



**HAVE
YOUR SAY**

The Basin Rural Landscape

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 1 - The Basin Rural Landscape 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.

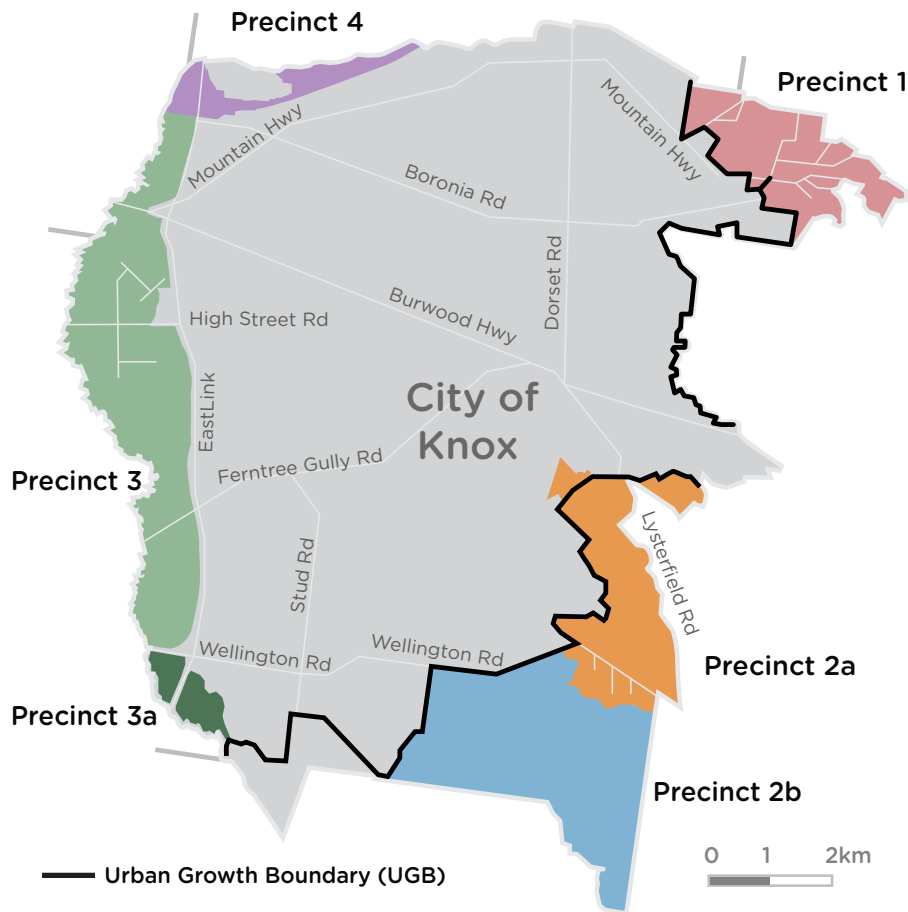
View the draft Green Areas and Rural Strategy and share your feedback at haveyoursay.knox.vic.gov.au/gars

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
- Low intensity of development in bushfire prone areas
- Cooling effect of vegetation cover
- Hobby farming and rural lifestyle living.

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 THE BASIN RURAL LANDSCAPE

This precinct is surrounded by the Dandenong Ranges National Park. It provides an important ecological link between Doongalla Forest and Upper Ferntree Gully, and plays a key role in wildlife habitat and movement because of the large amounts of native vegetation and watercourses. Most of this precinct is classified as having Sites of Biological Significance because of its native vegetation. Located near The Basin, it provides the community with opportunities for cycling trails, scenic drives and access to many parks.



What makes this precinct unique?



Large water catchment areas that support flood retention and stormwater management



Significant areas of native vegetation and wildlife habitat



Opportunities for small-scale, rural based businesses



Dobsons Creek catchment has high ecological value



Significant areas with Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Sensitivity



Valued views and vistas



Consistent rainfall and good quality soil means there is agriculture potential



Private properties contribute significantly to the protection of biodiversity and wildlife movement

A VISION FOR THE BASIN RURAL LANDSCAPE

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

“The Basin Rural Landscape Precinct will be protected as an ecologically significant area with a distinct natural and rural landscape character, providing a scenic gateway to the Dandenong Ranges. The conservation and enhancement of the precinct’s biodiversity, waterways and landscape values will be prioritised, while supporting compatible land use such as sustainable agriculture, rural living, recreation and community uses that complement and enhance these values.”

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 existing 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



PRECINCT 1: The Basin Rural Landscape

Theme 1: Ecology

Objective:

To enhance and protect biodiversity and wildlife connectivity

- 1 Review the planning framework to:
 - i. Make sure that protecting the native vegetation and habitat in The Basin Rural Landscape is prioritised.
 - ii. Recognise the role of Dandenong and Dobsons Creeks in wildlife connectivity; and
 - iii. Make sure that bushfire risk and management in Bushfire Management Overlay affected areas are considered from the early stages of any development proposal, and that we do not support proposals that require vegetation removal to comply with the bushfire requirements.
- 2 Reduce the wildlife barrier effects at Dandenong Creek-Liverpool Road and Dandenong Creek – Dobson Lane, as recommended in Appendix 1 of the [Green Areas and Rural Strategy](#).
- 3 Investigate ways to support private landowners to improve maintenance and weed control, including at Sugarloaf Hill.

Objective:

To improve waterway health and flood management

- 4 The planning framework should acknowledge that Precinct 1 is in the high value catchment of Dobsons Creek.
- 5 Investigate options to include Water Sensitive Urban Design as part of new development in the Dobsons Creek catchment.
- 6 Support a Water Sensitive Urban Design approach to public works and infrastructure, including construction or upgrade of any roads in this precinct.
- 7 Make sure the Dobsons/Dandenong Creek floodplain is protected from development and level change.



PRECINCT 1: The Basin Rural Landscape

Theme 2: Landscape & Character

Objective:

To protect and enhance local character and landscape values

- 8 Review the existing Planning Scheme provisions to better recognise and protect landscape values, in line with the findings of the [Green Areas and Rural Strategy](#) Landscape and Character Study.
- 9 Discourage breaking up the land within the Dobsons Creek floodplain character area.
- 10 Investigate opportunities for weed management and removal of shrubs to open up foothill views, particularly those on public land.

Objective:

To recognise, protect and promote existing heritage

- 11 Make sure that adequate consultation is done prior to any proposals that affect the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity.
- 12 Review the heritage places in line with the recommendations from the Knox Rural Heritage Report. These are summarised in the [Green Areas and Rural Strategy](#).



PRECINCT 1: The Basin Rural Landscape

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 Make sure that future land use and development support environmental conservation, agriculture, agribusiness, art and culture, with complementary small scale tourism-related purposes.
- 15 Protect the Dobsons Creek Valley from inappropriate development and use.
- 16 Keep the existing residential character and prevent further intensification and loss of vegetation. Consider bushfire risks and vegetation impacts early in the planning process.
- 17 Keep the current minimum subdivision sizes in this precinct and prevent breaking up the land.
- 18 Support enhancements to the amenity, scenic qualities and recreational values.
- 19 Enhance The Basin Neighbourhood Activity Centre, through a potential master planning process.
- 20 For the larger rural properties within the central and western part of the precinct, support tourism, agri-tourism, educational and commercial purposes, if the proposals are located and designed sensitively to protect and enhance the environmental, agriculture and landscape, and do not increase bushfire risk.
- 21 Investigate opportunities to establish parkland to the north of The Basin Triangle roundabout.
- 22 If there are future changes to the 'Special Use Zone - Schedule 1' (SUZ1) zoning, check they align with the objectives and use set out for Green Wedge, and prevent urban development and breaking up the land.

Objective:

To facilitate connectivity and safe movement for all users

- 23 Look into upgrading the Sheffield Road/ Doongalla Road route to:
- Provide a safe multi-user path for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.
 - Potentially reduce traffic speeds.
 - Provide signs regarding horse manure catcher and cleaning up after dogs.
- 27 Look into upgrades to the Liverpool Road to:
- Provide a shared path.
 - Provide improved pedestrian movement around the Mountain Highway intersection to make it safer to get to The Basin Primary School.
- 30 Advocate for improved pedestrian safety on Mountain Highway and Basin-Olinda Road near The Basin roundabout.