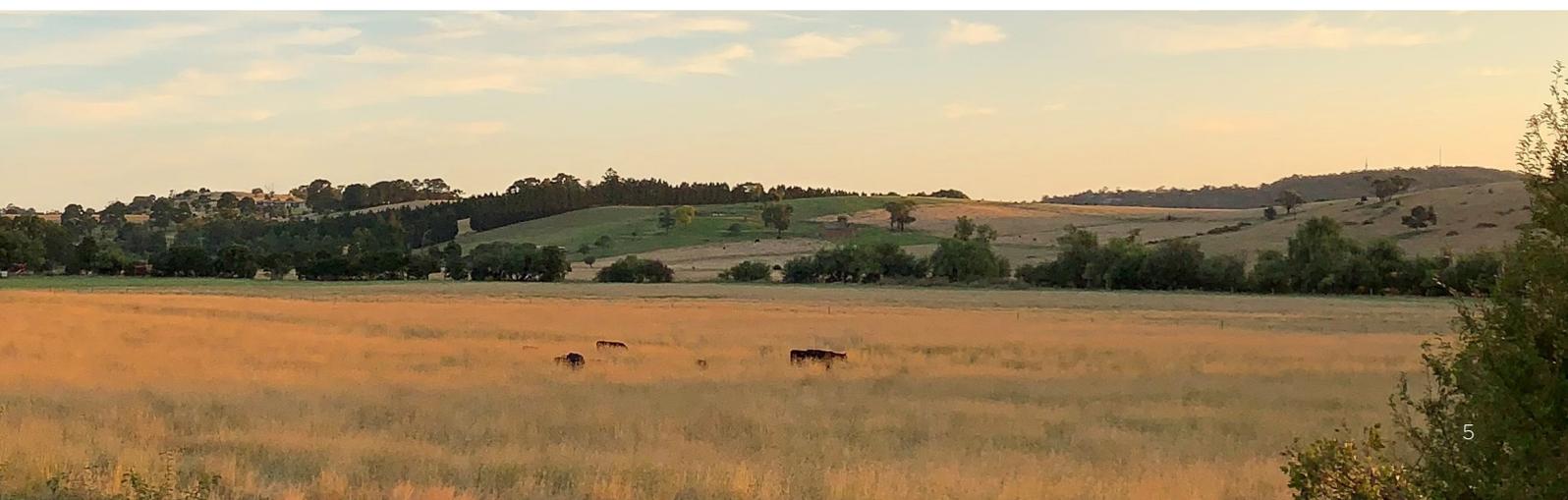
To enhance and protect biodiversity and wildlife connectivity

- 1 Enhance the environmental condition of Monbulk Creek and strengthen wildlife habitat and connectivity within 200m of the creek.
- 2 Review the Environmental Significance Overlay over Monbulk Creek in consultation with Melbourne Water, to make sure it properly covers the environmentally significant areas, and identifies the Core Riparian Zone (river bank area) and the vegetation buffers nearby.
- 3 Advocate for a plan for a multi-modal road/pedestrian and nature conservation corridor that supports both wildlife and human connectivity, and contributes to habitat restoration within 200m of Monbulk Creek, in the proposed Dorset Road Extension.
- 4 Reduce the wildlife barrier effects at the following sites in accordance with the recommendations of Appendix 1 to this report.
- 5 Support and partner with rural landholders to protect and enhance the ecological values including the river bank vegetation, ensuring that grazing does not damage wildlife habitat.

Objective:

To improve waterway health and flood management

- 6 Protect the floodplains of Monbulk Creek from development and level change to maintain their flood storage and water retention values, and prevent flooding downstream.
- 7 Advocate for the proposed Dorset Road extension to consider flooding from Monbulk Creek, and apply a water sensitive design to maximise the natural flow and retention of water.
- 8 Review the Floodway Overlay over Monbulk Creek to make sure it serves a purpose and covers the correct area.



PRECINCT 2a: Lysterfield Valley and Hills

Theme 2: Landscape & Character

Objective:

To protect and enhance local character and landscape values

- 9 Review the existing provisions of the Knox Planning Scheme, including the Planning Policy Framework and Significant Landscape Overlay 1, based on what was found in the Green Areas and Rural Strategy Landscape and Character Study.
- 10 Advocate for the future Dorset Road extension design to respect the landscape character, and celebrate and emphasise the views and the open rural character of the valley.

Objective:

To recognise, protect and promote existing heritage

- 11 Make sure adequate consultation occurs before any proposals that affect the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.
- 12 Review the places of heritage significance in accordance with the recommendations from the Preliminary Heritage Review: Knox Rural Heritage.



PRECINCT 2a: Lysterfield Valley and Hills

Theme 3: Land Use & Access

Objective:

To recognise and protect the values of Knox Green Wedges

- 13 Protect this precinct from more intense urban development.

Objective:

To ensure land uses are carefully located and managed to be consistent with the values and functions of the Study Area

- 14 Maintain the current zoning.
- 15 Support continuing agriculture within the Monbulk Creek floodplains.
- 16 Acknowledge and support the different role of each zone within this precinct to enable a diversity of rural economy and character.
- 17 Maintain the current minimum subdivision lot size requirements to support landscape and agricultural potential of land.
- 18 Support land use which respects the existing landscape character, protects key view lines and provides positive biodiversity.
- 19 Support tourism, agri-tourism and restaurant/café uses where they are accompanied by agriculture or natural systems and where they protect the landscape and character values.
- 20 Support and facilitate public art along the Dorset Road extension within the Monbulk Creek valley in this precinct.

Objective:

To facilitate connectivity and safe movement for all users

- 21 Advocate to the State Government to provide the planned Principal Bicycle Network cycle lanes along Wellington Road, Kelletts Road and Napoleon Road.
- 22 Make sure the Dorset Road extension improves access to rural lots in the Monbulk Creek Valley.