

Future Nillumbik Committee

to be held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough
on Tuesday 9 March 2021 commencing at 7:00pm.

Agenda

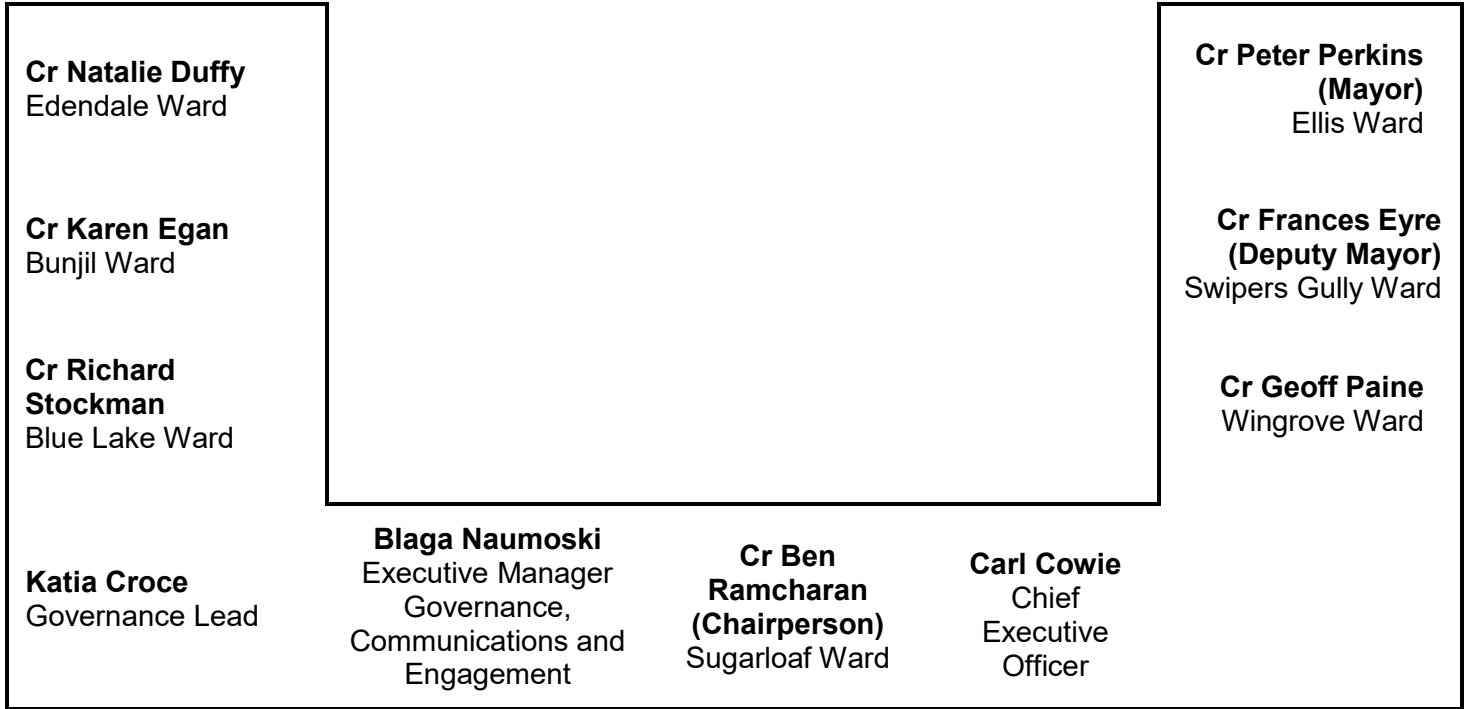
Carl Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

Thursday 4 March 2021

Distribution: Public

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Future Nillumbik Committee seating plan



Nillumbik Shire Council

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Nillumbik Shire Council

**Agenda of the Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting to be held
Tuesday 9 March 2021 commencing at 7:00pm.**

1. Welcome by the Chair

Members of the public are advised the meeting will be recorded and an audio recording of the meeting will be made publicly available on Council's website.

2. Reconciliation statement

The reconciliation statement to be read by the Chairperson

Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians present.

3. Apologies

Recommendation

That the apologies be noted.

4. Confirmation of minutes

Confirmation of minutes of the Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9 February 2021.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9 February 2021 be confirmed (**Attachment 1**).

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5. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

Committee members should note that any conflicts of interest should also be disclosed immediately before the relevant item.

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6. Officers' reports**FNC.012/21 Arts and Culture Strategy 2022 - 2026 Community Engagement Plan**

Portfolio: Community Services**Distribution: Public****Manager: Corrienne Nichols, Executive Manager Communities****Author: Simon Doyle, Coordinator Arts and Cultural Development****Summary**

This report provides an overview of the Community Engagement Plan, (**Attachment 1**), for the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022 -2026.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) endorses the Community Engagement Plan for the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 (**Attachment 1**).

Attachments

1. Community Engagement Plan - Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026
2. Arts and Culture Plan 2018-2022

Discussion

1. The Arts and Cultural Plan 2018–2022 is due to expire. Consultation to inform the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–2026 is projected to begin in March 2021.
2. Informed by Communications and Engagement protocols and processes, Arts and Cultural Development have prepared a Community Engagement Plan, (**Attachment 1**), which will empower the community to provide the critical information needed to guide the development of the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–2026.
3. The Arts and Culture Sector has been one of the most seriously affected by COVID-19 and by the measures undertaken to prevent the spread. The renewal of the Arts and Culture Strategy provides an opportunity to develop a clear understanding of the post-COVID-19 challenges facing local arts practitioners, businesses and organisations.
4. The results of the Community Engagement Plan, will be utilised in the development of an Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–2026 that will support the delivery of the goals outlined in the Council Plan 2021–2025.
5. The Nillumbik Arts and Culture Plan 2018–2022 is available in (**Attachment 2**).

6. Officers' Report

FNC.012/21 Arts and Culture Strategy 2022 - 2026 Community Engagement Plan

Options

6. The Arts and Cultural Strategy 2022–2026 will provide the framework for Arts and Cultural Development to deliver key aspects of the new 2021–2025 Council Plan. The new strategy will give arts and culture prominence and recognise its significant cultural, social and economic contribution to the Nillumbik community.
7. The Arts and Cultural Strategy 2022–2026 will be based on community values and will be focused on outcomes. It will be community led and informed by best practice. The strategy will be based on the principle that culture is built upon our beliefs and values; and the arts are an expression of our culture.
8. The Community Engagement Plan will support the development of the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–2026 through a series of engagement activities that seek involvement from a wide variety of residents and stakeholders identified in Step 3 of the plan.
9. The Community Engagement Plan will utilise online surveys and apps available through Participate Nillumbik, interactive art based pop up activities, roving performance and installation based consultations and focus groups.

Council plans and policies

10. The Community Engagement Plan will commence the work required to provide strategic continuity in the delivery of Councils Arts and Cultural Services following the expiry of the current Nillumbik Arts and Cultural Plan 2018-2022 (endorsed by Council at FNC, November 14, 2017).
11. Engaging community in the development of a new Arts and Culture Strategy is required under Council's Community Engagement Policy and the Local Government Act 2020.
12. The Community Engagement Plan will assist in supporting the current Council Plan 2017-2021 Strategic Objective 2.0 Active and Creative People:
 - a) 2.2.1 Develop and implement an Arts and Culture Plan that builds on Nillumbik's rich artistic, cultural and physical heritage.
 - b) 2.2.5 Recognise and support opportunities which develop and grow creative and cultural industries in Nillumbik, positioning the shire as a key destination.
 - c) 2.2.6 Support and promote arts and culture activities that maximise access across the Shire.

Sustainability implications

13. The arts are an important contributor to local economic activity.
14. Arts and culture provide social connection through shared experiences, group activities and as a lens through which to make sense of social challenges.

6. Officers' Report**FNC.012/21 Arts and Culture Strategy 2022 - 2026 Community Engagement Plan**

Community engagement

15. This report provides a detailed Community Engagement Plan, for the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026.
16. The following Phases underpin the implementation of the Community Engagement Plan;
 - a) **Phase 1** will focus on casting a 'wide net' to capture a diverse variety of inputs.
 - b) **Phase 2** will consist of a more focused approach utilising key themes identified in Phase 1 with targeted internal and external focus groups.
 - c) **Phase 3** will focus on confirmations of these findings with community.
 - d) **Phases 4, 5 & 6** will focus on the development and adoption of the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022 -2026 in line with the Council Plan 2021-2025 and community feedback via Participate Nillumbik.

Innovation and continuous improvement

17. The Community Engagement Plan, incorporates - alongside more conventional engagement methodology - a range of cultural devices, including the use of street performers, installations and interactive art activities to encourage community conversations around culture.
18. The purpose of these non-conventional approaches is to ensure that the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 represents a wide array of community, not just those who identify as members of the local arts community.
19. 50% of respondents to Council's annual survey identified attending arts events.
20. The Community Engagement Plan, will utilise some additional app functionality available in Participate Nillumbik like 'Visioner', 'Quick Poll' and 'Gather'.
21. The Community Engagement Plan, will utilise the Cultural Outcome Impact measurement software 'Whitebox' to inform key measurable outcomes for the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026.
22. The Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 will be informed by detailed analysis on the impacts of the Arts and Culture Plan 2018-2022.

Collaboration

23. The development of the Council Plan 2021-2025 and the Health and Wellbeing Plan provide some excellent opportunities to integrate where appropriate. Arts and Cultural Development team will work with responsible officers to maximise opportunities for collaborative consultation.

Budget implications

24. All engagement activities will be delivered within the Arts and Cultural Development Operational Budget.

Relevant law

25. Not applicable.

6. Officers' Report

FNC.012/21 Arts and Culture Strategy 2022 - 2026 Community Engagement Plan

Regional, state and national plans and policies

- 26. The Local Government Act 2020.
- 27. The 2020–2024 Creative Industries Strategy from Creative Victoria (yet to be released).
- 28. The Australia Council for the Arts 2020–2024 Strategy (yet to be released).

Conflicts of interest

- 29. No conflicts of interest exist in relation to the preparation of this report.

6. Officers' reports

FNC.013/21 Road Management Plan Review Submissions

Portfolio: Infrastructure

Distribution: Public

Manager: Hjalmar Philipp, Director Operations and Infrastructure

Author: Joseph Emmanuel, Manager Infrastructure

Jeff Saker, Roads and Drains Maintenance Coordinator

Summary

The Road Management Act 2004 grants power to a road authority (Council) to make a Road Management Plan (RMP) to establish the management system and standards for the exercise of the authority's road management functions.

Council commenced the RMP review by advertising its intent to review in The Age and Government Gazette on 28 January 2021.



As part of the notice, Council invited and received 73 submissions and this report summarises the items raised and the officer response to each of these submissions.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Notes that 73 submissions (**Attachment 1**) were received with respect to Council giving notice of its intention to review its Road Management Plan.
2. Refers any decision regarding the adoption of the amended Road Management Plan to a future Council Meeting.
3. Resolves that the detailed unredacted submissions (**Attachment 3**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Attachments

- 1  Adopted Road Management Plan 2017
- 2  Detailed submissions redacted
3. Detailed submissions unredacted - *CONFIDENTIAL*

Discussion

1. The main purpose of Council's RMP is to document the level of service relating to how often Council inspects its roads and footpaths network, what Council defines as a hazard and defect and within what timeframe Council will rectify that hazard or defect.
2. The RMP takes a risk and resource based approach to defining service levels. The factors of risk and resource are considered alongside legislation, benchmarking with other councils and community input as part of the consultation process.

6. Officers' Report

FNC.013/21 Road Management Plan Review Submissions

Related Council decisions

3. At the 27 June 2017 Council Meeting, Council resolved to adopt its 2017 RMP and this can be seen in **Attachment 1**.
4. At the 27 January 2021 Council Meeting, Council resolved that "*Council publishes a public notice of its intention to review its Road Management Plan, inviting submissions to be heard at the next available Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting.*"

Options

5. Council can choose to maintain or amend (either by improving or reducing) service levels based on submissions received and the review process.
6. In the event that Council proposes to amend and reduce its service levels, in accordance with legislation is required to invite further submissions as part of S223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to be heard at a future Nillumbik Committee Meeting.
7. If service levels are maintained or increased, Council may adopt its amended RMP without further formal consultation.

Council plans and policies

8. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
 - Plan for the community's future needs for services and infrastructure.

Sustainability implications

9. Safe and functioning roads can provide a range of sustainability related benefits, particularly economic and social. There may be a degree of trade off with environmental implications, for example through more frequent inspection and management measures.

Community engagement

10. The review and amendment of a RMP is required to follow the process set out in the *Local Government Act 1989* and *Road Management Act 2004*. This includes inviting community input into the current RMP before considering and making any amendments.
11. To commence the review process a public notice was placed in The Age and Victorian Government Gazette on 28 January 2021 advising of Council's intention to conduct a review of the RMP, inviting the community to an information session and how to make a submission. This was also communicated on Council's website and social media.
12. The consultation period closed 27 February 2021 and 73 submissions were received.
13. The online engagement approach has been successful in attracting an increase in submissions compared to the 2017 process in which Council received 7 submissions with respect to its intent to review its RMP.
14. **Attachment 2** provides a redacted version of the detailed submissions. Personal information identifying the submitter has been redacted. **Attachment 3** provides the full unredacted submissions.

6. Officers' Report

FNC.013/21 Road Management Plan Review Submissions

15. As part of seeking submissions the community was asked to provide feedback on the type of road defects considered to need additional expenditure. The results of the survey are shown below in **Table 1**.

Defect Type	Number of selections
Sealed road defects (pot holes, edge breaks and trees overhanging the road).	30
Footpath defects (broken or deformed bays resulting in a trip and trees overhanging the footpath).	4
Road hazards (oil spills, road obstruction including dead animals and trees over roads, missing pit lids etc).	6
Footpath hazards (footpath obstructions and trees over footpaths).	1
None of the above.	2
Other.	27
No response.	3

16. Further insight into the 'Other' categories is provided in **Table 2** below. Some individual response contained multiple topics.

Comment	Number of mentions	Officer response
Sealing or traffic volumes on unsealed roads.	5	Out of scope of the RMP.
Defects and increase maintenance on unsealed roads.	4	Will be considered as part of the review process.
Rural roads.	1	The RMP takes a risk based approach in determining levels of service. As an example, roads with more traffic (that are a higher category) will receive a more regular inspection frequency and faster response time to identified defects in comparison to roads with less traffic. Levels of service are developed independent of locality.

6. Officers' Report

FNC.013/21 Road Management Plan Review Submissions

Comment	Number of mentions	Officer response
Roadside trees, roadside slashing and fire hazard.	5	<p>Although trees overhanging into the road and footpath are a consideration of the RMP, the associated service levels are contained in Nillumbik's Tree Management Policy and Tree Management Guidelines. The levels of service relating to overhanging trees are set in collaboration with emergency management authorities in line with Council's Municipal Fire Management Plan.</p> <p>Roadside slashing activities are out of scope for the RMP.</p> <p>There is no proposal to review these levels of service as part of this review.</p>
Trail maintenance.	2	<p>Although trails on roadsides are a consideration of the RMP, any review of service levels will be performed as part of an update to Council's Trails Strategy.</p> <p>There is no proposal to review these levels of service as part of this review.</p> <p>This review, however will consider the levels of service associated with Council's 'high' footpath category which does include shared paths.</p>
Bike lanes.	2	Out of scope of the RMP.
Speed and traffic flow.	2	Out of scope of the RMP.
New footpaths.	3	Out of scope of the RMP.
Widening roads.	1	Out of scope of the RMP.
Spend more on all of the categories.	5	The allocation of additional expenditure will be subject to a resolution of Council to increase any levels of service within an amended RMP.

6. Officers' Report

FNC.013/21 Road Management Plan Review Submissions

17. A free form was also made available for submitters to provide any additional information. 46 of the 73 submissions received provided additional information, summarised in **Table 3** below with the officer response. Most individual responses contained multiple topics.

Additional Information Provided	Number of mentions	Officer response
Update on a current special charge scheme.	1	Out of scope of the RMP. Officers have contacted the resident and provided an update on the special charge scheme status.
Satisfaction with current service levels.	1	Noted.
Bike lanes.	1	Out of scope of the RMP.
Traffic lights, traffic flow, speed limits or general road safety.	13	Out of scope of the RMP. Where contact details were made available, officers have contacted submitters to discuss their comments and provide advice on how Council can support.
Quality of pit lids.	1	Council uses stormwater pit lids rated to the environment within which the pit lids sits according to the appropriate Australian Standard.
Stormwater drainage.	1	Out of scope of the RMP.
Additional parking.	1	Out of scope of the RMP.
Sealing unsealed roads and dust.	10	Out of scope of the RMP.
Increase the grading frequency and general unsealed roads maintenance.	11	Will be considered as part of the review process.
Leaf litter in drains.	1	Out of scope of the RMP.
New footpaths and pedestrian crossing facilities.	4	Out of scope of the RMP.

6. Officers' Report

FNC.013/21 Road Management Plan Review Submissions

Additional Information Provided	Number of mentions	Officer response
Roadside trees, roadside slashing and fire hazard.	17	<p>Although trees overhanging into the road and footpath are a consideration of the RMP, the associated levels of service are contained in Nillumbik’s Tree Management Policy and Tree Management Guidelines. The levels of service relating to overhanging trees are set in collaboration with emergency management authorities in line with Council’s Municipal Fire Management Plan.</p> <p>Clearance requirements are nominated within Council’s Tree Management Guidelines.</p> <p>Roadside slashing activities are out of scope for the RMP.</p> <p>There is no proposal to review these levels of service as part of this review.</p>
Wildlife on roads.	3	<p>The RMP deals with the response times associated with collecting deceased animals off the road or footpath.</p> <p>All other matters relating to increased wildlife volumes and crossings points are out of scope of the RMP.</p>
Weed management.	1	Out of scope of the RMP.
Queried whether graffiti management is a RMP consideration.	1	Where graffiti impacts the legibility or visibility of signage or other delineation infrastructure it triggers a response with respect to the RMP to restore its functionality.
Resealing of Arterial Roads.	1	Arterial roads are the responsibility of Department of Transport (DoT). This request was forwarded through to DoT for consideration.

6. Officers' Report

FNC.013/21 Road Management Plan Review Submissions

Additional Information Provided	Number of mentions	Officer response
Trail maintenance.	2	<p>Although trails on roadsides are a consideration of the RMP, any review of service levels will be performed as part of an update to Council's Trails Strategy.</p> <p>There is no proposal to review these levels of service as part of this review.</p> <p>This review, however will consider the levels of service associated with Council's 'high' footpath category which does include shared paths.</p>
Catering for and acknowledging road users other than cars and specifically horse riders within Section 2.3 and Section 3.2 of the RMP.	3	<p>The RMP does acknowledge user other than cars, including horse rides within Section 2.3 of the current document.</p> <p>The various hazards and defects identified within the RMP are to address the risks key stakeholders are likely to encounter when using the road, footpath and shared path network.</p> <p>Further consideration will be made to update Section 3.2 as part of any amendment.</p>
Updating Appendix A.	1	<p>Appendix A addresses explicitly the function of the road. The request to include the function of 'informal paths' is not the intention of this table.</p> <p>This item is considered in Nillumbik's Trails Strategy and referenced in Appendix D of the RMP.</p>
Equity of spend across the municipality.	2	<p>The RMP takes a risk based approach in determining levels of service. As an example, roads with more traffic (that are a higher category) will receive a more regular inspection frequency and faster response time to identified defects in comparison to roads with less traffic. Levels of service are developed independent of locality.</p> <p>Decisions relating to new or upgrade of assets are not in scope for the RMP.</p>

6. Officers' Report

FNC.013/21 Road Management Plan Review Submissions

Additional Information Provided	Number of mentions	Officer response
Minor edits to the document.	2	These items will be considered as part of the updated RMP.
Concerns with the survey details and method.	2	Noted.

18. Two of the submitters attached written submissions containing further details. This has been included in the above tables, with details in **Attachment 2** and **Attachment 3**.
19. As part of this initial engagement, Council invited the community to attend an online drop in session on 18 February and a separate session in the Council Chamber on 25 February. The sessions were advertised on Council’s social media platforms.
20. One registration was received for the 18 February event and no registrations were received for the 25 February event.
21. Having reviewed the submissions received officers will prepare an amended RMP and present to Council for consideration at a future Council meeting.

Innovation and continuous improvement

22. The review process embraces a continuous improvement philosophy.
23. A review of Council’s RMP is performed every four years.
24. The 2017 version of Council’s RMP is the fourth iteration of this plan. With each iteration, Council refines its service levels and one of the benefits of this is building in efficiencies gained through program and process improvement.

Collaboration

25. A benchmarking exercise has been completed with neighbouring councils.

Budget implications

26. Any proposed changes to levels of service are likely to have an impact on the operational budgets and these will be considered as part of the review.

Relevant law

27. The *Road Management Act 2004* grants power to a road authority (Council) to make a RMP to establish the management system and standards for the exercise of the authority’s road management functions.
28. Council must complete its review of the RMP in accordance with Regulation 8 of the *Road Management (General) Regulations 2016*.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

29. Not applicable.

6. Officers' Report

FNC.013/21 Road Management Plan Review Submissions

Conflicts of interest

30. All staff involved in the preparation of this report, have declared in writing that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

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FNC.013/21 Road Management Plan Review Submissions

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6. Officers' reports**FNC.014/21 Submissions to Amendment C126 Rezoning of Bridge and John Street to Public Park and Recreation Zone**

Portfolio: Planning**Distribution: Public****Manager: Rosa Zouzoulas, Executive Manager Planning and Community Safety****Author: Bea Guevara, Senior Strategic Planner
Leigh Northwood, Strategic Planning Lead****Summary**

Council recently finished formal exhibition of Amendment C126nill to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme, which proposes to rezone the eastern ends of Bridge Street and John Street in Eltham to the Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ).

Having identified that these sections of road reserve (Bridge and John Streets) were no longer required for the purpose of vehicular use, Council has proposed to discontinue parts of these two road reserves pursuant to the statutory process under the *Local Government Act 1989* and retain the resultant land for public park and recreation, including pedestrian access. The planning scheme amendment process is running parallel to the road discontinuance process.

Amendment C126nill was exhibited from 7 January to 18 February 2021 and Council received three submissions. One submission is supporting and two submissions are objecting. One of the submissions was received late (after the formal exhibition period had concluded).

Where a submission raises an issue with a proposed amendment, the statutory amendment process provides for Council to request that the Minister for Planning appoint an independent planning panel to consider the amendment. This step allows Council to receive independent, technical recommendations on an amendment.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Notes the three (3) submissions received to Amendment C126nill (**Attachments 1, 2 and 3**).
2. Considers a further report at the next available Council Meeting to resolve to request the Minister for Planning appoint an independent planning panel to consider Amendment C126nill pursuant to Section 23(1)(b) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, or abandon the amendment.
3. Resolves that the detailed unredacted submissions (**Attachment 4**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

6. Officers' Report

FNC.014/21 Submissions to Amendment C126 Rezoning of Bridge and John Street to Public Park and Recreation Zone

Attachments

1. Submitter 1 - Redacted Submission to Amendment C126 with Attachments
2. Submitter 2 - Redacted Submission to Amendment C126 with Attachments
3. Submitter 3 - Redacted Late Submission to Amendment C126 with Attachments
4. Amendment C126 Submissions - Unredacted - *CONFIDENTIAL*

Discussion

1. At the time of conclusion of the formal amendment exhibition period, a total of two (2) submissions had been received (refer **Attachment 1 and 2** respectively). Submission 1 is supporting and Submission 2 is objecting. The supporting submission, and also general enquiries received during the exhibition period have identified support for the amendment. There is a desire in the community to protect these pocket parks and there have been suggestions of forming a *Friends Group* to help achieve this.
2. Suggestion to extend the Bridge Street proposed boundary to the corner of 8 Plumtree Close, Eltham for the rezoning has also been identified in the supporting submission.
3. It is noted a third submission was received after the formal amendment Exhibition period that requests changes to the John Street boundary (refer to **Attachment 3**). The submission is dated 10 February 2021 but Council received the submission 22 February 2021.
4. **Attachment 1, 2 and 3** provides a redacted version of the detailed submissions. Personal information identifying the submitter has been redacted. **Attachment 4** provides the full unredacted submissions.

Related Council decisions

5. At Council's Meeting on 25 February 2020, Council resolved to commence the statutory procedure to remove the road reserve status and proceed to rezone eastern sections of Bridge and John Streets from Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ) to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ).
6. At Council's Meeting on 28 July 2020, Council resolved to request the Minister for Planning under Section 8A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to authorise the preparation and exhibition of Amendment C126.
7. At the Future Nillumbik Committee (FNC) meeting of 9 February, the Committee heard submissions made to Council as part of its proposal to discontinue two road reserves located at the eastern end of Bridge Street in Eltham and the eastern end of John Street in Eltham, pursuant to the statutory process under the *Local Government Act 1989*.
8. At that FNC the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) resolved to:
 - a) *Note the 12 submissions including three objections made with respect to the proposal to discontinue two road reserves located at the eastern end of Bridge Street in Eltham and the eastern end of John Street in Eltham; and*

6. Officers' Report

FNC.014/21 Submissions to Amendment C126 Rezoning of Bridge and John Street to Public Park and Recreation Zone

b) *Consider a further report at the next available Council Meeting to resolve a position on the proposed road discontinuance relating to the eastern ends of John Street and Bridge Street in Eltham.*

9. The proposed road discontinuance and proposed amendment C126nill will be brought to a future Council meeting on 23 March.

Options

10. As part of considering the submissions received, Council at the next Council Meeting will be presented an officers recommendation. This recommendation may consider the following options:

a) Requests the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent Planning Panel to consider the submissions received for Amendment C126nill in accordance with Section 23(1)(b) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987; or

b) Resolve to abandon the proposed rezoning.

11. These options will be contingent to the decision made regarding the road discontinuance that the Infrastructure department is performing in a separate process.

12. If the road discontinuance is adopted as currently proposed, Council can proceed to request the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent Planning Panel to consider the submissions received should it resolve as such.

13. Any decision to amend the mapped area associated with the current road discontinuance proposal would require a new proposal to go through a further round of (s.223 of the *Local Government Act*) public notice periods. Further consultation would also be required should Council resolve to commence procedures to discontinue an area in addition to what is currently being proposed.

14. It is noted the road discontinuance is a key strategic justification used to gain authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare the amendment. If the boundary of the road discontinuance is to be changed, as identified above, the process of the road discontinuance may need to start over. If the process needs to restart, Amendment C126nill's strategic justification will be weakened given that the road reserve status of the road will remain in place. Amendment C126nill would likely need to be abandoned until any revised road discontinuance can be substantially determined and a future amendment could be aligned to any revised road discontinuance mapping.

Council plans and policies

1. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
 - Provide a range of infrastructure that encourages people of all ages to participate in a variety of active and passive opportunities.
 - Create active places and spaces that have good connectivity, provide needed infrastructure and promote social interaction.

6. Officers' Report

FNC.014/21 Submissions to Amendment C126 Rezoning of Bridge and John Street to Public Park and Recreation Zone

Sustainability implications

2. The amendment is expected to have positive environmental effects and economic and social benefits as it will confirm the intended status and management of land as public open space.
3. The social interactions and community building that public open spaces bring enhances community connectivity and community capital.
4. Retention of the open space assists in maintaining the attractiveness and amenity of the public realm.
5. Retention of the open space will continue to provide habitat for flora and fauna within the predominantly urban environment.
6. Pockets of planted open space help connect larger patches of bushland, and allow freedom of movement for wildlife.

Community engagement

15. Pursuant to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, amendment C117nill was publicly exhibited from 7 January 2021 to 18 February 2021.
16. Pursuant to notification requirements of the Act, Council officers sent out notification letters to all surrounding owners/occupiers and Prescribed Ministers, and notification in the Herald Sun and Government Gazette were also posted on 7 January 2021 to inform the public of the formal exhibition period.

Innovation and continuous improvement

17. The amendment ensures that planning controls are accurate, correct and consistent with its current use. This will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of achieving the objectives of planning in Victoria.

Collaboration

18. Officers liaised with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to ensure that amendment documents were prepared to their standard and that they are kept informed through the Planning Scheme Amendment process.

Budget implications

19. Planning scheme amendment budget allocation 20/21 financial year.

Relevant law

20. *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

21. This Amendment supports the objective of Clause 19.02 Open Space to establish, manage and improve a diverse and integrated network of public open space that meets the needs of the community. Specifically, the amendment supports the following strategy set out in Clause 19.02 6S:

Ensure that urban open space provides for nature conservation, recreation and play, formal and informal sport, social interaction, opportunities to connect with nature and peace and solitude.

6. Officers' Report

FNC.014/21 Submissions to Amendment C126 Rezoning of Bridge and John Street to Public Park and Recreation Zone

22. The Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023, outlines the government's key priorities to improve the health and wellbeing of Victorians. Priorities supported by the Amendment include increasing active living by increasing easy access to parks, open spaces and public spaces with opportunities for physical activity where appropriate.
23. Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 highlights the importance of 20-minute neighbourhoods. The 20-minute neighbourhood concept aims to improve liveability by giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk from home. The subject sites are within 12-15 minutes' walk from the Eltham Major Activity Centre (Eltham MAC). The formalisation of these pocket parks will advance the objectives of Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and continue providing access to the residents' daily needs such as recreation and as well as services provided with the Eltham MAC.

Conflicts of interest

24. Officers involved in the preparation of this report do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

6. Officers' Report

**FNC.014/21 Submissions to Amendment C126 Rezoning of Bridge and John Street
to Public Park and Recreation Zone**

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Future Nillumbik Committee Agenda

9 March 2021

- 7. Supplementary and urgent business**
- 8. Confidential reports**
- 9. Close of Meeting**