



May 2026

Western Plains South Green Wedge Landscape Character Assessment: Community Engagement Report

Engagement overview

The Western Plains South Green Wedge is a distinctive and important part of Wyndham, characterised by its open plains, waterways, rural landscapes, and significant cultural and environmental features. It plays a vital role in shaping the city’s identity and guiding future growth.

To support its long-term protection and management, a Landscape Character Assessment has been prepared to identify the key features and values of the area.

The finalised Landscape Character Assessment will directly inform the preparation of the draft Western Plains South Green Wedge Management Plan, which will be released for further community consultation next year.

Community feedback was sought on the findings of the assessment to help inform the next stage of planning.

Engagement ran from Friday 20 February to Friday 27 March 2026. The approach included an online survey on The Loop and two pop-up sessions at the Little River Mechanics Institute Hall and the Manor Lakes Community Learning Centre.

Participants were asked about their connection to the Western Plains South Green Wedge area, what they value about the landscape and about ways to protect and enhance the area, as well as community appetite for specific planning controls, including a Significant Landscape Overlay.

Feedback was received from landowners and residents, workers, business owners and community groups from the Western Plains South Green Wedge area as well as general individuals from across Wyndham and those who visit the area recreationally.

How did the community get involved?

The below tables outline the ways we engaged with the community and the activities undertaken to promote the engagement.

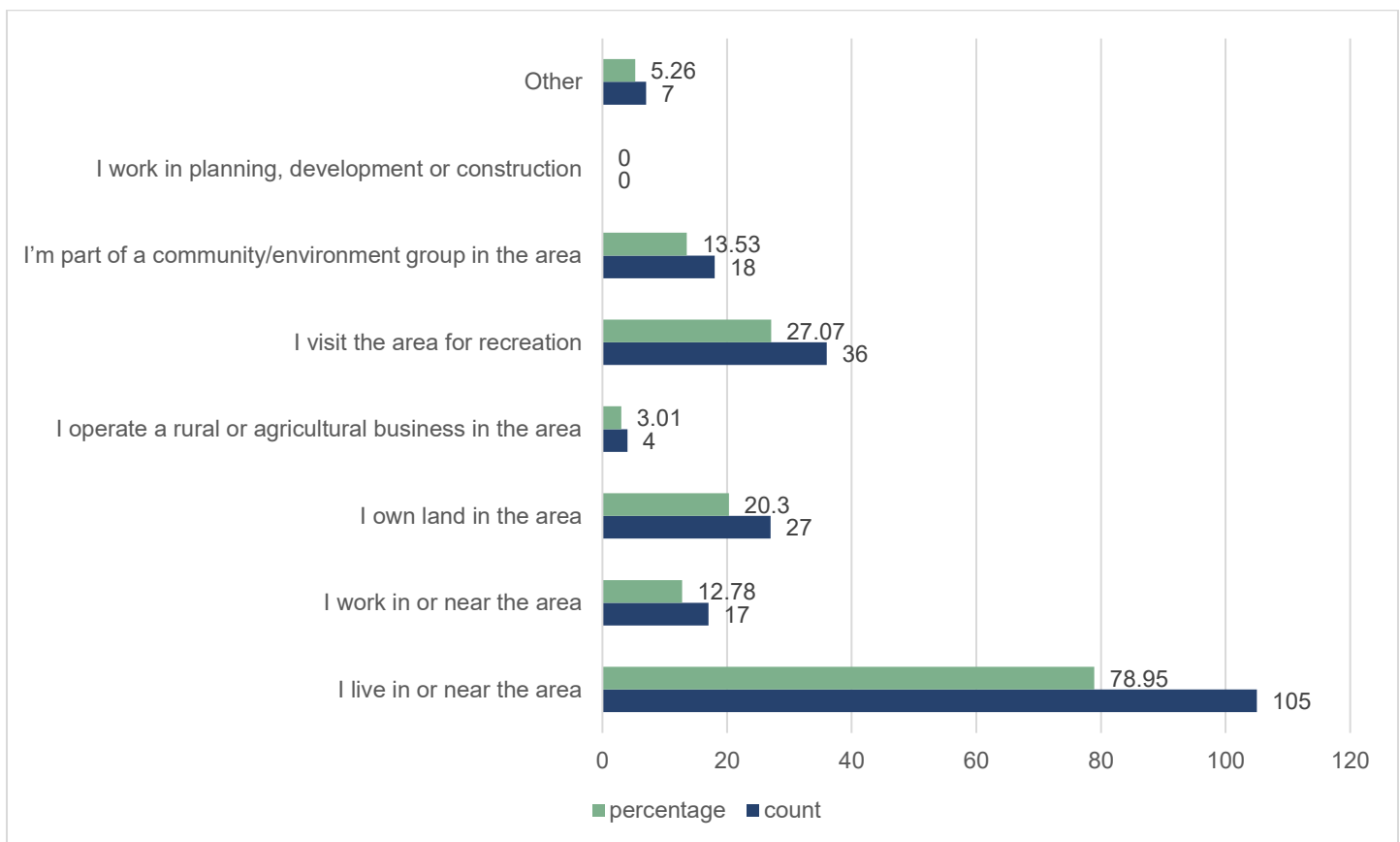
 133 surveys completed 3 direct submissions	 1,310 page views on The Loop page	 877 total visitors to The Loop page
 177 downloads of the Landscape Character Assessment	 Approx. 31 pop-up event attendees	

Online promotion	<p>A range of advertisements were run via social media. These included a mix of paid and organic advertisements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach: 21,775 • Engagement: 746
Other communication activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to residents • Local newspaper advertisement • News Article • Digital screen promotion and printed posters (including a QR code to The Loop page) at all Community Centres and Facilities • Stakeholder distribution via Council e-newsletters and direct emails.

What did we hear?

Council received 133 survey responses and three written submissions, including submissions from a Little River resident, DEECA and the National Trust of Australia. The below highlights the feedback received via The Loop online survey during the engagement process.

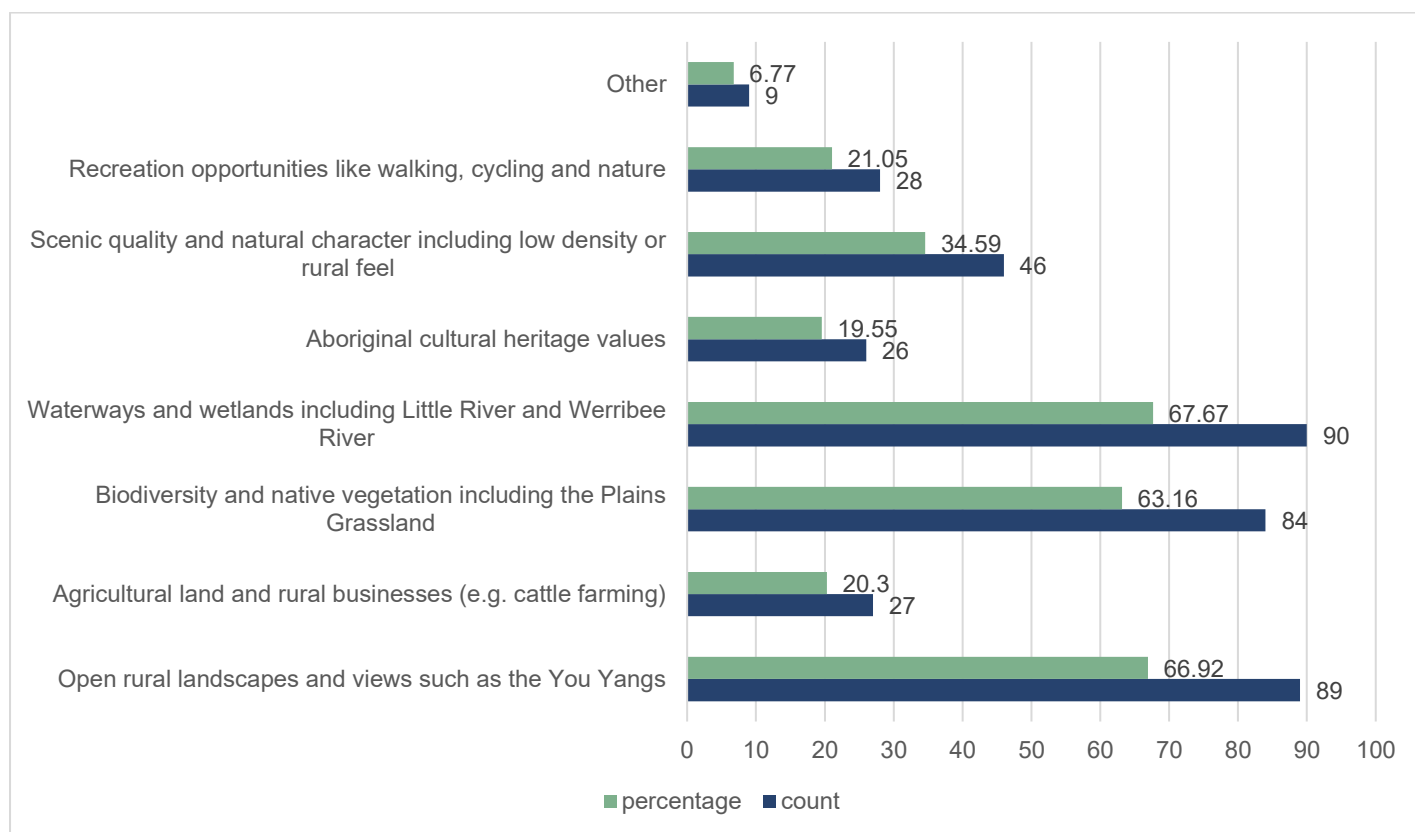
Question 1: What is your connection to the Western Plains South Green Wedge?



NOTE: Respondents could select multiple options to this question, as a result, percentages may not total 100%.

'Other' responses included community group names, interests in preserving natural environment and family history in the area.

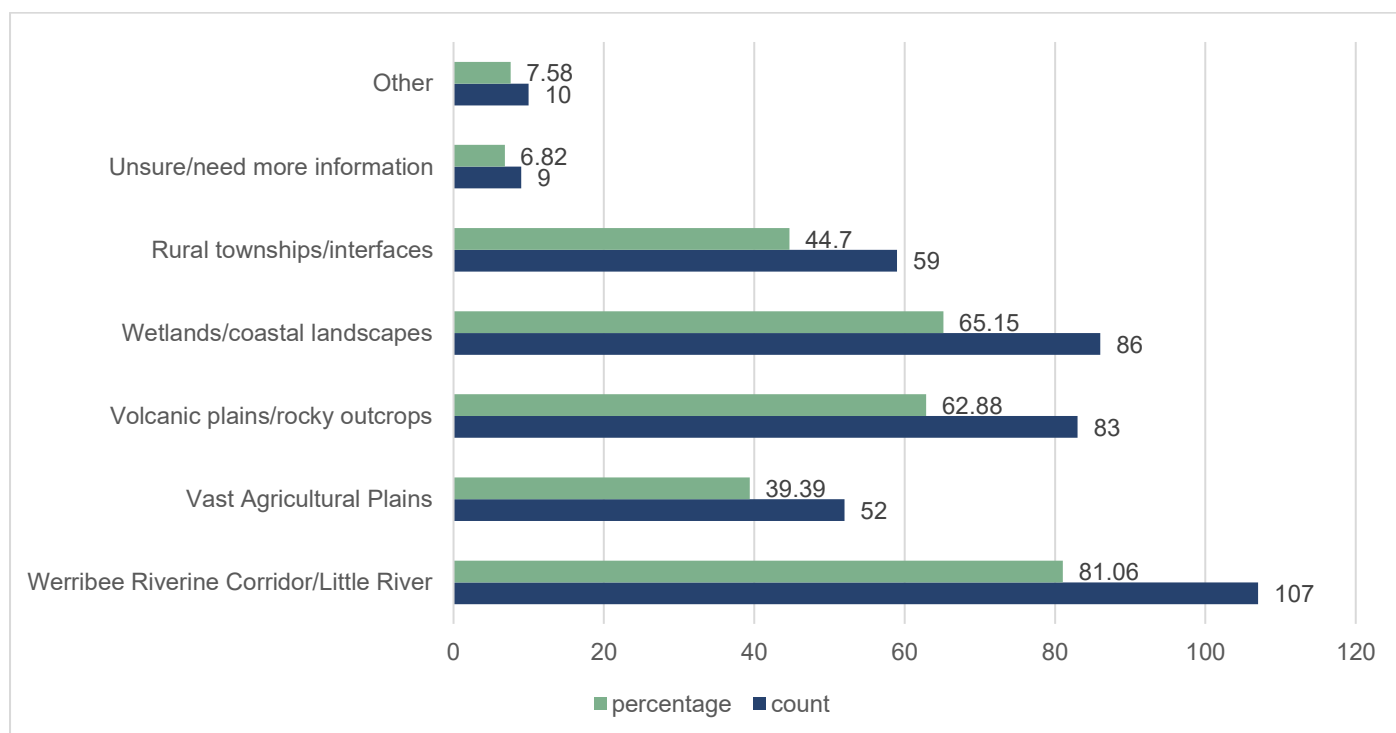
Question 2: What do you value most about this landscape?



NOTE: Respondents could select multiple options to these questions, as a result, percentages may not total 100%.

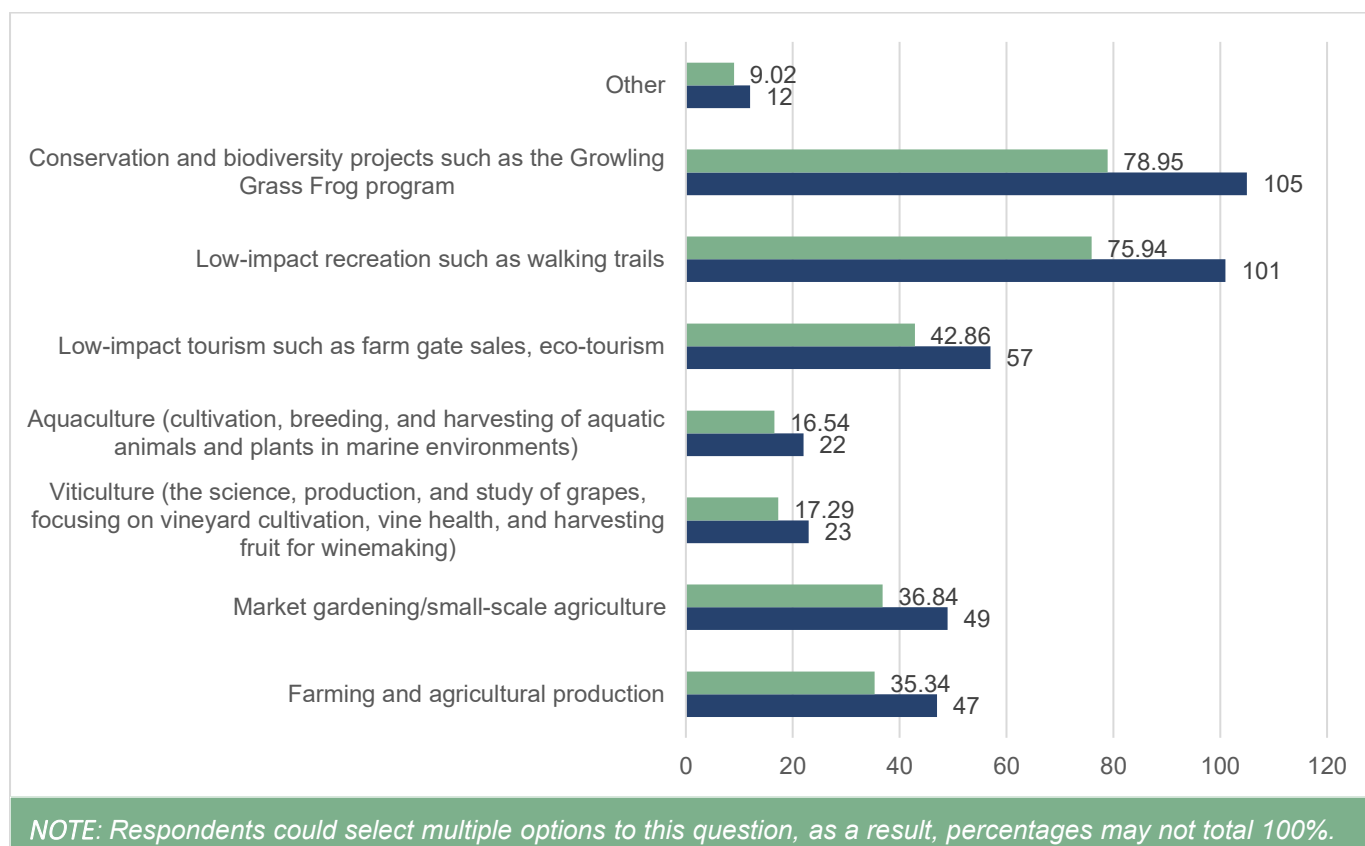
'Other' responses included minimising development, keeping light pollution levels low, increasing the development of the area and caring for the local wildlife.

Question 3: Which areas do you think are most important to protect and manage carefully?



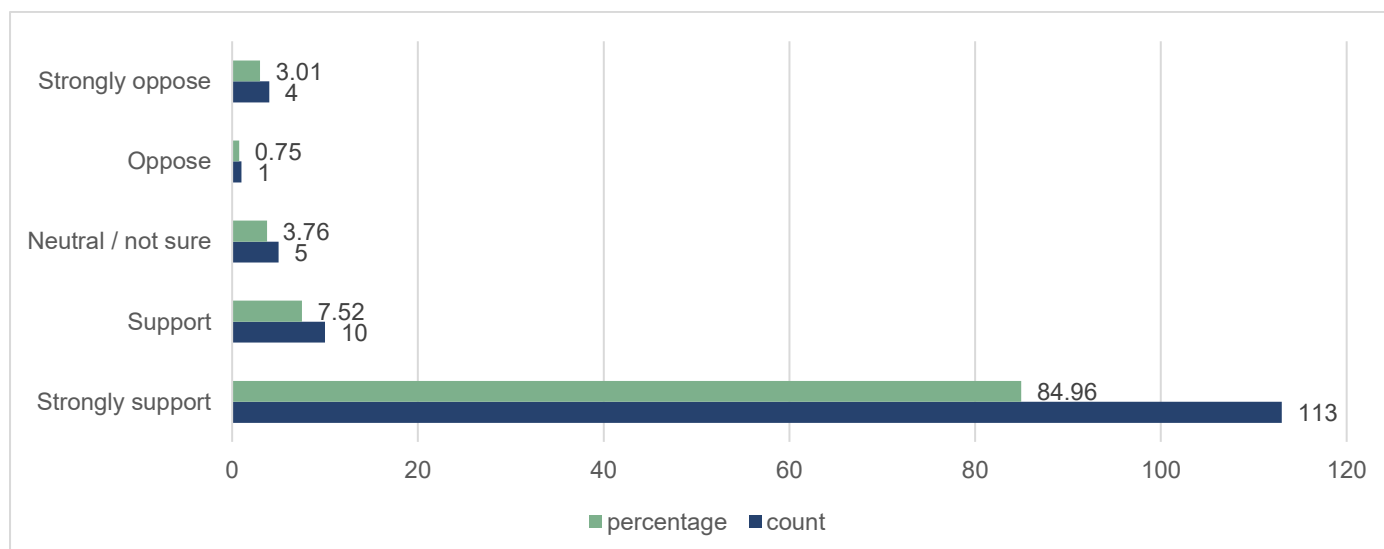
'Other' responses included none of the above, restricting future land development as well as increasing future development.

Question 4: Which land uses do you think should be encouraged in the Green Wedge where appropriate?

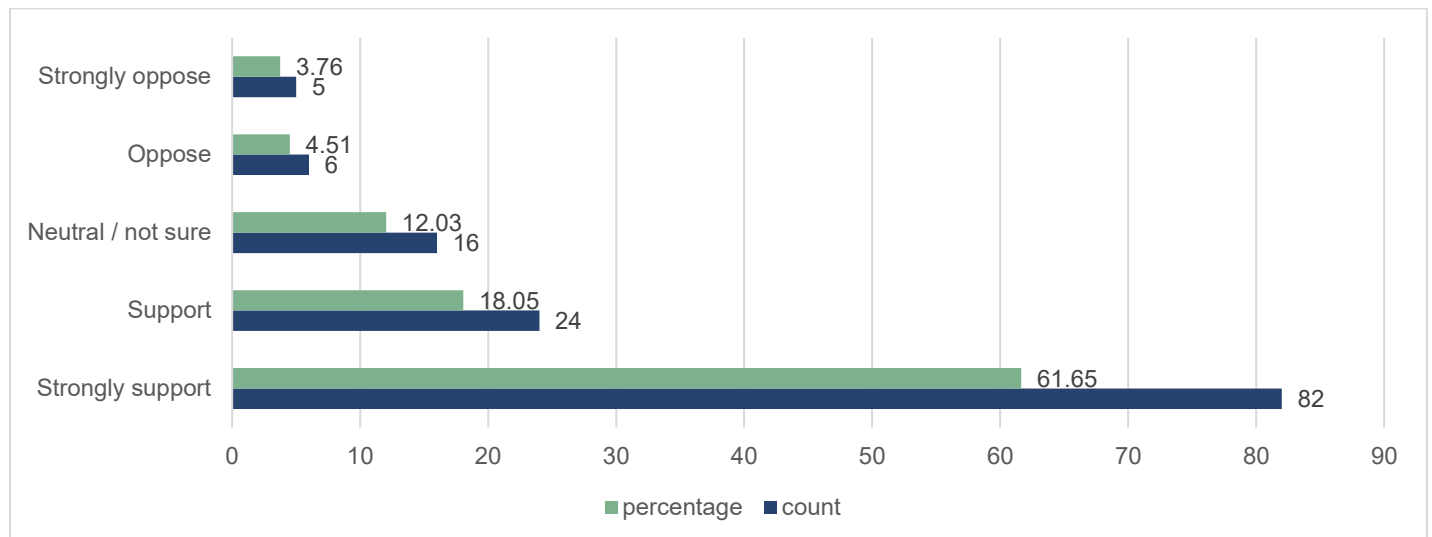


'Other' responses included promoting the development of housing including residential and commercial property.

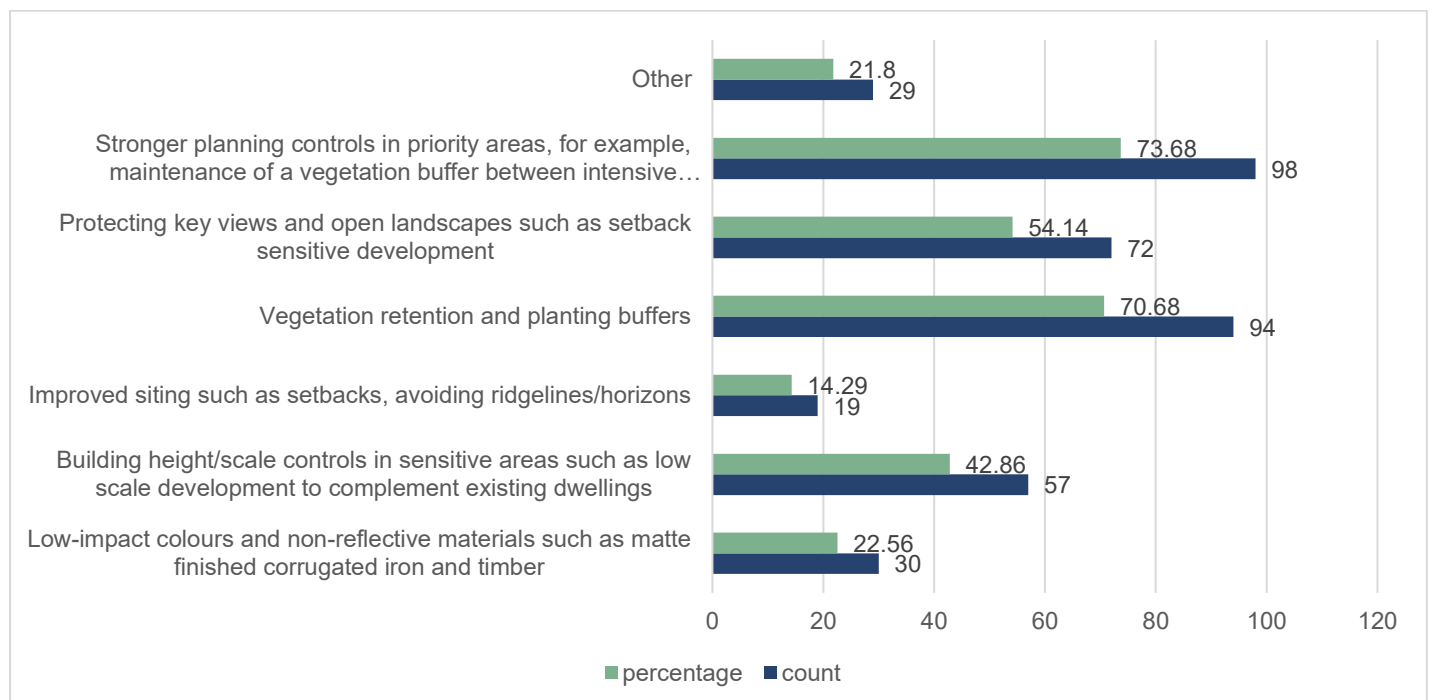
Question 5: How strongly do you support protecting and restoring native vegetation (grasslands, canopy trees, river corridors) as part of future land management?



Question 6: To what extent do you support exploring an SLO in the identified areas of the Western Plains South Green Wedge?



Question 7: Which approaches do you support the most to reduce visual impacts of new buildings/works in the Green Wedge?



NOTE: Respondents could select multiple options to this question, as a result, percentages may not total 100%.

'Other' responses included comments around limiting development, increasing native canopy cover, wildlife protection and increasing development opportunities.

Question 8: Is there anything else Council should consider in enhancing and protecting the Western Plains South Green Wedge landscape character? 82 responses were received to this question. We grouped feedback into common themes. Because some people raised more than one issue, the total number of themes identified is greater than the number of responses received. A full list of comments from this question can be found in **Appendix 2**.

Theme	Percent	Count
Protection of the Green Wedge (no / minimal development) Strong support for maintaining the area as a protected Green Wedge, with clear opposition to urban, industrial and large-scale development. Many called for 'no building,' 'no subdivision,' and preserving the area's open, rural character.	42%	42
Biodiversity, Grasslands and Wildlife Protection High value placed on protecting endangered grasslands, native flora and fauna, and overall ecosystem health. Many highlighted the ecological significance of the area and the need for conservation first decision making.	18%	18
Land Management (Weeds, Pests, Restoration, Native Planting) Focus on practical actions such as weed and pest control, revegetation, indigenous planting, and ongoing environmental maintenance.	12%	12
Limiting Urban Sprawl & Managing Growth Concerns about overdevelopment in Wyndham. Respondents supported directing growth to existing urban areas and avoiding further expansion into the Green Wedge area.	9%	9
Planning Controls, Policy & Enforcement Calls for stronger planning protections, enforcement, and policy mechanisms to safeguard the area.	7%	7
Habitat Connectivity & Corridors Support for improving ecological links across the landscape to reduce fragmentation and strengthen biodiversity outcomes.	5%	5
Low-Impact Recreation & Community Use Interest in low-impact recreational opportunities such as trails and small-scale community uses that align with the landscape.	4%	4
General statements A small number of responses supported increased development opportunities or expressed concerns regarding Council decision-making and consultation processes.	3%	3
Total – Responses provided may fall into more than one theme	100%	100

Overall, feedback demonstrated strong support for protection of the Western Plains South Green Wedge, with the dominant themes relating to limiting development, protecting biodiversity and grasslands, improving land management, and strengthening planning controls.

In person engagement

Two in person pop-up engagement sessions were held during the engagement period.

- Thursday 12 March, 4-7PM, Little River Mechanics Institute Hall, 8 Rothwell Rd, Little River
- Wednesday 18 March, 5:30-8PM, Manor Lakes Community Learning Centre, 86 Manor Lakes Blvd, Manor Lakes

Community members were invited to attend either session and share their feedback in person or ask questions to Council staff.

The Little River drop-in session was attended by approximately 18 registered attendees and around 30 community members overall across the evening. Discussion at the session was highly engaged and predominantly focused on long-term protection of the Green Wedge, biodiversity conservation, protection of native grasslands, and concerns regarding urban encroachment and development pressures. Many attendees expressed strong support for strengthening planning protections to maintain the rural and environmental character of the area.

The Manor Lakes drop-in session experienced lower attendance; however, the session still provided an opportunity for direct discussion with residents regarding landscape protection, biodiversity and habitat connectivity, management of future growth pressures, and the potential role and implications of future planning controls, including a Significant Landscape Overlay.

Across both sessions, community sentiment generally demonstrated strong support for protecting the landscape, environmental and rural character values of the Western Plains South Green Wedge, while also recognising the importance of appropriate land management, ongoing environmental restoration and carefully managed low-impact recreational opportunities.

Next steps

Community feedback will be reviewed and reported back to Council. The finalised Landscape Character Assessment will then be used to inform the draft Western Plains South Green Wedge Management Plan, which will be open for feedback in 2027.



Appendix 1: Who did we hear from?

The below highlights who we heard from during our engagement via The Loop survey. Demographic details were captured online from 133 community members.

Age Group	%	Count
8-24	3.76%	5
25-34	12.78%	17
35-44	22.56%	30
45-54	25.56%	34
55-64	15.79%	21
65+	19.55%	26
Total	100%	133

Language	%	Count
English	98.5%	131
Punjabi	0.75%	1
Hindi	0.75%	1
Karen	0.75%	1
Other	12.78%	17
Total	100%	133

Gender	%	Count
Female	56.39%	75
Male	39.10%	52
Prefer not to say or Other	4.51%	6
Total	100%	133

Suburb	%	Count
Eynesbury	3.76%	5
Hoppers Crossing	6.77%	9
Little River	30.83%	41
Mambourin	0.75%	1
Manor Lakes	8.27%	11
Mount Cottrell	2.26%	3
Point Cook	6.77%	9
Tarneit	3.01%	4
Truganina	3.01%	4
Werribee	18.05%	24
Werribee South	4.51%	6
Williams Landing	0.75%	1
Wyndham Vale	1.50%	2
Outside of Wyndham	9.77%	13
Total	100%	133

Identity	Yes %	Yes count	No / Prefer not to say %	No / Prefer not to say count
A person living with disability and/or someone caring for a person living with disability	18.80 %	25	81.2%	108
An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person	6.02%	8	93.98%	125
A person who identifies as LGBTQIA	8.27%	11	91.73%	122

Appendix 2: Online feedback from The Loop engagement survey

Below is the raw, deidentified feedback received directly from community from **Question 8: Is there anything else Council should consider in enhancing and protecting the Western Plains South Green Wedge landscape character?**

Acreage properties in or near the township of Little River should be rezoned for residential subdivision for small acreage housing/properties. However, there should not be permitted in appropriate industrial development as the town has been threatened by.
Actually, enhance and protect the natural beauty of the area. No development, real or commercial. Agricultural on conservation only.
All of the wildlife including birds.
All plantings should be local indigenous plants (trees shrubs and wildflowers).
Allow more subdivision. Allow more restaurants, cafes, shops, recreation spots to encourage people to come to little river. Allow people to be able to pick wood from around the You Yangs in case there is a fire. Allow more people the opportunity to be Yangs.
Any access roads and pathways need to be properly planned to reduce noise, damage and dumping of rubbish.
Appropriate plantings and weed management across the area.
Avoid visual vandalism.
Being mindful of all the options in the previous question, they are all important. The Loss of Dark Sky is an increasing environmental concern due to increased light pollution. Little River needs to be protected from increased light and noise pollution.
Biodiversity should be the key priority. Grasslands in Victoria have been decimated since colonisation and key species are endangered and/or locally extinct. Preserving the natural areas and restoring the landscape will provide the most benefit.
Build a public leisure centre and aquatic centre and a new plaza.
Champion protecting the land and promoting sound practices in ways that strengthen farm viability and protect the unique surrounding.
Conserving delicate natural areas and their biodiversity for the future.
Consultation with local First Nations Groups.
Council must protect Little River and the Western Plains South Green Wedge from urban encroachment, subdivision, and industrial development. Strong planning controls are needed to preserve rural character, open landscapes, and native vegetation here.
Council should consider expanding the nominated grasslands area to incorporate land adjacent to the little raven block that is on the other side of the rail line in Little River. This will provide a corridor for wildlife from the You Yangs to the wetland.
Do not allow development of green wedge areas, it defeats the purpose of the green wedge.
Do not build on this land, clean up weeds, and have the indigenous people control the quality of the area.
Don't allow large companies to build ugly industrial facilities in the green wedge zones or places adjacent to green wedge zones.
Don't develop there.
Don't over build, and make a place for people to do things to enjoy the area.
Enforce landholders to control regionally controlled weeds like artichoke thistle.
Environment needs should be first consideration and human impact designed around these needs.

Expand the trail network for walking and cycling, specifically advocating for the Werribee River trail to improve recreational access.
Grassland restoration.
Growth is inevitable, but it must not come at the expense of the natural environment. These landscapes support thriving biodiversity precisely because they remain undisturbed, with soil ecosystems sustaining broader bird and animal life.
Habitat connectivity and fragmentation.
I really strongly support banning artificial grass and encouraging people natural options instead. Better yet, incentivise a native garden as well as having new developments promote a habitat nature strip instead of just grass.
I think linking corridors and landscapes, reveg works and investment in community education would be worthy ventures. It would be wonderful to one day see the reintroduction of missing native species similar to the Rothwell Sanctuary.
I would love to see Wyndham protecting the natural landscape in all developments.
Impact on fauna which you had not mentioned, when Cherry Creek Correction Centre was built, the animals and fauna that were killed was devastating, this centre was not supposed to be in the LR precedent and it was built without any consult of local residents.
Increased vermin control and protection of endangered and native plants and wildlife.
Intensify the areas already developed, stop expanding the city.
Is there anything else Council should consider in enhancing and protecting the Western Plains South Green Wedge landscape character?
It is a significant landscape, culturally, ecologically and geologically. There needs to be EXTENSIVE surveys done to catalogue what is there. If we lose anything (ecological, geological or cultural then it is a failure.
It is critical to protect the green wedge, especially in light of the pending sale of the RAAF base. That land should continue to be part of the green wedge.
Keep it as Green Wedge.
Leave old growth trees, grasses etc for local birds and wildlife to access. Include wildlife corridors to prevent fragmentation of habitat and help reduce wildlife from road strikes.
Leave this as a green wedge. Native fauna have had their space invaded too much already. Protect the area, plant native plants, be a steward for nature
Less building.
Maintain native grasslands.
Maintain weed control is essential. Maintenance of the Little River. Promote planting native trees and grasses.
Maintaining a proper habitat for native wildlife.
Management of invasive weeds, planting native plants.
Native grassland is one of the most endangered ecosystems in Victoria and contains critically endangered and threatened species of plants and animals. We should not be developing this land but restoring the grassland ecosystem.
No building within green wedge zone.
No cutting of gumtrees. Don't develop into dog boxes. If developed, have minimum 1-5 acre blocks.
No housing development.
No intensive animal agriculture.
No large-scale development housing or industrial, maintain a clean break, holding land owners to account with weed management including overseas owners and farmers.
No new housing in green wedge area.
No telecommunications towers, facilities, radiation, EMT, noise vibration.
Not allowing large scale operations to be built, e.g. jails, battery farms, solar panel farms, quarries.

Open land is NOT unused or underutilised land. We need to care for our land and native wildlife.
Permit international farm workers to live on the farmers lands instead of slum facilities in Werribee residential areas non compliant with the planning scheme.
Pest and weed control, well enforced cat curfews.
Please consider a Significant Landscape Overlay over Little River and other significant habitat/character areas to protect the locality's character before it is too late, and solar farms and other non-agricultural industry can progress.
Pollution of plastic on the bay.
Predator proof fencing areas, creating habitat zones of extremely high-quality flora and fauna including endangered and or rare taxa.
Protect at all costs, stop building in these areas.
PROTECT IT AND LEAVE IT ALONE, NO BUILDING OR SUBDIVISION.
Protect native plants and wildlife.
Protecting remaining native grasslands.
Reduce animal agriculture due to its negative impact on the environment and climate change. it requires vast lands and water for animals and feed crops, creates soil degradation, deforestation, drives biodiversity loss, pollutes waterways with runoff.
Reestablishment of native ground cover and canopy, prevention of further low-quality development.
Right if access including gravel walking tracks, control of weed and invasive species.
Speak with local regional indigenous groups who know a lot more than those of us that are not indigenous.
Stop housing development encroachment into the western plains. No more estates compact with tiny blocks only very low density and minimal impact.
Stop touching things.
The council puts out these surveys but do listen to the people that live in the areas, council has not communicated with the residents of Mt Cottrell. We do know what will work out here! if you would listen!
The council should not be protecting green wedge. The council should be addressing the issues we actually want to be addressed. We are facing a housing crisis with low demand. Start developing Little River, we are no longer stuck in the 1950s.
The council should not have the full rights on deciding about green wedge.
The Western Grassland Reserve should be considered for expansion at Little River with farmland on the south side of the trainline abutting the Ramsar Wetland and Youth Detention centre which was excluded from original studies.
The whole area should remain undeveloped. No approvals should be given to subdivide land for residential use. What is there now should be protected.
There should be a balance between protecting landscape character but to the detriment of potential land development.
To continue to support the green wedge by not allowing permits for other uses. Green wedges are identified for a reason.
Urban growth must not be allowed to encroach. Council should strengthen planning protections to ensure this landscape, its biodiversity, and its rural character are preserved for generations to come.
Walking trails in this area would be great, that blend with the natural surroundings. Having a low scale farmers market to encourage locals to buy local produce or a community garden. The space should be kept in its natural condition, no housing.
We should fund a comprehensive wildlife survey of the Western Grassland Reserve to see if it may be home to the grassland earless dragon, striped legless lizard, southern brown bandicoot or plains wanderer - this could expedite protections for the green wedge.
We've already lost some character in Wyndham with overdevelopment. There's a good reason why film producers choose this area over others, not just proximity to Melbourne, but how unique and beautiful the area is, the landscape is uniquely Australian.
What the people want.

Yes - The Mount Cottrell area needs council's attention. In this case I am talking about Brinbeal Ward. The UGB that ends at Sewells Road should be pushed to the Werribee River so then Werribee River becomes the UGB. The MT Cottrell residents want change.