

Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

to be held virtually on Tuesday 14 September 2021 commencing at 7:00pm.

Agenda

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

Thursday 9 September 2021

Distribution: Public

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Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting seating plan

Councillors

Cr Peter Perkins (Mayor) – Ellis Ward

Cr Richard Stockman – Blue Lake Ward

Cr Karen Egan – Bunjil Ward

Cr Natalie Duffy – Edendale Ward

Cr Ben Ramcharan (Chairperson Consultation Matters) – Sugarloaf Ward

Cr Frances Eyre (Deputy Mayor) – Swipers Gully Ward

Cr Geoff Paine (Chairperson Planning Matters) – Wingrove Ward

Officers

Carl Cowie – Chief Executive Officer

Blaga Naumoski – Executive Manager Governance, Communications and Engagement

Katia Croce – Governance Lead

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Nillumbik Shire Council

**Agenda of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting to be held
Tuesday 14 September 2021 commencing at 7:00pm.**

1. Welcome by the Chair

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

2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Acknowledgement of Country to be read by the Chairperson

Nillumbik Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which Nillumbik is located, and we value the significance of the Wurundjeri people's history as essential to the unique character of the shire. We pay tribute to all First Nations People living in Nillumbik, give respect to Elders past, present and future, and extend that respect to all First Nations People.

We respect the enduring strength of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and acknowledge the ongoing impacts of past trauma and injustices from European invasion, massacres and genocide committed against First Nations People. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people hold a deep and ongoing connection to this place. We value the distinctive place of our First Nations People in both Nillumbik and Australia's identity; from their cultural heritage and care of the land and waterways, to their ongoing contributions in many fields including academia, agriculture, art, economics, law, sport and politics.

3. Apologies

Recommendation

That the apologies be noted.

4. Confirmation of minutes

Confirmation of minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 August 2021.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 August 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

PCC.019/21 Draft Council Plan 2021-2025

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Jeremy Livingston, Executive Manager Business Transformation and Performance

Author: Yasmin Green, Strategy and Policy Advisor

Summary

This report notes the submissions received from the community regarding the draft Council Plan 2021-2025 (Draft Plan).

The Council Plan is the Council's primary strategic document for its four-year term, and is the elected Council's statement of its priorities for the Nillumbik community. The Council Plan is a requirement under section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and must be adopted by Council before 31 October 2021.

The information and community feedback gathered through the Our People, Our Place, Our Future community engagement program undertaken in February and March of this year has helped inform the development of the Draft Plan. Also, around one-third of the membership of Council's various Advisory Committees attended one of three workshops to review and provide feedback on the document, prior to the draft being finalised for public consultation.

The Draft Plan was released for the purposes of public consultation at the Council Meeting on 27 July 2021 (**Attachment 1**). It was exhibited for 28 days and 91 submissions were received (**Attachment 2**).

It is recommended that the Committee notes the submissions on the Draft Plan, before finalising the document and presenting it to Council for adoption at the Council Meeting on 26 October 2021.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Acknowledges and notes the submissions received from community members and groups who provided feedback on the draft Council Plan 2021-2025 (**Attachment 2**).
2. Acknowledges the presentations to the Committee.
3. Considers the matters contained in the submissions and this report during finalisation of the draft Council Plan 2021-2025.
4. Requests a further report to be presented at the October 2021 Council Meeting to adopt the final version of the Council Plan 2021-2025.
5. Thanks the submitters for providing Council with feedback on this important document.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.019/21 Draft Council Plan 2021-2025

Attachments

- [1.](#) Council Plan 2021-2025 - Draft
- [2.](#) Council Plan 2021-2025 - Submissions

Discussion

Background

1. The *Local Government Act 2020* (section 90) requires all Victorian councils to prepare a Council Plan for its four-year term, and to adopt this before 31 October in the year following a general election. The Council Plan is the elected Council's statement of its priorities for the Nillumbik community, and describes how the Council will work towards its community vision during its four-year term.
2. The information and community feedback gathered through the Our People, Our Place, Our Future community engagement program undertaken in February and March of this year has helped inform the development of the Draft Plan. During the engagement, participants were asked a series of questions across a range of issues through a survey. The survey asked 14 different questions, which were then analysed and used to inform the Draft Plan.
3. The Draft Plan has also been developed through a series of workshops with Councillors, and feedback from around one-third of the members from Council's various Advisory Committees.
4. The Draft Plan identifies four themes for Nillumbik which are:
 - Community and connection
 - Place and space
 - Sustainable and resilient
 - Responsible and accountable.
5. An objective, a set of strategies and strategic indicators are included under each theme. Council services and key strategy and planning documents have also been included to show their alignment with the Draft Plan.
6. Council will operationalise the Council Plan annually through an Annual Action Plan, which will detail the specific actions committed to delivering each year to achieve the objectives and strategies across the four years. Council believes that this is an appropriate and responsible approach given the current COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring that Council can remain agile in delivering on objectives and strategies outlined in the plan. A progress report will be presented to Council and the community quarterly, and in the Annual Report at the end of each financial year.
7. The objectives and strategies of the Council Plan may also be achieved through the implementation of supporting Council strategies and plans, some of which may also be subject to review following the adoption of the Council Plan 2021-2025.
8. A full graphic designed version of the Council Plan will be prepared once the document is finalised and adopted by Council.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.019/21 Draft Council Plan 2021-2025

Submissions

9. At the close of the public consultation period, 91 submissions were received on the Draft Plan (**Attachment 2**).
10. Some of the key themes raised/commented on in the submissions included:
 - Council should declare a Climate Emergency
 - Further strengthen protection of the Green Wedge
 - Further strengthen protection of the environment and biodiversity
 - The document does not align with the key findings from Our People, Our Place, Our Future
 - Inclusion of priority actions and measures required
 - Further recognise rural residents and their pursuits
 - Further enhance the 'About Nillumbik', 'Snapshot of the Shire' and 'Community Profile'
 - Include priority actions and measures
 - Improve links to the Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040
 - Review of strategies, policies and plans, including the Green Wedge Management Plan 2019.
11. Submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to speak to their submissions.
12. All 91 submissions have been noted and will be subject to further consideration following the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting. Individual submission responses will be provided at the October 2021 Council Meeting, once all the submissions have been considered and the document is presented for adoption.

Related Council decisions

13. The Draft Plan (**Attachment 2**) was released for the purposes of public consultation at the 27 July 2021 Council Meeting for a period of 28 days (29 July–26 August 2021).

Options

14. Council has endorsed a Draft Plan and exhibited this for public consultation. Following the Committee's consideration of submissions (and subsequent changes to the Draft Plan), the Council Plan will be presented to the October 2021 Council Meeting with the view to adopting the Council Plan.

Council plans and policies

15. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
 - Ensure that Council meets its legal responsibilities and manages its risks.

Sustainability implications

16. One of the four themes of the Draft Plan includes sustainability, identifying it as a key focus area for Council.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.019/21 Draft Council Plan 2021-2025

Community engagement

17. Through the Our People, Our Place, Our Future community engagement program that occurred in February and March 2021, feedback was received which helped inform the development of the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan has also been developed through a series of workshops with Councillors, and from feedback received from around one-third of the members of Council's various Advisory Committees (see paragraph 20 below).
18. The Draft Plan was the subject of a public consultation period from 29 July–26 August 2021 where community members and groups had the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Council Plan.

Innovation and continuous improvement

19. Opportunities for innovation and continuous improvement will be identified through the implementation of the Council Plan, and through various supporting Council strategies and plans.

Collaboration

20. Partnerships and collaboration play an integral role in the implementation of the draft Council Plan. Council will continue to work with other levels of government, agencies and the community in order to achieve the strategies within the plan.
21. Members of Council's Advisory Committees were invited to participate in reviewing the Draft Plan prior to the draft being finalised for public exhibition and consultation. Around one-third of this membership group attended one of three workshops to review and provided feedback on the plan.

Budget implications

22. The Council Plan is a high-level strategic document and does not make specific budget commitments.
23. Each year, in line with the budget process, Council will produce an Annual Action Plan identifying how Council will work towards achieving the objectives and strategies of the Council Plan through specific actions that Council will commit to delivering across that financial year.
24. The cost of preparing and exhibiting the Draft Council Plan is met from the operating budget.

Relevant law

25. Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* applies to the development and adoption of the Council Plan.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

26. Not applicable.

Conflicts of interest

27. Officers who have been involved in the preparation of this report declare that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

6. Officers' reports

PCC.020/21 Draft Financial Plan 2021 - 2031

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Vince Lombardi, Chief Financial Officer

Author: Melika Sukunda, Finance Manager

Summary

This report considers submissions received from the public regarding the draft Financial Plan 2021 – 2031 (**Attachment 2**).

Council adopted the draft Financial Plan 2021 – 2031 (the Plan) at the Council Meeting on 27 July 2021 for the purpose of community consultation. The draft Financial Plan was exhibited for 28 days receiving 38 submissions. The submissions are attached to this report (**Attachment 1** and **Attachments 1.1 – 1.5**).

It is proposed that the Committee considers the submissions on the draft Financial Plan 2021 - 2031 and that the matter then be considered by Council on 26 October 2021.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Receives and notes the 38 submissions received in respect of the draft Financial Plan 2021 – 2031 (**Attachment 2**).
2. Acknowledges the presentations to the Committee.
3. Considers the matters contained in the submissions during finalisation of the Financial Plan 2021 – 2031.
4. Requests a further report to be presented at the October 2021 Council Meeting to adopt the final version of the Financial Plan 2021 – 2031.
5. Thanks the submitters for providing Council with feedback on the Financial Plan 2021– 2031.

Attachments

- [1.](#) Attachment 1 - Submissions Summary - Redacted
- [2.](#) Attachment 1.1 - Submitter 3 Redacted
- [3.](#) Attachment 1.2 - Submitter 17 Redacted
- [4.](#) Attachment 1.3 - Submitter 22
- [5.](#) Attachment 1.4 - Submitter 35 Redacted
- [6.](#) Attachment 1.5 - Submitter 38 Redacted
- [7.](#) Attachment 2 - Draft Financial Plan 2021-2031

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.020/21 Draft Financial Plan 2021 - 2031

Background

1. Council is required to adopt the Plan prior to 31 October in the year following a general election, under section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Plan has effect from 1 July in the year following a general election.
2. The scope of the Plan is for the next ten year period, 2021-2031.
3. The Plan includes financial statements outlining the financial resources required to give effect to the Council Plan and contains information about the decisions and assumptions that underpin the forecasts in the statements.
4. The Plan has been prepared in compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Financial Plan Better Practice Guide and Model and the Australian Accounting Standards Board standards.
5. The information and community feedback gathered through the Our People, Our Place, Our Future community engagement program has been considered throughout the development of the Plan.
6. Council adopted the proposed Financial Plan 2021 – 2031 at the 27 July 2021 Council Meeting for the purpose of community consultation.

Submissions

7. In response to the public exhibition of the Plan, 38 submissions were received from the community.
8. The submissions are provided as **Attachment 1** and **Attachments 1.1 – 1.5**.
9. Submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to speak to their submission.

Related Council decisions

10. Council adopted the proposed Financial Plan 2021 – 2031 at the 27 July 2021 Council Meeting for the purpose of community consultation.

Options

11. Council has adopted the Plan and exhibited this for public consultation.

Council plans and policies

12. This plan will directly support the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Sustainability implications

13. Council's financial sustainability is informed by the indicators set by the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO).
14. These indicators comprise of both short term and longer term measures.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.020/21 Draft Financial Plan 2021 - 2031

Community engagement

15. The Plan was subject to public consultation and was placed on public exhibition for a four week period to provide the community an opportunity to provide feedback.
16. The Plan was be available for inspection at the Civic Centre and on Council's website.
17. Following the consideration of the submissions received, the Plan will then be presented for adoption at the Council Meeting in October 2021.

Innovation and continuous improvement

18. Continuous improvement and innovation opportunities identified have been considered as part of the plan development process.

Collaboration

19. The Plan was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee in August 2021.

Budget implications

20. The costs of preparing and exhibiting the Plan are funded from operating budgets.

Relevant law

21. *Local Government Act 2020.*
22. The approach to the Plan and the composition of the financial statements are prepared in compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

23. Not applicable.

Conflicts of interest

24. No officer involved in the preparation of this report has declared a conflict of interest.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.020/21 Draft Financial Plan 2021 - 2031

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6. Officers' reports**PCC.021/21 Draft Community Vision - Nillumbik 2040**

Item: Consultation Matter**Distribution: Public****Manager: Jeremy Livingston, Executive Manager Business Transformation and Performance****Author: Yasmin Green, Strategy and Policy Advisor****Summary**

This report notes the submissions received from the community regarding the Draft Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040 (Draft Community Vision).

The Draft Community Vision (**Attachment 1**) is a deliverable under section 88 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and must be adopted by Council before 31 October 2021. The document seeks to capture the essence of what is most valued about our community and the Shire, reflecting the collective aspirations of our community.

The information and community feedback gathered through the Our People, Our Place, Our Future community engagement program undertaken in February and March of this year has helped inform the development of the Draft Community Vision. Also, around one-third of the membership of Council's various Advisory Committees attended one of three workshops to review and provide feedback on the document, prior to the Draft Community Vision being finalised for public consultation.

The Draft Community Vision will be used to inform future Council strategic planning, budgeting, service delivery and advocacy to ensure Council is acting in the best interests of the community, and is advocating to all levels of government and agencies.

The Draft Community Vision was released for the purposes of public consultation at the Council Meeting on 27 July 2021. It was exhibited for 28 days and 68 submissions were received (**Attachment 2**).

It is recommended that the Committee notes the submissions on the Draft Community Vision, before finalising the document and presenting it to Council for adoption at the Council Meeting on 26 October 2021.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Acknowledges and notes the submissions received from community members and groups who provided feedback on the Draft Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040 (**Attachment 2**).
2. Acknowledges the presentations to the Committee.
3. Considers the matters contained in the submissions and this report during finalisation of the Draft Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040.
4. Requests a further report to be presented at the October 2021 Council Meeting to adopt the final version of the Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040.
5. Thanks the submitters for providing Council with the feedback on this important document.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.021/21 Draft Community Vision - Nillumbik 2040

Attachments

- [1.](#) Community Vision - Nillumbik 2040 - Draft
- [2.](#) Community Vision - Nillumbik 2040 - Submissions

Discussion

Background

1. The *Local Government Act 2020* (section 88) requires that Victorian councils must develop, maintain and review a community vision with its community. A community vision should have an outlook of at least 10 years and describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Shire.
2. Council has developed a Draft Community Vision, Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040, which is required by the Act to be adopted by Council before 31 October 2021.
3. The Draft Community Vision has been informed by feedback gathered through the Our People, Our Place, Our Future community engagement program undertaken in February and March 2021. During the engagement, participants were asked a series of questions across a range of issues through a survey. The survey asked 14 different questions, which were then analysed and used to inform the Draft Community Vision.
4. The Draft Community Vision has also been developed through a series of workshops with Councillors, and feedback from around one-third of the members from Council's various Advisory Committees.
5. The Draft Community Vision is presented across the four themes of:
 - Our People
 - Our Place
 - Our Future
 - Our Council.
6. Each of these themes include aspirations that expand on identified priority areas from the findings of the Our People, Our Place, Our Future community engagement. The aspiration statements are presented in the document alongside direct quotes from Our People, Our Place, Our Future participants which reflect the community sentiment received from this engagement initiative.
7. Once adopted, the Community Vision will form part of Council's strategic planning framework to ensure the community's long-term vision for the Shire is considered in Council's planning and decision making. The Draft Community Vision has already helped shape the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025.
8. A full graphic designed version of the Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040 will be prepared once the document is finalised and adopted by Council.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.021/21 Draft Community Vision - Nillumbik 2040

Submissions

9. At the close of the public consultation period, 68 submissions were received on the Draft Community Vision (**Attachment 2**).
10. Some of the key themes raised/commented on in the submissions included:
 - The document requires a vision statement
 - The document does not align with the key findings from Our People, Our Place, Our Future
 - Inclusion of priority actions and measures required
 - Council should declare a Climate Emergency
 - Further strengthen protection of the Green Wedge
 - Further strengthen protection of the environment and biodiversity
 - Further recognise rural residents and their pursuits
 - Further enhance the 'Nillumbik Community Profile' and 'Nillumbik Now and into the Future Community Profile'.
11. Submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to speak to their submissions.
12. All 68 submissions have been noted and will be subject to further consideration following the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting. Individual submission responses will be provided at the October 2021 Council Meeting, once all the submissions have been considered and the document is presented for adoption.

Related Council decisions

13. At the August 2019 Council Meeting, Council endorsed the project approach for a community vision document (then referred to as a Shire Plan).
14. In following this approach, a Research Paper was adopted at the December 2019 Council Meeting. This research paper provided a high-level overview of the issues and trends likely to impact Nillumbik in the future.
15. A Background Paper was then prepared and adopted by Council at the June 2020 Council Meeting. Building on the data and feedback gathered through the research and workshop processes, the paper explored the key challenges and opportunities for Nillumbik towards 2040.
16. At the February 2021 Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting, the Committee (under delegation from Council) endorsed the Our People, Our Place, Our Future community engagement program. This program was a major input into the development of a Draft Community Vision. At the conclusion of this program the Our People, Our Place, Our Future Summary Report was presented to the May 2021 Council Meeting.
17. The Draft Community Vision (**Attachment 1**) was released for the purposes of public consultation at the 27 July 2021 Council Meeting for a period of 28 days (29 July–26 August 2021).

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.021/21 Draft Community Vision - Nillumbik 2040

Options

18. Council has endorsed a Draft Community Vision and exhibited this for public consultation. Following the Committee's consideration of submissions (and subsequent changes to the document), the Community Vision will be presented to the October 2021 Council Meeting with the view to adopting the Community Vision.

Council plans and policies

19. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
- Ensure that Council meets its legal responsibilities and manages its risks.

Sustainability implications

20. One of the four themes of the Draft Community Vision is Our Future. This section includes sustainability, identifying it as a key focus area for the Shire.

Community engagement

21. Through the Our People, Our Place, Our Future community engagement program that occurred in February and March 2021, feedback was received which helped inform the development of the Draft Community Vision. The Draft Community Vision has also been developed through a series of workshops with Councillors, and from feedback received from around one-third of the members of Council's various Advisory Committees (see paragraph 25 below).
22. The Draft Community Vision was the subject of a community consultation period from 29 July–26 August 2021 where community members and groups had the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Community Vision.

Innovation and continuous improvement

23. Opportunities for innovation and continuous improvement will be identified through the achievement of the Community Vision, through various Council plans and strategies.

Collaboration

24. Partnerships and collaboration play an integral role in the implementation of the Draft Community Vision. Council will continue to work with other levels of government, agencies and the community in order to achieve the aspirations of this document.
25. Members of Council's Advisory Committees were invited to participate in reviewing the Draft Community Vision prior to the draft being finalised for community consultation. Around one-third of this membership group attended one of three workshops to review and provide feedback on the document.

Budget implications

26. The Draft Community Vision is a high-level strategic document and does not make specific budget commitments.
27. The cost of preparing and exhibiting the Draft Community Vision is met from the operating budget.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.021/21 Draft Community Vision - Nillumbik 2040

Relevant law

28. Section 88 of the *Local Government Act 2020* applies to the development and adoption of a community vision.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

29. Not applicable.

Conflicts of interest

30. Officers who have been involved in the preparation of this report declare that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.021/21 Draft Community Vision - Nillumbik 2040

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6. Officers' reports

PCC.022/21 Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 - Public Submissions

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Narelle Hart, Acting Executive Manager Communities

Author:

Nichole Johnson, Manager Community Partnerships

Summary

This report provides the Committee with the outcome of the community engagement on the Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 (draft Plan) **Attachment 1**.

Council adopted the draft Plan at the Council Meeting on 27 July 2021 for the purpose of public consultation. The draft Plan was exhibited for 28 days receiving 12 submissions.

The submissions received, including an Officer Response to each of the submissions can be found in **Attachment 2**. Officers have outlined recommended changes to the Plan for Council consideration.

It is proposed that the Committee considers the submissions on the draft Plan and that the matter then be considered by Council on 26 October 2021.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Acknowledges and notes the 12 submissions from stakeholders and community members who provided feedback on the Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 (**Attachment 2**).
2. Acknowledges presentations to the Committee.
3. Considers the matters contained in the submissions and this report during finalisation of the Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25.
4. Requests a further report to be presented at the Meeting of Council on 26 October 2021 to adopt the final version of the Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 (**Attachment 1**).
5. Thanks the submitters for providing Council with feedback on this important document.

Attachments

- [1.](#) Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025
- [2.](#) Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 - Submissions

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.022/21 Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 - Public Submissions

Discussion

1. The preparation of the Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 (**Attachment 1**) has been undertaken in conjunction with community, stakeholder and staff engagement, and supported by the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee.
2. The draft plan was developed using the findings from the Our People Our Place Our Future (OPOPOF) engagement program, the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Forum, workshops and discussions at advisory committee meetings, two Councillor workshops, meetings with key partners, a staff workshop and meetings with key internal teams.
3. Further details regarding the engagement activities conducted are outlined in the community engagement section of this report.

Related Council decisions

4. At the Council Meeting on 27 July 2021, Council endorsed the Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 **Attachment 1** for public exhibition.

Options

5. Council officers have reviewed the public submissions on the draft plan, assessing the proposed changes against the goals and objectives of the plan, and the legislative requirements of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.
6. Recommended changes to be made as a result of the public submissions have been included in the table in **Attachment 2** for consideration.
7. A number of submitters may present to the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting on 14 September.

Council plans and policies

8. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
 - Develop policies, strategies, projects and partnerships to enhance the health and wellbeing of the community.
9. Other Council plans and policies related to the draft plan include:
 - a) Ageing Well in Nillumbik Action Plan 2019 – 2022
 - b) Disability Action Plan 2020 – 2024
 - c) Green Wedge Management Plan 2019
 - d) Climate Change Action Plan 2016 – 2020
 - e) Integrating Child, Youth and Family Strategy: Birth to 25 Years
 - f) Lifetime Play Strategy
 - g) Early Years Infrastructure Planning Principles
 - h) Reconciliation Charter
 - i) Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.022/21 Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 - Public Submissions

- j) Northern Regional Trails Strategy
- k) Open Space Strategy
- l) Recreation Strategy
- m) Community Engagement Policy
- n) Arts and Cultural Plan 2018 – 2022
- o) Economic Development Strategy

Sustainability implications

- 10. The draft plan complements work being undertaken through the Nillumbik Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan (currently in development), includes mitigation and adaptation strategies that will seek to deliver health co-benefits for our community.

Community engagement

- 11. It is a requirement of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* to involve community in the development of a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. The engagement process to inform the development of the draft Plan involved three phases.
- 12. Phase 1 - The Our People Our Place Our Future integrated community engagement project was the first phase of consultation for the draft plan. This engagement process involved Council asking the community to identify what is important to them in relation to their wellbeing, neighbourhood and surrounds both now and into the future. The responses from this engagement helped inform the broader themes and priority areas of the draft Plan.
- 13. Phase 2 - involved targeted conversations with service providers, partners and advisory committees. Consultation and engagement activities included:
 - a) A health and wellbeing partnership forum (27 April 2021, 32 attendees, 15 external organisations)
 - b) Discussions within advisory committee meetings (March to May 2021, 6 groups meetings attended and 2 groups reached via email)
 - c) Two Councillor workshops (19 April and 16 June 2021)
 - d) An internal manager’s and coordinators workshop (29 April 2021, 30 attendees)
 - e) Meetings and ongoing conversations with key partner agencies including Women’s Health in the North, healthAbility and North East Healthy Communities.
- 14. Phase 3 – This phase included the public exhibition period from 29 July – 26 August 2021 where community and partners had the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Plan. A specific consultation with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation took place (2 August 2021) during the public exhibition period.

Innovation and continuous improvement

- 15. Not applicable.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.022/21 Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 - Public Submissions

Collaboration

16. Partnerships and collaboration play an integral role in the implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of this Plan. Council will continue to work with key partners in order to deliver on strategies within the plan, through the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee and other local and regional partnerships.
17. Internal collaboration across council teams is essential and will be supported by a Health and Wellbeing Plan Project Control Group.

Budget implications

18. The strategies stated within the draft plan, and subsequent actions which fall out of these, will be resourced through the existing operational budget. Where gaps exist in resources or new opportunities for initiatives are presented, additional budget or grant funding opportunities may be sought.

Relevant law

19. *The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, Climate Change Act 2017, Gender Equality Act 2020 (as per inclusions in the plan) and the Disability Act 2006.*

Regional, state and national plans and policies

20. The following regional and state plans have been taken into account when developing the draft plan:
 - a) Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019 – 2023
 - b) Victorian public health and wellbeing outcomes framework
 - c) Building a Respectful Community Strategy 2017–2021
 - d) Carrington Health and healthAbility Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024
 - e) North East Healthy Communities Strategic Directions
 - f) VicHealth Fair Foundations Framework.

Conflicts of interest

21. Officers who have been involved in the preparation of this report declare that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

6. Officers' reports

PCC.023/21 Eltham Town Centre Local Area Traffic Management and Pedestrian / Cycling Improvements - Urban Congestion Fund

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Hjalmar Philipp, Director Operations and Infrastructure

Author: Lawrence Seyers, Lead Transport Planner

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with detailed information on the outcomes of the Main Road Corridor Eltham Urban Congestion Fund public consultation process and consider public feedback.

On 8 June 2021, Council endorsed a six-week period of community consultation on the Main Road Corridor Eltham Urban Congestion Fund projects, which was conducted from 9 June to 23 July 2021. Council received a total of 888 contributions, comprising 788 contributions from 229 individual contributors via Participate Nillumbik, 44 submissions received via email and over the phone, 46 targeted resident surveys of Bible St and 10 targeted resident surveys of Cecil St.

Attachment 1 provides a Consultation Summary Report that contains all the submissions and contributions received and Council officer's response via any changes considered necessary. There was general support for the objectives of the project to encourage and prioritise walking, cycling and public transport. The contributions have resulted in the identification of several design changes where submitters had concerns regarding the proposed transport treatments and where they might be improved.

Submitters and the broader community are provided an opportunity to address Councillors at the 14 September 2021 Planning and Consultation Committee meeting. At the 28 September 2021 Council Meeting, Councillors will be asked to support the proposed changes and commence detailed design and procurement in late 2021 with construction to commence in March 2022, in accordance with the Commonwealth Government funding agreement.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Notes the submissions received in response to community consultation on the Main Road Corridor Eltham Urban Congestion Fund and the Consultation Summary in **Attachment 1**.
2. Notes that a further report will be received at the 28 September 2021 Council Meeting with a recommendation to implement the projects, with modifications, identified as part of the community consultation and progress to the procurement and construction phase.

Attachments

- [1.](#) Consultation Summary Report - redacted

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.023/21 Eltham Town Centre Local Area Traffic Management and Pedestrian / Cycling Improvements - Urban Congestion Fund

Discussion

1. On 23 July 2021 Council completed a six-week period of community consultation on the Main Road Corridor Eltham Urban Congestion Fund project. This consultation was conducted via the Nillumbik Shire Council *Participate Nillumbik* webpage and included a series of face-to-face pop up consultations, Wingrove Ward meeting, and outreach meetings with the Eltham Community Action Group (ECAG), the Eltham Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECCI), Eltham Central Oval user groups and other targeted trader and resident engagement.
2. The *Participate Nillumbik* webpage included an interactive slider tool that allowed users to see before/after illustrations of each of the proposed traffic and transport projects and also detailed information such as technical design drawings. *Participate Nillumbik* included a link to the A2 sized brochure that was distributed to 530 households and 178 businesses in the Eltham Activity Centre and was available at Council's Customer Service Centre, Eltham Library and the 'pop up' consultation sessions.
3. Council sought submissions from the community via the Participate Nillumbik website, from 15 June 2021 to the 23 July 2021. Submissions were also received via email and over the phone and a targeted survey was distributed to Bible Street and Cecil Street residents. In total, Council received a total of 888 contributions, comprising 788 contributions from 229 individual contributors via Participate Nillumbik, 44 submissions received via email and over the phone, 46 targeted resident surveys of Bible St and 10 targeted resident surveys of Cecil St.
4. The contributions have resulted in the identification of several design changes where submitters had concerns regarding the proposed transport treatments and where they might be improved.

Related Council decisions

5. On 8 June 2021 the Planning and Consultation Committee (acting under delegation from Council) resolved to commence a six-week period of community consultation on the Main Road Corridor Eltham Urban Congestion Fund project (refer PCC.008/21).
6. At the 28 September 2021 Council Meeting, Councillors will be asked to support the proposed changes and commence detailed design and procurement in late 2021 with construction to commence in March 2022, in accordance with the Commonwealth Government funding agreement. Council will also be asked to upload **Attachment 1** to the Participate Nillumbik webpage and advise all submitters in writing of Council's decision.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.023/21 Eltham Town Centre Local Area Traffic Management and Pedestrian / Cycling Improvements - Urban Congestion Fund

Options

7. The Consultation Summary Report (**Attachment 1**) is presented as a redacted document (with names and addresses redacted) and submitters will be provided an opportunity to address Councillors at the 14 September 2021 Planning and Consultation Committee meeting.
8. The Consultation Summary Report considers public feedback to the Main Road Corridor Eltham Urban Congestion Fund project and recommends the following changes which are considered necessary in response to the submissions received.
9. Key headline changes recommended include:
 - a) Abandon plans to include a 24hr/7 days a week 40km/h Main Rd speed limit;
 - b) Adoption of 40km/h speed limit signage on local roads of Bible Street (from Cecil Street to Taylor Street); Cecil Street, Pryor Street, Arthur Street (up to Bible Street), Commercial Place, Taylor Street and Panther Place;
 - c) Adoption of the undergrounded power line option for the Main Road Shared Use Path;
 - d) Initiate a discussion with St Vincents Health and VicTrack on a longer term 'missing link' to the Diamond Creek Trail either along the Diamond Creek (requiring St Vincents private landholdings) or the western side of the railway (requiring VicTrack agreement);
 - e) Abandon proposal to make Cecil Street 'entry only' from Main Road as part of the Urban Congestion Fund and retain existing pedestrian crossing conditions (further investigation as a separate project);
 - f) Retain existing median tree and existing central median break arrangement for proposed bus terminal signals on Main Road;
 - g) Include zebra linemarking pedestrian crossing at the bus terminal entrance;
 - h) Complete a Traffic Signal Route Review to improve the operation of traffic lights to coordinate traffic signals along Main Rd to minimise stops and delays;
 - i) Retain existing 90 degree parking at Main Road/St Laurence Lane;
 - j) Abandon proposed Bible Street / Cecil Street raised platform intersection and retain zebra crossing at the Aged Care/Retirement Village with the blister island and pedestrian refuge as a rest area for aged walkers;
 - k) Adopt proposal to only have parking on the western side of Bible Street and provide continuous white centre line to restrict cars from parking on eastern side of Bible Street;
 - l) Abandon proposed Bible Street / Arthur Street raised platform intersection and retain roundabout;
 - m) Install zebra pedestrian crossings on each of the legs of the Bible Street/Arthur Street intersection;

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PCC.023/21 Eltham Town Centre Local Area Traffic Management and Pedestrian / Cycling Improvements - Urban Congestion Fund

- n) Adopt a realignment of the proposed Diamond Creek Trail around the back of the Eltham Central Oval to avoid the vegetation impacts of locating it behind the existing chain mesh fence; and
 - o) Barrier kerbing and bollards to protect the large tree near the Eltham trestle bridge from vehicle parking and create an opportunity for landscaping.
10. Other minor changes include:
- a) Inclusion of safety improvements to the proposed Main Road Shared Use Path (Diamond Creek Trail priority movement, rumble street treatments, sightline improvements on the approach to Main Road, green pavement treatment of the Diamond Creek Trail where it crosses Diamond Street);
 - b) Inclusion of a footpath connection from the Diamond Creek Trail to the commuter car park on Diamond Street;
 - c) Inclusion of Diamond Creek Trail and Eltham Town Centre signage on Main Road Shared Use Path;
 - d) Modify signage schedule to correct 'Parking Area 1P Ticket' should be 'Parking Area 1P' (no change from existing condition);
 - e) Modify plans to correctly reference St Laurence Lane;
 - f) Include hatched line marked area on Main Road at Arthur Street to stop vehicles blocking Main Road southbound lanes;
 - g) Install flashing 'give way to pedestrian' signage directed towards right turning vehicles from Main Road into Arthur Street to give way to pedestrians at the proposed zebra crossing;
 - h) Provide additional linemarking to provide better guidance for drivers for the right turn from Main Road into Arthur Street;
 - i) Redesign the existing disabled space located at 917 Main Road become a DDA compliant space;
 - j) Correct the arrow on St Laurence Lane to a bi-directional arrow;
 - k) Convert the proposed Bible Street/Henry Street raised school crossing to a raised zebra crossing;
 - l) Remove the parking lane from 69 Bible Street to Taylor Street (and retain existing centre linemarking) and install no parking signage along this section of Bible Street due to the crest of the hill;
 - m) Adopt barrier kerb along the rear of the proposed Eltham Central Oval car parking to further discourage vehicles mounting kerb;
 - n) Include a new Youth Road/Panther Place gate at the existing location but with a new gate with a vandal proof cover over a new lock;
 - o) Include a landscaping plan for the Eltham Central Oval, including new large indigenous canopy trees where possible;

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.023/21 Eltham Town Centre Local Area Traffic Management and Pedestrian / Cycling Improvements - Urban Congestion Fund

- p) Minimise visual impact of parking around the western wing of Eltham Central Oval by the adoption of reflectors or 't' linemarking;
- q) Include Eltham Central Pavilion rear car park layout plan;
- r) Amend parking restrictions at the Eltham Child Care Co-Op from 2H parking 8am-5pm to become 30M parking 8am-6.30pm;
- s) Locate proposed bike racks at the rear of the Eltham Central Oval Pavilion;
- t) Include a footpath from the Eltham Central Oval carpark to Child Care Co-Op;
- u) Include consideration of lighting and signage at Eltham Central Oval; and
- v) Include notation on the Eltham Central Oval car park plan regarding 'Goal netting or chainmesh fence to be relocated between the roadway and the black boundary fence (to be investigated and funded as a separate project)'.

Council plans and policies

- 11. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
 - Ensure that the provision of community infrastructure responds to community needs.

Sustainability implications

- 12. Victoria's Climate Change Act 2017 establishes a long-term target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Victorian Government's Climate Change Strategy seeks to reduce emissions and includes a target of increasing active transport mode share to 25 percent by 2030. Currently it is about 18 percent.
- 13. The Main Road Corridor Eltham Urban Congestion Fund transport treatments are promoting a response to climate change that invests in transport network improvements that prioritise sustainable transport modes to reduce transport emissions and improve our resilience to climate change risks of peak oil and fossil fuel dependency.

Community engagement

- 14. Council adopted a Community Engagement Policy on 25 February 2021 that requires 'deliberative' extended engagement for all projects of significant scope, complexity and impact.
- 15. The Main Road Corridor Eltham Urban Congestion Fund project was subject to 'deliberative engagement' practices to firstly identify the projects for consultation in consultation with a Transport Working Group (TWG) with members drawn from the Level Crossing Removal Project and several areas of the Department of Transport; and secondly a six week program of community consultation via *Participate Nillumbik* webpage.
- 16. The consultation process included:
 - a) *Participate Nillumbik* webpage with an interactive slider tool that allowed users to see before/after illustrations of each of the proposed traffic and transport projects and also more detailed information such as the technical design drawings.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.023/21 Eltham Town Centre Local Area Traffic Management and Pedestrian / Cycling Improvements - Urban Congestion Fund

- b) Outreach emails to the various parts of the Department of Transport including Movement & Safety, Transport Network Planning Integration, Bus Stop (Metro Assets), Road Safety Victoria, Eltham Park and Ride project and Hurstbridge Stage 2 project team at the Level Crossing Removal Project, Metro Trains Melbourne, VicTrack and Victoria Walks.
 - c) Outreach emails to local community groups including Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School Primary School, Eltham East Primary School, St Vincents Aged Care, Eltham Child Centre Co-operative, Eltham Football Club, Eltham Junior Football Club, Eltham Cricket Club, OMNI Group, U3A, Eltham District Historical Society, Nillumbik Bicycle Users Group.
 - d) Virtual meetings with Eltham Community Action Group (ECAG) on 15 June 2021, Regional Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC) on 23 June 2021, Eltham Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECCI) on 24 June 2021.
 - e) Face-to-face meetings with Eltham Community Action Group (ECAG) on 24 June 2021, Eltham Central Oval users of Eltham Child Centre Co-operative, Eltham Football Club, Eltham Junior Football Club, Eltham Cricket Club, OMNI Group, U3A, Eltham District Historical Society on 24 June 2021, the Nillumbik Positive Ageing Advisory Committee on 2 July 2021.
 - f) Face-to-face ‘pop up’ consultation opportunities on Thursday 24 June 2021, Monday 28 June 2021 and Wednesday 7 July 2021 at the Eltham Town Rotunda, Commercial Place Eltham (a planned face-to-face ‘pop up’ consultation was cancelled on Friday 16 July 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions).
 - g) Face-to-face Wingrove Ward meeting on at Eltham Community and Reception Centre on 30 June 2021.
 - h) Letter box drop of the project brochure to 530 households and 178 businesses in the Eltham Activity Centre.
 - i) Targeted letter box drop of a resident survey to 58 residential properties on Cecil Street (retarding the entry only arrangement at Cecil Street/Main Road) and 123 residential properties on Bible Street (regarding the proposed parking on the west side of Bible Street, the raised platform intersections and 40km/h speed limit).
17. Consultation concluded on 23 July 2021. **Attachment 1** provides the submissions received the Council officer response.

Budget implications

- 18. Nillumbik Shire Council is the recipient of \$5 million from the Commonwealth Government’s Urban Congestion Fund. The initial instalment \$3,500,000 (ex. GST) was paid to Council on approval of the Road Project Proposal in May 2020. The final instalment \$1,500,000 (ex. GST) is payable to Council on completion of works.
- 19. The works must commence by March 2022. If the project does not commence by March 2022 Council may have to return the remaining grant funding.

6. Consultation Matters

**PCC.023/21 Eltham Town Centre Local Area Traffic Management and Pedestrian /
Cycling Improvements - Urban Congestion Fund**

20. At order of magnitude cost estimate has been prepared for the capital works and the total cost of the project is within the \$5 million budget allocation. This is inclusive of the capital works cost estimate, design consultant fees, estimated traffic management and permit fees and project management. Project scope will be reduced to meet budget limit if required.

Conflicts of interest

21. All officers involved in the preparation of this report have made a declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

6. Consultation Matters

**PCC.023/21 Eltham Town Centre Local Area Traffic Management and Pedestrian /
Cycling Improvements - Urban Congestion Fund**

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6. Officers' reports

PCC.024/21 State Government's Car Parks for Commuters Projects for Eltham and Wattle Glen - Draft Council Submission

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Rosa Zouzoulas, Executive Manager Planning and Community Safety

Author:

Leigh Northwood, Strategic Planning Lead

Summary

This report proposes a draft submission from Council to the State Government's *Car Parks for Commuters Project* (the project) regarding its proposals for Eltham and Wattle Glen.

In the Shire, the project primarily proposes to provide:

- 100 additional parks at Eltham railway station; and
- 50 additional car parks in vicinity of the Wattle Glen railway station.

The authority responsible for the project, the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP), is conducting public consultation on the proposals for the purpose of obtaining planning approval for the project from the Minister for Planning. Consultation plans released by LXRP are provided as **Attachment 1** (Eltham) and **Attachment 2** (Wattle Glen).

Officers have significant concerns regarding what is proposed at each station:

- For Eltham, these concerns particularly relate to anticipated significant tree loss and impacts on surrounding community uses, especially the Eltham Childcare Co-operative.
- For Wattle Glen, these concerns particularly relate to an anticipated visual impact on a key entrance to the locality and expected road safety risks for motorists and pedestrians.

A draft submission from Nillumbik Shire Council to the Car Parks for Commuters Project for Eltham and Wattle Glen is provided as **Attachment 3** (draft submission). It is recommended that the Committee endorse this submission to be forwarded to the LXRP before the close of programmed consultation (by LXRP) and also sends copies to the relevant Members of the Legislative Assembly.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.024/21 State Government's Car Parks for Commuters Projects for Eltham and Wattle Glen - Draft Council Submission

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Endorses the draft submission from Nillumbik Shire Council to the proposals of the *Car Parks for Commuters Project for Eltham and Wattle Glen*, which is provided as **Attachment 3**, to be forwarded to the Level Crossing Removal Project.
2. Sends a copy of the submission **Attachment 3** to the relevant Members of the Legislative Assembly, namely, the Member for Eltham, the Hon. Vicky Ward and the Member for Yan Yean, the Hon. Danielle Green.

Attachments

1. Car Parks for Commuters Project - Proposal for Eltham - LXP Consultation Plan
2. Car Parks for Commuters Project - Proposal for Wattle Glen - LXP Consultation Plan
3. Draft submission from Nillumbik Shire Council to the proposals of the Car Parks for Commuters Project for Eltham and Wattle Glen

Discussion

The Car Parks for Commuters Project – Eltham and Wattle Glen

1. In 2018 the Victorian Government committed, as part of its Car Park for Commuters Project, to provide 50 additional commuter parking spaces at the Wattle Glen railway station and 100 at the Eltham railway station.
2. The implementation of these commitments is being managed by the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXP), which is a State Government transport authority.
3. Until recently there was also a 2019 commitment from the Federal Government's Park and Ride Project to provide 200 additional car parking spaces at the Eltham railway station. However, LXP has indicated to officers that this commitment no longer stands.
4. The LXP placed its proposals for Eltham and Wattle Glen out for public consultation from Monday 9 August to Monday 6 September 2021. The proposals have a dedicated consultation page on the Engage Victoria website (engage.vic.gov.au). That consultation page provides high level plans for each proposal, which are attached to this report as **Attachment 1** (Eltham) and **Attachment 2** (Wattle Glen).

The Proposals for Eltham and Wattle Glen

5. The following summary of the proposals is largely drawn from LXP's consultation website and the plans it contains (i.e. the plans provided as **Attachments 1** and **2**).
6. Where necessary and appropriate for Council's understanding of the proposals, additional information is provided that has been indicated to Council officers in meetings and correspondence with LXP.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.024/21 State Government's Car Parks for Commuters Projects for Eltham and Wattle Glen - Draft Council Submission

7. The proposals are summarised as follows:

Eltham

8. LXP's consultation material show that the proposal will provide:

- 100 additional at-grade car parking spaces, comprising a large new car parking area at the south end of Youth Road and two smaller areas of additional parking at the north end of Youth Road.
- New accessible car parking and bike parking, with some of each to be provided between Main Road and the station and some adjacent to the north side of Youth Road.
- New lighting, CCTV and landscaping at unspecified locations.

9. Whilst not clearly evident in the consultation material, LXP has separately advised Council officers the proposal also includes the following actions:

- The existing maintenance yard will be moved further south on Youth Road to provide space for the large proposed additional car parking area.
- To provide part of the new maintenance yard, LXP currently proposes to acquire approximately 150 square metres of Council land at 16 Panther Place. (NB: LXP has stated that the extent of acquisition required is yet to be verified by a survey assessment). The Eltham Childcare Cooperative is located at 16 Panther Place. Officers understand that the land will be acquired pursuant to Section 134(1)(b) of the *Major Transport Project Facilitation Act 2009*.
- The land to be acquired from 16 Panther Place will be specifically used to store railway maintenance material in shipping containers and to provide a vehicle forward-in, forward-out exit for the yard.

10. The consultation material shows no proposed tree removal, but officers expect there were will be significant tree removal (discussed below).

Wattle Glen

11. LXP's consultation material details that the proposal will provide:

- 50 additional car parking spaces, comprising:
 - A new large car park on the west side of roundabout intersection of Heidelberg-Kinglake (also called Main-Hurstbridge Rd) and Kangaroo Ground – Wattle Glen Road. This car park will provide most of the additional spaces.
 - 5 new parallel on-road car parking bays on the southern approach to the roundabout (close to the proposed large car park).
- Vehicular access to the proposed large car park via a new entry and exit point at the west side of the roundabout.
- Additional accessible car parking and bike parking in proximity of the existing platform.
- CCTV at an unspecified location.
- A shared use path from near the railway platform and heading south past the new proposed car parking areas (adjacent to the roundabout).

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.024/21 State Government's Car Parks for Commuters Projects for Eltham and Wattle Glen - Draft Council Submission

12. The consultation material indicates no tree removal, but Council officers expect some removal will be required for the proposed development.

Public Consultation and Planning Approval

13. LXP is proposing to obtain planning approval to develop the proposals for Eltham and Wattle Glen by using a state planning provision at Clause 52.03 (Level Crossing Removal Project) of the planning scheme. This provision allows the Minister for Planning to grant planning approval to LXP for certain projects, subject to particular conditions. One of those conditions is that LXP first conduct public consultation, including with the relevant council, on the project and then reports on that consultation to the Minister. The current consultation for the project is being conducted in response to this requirement. Whilst LXP is required to conduct consultation to satisfy Clause 52.03, there is no requirement for it, or the Minister, to make public the feedback received, or how it is being responded to.
14. Whilst the consultation closes on 6 September 2021, Council has requested and received an extension from LXP until 15 September 2021 to provide a written response. This extension was sought with the purpose of allowing the Committee to consider endorsing a draft submission, which is provided as **Attachment 3**.

Council's Draft Submission to LXP's Proposals for Eltham and Wattle Glen

15. The overarching stance of the submission is that both proposals will have significant impacts on broader community objectives, such as protecting local character and supporting community services, and to address these impacts the proposals need to be fundamentally re-designed.

16. More specific points made by the draft submission are summarised as follows:

Eltham

17. The proposal appears to require significant tree loss. For example:
- Construction of the large additional car park and the new maintenance yard at the south end of Youth Road, would appear to require the removal of a considerable number of trees that are located along Youth Road and also two trees that are located within the land nominated to be acquired from 16 Panther Place.
 - The additional parking at the north end of Youth Road would appear to require the removal of certain trees.
 - Car parking works proposed between Main Road and the railway station would appear to require the removal of a number of trees, including at least one significant canopy tree.
18. The trees (and other vegetation), which will evidently need to be removed for the proposal, significantly contribute to the character of Eltham, particularly in relation to Main Road and the railway station precinct in the town centre. Removal of this vegetation will therefore undermine the character of the Eltham Town Centre, Further, the anticipated tree removal will have a detrimental impact on the amenity of surrounding uses, such as the Eltham Childcare cooperative.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.024/21 State Government's Car Parks for Commuters Projects for Eltham and Wattle Glen - Draft Council Submission

19. The site of the large proposed new car park currently has a notable fall to the road, which is currently vegetated, and the construction of this car park will presumably require the construction of retaining walls along the eastern edge of Youth Road. Such a retaining wall, together with the proposed tree removal, will be visually intrusive.
20. The proposed acquisition of land from 16 Panther Place, Eltham is unacceptable as it will create a significant number of impacts for the co-operative. In particular:
 - The proposal appears to bring the Metro maintenance facility within approximately 2.5 metres of the main co-operative building and similarly close to the co-operative's vegetable gardens. This minor setback heightens the threat of a range of impacts from the maintenance yard upon the co-operative. For example, threats and impacts such as noise, overshadowing, fumes, potential fire, emissions and contamination (e.g. from storage in the shipping containers).
 - The acquisition removes an important buffer of open space for the co-operative, including to presumably remove two trees which significantly contribute to the quality of that buffer.
 - The shipping containers will be an unsightly visual intrusion on the co-operative.
 - The reduction in space at 16 Panther Place will impact on the flexibility of the site to increase the extent of its childcare services and to respond to any changes in regulations regarding space and access to the main building.
21. To avoid these and other issues, the project should consider a significantly different proposal for Eltham. For example, to provide better parking by formalising car parking along the cleared, level eastern verge of Youth Road. Creating formalised parking along Youth Road would have little if any impacts on vegetation and will not require acquisition of part of 16 Panther Place.

Wattle Glen

22. By proposing significant car parking development adjacent to the intersection of Kangaroo Ground-Wattle Glen and Heidelberg-Kinglake Roads, the project will significantly undermine and interrupt rural vistas to the west of the intersection, which are views that are important to setting a rural character for Wattle Glen. The visual intrusion will be during both day and night, as lighting will undoubtedly be required for the car parking, now or further in the future.
23. The expected intrusion on the local character contradicts with a current Council project, the Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework Project, which proposes to plan enhancements to better support Wattle Glen's preferred character and better provide a sense of place. It also conflicts with Council and State planning policy to protect rural landscapes.
24. The car parking will be located a significant distance from the railway platform, which will create impacts in regard to public safety and undermine the parking's suitability for people who will find the additional distance hard and/or who may particularly struggle with being exposed to severe weather. For example, the elderly and people with young children.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.024/21 State Government's Car Parks for Commuters Projects for Eltham and Wattle Glen - Draft Council Submission

25. The design of the car parking (off-road and on-road) adjacent to the roundabout raises significant safety concerns. For example, it creates the risk of potential conflict between through traffic and traffic using the proposed parallel parking bays and further, conflict at the entrance of the new large off-road car park.
26. The proposal needs to be fundamentally re-designed to propose that any additional car parking space will be located further north between the railway platform and Wilson Road. At this location, the car parking will be visually consolidated within the existing railway precinct, use a highly disturbed part of that precinct, be closer to the platform and not create any of the amenity and safety impacts associated with using land adjacent to the roundabout.

The Project in General (Both Proposals)

27. The proposals appear to have been designed with excessive focus on ease and speed of delivery and insufficient regard for broader community interests, such as protecting the local character and minimising social and environmental impacts.
28. The level and rigour of research of both projects appears to be significantly lacking. For example, at this late stage in the planning process, there is a lack of clarity regarding the extent of land that will need to be acquired from 16 Panther Place.
29. The current consultation material for the project has significant flaws. In particular, the material does not show key impacts clearly associated with each proposal. For example, no tree removal is shown for either proposal, whereas Council officers understand that tree removal is required at both sites and the removal at Eltham will be particularly significant.
30. Further, the consultation material does not clearly detail that in Eltham the existing maintenance yard will be relocated and that as part of this, LXP currently proposes to acquire part of 16 Panther Place to provide railway storage and vehicle access for the maintenance yard.
31. Council officers note that they have made requests to LXP to provide plans to the community which clearly show what is proposed and the associated impacts, such as tree removal and land acquisition.
32. To reduce the potential fundamental broader impacts of each proposal, the State Government should consider, as one option, reducing the intended provision of additional parking. This would be an appropriate response to the COVID situation which may have permanently reduced demand for commuter parking.

Related Council decisions

33. Council has only considered a much earlier phase of the project, when at the 28 July 2020 Ordinary Council meeting it considered early scoping work for the Eltham proposal. This was at a time when the Federal Government's commitment for 200 additional spaces was still clearly included in the project and it appeared that the full State and Federal commitment might propose a multi-storey car park for Eltham.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.024/21 State Government's Car Parks for Commuters Projects for Eltham and Wattle Glen - Draft Council Submission

34. On considering the matter at that time, Council resolved to advocate for a style of development which would minimise impact on Eltham’s preferred character, support safety and public activity around the railway station precinct and increase pedestrian links across the station precinct and to other parts of the centre.

Options

35. Council has the opportunity during the current round of community consultation to endorse and forward a written response to LXP regarding its proposals for Eltham and Wattle Glen. This may be the only opportunity for Council to provide a submission, as the requirements of Clause 52.03 do not appear to require LXP to conduct more than one round of consultation.

36. As outlined above, officers have significant concerns with the proposals for Eltham and Wattle Glen and these are contained within the draft submission provided as **Attachment 3**. It is the officer recommendation that Council convey these concerns to LXP by endorsing the submission to be forwarded to LXP.

37. Further to that, Council has the opportunity to directly advise elected representatives of the State Government of its position. The relevant Members of the Legislative Assembly are:

- The Hon. Vicki Ward, the MLA for Eltham.
- The Hon. Danielle Green, the MLA for Yan Yean. The seat of Yan Yean includes the site of the Wattle Glen proposal.

38. This report recommends Council provide a copy of its submission to both these Members of Parliament.

Council plans and policies

39. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:

- Prepare and develop an improved and holistic approach to strategic planning.

Sustainability implications

40. Sustainability implications include preventing unnecessary tree removal, providing a safe and convenient environment for pedestrian and cyclists and preventing health impacts on community uses.

Community engagement

41. The matter relates to community engagement being conducted by the State Government. Officers have been responding to community concerns and questions directed to Council regarding the matter.

Collaboration

42. Various units across Council are working closely together to advocate for improvements for our community regarding the projects proposed by LXP.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.024/21 State Government's Car Parks for Commuters Projects for Eltham and Wattle Glen - Draft Council Submission

Budget implications

43. The matter is essentially an advocacy one for Council and presents no budget implications from that perspective. However, the proposed acquisition of land from 16 Panther Place has a budgetary implication.

Relevant law

44. LXRP is seeking planning approval under Clause 52.03 of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme. The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* provides the legal framework for the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.
45. Officers understand that LXRP is proposing to acquire part of 16 Panther Place pursuant to Section 134(1)(b) of the *Major Transport Project Facilitation Act 2009* – which states that the Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Project Minister (Minister for Public Transport), by Order published in the Government Gazette, may divest land in the project area from a public authority or Council.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

46. The item is relevant to a number of matters covered in the planning framework, such as supporting public transport, protecting green wedges, supporting community services, minimise vegetation loss and protecting local character.

Conflicts of interest

47. None of the others involved in preparing this briefing report have a conflict of interest in relation to the matter.

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