

Green wedges

What are they?

Green wedges are the open landscapes that were set aside, more than 30 years ago, to conserve rural activities and significant natural features and resources between the growth areas of metropolitan Melbourne as they spread out along major road and rail links.

The definition of green wedges has been loose and conceptual. In the context of *Melbourne 2030*, discussion has encompassed the wider issue of protecting other non-urban areas around metropolitan Melbourne. Therefore, a wider definition of green wedges has been adopted for the purposes of *Melbourne 2030* and this draft Implementation Plan.

Where are they?

The green wedges are distributed outside the urban growth boundary in a broad arc around metropolitan Melbourne (see Figure 1). They are listed below, with their boundaries:

- **Werribee South** – the Port Phillip Bay coastline, the western edge of the City of Wyndham and the Melbourne–Geelong rail line
- **Western Plains South** – the Melbourne–Geelong rail line, the western boundary of the City of Wyndham, the Western Highway west of Melton, the southern edge of Melton township and the Ballarat rail line
- **Western Plains North** – the Ballarat rail line, the northern edge of Melton township, the Western Highway, the western and northern boundaries of Melton Shire and the Calder freeway
- **Sunbury** – the Calder freeway and the northern and eastern boundaries of the City of Hume
- **Whittlesea** – the western boundary, northern boundary and eastern boundary of the City of Whittlesea
- **Nillumbik** – the western, northern and eastern boundaries of the

City of Nillumbik and portions of the City of Manningham near the Yarra River

- **Manningham** – the Yarra River and the eastern boundary of the City of Manningham
- **Yarra Valley and Yarra and Dandenong Ranges** – the western, northern and eastern boundaries of the Shire of Yarra Ranges and the northern boundary of the Westernport catchment
- **Southern Ranges** – the northern boundary of the Westernport catchment, the eastern boundary of the Shire of Cardinia and the electrical transmission easement east of Pakenham
- **South East** – the area between the Bayside and Dandenong/Cranbourne urban areas and the northern boundary of the Westernport catchment
- **Westernport** – the electrical transmission easement east of Pakenham, the eastern and southern boundaries of the Shire of Cardinia, the western boundary of the City of Casey and Westernport
- **Mornington Peninsula** – part of the northern boundary of the Shire of Mornington Peninsula and the south-eastern boundary of the City of Frankston



Figure 1. Green wedges

Green wedge Existing urban area Growth area

What is their role?

The green wedges fulfill a range of specific roles that include:

- providing opportunities for agricultural uses, such as market gardening, viticulture and broad hectare farming
- preserving rural and scenic landscapes
- preserving conservation areas close to where people live
- preserving renewable and non-renewable resources and natural areas (such as water catchments)
- providing and safeguarding sites for infrastructure that supports urban areas (such as airports and sewage plants)
- allowing industries such as sand and stone extraction to operate close to major markets
- enabling the development of networks of open space
- providing opportunities for tourism and recreation.

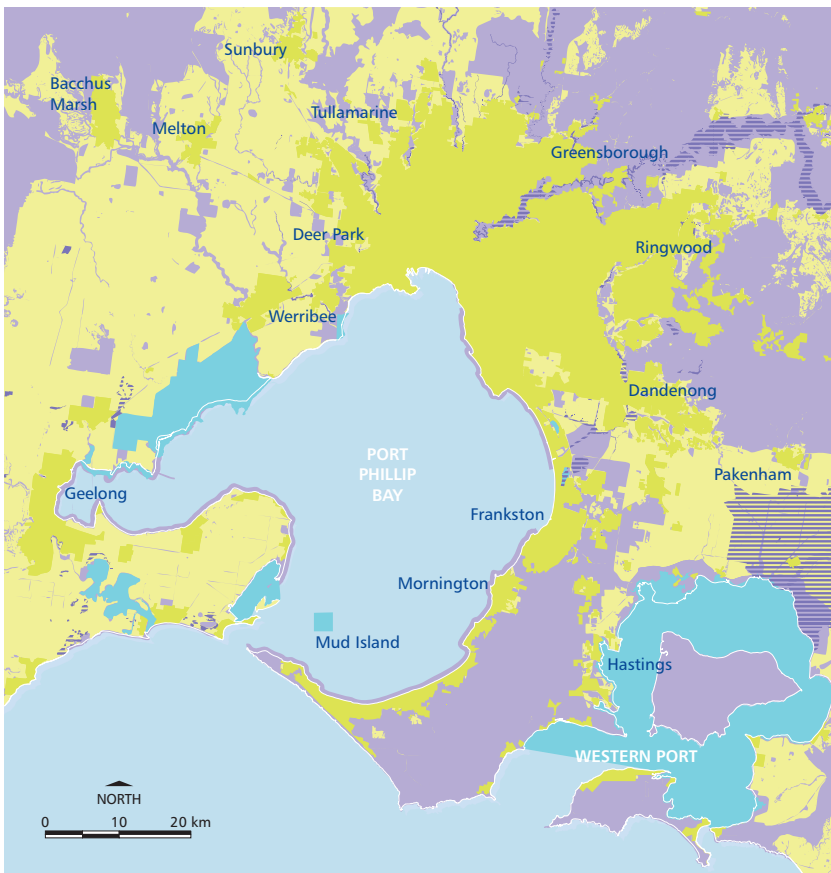


Figure 2. Significant environmental resources and constraints



Source: Department of Infrastructure, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2001