



**HAVE  
YOUR SAY**

# Dandenong Creek Valley

## 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 3 & 3a - Dandenong Creek Valley 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.**

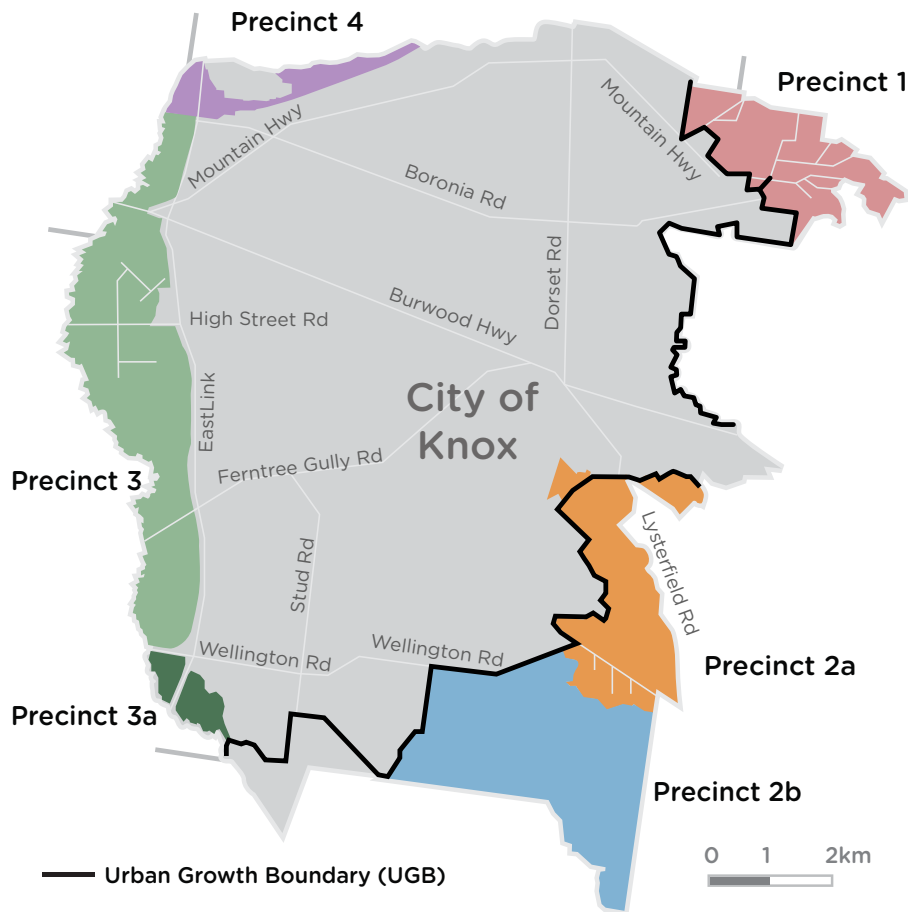
**View the draft Green Areas and Rural Strategy and share your feedback at [haveyoursay.knox.vic.gov.au/gars](https://haveyoursay.knox.vic.gov.au/gars)**

## 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:

<b>Precinct 1:</b>	<b>The Basin Rural Landscape</b>
<b>Precinct 2a:</b>	<b>Lysterfield Valley and Hills</b>
<b>Precinct 2b:</b>	<b>Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds</b>
<b>Precinct 3 &amp; 3a:</b>	<b>Dandenong Creek Valley</b>
<b>Precinct 4:</b>	<b>Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds</b>

# 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 DANDENONG CREEK VALLEY

The precinct contains a large scale green corridor along the Dandenong Creek. Wildlife is often seen in this area, and it is home to a range of species. The water bodies in this precinct play an important role in supporting local land and water-based wildlife. This includes Dandenong Creek, Blind Creek, Corhanwarrabul Creek, and their tributaries. Large floodplain wetlands and open space areas help manage flooding, water flows and water quality.

This region also contains areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity along the creeks and includes a number of Aboriginal sites including artifact scatter and scarred trees.

There are popular and highly used parkland, trails and other sport and recreation facilities in this precinct. Other areas are used for a variety of purposes, including horticulture, fresh produce markets, horse and cattle grazing. The precinct abuts the future development at Jenkins Orchard and will be home to a future residential community at the existing Boral quarry site in its central part.

## What makes this precinct unique?



Dandenong Valley Parklands provide a large-scale consolidated green corridor that is reserved for open space purposes.



Out of the five precincts, this precinct offers the greatest opportunities for agriculture, recreation, agri-tourism and community uses.



Billabongs and wetlands play a key role in the water quality of the creek system.



High level of wildlife sightings recorded along Dandenong Creek, Blind Creek and Corhanwarrabul Creek showing the role of these creek systems in wildlife connectivity.



Important water bodies including Dandenong Creek, Blind Creek and Corhanwarrabul Creek.



A trail network highly used by cyclists and providing connectivity to the surrounding area.



Significant areas with Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Sensitivity





# A VISION FOR DANDENONG CREEK VALLEY

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

*“The Dandenong Creek Valley Precinct is a consolidated “green lungs” corridor protecting key waterways and wildlife corridors while providing considerable recreational, nature conservation, flood mitigation, urban agriculture and parkland opportunities within the Eastern Metropolitan region.”*

## 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](https://haveyoursay.knox.vic.gov.au/gars)



# PRECINCT 3 & 3a: Dandenong Creek Valley

## Theme 1: Ecology

### Objective:

#### To enhance and protect biodiversity and wildlife connectivity

- 1 Acknowledge the significant role of this precinct in providing wildlife habitat and connectivity at a regional scale.
- 2 Continue to apply Environmental Significance Overlay 2 across the precinct and review the local content to strengthen the program.
- 3 Support rezoning to ensure the Dandenong Creek corridor is protected for conservation purposes, in consultation with stakeholders, including at 115-123 Axford Road, Wantirna South.
- 4 Encourage reestablishment of the vegetation and habitat along Dandenong Creek as part of any future redevelopment at 1A Burwood Highway, Wantirna.
- 5 Provide for habitat restoration and connectivity along the Dandenong Creek, and along Blind Creek as part of future development of the Boral Quarry site.
- 6 Address barriers that restrict wildlife movement at specific sites.
- 7 Investigate and correct zoning inconsistencies along the Dandenong Creek corridor.
- 8 Advocate for enhancements within this precinct to continue along the creek corridor south of Wellington Road.

### Objective:

#### To improve waterway health and flood management

- 9 Protect the floodplains and wetlands in Precinct 3 for their flood storage and retention values.
- 10 Continue the Knox City Council/ Melbourne Water/Parks Victoria collaboration to improve waterway health and sediment control in Precinct 3.
- 11 Ensure impacts of future redevelopment of the Boral quarry site impacts are minimised and managed to the satisfaction of the relevant agencies.
- 12 Naturalise the Blind Creek and improve its condition as a natural waterway corridor as part of the future development of the Boral quarry site.





# PRECINCT 3 & 3a: Dandenong Creek Valley

## Theme 2: Landscape & Character

### Objective:

**To protect and enhance local character and landscape values**

- 13 Review the Municipal Planning Strategy and Planning Policy Framework to make sure they respond to the findings of the Green Areas and Rural Strategy Landscape and Character Study. New strategic policy direction for landscape values of the precinct and a new Significant Landscape Overlay are to be investigated.

### Objective:

**To recognise, protect and promote existing heritage**

- 14 Ensure the community is consulted on any proposals relating to the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity.
- 15 Review the places of heritage significance as recommended in the Knox Rural Heritage Report.





# PRECINCT 3 & 3a: Dandenong Creek Valley

## Theme 3: Land Use & Access

### Objective:

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

- 16 Acknowledge the important role of the Dandenong Creek Valley Parkland as a significant green corridor within the eastern region.
- 17 Support the following opportunities for the Dandenong Creek Valley parklands:
  - Enhancements to open space to enable more active and passive recreational use.
  - Tourism, agri-tourism, urban agriculture and cafes.
  - Community partnerships with opportunities for Knox City Council to connect community businesses and commercial partners with Parks Victoria.
  - Education opportunities such as nature-based education.
  - Cycling-oriented activities/businesses along the bike routes, such as bike shops, storage, organic trails and food trails.
  - Urban agriculture models such as city farms/community gardens, community nurseries and plant exchanges, edible landscapes, food forests, indigenous food production, institutional and demonstration gardens and restaurant gardens.
- 18 Define High Street Road corridor as a Gateway to Knox. Protect the rural, horticultural character of this corridor and improve its appearance through landscaping, building design and public art which respond to and complement its rural, horticultural and bushy character.
- 19 Ensure the redevelopment of the Boral Quarry site:
  - Provides for the revegetation and naturalisation of Blink Creek to reestablish its function as an ecological corridor.
  - Protects and enhances the habitat values of the Dandenong Creek ecological corridor.
  - Provides for passive and nature based recreation in appropriate areas.
- 20 Support complementary uses near the Knox Regional Sports Park including allied health and sports medicine.
- 21 Investigate the possibility of rezoning the road area within Koomba Park to be changed to park area.
- 22 Investigate the possibility of rezoning parkland lots in Koomba Park that are not zoned Public Parks and Recreation Zone for potential rezoning. This is to be done in consultation with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Parks Victoria.
- 23 Advocate for further improvements to Nortons Park by Parks Victoria.
- 24 Investigate opportunities for renewable energy production (solar park) at the Cathies Lane landfill site.
- 25 Support and fund public art along the High Street Road and Burwood Highway to contribute to the overall enjoyment of an area, ensuring it is consistent with the neighbourhood character.



# PRECINCT 3 & 3a: Dandenong Creek Valley

## Theme 3: Land Use & Access

### Objective:

#### To facilitate connectivity and safe movement for all users

- 26 Advocate for and support the on-road and off-road cycling proposals of the Principal Bicycle Network.
- 27 Advocate for a shared bicycle and pedestrian path along High Street Road that connects the EastLink Trail with the Dandenong Creek Trail.
- 28 Seek opportunities to improve access and connectivity through the area between High Street road and Burwood Highway.
- 29 Ensure the Boral redevelopment site provides a shared bicycle and pedestrian path through the site connecting with the surrounding trails, including along the Blind Creek linking to Jells Park.
- 30 Support the provision of public transport to the Boral redevelopment site and ensure the road networks are designed to allow for good bus movement.
- 31 Improve access to Knox Regional Sports Park.
- 32 Support a shared path bicycle and pedestrian across Eastlink to Kingston Links.

