Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

to be held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough on Tuesday 14 June 2022 commencing at 7:00pm.

Attachments

Carl Cowie Chief Executive Officer

Thursday 9 June 2022

Distribution: Public

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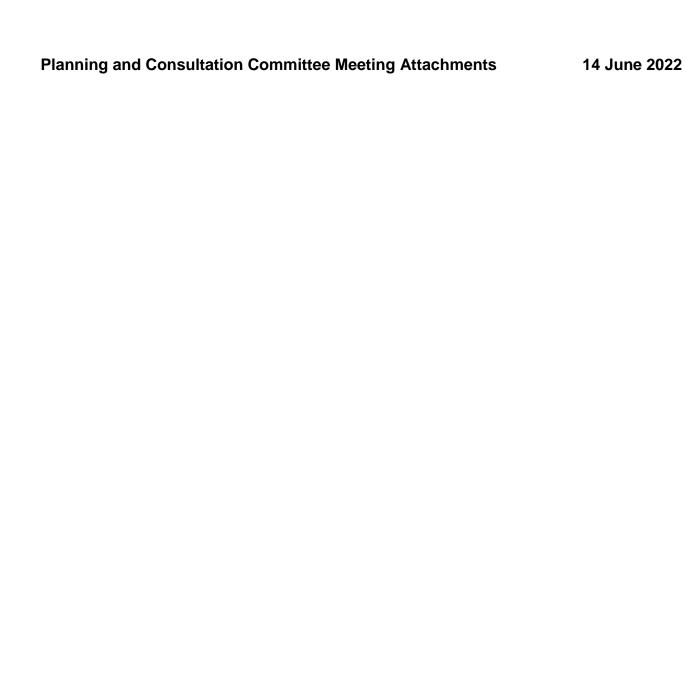
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Attachments

COM.001/22	Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 10 May 2022	
Attachment 1	Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held 10 May 2022	1
PCC.020/22	Nillumbik Neighourhood Character Strategy - Response to first round of public engagement	
Attachment 1	Policy hierarchy and context for a Housing Strategy and Neighbourhood Character Strategy	13
Attachment 2	Study area for the Nillumbik Neighbourhood Character Strategy	
Attachment 3	Redacted and consolidated survey responses - First round of NCS Engagement	17
Attachment 4	Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement	
Attachment 7	Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects	
PCC.021/22	Draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025	
Attachment 1	Draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025	.331
Attachment 2	Draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025 - Redacted Participate submissions table	
Attachment 3	Draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025 - Redacted written submissions	
Attachment 6 PCC.022/22	Consultation Findings Report - May 2022 MAV Rules of Association	
Attachment 1	MAV Rules of Association	.375
Attachment 2	MAV Rules Review 2021-2022 Directions Paper	
Attachment 3	Nillumbik Shire Council Submission to MAV Rules Review 2021-2022 Directions Paper	



May 2022

Attachment 1. Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held 10 May 2022

Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough on Tuesday 10 May 2022 commenced at 7:00pm.

Minutes

Carl Cowie Chief Executive Officer

Friday 13 May 2022

Distribution: Public

Civic Drive, Greensborough

PO Box 476, Greensborough 3088

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Attachment 1. Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held 10 May 2022

Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting Minutes Nillumbik Shire Council

10 May 2022

		Contents	
1.	Welcome by	the Chair	1
2.	Acknowledge	ement of Country	1
3	Apologies		1
4	Disclosure of	conflicts of interest	1
5.	Confirmation	of Minutes	2
6.	Officers' Rep	orts	3
	Consultation	Matters	
	PCC.016/22	Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032	3
	PCC.017/22	2022-2023 Budget Submissions	5
	PCC.018/22	BMX and Offroad Biking Facility - Community Consultation report	7
	PCC.019/22	Concept Plan for implementation of the Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge Open Space Precinct Plan	8
7.	Supplementa	ry and urgent business	10
8.	Confidential	reports	10
9.	Close of Mee	ting	10

May 2022

Attachment 1. Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held 10 May 2022

Planning and Consultation Committee Minutes

10 May 2022

Nillumbik Shire Council

Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 10 May 2022. The meeting commenced at 7:00pm.

Councillors present:

Cr Richard Stockman Blue Lake Ward Cr Natalie Duffy Edendale Ward

Cr Peter Perkins Ellis Ward (Chairperson Planning Matters)

Cr Ben Ramcharan Sugarloaf Ward (**Deputy Mayor**)
Cr Frances Eyre Swipers Gully Ward (**Mayor**)

Cr Geoff Paine Wingrove Ward (Chairperson Consultation Matters)

Officers in attendance:

Carl Cowie Chief Executive Officer Vince Lombardi Chief Financial Officer

Hjalmar Philipp Director Operations and Infrastructure

Blaga Naumoski Executive Manager Governance, Communications and Engagement

Corrienne Nichols Executive Manager Communities

Jeremy Livingston Executive Manager Business Transformation and Performance

Rosa Zouzoulas Executive Manager Planning and Community Safety

Eddie Cheng Manager Information Technology

1. Welcome by the Chair

2. Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was read by the Chairperson, Cr Geoff Paine.

3 Apologies

To accept apologies from any Councillors not in attendance at the meeting.

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Frances Eyre SECONDED: Cr Richard Stockman That the apology from Cr Egan be noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 Disclosure of conflicts of interest

Nil

Attachment 1. Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held 10 May 2022

Planning and Consultation Committee Minutes

10 May 2022

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12 April 2022.

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy SECONDED: Cr Frances Eyre

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) confirms the minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12 April 2022 (**Attachment 1**).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachment 1. Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held 10 May 2022

Planning and Consultation Committee Minutes

10 May 2022

6. Officers' reports

PCC.016/22 Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Hjalmar Philipp, Director Operations and Infrastructure
Author: Enrique Gutierrez, Manager Assets and Capital Works

Summary

Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the LGA) specifies the requirement for councils to develop, adopt and keep in force an Asset Plan for at least the next 10 financial years. The Asset Plan provides a high level strategic and financial view of how Council intends to manage its transport, building, drainage and open space assets over such period of time.

In line with such requirements, an Asset Plan must be adopted by Council prior to 30 June 2022.

Council adopted the Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 (**Attachment 1**) at the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting on 8 March 2022 for the purpose of public exhibition.

The Draft Asset Plan 2022 - 2032 was exhibited for 21 days. No submissions were received.

The purpose of this report is to provide the community with a further opportunity to make a verbal submission on the Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 prior Council endorsing the Asset Plan at a future Council meeting.

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy SECONDED: Cr Ben Ramcharan

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

- 1. Acknowledges and notes any submissions received from community members who provide any feedback on the Draft Asset Plan 2022 2032 (Attachment 1).
- 2. Requests a further report to be presented at its June 2022 Council Meeting to endorse the final version of the Asset Plan 2022 2032.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachment 1. Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held 10 May 2022

Planning and Consultation Committee Minutes

10 May 2022

6. Officers' reports

PCC.017/22 2022-2023 Budget Submissions

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 Budget 2022-2023 (Attachment 1).

Council adopted the draft Budget 2022-2023 at the Council Meeting on 22 March 2022 for the purpose of community consultation. The draft Budget was exhibited for 28 days with 9 submissions received. These submissions are attached to this report (**Attachment 1**).

It is proposed that the Committee considers the submissions on the draft Budget 2022-2023 and that the matter then be considered by Council on 24 May 2022.

The following people addressed the Committee with respect to this item:

- 1 Gavin Watson
- 2 Sandra Roeg Co-President On behalf of Wattle Glen Residents Association
- 3 Bill Lord
- 4 Anika Van Hulsen
- 5 Henry Haszler

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

- 1. Receives and notes the submissions received in respect of the draft Budget 2022-2023, in accordance with the section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- 2. Considers the matters contained in the submissions and the Committee's report during finalisation of the Budget.
- 3. Recommends the adoption of the 2022-2023 Budget at the 24 May 2022 Council Meeting.
- 4. Acknowledges presentations to the Committee.

MOVED: Cr Ben Ramcharan SECONDED: Cr Frances Eyre

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

- 1. Receives and notes the submissions received in respect of the draft Budget 2022-2023, in accordance with the section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- 2. Considers the matters contained in the submissions and the Committee's report during finalisation of the Budget.

Attachment 1. Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held 10 May 2022

Planning and Consultation Committee Minutes

10 May 2022

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.017/22 2022-2023 Budget Submissions

- 3. Recommends the adoption of the 2022-2023 Budget at the 24 May 2022 Council Meeting.
- 4. Acknowledges **and thanks** presentations to the Committee.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Ben Ramcharan SECONDED: Cr Frances Eyre

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

- 1. Receives and notes the submissions received in respect of the draft Budget 2022-2023, in accordance with the section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- 2. Considers the matters contained in the submissions and the Committee's report during finalisation of the Budget.
- 3. Recommends the adoption of the 2022-2023 Budget at the 24 May 2022 Council Meeting.
- 4. Acknowledges and thanks presentations to the Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Corrienne Nichols, Executive Manager Community Services temporarily left the meeting during discussion of this item at 7:37pm and returned at 7:39pm prior to the vote on this item.

Attachment 1. Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held 10 May 2022

Planning and Consultation Committee Minutes

10 May 2022

6. Officers' reports

PCC.018/22 BMX and Offroad Biking Facility - Community Consultation report

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Hjalmar Philipp, Director Operations and Infrastructure

Author: Rebecca Burton, Acting Manager Recreation and Leisure

Summary

This reports notes the submissions received from the community regarding consultation undertaken in regards to a potential BMX and off-road biking facility, following resolution by Council on the matter in late 2021.

Community consultation was undertaken over a 9 week period from 6 December 2021 – 13 February 2022. Community members were invited to provide feedback on the proposed site location of 145 Allendale Road Diamond Creek as well as the BMX concept they would like to see developed at the site.

Public consultation occurred through the *Participate Nillumbik* website, pop-up community consultation sessions at Council's skate parks as well as an online session. 240 submissions were received via the *Participate Nillumbik* website.

In addition, a specialist BMX consultancy, The Trail Collective (TTC) conducted further community consultation. An online session was held, open to community members, which was then followed by an online survey which community members were invited to complete. 135 submissions were received through TTC 'Have your Say' platform.

This community feedback on a potential BMX and off-road biking facility will be considered as the concept planning phase progresses in 2022.

The following people addressed the Committee with respect to this item:

- 1 Matt Smith
- 2 Travis Lynch

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins SECONDED: Cr Natalie Duffy

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

- 1. Acknowledges and notes the submissions received from community members who provided feedback on BMX and off road riding facility (Attachment 3).
- 2. Resolves that the confidential unredacted public submissions on the BMX off road riding facility (Attachment 2) remain confidential in accordance with section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.
- 3. Considers the matters contained in the submissions during the concept planning, site feasibility and design process.
- 4. Thanks the submitters for providing Council with feedback on this important matter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachment 1. Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held 10 May 2022

Planning and Consultation Committee Minutes

10 May 2022

6. Officers' reports

PCC.019/22 Concept Plan for implementation of the Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge

Open Space Precinct Plan

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Hjalmar Philipp, Director Operations and Infrastructure
Author: Enrique Gutierrez, Manager Assets and Capital Works

Summary

This report presents to Council for endorsement the final concept plan for the implementation of the Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge Open Space Precinct.

A draft concept plan was developed based on the 2018 Council-endorsed Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge Open Space Precinct Plan with feedback received from the community between 13 December 2021 and 7 February 2022. Additional feedback was received from Councillors during briefings in March and April 2022. Changes to the draft to the concept plan were implemented by the design consultants, producing the final concept plan attached to this report.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

- 1. Receives and notes submissions on the draft concept plan for Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge Open Space Precinct.
- 2. Endorse the Final Concept Plan Graysharps Road Precinct Plan (Attachment 1)
- 3. Authorises the Director Operations and Infrastructure to approve necessary minor amendments to the Concept Plan that may occur as detailed design and delivery progress as a result of site conditions, technical specifications and/or budget
- 4. Requests the endorsed Final Concept Plan be exhibited on Participate Nillumbik to inform the community.
- 5. Thanks submitters for their feedback.

Motion

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins SECONDED: Cr Ben Ramcharan

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

- 1. Receives and notes submissions on the draft Concept Plan for Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge Open Space Precinct.
- 2. Endorses the Final Concept Plan Graysharps Road Precinct Plan (Attachment 1) subject to the following words being removed from Point 15 "Each would be grouped to create a visual run of single species, moving from indigenous to native to exotic feature trees on the car park end".
- 3. Notes that vegetation is proposed to be consistent with Council's endorsed Tree Management Policy 2018, the environmental significance of the area and the site context.

Attachment 1. Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held 10 May 2022

Planning and Consultation Committee Minutes

10 May 2022

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.019/22 Concept Plan for implementation of the Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge Open Space Precinct Plan

- 4. Authorises the Director Operations and Infrastructure to approve necessary minor amendments to the Concept Plan that may occur as detailed design and delivery progress as a result of site conditions, technical specifications and/or budget.
- 5. Requests the endorsed Final Concept Plan Graysharps Road Precinct Plan be exhibited on Participate Nillumbik to inform the community.
- 6. Thanks submitters for their feedback.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins SECONDED: Cr Ben Ramcharan

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

- 1. Receives and notes submissions on the draft Concept Plan for Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge Open Space Precinct.
- 2. Endorses the Final Concept Plan Graysharps Road Precinct Plan (**Attachment 1**) subject to the following words being removed from Point 15 "Each would be grouped to create a visual run of single species, moving from indigenous to native to exotic feature trees on the car park end".
- Notes that vegetation is proposed to be consistent with Council's endorsed Tree Management Policy 2018, the environmental significance of the area and the site context.
- 4. Authorises the Director Operations and Infrastructure to approve necessary minor amendments to the Concept Plan that may occur as detailed design and delivery progress as a result of site conditions, technical specifications and/or budget.
- 5. Requests the endorsed Final Concept Plan Graysharps Road Precinct Plan be exhibited on Participate Nillumbik to inform the community.
- Thanks submitters for their feedback.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Eddie Cheng, Manager Information Technology temporarily left the meeting during discussion of this item at 8:56pm and returned at 8:57pm prior to the vote on this item.

COM.001/22 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 10 May 2022

Attachment 1. Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held 10 May 2022

Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting Minutes 10 May 2022

7. Supplementary and urgent business

Nil

8. Confidential reports

Nil

The meeting closed at 9:08pm.

Confirmed:

Cr Geoff Paine, Chairperson Consultation Matters

9.

Close of Meeting

State Government Planning Policy, Framework and 'Rules' for Housing State policy sets housing growth targets for Metropolitan Melbourne (of which Nillumbik is part)

State policy sets housing growth targets for Metropolitan Melbourne (of which Nillumbik is part), while also requiring housing diversity, well-designed housing and concentrating new housing in appropriate locations. Rules set by the State Government require each Council to provide a **Housing Strategy** and **Neighbourhood Character Strategy** that must address and plan for specific issues (discussed below).

Nillumbik Council Planning Policy for Housing

Must interpret, support and implement State policy at the local level. Council's existing policy is dated.

Neighbourhood Character Strategy

(Commenced)

Is required to define the preferred neighbourhood character for different residential areas in the Shire and outline how future development should support this character.

Housing Strategy

(To be commenced)

Is required to plan for sufficient growth in both housing supply and diversity in the Shire.

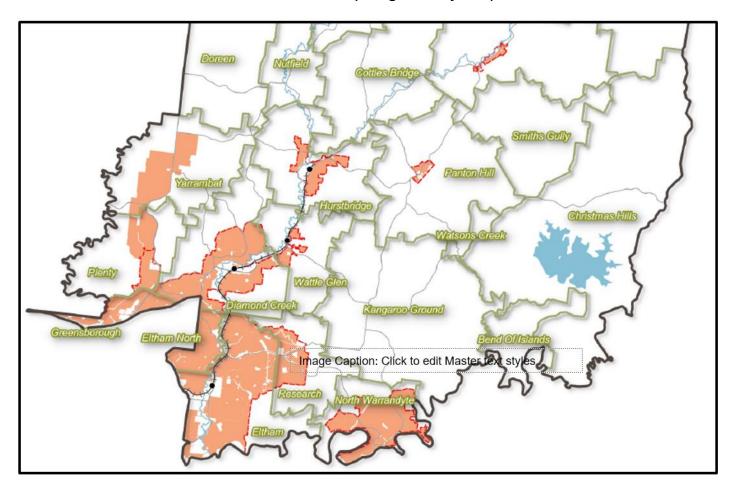
Future Amendment to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme

Will propose changes to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme to implement the adopted Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategies. The amendment must be publically exhibited in accordance with requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Nillumbik Planning Scheme

If the planning scheme amendment is approved, the Nillumbik Planning Scheme will implement the adopted Nillumbik Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategies through residential zones, overlays and planning policy – essentially the decision-making tools.

STUDY AREA FOR THE NILLUMBIK NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER (orange = study area)



Tables A and B below provide all the responses to the survey for the first round of engagement for the Nillumbik Neighbourhood Character Strategy, as follows:

Table A (Pages 2-58) – Details each respondent's feedback on the first neighbourhood they selected to discuss.

Table B (Pages 59-130). – Details each respondent's feedback on a second neighbourhood (if they selected to do this) and anything else they wished to provide.

The headings of the table are explained as follows:

Question in Survey	Abbreviation in Table Below
Which neighbourhood (see study area map) would you like to comment on? (please select one)	Area selected
If you would like to comment on a particular street or area in this neighbourhood, please tell us the name of the relevant street(s) or road(s) here	Street selected
Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)	5 words
What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Select all that apply:	What do you like about the character of the neighbourhood:
Built form (how buildings/homes look)	• BF
Setbacks (how far buildings/ homes are set back from the street)	• SB
Heights of buildings and homes	● H
Vegetation (like gardens, trees, plants, bush)	• V
Street layout (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	• SL
Topography (mountains, hills, creeks etc)	• T
Views	• V
Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	• S
Other	Other
Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?	Specific features
How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?	Recommended design
Would you like to comment on another neighbourhood?	2 nd area chosen
Do you have any final feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character that you would like	Final feedback
considered?	(Response only provided in Table B)
First Name	First Name
Last Name	Last Name

^{*}The table below does not include demographic information provided which will be summarised in a forthcoming consultant report on the consultation.

TABLE A: EACH RESPONDENT'S FEEDBACK ON A FIRST RESIDENTIAL AREA

ID No.	1 st area selected	Street selected	5 words		at do y			bout	the	cha	racter	of th	nis neighbourhood?	Specific features	Recommended design	First Name	Last Name
				BF	SB	Н	V	SL	Т	V	(s	Other				
	Eltham	Kent Hughes Road, Eltham & Eltham South area	Rustic native vegetation, low profile housing.	1	1	1	1					1		Large block sizes. Extensive native vegetation and canopy trees including in the road reserve. Significant birdlife and wildlife habitat. Housing mostly single storey and low set on block from street view - not dominant from street view, significant screening vegetation. Gravel road with open side drains/swales, no formal kerbs and paths. Subtle colour tones of buildings - particularly earthy colours. Vehicles speed advisory signage to minimise dust hazard and awareness of pedestrians. Mostly open wire or no boundary fences.	Prescribe the aforementioned attributes regarding vegetation protection, building placement, streetscape views and fencing. Minimise paving of driveways. Retain unsealed 'country roads'.		
20644	Eltham	Ryans Road, Eltham	Leafy, rural, diverse	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		It has a great variety of houses; old and new, large and small. There are units starting to creep into the area which change the look and streetscape completely. With	Mainly trees should be allowed to be removed as this just exposes ugly new built form. People in units do not tend to plant even through Council requests for a landscape plan. Council rarely follows up once buildings have been completed.		

Page 2 of 130

ID No.	1 st area selected	Street selected	5 words		What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply									Specific features	Recommended design	First Name	Last Name
				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	٧		S	Other				
														these types of developments, many trees are lost and there is subsequently more built form. Many of these units have very little character.	More single storey buildings should be included - not multi storey buildings.		
20643	Eltham	Kirwin Ave	Setback big yards nature environment	1	1	1	1			1		1	Varied building styles that don't dominate in e gardens	Bought here for the semi-rural environment and wildlife	Interesting varied-design that blends into its environment,		
20642	Eltham North	Wattletree Rd	Eltham's Northern gateway				1		1	20	0642			Being the northern gateway into Eltham, this area is on a see saw where we still have a chance to preserve and enhance the character we cherish.	Setbacks with local vegetation values to enhance the Diamond creek flood plain and surrounding areas.		
20640	Eltham	Woodridge Estate	Housing interwoven with the environment	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Usually, three elements - especially combined - that ensure I can recognise 'Eltham' are: (1) the mix of trees - especially many gums/eucalypts (2) architecture, where housing features (e.g., Alistair Knox, Fasham Johnson type mid-century home	In terms of housing development, elevate the bar for developers and incentivise development in keeping with quintessential Eltham character (homes are at one with their environment, and as sustainably built as possible).		

ID No.	1 st area selected	Street selected	5 words		at do y			bout	the c	haract	er of	this neighbourhood?	Specific features	Recommended design	First Name	Last Name
				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	V	s	Other				
20638	Eltham	Main Road, Eltham	Bush Garden NCP is being destroyed.		1		1						The few mature eucalyptus that remain	Council should be able to enforce developers to negotiate what vegetation is removed before a planning permit is issued.		
20637	Eltham	Main road / Eltham gateway	Trees threatened by development	1	1		1		1			The number if trees and low density residence.	Trees and low density residential buildings. Formerly, no 3 storey buildings but that seems to have changed in the last 12 months	Limit development to 2 storey buildings		
20636	Eltham	Park road Eltham	Australian, picturesque, relaxed, mud-brick, trees		1	1	1			1	1		Parks and playgrounds, Setbacks, significant Canopy trees and vegetation obscuring dwellings, views and native landscapes.	Use building materials that reference the 1970's mud brick Eltham is famous for, retain setbacks and canopy trees while planting more		
20634	Eltham	Leanne Drive, Zig Zag Road	Large backyards, adequately vegetated, wildlife		1	1	1	1		1	1	The vegetation density provides for native wildlife which have returned / recovered following clearing and development in earlier decades	The size of residential blocks makes it possible for mature vegetation to exist and thrive, which breaks up the street scape and provides natural vistas that significantly contribute to a sense of peacefulness. Strongly complemented by reserves	Maintain large block / backyard and setback pattern, and maintenance of trees especially mature trees		

ID No.	1 st area selected	Street selected	5 words		at do y k all th			bout	the	ch	aracte	r of t	his neighbourhood?	Specific features	Recommended design	First Name	Last Name
				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	-	V	S	Other				
20632	Eltham	Park Rd Eltham	Warm, green, community minded		1	1	1							Tree canopy, small streets/ no through roads, less traffic	Minimal impact, zero vegetation removal, additional planting, climate change aware		
20631	Eltham	Park Road	Traditional, classic Eltham, tree-lined	1	1	1	1					1		Each home has privacy and is surrounded by trees. The road is peaceful and a beautiful community	Traditional style and materials. Single storey. Working with existing natural landmarks / native trees and vegetation		
20630	Eltham		Bushy, leafy, charming, historic, distinctive	1	1	1	1	1	1		1			Canopy, the stone retaining walls in some streets, amount of trees, vegetation, walking trails, reserves, no apartment buildings outside town centre, wooden signs around the town(although they're never looked agter)the mudbrick houses, the Yarra river bank	Designs need to be aligned with the towns characteristics. Limiting density in new builds, imposing more space for native gardens and planting of trees in new apartment/ unit buildings, respecting the green leafy character of the town		

ID No.	1 st area selected	Street selected	5 words		That do you like about the character of this neighbourhoods all that apply SB H V SL T V S Other 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1									Specific features	Recommended design	First Name	Last Name
				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	V		S	Other				
20629	Eltham North	Hillcrest Road, Eltham North	Street is bush and as natural as can be. Larger plots and well "camouflaged" in the vegetation. Minimal or no fencing.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		native and indigenous trees largely obscuring houses and fencing that is minimal and allows for greenery to filter through (e.g. not paling but mesh/wire fencing); houses set back from the street so the impact on the landform and vegetation is minimised	keep houses well- spaced, no more than 2 storeys high and away from the street. Keep streetscapes as natural as possible (not tarmac everywhere); promote native vegetation		
20628	Plenty	River Avenue, Grange avenue, Browns land and adjoining streets. Plus Thornbill drive	Modern homes focused on family living	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Modern development taking account of local environment. Should not be restricted by past history.	Free range respectful development should be allowed rather than out of date and inconsistently applied principles.		
20627	St Andrews		Rural, eclectic. Large, medium small lots				1		1	1				Green wedge	Green wedge needs to be protected at all costs. No sub divisions, no townhouses		
20625	Eltham	Central Activity Centre including residential streets and areas.	The residential neighbourhood of original developments is characterised by strong neighbour connections. New larger developments are not considered in these comments as they are more typically denser and devoid of contact with neighbours outside the site.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		The remaining detached homes within the precinct are accompanied more typically by well-established vegetation and often with large established native trees,	Maintaining established trees is critical. Too many have been decimated by developments that have either with approval or without, have razed all established trees to the ground, leaving a scorched earth appearance prior to the construction.		

ID No.	1 st area selected	Street selected	5 words		at do y			bout t	he c	haract	ter of	this neighbourhood?	Specific features	Recommended design	First Name	Last Name
				BF	SB	н	V	SL	T	V	S	Other				
20623	Eltham	South Eltham	Buildings hidden by natural vegetation		1	1	1				1	Predominance of natural, indigenous vegetation esp. Yellow Box trees	Yellow Box trees as opposed to Red Box which seem to predominate further to the north	Post and wire fencing only, large setbacks, indigenous plantings informally arranged		
20622	Eltham	KERRIE CRESCENT	Bush Feeling with limited development	1			1		1	1			Sloped land ,hills.	When looking from a distance, houses should be slightly visible and should not disrupt the tree canopy. New developments should not be permitted if they do not fit in with the existing neighbourhood setting and involves removal of trees.		
20621	Eltham North		Treed, semi-bush like, uncrowded,		1	1	1		1	1	1		Many of the houses are barely visible from the street due to their nestled nature or the vegetation around them.	Larger setbacks being required so that more trees/vegetation are retained or replacement trees/vegetation has more chance of surviving. Subdivision/multiple dwellings could be managed to limit hard surface on each site rather than squeezing in too much.		
20620	Eltham North		Tree lined street with underground power and some mature native trees and good tree canopy cover.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		Tree canopy and treed views and hills	There shouldn't be any new development. This is not an area suitable for townhouses. It's not close too amenities		

ID No.	1 st area selected	Street selected	5 words		at do y call th			bout 1	the c	chara	acter	of th	nis neighbourhood?	Specific features	Recommended design	First Name	Last Name
				BF	SB	Н	V	SL	Т	V		S	Other				
20619	Plenty		semi-rural community friendly		1		1		1	1				The hilly topography and general retention of vegetation particularly native vegetation. Combination of sealed and unsealed roads and properties blending rural and suburban character	retention of rural character such as absence of street fencing, native vegetation planting, set back from road and spacing between dwellings. Height limitation on dwellings.		
20618	Hurstbridge	The main shopping precinct	Quaint, unspoiled but still practical	1	1	1	1	1				1		Yes, the buildings are generally in keeping with each other. They have an old fashioned, tidy sophistication about them. Lovely native flora blends wonderfully with festive decorations. It pays respect to its past without being tatty.	New business need their own parking. The street is getting so busy and potentially dangerous at certain times. Native flora and canopy trees to be retained to provide shade. New building designs should be in keeping with the streets character.		
20617	Greensborough	Apollo Parkways	spacious homes/sections, treed & sloping	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		proximity to busy roads & our local education and Council facilities leads to much traffic beyond residents using key roads	1-2 storey, no or low fencing, space for mulched garden or lawn, set back from street, no forward garages		
20616	Eltham North	Progress Road, Orchard Avenue, Ryans Road	Individual homes on large treed blocks		1		1		1	1		1		No hard fences, generous greenery on each side of the drives, native trees and vegetation	Keeping the generous proportions of the gardens, gentle materials, building integrated in nature		
20613	Eltham North	Vine street	Leafy, a mix of houses including some mud brick.				1	1	1	1				Native trees, steep hills and dips	Avoid removal of canopy trees/ replace any cut with appropriate indigenous species		

Page 8 of 130

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20611	Eltham North	The block of the strategy map area that includes the title North Eltham, Including the southern part of that block. I live in and walk this area regularly.	Native canopy trees views		1	1	1		1	1		1		A density of eucalypt canopy trees compared with most formal streetscape and formal garden areas of Nillumbik.	Setbacks to allow for retention or replacement of canopy trees. Housing styles and colours of architecture secondary to the landscape they sit within.		
20610	Research		Shaded, with large trees dominant		1	1	1	1	1			1		The proximity to bush and farmland is amazing	Respect the surrounding area height limits and control tree clearance. Native species must be protected.		
20609	Eltham	Helene Street		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Block sizes, minimal unit development & some canopy retention	Minimum block side of 400sm and increased front, rear & side set back requirements for double story units. Off- street park increased to 3 per dwelling and/or on street parking restrictions		
20608	Hurstbridge	General neighbourhood	Trees, heritage buildings and parkland.		1	1	1					1	Low density	Village atmosphere, trees, heritage buildings, parkland, creek and trails.	Hurstbridge is not a major activity centre so development should be minimal, certainly avoiding high rise, brutalist and ugly architecture. It should be contained within the existing Urban Growth Boundary. It should be respectful of neighbourhood character		

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20607	Eltham	Antoinette Boulevard and surrounding streets in Eltham South	Natural landform; tree canopy; discreet buildings screened by vegetation; informal paths; minimal fencing/gates	1	1	1	1		1	1		1		Homes remain humble and do not dominate the landscape; building materials complement the environment; vegetation supports wildlife; homes are setback and properties prioritise tree canopy; paths are informal and streets winding; naturalised verges	Develop stricter zoning rules to ensure developments do not dominate the landscape & allow for garden / passive space; avoid inappropriate subdivisions that jeopardise tree canopy; ensure buildings use natural materials & details to complement environment		
20605	Hurstbridge		Beautifully treed village spoilt by garish retail advertising	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				Many mature indigenous trees in town and nearby, especially along the creek give the town a wonderful leafy 'feel'. A relatively strong neighbourhood character statement applying to Hurstbridge has largely protected it from inappropriate development	Ban removal of indigenous canopy trees without a permit. Strengthen controls on retail advertising design/colour to reduce overall area of adverts and introduce more muted colours that don't clash with the beautiful environment all around.		
	Hurstbridge	Hurstbridge- Kinglake Rd	Tree lined quaint welcoming	1	1		1	1				1		Large old trees have been retained, native gardens, wide footpaths	Retain the above features, encourage native gardens to attract birds		
20602	Eltham	Porter Street	Large trees, open blocks	1		1	1		1	1				Lots of vegetation, low houses, interesting buildings	Height restrictions, requirement for new developments to keep existing vegetation		

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20601	Eltham		Leafy, relaxing, wildlife, tree canopy, space	1	1	1	1			1				You only need to compare it with nearby suburbs. Greensborough - subdivision galore Doreen - mini blocks, wall to wall homes, zero privacy Templestowe - concrete, subdivision, big roads Bundoora - every house looks the same, no trees, soulless Epping - c	New developments need to not take any more than 50% of the block. They should require architecture that has some imagination and does not allow any materials that are not in keeping with the Eltham character e.g. Black and white colour schemes, and plastic		
20598	Hurstbridge	Arthur's Creek	semi-rural but feeling the stress of rubbish dumping nearby suburbs						1	1				rural land	no development would help Arthur's Creek		
20597	Yarrambat	Yan Yean Rd	Low density but should be high										Not much - it seems that there is a pocket between iron bark Rd and the golf course where land use could be better maximised via subdivision		Higher density subdivision would allow long term residents to downsize without having to move from the area		
20596	Hurstbridge		Mixture between higher density and rural farming/grazing land										Grazing land and associated open spaces	The good mix of rural and township areas			
20595	Hurstbridge	Cherry Tree Road, Flat Rock Road, Heather Avenue, Silvan Road	Rural, grazing land, equine properties, grazing animals, trees	1			1		1	1		1	Rural grazing land with dispersed housing and agricultural buildings, equine properties and associated infrastructure, trails.	Quiet rural roads and off-road (roadside verge) trails for horse riding and walking.	Keep the rural hobby farm uses in and around rural townships, preservation of existing grazing land for grazing animals. Connected shared trails between both larger and rural		

Page 11 of 130

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				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	V		S	Other				
															townships and neighbourhoods.		
20594	Eltham North	Scenic Crescent	Treed, rustic, rial feel		1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Very treed, narrow street, no footpaths.	Ensure tree and vegetation removal is minimised, minimum block subdivision.		
20593	Eltham	Pitt street and Rockliffe St	Leafy, quiet, native, family-friendly.			1	1		1					Large canopy trees, unmade roads, private roads	Any rebuilds should be restoration works, or architecturally significant sustainable design		
	Hurstbridge			1	1	1	1		1	1		1	A village feeling	One reason we chose this area was the "real" shops, I.e. no plazas, no large take away outlets, and a sense of town in a country area.	No buildings of three or more storeys, which spoil the outlook. Designed to retain a country feel. Continue to promote the use of verandahs over paths. Suitable native trees and shrubs to break up the residential and commercial zones. Car parks provided.		
20591	Eltham		Low rise, trees, native gardens	1	1	1	1					1		Village like feel, natural features, greenery	Low rise, natural looking materials, allow dual living e.g. tiny homes rather than one enormous family home with no or little garden. Compulsory planting & maintenance requirements.		

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20590	Eltham	The Woodridge estate in Eltham	Houses blend in with trees	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	Most houses are built from natural materials like brick and wood with muted colours and are obscured by trees	You mainly see trees from all parts of the estate because the buildings blend into the landscape. Also the building materials blend in with the vegetation. Because each house does not fill most of its block there is room for trees and other vegetation.	The problem is that a growing number of new houses do not respect the neighbourhood character e.g. which fills almost the entire block, where all trees were removed and the exterior has a light grey render. This should not be permitted.		
20589	Greensborough		Clean, open, well maintained			1		1			1		No power lines	Wider streets		
20588	Eltham	Heddon Ct	Treed, quiet		1	1	1	2			1		No through traffic; houses nestled among trees; a neighbourhood open to the sky	Low density; no double stories; maintain existing tree plantings		
20587	Eltham		Leafy green, full of trees and homes with character		1		1		1	1			Leafy green	Betting housing, less homes on a single plot		
20586	Eltham North	I want to know when the dog parks will be open. I have to take our two whippet pups outside my council area of Nillumbik to let them run safely in a dog park.	I just want a safe dog park										I'm in my 60's. I've lived in Eltham since I was 8 months old. I hate the way that so many units are being built on blocks that used to contain one home. Not houses, but a home, where the occupants were actually part of the community and literally everybody	It can't. Eltham has grown too big to be the community I used to know		
20585	Eltham		urban, neat, not many trees,	1		1	1			1	1		house uniqueness	more trees		

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20584	Eltham		Leafy, housing diversity, parkland, vegetation and landscaping, gardens and private open space, solid garden frontages with some side and back setbacks	1			1					1		Gardens and housing diversity	Greater setbacks around buildings and more on site car parking, allow for more trees and gardens and reduced concrete. More earthy tones with reduced square shaped buildings. All new designs should encompass eves, skylights and shaded areas.		
20583	Greensborough		Leafy				1		1						Limit the number of town house on a block. Have a 450 sqm minimum. New developments make a set contribution towards the planting in areas appropriate. Such as vacant blocks council owns, parks for when large trees are removed and it is planted by council		
20582	Eltham	Ryans Road area	Still leafy green but changing	1		1	1					1		The hills make it interesting and a challenge for walking, still are winding roads, interesting older houses	Limit on large scale developments via fitting too many double storied units on too small blocks, not being aware of fitting into the neighbourhood		
20581	Eitham	Frank St Reserve	Beautiful native bush and grassland with many native birds		1	1	1	1	1	1				native animals are plentiful, the birds use the tress for nesting	Retain the native vegetation and trees for the wildlife to live in.		

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20580	Eltham	Woodridge	Homes thoughtfully design to blend into the leafy environment.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Native vegetation cherished and homes that live in the environment but do not dominate the landscape. I see trees and gardens before homes but they have architectural meaning in the landscape.	Keep development near the transit hubs less than 3 storeys and the architecture need to be in the character of the uniqueness of Eltham past present and hopefully the future.		
20579	Eltham	Woodridge area	Treed mostly open streetscapes		1		1	1				1		Currently an acceptable blend of 'open' dwelling styles nestled within tree canopies.	New developments MUST NOT be at the expense of tree removal. Compensatory plantings of immature trees are insufficient to maintain existing neighbourhood character. Much greater strength and weight must be brought to bear on this.		
20578	Eltham North	The older areas of Eltham North have houses that tend to blend in to the existing tree canopy and respect the topography. Scenic Crescent, Alison Crescent some parts of Glen Park Rd, Hillcrest	one-side footpaths houses nestled in	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	Lack of uniformity in land size, variety of built form although all respecting the semi-bush nature	A more informal streetscape with limited formalised footpaths. Vegetation of mainly native and indigenous varieties often the original vegetation of the property. Retention of tree canopy. Lack of formalised fencing.	Consideration must be given to backyard scapes and side setbacks from other dwellings.it is not only the front streetscape that is important. Loss of vegetation at the back of properties due to subdivisions affects the amenities of neighbours in terms of		

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20577	Panton Hill	Township	A bush township and not a suburban suburb/town	1		1	1		1	1				Along the main road section of the township there is character reflecting the history of the town/area	Must match existing amenity, appearance, setbacks, etc.		
20576	Eltham		Unique individual not all natives	1	1	1	1		1	1		1	Safety concerns about Council planting in median not being maintained. Too dangerous	No spec builders large blocks	No land left in this local neighbourhood for development. However, keep bulk spec builders out. Minimum lot size 750m No Doreen type chicken coop development		
20575	Eltham North	Hillcrest Rd	Rough, unkempt, dangerous, underdeveloped,						5.					The lack of infrastructure in the immediate area particularly relating to drainage	Create a better road and drainage system and create a court at the end of the road.		
20574	Greensborough	Wanbanna Avenue	Leafy, green, nice homes, bush	1	1	1	1	1		1		1		Plenty Gorge Parklands is behind the houses so feels so close to nature and quiet.	No need for new development currently as we have everything we want and need in the neighbourhood or close by. New development in the area would impact the look and feel. We live here to be close to nature and enjoy our natural surrounds.		
20573	Eltham	Elouera Close	Treed, friendly, attractive, comfortable, home	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		All the homes are of a different design and there are a large number of beautiful trees	No development required		

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20572	Plenty	Browns Lane area	Spacious, open, retaining country feel		1	1	1		1	1		1	Lack of density and semi-rural feel	Semi-rural look and feel	Retain setbacks, limit subdivisions, limit building heights and multi-unit developments, enable sustainable outcomes like small eco village creation, these could have smaller subdivisions/lots if enviro footprint was addressed. Could be a good model		
20571	Eltham	Wycliffe Crescent	not a modern or up to date crescent with poor street landscape and ratepayer front gardens		1			1		1				part of the original 1970's development called Woodridge estate	updated front gardens, council land and street signage		
20570	Eltham North	Wattletree Road and Glen Park Road	It has the right amount of housing and open vegetation. If this balance changes, the neighbourhood character will be lost, not to mention homes for our local fauna and flora and places for people to visit in nature will be reduced, which is not good		1	1	1	1		1			The parks and open nature reserves are crucial	The parks, walking/bike riding tracks and open nature reserves, Sporting and recreational clubs and facilities, Eltham North Adventure Park, Edendale Farm, future Eltham North dog park.	By leaving it the same and continuing to support the local nature reserves, parks, sports clubs and Edendale Farm. i.e. the open spaces open to all.		
20569	Eltham		Open leafy hilly suburban		1	1	1	1	1	1		1		A-1	Lower density or well managed density.		
20567	Hurstbridge	Entire area within township zone including parkland .	Hills , gullies , eucalyptus, rural feel	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	Every category contains some negative exceptions .	The retention of many historical features. Large trees. Landscape views. Parkland in particular riparian areas. Mix of architectural styles. Informal paths. Minimal front fencing or where it exists mainly low fencing.	Reduce height limits. Reduce density of multi- unit developments allowing for more open space and onsite parking. Enforce signage and lighting policy for retail area. Retention of tree canopy. No more multi story development along Main Rd.		

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20566	Greensborough	Civic drive & Whittingham Terrace Park is open character	Open space to enjoy	1			1			1			Pathways & open space to walk our dogs	No space for new developments unless council buys the shops in Civic drive and makes it appealing & has shops the community require bakery etc. etc.		
20565	Eltham		More trees than concrete		1		1		1	1				Stop townhouse and multiple development on large blocks		
20564	Hurstbridge		rural township, native wildlife corridor	1	1		1	1		1	1		the tree canopies, the low density housing, the diversity of wildlife, the shops in the Main Street (not tacky), the native vegetation, the recreation areas	ensure low density housing, protect the tree canopy and recreation areas form development, shops on the Main Street to be mindful or native, rural aesthetic, natural materials to be chosen for builds and playgrounds		
20563	North Warrandyte	Bradleys Lane	treed, riverine, acreage, bush, hidden	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	largely native bush, though some gardens have introduced exotic species close to the houses.	The river and abundance of wild life, bush blocks, no cars parked on the street, few fences (though with pets this is changing)	Properties should be set back, and retain the treed, bush environments, to provide privacy, shade and bush outlooks		
20562	Hurstbridge		Village like, unique, green									Undeveloped	Nature abounds	The infrastructure won't support much more development, from traffic management to internet services we are already overstretched		
20561	Wattle Glen			1			1				1		I think the diversity of buildings and informal nature of the street scape and front yards makes this unique.	Foot paths or gravel paths would make it safer.		
20560	Hurstbridge		Quiet		1		1			1			No	Prefer no development		

Page 18 of 130

ID No.	1 st area selected	Street selected	5 words	What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood Tick all that apply BF SB H V SL T V S Other							cter o	of th	nis neighbourhood?	Specific features	Recommended design	First Name	Last Name
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20559	Eltham	John Street	Bush, trees, historic homes, natural	1	1		1		1	1		1	historic mud brick homes and gardens (Gordon Ford Garden)	Homes are nestled into large gardens with mature vegetation, no footpaths, country feel, space to breathe	Smaller, ecofriendly, sustainable homes built leaving large open spaces around them for vegetation.		
20558	Yarrambat	Yan Yean Road	Unobtrusive houses in the bush		1		1		1	1				Not suburban	Keep to 1-hectare minimum block size. More bush land settings.		
20557	St Andrews	Mittons Bridge Rd	bush, paddocks, rural BUT changing		1	1	1		1	1				Combination of bushland, residences and working farms	No new development would be best on this road. If absolutely necessary, low set, away from road, single storey, natural materials, sustainable design, no outside lighting, use only native vegetation, no ugly fencing		
20556	Panton Hill	Heidelberg- Kinglake Road (from Hurstbridge to Cottles Bridge)	Dangerous. Lacking footpath.		1		1								Footpaths or bike paths - pedestrians and cyclists use this 80km stretch of dangerous road all too often.		
20555	Hurstbridge		Traditional, village, Australian, family oriented	1	1	1	1	1				1		It's still mainly single story traditional buildings with green areas	Stop trying to develop it, don't allow too many higher rise buildings or subdivisions		
	Eltham North	Ryans Rd	slowly changing to an inner suburban look , less trees as blocks get divided up	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Ì	1		reasonable size blocks	no small blocks and some parkland within the development		
20553	Eltham	Brownes Crescent, Eltham	Community orientated, young families, for an inner Eltham area quite pretty. Also lots of fast moving traffic				1			1		1		We are on a crescent that has a sharp bend which limits parking and car visibility for pedestrians	I believe this street could benefit from being a no through road at Henry Street with a community garden as the barrier		

Page 19 of 130

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				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	V		S	Other				
20552	Eltham	Kapili Way	treed and friendly		1	1	1	1		1		1		No fences, large blocks	Would be inappropriate		
20551	Eltham North		Mixed. Some areas have strict planning guidelines, others seemingly not. Generally sympathetic building and native planting over modern monstrosities, with exceptions.				1		1			1		There is a good number of reserves and areas of native planting including many mature trees.	Limit subdivision and cookie cutter homes. Limit development heights further. Consider enforcing side by side subdivision over front-to-back, to retain rear garden privacy and views. Many blocks are wide enough to permit that effectively.		
20550	Eltham	Glenister drive ,Mount pleasant road.	It is a relatively green area but I have seen in this neighbourhood people who are just coming to live in Eltham are taking big trees down because of leaves or swimming pools. That should not happen.				1					1		The trees and unfenced gardens	don't build more than one at the most two houses on one block!		
20549	Research		Natural native setting	1	1	1	1	1				1		Native landscape	Buildings setback from streets, native trees along streets and throughout gardens, consistent road treatments - rain gardens rather than curbs/stormwater		
20548	Eltham	Peter Street, Stanhope Street, Diamond Street, Fay Street.	Semi-rural		1	1		1	1	1		1		These encompass the old Stanhope estate (subdivided in 1920's) and represents old Eltham. The houses are well set back from the road and the roads are mostly unsealed. It has charm, and many ramblers and dog walkers enjoy it as a country walk	It would be hard to improve with new buildings. They usually detract. Any should be architecturally relaxed (not modern), set back and muted. Greenery screening would help.		

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20547	Eltham		Treed Hand Built Mud Dwellings	1			1	1				1		Natural setting, untamed.	with deep respect for the existing character		
20546	Eltham	Around Silver street Ryans road Diamond street, between Progress road to Swan street	A hotchpotch of beautiful old mudbrick houses, buildings in line with the landscape and an over developed glut of units/townhouses with either over manicured gardens or no trees at all	1	1	1	1			1		1	This obviously not the majority I am talking about the older residences	The beautiful older "Eltham Houses, unsculptured road edges and unmade roads.	Have the character in line with what is there, or was there. Rather than now making the newer houses/buildings the "norm for the character of the area		
20545	Eltham	bible street	becoming way way too densely populated and developed	1	1	1	1	1				1					
20544	Eltham		Looks great, lots of trees and fresh air environment			1	1	1						Nothing under 4000sqm	It couldn't		
	Eltham	Stanhope Hill bordered by the train line, Diamond St and Silver St.	Bush, secluded, pedestrian friendly, precious	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		It feels rural but is close to centre of town. A rare asset these days.	Need to keep existing character. Happy to put up with a bit of dust and a few potholes for the sake of the beauty we have.		
20541	Eltham North		Filled with nature		1		1		1	1				The amount of nature, including both plants and wildlife, that are present in this neighbourhood.	New development should not impose on the nature of the neighbourhood; trees should NOT be cut down to make way for new developments. Wildlife should NOT be relocated to make new developments. As a priority, pre-existing developments should be maintained.		

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20540	Eltham		trees, family, local. safe		1		1		1	1		1		trees and vegetation	Restricted to main road corridor, reduced in scale and maximum height of 2 levels above ground. It should be compulsory for large scale developments to include a proportion number of native trees. Subdivisions should be appropriately sized to allow for		
20539	Eltham		Trees, green, low buildings, sky	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Indigenous vegetation, gum trees	Avoid tall buildings, keep trees as an important feature		
	Eltham	Kent Hughes Rd Eltham	rural restful quiet											older homes built to blend in with the bush, set back usually generous, gentle curves in unmade road relaxing, low density of development appreciated post and wire or no front fences in part of the road adds to general ambience and informal streescape,	new development should be required to conform to present rural feel in terms of colour schemes, generous setbacks from side and front boundaries, no further subdivision, and limits to size of proposed new houses.		
20537	Wattle Glen	Mannish Rd	Homes nestled within the landscape			1	1		1	1		1		While close to a main road still retains a semi-rural feel	Maintain a low profile look, unlike the nearby Kamarooka Drive 'mac- mansions'		
20536	Plenty		Rural living on the edge of Melbourne.		1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Despite having a highway cut through the middle of it, this little hamlet of Plenty still manages to retain an air of charm and	Keeping subdivisions at one-acre north of River Ave is crucial. Retaining tall trees. Enhancing the township of Plenty with a park area where the old CFA was.		

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														simplicity. With clever planting some feeling of bush has been retained along the side of Yan Yean Rd.			
20535	North Warrandyte	Kruses Road and surrounding roads	Low density, lots of trees, native wildlife and indigenous flora				1	2	1	1				There are very few outer suburban areas with the same beauty	It cannot. Any building needs to be on existing footprint		
20534	Eltham		undulating, leafy, indigenous,				1		1	1				undulating hills, remnant eucalypts, variable housing ages, relaxed, open	Enforce retention of miner's cottages (two have been demolished). Enforce establishment of large canopy trees with adequate space. Developments that have most of the open space in small area meaning other properties are relied on for maintaining character		
20533	Eltham North	glen park road and surrounds	set back houses, single storey	1	1	1	1	1						set back and low density	ensure low rise, ensure low density		
20531	Eitham	Godalmin Street	Remnant semi-rural pre- Mac-Mansion	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Retains a lot of its original character with many trees and no concrete gutters or sidewalks	It could be designed to fit in with what is established.		

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20530	Eltham		Overbuilt, diminishing tree canopy, uninspired						1					predominant native vegetation, remnants of diverse building styles, topography, parkland, waterways	Less dense development, diverse design, natural building materials, tree canopy, less hard surfaces, larger setbacks		
20529	Eltham	Wycliffe Cres, eucalyptus Rd	Leafy, open, quiet with beautiful trees. Less urban with more space.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		It has a look that is very Eltham.	Don't allow blocks to be split. Don't allow terraced or semi-detached houses. Don't allow apartments. Keep development to a minimum to retain the character.		
20528	Eltham	Franklin St	Natural, natives, housing blends in	1	1	1	1							Lack of footpath, houses set back, lots of native vegetation	Not be built to the fence line, not so high, natural looking materials		
20527	Eltham North		It is tree filled however this has diminished a little in the last 8 years we have been here			1	1		1			1		Lots of gum trees	Keep subdivisions and multi dwellings restricted		
20526	Eltham		Bush garden haven for wildlife	1	1	1	1		1	1		1		Mostly single or double storied buildings. The native trees have been retained along the roadway so much so the footpath meanders around them. Views over windy hilly sloping streets look to tree lined distant ridges where the houses are not visible.	Keep existing canopy trees and bush planting. Avoid dense building that occupies most of the block where there is no room for planting. Keep low or no fencing use vegetation as screening from the streetscape		

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20525	Eltham		treed, bird calls, children ,changing.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		planted nature strips, big gardens with native birds, Tall trees. Curved roads	remain well spaced with gardens for human sanity, communal driveways designs for neighbourly life style. One and two story homes.		
20524	Eltham	Bird Street, Ryan's Road, Sandra Avenue, Peter Street.	Small, medium and large blocks with one home per block. Some unsealed roads, some mudbrick, weatherboard houses, high tree cover and native shrubs. No townhouses, flats or more than 2 story. Some houses owner built. Tree'd roads, large nature strips.	1	1	1	1	1	1			1		Mudbrick and weatherboard homes, high percentage of trees, some unsealed roads, one house per block	Set planning controls on height and density, preferences for building materials (e.g. no concrete), set back and fencing. Driveway spacing, percentage of land occupied by the building, distances from building to boundary, vegetation types.		
20523	Eltham		Treed, rural, natural	1	1	1	1		1	1		1		Lack of development although this unfortunately is changing	Single level homes, with country style, set requirements for vegetation		
20522	Eltham	Ryan's Road, Bird Street, Silver Street and Diamond Street	Used to be treed but many now being cut down to increase likelihood of plans making it through Council when they can write 'no trees/vegetation on existing site'.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				There were but we are losing them at an astounding rate.	Leave some of the vegetation on site - it took years to grow and stop putting so many dwellings on a block ie the nightmare of 23 Diamond Street for one.		
20521	Eltham	Godalmin street and surrounding area	Natural and bushy	1	1	1	1			1		1		Very little development Very treed Very rustic Large blocks Setbacks	It wouldn't		

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20520	Eltham	Main Road	Random development over 70 years.				1		1				The natural landforms and vegetation	Making the character of it to enhance the environment for people who live here a priority rather than as a place to make a profit.		
20519	Eltham	Piper crescent/Artists Hill intersection.	Congested, ruined, dangerous.									Once had a country lane feel, now too congested.	Was very serene and secluded	It's been over developed, no room for anymore.		
20518	Eltham	Hohnes road and Homestead road (east)	Natural, bushy, quiet, low density	1	1	1	1			1	1		Dominated by parks and nature	Retain the low density and quiet locality. Add traffic management as the intersection of Hohnes/Homestead and Homestead/Jayson Rds are ambiguous re right of way and dangerous.		
20517	Eltham	Hartland Way Eltham	The neighbourhood has a welcoming feel as you walk the streets. There are no front fences and the houses are all about 8 meters or more from the footpath. One house to one block has allowed an attractive array of indigenous and native plants.	1	1	1	1	1			1		Many of the original gums predevelopment have been left. Residents are informed and plant native and indigenous plants. Largish block size.	Maintain the original covenants on building construction. Have height limits. No units or subdivision of the blocks.		
20516	Eltham	Woodridge estate	trees, birdlife,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	no front fences	Although a large number of older gum trees have been removed some still remain. The linear park is also important.	Houses should mainly be single or split level and be surrounded by a large garden/ vegetated arear with mixture of indigenous trees and shrubs.		
20515	Eltham	View Hill Crescent	Tranquil, homely, natural, peaceful		Į.	41			3		1		Gravel road!	Stop building McMansions		

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20514	Eltham		Trees, unique earthy nature loving	1		1	1		1			1		Mudbrick, earthy unique homes. Any new additions need to fit in with the earthy trees landscape, including units.	See above. Not too much over development with units or apartments, maintain some applications only for single homes that are not too overwhelming in the natural landscape		
	Eltham North	Progress Road	Leafy, bushy, natural environment.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1			Zero removal during new developments. Minimum building and hard surfaces footprint. Maintain open spaces and landscaping opportunities.		
20512	Eltham	Antoinette Boulevard	Native Bushland, Quiet,		1	1	1		1			1		Narrow winding roads ensuring slow traffic.	Ensure houses are well set back and native vegetation is predominant.		
20511	Eltham		Under threat of overdevelopment				1		1	1				Like many who live in Eltham, the sense of living within the Green Wedge matters.	Limiting further subdivisions, tighter control of building heights & tree removal.		
20510	Eltham	Eucalyptus Road, Woodridge Estate, surrounding Linear Reserve	Bushy, Natural, Hilly, Sympathetic Development	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				No fences and brick (as per covenant on Woodridge titles!) Underground power, split level and non-canopy penetrating contoured built forms	Abide to SLO3 overlay and don't ignore requirement to follow above SLO guidelines as in some recently approved council planning permits (see 11 Marlow Place!)		
20509	Eltham	Bridge street between Main and Bible	parked cars creating blockage	1		1						1		Too many houses on a lot	Allow only 1 new house on area		

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20508	Eltham	Bellevue Rd, Batman Rd, Livingston Rd	Slowly becoming the new Doreen		1					1				There where, slowly but surely they're all being demolished to make way for units.	No more Units!		
20507	Eltham		Ugly Township, Bad Outcomes, deficient Council leaving VAT to decide outcomes		1	1	1		1			1		It is a mixed neighbourhood	This is an ambiguous dumb question and too broad		
20506	North Warrandyte		Natural vegetation, open spaces	1	1	1	1		1	1				The river, reserves, natural vegetation, no high rise buildings, no big traffic lanes - and more!	It would have to be small scale, low rise, preserve vegetation and be very limited		
20505	Research		Quiet, village like, peaceful				1		1	1				Research incorporates great rural aspects and bush as well as a small township feel. The schools fit in relatively well	Remain in keeping with the current vibe including retention of vegetation and bush where possible		
20504	Eltham			1	1	1	1		1	1		1		,			
20503	Eltham	Silver Street, Eltham	Homes & landscape peaceful, but			1	1		1					Very limited number of multiple dwelling houses/units on one block	The road traffic, noise & pollution has become unbearable. This compounded by through further industrial development at the end of the street, too high buildings, and greatly increased traffic. The road must be closed at the railway over bridge!!		
20502	Eltham	Shalbury Avenue / Sheffield Street / Stanley Avenue	Infilled. Compact. Disappearing. Tree- Felled, Eco-Stressed						1	1			It is quietfor now, but is slowly being developed / in-filled with large blocks of land housing units etc.	It is higher up and over-looks Eltham. But developers are clamouring to buy chunks of land to build 2 & 3 storey	Only allow houses or Axe-L type developments of two smaller houses on one big block. No urbanised (units/flats) development		

Page 28 of 130

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														"homes" that look like square prison housing that would look more akin to refugee centres.	it is not in keeping with Eltham and makes the place SUCK!!! Too many cars on Off-street parking.		
20501	Eltham	between Eltham town and Research,	classic fringe, lightly urbanised, but highly treed and quite roads	1	1		1							buildings do not dominate the landscape, they are part of it	keep multiple dwelling developments down and ensure that vehicles are parked on-site, not urbanising streets		
20500	Eltham	Eltham township and surrounding	Over developed!											Eltham used to have a community, close feel. It had character. Eltham was renowned for its green, leafy township. Over development has lead Eltham to just become any other suburb.	Height restrictions on buildings. No apartments. Less dwellings on blocks.		
20499	Eltham North		Green wedge in green wedge	1			1				ĺ	1		Trees and lots of mixed indigenous trees.	Keep the existing trees, or even add more new ones.		
20498	Eltham	Eltham town area, including Pitt St, Main Rd, Bible St, John St, Franklin St area		1	1				1								
20497	Eltham		It is exactly perfect how it is now			1	1	1	1	1		1		This is Eltham it doesn't need any change but better maintaining by the council.	Keep high density close to the centre of Eltham Town and not to extend pass that		

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20496	Eltham North		Natural materials, earth, stone wood		1		1		1					Split level house built into hills	Roof pitch mimicking topography		
20495	St Andrews	Charlber Lane	Bush blocks	1			1		1	1		1		Bush	More homes build a greater community vibrancy. I think more people would grow a stronger community.		
20494	Wattle Glen	Mannish Rd	quiet, treed, abundance native animals				1			1				Native trees, native birds	ban McMansion out of character homes		
20493	Eltham	Main Street, Eltham / Gateway / Town Centre / Montsalvat	Heritage buildings, trees, parks, vistas views, town square, people coming together to enjoy green grass / dogs / trees / running / rocks / plants / lizards / bugs. Water is also welcoming.				1	1	1	1		1	Hope to project village feel, trestle bridge, library, creek views, pond, sculptures, art, wildlife, bike/walking tracks, bush setting, no high- rise developments to block views, heritage buildings/precincts - White Cloud Cottage, Eltham Gateway	Does not feel like a built-up suburb. Unique - courthouse, trestle bridge, Alistair Knox Park, creek, massive gums, wildlife, butterflies, art, indigenous plants, orchids, birds, abundance of green(Please refer to further comments in Question 14)	Massive units have a detrimental effect and act as a heat sink (climate change). Need as much open space as possible and green plants/trees to offset the same area as buildings - maybe roof or vertical gardens. (Please refer to further comments in Q14)		
20492	Hurstbridge	Coolaroo Ave	Spacious. Quietly attuned to nature		1		1	1	1	1		1	Catomay	Large blooms keep the suburban feel away	I would like to see some footpaths in other streets.		

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20491	Eltham	Cecil Street, Eltham	Single storey/some double storey developments, good sized front yards so canopy trees can grow.	1	1	1	1							Maybe not unique in Cecil Street but still great place to live close by to shops and train station etc. But jamming in more houses destroys the garden feel of the street. Nice trees.	Better architecture - very boring 'cookie cutter' houses at the moment. More room needs to be left for canopy trees.		
20490	Eltham	1. Arthur Street, Eltham 2. Shopping area of Eltham	Treed, spacious, low-level, not commercialised. 2. Community feel, not stereotypical.	1	1	1	1	1		1		1		1. Follows contours of the land. Do not have units. Do not have apartment development - keep them out! 2. The open area used by the community in Commercial Place.	1. Don't let units/apartments in. Develop the small scattered parks to be more aesthetic/useful in the Woodridge Estate. (Please refer to further comments in Question 8).		
20489	Eltham		Protected bike paths with trees		1		1						Environmentally friendly	Family friendly areas - great parks	Walkable town planning - focus on creating streets that prioritise walking, bikes and prams. Electric vehicle charging ports. Car free areas of town.		
20488	Hurstbridge	Main approaches i.e. Heidelberg- Kinglake Rd & Arthur's Creek Rd	Leafy, attractive, cosy, natural, historic	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Big old trees (irreplaceable in any of our lifetimes), native birds, the beautiful old single-lane creek crossing at Arthur's Creek Rd	It's not clear to me that Hurstbridge needs "new development". Any that is seen as necessary should respect the character of the town and avoid any damage to mature trees, especially as they'll struggle with climate change anyway.		
20487	Eltham North	Kerrie Crescent, Eltham North	Semi-rural look and feel but in the suburbs.		1	1	1	1	1	1		1	Street is unsealed. No fences at the front. Shared driveways - very encouraging of a community dynamic. We all	Unsealed road - makes it feel like a country lane. No fences - increased sense of community. Mostly indigenous plantings - not	Verge plantings of flora to provide habitat for birds and wildlife - provide a safe wildlife corridor. Cats HAVE to be kept inside from dusk. (Please refer to further		

Page **31** of **130**

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													care for the birds and wildlife.	formal gardens - feels like being in the country. (Please refer to further comments in Question 8).	comments in Question 8).		
20486	Hurstbridge	Curtain Rd	Tired but progressive, semi-rural		1	1	1		1	1		1		Low traffic, large grasses nature strips	Keep the open rural feel.		
20485	Wattle Glen		Leafy, rustic, open, rural, authentic		1	1	1		1	1				The way Wattle Glen feels rural and regional, while still being relatively close to the Metropolitan conveniences.	New developments need to keep in mind the rural / rustic feel. It's not a hyper modern housing development.		
20484	Eltham North		Tall Eucalyptus and pine trees, family neighbour, large brick and stone houses	1		1	1					1	Large plots - not subdivided into small townhouses or apartments	The landscape, small parks, easy walks	Proper conservation of the trees and natural habitats		
20483	St Andrews	St Andrews Street	Rural, semi-remote				1		1	1				Steep dirt road	Sealed road, better services		
20482	Diamond Creek	Clyde Street	City fringe - beautiful trees - nature	1	1	1	1		1	1				Views and vistas - trees and vegetation - relatively low density	More native planting along nature strips		
20481	Wattle Glen		tree lined streets	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		the abundance of trees	there shouldn't be any more development		
20480	Hurstbridge	The start of Cherry Tree Rd.	Mixed landscapes, styles, busy street.						1					It's a thoroughfare. Cars travel too fast and pedestrians can't easily cross.	safe crossings to back of school path including slowing traffic more in the township Zone part. Enhancement to nature strips would be nice. Also to block houses from road noise.		

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20479	Hurstbridge		Individual styles			1								No	Have drains that don't flood the homes	T	
20478	Wattle Glen	Heidelberg- Kinglake road, Manish road	Busy, green		1		1		1						accessibility and safety of paths and roans		
20477	Wattle Glen		Rustic, green, safe	1	1	1	1	2		1				It feels like a community because it is not a through road	Bitumen the road so it is not so dusty in summer		
20476	Wattle Glen		Semi-rural, bushy, houses integrated to landscape				1		1	1		1		Bushy with minimal unnecessary built form	Ensure well landscaped with indigenous species to integrate with surroundings in a complementary way		
20475	Panton Hill		varied across 100 years		1		1	1	1	1		1					
20474	Diamond Creek	Main township	Old, unorganised, car centric		1	1	5		1	1				Older cottages being done up, new contemporary design houses	Thoughtful house orientation, more large trees		
20473	Diamond Creek					1	1		1	1							
20472	Hurstbridge	Bingley Ave	Rural				1	1	1			7		Rural but close to transport shops	Roadside walking track - foot paths so you can use the roads		
20471	Eltham	John St easy of bible St.	Wooded mud brick precinct	1	1		1	1	1			1		Hand built mud brick dwellings	With consideration of the existing materials and open space.		
20470	Yarrambat	Bannons Lane	Old, dated, overgrown, run down										Large blocks	Large plots	For Bannons, allowing reasonably high front fencing not only for aesthetics and security, but also for noise reduction - it's a main road that intersects with		

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															another main road. It's very dangerous for young children and animals.		
20469	Diamond Creek	Mitchell court	Tree lined, semi-rural, beautiful gardens around houses, 80-90's era houses	1	1	1	1		1	1	i	1		Setback from road, no fences	Leave as is but protect native vegetation from being cut down(i.e. permits needed and make it tough), no subdivision		
20468	Hurstbridge	Heidelberg- Kinglake Rd	Disjointed ugly and poorly planned.			1								Mid-century architecture	Not mixing commercial and residential building. Creating a village like outdoor mall for shopping and dining. The road is too narrow for parking and no adequate alternatives were designed in planning.	Rad	
20467	Yarrambat	Ironbark road YARRAMBAT township	You need to commercial land at township Yarrambat so there is more shops and most definitely parking spots.										At the moment nothing.	Nothing at the moment	Commercial some land to start the township	S	
20466	Hurstbridge	Main Hurstbridge road	Historical, quaint, natural, iconic, leafy	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		History walk, single story traditional feel, celebration of historical buildings	Maintain single story, ensure leafy feel, be in keeping with natural environment,		
20465	St Andrews		Semi-rural, mostly natural colours used, open areas for livestock, horses, etc, some bushland		1			1		1			Quietness, country town feel	Market, general store, no town water or gas, community feel, not busy or crowded	Limit new development, no smaller blocks, allow reasonable changes so people can work from home - better internet, bus services for youth, more friendly for trades and horse people regarding what they can put/build on land, asphalt, regularly grade dirt road		

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20464	Hurstbridge		dynamic constantly changing										I like that the character has developed without Soviet style interference	It's unique because it's not centrally planned or stifled	By allowing those with a financial interest to decide without Soviet style interference		
20462	Diamond Creek		Semi-rural/semi-urban, residential.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		It can move from rural to the shopping precinct within a two minute drive and still connects on the Metro railway to the city.	Keeping the rural areas rural. Keeping vegetation.		
20461	North Warrandyte	Hamilton Rd	Hidden behind the trees	1	1	1	1		1	1				Most houses are only partly visible from the road and their typology fits the landscape	Low rise, with plenty of setback please		
20460	Diamond Creek	Haley street, Wensley Street, Phipps Crescent	Green wedge, suburban meets bush			1	1	1	1	1			How much open green spaces we have that we're a godsend during iso but are sanity savers in our normal day to day.	The people and community groups	More access to land closer to diamond creek for walks and runs.		
20459	Diamond Creek	Edmonds Street	Neighbourly		1		1			1				Community feel	Not to over build		
20458	Hurstbridge		Nature & community focused		1		1	1	1	1	1	1			Additional bridge next to one lane to eliminate traffic and road rage issues		
20457	Diamond Creek	Discovery Drive	Unsafe and most ridiculously planned street		1									Yeah it doesn't have front fences and looks stupid	Give people front fences		

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20456	Diamond Creek	Everleigh drive	No character just green trees and large sidewalks		1		1	1	1			1		Large wide street, set back homes and large gaps on the side of each of the properties, nice sidewalks, great tree coverage. Style of houses is boring and no definitive style so they can be redone but trees must be replanted	Let people redevelop homes and keep within same size setting, not subdivisions, but the houses r ugly so they can be redone. They have no style or character. The green space and sidewalks are beautiful. Need more trees in the later parts of Everleigh Dve		
20455	Diamond Creek	Edinburgh Street	Needs road sealed + speed humps!!										Flat access to all areas. Nice Community	We should try and retain the 'green wedge' look & feel.	Look to the very pretty villages throughout Europe. Too many very ugly houses being built. A village feel would be lovely, similar to Warrandyte		
20454	Wattle Glen	That part of Wattle Glen that is inside the Urban Growth Boundary	hilly landscape - increasing indigenous vegetation	1	1	1	1		1	1		1		Peppers Paddock in in the centre of Wattle Glen with its years of community revegetation using indigenous plantings only and with its wetland is a much appreciated picnic area while being a focus for future indigenous planting throughout Wattle Glen.	Better connectivity across 36 Mannish Rd for pedestrian, bicycles and horses riders away from the two noisy and dangerous major arterial roads (Heidelberg- Kinglake Rd and Kangaroo Ground Rd)		
20453	Diamond Creek	Chapman Street	Homely, cosy	1			1			1				At the very top of the hill you can see through to the bush behind the houses			
20452	Diamond Creek	Everard Street, Ward Street	Leafy, well maintained, family homes		1		1		1	1				Not a lot of medium or high density subdivision and open green spaces	Retaining the big blocks and family homes with big backyards		

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20451	Eltham	Bolton Street, Main road, Bridge St, all these roads have been mentioned because these roads are the key road to the Eltham (Green Wedge) these streets should always keep the Eltham Feel to welcome tourists and show what Eltham is about.	Bushy, country feel, Rich, cozy, Space.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Having all the trees and the bigger blocks help make it just feel like you're out in a country town living the dream but still having everything near you.	Have no new apartments built, have 1 house per block if the block is a normal size block. if block is bigger than a normal size block you be could maybe put two houses on it as long has good backyard space. AND Try to save AS MANY OLD HOMES AS POSSIBLE.		
20450	Hurstbridge		Bushy. Few fences. Unique houses.		1		1		1	1		1			The appearance of uniform sub divisions that look more in keeping with Doreen than Hurstbridge are of concern. I live in Lynnbrae Ave. New developments could be improved by bush at front of properties, few fences, minimal concrete.		
20449	Eltham		Single house huge land trees.	1		1	1							The Woodridge Estate with the lovely blocks and houses. Houses surrounds by trees and vegetation.	Developments using the current treescape and land to enhance. Not multiple dwellings.		
20448	Diamond Creek	Dering Street	Semi-rural big blocks		1		1			1				lots of big block , we back on to a nature reserve so we get abundant native wildlife in our backyards	blocks left big. No more unit development of big blocks		

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20447	Eltham		Trees, quiet street, little development	1	1	1	1	1				1		Vegetation	Less units per development. Open spaces & more vegetarian		
20446	Wattle Glen		Suburban with rural charm		1	1			1	1				Maintaining reserves and no high buildings	Buy the land for the recreational space on Mannish Rd		
20445	Diamond Creek	Herberts Lane, Diamond Creek	Rapidly losing character. Becoming generic		1				1						Limit site cut depth. Stop 3 storey buildings. Encourage lighter roofs and a broader colour palette.		
20444	Eltham North						1		1	1				Indigenous canopy and vegetation are key themes	Plant more trees on nature strips and care for them. Enforce boundary between front fence line, footpath & nature strip. Stop residents planting trees, rockeries past the front of their property on council pathways nature-strips blocking pathways.		
20443	Eltham North	parry road	mostly leafy/nice houses but some too small units out of character starting to pop up including the new ones at	1	1	1	1		1	1		1			more native plant gardens, grants for native plants, grants for water wise features (dry creek bed, water tanks), new developments not being too small as crowding streets for parking and taking away from feel of suburb). natural elements in developments		
20442	Diamond Creek	River Gum Close, Harmony Drive	Consistent contemporary boxy	1				1		1				Consistency, colours	Maintaining consistency, enhanced green space in common areas		
20441	Research		Quiet, established trees, large gardens	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	Large established native trees	Large gardens and set back from street, lack of formal road guttering etc.	Garden space, quality materials and design		

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20440	Greensborough	Plenty River Drive	Overlooked comfortable haphazard opportunistic		1			1	1	1				The small community feel in a bit community area	Have things that don't look like it's a random collection of unfinished or unimportant things (e.g.: diamond hills area)		
20439	Diamond Creek	Haley street and surrounds	Bush, native animals, Single story mostly, space between neighbours	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Single and double story only, mostly single, space between neighbours, walking access to bush and trials, native animals, tree vegetation	Maintain space between neighbours and don't cram too many houses on a single property, houses no higher than 2-storey, put power lines underground, require tree planting minimums for any new development		
20438	Wattle Glen		Eclectic. Not McMansions	1	1	1	1		1	1		1		Lots of trees and individual houses. Blocks are large and not mass subdivided	Keep trees. Keep large blocks of land. Don't encourage McMansions!		
20437	Diamond Creek	Lambert street	Lovely/ private / green / don't allow multi townhouses on blocks	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	Not built up. Privacy/ large blocks	Views	No development/ it will ruin it		
20436	Eltham		Native trees, gums, split level homes built into the landscape		1	1	1	1	1	1		1		The canopy / trees, homes built to blend into landscape	Eaves, single or split level, natural or brick		
20435	Eltham	South Eltham	Leafy, treed, nature,		1		1	9	1	3				It isn't over developed. It's a sanctuary compared to other parts of Eltham.	It's lovely because it's not developed.		
20434	Eltham North	Parry ROAD ELTHAM NORTH 3095	Unfortunately now Over developed		1		1							The tall trees and wildlife we used to get regularly and community feel	Stop packing a large number of double story units close together.		
20433	Yarrambat	North Oatlands Rd	Quiet, peaceful, country feel.	1			1		1	1				Country feel while close to suburbia	Improve traffic on Yan Yean Rd		
20431	Diamond Creek	Collard St new estate	Disappointing as there are all new homes in this estate and no trees. it's so ugly and not				2	2	7				Not much it's not at all like diamond creek. No tress	-	Trees and plants should be part of the estate. Even in Doreen they		

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												just new homes yuk		have kept the trees and parks		
20430	North Warrandyte		Feels like the country		1		1	1		1			Bigger blocks	Allowance of extra buildings on properties without subdividing for new house		
20429	Hurstbridge	Heidelberg- Kinglake Main Road	Emphasis on historical character of buildings from 1920s		1	1	1		1	1		Overall similarity of rooflines and attractiveness of garden area specifically in front of units designed by Robert Marshall (next to Bendigo Bank). Also old bank building, Saunders Garage, Use of corrugated iron as exemplified in some older buildings.	Excellent rebuild of Wattle Cafe to replicate original building. The aesthetic planting of vegetation near Bendigo bank and retaining the worn character of original corrugated iron buildings.	Maintain use of natural materials (timber, corrugated iron) and maintain uniformity of roof lines and include extensive Re vegetation of indigenous plants on nature strips. If possible also re-situate power lines underground. Keep a uniform colour scheme.		
20428	Eltham North		Traditional treed suburban single homes	1	1	1	1		1				Quarter acre blocks and steep hills and trees	Needs to be in keeping while allowing flexibility with existing use. A granny flat or second dwelling is ok. 5 or 6 is not.		
20427	Panton Hill	Main road	Rural except for the phone tower	1	1	1			1		1					

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20426	Wattle Glen	Reynolds rd	Death trap				1						Left unattended by council. Overgrowth now a fuel disaster waiting to happen. Black Saturday all over again	Attracts all speeding cars since graded roads	Already destroyed. May as well subdivide		
20425	North Warrandyte	Blooms Rd, Warrandyte, Kangaroo Ground, Research Rds, Glynn's Rd, and all surrounding streets of the North Warrandyte area	Large, natural-bush blocks, minimal development	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Natural building materials sensitive to surrounds, bushland retained, no huge concrete boxy structures on cleared blocks. Large, native bushland blocks shared with lots of native wildlife/birds, scenic mountain views, peaceful lifestyle, good air quality	Development and construction would detract from, and even destroy our bushland amenity. People opted to live here for as much natural environment as possible.		
20424	Diamond Creek	James cook Drive/Fraser St		1	1	1	1		1						It wouldn't		
	Hurstbridge	Wattletree Road, Arthurs creek road, Hayley's Gully Road, Acacia Road	Semi-rural, country, lots of character NOT SUBURBAN		1	1	1		1	1				Country environment, wildlife, natural habitat and environment. Peaceful views	Keep with the look country rural feel to the town. Remember it's a town not a suburb. No big subdivision and double story units etc.		
20422	Hurstbridge	Bambara	It is built up enough and doesn't need any more subdivision.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	Right mix of homes for parking	One home per block	It wouldn't		
20421	Panton Hill	Bishop Road	Bush, park, space, kids, wildlife	1	1	1	1	1	1			1		The Bunjil reserve provides great access to conservation bush.	Detached houses similar to the existing buildings.		

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20420	Wattle Glen		don't change anything			1			1	1			No	Leave it as it is		
20419	Eltham North		Leafy, green		1		1		1				Reserves and space with trees and open.	Maintain limits on development. Car parking is an issue on scenic crescent as no on street parking available.		
20418	Wattle Glen	It would be great if the weeds were kept down on the track leading towards the general store coming from kangaroo Ground and the mud on the walking track was controlled near the CFA.	Still retaining less urban quality	1	1		1	1	1		1		It isn't built up.	Suppress development just keep it tidy		
20417	North Warrandyte	North Warrandyte – Kangaroo Ground Rd	Varied, flexible, modern										Variety, flexibility, adaptable.	There is no one way, as it's so diverse, thus allowing flexibility combined with the variable nature of existing dwellings should be provided.		
20416	Hurstbridge		Rural town	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	The houses are all on big blocks. Stop subdivision!!	It's rural feel and look	By not having any new development		

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20415	Eltham	Dandallo drive	Spacious bushy		1	1	1	1	1	1					The spacious feel would need to be retained, it currently feels rural and to crowd houses in would be a shame		
20414	St Andrews		Open, Bush, country	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		It's still got lots of trees and Bush surrounding it	Keeping block sizes large/r (more than 1000m2)		
20413	Hurstbridge	Taylor Rd	Green, views, quiet street		1		1	1	1	1				Lack of fencing at the street level	Keep housing back from the street, limit subdivision. Allow upwards expansion (this is hidden in tree canopy) over expansion to street		
20412	Wattle Glen	Reynolds Road	Trees, nature, birds, country lifestyle	1	1	1	1				1	1		Gateway to the green wedge. More needs to be done to protect the vegetation and wildlife.	New modern look building would ruin our neighbourhood.		
20411	Hurstbridge	Acacia Rd	Nature, quiet, family orientated, bush like, remote		1	1	1				1	1		Tress and nature	Our roads and services infrastructure could be improved		
20410	Research	Cassells Rd Research and Aqueduct trail	Rural and country vibe, nature and wildlife		1	1	1		1	1	1	1		The bush and rural setting, native birds and animals	Build a proper sealed road, have solar street lights, like Allendale Road. Maybe plant more trees along the Aqueduct trail so that the pine tree canopy goes all the way to Allendale Road.		
20409	Wattle Glen	Kangaroo ground St Andrews Rd	Semi-rural,		1	1	1		1	1				Lack of shops, foot traffic, lots of trees and vacant land	Period houses. No more concrete or modern amenities. No more cookie cutter Metricon style homes.		

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20408	North Warrandyte	Research- Warrandyte Road	Bushy, natural, informal, secluded	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Lots of Vegetation, setback, good footpaths	Minimise development! Dwelling design to be natural & environmentally friendly		
20407	Hurstbridge	Hurst Road	Quiet, neat homes apart from unkempt DHS housing.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Vacant acreage	Couldn't		
20406	Hurstbridge	Midhurst	It's not called Midhurst anymore?									1		Sh1t roads, no gutters, dirt, trees, love it	No, mmm let me think, no, no and no		
20405	North Warrandyte	Castle Rd	Green , open, space , nature , safe.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Natural and unique	NO Development!!!!!		
20404	Eltham	Eltham South area	Nature-filled, peaceful, friendly, community	1	1		1		1					We love living on a dirt road surrounded by trees. We love the rural feel that this gives to our neighbourhood. The bird life and native animals spotting gives us great joy. (Please refer to further comments in Question 14)	Homes that fit in with the landscape. Density appropriate for the neighbourhood. Greenliving/sustainable options.		
20403	Eltham		Green, space, community				1		1	1		1		We like individuality of homes and buildings so it is not a 'cookie cutter' neighbourhood. We also like green open spaces.	It needs to be sustainably built and look different with some characteristics of other homes (no 'smartie town' or 'cookie cutter' homes i.e. bright colours and repeated design). Also built using sustainable materials.		

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20402	Eltham	Godalmin Street	A pocket of Old Eltham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		Very few dividing fences, giving an open common appearance. Many houses built in the 60's - Alistair Knox designs	By adhering to the single storey, spaced houses that fit into the bush environment.		
20401	Hurstbridge	Main Street, Hurtsbridge	Historical, environmental, beautiful	1		1	1		1	1	1	Community/Village feel	Hurstbridge's historic village integrated into the green landscape is a treasure.	Low density, preserving historic features, careful environmental considerations.		
20400	Panton Hill					1		1	1	1	1		Green Wedge	Bituminise all streets		
20398	Eltham	Eltham North	Large blocks in treed streets		1		1		1	1			Larger blocks, not crammed together. Lots of trees and vegetation. Many nature areas that aren't built on.	Any new development needs to blend in with the landscape, leaving plenty of space for the birds and wildlife. Single story dwellings would be best and not to take up a whole block. Consideration for adjacent properties needs to be made too.		
20397	Yarrambat	Bannons Lane	Rural, scenic, hobby farms		1			1	1	1			Large property sizes	Power lines underground. Native side of road plants		
20395	Eltham		City meets country - private	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		Leafy aspect, large blocks	Keep the architectural style and don't increase density		
20394	Eltham	Helene Street	Suburban, overdevelopment, quiet, ever-changing		1	1		1	1	1			The street has a valley in the middle, allowing for great views for those that liver higher up, some beautiful older eucalyptuses but	Make having a bush garden with trees a priority, don't allow 3 lots on a standard block, promote or allow for slanted roofs reminiscent of the 60s and 70s, allow for space on the sides of		

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													neighbours keep chopping trees down, variety of housing	the house for garden, no hard landscaping at the front		
20393	Eltham North	Warringah Crescent and Ramptons Road	Treed, hilly, nature friendly		1	1	1		1	1	1	Wildlife friendly	Much of this area has never been cleared/farmed, and it includes valuable wildlife corridors, connecting to Karingal Yallock	The retention of existing large treed blocks, with low-rise housing, is essential to the maintenance of this neighbourhood character.		
20389	Research	Reynolds Rd	Semi-rural (except for the section close to main road). Houses set back from the road	1	1	1	1		1	1			Wildlife & fauna	No additional developments. Encourage bike use over car use by facilitating infrastructure		
20388	Eltham		Picturesque except for town centre	1		1	1						The eucalypts	Make the town centre feel like a proper centre of a town		
20387	Eltham		Dappled light through tree canopy	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Neighbourhood walking circuits and hidden cut throughs	Proximity to plains, views and un- developed areas	Preference beauty over function		
20385	Panton Hill		Rural town treed landscape	1			1		1	1			Local general store and post office, larger blocks of land for residents	be mindful not to change the look and feel of the township but upgrade existing facilities, dirt roads could be bituminised without destroying the look of the area		
20384	Plenty	Mackelroy Road	Peaceful area									The gorge	Nature, The gorge park	Foot paths, street lights		

Page 46 of 130

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				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	V	0	S	Other				
20383	Plenty	Mackelroy Road	Rustic, untouched, natural and beautiful.		1		1		1					Natural	Foot paths to make it more accessible for people around plenty.		
20382	North Warrandyte		Trees essential to the landscape		1	1	1			1				A semi-rural feel where trees and plants take priority.	New development should be at a minimum and the current landscape should be preserved.		
20381	Eltham	Progress Road	Busy Traffic wise	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Large Blocks Natural Vegetation and Wildlife	Traffic Management and Building Restrictions		
20380	Panton Hill	Main Road, Rodger Road, Bishops Road	Rural township community	1		1	1		1	1		1		Uniformity in public and private structures in terms of building materials and pavements	New development should maintain current rural township nature		
20379	Eltham	View Hill Crescent	Dusty dark bushy		1		1		1						Seal the road and build a footpath. Keep a tree canopy and a decent setback		
	Panton Hill	Rodger Rd	A bush township	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	The buildings (except for the more recent addition to the church) are similar in style and colour, so present a distinctive historical character.	Its history, reflecting the gold rush. The primary school is 150 years old, the pub is on the same site although burnt down 3 times, a general store, community hall (burnt down once or twice) and sport facilities, CFA, living and learning centre around that	Must fit the existing character. Did not happen when extensions to church were approved by Council and locals lost in VCAT: design and colour not matching neighbour character.		
20377	Eltham	Zig Zag Rd	Semi-rural, less developed, unique in its locale		1		1		1			1		Lack of footpaths more rural type road/street	No development preferred. Would take away its uniqueness value		

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20376	Eltham North		Peaceful, quiet, treed and bird filled.		1	1	1	1	1	1		1					
	Eltham	Stanhope Street	'Hidden' homes, trees and birdlife.	1	1	1	1		1	1				Single lane road with country feel, lots of trees roadside and in people's properties, many birds throughout the hill and creek area, houses 'disappear' into the hills and bush. All views involve mixed trees and indigenous vegetation.	New development would need to be kept as close to current building envelopes as possible, as any loss of trees would change the view of the hill, and from the hill, as well as a potential loss of birdlife.		
20374	Eltham	Woodridge Estate	Trees, heritage, mudbrick, calm, birds.		1	1	1		1	1				Land allotments are large enough to retain vegetation but also are at maximum subdivision capability already to ensure enough housing.	Adoption of a mudbrick support scheme to encourage and offer guidance on this distinctive and sustainable building material which could be more uniform as a local character trait.		
20373	Eltham	Jinkana Grove, Frank Street, Frank St Reserve, Linear Reserve	Beautiful vegetation, degraded landscape				1		1	1			Wildlife (birds etc)	Old growth eucalypt trees, heaps of reserves and greenspaces	Any new development should encourage biodiversity and water sensitive urban design		
20372	Eltham	Beard Street	Bushy, individual set back houses		1	1	1			1					Retainer n set back, ensure mature trees remain, ensure space on blocks to enable large trees to grow.		
20371	Research		Research is a mixed bag with some areas quite suburban, some quite bushy, all pretty hilly and very mixed housing styles.		1		1		1	1				No other suburb like it this close to CBD. Remnant bush and trees are a key feature. Would not be so unique if too many get cut down and	Quite a lot of very old houses needing upgrade on huge blocks. Could be sensitive new development of 1/2 acre lots w ith sustainable house styles on them and still		

Page **48** of **130**

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				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	V		S	Other				
														suburban look takes over.	space for trees. Can still add a bit of infill especially along key roads without cramming.		
20370	Eltham		trees, wildlife, relaxing, less stress			1	1		1	1				Low density to stay please. Diamond creek trail	No new development will enhance or improve. Leave alone. People come to Eltham for how it is now. Or in my case 30 years ago.		
20369	Eltham North	Lower Road	Natural environment ruined by council developments yet current infrastructure not maintained				1		1	1				Views across the valley to Edendale	Screening by planting out. E.g.; The new dog park if continued needs to be planted out so it is not visual from Wattletree tree road or overlooking properties		
20368	Yarrambat	Ironbark Road from Yan Yean Road intersection	Busy, speedway, dangerous, unloved.							1				View of the hills towards Kinglake.	Strong focus on the environmental impact of development in Yarrambat. Retain vegetation and trees.		
20367	Diamond Creek		Nice family area with lots of outdoor appeal.		1	1	1		1	1				Lots of good family friendly outdoor spaces			
20366	Eltham	Silver, Bird Streets and Ryans Road area in particular	Diminishing tree canopy due to over development			1	1	1		1				Homes are simple as are the gardens and tree canopy	LESS dwellings per block when being redeveloped. LESS tree canopy destroyed so that the developer can't put in their submission 'no trees on site'		
20365	Eltham	Eltham South	Heavily treed, no footpaths, few fences.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Its lack of uniformity.	New development should be sympathetic to the existing character.		

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20364	Diamond Creek	Helen Court	Green leafy and Comfortable	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Old small town feel			
20362	Diamond Creek	Main Hurstbridge Road	Hectic and Dated											Unique in its use of carpark as a town centre.	Better street frontage interface, no at grade car parking, no shopping centre island in a sea of carparks, better street tree and pedestrian environment.		
20361	Eltham	Locally known as 'Harcourt Hill', the area bounded by Bridge St, Diamond Creek, Silver Street, and Diamond Street.	Low impact houses among trees	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	History. The block bounded by Fay, Silver and Swan Streets is exclusively Harcourt/Pise houses.	It's the backdrop to Eltham. It's the view from the sports fields, parks and cafe terraces of the town centre. Simple, gravel roads are typical. Many houses were built by the larrikin builder, John Harcourt, using Pise (rammed earth) pre-Alistair Knox.	It should be invisible from Main Road and low density, allowing for a generous proportion of Tree canopy to roofed area.		
20360	Eltham	Main Road	Treed, Leafy, Artistic, Green, Safe	1	1	1	1					1		Eltham has lots of mature trees and well maintained parks, native flora and fauna, and Montsalvat	Prohibit subdivisions and prohibit removal of trees, keep development to single storey and preferably mudbrick		
20358	Eltham		Too many squashed townhouses			1	1		1					Central shopping district is convenient, large tree vegetation and balance between metro and rural setting	Limit the amount of townhouses squashed into one lot, maintain height limits of new developments, requirement for large tree planting with each property		
20357	Eltham	Pryor Street	Leafy, high buildings, too many cars, parkland				1			1				Tall trees	No more high apartments		

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20356	St Andrews	Caledonia Street	Informal, rustic, country town, bushland	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		The absence of the curb-and-channel treatment of the roads gives our town an on-going lovely small country town feel.	The very words "new development" worry me. As the appeal of St Andrews is it's rural country town feel, "new development" could only be new houses built and landscaped in the character of the existing buildings.		
20355	Eltham	Main Street, Bible Street, John Street	Integrating homes with landscape	1	1		1							Space between front of home and street, front and back gardens, mature trees (eucalypts particularly)	Avoid homes built with little or no setback, maintain gardens, preserve mature trees, diverse styles of homes		
20354	Eltham		views of the hills and tree canopy		1		1		1	1				Its bird life and tree canopy - the views to the hill and ranges	It should remain low rise. Any development must preserve the tree canopy and not block views so characteristic of the valley.		
20353	Eltham	Diamond Street	Dirty, run down, over grown weeds very messy				1	1		1					Simple Council Amenities include a bin.	Firs	
20352	Eltham		Semi-bush, dwellings hidden by trees	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Hills, bush setting, walking tracks in bush reserves and paths all connect	Front gardens to be landscaped with native plants and trees with higher percentage of green space on block of land		
20351	Diamond Creek		Delightful low density residential area, under threat from rapacious developers intent on covering every square centimetre in demoralising units	1		1	1			1		1		I live in one of two mud brick homes in my immediate area, surrounded by beautiful treed 1/4 acre blocks and decent sized residences.	Absolutely forbid unit and townhouse development. We have developers constantly trying to divide up normal suburban blocks and put 5 or more units on them.		
20350	Diamond Creek		Generally it's good. 5 words or less is not enough words.						1	1				It's bushy, but that has its drawbacks as well.	No high rise buildings or houses. Also not building lots on units on a small block		

Page **51** of **130**

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				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	V		S	Other				
20349	Eltham	John Street	Bush land precinct	1		1	1			1		1		Gordon ford gardens, mature trees	Material selection, environmentally responsible		
20348	Eltham	Woodridge	open bush gardens with 1970s modern architecture	1	1	1	1	1	1			1		Native Bush gardens. No fences. Homes generally from 1970s modern which blend into the environment	House design that reflects the 70s architectural era built from materials that blend into the environment with a sustainable approach		
20347	Eltham North	Jessica's lane	Safe natural environment	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		It is surrounded by mountains and natural environments	Not sure		
20346	Eltham North		Green. Trees. Wildlife. Mostly unobtrusive housing.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Winding streets. Lots of trees and wildlife corridors. Walking paths.	Environmental building ideals and incorporate the above.		
20345	Eltham North	Progress rd	Leafy single dwelling properties	1	1	1	1					1		Single dwellings only	Would not enhance, character is already there		
20344	Eltham North		Peaceful, quiet, green, natural, beautiful	1	1		1		1	1		1		The diversity in relation to its natural landscape. It's not flat roads and repetitive streets but instead has many natural elements such as it's creeks and hills	New development could be designed to complement its natural beauty and not be too overpowering or obscure.		
20343	Eltham	Thornton Street and Porter Street	Spacious, bush remnants, canopy trees	1	1	1	1		1	1		1		It is high on a hill, with a mix of architectural styles and gardens, native tall trees attract abundant bird life, bushy Thornton Street Reserve has a playground popular with local families, Beautiful tree views	Deep setbacks to preserve bushy surrounds and limit the number of bedrooms - as Thornton Street is attractively treed narrow and winding and cannot accommodate on street parking. Varied roof styles and heights and building materials for quality		

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														over the valley from Porter Street.			
20341	St Andrews		small rural community amongst the gumtrees				1							large allotments	road improvements without excess signage and safety barriers	Jer	
20340	North Warrandyte	Pigeon Bank Road	Winding, treed, busy road				1			1		1		Very hilly, winding road through natural bush.	People should be compelled to plant their nature strip or keep it a bush.		
20339	Research	Research shops and new toilet & CFA carpark	Needs improvement & protection				1	1	1			1		Greenery	No graffiti & protection & 2 cameras required		
20338	Eltham	Eltham Woodridge Estate area			1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Linear reserves and walking tracks up to and around the power line reserves, Copper Butterfly Reserves	No further development should occur. This area has a lot of natural bush and tree canopy essential for our birds and wildlife.		
20335	Research	Brinkkotter Road - Upper Part (Semi-rural; Balanced; Predominantly native vegetation;		1	1	1					1	Unsealed road	The street is popular with walkers, runners and cyclists from the wider area - it offers something different to nearby sealed roads	Sympathetic building size, mass and materials; guidance for use of indigenous vegetation		
20334	Hurstbridge		Still a semi-rural atmosphere				1		1	1					Maintain the small town character and historic elements		
20333	Plenty		Semi-rural				1		1	1					Increase vegetation cover, parkland		
20332	Plenty	Memorial Road and Old Yan Yean Road. The heart area Plenty	Old, forgotten, underfunded		1		1	1	1	1				A very small centre and still a country feel, very tight community. All Plenty central facilities are within	Redevelopment the Plenty sporting clubs, hall, church, cafe and parkland area with crossing over Memorial Rd, updated playground		

Page **53** of **130**

ID No.	1 st area selected	Street selected	5 words		at do y k all th			bout	the c	chara	acter	of tl	nis neighbourhood?	Specific features	Recommended design	First Name	Last Name
				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	V		S	Other				
														very close range of each other which creates a central hub	and bring the area together with footpath to Blue Lake instead of walking on the road.		
20331	Hurstbridge		Rural, bush, village, historic, relaxed	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Historic, hippy, rural, village	Ensure its in keeping with the historic charm. No over development, multi stories or modem builds		
20330	Eltham North	Ryans Road, Progress Road	leafy, birds, low building density		1	1	1		1	1		1		the bushy neighbourhood and the leafy skyline	avoid removing trees otherwise replant trees in larger sizes, respecting the dominant street setback, new building should be well hidden within the canopies, vegetation strip next to fences, low density dwellings		
20329	Eltham		Green, open, well- spaced out (mostly)	1	1	1	1							Lots of trees and green space	Stop approving multi story apartments as in prior St, Dudley St, Luck St etc. They are ugly, out of place and cause congestion		
20328	Panton Hill	Rodger Road and Main street of Panton Hill	Country, historic, community minded, sporting,	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	The quite nature of the area, roundabouts and bluestone	The general store, park, school and trees	The tennis courts resurfaced and perhaps more courts built to make it even more a sporting area or even netball courts too.		
	Hurstbridge		Green, peaceful & friendly community/ village feel.	1	1	1	1		1	1		1		Native animals, home for wildlife. Lots of trees.	Don't do it. If it's done it needs to be the same as the original buildings & no touching of heritage homes/ buildings. No removing trees & homes for wildlife.		
20326	Diamond Creek		Family friendly		1	1	1			1				The trees and gardens	More trees		

ID No.	1 st area selected	Street selected	5 words		at do y call th			bout 1	the c	char	racter	of th	nis neighbourhood?	Specific features	Recommended design	First Name	Last Name
				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	V		s	Other				
20325	Panton Hill		Welcoming						1	1					Subdivision could be increased to allow for more homes to be built on smaller plots, encouraging young families to move or remain in the area as well as elderly people to downsize their blocks to a size they can manage		
20324	Diamond Creek		Family friendly undervalued	1	1	1	1		1	1				Greenery. Peaceful.	Larger blocks, more vegetation and open spaces. No more than 2 stories high		
20323	Hurstbridge		Maintain the village feel - current dwellings to maintain their facades and to restrain development so the small village feel remains	1		1	1	1	1					Two small commercial bands along the main road; 70's style hub at the main roundabout; nearby creek, Ferguson Paddock and billabongs	The railway deposit/storage area north of the station - enhance road view with native garden and appropriately tasteful screening. New car park - more landscaping needed; is a concrete desert. Better facades to shops opposite IGA		
20322	Eltham North	Ryans Rd - Scenic Crescent precinct	Unique architecture, spacious, green, low development	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	Wildlife corridors	The many trees, large setbacks, mudbrick and other rustic buildings, uncultivated native gardens and meandering road layout with minimal paving and soft verges make this area unique	Must fit with existing height and style - not taking up whole block or being concrete fortress as seen along Silver St		
20321	Plenty		Confused, ignored, peaceful, disconnected, non-inclusive				1							The lack of community services, walkways, parklands and shops. Plenty gorge	Develop a business precinct, community services. Upgrade parks and walkways. Enhance plenty gorge through appropriate services to and within the park, as well as develop an inclusive plan for it that		

Page **55** of **130**

ID No.	1 st area selected	Street selected	5 words	Wha Tick	at do y k all th	ou li at ap	ke al ply	bout	the c	harac	ter of	this nei	ghbourhood?	Specific features	Recommended design	First Name	Last Name
				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	٧	s	Other					
															considers First Nations perspective of country.		
20318	Diamond Creek	Brimar Close	80s style garden city		1		1		1		1			Limited to 2 story (not including a true attic) above ground with garden setbacks.	Minimum subdivision block size should be 400m2. Setbacks from the street should be at least 5m to allow off street parking.		
20317	Eltham	John St	Eclectic, single-levelled, narrow, natives, treed			1	1	1	1		1			Mudbrick heritage, artistic/landscaping history, single lane, big trees	bring landscaping down to road edge to continue the country lane feel, keep single house levels, low density, & current setbacks.		
20316	Wattle Glen	Valley road	Low housing density		1		1	1	1		1			Old growth trees	No development, slower traffic speeds		
20315	Eltham North	Ryans Road/Progress Road			1	1				1				The blocks are generally 100 metres x 20 metres.	I would like the current feel of the neighbourhood (trees, large blocks of land, limited multiple		

ID No.	1 st area selected	Street selected	5 words		at do y			bout t	the c	hara	icter d	of th	nis neighbourhood?	Specific features	Recommended design	First Name	Last Name
				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	V	0	s	Other				
															developments on house blocks) not to change		
20314	Eltham	region south of Bridge street and north of Mt Pleasant Rd	trees, green, open space, welcoming, nature				1		1	1				Nillumbik is known as the green wedge - this is the primary feature that attracts and keeps residents in the shire. This feature (incl. high nature: constructed environment ratios - trees, vegetation, open space, natural places, organic forms) must be preserved.	Stop vegetation clearing; ensure minimum setbacks are adhered to; set a cap on subdivisions; stop high density developments; do not approve use of inappropriate building materials (many examples of developments clearly out of character for shire & suburb)		
20311	Research	Hostage to traffic	1980's suburban		1	1	1		1	1				,	Prevent subdivision and on street parking	A	
20309	Eltham		50's housing up to ultramodern in town zone	1		1	1		1			1		The range is from 50's housing up to ultramodern in the town zone	By making sure housing stock blends in with surrounding housing and vegetation		
20308	Eltham	Corner Bible and Arthur Streets	Increase in town houses and flats				1					2			Walter Withers reserve could have a diagonal pedestrian path put through with two bays containing picnic benches as many people enjoy this park and have lunch here yet there is no seating for them? People also walk their dogs here and need a pathway.		
20306	North Warrandyte		Nature, green, safe, protect, haven .	1	1	1	1		1	1		1		Natural bushland in private properties.	No new development!		

ID No.	1 st area selected	Street selected	5 words		at do y			bout 1	the c	char	acter	of th	nis neighbourhood?	Specific features	Recommended design	First Name	Last Name
				BF	SB	н	V	SL	Т	V		s	Other				
20305	Eltham	Main Rd, near Elsa Crt	bustling thoroughfare, dense living arrangements			1	1		1	1				Whilst it's a Main Rd, you can see a lot of people moving about on foot and bike to access the town square and for recreation	Improved and dedicated active transport access to the town square via a shared bike path on the east side of Main Rd		
20304	Eltham	Main Road	Extremely mixed character with no consistence			1	1					1		None except a very narrow roadway	Get all ratepayers to support a suggested community image		
20303	Yarrambat	Bannons Lane	You include the southern side of Bannons Lane but not the northern side nor any housing north of Bannons Lane which used to be in Whittlesea?				1							No	Allowing more housing		
20302	Eltham	Town centre	Far too many units destroying the character of Eltham.										Nothing. It is not Eltham. It resembles units in Carlton or Collingwood.	The above aside, Eltham is special as it is truly a suburb where the city meets the country!	Build it up for the wildlife also, not only people.		
20301	Panton Hill	Main Road/Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Road	Half finished	1	1	1			1	1				Rural small town features	Streetscaping from the pub onwards towards Long Fully road		
20300	Eltham	Cromwell Street	A green treed residential area		1		1.		1			1		Yes we have two mudbrick houses in our street which is what Eltham has always been known for historically.	Council could actually stop the needless removal of trees for cheap developments and actually issue fines that act as a deterrent instead of a tiny \$200 fine and a slap on the wrist. Subdivisions should be stopped. Our street has terrible examples of it.		

TABLE B: FEEDBACK ON SECOND AREA (IF SELECTED) AND FINAL FEEDBACK

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		nat d this						e chara	er Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
					B F	S B	Н		S L	T	VS	Other					
20645															Protection of native vegetation and canopy trees should be a high priority criteria. The rural streetscape is an integral part of the unique character of this neighbourhood. Building proposals should be seriously examined for their negative impacts/impact on the streetscape prior to the issues of permits. Multiple residences on existing single blocks and subdivision of blocks to less than 400 m2 should be rejected.		
20644	1	Eltham North	Whole area	Rural, trees, variety of home styles	1	1		1	1		11 11 11		It has still managed to stay leafy and rural. Unfortunate, new units are creeping into the are This always entails the loss of tree which are never replaced.	to just develop with single storey house per block. a. Owners of single houses			

Page **59** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words						abou 100d		ne ch	naracter	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
	-				B	S	Н	٧	S L	T	V	s o	ther					
															their profit and leave behind shabby construction s.			
20643																Eltham was far more arty environmental and low rise. Buildings were in harmony with nature rather than overwhelming it. The green wedge I do not like the way it is becoming like any other area. Come on let's be unique		
20642																Creating further habitat links within our urban areas starting with the waterways where we prioritise flora & fauna over development. Adjacent developments to be carried out in sympathy with these values.	52.	
20640																Usually, there are four elements, especially combined, that ensure I can recognise 'Eltham'. They are: (1) the mix of trees - especially, but not limited to, a higher proportion of gums/eucalyptsmuch native Australian vegetation. (2) architecture - Typically, mid-century homes designed by the likes of Alistair Knox, Fasham Johnson or Merchant Builders, with floor-to-ceiling windows and distinctive angular carport roofs. (3) Space from one property to the next, especially outside of the more central, Eltham Village precinct (where there are some townhouses). Minimal or no fencing, with tree foliage effectively dividing each property. It's probably worth acknowledging that this could apply to all of Eltham, as well as in particular Research and North Warrandytethe quintessential neighbourhood characteristics are similar, largely. As far as detached houses are concerned, I'd love to see any new home builds subject to a mandate that they are in keeping with local character (i.e., maintaining the features highlighted above), and that they overall do not override the existing		

Page **60** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		nat d this						ie d	character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
2					B	S B	Н	>	S L	Τ '	V	S	Other					
																environment. There's one block in Woodridge where a generic modern home has been built, and a house more typical of the street/pocket once stood (and didn't appear in any way run-down). This is unfortunate. More Knox-inspired (e.g., 84 Bible Street) and fewer generic modern developments would be ideal. Regarding the Eltham Activity area and townhouses, as alluded to above, I'd love to see some of the same (i.e., designs that are a 'nod' of sorts to the essence of Eltham). Also, a mandate like a certain minimum percentage of vegetation that is sufficient		
							3. 2.				8	4				to ensure land blocks aren't literally maximised in terms of number of dwellings - maintaining aesthetics, character and suitable population density/local traffic levels.		
20638																Multi-unit development on the large allotments on Main Road is part of the Planning Scheme and it is inevitable that some vegetation must be removed. Council needs to control what has to be protected and enforce these decisions. Council also needs to put in place protection of the trees lining Main Road. To counteract the devastation of the Bush Garden Precinct on Main Road, I believe that the corridors along the creeks and waterways should be planted and maintained.		
20637																The neighbourhood character should be defined by neighbours, not an indifferent council that wants to sell out Eltham. So many people are now giving up in this suburb as they see the council as a corrupt, inefficient vehicle for developers.		
20636																Eltham has a reputation for being an artistic community of mud brick houses in a bush setting. The library is beautiful, the Eltham community and reception centre is stunning! Let's restore this unique gift by retaining existing trees and vegetation and planting more. Retaining setbacks and building new dwellings with that magic Eltham character. No over development, new dwellings to nestle into the landscape, respecting existing residents' privacy and outlook. Eltham is a sought after suburb, still riding the wave of its 1970's heyday while unsympathetic		

Page **61** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words	of this neighbourhood? B S H V S T V S Other							e ch	haracter	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
	eu				B	S B	Н	۷	S L	T	/ S	S 0	Other					
												Ī				development has Eltham on the brink of becoming another boring outer suburb. Time to stop inappropriate development. Thank you council for this opportunity to provide feedback.		
20634																Many parts of Eltham were cleared to enable residential development in previous decades. The area was levelled and all vegetation cleared. In the years since, owing to the block size that was developed that left room for garden development, vegetation has been able to re-establish and recover and there are now many mature trees that provide a unique streetscape, a prominent feature of this includes the return of many native wildlife species. Whilst there are a variety of historic and modern building styles, the mixture of unobtrusive building size / height mixed with the established vegetation density combine to be one of the most significant and distinguishing features of Eltham.		
20632																	\$50 to	
20631																There is an application in for 66 Park Rd currently to build 4 double storey homes. It's very distressing to think this could be approved. It would completely change the feel of our beautiful street. The design of the homes is not in keeping with the character of our street.		
20630																Rescue and proper maintenance of wooden signs around the town in reserves and parks, many of them have fallen in disrepair or rotted and gone! More variety of native plants and trees, especially those that flower in reserves and parks, even road bays are so neglected for years, there's very little new planting happening, more benches and tables for the community to enjoy open spaces. More art in public spaces, art is a big part of Eltham's essence.		
20629																I love how the built forms respect and embrace natural materials; how the houses are spaced and kept away from the street front; the architecture of the area with mud brick and angular roofs, large windows; tree foliage separating properties with minimal fencing. Mix of gums and wattles. Could also apply to many parts of Eltham, Eltham East and Eltham South, which we want to preserve in that state without overdevelopment and subdivisions and		

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		nat d					character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
2					B	S B	Н	S	TV	S	Other					
														cutting down of established trees. This is where country meets the city and the gateway to the Yarra Valley. As an old red gum forest, we should respect the land and minimise our impact on it. Maintain the indigenous vegetation including canopy trees and understorey planting and encourage the replanting of indigenous plants.		
20628														Council need to take account of neighbourhood character today. Inconsistent development has been approved by council and development occurred without council approval. A reasonable person driving the area would say "I like what I see in plenty I would like to live hear". History of what has occurred should now be the new normal and built into character. In creating the video in plenty the producers will have driven past many example of character that the council will not approve. Consideration need to be taking into account when planning zones meet. The character does not change on a line on a map it should be gradual as two planning zones meet. Policies on fencing need to move into the modern time for the next decade. I am happy to provide examples to the council if you really want to take local views into account from resident ratepayers.		
20627														Keep the green wedge at all costs, it's character is paramount to Nillumbik. Keep greed out of it. Spend some of the enormous rates we pay on our area instead of Eltham & diamond creek		
20625														We need to establish a natural capital system to register and value the trees and native vegetation, so that prior to a developer considering the removal of vegetation, they are faced with the true replacement cost for the natural capital - a fee which must be paid into a natural capital fund - if legislation permits - so that Council can then pay the same amount into established tree plantings into protected reserves and parkland.		
20623	of 120													Formal gardens with lawn, roses and expansive driveways and brick piers with palisade fencing do NOT fit with the neighbourhood character in south Eltham. Here, built form is screened by natural vegetation, roads are often unmade and winding with many mature indigenous Yellow Box. Front		

Page **63** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words	of t	his I	neig	hbo	ourh	ood	?		haracter	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
2					B F	ωв	Н	٧	S L	T	/ 5	s	Other					
																fences are generally post and wire and mostly not visible behind, in between and forward of vegetation that extends to the roadside. Car storage is often not visible at all from the street. Building styles vary but it doesn't matter because mostly building are only partially visible behind the vegetation. There generally no footpaths or dirt ones that wind their way between trees. It's a naturally, beautiful and very special place to live.		
20622																Removal of trees should be strictly prevented, there should be initiatives to support neighbours to report illegal tree cutting. New houses or extensions should have height limitations to prevent the impact on the bush feeling. Council should prevent houses to have certain height on sloped areas as this greatly impacts the view. Second story extensions should also be covered by this and require a planning permit and should be advertised for neighbours feedbacks. Dirt roads which do not have a footpath should be designed as shared roads and speed limits should be introduced to protect walkers and cyclers. Walking and cycling corridors should be promoted to limit driving across the neighbourhood.		
20621	1	Eltham		Not adequately protected!				1			1 1	1		The number of large canopy trees (although this is diminishing)	Require a set area for replacement canopy trees which will enable trees to survive rather than trees being included on landscape plans when in reality they have no hope of thriving.	In semi-bush precinct, one of the nicest things is there is often no distinction between public and private land in terms of nature strips and front gardens. This is a wonderful feature but is increasingly becoming eroded by high wooden fences or concrete walls being erected where previously there was nothing or there were post & wire fences. I feel this aspect of neighbourhood character needs to be preserved and enhanced better and should not be allowed to be eroded away through the granting of permits which appear to go against this aspect of neighbourhood character.		
20620	1	Eltham		Sadly losing its character					,						You can't improve neighbourho od character	Council should have a tree register to record all trees that are removed by themselves, residents and developers. They then should replant double that number in the same area, always native canopy		

Page **64** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words	of this neighbourhood? B S H V S T V S Other							ne ch	haracter	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
					B	S B	Н		S L	T	/ S	SO	Other					
															with apartment blocks	trees. There should be a yearly planting plan for street trees working out from central Eltham to all areas of Eltham North and South. These areas have taken the brunt of the over development to provide all residents with services and deserve to be revegetated. We learnt the value of open space and trees during covid lockdown.		
20619																Plenty is an area of mixed character with increased subdivision within a rural surround. New development where attributes of the rural character are maintained would help keep the rural feel whilst enabling development. Maintaining vegetation and creating a feeling of space within the more urbanized development will assist in maintaining the unique character of Plenty as a place people love to live rather than creating just another commuter suburb.		
20618							1									I'm happy with BG3 character statement.		
20617	1	Greensbor	Sunrise	spacious homes and land, gardens & lawn	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		apart from a few streets it is local traffic only	1-2 storey, no or low fencing, space for mulched garden or lawn, set back from street, no forward garages	Neighbourhood character of various Nillumbik areas is key to residents choosing to reside here. The canopy trees and interesting sloping topography are quite different from neighbouring suburbs. The lack of, or low fences or vegetative plantings are much preferred than the high solid fences of inner suburbs and some new additions to properties are really quite stark and disappointing. I wonder how a Council permit could have been issued? In most places 1 and 2 storey homes are the norm and tri level only when the lie of the land allows them to sit in the landscape. If granny flat type buildings can be accommodated at the rear of properties then I accept that way of housing more people, as the streetscape is not unduly altered. Medium density housing should only be in the vicinity of train stations or major activity centres with services. I think rural and semi-rural properties of generous size (5 Hectares+) should be permitted to have limited additional housing for family/tenants or staff on site providing a rural look & feel remains. But rural residents cannot expect to have all the services a short distance away. i.e. If you reside in Yarrambat you will not have a medical centre, accountant, salon or workplace close to your home.		

Page **65** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		of this neighbourhood? B S H V S T V S Other						character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
					B	S B	Н			T۱	/ S	Other					
															A bus route connects residents with these services, Council do not need to ensure every pocket of the Shire has a bakery or wine bar etc. Our Councillors and officers have a responsibility to ensure our Neighbourhoods are protected from excessive development so it remains a desirable place to live and traffic can still flow within & thru the Shire. The Green Wedge Shire is different & comes with a responsibility, residents need to understand the privilege of living here does not come cheap and there is a price to pay if the rural areas and protected Green Wedge zones are retained as we know them. An awareness campaign could inform residents who focus on comparing rates to Banyule or Whittlesea while enjoying where they choose to live.		
20616	1	Eltham			1	1		1	1	1 1	1 1		It is a historic, semi-rural town	New developmen ts should be within 1/1.5 km of station and shops/amen ities or on Main Road.	Above 1.5 km from station, developments should be restricted and respectful of the bushy nature of Eltham. Ideally all new buildings should have ecological credentials. Build with recyclable materials, well-insulated, reasonably- sized, solar-powered. The presence of cars should be discreet.		
20613									6						We have seen a decline in the number of canopy trees over time as more houses and larger houses have been built filling in any vacant or subdivided blocks. Also some trees died after the drought and have not been replaced. Would be great to have council input with a strategic approach to replacing trees and advice on suitable species as the climate warms. Community education about the benefits of native trees would help too.		
20611	of 120														In this area we have seen a gradual decline in this tree-scape over the last ten years where i believe some developers ironically promote a treed landscape in the area but don't want it on their land as it limits the profit making potential of the land. The landscape overlay SLO2 and the ESO (in places) for this area have some admirable aspirations but are difficult to always defend in VCAT, minimal fine and the fire regulations can gazump the other planning guidelines without a fire case even made - why? I fear the continuation of		

Page **66** of **130**

PCC.020/22 A1

Neighbourhood Character Strategy - First round of engagement (28 March to 8 May 2022) - Responses to the survey

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words					ibout lood		e character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
a.					B F	S B	Н	S L	TV	/ S	Other					
														canopy decline is inevitable with current practices. With regard to the diversity of, for example architectural styles of the area, there are spectacularly good and poor examples of response to the natural surroundings. I believe in architectural choice but also acknowledge that to justify development one practically can "just meet" acceptability. This "just met' development may do very little to push the possible retention and enhancement of preferred neighbourhood character. If we continually insist on assuming that the current neighbourhood character justifies itself and continues to justify future desired neighbourhood character we are in a trap. We need to be assertive in what is the preferred and what are the mechanisms to ensure this practically against the inevitable challenges such of fire regulations (Which by the way are not to be totally dismissed) and developer challenges that may attempt to knobble what could be preferred character. I for one, and I know others who think similar would leave the area if the tree canopy significantly declines, primarily because of allowed arbitrary densification of dwellings. Medium and dense development is not the preferred development for this area of Eltham.		
20610																
20609														Existing neighbourhood character in Eltham is not supported by the current planning scheme. The scheme supposedly supports diverse housing, however +95% of all recent & proposed developments are for units only. As an example, there are now 57 units on the southern side of The original dense canopy which covered this area 20 years ago has been permanently destroyed. High density unit development is slowly consuming Eltham. If this trend continues, in another 20 years Eltham will have the same character as Broadmeadows. Likewise, key access streets including Bellevue Rd,		

Page **67** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		this	neig	Jhbo	ourh			he c	character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
2					B F	S B	Н	٧	S L	T	V	S	Other					
																Cecil St & Bible St are often chocked with traffic & parked cars largely due to surrounding over development. I believe the preservation of the existing predominant neighbourhood character of Eltham will fail unless further limits on unit development are imposed via the planning scheme. These limits should include: 1. A minimum block size of at least 400sm for all new developments 2. A minimum 40% of non-hard surfaces and minimum canopy requirements 3. A minimum of 3 off-street parking spaces per dwelling and restrictions to adjoining on street parking 4. An increase to side & rear setbacks for double stories units plus additional vegetation screening requirements In addition, I suggest the council should also: 1. Incentivize native planting in private gardens by providing annual free vouchers from Edendale Nursery (as per free annual hard rubbish collection) 2. Greatly expand native vegetation program on nature strips to include more vegetation and canopy trees		
20608																Suburbanisation of all Green Wedge townships must be avoided at all costs. Hurstbridge is a small township in the Green Wedge with a distinctive rural feel. It should remain a township and not be turned into a suburb with infill development (much in the way that the rural townships of Wattle Glen and Yarrambat are gradually disappearing due to infill development from neighbouring areas. Hurstbridge township has already lost a lot of its heritage. What is left should be protected. Efforts by some developers to retain heritage and character have been much appreciated. A more treed streetscape is desirable as are Indigenous plantings. No high density buildings or crowded small blocks devoid of parking and green space. Retention of parkland and public open space is essential for wellbeing of residents and visitors. Environmentally sensitive design guidelines are essential and our township gateways should be green and welcoming. The Urban Growth Boundary must stay firm and unchanged especially in view of the findings of the		

Page **68** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		nat d this						he d	character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
2					B F	S B	Н	٧	S	Τ '	V	S	Other					
																Auditor General's Report on the State of the Environment which puts the onus on residents and Councils to enhance vegetation with indigenous plantings wherever possible to create habitat. I applaud Council's involvement in the Great Southern BioBlitz last year and hope to see even more involvement this year and in the future. Now is the time for Nillumbik to actively protect and enhance biodiversity in our rural areas as well as in our lovely rural townships. Indigenous streetscape plantings are a small but significant opportunity to help arrest the decline in biodiversity in Nillumbik. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the		
20607																Antoinette Boulevard and surrounding roads in Eltham South are unique in ways that need to be strongly protected. As suburban areas become filled with tract housing and monoculture plantings, it is more important than ever to ensure our neighbourhood character is factored into any planning schemes or new development. Particularly our beloved tree canopy and bushland character - we love that buildings sit quietly within the landscape rather than dominating street views and disrupting natural landform. Unlike many suburbs, Eltham South's dwellings / buildings are designed and coloured to blend in with the bushland. They are set back, without gaudy gates or fencing, and value free flowing biodiverse gardens and passive space.		
																Again, unlike the trend in many suburbs, each house is uniquely different and in most cases built to pass the test of time. They use natural materials and reflect the varying tastes of people in the neighbourhood. They work with rather than against the tree canopy and see vegetation as a valued asset to the property, not a hindrance to be removed. We love where we live!		
20605								,								Council should take every opportunity to increase indigenous plantings on council owned land in and around ALL Nillumbik townships. This would go		

Page **69** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		of this neighbourhood? fe				e character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name		
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															some small way to compensating for the loss of native vegetation and habitat on private land. It would also promote a stronger connection between residents, local wildlife and plants. Nothing beats actually seeing a Phascogale or Sugar Glider! One's heart jumps! Most Nillumbik residents love where they live. That is a great community strength. Through policy settings such as Neighbourhood Character Statements council has an opportunity to build on such strengths.		
20603	1	Yarrambat	Yan Yean Rd	Lovely tall gums lining roadside		1		1		1 1			The big gums lining the road	Maintain these gum trees	Keep Nillumbik the beautiful green shire that people love it for, please don't turn it into Whittlesea, with overdevelopment, crowded housing, lack of big old trees		
20602															A number of subdivisions in this area have cleared existing vegetation and built as close to property borders as possible. Some of the best ones have kept a reasonable setback distance which allows for gardens; they have also built in interesting ways as opposed to the "cookie cutter" subdivisions we are seeing over Melbourne which undermine distinctive neighbourhood character. It is essential that Eltham maintains its vegetation, especially large mature trees, if it is not to lose its character.		
20601															Unfortunately, we are slowly but surely losing what makes Eltham great. Another decade and we'll offer the same Lifestyle as the other mentioned suburbs. So sad.		
20598	1	Hurstbridge	Hurstbridge shopping strip	village like					1				low key	better gardens/faci lities	less traffic through the main street and remove parking in street it's very narrow near the school		20
20597															The areas on each side of Yan Yean Rd should be rezoned to higher density residential blocks. It seems strange that areas to the north and south are subdivided but the pocket between golf course and Kurrak Rd are quarantined from higher density subdivision. What happened to the township plan.		
20596															Hurstbridge is a delightful mix of open trails for horse keeping whilst having the convenience of local amenities. The ability to mix horse keeping /riding whilst still being able to commute to the city for work is absolutely what makes Hurstbridge so special.		

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20595	1	Panton Hill	Church Road, Rodger Road	Rural, grazing land, equine properties, grazing animals, trees	1				1	1	1	Rural grazing land with dispersed housing and agricultur al buildings, equine properties and associate d infrastruct ure, trails.	Rural grazing land with dispersed housing and agricultural buildings, equine properties and associated infrastructure	Keep the rural hobby farm uses in and around rural townships, preservation of existing grazing land for grazing animals. Connected shared trails between both larger and rural townships and neighbourho ods.	The Equine culture and character of rural townships in Nillumbik contribute significantly to the visual appeal, amenity, environmental viability and sustainability of the Nillumbik Green Wedge. Both within and surrounding these rural and semirural townships (Hurstbridge, Wattle Glen, Panton Hill, St Andrews, Yarrambat, Plenty, Research, North Warrandyte, Diamond Creek), existing grazing land and treed pastures are important for popular rural uses as the keeping of horses and other (grazing) animals, providing for home produce and compatible agriculture, the preservation of biodiversity, defendable fire breaks and the rural, scenic amenity, neighbourhood/landscape character and vistas that both locals and visitors enjoy. Hence, Council needs to value and plan/regulate to preserve and protect existing grazing land and pasture properties (both 'hobby' and broad acre farms) through the Nillumbik Planning Scheme, in all zones. Include shared trail easements and infrastructure as an important element of neighbourhood character: The shire's shared, off-road (road verge and on public land) recreation trails network enables residents and visitors to immerse themselves in the natural landscape, are critical for safety, enjoyable and diverse trail experiences, and improved amenity in and connectivity between urban and rural neighbourhoods and townships across the shire.		
20594	1	Eltham	Main Eltham community space near Woolies lower car park.	Rustic, semi build up, village feel in common space.			1 1	1			1		Use of natural materials, art, rustic, low rise, landscaping and vegetation, community gathering space	Car parks undergroun d, further expansion of streetscape on train station side, walkover bridge on main road.	Ensure the protection of environment to ensure new people moving into the area respect the uniqueness of this street.		

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20593	1	Eltham North	Ryans road and progress road	Bushy, quiet, native,	1	1	1	1		1			Crests and valleys. Significant areas of bushland	Limit new developmen t to low density, architectural ly significant sustainable design	Eltham has long been considered a place for significant architectural design in an area of environmental importance. These features should be protected and encouraged. Mudbrick, rammed earth and other sustainable building designs should be prioritised. Limit commercial operations to commercial areas and prevent residential housing stock from being converted to commercial operations.		
20592	1	Eltham	Prior to living in Hurstbridge, we lived in Eltham. It went from a semi-rural ambience to a boring suburban area. The Main Road is now ugly and the addition of cramped townhouses and apartments in some places is ruining it even more. I leave ASAP.	suburban town centre with no character.									Montsalvat	See above			
20591	1	Hurstbridge		Character, retention of treeline	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		Green spaces, village atmosphere tree line, retaining old buildings	Must adhere to & be sympathetic to the above characteristi cs	Not approving development of 'Doncaster' style houses like or similar unit developments. Regulations around landscaping to retain character & reduce heat caused by lack of trees & gardens with too much paving. Education of residents & developers about heat mitigation such as greenery & light roofing, as well as other strategies to reduce global & local warming. Explore alternative housing options such as allowing tiny homes for grown children etc who can't afford rent/mortgage.		

Page **72** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		this	neig	ghbo	ourh	1000	l?		naracter	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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20590																I would like stricter mandatory neighbourhood character objectives and controls for Woodridge that: 1. promote good design principles and prohibit large obtrusive buildings that are inconsistent with the style of the estate 2. create a colour palette for the exterior of buildings comprising muted earthy tones and prohibit white, light grey or brightly coloured render or weatherboard (i.e. on large surfaces), similar to heritage controls and 3. ensure that bushfire provisions are not exploited to permit removal of all trees on a block to facilitate building within a much larger footprint than that of the majority of homes on the estate. Mandatory maximum building envelopes could be used to prevent the creation of too many hard surfaces that contribute to the heat island effect and to allow room for native vegetation and retention of mature trees. Some large scale developers such as Stockland impose mandatory design guidelines for new estates. Something similar could be developed with community consultation to retain the character of Woodridge but not necessarily restrict new homes to the same architectural style as the original houses built around the late 1970s and early 1980s. More trees in nature strip areas		
20588							i e		,		+							
20587																Yes The current removal of trees is alarming and damaging the beautiful lands scape of the community.		
20586																Stop subdividing former homes to make houses. It's not creating a community, it's just bringing more people into the area. More people are welcome but not at the expense of the character of Eltham		
20585																		12
20584	1	Diamond Creek		lack of housing diversity, double stories,											Greater setbacks around buildings, design of	Eltham has become dominated by cars, buildings and traffic. The character is slowly disappearing. More needs to be done to protect the character. Closer to Eltham people are parking in the streets due to the lack of car parking at Station. This		

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Neighbourhood Character Strategy - First round of engagement (28 March to 8 May 2022) - Responses to the survey

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words	of	nat do			ourh	ood	l?		character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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20583				reduced environmen t footprints and a lack of setbacks and earthy tones. Increased street trees and buildings designed with eves and shaded places to cool homes.											homes should include eves, shaded roofs and larger gardens to cool blocks and neighbourho ods.	impacts the character as households with unit developments are also parking on the streets. What we continually hear is the line that the development will not impact car parking and traffic but more developments keep occurring and it is. With a lack of setbacks around buildings for trees we see a reduction in the tree lined landscapes and the garden feel which is part of Eltham. Trees help with climate change and we need more of them. Take for example a big dense development currently being built in Luck Street next to Aldi there is no room for trees on this lot- NONE. Also many developments have a lack of car parking as well. Additionally many developments now occurring lack eves (note nothing in planning scheme about this) which should be a requirement to cool down homes especially regarding climate change. We need developments which have common roof forms and shaded areas which cool occupants and more trees around them to do the same. We also need to increase the amount of street trees in our streets around Eltham and around Nillumbik. Our planning schemes need to focus on climate change measures as a part of the character. Additionally, their needs to be a common neighbourhood statement made about front fences as well and type. Additionally, there should only be indigenous trees planted in Eltham and throughout Nillumbik as this was our remnant bushland character. Exotic trees should be phased out to ensure we get back our birdlife which is on the decline, note species like Swift Parrots and Regent Honeyeater were once common in suburban areas. The council needs also to ask what does diversity of housing mean? Applications i see occurring have pitched roofs and box shaped roofs what exactly should occur? Park West Road etc. Trees are a huge part of why I like Greensborough and should be protected. Council shouldn't restrict		
																and should be protected. Council shouldn't restrict what homeowners have on their property but ensure the council and or homeowners who remove large trees have a replacement planted by council in a suitable location. Parks or other vacant land. Walking tracks continue to be expanded		

Page **74** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		nat de this i					character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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20582	1	Eltham	Bible street area and streets behind main road	Becoming too built up	1		1	1		1		The number of original Eltham older houses still standing, but becoming increasingly less	Lower height restrictions on buildings, more appealing apartment design	The older "greener" Eltham area is rapidly changing for the worse. There is too much development of badly designed and built multi storied apartment buildings which do not fit into the streetscape and make the area look like a boring and bland Doncaster type of appearance. The problem seems to be that when the council tries to regulate an overdeveloped apartment building, they get overruled by VCAT. Many new people to the area now just want a convenient place to live and do not appreciate the Eltham background of trees and interesting building design.		
20581														The larger gum trees are essential for the native birdlife to see shelter and nest. It's extremely 'Eltham' to have Kookaburra's, Yellow Tail Cockatoos, Currawongs, Magpies, Jacky Winter visit every day. Frank St reserve is an important habitat. thank you for opportunity to comment. David L Evans Eurah Place Eltham		
20580														The commercial hub of Eltham is losing its character. Whilst development is inevitable, serious planning and regulation to maintain community spaces and character of unique Eltham must be maintained. The eye saw of multi-unit development on the corner of Main Road and Bridge Street is an example of not blending into the environment. Improved colour palate could have helped. Re vegetation of local species is essential.		
20579														Significant improvements are required to the 'weight' that Neighbourhood Character has within the Nillumbik Planning Scheme. Whilst we live in a Bush Garden Precinct in the Eltham Woods / Woodridge area of Eltham, it is concerning that the potential for over development exists on many sites across ALL of the Eltham area. Single dwelling knock downs in favour of multi-unit developments appear to pay little heed to existing neighbourhood character – rather that they focus on achieving maximum site coverage and minimal garden area. Bush Garden or Semi Bush Garden Precincts encourage the visual dominance of native		

Page **75** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words	of this neighbourhood? fe					Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name			
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															vegetation that reinforces a bushland character. In many areas especially on hillside sites this dominance often gives way to the reverse – a dominance of structure, despite attempts to disguise this with immature plantings! Buildings must NOT dominate the streetscape. Maintaining and enhancing tree canopy across all these areas must be the priority along with a softer (non-dominant) streetscape and openness of front boundaries.		
20578	1	Eltham	Central Eltham. The character of this area is changing to be one of no character. Little attention is given to overdevelop ment and the complete inability to conceal unsightly buildings with adequate vegetation	Ugly, bland, treeless, characterle ss, soulless						1 1			The views across the valley to the ridgeline	The views preserved, vegetation increased, staggered setbacks, no buildings that are block like and solid looking advertising on commercial premises limited	Neighbourhood character should appreciate the unique style of each neighbourhood and preserve and enhance it. A uniform approach to all areas makes a farce of "neighbourhood" character. The impact of lack of vegetation is real in terms of our health and the planets health. The ability to enforce further meaningful planting with each new development should be considered as should a much tighter restriction on the mature trees and vegetation which can be removed to allow the development.		
20577															Yes, Nillumbik needs a fencing policy for the shire and particularly for the rural area, to protect wildlife mainly (not to the ground, no barbwire, no solid structures, etc) and to maintain the appearance of a		
20576	1	Diamond Creek	Orme Rd Reynolds Rd Mt Pleasant Rd	dangerous trees on road side								Trees abutting road EXTREM ELY dangerou s. People before trees	The area is great but unsafe due to poor Council development on access roads	Clear all trees on road side that could fall during fire that would block the road as we have seen before	Green Wedge Shire, Duplicate access bridges and roads both in and out of the area. Duplicate Bolton St Duplicate the full length of Main Road from Lower Park to Wattletree Road. Duplicate Wattletree Road		

Page **76** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? B S H V S T V S Other							Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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														in this fire prone Shire			
20575															Create better drainage system and a safe walk way between Hillcrest Rd and Banksia Rise. Have mains drainage system to all houses. Turn the street into a court, as the road is dangerous especially when trucks attempt to turn around. Manage and build on infrastructure rather than trying to be an enforcement agency. Don't have such a divide between an area having an SLO2 and an adjoing area having nothing. Some houses are seperated by just a fence (a wire one at that) Get rid of the post and wire fence ruling on SLO2 properties. It creates more headaches and is just unsafe. Stop making it a planning permit request as it just seems to be a money grabbing scheme.		
20574	1	Panton Hill	Kangaroo Ground - St Andrews Road	Well- spaced, trees, nice houses	1	1	1	1			1		So close to the bush, lovely country feel but not far from facilities, beautiful landscapes and lots of nature to explore. Open spaces and sports facilities all close together.	New developmen t in this area would most likely detrimentall y affect the look, feel and character of the area. People live there and move to the area to be a part of the Green Wedge and escape the big towns, loud businesses	People move to and live in Panton Hill to be close to nature and have space, peace and quiet.		

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													and housing estates.			
20573														We love the large number of small tracks, walkways and reserves that have been designed into the Woodbridge area. Not only are they useful but also add vegetation and character to our area.		
20572														Important to retain biodiversity links and protect remnant vegetation and trees and habitat. Plenty is beautiful but if we keep on developing it, the charm and good enviro features will be lost.		
20571														area needs a major facelift		
20570														Please preserve the local planning that has been established in the area over a number of decades. We are known as the Green Wedge Shire, and this needs to be actively protected for it to continue. Otherwise the whole nature of our area will be lost under our watch.		
20569														Eltham should maintain its leafy green open feel. New developments should need to work in with the character of the neighbourhood. Council should do everything possible to reduce car use and put in place lots of good environmental places, strategies and developments to make Nillumbik a beautiful and considered area to live in. Think long term.		
20567														 The increase of multi-story developments along the Main Rd have created many detrimental effects re Township Character along the Main Rd. It is creating a 'canyon effect' along the Main Rd decreasing the sense of openness and isolating most of the parkland whereas once it was accessible visually and physically from several vantage points. Tree canopy must be retained. Enhance indigenous planting on verges all areas. Reintroduce permit system for ANY tree removal .(Heritage plantings are being lost) Make development applications EASILY available to community (perhaps a QR code on Application notices that takes reader direct to application online) and increase time application notice is displayed . Most importantly - retain all policies(?) contained in the current Neighbourhood Character Statements and ENFORCE THEM . 		

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20566															I would just like the trees & plants watered & fed. I would like all the broken branches to be mulched & put back in the gardens. Some branches have been lying around over 3 years. It would be nice if council nature strip was mowed and the along the bypass leading up to roundabout are mowed not just in sections. The silver water storage near civic could have a painted nature theme and large water tapes fencing be hidden by creeper etc		
20565															Get a graffiti artist to paint the sound walls. Trees are being cut down here all the time, which is affecting the character of the area. Too many yownhouses are being built on blocks, which is starting to make Eltham look like any other suburb. Eltham is losing it's unique natural feel as each tree is removed and this needs to be addresed.		
20564															please don't put concrete footpaths in, no traffic lights and leave the one way bridge alone		
20563	1	North Warrandyte	the whole of Nth Warrandyte	unique, riverine, bushy, informal, walker- friendly	1	1	1	1 1		1	1	the river and creeks	Purely residential without businesses run from homes. the proximity to the River Yarra and creeks, the native bush and trees, and animals, birds, reptiles, invertebrates . the views either of the trees and bush or distant views of mountains, city and bush	By fitting in to the existing character, rather than introducing a Doncaster or other style of houses as is happening. Designing houses to fit in with and around the bush rather than eradicating it.	I think infrastructure treatments throughout North Warrandyte should be informal with paths if necessary, being winding gravel paths where possible rather than concrete. Residential (nonmain roads) should be informal, and of minimal width, appropriate to the traffic, with no concrete kerbs and gutters. Drainage should be designed to distribute water over properties, returning water to the bush, rather than being channelled into big drains. Developments should consider trees and bush as assets to be retained and worked around rather than obstacles to be removed. One thing that ruins the character is when house owners run commercial industrial business from their houses, for example, trucking, car repair, building or plumbing businesses. This often means they want big storage facilities on their properties and destroy the native vegetation to achieve this. it also adds to noise pollution, and means that there are big trucks parked in the street and many truck movements. This industrial development ruins the character of quiet streets, and is also dangerous when there are narrow streets with no footpaths. It is one thing to have neighbourhood character guidelines, but quite another to implement them,		

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																what teeth will Council have to implement the guidelines? It appears at the moment that Council does not implement or enforce its policies. Having the guidelines may allow Council to tick a box on a State Government form, but what difference will it make to current and future residents of Nillumbik? Nillumbik is an amazing shire, as demonstrated by all the people who flock out here on weekends and want to live here. But does Council have the leadership and mettle to safeguard it and protect it? Neighbourhood character guidelines are one way to support this, but only if adopted and implemented. I think the Green Wedge areas and abutting townships should have special neighbourhood character guidelines to preserve the rural bush feel of these areas.		
20562																Stop subdivision, stop ugly over reaching developments that are purely profit driven, stop "improving" things that are not broken. Focus on areas which will make a difference, how do you protect the environment, how do we support older people stay in our community, how do we support small business.		
20561																The neighbourhood is slightly rural and very informal. An overly developed housing enclave would change the character		
20560																Leave things as they are		
20559																Eltham is in very real danger of becoming just another packed suburb and losing all that we came here for in the first place, it's beautiful semi-rural township feel. We have lived in Eltham for over 25 years with a short stint in Diamond Creek. We came to Eltham for the treed aspects, how you could look at a hill and only see a few houses poking through the trees. When we bought our first home we watched over the years as every large block in our street went up for unit development. We understand the need for urban consolidation, but when the developments start to look like hotels, designed to cram in as many people as possible so the developer can maximise their profits, they leave no room for outside space or vegetation that will		

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															massive issue. The goal of increased density should be tempered with a desire to keep open space and appropriate landscaping. Also as developers try to push into streets further from the town centre we lose the bush garden feel, tree canopy is removed (often illegally), traffic increases, parking is an issue, and the whole place just feels busier, cramped, and noisy. If there is to be any development I believe it should feature affordable, smaller, energy efficient homes with more space around them, with ecofriendly and sustainable building materials being used and intelligent landscaping with native plants.		
20558															It is important to keep our Green Wedge status and values		
20557															Recently Council approved a shed at on a property of only 11 acres with five existing structures, including a large shed (currently used as a second dwelling). This shed is larger than the entire living space of our house. Council then approved it being set back only 8 metres from the road, although no other buildings on this road are set so close to the road. Despite our objection and calls for mediation, the shed was approved after we took the matter to VCAT. We are extremely disappointed and feel that this shed will deteriorate from the appearance of the road and its neighbourhood charter and devalues our property. We would hate to see this set a precedent for further development in rural areas. Another factor in declining neighbourhood character is the proliferation of shipping containers, piles of building materials and abandoned vehicles being stored on rural properties, frequently in full view of the road. Peaceful neighbourhood character is also ruined by speeding, heavy noisy vehicles on roads throughout St Andrews.		
31.000.1110.000.000.000.000																	
20555															Let's keep what we have, a nice village not highly developed with a good variety of shops and services. Stop trying to bring in more cyclists and consider the signage and parking needed for developments		

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																before you start. Why do we keep being asked about development and then our views are ignored or we are just asked again?		
20554																the reason we moved to Eltham 27 years ago was because of the hills, trees, and good size blocks of land, inner Eltham's character has been destroyed in the recent past and present and the normal block of land within this shire when sold is guaranteed to change to multiple dwellings. this then means more traffic less available parking and more noise. it is all about the MONEY to councilsadly, not about the residents		
20553																As described above the Crescent is busy from traffic that cuts through our area unnecessarily as well as there being a dangerous blind corner that makes the risk of serious injury increased. We have so many children in the Crescent. We could all benefit from a dead end and then share the use of a community garden, especially as the area has more subdivisions and the space is no longer there for growing food and plants.	25	
20552	1	Eltham	Main Road	No high rise			1	1							Good setback, no high rise, more trees			
20551																It would be good to consider facilities for older kids (8+). There are lots of playgrounds for younger kids. For example, there is nowhere older kids can safely walk to like a skate park, tennis court, bike park, oval or other outdoor activities in the area around where we live.		
20550																Stop with the apartment buildings in the centre. Stop giving permission to take trees down, also Telstra or electricity companies. I have seen them taking trees without any reason. Is there someone who actually is coming to take a look if this is necessary? Developers are now well known for this, clearing blocks before building. That should not happen! I would like to see the old cottages more protected.		
20549					3 7				2			3				It needs to holistic - building form, material, setting and landscape. For example, lower scale buildings that integrate into the landscape, reducing		

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																disturbance to the natural topography and vegetation		
20548																The primary character of Stanhope and Peter streets is that, while walking down the street, one sees the dirt roads and the trees lining them and doesn't really notice the houses (unless one specifically looks). The hill is a slice of Eltham history. When one does look, you can find classic John Harcourt houses and eclectic mud brick/rammed earth cottages nestled in. These are much admired. The colours in these streets are muted and most houses that can be seen from the street have quite individual forms. An antidote to modern boxy houses. They also have space and greenery, whether cultivated or rambling. The setback of minimum 9 metres from the front of the property is part of the neighbourhood character. For a relatively small hill, the area containing these streets maintains the feel of a country estate. The 'hill' was always a haven for artists and intellectuals and even now remains relatively unspoilt (with only a few eyesores). The green space around houses hides a multitude of sins. Moreover, if one drives into Eltham from the Fitzsimons lane end, the area can be seen from the Main Road/Bridge road intersection as a rolling green hill, behind Alistair Knox Park, and has been		
20547																part of Eltham's character for a century. go slower		
20546											\dagger					Stop the development of larger buildings and removal of trees		
20545	2				3				1 S		2							
20544																Yes, the demolishing of the roundabout at main Rd fits is a complete shambles and degrades the character of Eltham Sth. It is an indictment and legacy of bad governess all round: Council and State. Shame on the lot of you.		

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20542																		
20541																Yes, maintain the integrity of the neighbourhood. The wildlife and flora should not be ignored or abused in order to create new developments, and pre-existing developments should be maintained before creating new ones.		
20540																-Please stop trees being cut downRestrict medium / large scale developments (5 dwellings +) to main road corridorDevelopments should be reduced in scale and maximum height of 2 levels above groundIt should be compulsory for large scale developments to include a proportion number of native treesSub divisions should be appropriately sized to allow for large trees to be grown on title without disturbing neighbours.		
20539	2				3		2				d				3			
20538																Retention of trees, particularly of old trees, those indigenous to the area - maybe covered in the present building guidelines, but lack enforcement as evidences by deep trenches too close to trunks and hastily filled in to disguise such blatant lack of observance of the 'rules'.		
20537																The piece of land behind Mannish Rd (opposite the Wattle Glen Station) helps retain the hamlet and beautiful tree lined environment. It would be an eye sore if development was allowed there. The land should be retained and improved to maintain the gateway to the Green Wedge feel of the area which is enhanced by Peppers Paddock and Watery Gully at its borders.		
20536	1	Diamond Creek		A sweet little rural township in the Diamond valley.					1	1				Treed areas.	Take away rail crossing to enhance traffic flow and increase safety - especially in event of a bushfire.	Plenty has had the guts ripped out of it with the duplication of Yan Yean Rd. It is crucial that the neighbourhood is enhanced with increased trees to replace the 3000 taken out for the road. It would be nice to see more trees planted along the roadside, especially near the large swales. Replacing the old CFA building with a green area, perhaps with some tables and chairs and a toilet block, will be crucial in returning Plenty to what it was previously and beautifying the Heritage Park area containing the		

ID No.	2 nd area select	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		at do						character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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															Historical Church and Plenty Hall. The Hockey, Tennis and Cricket Clubs bring in many people to the township every weekend, so it would be nice for some signage to be erected explaining the historical features of Plenty - such as the school (now demolished but once housed in a resident's home), old CFA building (built by locals), General Store (original one burnt down in 1973), Historical Church and Plenty Hall.		
20535	1	Research	Eltham Yarra Glen Road	Countryside , wineries, grazing paddocks			1		1					No developmen t- it is beautiful and should be retained	Eltham Yarra Glen Road has so much litter. I would like it cleaned occasionally. I would be happy to assist but wouldn't nowhere to dispose of fill garbage bags		
20534															The eucalypt leafiness of Eltham and Nillumbik neighbourhoods is key and is mentioned in the MSS. I currently think that current policies while acknowledging the coverage of indigenous canopy trees in Nillumbik will not arrest the general decline of this asset. A dynamic urban forest approach is required where overall percentage coverage of indigenous canopy trees is defined and enabled for neighbourhoods. This approach needs to: - encourage the removal of woody weeds like desert ash, privet, radiata pine, rather than retention as it currently does. - encourage adequate space and establishment of indigenous canopy trees in new developments. For example, the development at that is currently being constructed in inadequate as it provides negligible opportunity for the establishment of indigenous canopy trees within the property boundaries. I'm baffled that this development was approved as I don't see that it complies with the planning scheme. Without adequate indigenous tree retention or establishment in new developments there is a greater reliance on surrounding properties to provide this aesthetic which is unfair. - focus on collective urban forest, especially as viewed from multiple vantage points - not just the street. Especially where there is sloping land tree establishment on higher ground should be favoured. It seems that current land use planning practices seem to obsess over front landscaping to the		

Page **85** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select	Area selected	Street selected	5 words					abo rhoo		he	character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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					F	В		L							detriment of rear gardens where tree retention or establishment could be more valuable for cross valley views encourages indigenous plantings that match the identified pre-European ecological vegetation class/es of the site rather than more tokenistic 'native gardens' that don't use locally source seed and include local understorey species.		
20533					3				3		35						
20531															Our street mostly retains the character it had after initial development in the 60s and 70s. The houses are low profile, somewhat modest and made to fit into the land rather than to impose upon it. I understand the rising price of land encourages diametrically different buildings but if Eltham is to retain any of its character then streets like ours need to be valued, preserved and protected from ostentatious and insensitive development. I would like to see acknowledgement of the innovative builders and architects who defined Eltham's artistic and eclectic character, reflected in planning decisions The owner built, mudbrick movement that gave this area it's unique style should be embraced and inform future development.		
															Areas like the eastern end of John street where the building style is diverse, no formal fencing, houses not "lined up" facing the street and the vegetation is a dominant character		
20529															Please don't allow Eltham to become the next Doncaster. Split blocks lead to apartments. These developments leave less room for trees. I love Eltham's character, we should minimise new development in the area. We shouldn't allow the activity centre to expand.		
20528															Recent subdivisions have stripped native vegetation out, are built to the fence lines and do not blend with the environment. They clearly look out of place and are significantly higher.		
20527																	
20526															Frank St has a public land reserve. Buildings are often screened by canopy and understorey so it is		

Page **86** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		nat d this						e character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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					18	Б									distressing when these areas are totally removed by owners as happened recently. Vegetation provides habitat and food for wildlife and counters the effect of summer heat.		
20525															One of the most important things about Eltham are the wonderful spaces created by developers and council. The winding paths thru the estates and connecting parks along the creek and the protection by council of our trees. Continuing this culture will be essential to keep the unique character existing. The concerned local community's fighting spirit is an inspiration to many also. So allowing them to be heard and listened to, by councillors by putting their own agendas to the side, is of utmost importance. This areas is beautiful and different because the people have demanded to be listened to.		
20524	1	Eltham North	Wattletree Road	Busy rural bushy sporting area.				1		1	1 1	Treed an grassed areas integratir g with river and road area	Creek, Edendale Farm, Adventure playground,	Cease any further sporting developmen t, and protect grass areas from overspill parking. Limit townhouse developmen t.			
20523															No multi storey developments. Less sub division, more vegetation, greater country feel, less eateries and a greater diversification of retailers		
20522															Driving up Ryan's Road today we saw a few sites that are going to be built on and more than 30+ trees will have to be felled to allow this to occur. Council allows development because the current vegetation is labelled as 'not indigenous' but I would argue that the existing tree canopy of Eltham is NOT indigenous, but scrub gums that have grown up over the years and in some cases are now very large and healthy specimens. Just because some want a 'Better Homes and Garden' outdoor room they cut down everything on the block that lasted through many droughts and		

Page **87** of **130**

PCC.020/22 A1

Neighbourhood Character Strategy - First round of engagement (28 March to 8 May 2022) - Responses to the survey

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		hat d this			ourh	ood	?		haracter	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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																was quite healthy - this is a sin! Eltham is no longer going to be Eltham in a decade but more like Thomaston 2.		
20521																Keep the look of Green Wedge , strict controls re heights, setbacks, no more than two on a block of 1000 sq. met.		
20520																I have lived here for 67 years and the transformation of the district has been heartbreaking to watch. Time and time again the interests for developers and people who want to profit in some way have taken precedence over the interests of those who live here. Continual development and higher density living has overwhelmed infrastructure, especially for the thousands of residents who commute, which has resulted in appalling responses like the Fitzsimmons lane intersection. While this decision was made by VicRoads, it results from decades of overdevelopment which has been permitted by the Shire. In addition, creeping development of the Green Wedge has been eroding the reasons why people have chosen to live here		
20519																Our neighbourhood protested against this development and we were obviously overruled. Constantly I hear people say, we moved here for the lush greenery, serenity, country feel. This development has made this already, bend in the road so dangerous. When complete there is nowhere for visitors to park other than on the street which is already a blind bend. We need signage to slow traffic down and a mirror to see oncoming cars. There is no footpath, so walking on the road is our only option, avoiding speeding vehicles. I walk often with my granddaughter in a pram and I'm often pulling the pram off the road to avoid us being hit. Slowly council is destroying our environment. Overdeveloping and not considering locals. These roads were never built to cope with all the heavy vehicles delivering goods and are constantly churned up. Heavy vehicles cannot reverse out of the site and always come down Artists Hill to enable them to turn around. Artists Hill has a roundabout down the bottom of the road which makes it difficult for these trucks to get around. Invariably they drive right over the vegetation, kicking up stones and messing up our street. If there are vehicles parked		

Page **88** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words			o you neigh				character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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														down the bottom of our street, these trucks cannot get around. I witness this often. Our visitors have to move cars off the road to accommodate large vehicles. I can see our street becoming the overflow car park for this development. Is money more		
20518														important than the rate payers happiness??????? It would be devastating to lose the bounty of trees and open green space which draws people to this area, particularly along the walking/riding trails, so this should be a priority for any developments. Traffic and parking should also be a core consideration. The area around Eltham Lower park is lovely and popular on weekends and people travel a great distance in some cases to enjoy the miniature railway, park, and diamond valley trail - but it can be hazardous to drive along Hohnes Rd when visitors have parked on the roadway. It's also quite difficult - and often risky - for locals to rapidly exit Main Rd then pause and take a hard right turn onto Hohnes Rd.		
20517														The Woodridge estate is a very nice place to live in because development and building construction has been largely consistent. We have lived in our house for about 45 years and have noticed that some of the newer residents have been attracted to the area with its flora but have then made their landscaping look more like a Doncaster area by cutting down their indigenous trees and shrubs and replacing them with exotic species. We have also seen some developers try to subdivide normal house blocks so that another dwelling can be built on the block. Thankfully the Shire Council has not allowed it in our area and have fought and won in VCAT.		
20516	1	Eltham	Bible Street to Main Road area.	Large apartments an inappropriat e.								The new development s are mainly apartments or townhouses, have no trees and relatively little garden area and not in	Reduce height and size of new developmen t. Have larger area vegetated.	I would like to have more larger trees retained. House size and height should be limited and definitely no apartments, units or town houses to be built in Woodridge estate. There was a caveat to this effect on the area when it was first established and should be retained. The linear park is a good thing and should be retained/ preserved as it is. It provides the ability for children to walk to school and people to walk to shops and the station thus resulting in better health and less greenhouse gas produced.		

Page **89** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		nat d this					character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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												keeping with the general feel which we would like to keep in our area.				
20515														Preserve Eltham's gravel roads		
20514														I accept that units need to enter the neighbourhood, and we have plenty of them here, many of them do fit in with the landscape. However, we have recently had mass development in the town centre, and I think that should really be kept into consideration that not too much more development occurs or we will just be a neighbourhood of units, and the lovely spacious environment that we live in will be ruined. On that note, sale of linear park should be strictly banned.		
20513														I appreciate the need for higher density housing to cater for increasing population but strongly believe replacing single homes with multiple houses or units, squeezing them into barely adequate spaces, should be limited to areas close to public transport, principally trains. Adding multiple dwellings to areas where cars are likely the only viable transport alternative only adds to existing chronic traffic congestion. The character of Eltham has been seriously degraded over the years by the increased traffic, the inevitable by-product of each new housing project; gone for ever is the sleepy, leafy suburb I knew, that unique neighbourhood character having been destroyed by poorly planned development. Where I live (Progress Road) cars are the norm and the road is becoming increasingly clogged during peak hours, particularly on school days. Getting out onto Wattletree Road of a morning relies on the good nature of a driver on that road allowing you out to enter his queue. Not that Main Road is much better, of course. Urban sprawl over many years has rendered Main Road barely usable during peak times which has encouraged many drivers to seek alternative 'ratruns' through suburban roads. And I fail to see how all the money spent the upgrading/elimination of the		

Page **90** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		at do					the	character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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						Ь									Main Road/Fitzsimons Lane roundabout is going to help in the slightest. Pity the original plan to route the ring road around Eltham and Park Orchards was canned because that would have made a difference to the traffic funnelling through Eltham.		
20512															Eltham has always been a green, leafy artistic region. It is imperative to keep this to retain Eltham's distinctive character. There are many suburbs that are high density, lacking public transport and choked with cars. Eltham should differentiate itself making itself as an alternative for families.		
20511															Eltham is at a crossroads right now. If development continues on the current trajectory, then I fear that the unique character of this area will be altogether gone within a decade and we will be living in just another anonymous outer suburb of Melbourne with the intended 'lungs of Melbourne' permanently collapsed.		
20510															Abide to SLO3 overlay and don't ignore requirement to follow above SLO guidelines as in some recently approved council planning permits (see had a council officer attend site to discuss this build after completion and he still could not see how it completely contradicted the requirements of the SLO3 guidelines. Council planning officers need to become familiar with overlay requirements, otherwise there is absolutely no point having them or entering this discussion. It is a large 2 storey grey building that penetrates the tree canopy, disrupts the landform and vegetation, affects long distance vistas and blocks views! It is nothing like other split level brick houses in the area that conform to the contour of the land and don't spoil the bush character.		
20509															Bridge street between Main and Bible is too congested due to parked cars. Street is hilly and can't see cars/ trucks parked. Too dangerous and accidents will happen. Must make it no parking. Bible and Arthur cars parked on both sides creates problems. Chang parking to only 1 side		
20508															The constant removal of older houses to make way for several dwellings, most commonly units on one premises is quickly destroying everything I once		

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															loved about Eltham. As a result, the traffic is unbearable. I remember two houses once occupied two blocks of land on Livingstone Road, now they have been removed to make way for roughly 30 units!!! This is happening all over Eltham.		
20507															Refer (6) above. What happens near the township is not relevant to what happens 200m away? We need a considered logical overlay. We do not need another C180 fiasco or Council telling ratepayers what they can plant or paint their property. The "Pop-up" at the market, staffed by "Consultants" who did not seem to live in or understand the area, inferred another C180 fiasco. "Neighbourhood Character" implies one ratepayer dictating that because they have built an ugly house with a picket fence that any future ratepayers should adopt their stupidity. Councillors, and we have a history of disastrous ones, have never strived for good outcomes instead leaving hard decisions to VCAT		
20506					3						3				We should see the environment not as a place to be developed, but as a place to be preserved. Our attitude toward areas in Nillumbik should incorporate a priority for preservation of the natural gifts here.		
20505															There are new builds going up on Ingrams Road which reach high to get the city views but I think keeping a limit on these is important. Planting should always be about native vegetation, not the Manchurian pears at the village shops for example. The bushscape in Research must be preserved at all costs, including the types of fencing allowed on properties. One example of concern is the pool type fencing which has gone up on the corner of Eltham-YG and Donaldsons Roads - unfriendly to wildlife and a bit of an eyesore. Any expansion by the College or the Primary School should fit in with the neighbourhood character and retention of bushland. I think we could do with more bush reserve areas and support for areas like the Swipers Gully remediation volunteers.		
20504																	
20503											4				Eltham has continued to allow large multiple storey/dwellings which is not in keeping with the feel of the secluded green wedge, and serenity of our		

Page **92** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		nat do						character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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						В									suburb. This has caused an increase in traffic, due to the development of Bunnings and surrounding suburbs. Silver Street is and continues to be used as an exit point for large volumes of traffic, which has increased noise, pollution, and excessive speed of cars (speed humps do nothing to slow the cars down). We have seen nearly two deaths, and it is ridiculous to allow coaches up a narrow street which can block traffic. Residents of the street cannot exit their properties in peak hours, as traffic is banked up, the noise levels don't reduce until well after 9pm and start at 4:30am. This road must be closed at the railway overpass, which will elevate		
20502	1				2						3				the above problem, create a clear division between the residential and industrial areas of this section of Eltham, and protect the resident's property values, the structure of their homes, and their health. The Eltham area can only hold onto to what it is if		
															there is a limitation on the in-flux of people. Those whom move here seek out the character of the place, but this drives up house prices. These high prices are all-too tempting for the developer whom just see's DOLLAR\$ and no neighbourhood/character. They always over-develop the plan too with the idea of it being "changed" to what they originally wanted, which is a bunch of units - high-rises anyway. PLEASE DO NOT MAKE THIS PLACE BOX HILL!!!!		
20501					3						4				increased traffic devices such as Leane Drive traffic lights are encouraging higher car density use in these areas and changing to more suburban character.		
20500															Less apartments. More investment in keeping the landscape maintained.		
20499															All streets in Nillumbik except for 2 streets around stations and shops should all not be subdivided. If a subdivision is needed, NO trees are to be cut down.		
20498					2				5						Don't over develop the residential blocks in this area. There has been some development, but not		

Page **93** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		o you neigl					character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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20497														every block needs to be sub-divided and multi dwellings placed on them. This changes that nature of the area many of us bought into with our own properties. It also removes open space, and vegetation. However, I would like to see any new developments to be constructed in a style and appearance of the majority of the properties in the area, and not big, windowless, concrete, modern style homes/structures. It would be good to see some more tree planting in our open spaces, and definitely more waste bins. The rubbish on the ground around this area is a disgrace. I have contacted Council before about the rubbish in the Eltham area and have received platitudes and excuses for it. At the end of the day you only have to walk around here to see it all on the ground - unsightly, embarrassing for us as a shire, unhygienic. I'd like to see doggy poop bag dispensers in communal areas. Many other councils have these dispensers. I'd like to see water fountains to drink from, that fill water bottles, and the overflow goes into a bowl for dogs and wildlife before going down the drain (environmental and recycling), also often seen in other Councils. Eltham just needs some money spent on planting		
20497														more trees, beautifying the areas we have, putting in more park benches and not changing it too much by over development, because then it won't be Eltham anymore.		
20496	1	Eltham	Alistair Knox style	Architectura I designed sympathetic ally		1	1		1			Lots of gum and eucalyptus trees	Set back from street. If high density incorporates rooftop or vertical gardens. Look at alternatives to concrete driveways	Town houses facing street should be covered in by trees and large wooden fences		

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20495						D									We need more homes in St Andrews means a larger community! Not enough people to fill local schools, let alone support cafes, restaurants and local producers.		
20494																	
20493	1	St Andrews	St Andrews Market and surrounds	Enlivening, vibrant, peaceful, relaxing, reviving, happy, joyous, curious, interested.	1	1	1	1		1 1	1 1	Reserves, wildlife, orchids, plants and trees, walking track, bugs, butterflies, people.	The market, community centre, reserves, creek, mudbricks, market people, cemetery, Smith Gully, pub, cafe, bakery, shops, vegetable in wicking beds, Kinglake(pl ease refer to further comments in Question 14).	No big developmen ts - small buildings setback away from other. No high-rise developmen ts. Developmen ts to site amongst the bush setting. Developmen ts not to damage environment , creeks, wildlife and trees.	Question 5 continued: friendly people, low crime, community groups that care about where they live, gateway into Eltham buildings, art sculptures and views from road. Question 6 continued: Wildlife habitat needs to be fit into the landscape without being blocked by development. Development needs to be interesting architecturally as something to admire. Development should also be designed well for people to live in (COVID-19 has shown risk of people not being able to isolate). Question 12 continued: Roads around St Andrews, Panton Hill, Kangaroo Ground - farmers produce to buy on the way.		
20492																	
20491	1	Hurstbridge		Open space, less house, more trees than other suburbs.						1 1	1	Love the green wedge - less infill and more room for wildlife.					
20490															Question 6 continued: 2. Improve the shocking traffic flow/design at the end of Arthur Street that has so many access points to Coles, Woolworths, Commercial Place that are all near each other - it is a traffic bottleneck.		

Page **95** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		this r	neig	hbo	urho			character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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20488	1	Diamond Creek	Heidelberg- Kinglake Rd	Old river red gums				1					Old river red gums	Avoid damaging old river red gums - including their roots	I was grateful to return to this area where I grew up after many years absence and find that much of the character I remembered and loved remained, thanks no doubt to the Green Wedge and careful management. I believe it's important to realise how special this area is and to be aware of the responsibility that we have to look after it for those who will follow as well as for the wildlife that we share it with.		
20487															Question 5 continued: Everyone has big trees so that everyone has a fantastic view. We look after our trees and garden knowing it contributes to someone else's view. Mud brick houses are common. Normal natural colours. Question 6 continued: Buildings made from stone and mud. Support 2 storey developments so to provide higher densities but lower land footprint. Shared driveways with proper stormwater drainage. Consider making stormwater easements beautiful and practical so they look like creeks and waterfalls but also function well.		
20486															Hurstbridge community enjoys it's spacious, rural feel supported by its local retailers. Parking for these retailers needs to be considered. The community enjoys the open, rural feel within the township.		
20485															It's imperative that the natural, native, rural, open feel of Wattle Glen is maintained.		
20484	1	Eltham		Nice small town feeling, easy walks, green areas, great library	1		1	1		1 1			Great local shops, friendly people, tall trees around, unique houses of the area	Taking into account the current architecture and heights, and respecting the trees and landscaping around the area	Unfortunately, in the past 5 years I witnessed how Eltham is changing not for the best: trees being cut by dozens, small urbanisations built not considering the heritage of the area. If we continue like this, soon Eltham won't be different to any other suburb in Melbourne. Council should have tougher rules about taking down large eucalyptus trees that are home to native species. How many neighbourhoods can still say they have visits from Echidnas and kookaburras to their houses? Same with pine trees that although not native, are now home to many birds and big contributors of cleaning the air in the area.		
20483																	

Page **96** of **130**

ID No.	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		hat d this			ourh	ood	?		haracter	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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20482															As Diamond Creek develops further, it would be good to think about how the shops and amenities are further modernised. There's a trade-off in Diamond Creek in terms of how the area is redeveloped from old houses (often into townhouses/units) without impacting the city fringe feel that has historically attracted people to the area. Redevelopment is needed, but it should be single/double story max and not impose on the amenity of existing freestanding homes.		
20481						v									anneaning necessarium g nemeer		
20480															Residents will have more pride in Cherry Tree Rd Township zone if it can be made to feel more like a residential street rather than the start of a highway to Panton Hill. Once cars turn at the roundabout they feel they are in Daytona. Streetscaping the nature strips, slowing the cars and adding a pedestrian crossing will all make the area feel more like it is still residential. Housing in Cherry tree Rd should be allowed to be double story (some already exist) as the road is wide and on a large hill. The lower end houses should also be allowed to build extra ground floor height to a accommodate flood levels from Cherry Tree creek. I love the eclectic mix of build styles (shack to mansion) and don't think we need to put many restrictions on this street.		
20479															This isn't Doreen. People should be able to do what they want on their own properties	Ve	
20478															There really needs to be a safe connection to cross the road and go down Manish road to use the readymade asset of the walking track. At the moment the Manish road corner is very dangerous.		
20477				-											moment are manier road comer to very dangerode.		
20476									\top								
20475															Council should not impose their views on local communities when it comes to what a neighbourhood should look like. It should be up to the majority of locals in those places as to how they'd like their places and local area to look. Too often decisions are made by people who have no		

Page **97** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words	of	this	neig	jhbo	ourh	ood′	?	character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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															experience living in the local (especially Rural) areas of the shire.		
20474	1	Hurstbridge		Historic, quaint, beautiful, unorganise d, pedestrian friendly	1	1	1	1		1 1	1		Main town being more pedestrian friendly than other towns but connection across the main road and to the bike path needs significant work	Must be energy efficient buildings, must look like it belongs either with the old or very new			
20473																	
20472															The roads need the ability to walk beside them safely so you don't have to drive		i i
20471															Australian Landscape is very important here.		
20470	1	Plenty		Secure, maintained, modern	1			1	1		1		Things look neat and welcoming. Homes don't look as run down.	Nothing. It's far more progressive than neighbourin g Yarrambat.	Allow people moving into Yarrambat to modernise, improve and protect their homes. We're in between Doreen and Plenty, and both suburbs either side look lovely. We're just 1km from Plenty and yet most of Plenty looks far more civilised and clean, whilst still maintaining a leafy outlook. In Yarrambat, there are too many large trees close to homes and power lines, and council continue to put plants before people. It's so dangerous. Plenty residents don't have these issues. In Yarrambat, the large trees do nothing for street appeal other than make it look dark, dated, unkempt and over grown. And on a main road with high foot and vehicle traffic, large trees also pose a risk to members of the community. My children can't play in some areas of my property (front and back) and when walking along in certain parts of Bannons Lane because of safety concerns from large		

Page 98 of 130

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																dropping branches. Then there's the bushfire risk. The trees may have been OK with less residents 20/30 years ago, but this is a built up area now, council need to protect the residents too. We need a clear zone around homes where we're allowed to remove/prune large trees without the permit rigmarole. Those living on main roads (i.e. Yan Yean Rd and Bannons Lane) with high traffic should also be allowed to secure their homes with higher, noise reducing front fencing/planting that is also aesthetically appropriate. Farm fencing (like chicken wire) at the front of a property makes everything look dated and unkempt. And the huge Gas bottles/septic pits out front on every property. Hideous! How are residents meant to make the landscaping look good without concealing them behind a fence? Yarrambat is not a rural farming area anymore, it's not the bush, it's part of suburbia. There are lots of young families moving in who expect the council to be more progressive with how the area looks. What they've done in Plenty, should be replicated in Yarrambat.		
20469	<u> </u>								1		5) E	3				Tarrampat.		
20468	1	Diamond Creek	Heidelberg Kinglake Rd shops	Disjointed ugly and poorly planned.			1							No	Creating a village like outdoor mall for shopping and dining. Creating undergroun d parking.	Plan for future growth. Both Hurstbridge and diamond Creek have disjointed shopping precincts that does not have a precinct where people can shop and dine all in one place. Rather encourages people to go elsewhere to obtain the village feel.		
20467																We definitely need a township we are in 2022 and all you can do is clean up the road and fix up stormwater. If we were under Whittlesea council we would of had a township 10 years ago		

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20466	1	Hurstbridge	Curtain road and surrounds	Natural, green, rural, quiet, wildlife	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		Native gardens, houses set back and not overcrowded, lots of trees	Continue to limit density (flats etc.)	Please don't allow large multi-story buildings on Hurstbridge main road, like the proposed childcare centre! The reason we moved here last year was for the village feel. We used to drive here on weekends for brunch and loved the look and feel of it. We support tourism & growth but not at the expense of this historical village!		
20465																	A
20464															Neighbourhood character has developed without council interference. To define and limit the character is an unwanted overreach by the council and will result in a Soviet style planned monotonous streetscape. This is not a theme park. It's people's homes. Let those who live here decide what they want without your incessant meddling in our lives. Go and deliver your core services at the lowest cost. Leave us alone. The backroads of Diamond Creek need to be made safer. For example, Reynolds Rd is steep and too narrow (needs widening for two cars to pass). For example, Bishop Ave needs to be paved the whole way because cars use this back route a lot and it is very dusty. Neither road has footpaths for pedestrians. Units to be built in backyards as a preference to multi dwelling lots to keep the character and increase affordable housing.		
20461					3		25	1			5	3			increase anordable nodsing.		
20460															I would really like to see better infrastructure that mirrors the amount of fuel occupancies being developed so we don't have traffic jams every day. Having an indoor swimming pool here would also help Diamond Creek and beyond to Christmas Hills, St Andrews, etc.		
20459							1										
20458															No more units or townhouses! It's ruining Hurstbridge and before you know it we'll look as bad as Eltham does		

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20457	1	Diamond Creek	All of the rest	They have front fencing									Fencing	Fencing	Allow us to be able use all of our rateable area that you charge us for	Yes this is a waste of tax payers money. You're happy to take our money but do the most basic service. You let developers get away with murder, vegetation destruction, habitat destruction but joe blogs can't have a front fence. I'm looking forward to going to the next council meeting and having it tabled that this is a waste of money.		
20456																We do need more cafes and places to shop. It's really restricted.		9)
20455																Diamond Creek could be beautiful. Roundabouts poorly planted allowing weeds to take over. Roundabouts need to be planted with flowering ground covers. Traffic through Diamond Creek horrendous. Additional development would only exacerbate this problem. Shopping centre needs major overhaul looking at exit and entry points and overall look. More greenery. Adventure playground needs something more for older children and more swings for younger children.		
20454																"A number of elements particularly contribute to the locality's distinctive character, such as the hilly landscape, the level of indigenous vegetation, the presence of significant environmental features (e.g. Watery Gully Creek and Reserve), large and attractive outdoor spaces (e.g. Pepper's Paddock), a particular style of development (e.g. low scale and eclectic), a notable sense of community, the local heritage and the locality's strong connection to the Nillumbik Green Wedge." (Written by Nillumbik Planning Officers in 2021 as part of the council Wattle Glen Public Realm Project.)		
20453																A better way to manage cars parked on side of road as it is often right to drive through.		
20452																		30
20451	1	Diamond Creek	Main	Bushy, country feel, isolated (Nice way),	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 1	1		It still has the suburb vibe but also the very isolated big country town vibe	Have the same as above for Eltham, and save as many old	I understand that development needs to happen to give more people the opportunity to live in this great area. But I can see our character of our green wedge is being striped into a slowly growing suburb like Thomastown sort of area. With more high rise starting to appear and more units going up and less		

Page 101 of 130

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words	of	this ı	neig	hbo	urh	ood?	?	character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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20450				big, spread out.									feeling like there are no other suburbs expect Diamond creek around.	homes as possible and keep the old design of homes.	land for trees and vegetation and the backyard for a family. We are a very unique area and we need to keep it. So please put less units up that look the same, stop building apartments and giving bigger land to owners so they have more space for a garden trees and a space to hang out and to give our area the country feel forever. People move here for the feel of the area and will continue to do as long as we keep it the way it is now and keep that country feel and uniqueness that Nillumbik is.		
20449								-							Would like to keep the family feel of the area and		
20448															the trees and vegetation and the brick dwellings. the nature of our street is unique to the area. 3/4 acreage for half the street and even a farm down the end of the dead end of the street. However, the first half of the street has developments going up and the street isn't designed for this traffic. the street is only 1 1/2 cars wide. No more dual block developments pls. We have also been left with a large eye sore with the Fraser Street development collapsing we have the back half of the development that use to be bush, has been left stripped, and turned into a pile of weeds, and mud when it rains. This needs to be returned to its former state! I also run the largest Facebook that is for Diamond Creek with nearly 9,000 members so i have an good idea what is going on in our town and would like to share relevant information with the group		
20447															Developments should allow for more open space, more vegetation and a colour palette and design to fit in to other homes in the area. No multi story developments as they do not fit in with the local character of the area.		
20446	1	Diamond Creek	Don't allow the three storey development in Fyffe St.	Suburb yet community	1		1	1		1			Not crammed in with mass produced units	Keep as much natural space as possible	Choose sustainable options. Keep as many green spaces as possible.		
20445															The area is quickly losing the great neighbourhood character which attracted us to the area. "Protected" trees seem to be getting cut down, and the majority of new houses are the same grey/white/black 2		,

Page 102 of 130

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														story bulk houses with little/no back yard. The new developments have no additional amenities (post boxes, parks etc.) to service the hundreds of new residents. If high density (
20444														Neighbourhood character needs to consider making roads around existing trees not removing them. Close the loop hole with developers who currently can purchase a property on the condition the seller removes all trees within 10metres from house/boundary, as they can't do this once they take possession of the property. Do not continue to allow high density building around the CBD area as this has destroyed Eltham's unique township we once had. Concrete bricks/mortar increases the heat with lack of tree canopy on hot days. Impact on sunlight and lack of car spaces for townhouses has made a huge problem for locals trying to park to shop locally, hence impacting Traders. Strongly encourage Indigenous planting at least in front yards of properties to continue to attract birds & wildlife. Indigenous trees to be planted were possible on ALL nature-strips in every street around Eltham and maintained by both Council & property owner. If a tree dies another needs to be planted asap not just left without a tree replacement.		
20443														leit without a tree replacement.		
20442														Improved maintenance of green space, including the Diamond Creek Trail between this estate and the main road.	(4)	
20441																
20440														The Diamond Hills area has so much potential for picnics, family, walking, pets etc. There are barely any bins so it looks dirty when people leave rubbish, there is heaps of space but nothing really to do with it (other than maybe fly a kite) and it's a shame as so many people come through here!		
20439								1						Traffic flow needs to be considered when increasing property. Development is increasing at a faster rate than roading development causing traffic jams and limited access in and out of diamond creek if there is an emergency or train works on main road. Any		

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															development should consider if it would create additional traffic bottle necks. Consider wildlife and trees in any development to maintain the more rural feel of the community. Improve street lighting so it is safer to walk in the evening and early morning. Maintain footpaths so they are more accessible for wheeled mobility as well as fewer trip hazards (uneven joins/heights and not level). Consider the type of tree planted on grass verges so they grow to an appropriate height not ones that grow well above roof height that then become a hazard so close to house. The space and surrounding bush that you can walk too is what makes diamond creeks character.		
20438																	
20437															Do not allow multi building developments to happen in our neighbourhood. We will lose our green wedge, privacy, large blocks, views, and I don't want to be overshadowed by multiple townhouses in surrounding blocks.		
20436															This place is special; it is disappearing with high density buildings. Homes should blend into the landscape not stand out. The shopping zone is just as horrendous- and the amount of concrete without proper landscaping plans is not good		
20435		Hurstbridge													It's important that Eltham maintains its character so that it doesn't become another suburb of Melbourne that has no character. We need to plant trees on the nature strips, revegetate and create public spaces that reflect Eltham's artistic heritage. For example, the car park outside La Zanyas could be changed into a piazza to encourage outdoor dining etc.		
20434															We have been here now 16 years and have been shattered by how much our suburb has changed over the past 5 years. Not only do we get heavy traffic flow from St Helena College this has been exacerbated by the large number of units and development going on at the corner of There is not enough street parking as it is and once all two story units are sold and people move in traffic/parking will		

Page 104 of 130

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words				ike a ourh			e cha	aracter	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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															be extremely, troublesome and dangerous. Particularly as the new units only have one car space each. Council keep approving the overdevelopment and so much vegetation has been lost.		
20433))
20431															I moved her because of the country feel the land, space, trees and bush The river etc don't let it be another concrete suburb. new homes on tiny bits of land. Yuk.		
20430															Limitation of putting an office or granny flat on your property needs to be considered. Against sun diving for new houses but room for more sheds etc on your property with proper consultation with council		
20429		Diamond Creek													Retain integrity of historical look of buildings as exemplified by Wattle Cafe and other buildings from the 1920's and 30s. Refrain from using inappropriate 'modern' materials and maintain single to double storey height of buildings and uniformity of roof lines. Shops/buildings should have verandas for shade. Ensure that indigenous plants are used extensively to integrate into the surrounding natural landscape.		
20428															Trees need to be respected and kept regardless of being native or not Don't mind the occasional tree being removed but when entire blocks are cleared like has happened on Karingal Drive for town houses, the streets are irreparably changed. People move to the area for the space and trees that needs to be included in any plan But granny flats / fonzie flats and reasonable size sheds are not going to ruin that, so find a balance		
20427	2														The mobile phone tower is an eye saw as you drive into Panton Hill		
20426															Diamond creek is now a grid lock of traffic. Pathetic, dangerous and very poor council decisions created this mess. Huge rates for pathetic surveys like this. Not happy		

Page 105 of 130

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words	of	this	nei	ghb	ourl	hoo	d?		character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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20425	1	Research	Entire surroundings , not specific roads		1	1	1	1	1	1		1		Natural building materials sensitive to surrounds, bushland retained, no huge concrete boxy structures on cleared blocks. Large, native bushland blocks shared with lots of native wildlife/birds, scenic mountain views, peaceful lifestyle, good air quality	Developmen t and construction would detract from, and even destroy our bushland amenity. People opted to live here for as much natural environment as possible	We'd be concerned, and impacted, by any further development of this area, which is unique to many areas of Melbourne due to the natural bushland surroundings. We are very privileged to live in this area, and selected to live here specifically because of comparatively minimal development - i.e., no footpaths, no formal concrete kerbs, nature strips and drains etc - for the large block requirements, and no subdivision or multi-dwelling blocks, and no dwellings higher than 2-storeys. We don't wish to see this change. In our 30 years of living here, we've already seen significant construction and development have a detrimental impact on this unique bushland environment, as pockets of bushland decrease. We treasure the wildlife and birds sharing this location, species that are threatened, endangered or even extinct in many other areas. We are extremely fortunate to have them due to the natural environment around us. We appreciated the fragility of the environment, the importance of the nearby Yarra river ecosystem, and all the many creatures that rely on it, from tiny micro-organisms to kangaroos. More suburban style areas are easily accessible if we wish to visit, or to walk on concrete pathways, through urban designed playgrounds and parks, so we hope that the natural environment and amenity would not be touched here. Each new path or development impacts significantly on this environment. This applies to surrounding neighbourhoods too, as nearby developments also impact on their surrounding areas. Property fencing wouldn't even be required if it wasn't for a few residents who allow their dogs and/or cats to wander.		
20424					:3			9	į į		8	3				The idea of the diamond creek on the Hurstbridge side of the tracks and particularly the area around		

Page **106** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		nat de this		urho	ood?	?	character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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														James Cook/Fraser being further developed doesn't particularly appeal to me, or others in the area. With the already narrow roads and abundance of cars parked on it, driving in the area can be at times quiet dangerous. I myself have been on my motorcycle and been meters away from a potentially fatal accident due to the lack of visibility around the sweeping bends. The area lacks infrastructure to support a build-up of housing. With one way in and out of town it's just not feasible.		
20423														Just keep it natural and in character with the beautiful environment and small rural town feel. Keep us looking like a beautiful character filled tourist town to visit. DONT engage in big developments, units everywhere and buildings that don't fit with our natural landscape or take from others views. DONT turn us into a diamond Creek!		
20421														Panton Hill retains the beauty of a small country town. Higher density residential buildings would detract from this existing quality.		
20420																
20419	1	Eltham		Changed, too much high-rise				1				Central Eltham hub	Traffic managemen t to be improved with tight movement around township in particular Woolworths, Dan Murphy. Bible street is also tight	Maintain green principles when discussing development.		
20418														I would like the general feel of Wattle Glen to remain the same- basically retain the small town/one general store vibe. Where there are works happening along the train line it would be appreciated to plant many trees to offset the concrete harshness of the car park and beautify the		

Page 107 of 130

ID No.	2 nd area select	Area selected	Street selected	5 words					abo rhoo		ne d	character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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					×1×	<u> </u>									spaces once it is complete. Stick with native plantings.		
20417															We should make sure that no single type of style is restricting the area. The type of properties and building are so extremely varied and that's actually what makes it unique. Allowing the continued flexibility and modernisation means that the inherent feel will be improved and maintained. Due to the layout no types of setback, visibility or style can be set and it should be easily able to provide flexibility to work within any similar styles or building structures that exist.		
20416															Stop subdivision, it's ruining the character. Also stop people cutting down trees, it's a tree town!		
20415															, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
20414															I think not allowing the build of new, standard homes would keep the character in St. Andrews. Subdivision would still be a good idea to make the area more accessible for many people but keeping the block sizes 1000m2 or more would be ideal in the hopes that not too many trees would need to be removed in order to build.		
20413																	
20412					3 3	12.		ž	2	8	3				Keeps all the trees and stop putting giant car parks on our door steps.		
20411															We are backed by Victoria St which was Never developed. It is not maintained by council and some Blocks have acquired the land. Will it ever be maintained? Or can the land be divided to people's property in Acacia Rd? Something needs to happen to it. It's out of Control.		
20410															Would be nice to plant some trees along the Aqueduct trail in areas where it's open and exposed creating a nice canopy and shade. Also wildlife signs along Cassells Rd. Some street art at Research shops near brick wall where toilets are depicting the history of the area would look great!		
20409															Regulation in place to prevent further eyesore to the area. The quick builds on Manish road are horrendous and don't blend into the landscape and surrounding homes. The public transport upgrades		

Page 108 of 130

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		this ı	neigl	hbo	urho	odí	?	character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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															i.e./ bus stops were meant to be country bus stops, they're now monstrous concrete shelters which attract graffiti, drug use and vandalism creating an unsafe environment. There is never a regeneration of plants or maintaining the country aesthetic. The large 20 odd acre block behind the main road would ideally be purchased and transformed into a permanent bush reserve for communal use and regeneration of vegetation for flora and fauna.		
20408																	
20407																	
20406															Leave it alone, mow the grass on the side of the road, mulch the parks every now and again, collect the garbage and make it easy for those that have lived there for 20+ years to make changes to their joint without the bullshit hoops		
20405															Keep it safe. Generations gave fought for this area, and it is the way it is for that reason The new generation will continue to do so! Keep your hands off the Green Wedge!!!!!!		
20404	1	Greensbor ough	Apollo Parkways	Green											Q5 continued: Many residents have lived in their homes for decades and there's a lovely sense of community and people looking out for each other.		
20403																	
20402															There are a few pockets of rare "Old Eltham' that date back to the 60's and further. These need to be protected and guarded, as they are unique and irreplaceable. Strict rules on new building and overlays to keep their charm and appeal.		
20401	1		Main Hurstbridge Road - Roundabout towards Kangaroo Ground (Kangaroo Ground- Wattle Glen Road)	Green feel, cared for landscape				1						Consideration of how the wonderful new bike trail could be safely connected to the railway station and Wattle Glen precinct so			

Page 109 of 130

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		this	neig	jhbo	ourh	ood	?		aracter	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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															that school children or commuters can make the most of this wonderful resource without danger.			
20400																The Box eucalypti are a weed in this area and do not represent the gums native to it. The Green Wedge is a benefit to all of Melbourne. Perhaps The State government should pay for council rates in this area as do all Vic residents pay for parks around Melbourne. The weeds are an ongoing and ever increasing problem. I understand that there is an eradication policy with the SA weed orchid but has anyone visited the Hurstbridge end of the new Hurstbridge-Wattle Glen trail?	Ro	
20398	1	Eltham	Eltham town centre	Good community amenities, cafes, shops and parking.	1		1	1	1		1	1		The centre of Eltham has evolved in the 14 years I've lived here. The shops are more diverse and the town square well laid out for activities.	New developmen ts need to take into consideratio n the impact of traffic, especially with the apartments being constructed. Blending in to the current landscape is important.	The area around Eltham North is unique in its leafy streets and larger blocks so properties are not overlooked. Ideally this is retained for the future. I have concerns that central Eltham is being over developed with multi-unit blocks being constructed. This will add to the traffic connection and parking problems already experienced and needs to be considered for future developments.		
20397																I love living in Yarrambat and the rural feel is very important to me. I hope that subdivision is limited or not allowed as it is a levely slice of the sountry.		
20395																not allowed as it is a lovely slice of the country Development needs to be sympathetic to the style and ambience of the local area. The increase in congestion in the 10 years we've been living here is heartbreaking. I moved here for the ease of		

Page **110** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		this	neig	jhbo	ourh	iood	?	e character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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															shopping ingress and egress - that has disappeared. The infrastructure tire isn't there to support the population. It's crowded and development is way too dense - especially around the (former) township / shops. Keep the trees. Without them we will all be looking in on our neighbours - especially given the sloping blocks. Have a pool fence code sympathetic to the local area? The current one is a nightmare for those on sloped blocks. Impossible to comply		
20394	1	Eltham	Main Road (section between small roundabout near petrol station and Edendale)	Tired, loud, no landscaping , rough, unconsider ed			1		1			Comforta ble footpaths	No, that section of main road lacks character, looks the least Eltham out of all streets	Invest in quality landscaping of nature streets, make it look like extension of the gateway to Eltham, all front to have bush garden with trees, don't allow black Colorbond fences, cladding or roofs	That section of Main Road is the most neglected part of the road in Eltham. Doesn't feel welcoming at all. The area near the petrol station looks very rough, with cars parked on the land. This really should stop, ideally the owner of that land should pay extra tax for keeping it empty. No considered landscaping. Houses too close to the front. Too much bitumen. I would like Nillumbik residents to take seriously the need to keep bush gardens. I think that residents should be encouraged to landscape nature strips, the current review fee and strict rules prevent people from doing the strips up. Introduce a fee or tax if an owner keeps a block of land empty for years Remove orange lights whenever they are not necessary No longer allow black roofs or metal colorbond fences Hang possum highways across the streets if the space allows for it Promote native species for landscaping, including gums. I often hear that residents are scared of keeping them in the garden, or they want to cut down a tree due to amount of dead leaves. Promote bushy, full looking layered gardens as opposed to lawn at the front		

Page **111** of **130**

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																Landscape narrow passages between houses(not reserves). They are a big opportunity to grow plants. Ban carports that are built at front of the house and are dominant Promote house designs that match houses on the street (slanted or flatter roofs, brick, large windows) as opposed to new Hamptons style weatherboards. They don't belong in Eltham. Promote bushy garden over English style cottage garden Send notices for having clutter in the garden that is		
20393																visible to public - When I moved to Nillumbik I was introduced to the term 'living under the canopy'. The maintenance of the tree canopy is central to the nature of this area, and to many other parts of Eltham. It is an important aspect of planning to cope with increasing temperatures (avoiding urban hot spots) and the mitigation of the effects of increasingly torrential rain. It also attracts/protects wildlife, and helps maintain the quality of water in local streams. - As previously mentioned, parts of this area have never been cleared for farming and remnant vegetation, including many large indigenous trees can be found here. It is essential to the maintenance of neighbourhood character that these features are respected and protected in future planning decisions.		
20389	1	Eltham		Township	1			1	1			1		Small township with access to trains	Height restrictions. Limit number knock down rebuilds.	WW and Coles Car parks are on premium land in village centre with views that should be used for other than parking cars.		
20388																Eltham is currently fine, apart from a) the town centre and b) all the overhead cables. The challenge is how to maintain its character in the face of new development. The town centre has no character or soul. There is		

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															no reason to go there other than to a particular shop or cafe.		
20387															I know this is out of scope but I believe there is an under-appreciation / low education re beauty and expression in Eltham. There are some ugly parts of the town centre that I feel we walk past without challenging. For example, blank walls, decal filled windows, empty shops, the Coles ramp to nowhere. It would be great to be challenged and our eyes opened to the power that these spaces hold on us and how they work against the village life theme of Eltham. Even a makeover with projection art could help to bring beauty and wonder into focus. Through this public education, it may inspire the pursuit of improved character and beauty in the residential areas. Sometimes I feel we sometimes become focused on preserving the parts we see as under threat (e.g. nature, history, native species) and forget that we can actively and creatively enhance our neighbourhood too. It took a pandemic to spawn the COVID chooks. How do we get more of this without the need for a pandemic?		
20385															Unmade roads in the area can be very unsafe, particularly in summer when the ridges form and rocks are exposed. Have had many tyre punctures and visibility is poor when dust rises.		
20384															We need more foot paths and lights.		
20383															We'd like to see better foot paths so the community is more accessible. We'd also like to see more lighting in some areas, as it gets dark when walking at night. Less people tipping their junk on nature strips		
20382															The 'green shire' must preserve the concept of nature taking priority over large scale development. The unique vegetation and resident wildlife have evolved over time. Any human activity must not be separate from the natural landscape - and landscape must not be tokenism either. Lessons from our First Nations people teach us how to find our place in this environment and how to live compatibly, rather than destructively, within it.		

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20381															I am concerned that there is a trend to allow large blocks to be sub divided adding traffic flow and eroding the natural beauty of Eltham's Green Wedge Heavy Trucks tend to try and navigate this hill between Wattletree and Ryan's Road and get stuck at the Roundabout at Ryan's and have to back up for a run of speed causing a dangerous situation for following traffic, an accident waiting to happen. Heavy Vehicles should be banned from using this as a thoroughfare. The corner from Ryans downhill into Eltham needs resurfacing with the Grip surface as it has started to wear thin, there is no doubt that this has stopped the accidents that were a regular occurrence pre this resurfacing and it is appreciated.		
20380					3										New developments should be consistent with current streetscape in the township. This should include wall and roof treatments, windows and size of buildings and surfaces.		
20379					3										If more homes are built, more cars pass by, more dust through the home, in the lungs, in the cars, choking the garden. Many more homes and traffic on our street but still a dusty road. Council get extra rates please look after us. No footpath No access if disabled		
20378	1	Eltham		A green suburb with native flora and fauna.	1	1	1	1		1 1	1 1		Tree canopy; mudbrick houses and library.	Limit height of buildings to 2 storey; maintain open space.	Overall must protect the Green Wedge and the ethos of Nillumbik as a place to live with indigenous flora and fauna. I live in Panton Hill and appreciate and love the bushy hilly terrain, the Panton Hill Bush Reserves (walk most days), have kangaroos in our paddocks with our cows and calves, yet we are 45 min drive from the city and its services if needed. We have chooks, a large native garden, fruit trees, a vegetable garden, places for grandchildren to play and a pool - a very healthy and peaceful lifestyle. Do not want mowed areas around the township. Let the grass grow for insects, etc to live in and kangaroos to eat. Just maintain the garden beds on the main road and in the Firefighters Park. Maintain bush colours (greens/greys) in sheds and new housing. Safe fencing for wildlife. Contain township to current size.		

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20377															The Town Centre needs to be greatly improved from the eyesore it is currently. Not a welcoming town centre		
20376															Important to maintain the rural aspect with no subdivision of blocks, leaving plenty of room for trees between houses. Eltham has always been known as, and is a vital part of the green wedge and should remain so. Stop overdevelopment of our beautiful area.		
20375															Eltham, including the town precinct is known for its environmental attraction of lots of trees roadside and in people's properties, many birds throughout the hills and the creek area, houses that 'disappear' into the hills and bush. All views involve mixed trees and indigenous vegetation. Development needs to continue to have guidelines of colour and materials and green space. Development noise and machinery used should be kept a minimum to preserve birdlife and wildlife. We've already lost bellbirds from these areas due to development. Side front and back setbacks should not be compromised. If blocks are filled with buildings this would set precedent and potential for loss of all the green treed sound and visual buffers and birdlife.		
20374	1	Hurstbridge	Main shopping strip	Woody, lush, heritage, mudbrick	1	1	1	1	1	1 1	1		Perfect allotment of housing with no need required for subdivision or development.	Adoption of a mudbrick support scheme to encourage and offer guidance on this distinctive and sustainable building material which could be more uniform as a local character trait.	This is an opportunity to uphold and ponder on some aesthetic and character values of our Shire and if done properly we can have something quite distinct which allows for a flourishing natural environment and visual appeal.		

Page 115 of 130

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		at do						e character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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20373															More vegetation, less concrete and plastic		*
20372															Three needs to be more large trees block and on the ridge lines to keep the treed outlook. Stop the dense units on hillside with no trees like on Livingstone road. The view of that hillside is just dwellings.		
20371															Standard of housing and finishes could be better. Should be sensitive to environment not just cookie cutter like other parts of Melbourne. Strong rules about protecting canopy and remnant bush areas needed to discourage those who just want to remove it all. That will change feel of the area. Strong encouragement of muted earthy colours, light coloured roofs and sustainable and passive construction would be worthwhile. Allow some large blocks on busy roads in low density residential zone to be halved in line with Vic Planning, not Nillumbik whim. Provide advice to help people build for fire, heat etc which will be attractive to people, use less energy and be more enduring in warmer more disrupted climate. Attention to keeping shops well-kept and in keeping with area good too.		
20370															Please consider the current population, road and foot traffic, public spaces and current low/medium density. If people want high density let them go to Heidelberg or Southbank. Please ensure Eltham retains its current feel, for future generations. P L E A S E!		
20369												2					
20368															Drop the speed limit through Yarrambat to a permanent 40kph from the existing 60kph sign in the East to the Yan Yean Road intersection. This is vital to protect the users of this section of Ironbark Road. Changing the speed limit from 80kph to 60kph along Ironbark Road was an excellent move. Build a traffic roundabout at the intersection of Ironbark and De Fredericks Roads and the entrance to Yarrambat War Memorial Park. There will be a terrible accident there one day. The Ironbark streetscape upgrade should make a difference to the parking problems along this stretch and will greatly improve pedestrian access and the		

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																look of the road. Speeding vehicles, however, continue to be a major problem. With easier pedestrian access, a pram crossing and improved parking in marked bays where many drivers will choose to reverse park, there is greater likelihood of an accident due to speeding vehicles. On a personal issue the sports ground lighting continues to cause discomfort as it shines directly at our home. Frequently the lights are left on from 10-11pm or even after games are over. This demonstrates a lack of consideration for local residents. It is also encouraging groups of people to linger without supervision. Our neighbourhood character has greatly changed over the 50 years we have lived here. We no longer have a local store or a church which helped to bind the community in the past. I hope for some positive change. The Ironbark Road streetscape is a much appreciated step towards creating an area of which we can be proud. Thank you Nillumbik Council.		
20367	1	Eltham		Still has a very green, fresh feel but with good eatery's as well	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 1	1		Lots of trees and parkland	Continue to keep as rustic as possible Don't allow high rise, it ruins the look and feel			
20366																We have new people moving into Eltham as the older residents take the money from the auctions and run. Many new owners don't want the existing tree canopy or native plantings because they require work, care and water. Maybe some fear fire. But if they wanted to live somewhere like Brunswick then they should have moved there. Why did you want to move to a treed area and then cut them down? Seeking the mighty dollar when redeveloping and the Council seeking the increased rates. It's sad because Eltham is not going to be Eltham in the next decade!		

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20365															While I really like the existing character of Eltham South, I would like Council to devote more resources to maintaining the Diamond Creek (removing debris and discarded plastic) and the keeping the grass and weeds down on the green verges around it. The height of grass, and the straggly, poorly maintained shrubs create a fire risk and I often see snakes under the Main Road bridge that crosses the Diamond Creek near Antoinette Blvd and the Eltham Lower Park. I know that vegetation is important for small wildlife and birds, however I think it could be better maintained and still		
20364															As an ex-pat from the USA, and resident of the inner city suburb of South Yarra, I was very hesitant moving to Diamond Creek in 2007, but I have grown to love the old country town feel of Diamond Creek. I'm close to the sporting grounds, the shops, the tavern, the Diamond creek trail, and the train station. I would to see the social scene improve (e.g. more cafes bars etc.), and continued expansion of the DC trail past Hurstbridge to St Andrew's. The biggest single impact to the character of Diamond Creek is the traffic. The single lane level crossing generates terrible traffic at peck hours and on weekends, and the train line duplication is only going to make this much worse. One last detractor is the extremely poor design of the two major shopping centres that house Coles and IGA respectively. It is almost impossible to get		
20362	1	Diamond Creek	Chute St	Country town meets impatient urban dwellers.		1	1	1					The elevated street at one end going down to the creek		in and out on busy days. Diamond creek severely lacks character; the Chute Street shops have more character than the set of shops over the railway. Aside from that, the area is at a crossroads of what it was and what it can become, with resistance to change in the community and the more prominent land owners not doing any improvements with their properties.		
20361															There is a noticeable development creep. For example, Bridge Street industrial area 'justifies' high density units on Silver Street, which is used as a precedent for subdivision and more dense housing further up the hill into larger, existing bush blocks.		

Page **118** of **130**

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															The impact on wildlife is noticeable. Excessive lighting from units, sports fields, industrial areas and a surplus of street lighting is proved to be 'light pollution' detrimental to the structure of our natural fauna network, especially along the Diamond Creek.		
20360															Eltham is in danger of becoming another generic Melbourne suburb with overcrowded town houses and apartments in a location that does not have the infrastructure to support high volume occupancy. Eltham gardens are full of mature trees, native flowers, fauna attracting understory and local beauty. The unique character of Eltham should be preserved with single storey houses on large (quarter acre plus) blocks surrounded by tall, mature native trees. Shops and services in Eltham town centre should encourage visitors - local artist galleries, unique dining, local winery, local produce, organic produce. Further development of "unused" land should be carefully considered to enhance, not detract from Eltham's green shire character. Further subdivision of residential land to allow construction of multi-story apartments with no gardens and no parking should be prohibited immediately. Building larger roads for more traffic and removal of trees should also be prohibited (remember, we are in a climate crisis). People should be encouraged to walk, cycle, scooter or take public transport into Eltham town centre which should be pedestrianized with more trees, planting of natives on waste ground and beautifying our Main Road. Eltham should lead the way in how a Shire can demonstrate green energy, intensive tree planting, zero carbon emissions.		
20358															New townhouse developments have minimal sunlight and little to no meaningful vegetation. Large tree vegetation maintains the leafy and green nature of this suburb as a good balance between metro and rural settings, so should be respected and maintained. New developments should not be higher than three stories, and should be required to include meaningful vegetation in the setback area. Large existing trees must be kept when turning empty land into townhouses, and also kept when		

Page **119** of **130**

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																demolishing buildings to develop (especially on Luck and Pryor Streets). Car parking is also essential and the spaces to accommodate cars should be maintained and increased (especially behind the Eltham Mall and in front of the dogbox townhouses on Arthur Street).		
20357																	ş	
20356																As a member of the advisory panel who worked on the 2013 St Andrews Township Plan , I strongly advise that the recommendations listed in that plan under "Objectives, Strategies		

Page **120** of **130**

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								<u> </u>							nature of township of St Andrews.		
20355															Vegetation and gardens are synonymous with Eltham character. Overdevelopment destroys old gardens and replaces it with minimal small shrubs and grasses, if anything. Front and back gardens on blocks are important Eltham without mature trees is just any old suburb, not "leafy Eltham". Eltham's history is diverse, so maintaining the mud brick homes, workers cottages and post-war styles pays respect to this history,		
20354	1	Hurstbridge		Casual, country unique - sitting well in the landscape and trees			1	1	1	1			Organic, unique with lots of trees and a variety of low rise built forms. Good size blocks.	remain low rise. Space left for substantial trees. Existing tree preserved. Block retain their size.	What makes this area special and unique - I have lived here most of my life- are the opportunities to interact with nature. These are called "tree change" suburbs because the magnificent canopies are largely intact, especially on the hills. Residents receive huge mental health benefits from the walking trails, the river and the amazing interactions with wildlife. This MUST be protected. The heritage of the First People and the Arts heritage needs to be enhanced and built upon. Planning guidelines need to remain strong to prevent over development and poor quality developments, which have been seen in the area, where you see a bald hillside and extensive reduction in native vegetation. Anywhere can look like an ugly, overbuilt suburb if you let it. The Diamond Valley is a gem. Eltham is still a great place despite some bad outcomes. The State Government needs to change the laws to create better outcomes in VCAT. The council needs to argue for sympathetic, sustainable, environmentally sound development where appropriate. And say nowhere this is not the case.		
20353								2							With the school on Diamond street the rubbish and traffic this brings, present a poor neighbourhood		
20352										\prod					character.		
20351															We need to decide whether we wish to preserve the charm, character and amenability of Diamond creek as it is now or allow the destruction of this in favour of the bland featureless of the new outer suburbs. We must not allow this.		

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20350														Make sure the public bins are emptied regularly. And the grass needs cutting a lot more.		
20349														Like to see more environmentally sustainable design and construction, more light coloured roofs instead of heat absorbing darker coloured roofs that are required by the current Nillumbik planning scheme, that are in turn less sustainable than lighter coloured roofs.		
20348														There are 'new' homes arriving in our neighbourhood. Some of the original homes are being demolished or modernised. Generally, the new homes and architecture has a Georgian influence or standard brick veneer look. This style does not fit in with this area & ultimately the area will lose its character & become a hodge-dodge of buildings that don't relate to each other or the environment. More generally Eltham has some amazing Mudbrick buildings (Allistair Knox). I've always thought how amazing it would be if local government supported & encouraged a revival of this building type so continue the legacy. Sustainable buildings from sustainable materials could be what Nillumbik is renowned for rather than becoming just another outer Melbourne Suburb.		
20347																
20346														We have to consider wildlife corridors. Maintain the tree coverage we already have. Permit only sustainable living buildings. Join our neighbourhoods with good walking and riding infrastructure. We must find ways to have tiny home structures built in this shire. Providing affordable homes. I could go on but you must get my drift.		
20345														Putting more dwellings on a single block will make more traffic on an already busy street and take away the current street appeal and buildings are not almost on the street		
20344																
20343														The views from Porter Street hill are across the valley to South Eltham are of trees and green and these should not be obscured by any high buildings on Porter Street! The open, spacious, well		

Page 122 of 130

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		hat o						he	character	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
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																vegetated feel of the area is enhanced by predominantly single level homes which do not have front fences, and neighbours stop and chat when walking by so it is a friendly neighbourhood. Thornton Street Reserve is a haven of trees and green space and a magnet for families, and dog walkers, and the track through it provides a heart pumping steep workout for walkers and cyclists. The residents in Thornton Street fought hard to prevent a recent subdivision, which was finally approved by VCAT with some modifications, but the resulting built form takes up almost the whole block, trees have been removed and as feared, cars regularly block the road. Previous subdivisions were more sympathetic to the open, spacious and vegetated bushy character of the street.		
20341																,		15
20340	1	North Warrandyte		Rural bushland.				1	1	1	1	1		Large blocks lots of natural bush	Encouraging native gardens, less concrete speed humps to slow traffic as many wallabies are being killed.	This is a beautiful natural environment with abundant wildlife we need this type of environment. Please maintain it.		
20339																Research has a new group of 13 to 16yo (6/7) who are out of control at the shops with the toilet block their hangout. The new toilets are about to be completely tagged by this group. They use the new benches to eat takeaway & have never put their rubbish in the bin & choose to throw bottles to smash or throw in the creek. Please double rubbish bins to suit table usage. CFA carpark was always a shared carpark for park playground use, this limits its usage & forces park visitors to use the shops whilst CFA is not in use. CFA sign is offensive		
20338	1	St Andrews		Semi-rural and natural boundary	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		Native/indige nous tree/vegetati	No developmen ts can	In areas of lower population density it is important to keep all housing consistent with the environment within which it sits. Multi storey developments are		

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				between urban and rural lifestyle. Any developme nt would impact wildlife and would also put more people at risk during bushfire events.									on unique to this area. Abundant wildlife.	improve this area, in fact large tracts need to be kept pristine and preserved for wildlife and future generations.	inappropriate, even higher density style living is inappropriate. There is little infrastructure to support increase in residential population. Roads are narrow and there is NO public transport. The closest retail supplies for food is in Hurstbridge. I believe we need to preserve such areas to allow that corridor and buffer for the wildlife that abounds this area and keep any development north of Diamond Creek to a minimum.		
20335				O TOTALO.							7				Give neighbourhood character the priority it deserves in dealing with planning applications		
20334															There have been a number of studies into the character of Hurstbridge starting with the Henshall-Hansen study for the then Shire of Eltham. Unfortunately these tend to be "Feel Good." reports and have no teeth. Hurstbridge character was well defined in the creation of 'Precincts" such as semibush, bush garden, and the preparation of DD05 (Schedule 5 to the Design and Development Overlay. Also the Hurstbridge Design Guidelines-Heidelberg-Kinglake Road. While these are all good initiatives they seem to be ignored when planning applications are assessed. All these policies should be referenced in the Planning Scheme and applied to any development. I have attended consultative meetings regarding development proposals and been dsgusted at the way the above guidelines have been arbitrarily dismissed. This has led to the gradual destruction of the town's character, especially in the main road along with an increase in the number of dual occupancies in the residential areas. There are signs in place urging people to visit historic Hurstbridge. Maybe the words "Before it Disappears "should be added.		
20333	5							į							Maintain green wedge.		

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20332															More people are coming to Plenty with cafe and access the Gorge however there are limited footpaths and bike tracks in and around the area.		
20330															I am quite happy to stick with the current Nillumbik Precinct SB3 https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/p lanning/planning-for-our-shire/housing-amp-character/hn_sb3_eltham.pdf Any development should serve to continue the indigenous tree canopy as part of a flowing bushland landscape. Retain and replant indigenous canopy trees within the street verge in an informal layout. Eltham is a popular place to live because of its well-spaced green outlook, parks and beautiful blocks of land with a mix of housing styles. This is changing as old homes are sold and replaced by 2 or 3 townhouses on a block or worse - apartment buildings. They look ugly, cause extra traffic and		
20328	1	Hurstbridge	I would like to see some single storey low cost housing available now that you have decided not to do Graysharps road development	quiet country town				1 1	1				shops all look as if they belong due to the restoration of the older buildings	provide single storey housing near the township for people with disabilities	I think most people live in the Nillumbik area because of its trees, clean air and slower pace. I would like to see this preserved and not have roads widened or more traffic. There must be protection for native animals and retention of green wedge. I think low cost housing one level with a small backyard for people with disabilities is really needed in Hurstbridge. It only has housing of this sort for over 55 year olds.		
20327															We love how Hurstbridge feels like a small village & community. We love being surrounded by trees and nature. Love the big blocks and all the wildlife. We would be devastated if it started to be developed & built up. The Main Street needs to be kept similar with the heritage buildings and kept a county town/village feel. It's so important to protect the wildlife and their homes & all the farm land. Please don't let it be subdivided. Please keep Hurstbridge beautiful.		

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20326																	
20325															I believe that the neighbourhood character is made by the people who live there not by specific setback requirements or subdivision rules. If no one can afford to remain in the area and locals are progressively priced out of the neighbourhood then the character will fade even if it looks the same		
20324															Do not allow building to have more than a ground and first floor.		
20323	1	Wattle Glen		A village but there is too much disconnecti on between the station and the hub			1	1	1				It retains what the Green Wedge is about - the east aspect on the Kangaroo Ground Rd is very pretty.	An attractive way to link the station to the station building could be renovated to be more appealing.	The Diamond Creek Trail is a boon to the area. The access points from towns and stations need to be facilitated for pedestrians and need to be linked beautifully to the relevant towns and villages.		
20322	1	Eltham	The area behind the shopping precinct	Overdevelo ped, square concrete, no trees								Nothing, now. It has lost its character.	Not any more - the huge multi- dwelling development s are destroying the neighbourho od feel of central Eltham	Stop the crowding in of high density, multi-storey concrete fortresses from edge to edge of blocks leaving no room for trees	Vital to maintain the unique characteristics of our special town to preserve its architecture, heritage, green space and high liveability. No more huge high density multi-dwelling developments - there are enough already - we will become like Doncaster if allowed to continue apace.		
20321																	
20318															Front fences allowed where appropriate. Should not be brick monoliths that form a fortified encampment look. E.g. some on Broad Gulley road. Picket or similar fences would blend in with older Diamond Creek. There should be a transition of subdivision block		

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					S.F.	В		L						sizes to the UGB. Those on the edges should be larger and should have a homestead character.		
20317	1	Eltham1	Bible Street	Busy, dangerous, bland, eclectic, open						1		Large blocks & proximity to township are being used by developers to progressively change the streetscape with higher density housing on multiple levels. Parking on the road forces Bible it to be single lane but speed/size of cars does not accommodat e	remaining vegetation, increase vegetation especially trees, consider speed humps or contained roadside parking			
20316	1	Diamond Creek		No new developme nts					1			No	No developmen t	Council needs to make a decision now, on the maximum population size of Nillumbik. I consider that number was passed ten years ago. Enhancing the quality of life for the majority of current residents needs to be the guiding philosophy behind any planning decision.		
20315	1	Eltham	Main Road - North of the Town	I don't like the number of units on Main Road, it feels out of character with Eltham.												
20314														Time and again, local residents, rate payers, the Shire's primary community, are in unison in identifying the natural features of our local environment as top of the list when it comes to neighbourhood character. I truly hope that council is		

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20044																genuinely listening and will act as the community's nominated representatives in protecting this core priority. If the natural character of our neighbourhood is allowed to be incrementally undermined, removed, cut down, cleared and diminished, eventually that unique character will be lost and Nillumbik will become 'just another shire'.		
20311																		
20309																Apart from town zone, preference should be given to single level dwellings to encourage downsizing, increase privacy and to blend in with the landscape		
20308																Walther Withers reserve- tradies stop to have lunch here, families with small children stop for picnics and a wander, people walk their dogs. I feel the park needs a diagonal pathway with picnic benches. People sit on logs instead. There are many townhouses and apartments in close proximity to this park and it would benefit these residents as well.		
20306					3				\$		2.5					To keep it just the way it is 😻		
20305																Greater emphasis on improving plant biodiversity in the area, and opening up spaces like the verge for native and productive plants, such as fruit trees. Many neighbours are supporting the community with street libraries and pantries. Street plantings should also be opened up to offering food sources for the community in public spaces.		
																Q. 16 only permits one option for identity? Intersectionality needs to be considered, and a person can be LGBTIQ+ and have a disability.		
20304																Council needs to look at the Eltham town centre as Not A Village but an outer metro suburb		
20303								П			\dagger					What about the rest of Yarrambat? Very subjective areas chosen		No.
20302																Loud music is also destroying the family feel of Eltham. We have a neighbour that often plays loud music from their house up until 11:00pm, and have informed the police of their intent and thus it is therefore OK according to the letter of the law. Turning music down at 11:00pm worked many years		

Page 128 of 130

ID No.	2 nd area select	Area selected	Street selected	5 words						bout ood		character	Specific features	Recommend ed design		First Name	Last Name
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															ago when people were working 9-5, Monday to Friday. Nowadays however, people are working all sorts of days and shifts, and thus if somebody starts work at 3:00am on a Sunday morning, allowing their neighbour to have a party through until 11:00pm with loud music is disrespectful and rude! The loud music/noise rule should be changed to 10:00pm to reflect the times.		
20301															The path needs to be extended from the pub to Long Gully road. It is a dangerous piece of the main road to walk on. The fence outside the pub needs to be extended to the carpark. The area opposite the pub (where the empty piece of land is) needs to be tidied up, the asphalt is a mess. The piece of nature strip in front of some of the houses from the corner of Bakehouse Rd to Merritt's Rd would look much better if tidied up and landscaped so that it doesn't get overgrown. A gravel path through there would be nice. The path between the football club and tennis club would also benefit from landscaping and connecting somehow with the reserve on bishops road.		
20300		Eltham	The whole of Eltham is starting to lose its appeal with the poor development and removal of trees. It's a disgrace that what set us apart as a desirable suburb is gradually being eroded to turn us into an area like any inner suburb in Melbourne.	More like an inner suburb than green wedge									Trees, native vegetation, limited sub division. Like a country feel in a suburb.	Seriously if residents wanted developmen t they wouldn't choose to live here. However, when developmen t occurs it should be unique and different than the rest of Melbourne. More mudbricks and preserving trees and	Why is council so intent on pushing development now in Eltham and Nillumbik? We used to stand apart as the Green Wedge - yes an including Eltham in that. Now after over 30 years of living here it is just being eroded to remove everything we all loved and came here for. Developments are poorly built. Very few have native gardens. Council is removing way too many trees and doesn't seem to care at all about what was unique about Eltham. Always pushing the boundaries to remove green space and to sub divide blocks. Perhaps if we stood firm with what the residents like and maintained our big blocks and green wedge style of living we would become more desirable as a suburb. Surely lockdown has taught us the value of having space in our own backyards and to appreciate the beautiful surrounds we have without inviting more cheap development and overpopulation in an area that is unique and different. Is it wrong to want to value what we have before it is taken from us??? Trees are needed because of climate change. Studies are showing areas like Mernda etc are way too hot		

Page **129** of **130**

ID No.	2 nd area select ed	Area selected	Street selected	5 words		his r	neigl	hbou	rhoo	d?	e charac	ter	Specific features	Recommend ed design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
7.					B F	S B	Н	V S L	Т	VS	Other						
														ensuring developers adhere to rules.	because of no trees. Seriously we don't want to follow suit with other suburbs with development!		

REDACTED VERSION OF ALL GENERAL SUBMISSIONS TO THE FIRST ROUND OF ENGAGEMENT FOR THE NILLUMBIK NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER STRATEGY

TABLE A: LIST OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AND PROVIDED IN THIS DOCUMENT

No	Received from	Comment
1		Individual
2	Wattle Glen Residents' Association	Community Group
3	Roads and Roadside Ecology Northern Nillumbik (RARE)	Community Group
4		Individual At request the submission replaces her earlier survey response.
5	Hurstbridge Community Voice	Community Group
6	Warrandyte Community Association	Community Group
7		Individual
8		Individual
9	Wildlife Advocates of Nillumbik (WAN)	Community Group
10	Eltham Community Action Group (ECAG)	Community Group
11		Individual
12		Individual
13	Clean Energy Nillumbik (CEN)	Community Group
14		Individual
15	Stringybark Community Nursery	Community Group
16		Individual Provided as an email following a presentation on the Strategy to an ESAC meeting. confirmed in a subsequent email that he would like this recorded as a submission.
17		Individual
18	Nillumbik Mudbrick Association	Community Group
19		Individual
	Additional information from	submitted additional information in support of her survey response (documented as survey response No. 20638)

GENERAL SUBMISSIONS

Submission 1 -

The concept of neighbourhood character can only be considered once the concept of neighbourhood is defined. Your current neighbourhoods are randomly grouped, large areas that may or may not have things in common. A neighbourhood is "the immediate environment; surroundings; vicinity". (definition from Dictionary.com.) This implies that a neighbourhood is a smaller area of a couple of streets that intersect, not half a town.

My neighbourhood consists of Valley Court and Edinburgh Street in Diamond Creek. Edinburgh Street is a one lane, unfinished, dirt road. Valley Court is a one lane, finished, no-through road that is about 120m long. Surrounding Edinburgh Street and Valley Court is the Diamond Creek Cemetery, Saw Pit Gully reserve and creek, and the main roundabout in/out of Diamond Creek where Ryans Road meets Diamond Creek Road.

This area has a rural feel to it which is very different to the surrounding areas. The land is divided into large blocks with mostly single-story houses and large areas of green, open space. The smallest property on Valley Court is 690 m2. Everybody who lives on Valley Court and the several houses on Edinburgh Street all know each other. This is a neighbourhood. And it is special. The reason people live here is because of the peace and quiet we have, the open spaces on our property and the fact that we aren't living on top of each other. This neighbourhood is not suburban.

Things that need to be considered are:

Why do people move to or continue to live in Nillumbik? It isn't because it is suburban. People move here because of the nature and space. People who just want suburbia move to the southeastern, eastern, western or northwestern parts of Melbourne where they have small blocks taken up by large houses.

Is there sufficient parking for residents and visitors? The current requirement for 1 visitor space per 5 units may work well on the wide, through road with lots of on street parking, but it doesn't work at all in a neighbourhood that has no on street parking and is a dead-end road, or an unsealed road. People will park on council nature strips. My neighbourhood has no on-street parking. This makes it unsuitable for multi-unit developments. If there were an emergency where we had to leave our houses, it would be very slow going with the narrow, one lane road and dirt road.

What is the housing density? When you have a neighbourhood that has 1 house per large block, inviting development that will cover 1 block with so many units as to double the number of houses on the street does not respect the neighbourhood character. My neighbourhood is special and different to other parts of Diamond Creek. It is an older part of town with a rural feel to it. This should be respected not trampled upon.

What is the building height? When all or most of the existing houses are single story, adding a development of double story units does not respect the neighbourhood character. My neighbourhood is mostly single storey houses. Adding 1 double storey house to the neighbourhood would fit in as the blocks are large. However, a multi-unit development of double storey units does not fit in a rural setting. You wouldn't be approving that in St Andrews, so why approve it in my little corner of Diamond Creek?

What are the natural surrounds? Are there trees (although it doesn't have to be a tree-lined street)? Is the area hilly? Is there any other unique natural feature such as a waterway, park or reserve? Do the houses have gardens? Allowing all the trees on a single block of land to be cut down so a multi-unit development can be built does not respect the neighbourhood character. Every property in my neighbourhood (except1) has either multiple tall trees or a garden with many

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

plants. This is the what the neighbourhood looks like. Very green. Houses are not front and centre. They are back amongst the greenery or surrounded by greenery. This is why we live here.

The other items of neighbourhood character that the council includes are not as important in my neighbourhood. I also don't believe they are necessarily that important in other neighbourhoods. I'm all in favour of diversity of housing and have no problem with modern houses mixing in with traditional houses as long as no house or development overtakes the rest of the neighbourhood. Setbacks don't always apply as there may be reasons some houses are set back differently. For example, on Edinburgh Street, the houses near the bottom of the hill are set way back from the road because the middle of their properties are below the flood level. However, further up the hill houses are closer to the street. It makes no difference on that street. Streetscape needs to be how the street looks from everywhere, not just in front of the house. If a street curves or is a court, there are different views depending on where you are standing. The view may also be different from houses if the street is a hill or the houses are built on hills.

There are some areas that are special and should not be developed to the point that they become something else. People move to these areas because of the special nature of the neighbourhood. I have lived next door to my neighbour for 29 years. Any development should be in line with what already exists. In my neighbourhood, we are all ok with detached, one-storey units on a property because that would fit in with the rest of the neighbourhood. Attached, 2-storey units don't.

The Council needs to get rid of the current Neighbourhood Character Precincts as they do not accurately reflect all neighbourhoods. Because of this, some development is taking place where it shouldn't. Don't destroy Nillumbik.

engagement

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Submission 2

WATTLE GLEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

(Incorporation No. A OO 26090 $\,$ Z))

ESTABLISHED 9th February 1968

PLANNING FOR

*PEOPLE *RECREATION * ENVIRONMENT *SPORTING *WELFARE *ROADS

4/05/2022

Neighbourhood Character Strategy Project Submission

For the Nillumbik Planning Scheme where it pertains to Neighbourhood Character for residential areas of Wattle Glen we currently have the following.

Neighbourhood character

15.01-5S Neighbourhood Character - page 127

Landscape

42.03 Significant Landscape Overlay – page 437

Residential Zone

32.09 Neighbourhood Residential Zone - page 272

Natural environment

42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay - page 425

Wattle Glen Township Strategy amended 2005

Reference document: Recommendations 'Settlement and Housing' - page 9

Neighbourhood Character for Wattle Glen

According to Nillumbik Planning Scheme currently we have:

- a. WG Residential south of Warrington Cres (including Sunnyside Cres and Kamarooka Estate) is GC4 – Garden-Court – shaded in pink below
- b. Residential WG north of this is SB4 Semi-bush 4 shaded in Green

Map below from Planning Scheme page 134



Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

For the recent (December 2021) submissions and workshop comments of Council's Wattle Glen Public Realm Project (WGPRP) officers indicated in their report that the overall responses indicated that residents loved their treed township and want it to stay that way. On the map above the green Semi-Bush (SB4) epitomises these comments and WGRA would not want any new report or Council decision that weakens this area's assessment. It would also be hoped that when the planning officers of the WGPRP refer to the "distinctive character, such as the hilly landscape, the level of indigenous vegetation, the presence of significant environmental features ... and the locality's strong connection to the Nillumbik Green Wedge" that these aspects will be strengthened and extended to more of the Wattle residential area.

As to the pink Garden Court (GC4) part above, this was decided when the Kamarooka Estate development was still in its infancy - so it was probably difficult to decide the areas eventual neighbourhood character and this GC4 also covers the adjacent Diamond Creek township assessment. For this Wattle Glen area (Sunnyside Cres and Kamarooka estate) it would be well worth reviewing this classification as, per above paragraph, as there is now far more tree cover including the not so common Eucalyptus Blakeyi self seeding throughout in the nature strips and backyards.

Significant Landscape Overlay for Wattle Glen

According to Nillumbik Planning Scheme map (see copy below)

- a. WG Residential Kamarooka Estate is not covered by an SLO
- b. All of the rest of residential WG (The vast majority) is covered by a Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO2) as per below map.



Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Siginficant Landscape (SLO2), which covers all of Wattle Glen residential area except for the newer Kamarooka Estate area, provides protection for indigenous vegetation which gives Wattle Glen its' much appreciated and dominating visual township aspect.

In the Nillumbik Planning Scheme this SLO2 states:

"Landscape character objective to be achieved

*TO provide for housing in a residential location in a bushland setting.

*To provide for sensitive siting of buildings and works, access and earthworks and by the restoration of native vegetation where considered appropriate.

*To provide for conservation and enhancement of the environmental values of the area.

*To ensure that the development of land and the removal of native vegetation are not detrimental to the natural environment and character of the area."

*To minimise the threats to the natural environment through the unnecessary removal of vegetation in these areas.

With these objectives SLO2 has a huge relevance to the Neighbourhood Character for this large part of Wattle Glen and these aspects should be respected and encouraged in any future Neighbourhood character deliberations.

Our Association's main concern is that when assessing applications for new or enlarging dwellings is the lack of officer recognition of the value of indigenous trees, vegetation, dwelling colour and fencing (it is supposed to be post and wire) when the application calls for a bigger dwellings on now often smaller blocks - perhaps the issue here is that the council planning department are not adequately briefing new officers on the green nature of Nillumbik townships and the importance of the Significant Landscape Overlay for residential areas as in most of Wattle Glen township.

NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTIAL ZONE for Wattle Glen

According to Nillumbik Planning Scheme map (see copy below)

- c. WG Residential Kamarooka Estate is zoned General Residential Zone (GRZ1)
- d. All of the rest of residential WG is Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ1)

e.



Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

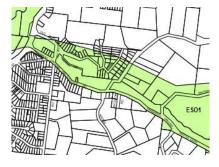
The State Government introduced the Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ1) into the Planning Scheme for the above part of Wattle Glen. This zoning gives strong guidance for new dwellings visually fitting in with the concept of neighbourhood. It covers aspects such as the minimum lot size, the maximum building height and the maximum amount of the lot area that a new dwelling is allowed to cover. Whilst this zone is as good as we can currently expect it would be good for this new introduction of Neighbourhood Character could look at ways of improving the "neighbourhood "aspect."

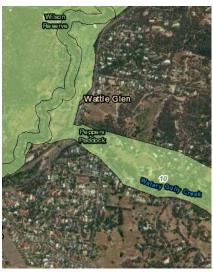
The pink General Residential Zone (GRZ) part of Wattle Glen, is again the Kamarooka Estate. It is the same zone as the adjacent Diamond Creek Township GRZ. However, with all blocks in Kamarooka Estate now having a residential dwelling there is an argument that this part of Wattle Glen should also have its own version of NRZ as there is a clear boundary between this estate and the Diamond Creek township.

ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY

In Wattle Glen the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO1) includes residential properties along the Watery Gully Creek valley in parts of Clarke Ave, Park Ave and Valley Rd, Wattle Glen.

See two maps below.





Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

While an Environmental Significant Overlays (ESO1) is usually used for rural areas this overlay adds to the vegetation protection for Wattle Glen residential properties that drain directly into the Watery Gully Creek. Thus the ESO1 has positive effect on the water quality of Watery Gully Creek which flows through the centre of the Wattle Glen residential area. This in turn contributes to the rural feel of the Wattle Glen residential Neighbourhood Character.

Wattle Glen Township Strategy - amended 2005

Being the current Nillumbik Council Township Strategy for Wattle Glen makes strong statements in support of the Victorian planning scheme including a strong statement that "Council not support the rezoning of any land outside of the UGB for further residential Development" - (recommendation 25)

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Further, included in the section on "Settlement and Housing" there are strong recommendations pertaining to Neighbourhood Character including:

- That no additional residential development is supported on land with a slope of 20% or greater (Rec 26. Page 9)
- That no residential development be considered on land in close proximity to creeks and major drainage lines and which is subject to overland flooding. (Rec 27, page 9)
- All threatened vegetation communities should be protected Rec 28, page 9)
- /all vegetation communities shown coloured yellow, orange or red as shown Map 19 and thus
 having a botanical significance of 3 or more should be protected and should not be considered for
 further residential development (Rec 29, page 9 and map 19 page 122)

Concluding remarks

- 1. It would be great if this Neighbourhood Character Strategy could help bring all of Wattle Glen residential areas together as a neighbourhood and encourage the protections we already have to be appreciated, widened and improved where possible.
- 2. It is our understanding that Nillumbik Council does have a streetscape tree planting program; and for the Wattle Glen township, this should be used to help provide a combined visual neighbourhood character, but using indigenous trees, not just native trees, to be consistent with the community council planting on Peppers Paddock and with Melbourne Water planting along the Watery Gully Creek that goes through the middle of Wattle Glen township.
- 3. The majority of land in Wattle Glen is rural-zoned Green Wedge land; and the Urban Growth Boundary passes through Wattle Glen township. For years, the *Wattle Glen Residents' Association* has been

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

promoting the notion of 'living in harmony with nature' as well as 'Wattle Glen as a Gateway to the Green Wedge' as part of our role and identity. Therefore, this should be incorporated into any descriptors of our Neighbourhood Character for the residential areas.

4. Unfortunately, we currently have huge environment-destroying developments occurring at the railway station area, in the centre of Wattle Glen. To prevent these carparking and substation developments destroying our Neighbourhood Character, we need Nillumbik Council to use its influence, and insist on consistency with the aims of the adjacent SLO2. Ideally that involves vegetation rehabilitation using indigenous plant stock around new structures and carparks; creative rehabilitation of at least the three smaller gullies (on map below, nos. 1, 2 & 3) near the station; only using wildlife friendly fencing; and aim to have the area meld in with Peppers Paddock, which is within a stone's throw of the new station works. For this to happen on this and all public land, we need better communication between public landowners and council's (land use) planning and environment department.

As outlined and numbered in red colour on the below map, the railway land west of Main Hurstbridge Road in the Wattle Glen area, contains four gully areas. To nurture our neighbourhood character "Gateway to the Green Wedge" along Heidelberg-Kinglake Rd these gullies need rehabilitation with indigenous plants and, given these gullies appear to be a Melbourne Water responsibility when woks finish, Council needs to liaise with Melbourne Water to ensure this happens.



- 5. By the way, to help with Neighbourhood Character of residential areas generally, we would also like to see the promotion and greater incorporation of a 'green rather than a grey infrastructure' design approach to any new local public infrastructure including water (storm water and waterways) management. This we believe is possible as it would be very consistent with our current "semi bush' Council designation for much of the Wattle Glen residential area.
- 6. Wattle Glen is not only home to many people but also to much wildlife the latter indeed, very much in the urban areas as well. Raising awareness about local wildlife and their needs (eg. their habitat and movement corridors), is an ongoing commitment. Ergo, the need to affirm indigenous vegetation is important: to strengthen the integrity (and consistency) of landscape values (SLOs), of the Green Wedge and Gateway values, of the habitat of indigenous wildlife, and possible ESOs (Environmental Significant Overlay) where that applies on residential land.
- 7. Much of the residential areas in Wattle Glen abut the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and hence the rural land; therefore the residential land use impacts on the adjacent Green Wedge. The land use

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

happening on residential land should be considered and the impact on wildlife minimised. Eg. wildlife habitat, and the ability of local wildlife to traverse land (including between residential and rural zoned land), should be encouraged. In theory the current Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO2) in Wattle Glen supports this Neighbourhood Character aspect with it requiring only "post and wire" rural fencing, however just recently council officers appear to have approved a six foot high cyclone fence as meeting the 'post and wire' criterion – not only a SLO breach, but impassable for most wildlife.

- 8. Another significant feature about Wattle Glen's identity and character are the increasing recreational trails converging in our township (Diamond Creek Regional Trail, Green Wedge Regional Trail and Council's Pretty Hill Trail). We expect them, as well as being local (urban) walking trails, to offer significant opportunities in the future as they get to join together. Thus land-use planning should be sympathetic in this aspiration and the trails be recognised, both as alternatives to road use, but also as connectors within Wattle Glen and as connectors to the wider Nillumbik network. In fact, with development of these trails they should be recognised as part of the Neighbourhood Character of our township and pa part of its endearing landscape.
- 9. In considering Nillumbik communities like Wattle Glen where the residential area abuts the Urban Growth Boundary, officers should consider Nillumbik Shires own publication for residential housing:

SDAPP

Sustainable Design Assessment

in the Planning Process
10 Key Sustainable Building Categories

Three quotes:

"This fact sheet will explain ways to improve our urban ecosystem through the incorporation of vegetation through landscaping for both new and existing developments."

"Select plants that are indigenous as they will best suit your local climate and soil. Research what plants will attract native birds and insects"

"In addition to creating larger areas of habitat in local parks and reserves, sustainable gardening around dwellings and buildings can contribute to increasing habitat value and urban ecology."

Well worth considering all these ideas when considering Wattle Glen Neighbourhood Character.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement



RARE Northern Nillumbik (Roads and Roadside Ecology Northern Nillumbik)

Submission to the Nillumbik Council Neighbourhood character strategy

RARE NN

RARE Nillumbik Roads and Roadside Ecology, Northern Nillumbik is a community group focused on, as our name suggests, roads and roadside ecology of northern Nillumbik. The areas that we cover are the more rural wards of Nillumbik Council; Bunjil, Sugarloaf, Blue Lake and Ellis. We were founded in 2017 and have worked to address speed limits on roads, roadside conservation and the wildlife road toll.

RARE represents local community members living in the northern council ward areas of Nillumbik. We have an email list of 65 people and over 140 people follow our facebook group page. RARE has hosted several community events including a meeting with Council and VicRoads representative to address the wildlife road toll, and a meeting to communicate the impacts of the Yan Yean Rd Stage 2 development. We have made submissions to Council on the Green Wedge Management Plan and to the State Government on the Yan Yean Rd Stage 2. RARE has worked with other environment groups to establish the ongoing Save The Six campaign to save six ancient River Red Gums on Yan Yean Rd from removal.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Roads and roadsides are the 'front of house' for residents and visitors, they are places we spend time in and come to associate with our home.

The neighbourhood character is influenced strongly by our roads, roadsides and the visual aspect from them. The current neighbourhood character statements recognise the integral part roads play in our neighbourhood character with clear guides on street planting, footpaths, road verges and roadway treatments. For this reason, RARE believes that it is important to consider roads, roadsides and views form these in the Neighbourhood character strategy.

The numbered survey questions are followed each area. As a general addition though, RARE recommends the following is applicable to all towns of northern Nillumbik and be inserted into all of the neighbourhood character strategies. These additions compliment the character of each area and would be expected inclusions given the recent Climate Emergency Declaration by Nillumbik Council, and increased residential use of neighbourhood areas for work-from-home and recreation in the Covid era.

6(ALL) How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?

RARE recommends that – for Hurstbridge, St Andrews, Panton Hill, Diamond Creek, Yarrambat and Plenty, the following be added to the neighbourhood character statement

- Roads are an integral part of the neighbourhood character. While the roads in the towns of northern Nillumbik allow movement, they are also places where we walk, run, ride, meet and engage with neighbours. We appreciate the beauty of the neighbourhood as near our homes in our travel from work or school. We associate our roads as part of our place. Roads of northern Nillumbik need to be registered in the VicRoads Movement and Place framework as being places of local and neighbourhood significance. Such classification will ensure that VicRoads take into account the place characteristics of our roads rather than regarding them as purely for movement in decision making about speeds, and environment.
- Under 'Roadway Treatment' add the design objective: "to reduce traffic speed on Council roads". This objective currently is included in the

- should be for all council roads, not just those in the Garden Court Precincts as seen in the current neighbourhood character statements.
- For all new Council funded or part funded developments; the embodied carbon (carbon footprint of the development's construction and materials) be minimised and be included in Council emissions statistics. This includes all council developments including such developments as buildings, lighting structures, footpaths, landscaping etc
- Developments should be designed to minimise carbon emissions in use, improve air and water quality, reduce urban heat island effect, and demonstrate how the impact on biodiversity has been minimised. No development be allowed in Flood Inundation Zones areas to retain the healthy biodiverse creek and creekside environment
- Removal of native flora and habitat for fauna should be avoided in order to retain the tree lined, shady character, and wildlife presence which is a part of the neighbourhood character. Any proposals that relate to tree removal for hazard be accompanied by an independent arborist assessment.
- Encroachment into tree structural zones and more than 10 % of tree
 protection zones by development be regarded as tree removal and be
 avoided. This is in compliance with the current planning schedule
 clause 52.17 which regards such encroachment as consequential or
 assumed loss and requires a permit.
- Roadside burning and clearing be avoided due to the significant importance of the Nillumbik roadsides on neighbourhood character in regards to both the flora itself as well as the wildlife it sustains.
 Disturbance in such narrow areas causes significant edge effect with weeds encroaching after the vegetation is destroyed. Weeds such as tall exotic grasses on roadsides then add to the community fire concern leading to mowing as a solution and loss of bushland character
- Dead trees are retained and any required pruning is minimised with hollows, parts of lateral branches that will form hollows in time, and bird and mammal perches retained
- Roadside weeds are controlled without damage to native flora or fauna.
 To retain the flora and fauna attributes of the area which are part of the
 character of all areas of northern Nillumbik, herbicide should not be
 applied to roadsides. Some exceptions for isolated spot spraying could
 be considered
- All trees that are large (i.e. have reached Large Old Tree size for the ecological vegetation community) should be heritage listed or have a heritage overlay placed on them

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

• For all areas covered in our submission, RARE recommends that the neighbourhood character strategy should be extended to also cover development in Public Park and Recreation Zones, and Multi Use Zones. The character of the PPRZ and MUZ are critical to the character of the area. These areas are often dominant in a visual sense from residential areas so are part of the views experienced in residential zones. They are often a part of the experience in accessing residential zones and are often important parts of residents and visitors experience of the neighbourhood, so should have the same character strategy as the residential and township zones.

Individual area responses:

1. Which neighbourhood

Hurstbridge

2. Which part of Hurstbridge:

We comment on the whole area

3. Five words or less:

Hurstbridge to us is a place where **community lives in the environment**

4. What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Rare likes:

Built form

Setbacks

Heights of buildings and homes

Vegetation

Street Layout

Topography

Views

5. Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?

Hurstbridge is unique in the way a substantial sized community and commercial centre can thrive within a relatively intact and healthy environment. Indigenous plants and native fauna are dominant and not separated from community, trees which have died also seen as part of the natural environment and retained. Ancient trees stand right within the centre of the busy shopping strip and attract flocks of native birds, platypus thrive in the creek running through the centre of town, kangaroos move into the recreational areas as people move inside for the night. Threatened species are seen here. Trees with natural understory line the roads with minimal cleared verges

6. How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character? Views of the Diamond Creek corridor are being impacted by the diamond creek trail. Revegetation is required to screen the view of the concrete path from the Heidelberg – Kinglake Rd. The shady character of the Creekside has been eroded by tree loss and pruning for this trail and should be restored by canopy tree planting

RARE supports for Hurstbridge all of the general additions recommended in **6(ALL)** above

RARE supports the retention of all of the elements in the current precinct BG3 guidelines with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads

RARE supports the retention of all of the elements in the current precinct SB4 guidelines - with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads'

RARE supports the retention of all of the current residential design guidelines

- We note that the Public Park and Recreation Zone is a dominant feature of Hurstbridge, this area runs the length of Hurstbridge township and features in most views from the town. The creekside wildlife corridor contributes to the abundance of wildlife in the area. These areas are essential elements of the character and should be protected from inappropriate modification by Council by inclusion in the character strategy.
- Encroachment into tree structural zones and more than 10 % of tree protection zones has caused significant tree loss in Hurstbridge. Valuable large old trees on roadsides in Hurstbridge have been killed by root damage such as the Yellow box on Arthurs Creek Rd near 'Burkes tree' killed by Melbourne Water works in the root zone; the ancient Yellow Box and Eucalyptus Blakelyi west of Lot 1 Graysharpes Rd killed by Council footpath construction in the root zones; and the 2 Yellow Gums outside 816 Kinglake Heidelberg Rd killed by Council's unnecessary mechanical ripping of root zones before the planting of shrubs. The recent landscape works around the war memorial on the corner of Anzac Rd has killed the remnant River Red Gum near the works.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

1. Which neighbourhood

St Andrews

2. Which part:

We comment on the whole area

3. Five words or less:

St Andrews to us is precious wildlife, trees and beauty

4. What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply

Built form

Setbacks

Heights of buildings and homes

Vegetation

Street Layout

Topography

Views

5. Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?

St Andrews is dominated by natural bush vegetation and aesthetic; the built form is significantly screened. Built form has natural elements such as mud brick, wood and natural colours. Infrastructure is natural such as dirt or gravel paths and car parking areas. The small area of bitumen parking, is not consistent with the town character.

6. How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?

RARE supports the retention of all of the elements in the current precinct S guidelines with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads'

RARE supports the retention of all of the current residential design guidelines

RARE supports for St Andrews all of the general additions recommended in **6(ALL)** above

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

1. Which neighbourhood

Panton Hill

2. Which part:

We comment on the whole area

3. Five words or less:

Panton Hill is an active community surrounded by reserves

4. What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply

Built form

Setbacks

Heights of buildings and homes

Vegetation

Street Layout

Topography

Views

5. Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?

Panton Hill is a place where community is always out – in the natural bush reserves or on the oval. The joy and beauty of these reserves dominate the character of the town.

6. How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?

RARE supports the retention of all of the elements in the current precinct S guidelines with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads'

1. Which neighbourhood

Plenty

2. Which part:

We comment on the whole area

3. Five words or less:

Established community beside the gorge

4. What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply

Built form (except for the fire station)

Setbacks

Heights of buildings and homes

Vegetation, although removal of old trees and indigenous ground flora becoming an issue

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Street Layout (with exception of the divide that Yan Yean Rd has created) Topography

Views (with the exception of the Fire Station and Yan Yean Rd)

5. Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?

Large blocks with large old trees. Proximity to the Plenty Gorge, and Blue Lake

6. How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?

RARE supports the creation of a neighbourhood character strategy that includes all of the elements in the current precinct S guidelines for Panton Hill and St Andrews with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads'

1. Which neighbourhood

Yarrambat

2. Which part:

We comment on the whole area

3. Five words or less:

Space for recreation and trees

4. What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply

Built form

Setbacks

Heights of buildings and homes

Vegetation, although removal of old trees and indigenous ground flora will be an issue with Yan Yean Rd stage 2

Topography

Views

5. Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?

Large blocks. Old trees line the roads and there are large well used recreation areas which are shared with the wider community. Threatened bird species visit and attract twitchers from afar. Kangaroos are nearly always seen and make a picture in the paddocks on misty mornings. Recreational fishing is popular in the Yarrambat Lake (Yarrambat Casting Pool)

6. How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?

RARE supports the creation of a neighbourhood character strategy that includes all of the elements in the current precinct S guidelines for Panton Hill and St Andrews with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads'

More consideration needs to be given to restricting the vegetation removal

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

proposed by the Yan Yean Rd development which will dramatically change the character of the area.

Old trees such as the 6 ancient River Red Gums in the paddocks of 900 Yan Yean Rd should be considered for heritage registration and protection. These ancient trees are proposed to be destroyed for the Yan Yean Rd interchange. The Yan Yean Rd development should be redesigned to minimise the footprint in Rural Conservation Zone Land and Public Park and Recreation Zone land.

1. Which neighbourhood

Diamond Creek

2. Which part of Hurstbridge:

Heidelberg – Kinglake Rd and all residential areas, recreational zones and mixed-use zones

3. Five words or less:

Local meeting place

4. What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Rare likes:

Built form

Setbacks

Heights of buildings and homes

Vegetation

Topography

Views

5. Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?

The remnant River Red Gums

The views to the Diamond Creek riparian area

6. How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character? No building be allowed

RARE supports the retention of all of the elements in the current precinct guidelines: GC2*, GC3, GC4, GC5, HNR dc north research**, and the Residential design guidelines

*except the comment that the key characteristic is low gardens predominantly exotic – this appears to have changed – there is now a predominance of canopy trees and native gardens with natural indigenous vegetation along aqueduct road which should be prioritised for retention. This roadside needs significant vegetation classification and signage to be erected to preserve this remnant understory.

** with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads

engagement

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

RARE support for Diamond Creek, the additions recommended in **6(ALL)** above

Views to the Diamond Creek corridor have been impacted by the development on the hillside west of the creek. The separation of townships in Nillumbik is part of the character of the area and should be considered here

Neighbourhood character submission

Revised (the survey I completed 2 weeks ago had errors in it) Please replace the survey with this submission



Neighbourhood Character Strategy (NCS)

- 1. Which neighbourhood (see study area map) would you like to comment on? (please select one) You will have the opportunity to comment on another area below)
 - Hurstbridge
- 2. If you would like to comment on a particular street or area in this neighbourhood, please tell us the name of the relevant street(s) or road(s) here
 - all
- 3. Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)

Connected to history

- 4. What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply
 - Setbacks (how far buildings/ homes are set back from the street)
 - Vegetation (like gardens, trees, plants, bush)
 - Street layout (street configuration, subdivision pattern)
 - Streetscape (how the street/road looks)
- 5. Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?

The town plan for Hurstbridge is unusual – residents from both sides of the creek look towards this beautiful central area and can readily access it for passive and active recreation.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Most parts of town would experience more wildlife than in most suburbs of Melbourne.

Very few main shopping strips would have ancient trees shading the shops and paths. It is close to a 20 minute town

House gardens blend into one another with a consistent theme of indigenous plants Most views of the town are dominated by eucalypt canopy rather than roofs

Most streets have wide natual nature strips with porous tracks – with pedestrians and children on bikes using dirt tracks in the grass

The town is separated from other towns by rural zones

6. How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?

The Public Park and Recreation zoned areas need to be included in the neighbourhood character strategy

Retain all elements of the current neighbourhood character statements BG3 and SB4 with the inclusion (as seen in the GC statements) of the road treatment design objective to reduce traffic speeds.

Retain all elements of the current residential design guidelines

The traditional custodians of the area and their culture should be consulted in regards to place naming and any developments on public land.

Retain all overlays

Add heritage overlays to all trees at or over the Large Old Tree size for the ecological vegetation class in which the tree is located

Protect views of the town from the recreational / wildlife (the green space along the Diamond Creek) area by not allowing permits for canopy tree removal or lopping where removals allow built form to intrude into the canopy cover. Tree removals or lopping for safety when verified by an independent arborist excluded from this requirement

Protect views of the recreational / wildlife area (the green space along the Diamond Creek) from the shopping and residential areas by not allowing permits for canopy tree removal or lopping where removals allow built form to intrude into the canopy cover. Tree removals or lopping for safety when verified by an independent arborist excluded from this requirement

All Council developments should be required to comply with neighbourhood character – including paving, buildings, signs, fences, retaining walls, curbs, water sensitive design etc. This would encompass ensuring that the development improves the area's biodiversity, natural appeal and clean air and reduces the area's embodied and ongoing carbon emissions and pollution

Advise new residents of tree removal laws and penalties for removing trees without a permit where required

Ensure Council abide by cl 52.17 of the Planning Scheme and all overlays in regards to tree removal including tree root encroachment

Ensure maintenance of the PPRZ area does not destroy the character – eg mowing is destroying natural regeneration and thus over time reducing vegetation cover and biodiversity

Improve transparency in the development approval process by making applications public, including all council development proposals

7. Would you like to comment on another neighbourhood?

Yes

8. Which neighbourhood (see study area map) would you like to comment on?

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Diamond Creek

9. If you would like to comment on a particular street or area in this neighbourhood, please tell us the name of the relevant street(s) or road(s) here

Heidelberg - Kinglake Rd, and the town plan in general

10. Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/ homes, the street, landscape look and feel)

Remnant River Red Gum dominated

- 11. What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply
 - Vegetation (like gardens, trees, plants, bush)

12. Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?

The remnant River Red Gums

Separation of residential area from that of neighbouring towns by zoning The recreation and habitat area following the Diamond Creek in part of the town Bitumen rather than concrete footpaths

13. How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?

More indigenous vegetation

A minimum amount of area required for landscaping that can screen developments and reduce the visual and heat impact of developments including car parks Permits that include landscaping should require a permit to remove said landscaping, eg the Mitre 10 car park eucalypts trees have been removed, and the plant species dramatically changed. The vegetation between the petrol station and the road has been removed

No development in Land Subject to Inundation Overlay areas

Permit requirement for tree root encroachment to be enforced – eg The current development in the Main Rd near the Ambulance will no doubt kill the remnant river red gums adjoining it due to encroachment into the structural root zone and more than 10% of the tree protection zone.

14. Do you have any final feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character that you would like considered?

Submission 5 -

Please review your answers below and submit your responses on confirmation.

Neighbourhood Character Strategy (NCS)

1. Which neighbourhood (see study area map) would you like to comment on? (please select one) You will have the opportunity to comment on another area below)

Hurstbridge

2. If you would like to comment on a particular street or area in this neighbourhood, please tell us the name of the relevant street(s) or road(s) here

Heidelberg - Kinglake Rd, and the town plan and character in general

3. Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)

Eucalypt covered rural town

- 4. What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply
 - Setbacks (how far buildings/ homes are set back from the street)
 - Vegetation (like gardens, trees, plants, bush)
 - Street layout (street configuration, subdivision pattern)
 - Streetscape (how the street/road looks)

5. Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?

Healthy creek with associated riparian vegetation area that forms the 'spine' of the town. This is a wide and continuous green area from the north to the south of the town and provides an important wildlife corridor and passive and active recreation area for residents and visitors

The green 'spine' of the town is well used and close to properties on both sides of town

The large old native trees

Native vegetation in front gardens

Setbacks to allow for these gardens and for street trees to thrive (for residential sites in the street)

Low density housing

Wide nature strips

Bitumen rather than concrete paths in township and porous (gravel, granitic, or dirt) paths in recreation areas

Areas that have natural appeal and have no built form

Canopy cover over the residential area as well as over the creek area. The views into the residential parts of town from the recreational area and town centre are dominated by tree canopies

Separation of residential area from that of neighbouring towns by zoning

6. How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?

Consideration of traditional custodians of the area in place naming, use of native plants, restoration of environment and historical communications

All development applications should be freely available to community for assessment. No canopy tree removal should be allowed without a permit (native or other).

Consideration of sustainability in decision making for approval of all development permits (including municipal and state government developments). This would

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

encompass ensuring that the development improves the area's biodiversity, and reduces the area's embodied and ongoing carbon emissions

Ensure that the current planning scheme requirement for permits for tree root zone encroachment for native trees – is enforced.

(Note that The current planning scheme *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* requires applicants to identify all native vegetation loss, including consequential and assumed loss of native vegetation (Section 2.3.3 of the Guidelines). Assumed loss includes encroachment into the Tree Protection Zone or Structural Root Zone, as specified in AS4970-2009.)

Retain all of the elements and boundaries in the current neighbourhood character statement with the addition of the value and retention of the wide green habitat and recreation 'spine' of the town

Enhancement of the habitat of the creek corridor by widening the area of riparian vegetation on either side of the creek

Retention of the natural appeal of areas that currently are not dominated by built form Consideration of the canopy cover of the town when assessing development permits

7. Would you like to comment on another neighbourhood?

no

- 8. Which neighbourhood (see study area map) would you like to comment on?
- 9. If you would like to comment on a particular street or area in this neighbourhood, please tell us the name of the relevant street(s) or road(s) here
- 10. Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/ homes, the street, landscape look and feel)
- 11. What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply
- 12. Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?
- 13. How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?
- 14. Do you have any final feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character that you would like considered?

In person community meetings are required for this kind of process to get a more representational view

The restriction of the strategy to just areas zoned GRZ, NRZ, MUZ, LDRZ, TZ should be reconsidered. The character of Hurstbridge is dominated by the character of the central recreation/ wildlife area, it is what we see as we approach and what we view from most areas of town. It affects our enjoyment of open space, our clean air, the temperature we experience, and the wildlife of the area. The character of this area is being dramatically impacted by the addition of built form, changing the ground slopes and levels, filling the creek overflow area, adding concrete paths, adding inappropriately styled furniture, removal of natural regeneration, trimming of trees and shrubs to a 'council- aesthetic'.

The recreation / wildlife area character needs protection with inclusion in the neighbourhood character strategy. Natural materials should be used for any furniture or paths. Indigenous plants should be used. Natural regeneration should be allowed, no removal or lopping of canopy trees except for independent arborist verified safety reasons, the riparian area should be protected from intrusion of lighting, noise and weeds.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Buildings planned for the recreation area will dramatically change the character of the area if not part of the strategy. These buildings need to follow the same character strategy as for the residential area, with wide enough setbacks for screening, and protection of canopy trees to that ensure the built form does not intrude into the views into this recreational area from the town.

About You

- 15. First Name for
 Hurstbridge Community Voice –

 16. Last Name
 17. Email
- 18. Gender
- 19. Age
- 20. What is your connection to Nillumbik?

Local community group

- 21. What township/locality do you live in? Cottles Bridge and Hurstbidge
- 22. I identify as ..
- 23. How did you hear about this consultation?

Facebook

Previous

engagement

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

SUBMISSION FROM THE WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION TO THE NILLUMBIK COUNCIL REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER STRATEGY

Restrict the content of your submission to the scope of matters relevant to the project and current engagement, including the following matters:

o How would you define the neighbourhood character of North Warrandyte?

Our submission is in relation to the Low Density Residential Zone of North Warrandyte.

We define its neighbourhood character as a low-density housing within a native bushland environment.

o What do you like about the neighbourhood character North Warrandyte?

Character Attributes & Architectural Style, form and layout

Built structures have low visual impact and blend in with the environment,

Era of buildings

Mixed

Existing building quality

Some existing buildings are unique, most are high quality, many are significant or architecturally interesting, e.g. Robin Boyd houses, the Danila Vassilieff house, and Alistair Knox houses. A few artists shacks and studios remain, for example Deborah Halpern, Gus McLaren.

Primary materials: Everything including mud brick, single brick, timber, solid brick,

Roof form: flat or pitched

Roof material: some clay tiles, and flat or pitched colorbond steel,

Scale of existing development:

Dominant residential form: Single dwellings on allotments mostly $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to two acres in size, though there are afew older $\frac{1}{4}$ acre subdivisions

Dominant residential typology: mix of single level, split level because of steep typography, and some two-storey

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Setbacks and Siting: most are setback from the front and sides as blocks are relatively large, and most people do not want to be too close to their neighbours. By having side setbacks, neighbours can avoid unsightly and costly fencing, and it allows movement of native animals.

Consistency of setbacks: most are setback

Dominance of parking structures: most houses have a carport or garage/ garages. This is because the blocks are relatively large and can accommodate parking structures, the roads are narrow and do not allow parking, and being a treed area, there is a risk of tree damage if cars are not garaged.

Front fencing and Footpaths: Front fencing is variable. Front fencing has increased, in part due to the increase in dog ownership. Houses where the native bush has been cleared tend to have fences in order to provide the privacy that native bush once allowed. We prefer no fencing in front yards to maintain the character of the area.

Front fence height. Preference is for low fences if there are any

Front fence type: currently variable, from post and wire to high cement block or stone walls. We advocate no front fences on boundary in order to keep bush environment.

Footpath presence; it varies and is often just on one side of the street. Generally there is a winding gravel path on side streets, but main roads have asphalt paths in places.

Vegetation. Most blocks have native vegetation, and there is considerable roadside native vegetation.

Public and private landscaping: there are a few formally landscaped blocks but most are natural, or have enhanced native bush, that is owners have used a native landscape design.

Private garden type. We prefer the retention of the native landscape. However, we also support built or enhanced native gardens, that harmonise with the bush environment. We do not support the exotic gardens for example, palm trees, cactus, Agapanthas and weed species (for example Pittosporum and Cootamundra Wattle).

Street tree types: mostly it is native vegetation and trees in the streets. We would like to see more understory in streets, as they provide good screening, and habitat for birds and small animals.

View-lines and Topography

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

North Warrandyte has beautiful view-lines to the Dandenongs, Kangaroo Ground, the Green Wedge and city, as there are many ridgelines. We discourage the higher form of houses, built to get view-lines, as this often destroys everyone else's natural views. We oppose bulky form buildings where the aim is to enhance view-lines to owner but have the consequence of destroying view-lines from the streetscape.

Road Network: There are two main roads and the rest are meandering lanes and small roads.

Road layout: Roads largely have been designed to achieve gentle grades by routing along contours, for example The Boulevard.

Road surface: Mostly informal sealed roads, still some dirt roads.

Drainage: currently there are mainly table or open channel (OUD) drains. Many of the discharge points are not properly connected up so you get erosion. We recommend improvements here, but not kerb and channel.

O What contributes to the neighbourhood character of Nth Warrandyte?

Having primarily native vegetation on the roadside and on properties. The predominance of gentle to steep hills. North Warrandyte is not flat. It is a hilly terrain, and this contributes to the gullies and vistas which open up as you drive through.

Absence of intrusive built form. The consistency of low density character. No commercial areas.

North Warrandyte does not have any parks, which means that as there are no places for families to meet or congregate. There are no shops or formal commercial businesses or centre. There is only one small park in Weerona Way, built when the street was developed.

However, North Warrandyte has a number of State Parks (Glynns Road and Norman Reserve) and riverside walks. This adds to the character and makes it very attractive for locals and people from adjacent suburbs. It also has very special wildflower reserves (e.g. Professor's Hill). All of this creates a beautiful riverine environment, which is reflected in the character. Many houses are sited or designed to take advantage of this.

North Warrandyte abuts the Yarra River and also has a number of beautiful gullies and creeks, (e.g. Stoney Creek and Pigeon Bank). Because of the meandering flow of the river, most residents can easily access the River within 5-10 minutes walks from their houses. This is central to the neighbourhood character of North Warrandyte.

o How could new development be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character in North Warrandyte?

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Encouraging developments that blend with the environment, rather than making an architectural statement. We want to houses that are sympathetic to the environment and the landscape.

Limiting the built form on the block with a building envelope, suitable for the size and dimensions of the block. Scale the building to the size of the block, having regard to the size, dimensions and gradient of the block. The built form envelope should include the residence, sheds, gardens, pool and other ancillary buildings.

This needs to be given effect through the use of a defined building envelope.

Our preference is that fences on the front boundary should not be permitted. Where fencing is required to contain an animal or small children, it should run from the side of the residence to the side boundary.

We need guidelines regarding the scale of ancillary structures that are appropriate to residential use. We are not against people having a hobby facility, but when a structure becomes commercial in size it is clearly not ancillary to residential use and can often be surreptitiously used for commercial or business purposes which undermine the residential zoning. Just because allotments in North Warrandyte are larger than a typical suburb does not mean that they can be filled with storage sheds and commercial workshops. It is not appropriate because of traffic movements, inappropriate land use, the inevitable destruction of a bush block and the impact on the amenity of other residents. We need to restrict the area of disturbance on a property and ensure that land uses are truly residential.

Any new planning controls will need to be implemented and enforced..

Submission 7

Submission re. Neighbourhood Character Strategy submitter – 8 8 May 2022

What determines neighbourhood character?

The video by Jessica Farrugia and Lindsay Fraser covers it very well.

For me the vegetation is the primary component of the neighbourhoods I feel at home in. Then the buildings (houses) - whether they fit into the environment (complement it) or jar (seek to dominate). A different and distinctive house can work but it needs to be well designed and located, not just a volume builder house plonked on a block of land.

Neighbourhood Character precincts vs reality

I live in an area of Eltham that is zoned as NRZ1 with overlays SLO2 and ESO1. The Neighbourhood Character precinct is Semi Bush - SB3.

In my experience with planning decisions and VCAT determinations for my immediate neighbourhood the NRZ zoning trumps the overlays and neighbourhood character comes a distant last.

If I look at the existing SB3 guidelines, which in general seem fine, and then compare them to many (most?) properties in my extended neighbourhood the mismatch is staggering. It's as if the SB3 guidelines don't exist.

So, there can be a good Neighbourhood Character Strategy but unless it's given weight in the planning process (and enforced?) it's just a nice aspirational statement, divorced from reality.

<u>Vegetation</u> – canopy trees vs understorey

The tall canopy trees are fairly well protected and the Neighbourhood Character precincts state tree density objectives. However the understorey (shrubs), groundcover and grasses are not as well specified.

Within the SB3 precinct I regularly see housing developments occur where the remnant large trees are protected and kept but the first thing that happens is the builder clears the block of the understorey (and, of course, the groundcover and grasses).

When the house is completed the builder or home owner then landscapes the block or progressively plants a garden – and what is planted maybe indigenous, native or exotic vegetation. Plants described in the booklet Common Weeds of Nillumbik are not uncommon.

It seems to me that arborists are the main professionals consulted regarding vegetation issues by planners. And the arborists concentrate on trees rather than shrubs. Ecologists, while more alert to the smaller plant species, seem to be consulted on wildlife, particularly endangered wildlife, issues.

Furthermore, arborists, in my opinion, seem to have a 'park garden' view of trees in terms of how they rate them and come up with low, medium or high retention values.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

For example, in several neighbourhood subdivision planning disputes that I have been involved in, the consultant arborists have rated about 50% of the trees as low retention value and so unsuitable for retention. In one case the predominant species (38 of 85 trees) was Eucalyptus goniocalyx (Long leaved Box or Bundy). *All* of these trees were rated low retention value. However this eucalypt is indigenous to the local area and is a typical species in the site's EVC 47 Valley Grassy Forest and the neighbouring EVC22 Grassy Dry Forest. These are not pretty park trees but they were growing as typical examples of their species.

Neighbourhood character depends on the understorey as well as the tall trees. As an example, until 10 years ago I lived in Montmorency (for 30 years). Visitors commented on and were attracted by the trees and vegetation. With the increased housing density occurring there now (and perhaps a changing demographic) the vegetation, in particular the shrubs etc. making up the understorey, is changing dramatically and soon it will only be the remnant canopy trees that maintain any semblance to the previous neighbourhood character.

Vegetation and wildlife

While the primary visual character of neighbourhoods (and my personal focus) is vegetation, it needs to be recognised that vegetation is not just there to look nice. The right vegetation supports a wide range of fauna - from the most obvious such as birds to small marsupials, frogs, reptiles and insects.

Indeed there appears to be no mention at all of wildlife in the existing Neighbourhood Character statements. For me the birds, at least, are an important part of the neighbourhood character – imagine a neighbourhood without birds!

The role of vegetation in relation to wildlife is now being addressed in the Nillumbik Gardens for Wildlife program. This program is voluntary on the part of residents and involves developing better gardens for wildlife. I'd like to see some of this program's goals moved to the planning stage - so that habitat is protected right from the start.

<u>Summary</u>

- for me, the vegetation is the primary factor in the neighbourhood character
- understorey plants need to be better defined and protected
- arborists focus on trees rather than understorey plants and arborists have a 'park garden' view of trees rather than matching species to the local EVC
- a neighbourhood character description should mention wildlife, in particular birdlife
- the role of vegetation in supporting local wildlife needs to be recognised
- I would like to see Neighbourhood Character guidelines have more influence on planning decisions, and perhaps see some follow through to maintain the preferred character.

Submission 8 -

Nillumbik Neighbourhood Character Strategy

Preamble: a brief description

Nillumbik Shire is a wide, extensive and richly varied region, located between Greater Melbourne and the open countryside of the Yarra Valley. Its extensive rural terrain contains small farms, grassland and pasture, vinyards and forests. There are many longestablished towns containing food and retail shops, professional service centres and small industrial plants. Around these towns and villages there are large areas of medium-density domestic housing.

It is a land of rolling hills, forests of stringybark and she-oak trees, rivers and creeks, white swamp gums and horizons of distant mountains. It is a region of great physical beauty and it provides relatively easy access to metropolitan Melbourne.

It is an area of transition between the open countryside and the vast urban sprawl of Melbourne's commuter suburbs.

The area was once occupied by the large Wurundjeri-Willam clan long before European settlement began in the late 1830s. There are tracks, recovered tools and artifacts and inherited memories of First Nation's ancestors who once lived here.

From the early days, many artists - painters, potters and writers - gravitated to this region, joining the farmers, graziers, builders and craftsmen and women.

Taken together, these creative and productive people gave the region a distinctive character as a place where work was honored for its intrinsic value, building and design were never reducible to mere utility or decoration and community activities were valued as projects in the development of community spirit and well being and not to be confused with simple socializing.

It has always been a region which attracted active, reflective and inventive citizens and was never regarded as merely one of scores of dormitory suburbs built to serve the needs of the metropolis.

Strategy for the Region Today

I do not presume to understand the nexus of recommendations and obligations which governs the Council's regulations. The remarks which follow are my personal observations and suggestions, designed to protect some of the distinctive characteristics of the region which I admire and believe to be worthy of protection and continuing application to new developments.

Nillumbik has continued to attract a growing population and this growth has brought inevitable pressures to conform to standard suburban norms in the most populated areas. The economic and political pressures which exist in Victoria today seem to be leading here to a growing conformity with suburban development in built-up areas everywhere around Melbourne.

In many of Melbourne's suburbs, developments feature individual houses which are either almost uniform in design or so strikingly different as if to deliberately encourage differentiation or competitiveness. These characteristics seem at odds with the character of Nillumbik.

In many parts of Nillumbik there are fine houses and sensitive developments. The following list identifies some of their qualities:

- The designs recognize and respond to the natural and built environment. In most cases, the designs appear to seek an organic relationship with that environment.
- Most dwellings are surrounded by carefully placed trees and shrubs and segregated, if at all, by minimal fencing, discouraging strident distinctions between one house and the neighbouring houses.
- Where space permits, adjacent houses are juxtaposed to avoid the appearance of uniform serried rows.
- In sloping blocks, the siting and the building heights utilize the gradient to soften the visual impact of the building.

- Buildings are frequently designed with local materials and colour palettes which harmonize with the surrounding environment.
- Most residents appear to favour garden designs which avoid severe boundaries between garden beds, lawns and pathways, preferring soft demarcations. Such gardens appear to have evolved rather than having been imposed.

Conclusions

Taken together these characteristics I have identified refer exclusively to domestic dwellings. The design of commercial properties and most other occupational buildings (schools, etc) seem indistinguishable from such facilities in other parts of the state.

These characteristics suggest that residents in Nillumbik shire believe that they are fortunate to live in a very special place, a region with distinctive qualities that they value and wish to sustain.

In its nearly 200-year history of European settlement, the Nillumbik region has undergone great changes. There is some awareness and knowledge of the lives of the early settlers and some of the characteristics I have listed may be regarded as coming in a direct line from their formative experiences in building communities.

Contemporary residents in Nillumbik find the natural environment inspiring and wish to live in harmony with it. Equally, they wish to live in cooperation with their neighbours, rather than in competition.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement



Nillumbik Neighbourhood Character Strategy

Wildlife Advocates of Nillumbik Submission

Who We Are

Wildlife Advocates Nillumbik is a community group that works to improve the safety and protection of native wildlife. Our organisation includes members with specialist knowledge of wildlife rescue, wildlife care, treatment of infectious wildlife diseases, impacts of habitat loss and impacts of climate change. WAN has held one public meeting and participated in others. Our members predominantly live in semi-rural areas of Bunjil and Sugarloaf but with support from other areas both rural and within the Urban Growth Boundary.

Our input will focus on front boundary treatment and fencing, wildlife protection, roads and roadsides with an aim to improving the safety and liveability for people and wildlife.

WAN ask that for more rural areas such as – Lower Hurstbridge, Wattle Glen, St Andrews, Panton Hill, Diamond Creek North, Yarrambat and Plenty, the following be added or considered in writing the neighbourhood character statement:

- Removal of native flora and habitat for fauna should be avoided.
- Boundary treatment and fencing is wildlife friendly i.e. wildlife can move through it easily.
- Roads/Wildlife Protection: Hazard signage should be more impactful; we would recommend the type of signage below that clearly states the actual danger. Located in the most effective areas based on wildlife trauma statistics from Council and VicRoads. There is a potential to include Wildlife Vic/local rescuers experience if possible (Macedon Ranges Council consult local rescue groups):



- More hazard preventive measures along roadsides in rural areas such as tunnels, over passes and wildlife bridges. As Manningham have done locally. Bridges have also been used in NSW and SA.
- Consideration to be given to virtual fencing in high risk, rural areas as Manningham, Phiilip Island, Casey and Surf Coast have done.
- Roadside burning and clearing be avoided due to the sensitive nature of roadside ecology, and significant edge
 area over which weeds can encroach after the vegetation is destroyed.
- Dead trees are retained and any required pruning is minimised with hollows, parts of lateral branches that will
 form hollows in time, and bird and mammal perched retained. Careful pruning of structurally sound dead trees
 can also help keep people safe while simultaneously preventing erosion of a tree being cut out or falling over
 with top heavy dead growth.
- Roadside weeds are controlled without damage to native flora or fauna such as hand pulling or steam treatment.
 To retain the flora and fauna attributes of the area which are part of the character of all areas of northern
 Nillumbik, herbicide should not be applied to roadsides. Some exceptions for isolated spot spraying could be considered.
- All trees that are large (i.e. have reached Large old tree size for the ecological vegetation community) should be heritage listed

engagement

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Specifically

St ANDREWS:

• Which part:

Road networks

• Five words or less:

St Andrews to us is precious wildlife, trees and beauty

What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply

Built form

Setbacks

Heights of buildings and homes

Vegetation

Street Layout

Topography

Views

Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?

St Andrews is dominated by natural bush vegetation and aesthetic; the built form is significantly screened. Built form has natural elements such as mud brick, wood and natural colours. Infrastructure is natural such as dirt or gravel paths and car parking areas. The small area of bitumen parking, is not consistent with the town character but at least it is reasonably screened by indigenous vegetation.

 How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?

WAN supports the retention of all elements in the current precinct S guidelines

PANTON HILL

Which neighbourhood

Panton Hill

Which part:

We comment on the whole area

• Five words or less:

Panton Hill is an active community surrounded by reserves

What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply

Built form

Setbacks

Heights of buildings and homes

Vegetation

Street Layout

Topography

Views

Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?

Panton Hill is a place where community is always out – in the natural bush reserves or on the oval. The joy and beauty of these reserves dominate the character of the town.

 How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?

WAN supports the retention of all of the elements in the current precinct S guidelines

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Neighbourhood Character Survey...May 2022 Eltham Community Action Group

Areas of Interest...Eltham Central, Eltham South, Eltham East/Woodridge, Eltham North/Harcourt Hill

Existing Character

The main feature setting Eltham aside from other areas of Melbourne is its canopy cover of indigenous eucalypts.

From the strongly worded statements from residents at the time of the Fitzsimons Lane Roundabout removal we know how passionately Eltham people feel about the eucalypt tree canopy. To very many it denotes 'home.'

There is nothing that causes more angst in the community than the loss of trees ..and loss of open space.

The defining feature of all Eltham precincts is trees..particularly our indigenous eucalypts

- All areas of Eltham have similar characteristics, albeit in differing degrees.
- All are treed /leafy, hilly.
- The low profile nature of the built form where the colours and materials blend with and respect the natural environment gives a feeling of informality is prevalent.
- The canopy of indigenous eucalypts being the main type of vegetation gives the hillsides a soft and blue-grey appearance.
- Dwellings, for the most part, are well set back from the street with gardens that at least partially screen the built form.

What do we like about the existing character?

The Tick the Box categories listed are:

- Built form (how buildings/homes look)
- Setbacks (how far buildings/ homes are set back from the street)
- Heights of buildings and homes
- Vegetation (like gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Street layout (street configuration, subdivision pattern)
- Topography (mountains, hills, creeks etc)
- Views.

As these categories are broad and to tick a box, or not, can give an incorrect impression, hence ECAG has not completed that part of the survey.

All of the above categories are important in making up the neighbourhood character and they differ from one area of Eltham to another only in degree.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

All areas have builds that do not fit the existing and preferred character for one reason or another. For example, regarding 'Street Layout', multi dwellings that have been designed around a long gun barrel driveway would be one area we could find unsatisfactory, but the narrower streets that follow the contours are very appealing.

Specific features making the area unique

- The dominance of a canopy of indigenous eucalypts
- Hilly topography
- Blue-grey vista of eucalypt covered hillsides
- Diamond Creek and adjacent parkland
- Dwellings set in gardens, often of native and indigenous plants
- Dwellings partly screened by vegetation
- Dwellings setback from the street and neighbouring dwellings that enables the planting of trees and shrubs to soften and screen, provide food and cover for birds, insects, lizards
- Dwellings not aiming to dominate the landscape
- Colour schemes that blend with the environment
- Native birds
- Lack of front fences

How could new development be designed to enhance neighbourhood character?

- Respect for the existing and preferred character and environment particularly with regards to height, setbacks, colours, size, density, gardens, materials, canopy trees especially eucalypts.
- Retain existing canopy trees.
- Provide room for meaningful landscaping including canopy trees. Provide enough room that trees will be sustainable and safe in the location where the landscape plan has located them.
- Native gardens.
- Generous setbacks, front, rear and sides, to allow for planting between properties.
- Encourage innovative designs that respond creatively to the actual site and neighbourhood character, rather than accepting the standard box like two storey, 4 bedroom design seemingly designed for maximum fit on a block, that is seen all over Melbourne.
- Follow up compliance with permit conditions especially landscape plans. Neighbours
 have usually not seen endorsed landscape plans so are unaware of what should be
 planted and would be reluctant to contact council.

Central Eltham, Eltham East including Woodridge, Eltham South, Eltham North including Harcourt Hill

Eltham North

Differences in character include more hilly terrain, less formalised road reserves and footpaths, street layout less formal and often meandering or curved, some unmade roads,

engagement

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

more indigenous eucalypt canopy and lower storey vegetation, larger blocks (apart from Eltham South).

Eltham East and Woodridge

More heavily treed than Eltham Central but more 'formal' than Eltham North. Dwellings very well screened. Most are native gardens. Houses mainly of the same era.

Harcourt Hill

Less formal. More narrow curved roads. Unmade roads. Very treed. Historic and heritage buildings. Many mud brick buildings.

Eltham South

Larger blocks. Dwellings usually hidden by vegetation and well set back. More mudbrick houses.

Eltham Central

Although seeing more change than the other areas, the same concerns and characteristics apply. New builds have eucalypts planted and front gardens. More established dwellings retain their well set back location within treed gardens. Some developments and planning applications however display a worrying disregard for the context of a treed area.

Also..

Eltham is not part of a growth corridor. While the government expects some population growth, their expectation of our provision of extra housing is not high. (shown by data available during the Nillumbik Housing Strategy consultation)

We are in the fortunate position therefore of being able to clearly state our preferred Neighbourhood Character and plan any increase in housing to fit within those parameters.

We are told that we need to cater for the ageing population and provide diversity in housing. That is not happening.

Of the 3 development application on advertising this month in Eltham, nine bedrooms will become thirty one if the plans are approved. Apart from the trees that have gone already or will go there will no room for meaningful replacement planting. This increase in multi large dwellings on the one block is putting extreme pressure on our Neighbourhood Character.

All of the planned nine dwellings for the 3 sites are two storey. Most are four bedrooms, the others are three. Most have a bathroom for each bedroom ie 3 or 4 bathrooms. Most have at least two living areas, some three.

These are not homes for Eltham residents wanting to downsize or retire in place.

This is not providing diversity in housing.

engagement

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

We are 'sold' as the leafy, treed suburb ...so we need strong statements and policy to keep us that way.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the formation of this extremely important policy document. ECAG looks forward to further involvement in the next consultation stage.

Neighbourhood Character Survey, May 2022...

The following points relate to the specific numbered points on the survey.

Eltham

2. Eltham could be divided into Eltham South, Central Eltham and Eltham East/Woodridge. All have varying degrees of the same characteristics so to make statements about specific details in a general way is problematic.

3. Having said that however, the overall Existing Character of Eltham could be described as:

Treed, mainly with a canopy of blue-grey eucalyptus,

Leafy,

Informal,

Low profile.. houses sitting within the tree canopy in well vegetated gardens (often bushy and native) The dwellings do not aim to dominate.

Natural...housing blending with and respecting the environment,

Hilly.

A feeling of spaciousness

The defining feature of the Eltham Neighbourhood Character is the eucalypt tree canopy.

4. What do you like about the character?

The points given are very broad categories. I could say I like them all if I think about the aspects of each category that I like and how they influence the general character that I have described in this doc, but obviously there are differences in all eg heights, built form of some new builds, lack of vegetation so to tick a box can be misleading and read as blanket approval..or disapproval.

5. Specific features making the area unique.

Trees, particularly eucalypts, topography ..hilly, including views of distant tree covered hills, gardens..often native, generous setbacks, dwellings not aiming to dominate, colour schemes blending with environment, screening vegetation, dominance of mature, indigenous, eucalypt canopy, mud brick buildings, waterways and natural adjacent environment/parklands.

6. How could new development be designed to enhance neighbourhood character?

Respect the existing and preferred character especially with relation to height, materials, size, colours, setbacks, gardens, canopy trees.

More room on site for substantial and meaningful planting including indigenous canopy trees

Retention of existing canopy trees.

Native gardens.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Generous setbacks, on four sides, to allow for above.

Encourage innovation that suits the locale and particular site rather than the stock standard latest double storey 4 bedroom dwelling that is designed to fit the maximum number on any site and can be found all over Melbourne.

Permit conditions, especially compliance with landscape plans, needs to be systematically and vigorously followed up by officers. Neighbours are usually not aware of any endorsed plans and reluctant to contact council.

Council policy needs to be strong enough that developers see the need to adhere to the neighbourhood character policy, not think they can get away with ignoring it.

7-13 Eltham North

The above points are also applicable to Eltham North.

Differences in character include more hilly terrain, less formalised road reserves and footpaths, street layout less formal and often meandering or curved, some unmade roads, more indigenous eucalypt canopy and lower storey vegetation, larger blocks than other areas (apart from Eltham South).

8. Also

We are not a growth corridor. The government's expectation of population growth in Nillumbik, and our provision of extra housing is not high. (NB data available during the Nillumbik Housing Strategy consultation)

We therefore should be able to state our preferred Neighbourhood Character strongly and unequivocally and plan any increase in housing to fit within those parameters

Housing diversity and provision of housing for Nillumbik's ageing population (which is what we are told we have) is not represented in the planning applications before council.

Most applications are for 3 or 4 four bedroom double storey dwellings per block. These are not for retirees/empty nesters/downsizers or young couple's first house.

The needed diversity spoken of should be further investigated.

These developments are very quickly, by removal of mature, canopy trees and the lack of space left for sustainable replacement planting, destroying the neighbourhood character the community values and that draws people to Eltham. The only people these developments benefit are the developers.

I may be contacted	d on	if you	would	llike	to	discuss	any	of	the a	bove
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Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement Submission 12

SUBMISSION TO NILLUMBIK COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER STRATEGY MAY 2022



Neighbourhoods show who we are. They reflect our values, our creativity, and our lived priorities.... or so they should!

Increasingly, Nillumbik's neighbourhoods are losing their character, losing the qualities that distinguished them from other suburbs.

Instead of continuing a respected tradition of being sensitive to the environment and caring for it as top priority, Nillumbik is steadily destroying the very elements that are the foundation of its wonderful reputation as a conservation Shire, with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus.

As stated in recent Council documents: '...a range of processes are contributing to an incremental decline of biodiversity and functionality of ecosystems here and across Victoria — including climate change, clearing, altered fire regimes, the presence and spread of pest plants, animals and pathogens, soil compaction, erosion, and altered water quality and flows.'

Any long-term resident with awareness for the environment will report overall decline, with significant and widespread loss in tree canopy and understorey leading to the demise of our fauna – from bees, butterflies and planarian worms to echidnas, gliders and eagles. This is evident in rural and urban settings, including townships.

Is this how we want our neighbourhoods to be? Is this the trajectory we want to continue along?

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

The new Neighbourhood Character Strategy MUST outline ways that the community – as individuals, groups, and Council itself (including Officers and Councillors) – will proactively protect and reinvigorate indigenous flora and fauna, our waterways and soils.

Every decision made in Strategy development and Planning throughout the Shire, must be assessed through a rigorous system with the health and reinvigoration of biodiversity at the centre.

What we are currently doing is death by a thousand cuts.

The images here show some of the incredible life that also calls this area home. We have a responsibility to honour each of them, to ensure we do not keep destroying their home, which is also our own.

Nillumbik must return to being a place where insects are flourishing because of abundant food. We know how incredibly important insects are to ecosystems, and how we rely on them to survive.

The Neighbourhood Character Strategy must ensure habitat connectivity occurs throughout the Shire, on a much larger scale than what is currently in place. That is, habitat that continues across vast areas, is biodiverse, therefore resilient, and is present in our every day – from indigenous grasses and herbs, to small shrubs, bushes and giant trees. This would be evident throughout the Shire in its thriving backyards and township areas with buzzing gardens, to paddocks that are teeming with indigenous vegetation beneath giant trees, providing food and shelter for the beautiful creatures of the area... and people would really know and love them, every single day.



PCC.020/22 Nillumbik Neighourhood Character Strategy - Response to first round of public engagement
Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Attachment 4.





PCC.020/22 Nillumbik Neighourhood Character Strategy - Response to first round of public engagement
Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

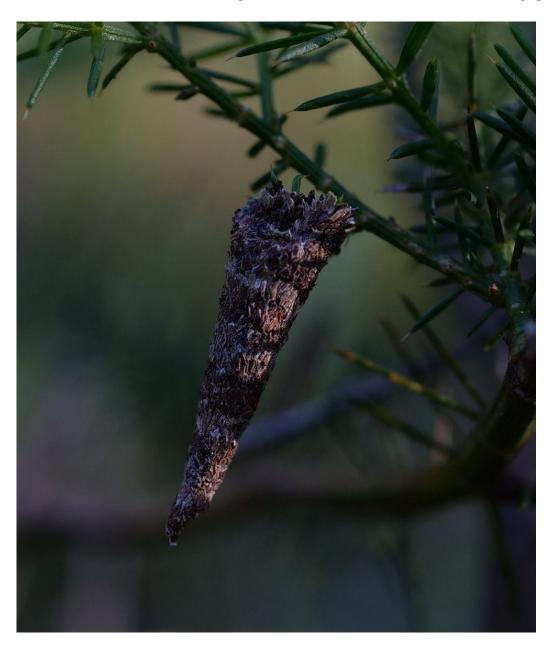
Attachment 4.





PCC.020/22 Nillumbik Neighourhood Character Strategy - Response to first round of public engagement
Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Attachment 4.



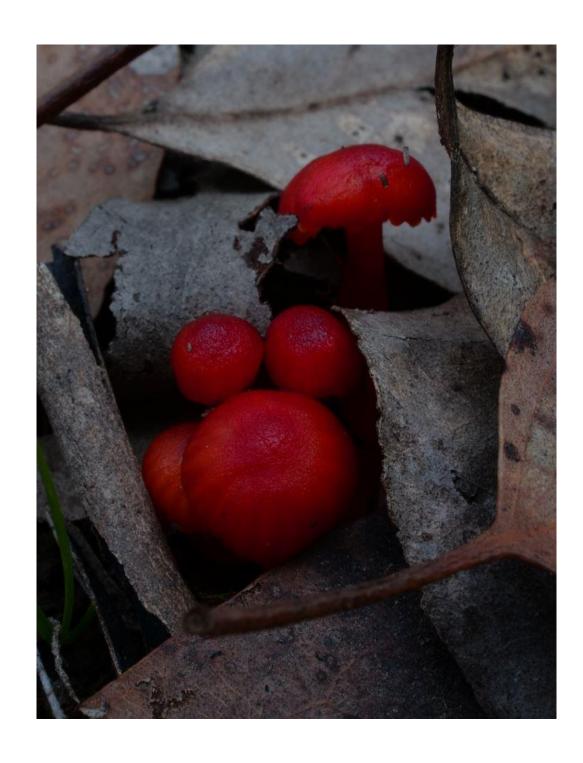
PCC.020/22 Nillumbik Neighourhood Character Strategy - Response to first round of public engagement

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement





Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement



Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement







8 May 2022

Strategic Planning Officers Nillumbik Shire Council PO Box 476 Greensborough VIC 3088

Dear Neighbourhood Character Review staff,

CEN and the Neighbourhood Character Study

I am writing on behalf of Clean Energy Nillumbik (CEN) to submit feedback for the Neighbourhood Character Study review.

CEN is a volunteer-based organisation whose goal is to reduce carbon emissions through advocacy, public education, bulk buys, and other practical programs.

We encourage Council to investigate how neighbourhood character can contribute directly to the reduction of carbon emissions.

Neighbourhood character and energy use

Whilst current Council guidelines already consider 'Sustainability and environmental factors' in their own right, we believe that future guidelines will benefit from sustainability and environmental factors being integrated across all aspects of the guidelines, including aesthetics, certain building forms and styles, and construction materials.

By fully embedding specific carbon-reduction actions into the Study and its guidelines, the Shire will significantly reduce the carbon footprint of every new building development in the Shire.

A0099910Z



Clean Energy Nillumbik supports the vital role that character plays in our residential environments and dwellings, daily lives and sense of community. We also value the way in which many aspects of Nillumbik's neighbourhood character already contribute functionally to reducing energy use in residential areas. For example, CEN strongly supports promoting protection of our natural environments and indigenous vegetation, not only for aesthetic and habitat values but also for air quality and climate moderation of temperature extremes. This is particularly relevant for built-up areas such as Eltham and Diamond Creek.

The attached table outlines some of our comments and feedback for the Study, with suggestions for how carbon footprints can be reduced. This table is not intended to be comprehensive but, rather, reflects a broad approach where *all* design choices for neighbourhood character can contribute to reduced energy use and develop greater housing and environmental sustainability for future longevity of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission. As the Nillumbik Shire Council has recently declared a climate emergency, we hope that our thoughts and ideas can contribute positively to a powerful strategic direction of the future sustainability of our communities.

We would welcome the opportunity to be involved further in your development of the new Study, and look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,
Clean Energy Nillumbik

A0099910Z



Table 1: CEN responses to existing Neighbourhood Character Study Guidelines

Existing guidelines	CEN submission	Rationale
Vegetation retention and		
landscaping		
"Retain trees that form	Encourage large trees to	Increasing north-facing
part of a continuous	be planted in a position	solar access to dwellings
canopy beyond your	where they will add to a	can reduce energy use for
property, and plant large	continuous canopy AND	active heating in cold
trees in a position where	retain appropriate solar	weather.
they will add to a	access for north-facing	
continuous canopy	windows.	
cultivated or kitchen	Provision could be made	Food gardens can reduce
gardens".	for locating cultivated or	energy costs for
	kitchen gardens where	households and reduce
	there is adequate solar	reliance on energy-
	access, including when	intensive industrial/
	viewed from the street.	commercial food
		productions systems
"Use indigenous plants to	Consideration should be	Deciduous trees can
screen and soften	given to use of deciduous	significantly moderate
buildings, driveways and	trees where solar access is	temperatures and dwelling
tanks, to define outdoor	a priority – eg adjacent to	microclimates by providing
spaces and reestablish	north-facing windows.	summer shade and winter
disturbed areas"		solar access
"Use landscaping materials	Encourage use of lighter-	Light-coloured landscaping
such as gravel that blend	coloured gravels and	gravels can increase
with the colour, tone and	landscaping materials,	reflected light into
texture of the bush. When	especially adjacent to	dwellings (thus reducing
designing landscape	dwellings.	artificial lighting needs,
details, such as steps,	Avoid black and dark	and moderate outdoor
retaining walls etc.	drown coloured or dyed	summer temperatures.
consider them in relation	mulches.	Avoiding black and dark
to the scale of the bush".		brown coloured dyed
		mulches can moderate
		outdoor summer
		temperatures and limit
		chemical additives in
		outdoor environments.
Design Details and building		

A0099910Z



Existing guidelines	CEN submission	Rationale
materials		
"Use verandas and pergolas to reduce the mass of the building"	Use verandas and pergolas where they improve summer shading and maintain adequate winter solar access	Locating verandas appropriately for summer shade and winter solar access will reduce unnecessary artificial lighting, and moderate temperature/ reduce energy use.
"Appropriate paint and finishing colours are earth and bush tones, silver/grey, blue grey and black".	Black and dark colours should only be used where they will not increase summer temperatures in the home. For example, these colours should not be considered for roofing.	Avoiding black and dark colour construction materials, especially for roofing, will reduce the need for active energy use air-conditioning in homes.
"Select materials for outbuildings such as carports, sheds and garages which complement the main dwelling."	Make provision for solar panels to be considered an acceptable building material. Allow solar panels to be mounted on dwelling and carport roofs, designed sympathetically where visible from the street.	Accommodating solar panels as an aesthetically acceptable material will facilitate greater capacity for residential solar power generation.
(Garden Court) "Incorporate mono-pitch, split gable, or hip roof forms."	Encourage roof forms that will provide optimal summer and winter comfort through passive design forms rather than purely on historical precedent for a neighbourhood precinct (eg the split gable roofs that typify Woodridge Estate in Eltham can increase the need for active home heating and cooling).	Preferences for aesthetic forms will benefit from being assessed in relation to their suitability for future climates and precinct microclimates in Nillumbik, rather than simply in the context of historical precedent (ie. existing character elements may not be the most "liveable" in the future).
"Suitable materials include	Allow use of darker colours	Preferences for aesthetic



Existing guidelines	CEN submission	Rationale
earth toned brick, and	only where they will not	forms need to be assessed
roofs of terracotta, brown	increase summer	in relation to their
or grey coloured tiles,	temperatures in the home.	suitability for future
Colourbond or painted	For example, these colours	climates and precinct
Zincalume"	should not be considered	microclimates in Nillumbik,
	for roofing.	rather than simply in the
	Can the Shire please	context of historical
	consider the energy-costs	precedent (ie. existing
	of preferencing certain	character elements may
	materials, for example,	not be the most "livable").
	production of terracotta	
	tiles vs steel roofing.	
Sustainability and		
environment factors		
"Maximise windows to the	Indicate a specific	So many new
north with appropriate	dimension range for	developments still do not
eaves overhangs to provide	northern eave overhangs	have appropriate north-
winter sun and summer	for year-round solar	facing eaves under the
shade."	benefit.	existing guidelines.
"Use verandas, eaves	to shade walls and	Consideration of solar
overhangs or pergolas to	windows for optimal	access to be a priority in all
shade walls and windows."	summer shade and winter	design.
	solar access.	
Street tree planting		
"Retain and replant	In some situations,	Consideration of solar
indigenous canopy trees	deciduous trees may be	access to be a priority in all
within the street space in	suitable, for example on	design.
an informal layout."	the south side of streets in	
"Retain and enhance the	order to provide summer	
street tree planting with	shade and winter solar	
both native Australian and	access for north-facing	
indigenous street trees."	dwellings and windows.	
Roadway treatments		
"(Eltham Central) Include	Consider mixed species	Deciduous trees can
additional space for	street tree planting where	significantly moderate
avenue street tree planting	this will improve summer	temperatures and dwelling
with street	shade and winter solar	microclimates by providing
reconstruction".	access – e.g. deciduous	summer shade and winter
	species in front of north-	solar access
	facing dwellings/ windows.	

Submission 14

Nillumbik Neighbourhood Character Strategy

I live in Eltham, very close to both Zig Zag Road and Leane Drive.

The houses in this area are set back from the road, and the properties have big backyards.

Most houses are single storey or split-level due the topography in the area, with some double storey dwellings.

The roofs are typically pitched, either tiled or corrugated iron, and most of the houses are brick with the odd mud brick.

The view from many different vantage points in the area is that of trees and vegetation. It is difficult to see how many houses are in the local area because of the vast spread of established vegetation. The local streets wind through the area, most likely due to the many hills, making it very different to the grid pattern found in many suburban areas.

In recent years there has been a noticeable increase in birdlife and other wildlife in our local area. We have resident kookaburras, tawny frogmouths, and rainbow lorikeets, (just to name a few of the many regulars to our property) and in the last few years have had seasonal visits from Gang Gang Cockatoos. A Powerful Owl has been spotted nearby, a species that is threatened in Nillumbik. We have had visits from an echidna in the last two years, something that had not happened in the 12 years prior that we have been living in the area. We have many resident lizards and possums who call the trees in our yard home.

The current Neighbourhood Character, with houses set back from the roads, and large backyards with lots of established trees and gardens, provides much needed homes and corridors for the abundant wildlife in the area. These corridors haven't been in place since the area was originally developed, they have evolved over time as the trees and gardens in the area have become established and then the wildlife has slowly returned.

The character of this area will not be enhanced by future development, as any development will reduce the existing wildlife corridors, and reduce the wildlife in the area due to the removal of well established trees and vegetation. Any development in the area should not reduce the front and backyard open spaces as these make this area unique. Developing will take away what makes this area so special.

People choosing to live in this part of Eltham, do so because of the natural environment that surrounds us. If we wanted to live in a built environment, we would be living elsewhere, like Doncaster.

Individuals and developers who buy in Eltham, and choose to develop/subdivide their properties, do so knowing that money can be made - the Green Wedge has much appeal. Most do not choose to live in the area long term, selling and moving on with little regard to the damage they do to the natural environment and wildlife corridors when they remove established trees and vegetation.

This part of Eltham is more than a 2km walk from Eltham Central, so any extra development not only removes established vegetation but leads to more traffic in the area as it is quite a distance from the train station, and there are a lot of hills to navigate to get to any bus stops. More traffic in the local area, along with smaller corridors for wildlife, would be a disaster for our wildlife, and would reduce the appeal the area currently has, changing it in a negative way in the long-term.

Submission 15



April 23 2022

Dear Strategic Planning,

Thank you for your recent email regarding Strategic Planning in St Andrews. I am currently in WA and cannot attend the session in St Andrews.

Stringybark Community Nursery is a not-for-profit, volunteer run community organisation established in 2010, following the Black Saturday bushfires. It resulted in discussions arising from NERWG, a collaborative natural environment recovery group including Landcare, Council, Melbourne Water, Parks Vic and others. We originally supplied free plants for landowners following the disaster to assist with revegetation of their properties. Other initiatives were aimed at developing propagation and plant ID skills in the community, bringing community members together. We are based in St Andrews, the only available location at the time, on a site provided by St Andrews PS adjacent to their multipurpose room. At the time of our establishment, members of Strathewen, Arthurs Creek and Christmas Hills Landcare groups were also involved.

We received funding from FRRR to build a small shed and erect fencing. Contributions were made by various organisations and individuals for shelving, tanks and watering systems. The founding members were myself, Dini Shepherd and Gayle Corr, OAM, now sadly deceased. We have made significant contributions to the natural environment since 2010. Indeed, in the years 2016-2019 we supplied more than 30,000 plants to local landowners from a wide area, including St Andrews, Hurstbridge, Cottles Bridge, Nutfield, Arthurs Creek, Strathewen, Yarrambat and Eltham. Since around 2016 we started to charge \$1 per tube to cover our costs as we receive no ongoing funding from any sources. We still provide plants free of charge to various community groups. We average around 16-20 volunteer hours per week. Everyone who comes through the Nursery appreciates the rural feel of St Andrews and similar townships and may work hard to protect and enhance their natural environment.

Stringybark is situated at the rear of Wadambuk St Andrews Community Centre and Men's Shed at St Andrews, with whom we collaborate closely. The former organisation auspices us as we are not incorporated. I was involved closely with the planning and development of both these community organisations post-bushfire. Stringybark Nursery is tucked away from the streetscape and we have used woodland grey to paint our shed. It is a low structure and not visible from the main road.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

St Andrews is, always has been and hopefully will remain a non-urban environment. We do not want exotic trees, pavements or street furniture. We do not want street lights, traffic lights or other urban features. We do not want our rural roads to be zoned at 100kph and used as race tracks; not do we wish to confront huge 10 tonne trucks with trailers on a daily basis on our rural roads. All these issues affect residents of St Andrews, both in the township and surrounding areas. Whilst I am aware that there is a template for submissions, I feel that the use of templates prevents residents from being able to articulate their views fully.

Sadly, personally I have lost confidence in the ability of staff from the Planning Department at Nillumbik to listen to the views and opinions of residents in this and other areas of the Shire.

Nillumbik's Planning Department recently granted a permit for the construction of a large brick shed only eight metres from the road in an RCZ3 zoned area. The property already has a shed of the same size; is only 11 acres in total area and is already in breach of Council Local Laws. This will be the sixth structure to be built on the property. Planning did not really listen to our concerns, did not effect mediation, nor take into account the views of Friends of Nillumbik or The Green Wedge Protection Group, all of whom were concerned that a precedent was being set. Eventually the matter ended up at VCAT where the issue of over-development and use of the shed in an RCZ3 zone was completely ignored by the member in question.

It would appear that Planning Department staff cannot protect the rural landscape, even with RCZs and other overlays. What hope is there then in retaining the rural feel of our townships? Further, enforcement of local and planning laws has been inadequate, with Council's own enforcement officer's views ignored. There would seem little point in introducing another suite of planning strategies unless these issues are addressed. Sadly, I feel there is little point in asking for my/our opinion on planning for the township when it seems that properties in RCZ areas cannot be protected and prevented from morphing into suburbia, or used as dumping grounds for building materials, shipping containers and vehicles, with sheds used as illegal second dwellings.

Regards,

Stringybark Community Nursery

Cc Friends of Nillumbik; Green Wedge Protection Group; Cllr B Ramcharan; Mr John Brenan, Wadambuk St Andrews Community Centre.

Submission 16 -

Hi

It was really appreciated your recent presentation to ESAC.

Your presentation clearly showed the many facets of determining future directions for neighbourhood character. I can see that physical aspects such as set backs and roof type can be addressed and are well understood by both planners and the community. People may not agree with the decisions but they are clear what it is about.

I can now understand that how neighbourhood character assessment may be applied by statutory planners to subdivision and new dwelling construction that trigger a planning permit application in urban residential zones.

So I appreciate my response may have been a bit myopic as I am concentrating on the issue of the urban tree canopy which I think is a much more difficult part of the neighbourhood character assessment process.

The issue in Eltham, for example, is protecting the existing tree canopy and that can be addressed through the SLO but in our area I have a local example where all the canopy trees were removed to make way for a large double storied residential dwelling. No new canopy trees are being planted.

The other really crucial issue is that under both the residential zoning and ResCode there is no requirement for a garden space that would support planting a canopy tree.

I think both the zoning and ResCode could be addressed to require definition of a garden bed suitable for supporting a canopy tree. I realise this is a state level planning issue and of course it won't be easy but without it the tree canopy that is lost in development will not be able to be replaced.

I don't share the pessimism about tackling such an issue as some others have shown. For two reasons. Firstly the requirements for water sensitive urban design have been successfully incorporated in ResCode and I think biodiversity sensitive urban design could also be achieved along the same lines. However the incorporation of water sensitive urban design was made easier by the allowance of structures such as decks that are a natural extension of the indoor/outdoor housing design. Space for garden beds does not allow for any such uses. The other reason is that the item is increasingly gaining traction as demonstrated by the any articles about the issue of urban heat islands in residential areas.

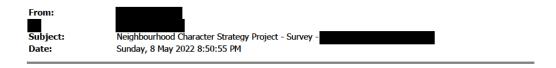
The last point I would like to make is that the point made by others at the ESAC meeting about public open space being an important part of neighbourhood character is really important especially given increased housing density such as townhouses and apartments that lack any private open space of the traditional detached dwellings.

I wonder if you could send me a copies of your presentation slides showing a diagrammatic presentation of the different aspects of neighbourhood character assessment and the map showing the urban areas of Nillumbik Shire.

Regards

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

Need to revise ResCode



To whom it concerns,

The on-line survey did not accept my answers. So I have reproduced them hereunder.

https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-character-strategy

- 1. Which neighbourhood (see study area map) would you like to comment on? (please select one) You will have the opportunity to comment on another area below)
- Wattle Glen
- 2. If you would like to comment on a particular street or area in this neighbourhood, please tell us the name of the relevant street(s) or road(s) here
- In Wattle Glen, the residential area north of Peppers Paddock and the Watery Gully Creek, up to Sylvan Road, including my own street, Clarke & Park Ave. This entire area has still got very strong connection to the Green Wedge to its north and east.
- Clarke & Park Ave have strong connections with the Watery Gully Creek to its south.
- The original subdivision and street configurations in Clarke & Park Ave leaves things to be desired, especially in terms of the streets being too narrow and storm water management though we do not want "urban" guttering but a 'green infrastructure' design approach to these problems.
- 3. Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)
- Semi-bush; treed; undulating; nestled; birds
- 4. What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply

Setbacks (how far buildings/ homes are set back from the street)

Heights of buildings and homes

Vegetation (like gardens, trees, plants, bush)

Street layout (street configuration, subdivision pattern)

Topography (mountains, hills, creeks etc)

Views

Streetscape (how the street/road looks)

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

5. Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?

• Wattle Glen is not only home to many people but also to much wildlife - the latter indeed, very much in the urban areas as well.

Even though a 'residential' street, when one turns into Clarke (& Park) Ave, one is very likely to see ducks, galahs, sulphur-crested cockatoos, correlas, kangaroos.

- A sense/awareness of living in nature; 'nestling into the landscape'; the wildlife (birds, echidnas, blue tongues, etc). The trees and landscape values (eg. the treed distant views to surrounding hills). The setbacks; minimal fencing; privacy. Close connection to the Green Wedge and areas of significant wildlife.
- The majority of land in Wattle Glen is rural-zoned and Green Wedge land; and the Urban Growth Boundary passes through Wattle Glen.

For years, the *Wattle Glen Residents' Association* has been promoting 'Wattle Glen as a Gateway to the Green Wedge' as part of our township's role and identity, as well as the notion of 'living in harmony with nature'.

- When we moved into the area (1989) it was quiet. Not so any more traffic noise has hugely increased.
- The Wattle Glen Township Strategy recommendation 'that building on slopes in excess of a 20 degree gradient should be discouraged' needs to be upheld.
- **Views** very important, especially from the main approaches into the township: north and south entrances along Main Hurstbridge Road; east entrance along Wattle Glen-Kangaroo Ground Road; south entrance along Reynolds Rd.
- The view is very important as I travel up and down my street I am very appreciative of the natural environment.
- 6. How could new development in this **neighbourhood** be designed to enhance or improve the **neighbourhood's** character?
- Aim for **buildings to 'nestle into the landscape**' rather than 'being imposed on top of the landscape'; and maintain setbacks, to help promote the 'nestling in' objective of SLOs; so that front gardens help privacy, as well as provide habitat for wildlife.
- Unfortunately, **unnecessary compromises to neighbourhood character** have occurred in recent times eg. (the bulk and stark, white colours) at the 2nd storey development can be seen from afar, and new 2m tall fencing bordering the Green Wedge) ; keeping fingers crossed to see what gets build at
- Encourage **efficient building design** in terms of space and bulk, energy and water; and a small as possible ecological footprint in all that we do. Eg.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

- o Space: To contain scale (footprint) and bulk of new housing and extensions, optimise the functioning of the building within a small as possible size/space.
- o Energy (eg. optimise orientation and passive solar).
- Promote opportunities to **integrate the rural environment into residential areas**. Raising awareness about, and the integration of **local wildlife and their needs** (eg. their habitat and corridors), is an ongoing commitment.
- Much of the residential areas in Wattle Glen straddle rural land; therefore the impact (at the interface) on nearby rural land of land use happening on residential land should be considered and minimised.

Eg. (especially vis-a-vis the ever-increasing threats to biodiversity) strengthening of wildlife habitat, and the ability of local wild life to traverse land (including between residential and rural zoned land) should be encouraged; and **habitat connectivity** should become a more prominent decision making criteria in planning applications.

- Any building or extension ought to pay proper regard and **facilitate the needs of wildlife**.
- Rather than ending up with a 'dog's breakfast', encourage **consistent,** wildlife-friendly fencing.

Eg. When it comes time to replace or install fencing, it should be encouraged that they are a 'post and wire' construction, and 'see through', and to create privacy via screening vegetation planting; and of a height that enables wildlife to pass.

- To be consistent with the community and Council planting on nearby "Peppers Paddock" public open space, and Nillumbik's 'conservation and protect Green Wedge and biodiversity' ethos, **encourage indigenous vegetation**: to help promote a more consistent/cohesive and stronger neighbourhood character and landscape values; to best promote indigenous (rather than exotic) wildlife; to minimise maintenance and water use (compared to exotic vegetation); is most suitable to conserving Australian/Nillumbik soil types; to reduce the bushfire risk (as indig veg carries lower biomass compared to exotic veg).
- The requirements of the **Bushfire Management Overlay** impact severely on local landscape values and wildlife. A better, fairer (to wildlife) and more sustainable balance needs to be struck; and greater awareness of latest bushfire risk management research needs to be incorporated.
- Much of Wattle Glen is in bushfire prone area. Laying underground overhead
 powerlines would significantly reduce fire risk; plus it would improve the visual appeal of
 streetscapes.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

The yearly/regular tree lopping around powerlines, public liabilities, etc must cost SP Ausnet/State Government a bomb. Advocate for a long term cost and benefit analysis of the laying underground of powerlines in (& prioritising bushfire prone) urban areas.

- There exist plenty opportunity to incorporate and demonstrate the "Urban Ecology" and a 'green infrastructure' design approach to our storm water and street scapes, especially in relation to sealing unmade streets such as Clarke and Park Ave.
- As per Council's "Urban Ecology" publication [https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/environment/green-living/imap 08 urban ecology nillumbik high res.pdf]:

Environmental Sustainable Design (ESD) Principles recognise the importance of maintaining and **increasing the health of our urban ecosystems** to improve living conditions for ourselves as well as for fauna.

ESD advocates:

- sustainable habitat garden ... and the use of <u>indigenous plants</u>
- o improving Urban Ecology via eg. <u>Stormwater Management</u>

"There is much we can do in our metropolitan areas to overcome the loss of natural processes and improve liveability for people, flora and fauna. One of the easiest actions involves decreasing the areas of hard or impervious surfaces and at the same time increasing vegetation and landscaping."

- By combining indigenous street planting (especially along lower Clarke Ave) and a 'green infrastructure' design approach, integrate road sealing (to reduce dust problem and storm water pollutants runoff into the creek), a new footpath, excellent storm water management, and wildlife needs. The positive impacts of these measures on our streetscape and neighbourhood character, health and safety, water quality, and our natural environment/biodiversity would be huge.
- 7. Would you like to comment on another neighbourhood?
- 8. Do you have any final feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character that you would like considered? Note: there is a 300 word limit
- Promote the notion of "living in harmony with nature".
- Generally, encourage greater awareness of our natural environment; of the great biodiversity that we do have; of the opportunities it offers; our responsibility to look after it (for future generations); of energy and water use (including storm water and waterways); that water is a very scarce resource in Australia.

Attachment 4. Redacted and consolidated general submissions - First round of NCS engagement

- Another significant feature about Wattle Glen's identity are the various recreational trails converging in our township. We expect them, as well as possible local (urban) walking trails, to offer significant opportunities in the future (aspiration); thus land-use planning should be sympathetic in this aspiration.
- By integrating the "urban Ecology" and a 'green infrastructure' design approach to local building, (public) infrastructure and water (storm water and waterways) management, Wattle Glen offers great opportunities to demonstrate excellent design in streetscape and local and urban trails, and management of storm water and waterways, and to improve connectivity within our township.
- Consider investigating an 'Environmental Significant Overlay' in residential areas based on Melbourne Water's "stream order network" and related setbacks [https://www.melbournewater.com.au/sites/default/files/Waterway-corridors-Greenfield-development-guidelines.pdf]:
- Unfortunately, major State government 'Level Crossing Removal Projects' have had devastating impacts on Wattle Glen's township character at high profile sites along Main Hurstbridge Road.

We need Nillumbik Council to use its influence, and insist on consistency with the aims of the adjacent SLO2; and to get three gullies around the railway station and at the Wilson-Main Hurstbridge Roads' intersection rehabilitated.

For this to happen on this and all public land, we need better communication between public landowners and council's (land use) planning and environment department.



Nillumbik Mudbrick Association Inc.

Reg. A0045709U

Submission 18

5 May 2022

Nillumbik Shire Council

Strategic Planning



Hello

Thank you for receiving our submission on the future neighbourhood character guidelines for Nillumbik shire. As the only industry group in Nillumbik specifically dedicated to building and construction, we feel that we have a lot to offer in the realm of neighbourhood character, relating to residential built form. The Nillumbik Mudbrick Association (NMA) is an active, volunteer, not-for-profit group with approximately 300 members, dedicated to the promotion of the character of the Nillumbik shire through the preservation and promotion of Mudbrick. Many of our members and committee are Architects, Engineers, Builders, and tradespersons actively working in and around Nillumbik.

In essence the Mudbrick construction that took began in the late 1930's and early 1940's created the foundation of the character of Eltham and Nillumbik that we still enjoy today. Although the phrase 'neighbourhood character' is a modern construct, it was largely Mudbrick that indeed first helped to define it.

Please consider the following thoughts on the various aspects that are synonymous with Neighbourhood character Planning.

Building Bulk

Although any materials can be utilised to construct block-like buildings with sheer walls and high flat roofs, you will find in most instances mudbrick designs

are far from that. Although this largely is in the hands of the architect or designer one thing is for certain; that the undulating and textured walls of a mudbrick house, The rough sawn timbers and the earthy tones of the render of the mud walls present a much softer appearance than many modern or manufactured products. We are not advocating boring architecture in the shire, more observing that mudbrick walls can soften the appearance of any built form.

Vegetation

Whilst we believe that mudbricks are suitable for use in most settings, It must be acknowledged that the use of mudbricks is particularly harmonious in a bush environment typical to the early days when mudbrick buildings were introduced to Nillumbik. They complement indigenous vegetation. This is also why mudbricks are aligned to the current neighbourhood character of Nillumbik which boasts a proliferation of indigenous vegetation, both rural and urban.

Set-Backs

As for any type of home we would encourage generous set backs so as to accommodate a well-planned indigenous vegetation zone, and provide privacy for the home owner and softening of built form for the casual observer.

Textures & Tones

We acknowledge that textures and tones are intrinsic to creating a good response to neighbourhood character. However, we would suggest that this character is best captured through genuine mudbrick surface rather than the modern attempts, including flat cement sheets with stippled paint applied. This is often referred to as 'render' when modern units are constructed however is not comparable to the soft and natural look and feel of mudbrick. Particularly when complimented with rough sawn, rustic timber which is so commonly used with mudbrick construction. The light cream and tan tones, through to

the richer browns which are commonly associated with mudbrick building are most complementary to creating the preferred neighbour character for Nillumbik.

Muted tones are also helpful in softening the roof line of any building. These types of muted tones, including blacks, greys, and browns, are most suited to a mudbrick construction.

Articulation

Articulation is very important in creating a preferred visual amenity in the shire, this can be achieved by a number of design techniques; Pitched roofs (steeper the better), stepping the upper story or stories back from the ground floor, having steps in the front façade, and the addition of verandas or pergolas.

In the case of mudbrick houses there is an added benefit created by the thickness of the mudbrick wall, which requires window and door frames rebated back from the front face of the mudbrick thereby creating articulation at every opening. Plus the aforementioned Textures and tones

Building Heights

Building height is most commonly a problem when there is a lack of articulation, set back and the right tones and textures of the walls. A tall building can be softened by a pitch roof whereby the top story, be it the second or third story, can be accommodated largely within the roof pitch. We would encourage pitch roofs for any residential setting as it provides this amenity. A tall Mudbrick house (possibly three storeys), that has the advantages of the upper storey in the pitched roof, and the other previously mentioned aspects, could be quite acceptable

We don't prefer whether a house is one, two or three story provided the elements we have discussed are appropriately incorporated into the plans.

We hope that you find our submission of assistance. If you agree that the reasons mentioned would help in the preservation of Neighbourhood Character in the Shire and provide some direction for developing the emerging neighbourhood character, we would be delighted. It makes a great deal of sense for the Shire to actively look for opportunities to encourage the use of Mudbrick. To maintain the living history of the Shire, and most importantly for this project you are undertaking, to ensure that the preferred future Nillumbik neighbourhood character is enhanced.

Kind Regards,

Nillumbik Mud Brick Association

Submission 19





Hi,

I would like to put in a submission for consideration. Unfortunately I have not been able to read any preliminary documents to guide my thoughts. However, I wanted to make the following simple point.

When considering neighbourhood character please don't be restrained by what Engineers claim are national standard that MUST be adhered to. An example of this is the need for concrete gutters on all roads, or minimum road widths, etc. Planners and landscape designers must have the ability to listen to what the community wants and what would make a sustainable solution to any proposed development or construction. In the case of a local road, there may be pressure to have a minimum width or a certain tree clearance. This pressure must be resisted.

I have been in Eltham Shire and Nillumbik Shire long enough to see major projects literally ruin neighbourhood character because of these "engineering essentials". On the other hand I have seen extremely successful outcomes where community push-back has resisted this pressure and fabulous outcomes have eventuated.

An example is Valley Road in Wattle Glen where it was demanded that we have a road x metres wide with concrete gutters. It was be wide enough for cars to pass at speed and to look like any other "suburban" street. Fortunately, residents in the street fought this and the outcome has been great. Yes, cars have to wait to pass but this makes for a friendly greeting and slower traffic. (The push-back may have been successful because we were paying 90% of the construction costs!)

Even good Engineers themselves can come up with appropriate solutions. Flat Rock road was constructed in the 1980s. The original plan was to be straight, bulldoze the trees and have a very wide bitumen road. Fortunately the Shire Engineer fought this and produced a narrow, windy road going around trees made of a "country seal", not bitumen. It cost less than half the original estimated price and has been a very successful thoroughfare in keeping with neighbourhood character for over 40 years.

Unfortunately not many engineers are like this. Apparently "national standards" were applied to the road between Panton Hill and Kangaroo Ground. In response to some (undisclosed) data on accident numbers, national standards required the construction of ugly, inappropriate metal guard rails and highly reflective signage along most of it's length. Not only do we have taxpayers money spent on a problem that could not be proven to exist, but the solution destroyed the neighbourhood character of the entire length of road.

Yan Yean Road north of Sutherland Homes is another example of total disregard of neighbourhood character. This was designed by VicRoad Engineers driven by standards and who obviously did not understand the importance of listening to residents (whose requests were ignored) and the whole idea of neighbourhood character.

Another deplorable example is what the Level Crossing Authority is doing to the centre of Wattle Glen. Despite on-going efforts by the community they are going ahead with the construction of a car park in the worst location when a better alternative is available. Even

when we don't oppose things and try to be helpful by providing a viable alternative the Engineers responsible fall back on "standards" and reject our ideas.

Please do all you can to put the voice of residents and neighbourhood character at the forefront of all infrastructure development.

Sincerely,



Sent from my iPhone

Information provided by in support of her survey response (No. 20638)

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER STRATEGY SURVEY

Photos supporting my completed survey -

As I walk along the footpaths of Main Road, I appreciate the tree canopy for many reasons.

The trees provide shade during the summer, they provide habitat for the many birds and creatures and help to reduce the temperature in the valley.

These trees most importantly absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere along this busy road.

NO 1 & 3 Photograph shows trees planted by the Shire of Nillumbik along the nature strip

NO 2 Photograph is the nature strip in front of many units and the planted trees have been removed.







engagement

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects



Nillumbik Shire Council Nillumbik Neighbourhood Character Strategy

Stage 1 Consultation Findings Report

Final Draft

26 May 2022

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Acknowledgement

Nillumbik Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Country on which Nillumbik is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging; and extend that respect to all First Nations People. We respect the enduring strength of the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

Document title	Nillumbik Neighbourhood Character Strategy – Stage 1 Engagement Consultation Findings Report	
Version	sion Final Draft	
Date	26 May 2022	
Prepared by	Robyn Cochrane, CEO/Director, Cochrane Research Solutions Angela Walter, Principal Consultant, Chatterbox Projects	
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Partners



Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Contents

1	Exe	cutive summary	4
	1.1	Overview of engagement activities	5
	1.2	Overview of participation and participation profile	7
	1.3	Key findings	8
2	Proj	ect background and engagement overview	12
	2.1	Background and purpose	12
	2.2	Engagement overview and program	13
	2.3	Overview of participation	15
3	Des	cription of participation profile	16
	3.1	Gender of participants	16
	3.2	Age of participants	16
	3.3	Main connection to Nillumbik (live, work or visit/play)	17
	3.4	Residential township/locality	18
	3.5	Diversity and other characteristics of participants	19
4	Find	lings from the analysis of the community feedback	20
	4.1	Introduction	20
	4.2	Diamond Creek	22
	4.3	Eltham	29
	4.4	Eltham North	40
	4.5	Greensborough	46
	4.6	Hurstbridge	51
	4.7	North Warrandyte	60
	4.8	Panton Hill	66
	4.9	Plenty	71
	4.10	Research	76
	4.11	St Andrews	80
	4.12	Wattle Glen	86
	4.13	Yarrambat	93
	4.14	General feedback – overall Shire, unspecified study area	98
5	Insi	ghts from Council Advisory Committees	100
Α	ppend	ix 1. Engagement survey	103

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

1 Executive summary

ChatterBox Projects was engaged, in partnership with Ethos Urban, to plan and deliver engagement activities to seek community feedback to inform the development of a draft Neighbourhood Character Strategy for Nillumbik Shire.

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify a preferred neighbourhood character for each residential area of the Shire and to provide guidelines that require future development to support that character.

Neighbourhood character is essentially how an area looks and feels and the qualities that make that area distinct from others. It includes elements like:

- Vegetation (like gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings/homes look)
- Street layout (configuration, subdivision pattern)
- Heights of buildings and homes
- Streetscape (how the street/road looks)
- Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)
- Front fencing and footpaths
- Topography (mountains, hills, creeks etc.)
- Views

Developing a Neighbourhood Character Strategy was identified as a priority action in the Nillumbik Council Plan 2021-2025 and is required to reflect changes to State Government policy and planning reforms regarding residential growth and development that have occurred over recent years.

The development of the Strategy will replace the existing 'Neighbourhood Character Study: Residential Design Guidelines' prepared in 2001 (amended in 2003) and once finalised, will also help to inform any future Nillumbik Housing Strategy and Residential Development Framework.

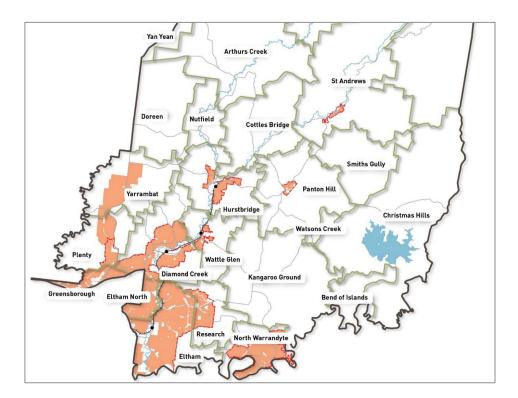
The new Strategy aims to strengthen Council's ability to protect the character of the Shire's residential areas, including its rural townships, and provide greater clarity to landowners, developers, architects, designers, State Government and the community about what constitutes neighbourhood character as well as provide guidance regarding the appropriate placement and design of new buildings and homes.

The areas covered by the Strategy include all residential land within the General Residential Zone (GRZ), Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ), Mixed Use Zone (MUZ), Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ) and Township Zone (TZ).

These residential areas are more likely to experience change and growth into the future and therefore need guidelines in place to ensure any new development is respectful of the identified preferred neighbourhood character.

The map on the following page shows the residential areas included within the scope of the project.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects



To develop the Strategy, background research is being undertaken by Ethos Urban, including reviewing the strategic context (both local and State planning policies) and assessing each residential area to determine the key character attributes which are to inform preferred character statements and design guidelines.

Community input is an essential part of this process and has guided this first round of engagement; which involved asking the community what they love and value about their neighbourhoods; how they would describe the neighbourhood character of the relevant residential areas; and how new residential developments should support the preferred character.

Following this first round of engagement, the project involves two further rounds of community consultation:

- community feedback on the draft Neighbourhood Character Strategy (late 2022); and
- A final check-in with the community on the draft Strategy, including any changes proposed in response to the results of the previous round of engagement, before finalisation (mid to late 2023)

1.1 Overview of engagement activities

This first round of community engagement was about championing the Neighbourhood Character Strategy and informing the community about the project including explaining what neighbourhood character is and its role in helping to guide development within the Shire's residential areas. The engagement was also about seeking community input to:

- gain an understanding of what people value;
- how they would describe the character of each area; and
- how new residential developments should support the established or preferred character.

People who live in, work in, and visit Nillumbik were identified as the target population for this engagement. The consultation was open for 6 weeks from 28 March to 8 May 2022.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Engagement activities where people could provide feedback included:

- survey (available in hardcopy and online via Council's Participate Nillumbik engagement platform);
- place-based pop-ups x 3 (Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek & Eltham);
- email/written submissions; and
- Council Community Advisory Committee meetings x 4 (Environment and Sustainability, Inclusion and Access, Positive Ageing, Youth Council).

These engagement activities were supported by a range of communication activities including:

- information on Council's Participate Nillumbik engagement platform including a virtual walking tour video, project summary fact sheet, FAQ's, map of the study area, and key milestone dates;
- information in Nillumbik News/e-News and other relevant Council newsletters;
- regular social media posts on Council's social media platforms as well as paid social media advertisements;
- posters and postcards placed at libraries, Council's customer service areas, schools and other community facilities and high-traffic local destinations (e.g. post offices and shops);
- direct notification to relevant community groups;
- promotion on community newsletters, such as school newsletters; and
- promotion through Council's advisory committees, community groups etc.

1.1.1 The survey

The survey was available in hard copy and online via the Participate Nillumbik website. The survey provided and introduction and background to the project and included a map to show the neighbourhood character study areas.

The survey obtained demographic details of respondents and included the following questions:

- Select the area/ areas/ street that you would like to comment on
- Describe the character of this neighbourhood now (in five words or less)
- What do you like about the neighbourhood character of this area?
- Are there any features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?
- How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character?

Survey respondents could comment on up to two neighbourhood character areas.

1.1.2 Place based Pop-ups

The engagement program included three (3) placed based community pop-ups. These were held:

- 1. Sunday 3 April, from 9am 2pm at the Hurstbridge Farmers Market
- 2. Saturday 9 April, from 9am 1.30pm at the Diamond Creek Regional Play Space
- 3. Sunday 10 April, from 8.30am 12.30pm at the Eltham Farmers Market

The pop-ups were designed to encourage and invite people to learn about the project, talk about neighbourhood character, ask questions and provide their feedback both via the pop-up engagement tools and via a hard copy survey. The pop-ups were held in busy high-traffic locations to intercept a wide range of community members and include those who may not normally engage with Council.

Feedback at the pop-ups could be provided via hard copy surveys, 2 Chatboards and a voting pod.

The Chatboards (where people can write their responses on a board with chalk) asked:

6 | Page

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

- What do you love and value now about the character of this neighbourhood? (Where the pop-up was being held – Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek or Eltham); and
- How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character? (Where the pop-up was being held – Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek or Eltham).

The voting pod (where people can select an option by placing a ball into a tube) asked how much people loved and valued the character of the neighbourhood where the pop-up was being held. This tool provided an interactive way of getting people to think about neighbourhood character and start a conversation while still providing data for the project.

The pop-ups were developed to reflect the questions in the survey to ensure consistency in data collection and analysis.

1.2 Overview of participation and participation profile

The engagement activities were effective in obtaining feedback from a total of 578 people with:

- 312* people filling in and submitting a survey;
- 20* people making written submissions;
- 220 participating in the 3x place-based pop-ups; and
- 26 participants in the 4x Council Advisory Committee meetings.

*Please note the number of survey responses and written submissions includes a reclassification of feedback provided by two participants. Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity.

In addition, the communications activities were effective in reaching approximately over 4,000 people with:

- 2,689 visitors to the Participate Nillumbik project page with 310 contributors and 61 followers; and
- 1,678 people directed to the project page via social media posts.

Participant demographic data was captured via the online and hard copy surveys (312). Almost all survey respondents reported living in Nillumbik (indicated across two question). 93% said their main connection to the area was 'living in Nillumbik' and 95% said they reside in a township/locality within the Nillumbik Shire.

Many survey respondents (67%) indicated they reside in Eltham (122), followed by Eltham North (35), Hurstbridge (28) and Diamond Creek (25).

Other details provided by the survey respondents included:

- Gender: Females, Males and Self-describe were represented. Females were particularly engaged (198 or 63%).
- Age: All age groups were represented except for 85 years and older. Many respondents identified as 35 to 49 years (90 or 29%).
- Connection: In addition to the 93% that indicated they live in Nillumbik, some participants also indicated a connection to a range of groups including Council's Advisory Committees (Environment and Sustainability; Inclusion and Access; Positive Ageing; and Youth Council); Clean Energy Nillumbik; Hurstbridge Community Voice; Nillumbik Mudbrick Association Inc.; Roads and Roadside Ecology (RARE) Northern Nillumbik; Stringy Bark Community Nursery; Wattle Glen Residents' Association Inc.; and Wildlife Advocates of Nillumbik.
- Diversity characteristics: Some participants identified as a Person with a disability (9), Person speaking
 English as a second language (9); LGBTQI+ (8) and/or Person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island
 descent (6).

7 | Page

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

1.3 Key findings

When looking at community feedback about neighbourhood character across the whole of Nillumbik Shire, some clear themes emerged.

What people liked most about the neighbourhood character across all areas was the vegetation. This included trees, tree canopy, habitat, wildlife corridors, green wedge and natural bushland/ bushy areas. When asked to indicate what people liked about neighbourhood character, 'Vegetation' was selected the most (96%) out of a list of eight options.

The next highest selections from the list of the eight options were:

- Topography, (hills and waterways) (74%);
- Setbacks (large setbacks) (72%); and
- Views (outlook of trees and bush) (72%).

Other strong themes that emerged about what people like about neighbourhood character across all areas included:

- larger blocks and a sense of openness or open spaces;
- low density and low heights;
- heritage, historical, older look and feel of buildings and houses;
- use of natural materials so dwellings blend into the natural environment; and
- rural, country, township, village feel.

These themes were reflected in the feedback about how new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character? People indicated that they wanted new development to be designed to:

- protect, enhance and increase vegetation, trees, habitat, wildlife corridors;
- respect current look and feel including older homes and small-town rural feel; and
- use natural materials and colours.

People also indicated they wanted to keep larger blocks and setbacks, low density, low heights and minimal subdivisions.

The below table (Table 1) provides an overview of the feedback received for each neighbourhood area including the number of comments received (via the survey). There were 369 separate comments or pieces of feedback received via the survey with the most comments being about Eltham (149), followed by Hurstbridge (45), Eltham North (40), and Diamond Creek (38).

The number of comments for each neighbourhood was determined by coding or sorting them into relevant neighbourhood character areas and then counting them.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Table 1. Overview of feedback for each neighbourhood

Area	No of comments	Notes
Eltham	149	What people like/ what is unique about the neighbourhood character: vegetation, trees, canopy trees; the views; topography (hills and waterways); larger setbacks and blocks; low heights; older and diverse housing types (including mud brick); use of natural building materials; rural style paths/ roads; and the area having a rural, country, township feel How can new development be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character? Protect trees, canopy trees, corridors and vegetation; new developments to include new vegetation and gardens; development to respect current architecture/ green leafy character; integrate homes into the landscape and use natural materials; retain low or no fencing; minimise subdivisions; keep larger blocks and setbacks; prioritise low rise/ single storey and low density
Hurstbridge	45	What people like/ what is unique about the neighbourhood character: vegetation, trees, habitat; topography; larger setbacks and blocks; mix of landscapes – rural, village, grazing, equine and open space; the views (tree canopy); low heights and single dwellings; historical/ heritage buildings; use of natural materials (mud brick, wood); minimal fencing; informal paths and the area having a rural, country, township feel How can new development be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character? Protect trees, canopy trees; new developments to be respectful of existing small town feel; retain low density, low heights, large blocks, rural hobby farms and grazing land; preserve heritage features; limit subdivisions; use natural materials
Eltham North	40	What people like/ what is unique about the neighbourhood character: vegetation, trees, canopy trees; topography (hills); larger setbacks and blocks; the views; low heights and single dwellings; older and diverse housing types (including mud brick, wood, stone); use of natural building materials; minimal fencing; and the area having a rural, country, township feel How can new development be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character? Protect trees, canopy trees, large gardens and habitat; new developments to include new vegetation and trees; integrate development into surrounding landscape; limit subdivisions; keep larger blocks and setbacks; prioritise low rise/ single storey and low density
Diamond Creek	38	What people like/ what is unique about the neighbourhood character: vegetation, trees; the views; topography; larger setbacks and blocks;

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Area	No of comments	Notes
		large spaces/ open space; low heights; older homes; and the area having a rural, country, village feel
		How can new development be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character? Protect trees and vegetation; new developments to include new vegetation; retain old homes; minimise subdivisions; keep larger blocks and setbacks; prioritise low rise/ single storey
	19	What people like/ what is unique about the neighbourhood character: vegetation, green wedge, trees, bushland; the views; topography; larger setbacks and blocks; lower heights (not built up); and the area having a rural, country feel
Wattle Glen		How can new development be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character? Protect trees; keep larger blocks, setbacks and lower heights; development to integrate with rural/ rustic character; improve roads/ paths
North Warrandyte	14	What people like/ what is unique about the neighbourhood character: vegetation, natural bushland, the views (trees/ bush); topography (hills/ waterway); low density; low height; minimal development; larger setbacks and natural bushy blocks; open space; and the area having a rural, country, village feel How can new development be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character? Protect trees, bush and vegetation; new
		developments to be small scale; low rise; set back and use natural materials
Panton Hill	14	What people like/ what is unique about the neighbourhood character: vegetation, trees, green wedge; topography; larger blocks; historical character (gold rush/ fires); views; mix of land uses — grazing, equine, rural; and the area having a rural, country feel How can new development be designed to enhance or improve the
		neighbourhood character? Retain hobby farms and grazing land; allow some mix of housing types; improve paths/ trails
Research	12	What people like/ what is unique about the neighbourhood character: trees, large trees, bush setting, large gardens with wildlife; topography (hills/mountains); larger setbacks and natural bushy blocks; variety of areas like farmland, rural, grazing, wineries; use of natural building materials; no formal/ unsealed roads; and the area having a rural, country feel

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Area	No of	Notes
	comments	How can new development be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character? Retain and increase trees, bush, vegetation, gardens; retain current setbacks, form and development to respect current building height/size; prevent on-street parking
		What people like/ what is unique about the neighbourhood character: vegetation, the Gorge; natural areas; open spaces; large blocks; views; topography (hills); setbacks; and the area having a rural, township, country feel
Plenty	10	How can new development be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character? Retain trees, native vegetation; increase vegetation cover; retain rural character; limit subdivision/ heights, retain setbacks and open spaces; improve walkways and paths
St Andrews	10	What people like/ what is unique about the neighbourhood character: natural bushland; large bush blocks; mix of uses — paddocks, working farms, residences; views; topography; informal unsealed roads; and the area having a rural, country feel How can new development be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character? Protect green wedge; protect wildlife; no subdivisions; small scale only; use natural materials; improve roads
Yarrambat 10 How neig		What people like/ what is unique about the neighbourhood character: trees, hobby farms, bush; native front gardens; views, topography; large blocks and setback; low density; and the area having a rural, country feel How can new development be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character? Maintain gum trees, tree canopy; diversity of housing; large block sizes
Greensborough	8	What people like/ what is unique about the neighbourhood character: vegetation, trees, gardens; open spaces; the views and street layout How can new development be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character? Limit new development and heights

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

2 Project background and engagement overview

2.1 Background and purpose

Nillumbik Shire Council is developing a Neighbourhood Character Strategy. The purpose of the Strategy is to identify a preferred neighbourhood character for each residential area of the Shire and to provide guidelines that require future development to support that character.

Neighbourhood character is essentially how an area looks and feels and the qualities that make that area distinct from others. It includes elements like:

- Vegetation (like gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings/homes look)
- Street layout (configuration, subdivision pattern)
- Heights of buildings and homes
- Streetscape (how the street/road looks)
- Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)
- Front fencing and footpaths
- Topography (mountains, hills, creeks etc.)
- Views

Developing a Neighbourhood Character Strategy was identified as a priority action in Council's 2021-2025 Council Plan and is required to reflect changes to State Government policy and planning reforms that have been occurring over recent years.

The development of the Strategy will replace the existing 'Neighbourhood Character Study: Residential Design Guidelines' prepared in 2001 (amended in 2003) and once finalised, will also help to inform any future Nillumbik Housing Strategy.

The new Strategy aims to strengthen Council's ability to protect the character of the Shire's residential areas, including within its rural townships, and provide greater clarity to landowners, developers, architects, designers, State Government and the community about what constitutes neighbourhood character and appropriate placement and design of new buildings and homes.

To develop the Strategy, background research will be undertaken by Ethos Urban, including reviewing the strategic context (both local and State planning policies) and assessing each residential area to determine the key character attributes which are to form neighbourhood character statements and guidelines. Community input into understanding the character of each area is an essential part of the process.

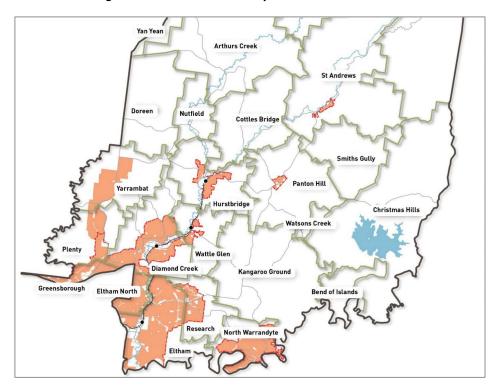
The areas covered by the Strategy include all residential land within the General Residential Zone (GRZ), Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ), Mixed Use Zone (MUZ), Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ) and Township Zone (TZ).

These residential areas are more likely to experience change and growth into the future and therefore need guidelines in place to ensure any new development is respectful of the relevant neighbourhood character.

Figure 1 shows the residential areas included within the scope of the project.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Figure 1. Nillumbik Neighbourhood Character Study Area



2.2 Engagement overview and program

This first round of community engagement was about championing the Neighbourhood Character Strategy and informing the community about the project including explaining what neighbourhood character is and its role in helping to guide development within the Shire's residential areas. The engagement was also about seeking community input to:

- gain an understanding of what people value;
- how they would describe the character of each area; and
- how new residential developments should support the established or preferred character.

People who live, work and play in Nillumbik were identified as the target population for this engagement. The consultation was open for 6 weeks from 28 March to 8 May 2022.

ChatterBox Projects was engaged, in partnership with Ethos Urban, to plan and deliver the engagement activities and to analyse and report on the community feedback.

Engagement activities where people could provide feedback included:

- survey (available in hardcopy and online via Council's Participate Nillumbik engagement platform) see
 Appendix 1 Consultation Survey;
- email/ written submissions;
- place-based pop-ups x3 (Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek, and Eltham); and
- Council Advisory Committee meetings x4 (Environment and Sustainability, Inclusion and Access, Positive Ageing, Youth Council).

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

These engagement activities were supported by a range of communication activities including:

- information on Council's Participate Nillumbik engagement platform including a virtual walking tour video, project summary fact sheet, FAQ's, map of the study area, and key milestone dates;
- information in Nillumbik News/e-News and other relevant Council newsletters;
- regular social media posts on Council's social media platforms as well as paid social media advertisements;
- posters and postcards placed at libraries, Council's customer service areas, schools and other community facilities and high-traffic local destinations (e.g. post offices and shops);
- direct notification to relevant community groups;
- promotion on community newsletters, such as school newsletters; and
- promotion through Council's advisory committees, community groups etc.

2.2.1 Place based Pop-ups

The engagement program included three (3) placed based community pop-ups. These were held:

- 1. Sunday 3 April, from 9am 2pm at the Hurstbridge Farmers Market
- 2. Saturday 9 April, from 9am 1.30pm at the Diamond Creek Regional Play Space
- 3. Sunday 10 April, from 8.30am 12.30pm at the Eltham Farmers Market

The pop-ups were designed to encourage and invite people to learn about the project, talk about neighbourhood character, ask questions and provide their feedback both via the pop-up engagement tools and via a hard copy survey. The pop-ups were held in busy high-traffic locations to intercept a wide range of community members, include those who may not normally engage with Council.

Feedback at the pop-ups could be provided via hard copy surveys, 2 Chatboards and a voting pod.

The Chatboards (where people can write their responses on a board with chalk) asked:

- What do you love and value now about the character of this neighbourhood? (where the pop-up was being held – Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek or Eltham); and
- How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood character? (where the pop-up was being held – Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek or Eltham).

(The data analysis from these questions has been included in an additional column in the relevant tables under the suburbs of Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek and Eltham in Section 4 of the report).

The voting pod (where people can select an option by placing a ball into a tube) asked how much people loved and valued the character of the neighbourhood where the pop-up was being held. This tool provided an interactive way of getting people to think about neighbourhood character and start a conversation while still providing data for the project.

The pop-ups were developed to reflect the questions in the survey to ensure consistency in data collection and analysis.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

2.3 Overview of participation

The engagement activities were effective in seeking feedback from 578 participants. As shown in Table 2 below, the number of visitors to the Participate Nillumbik project page and clicks to the project page from social media posts was far greater. An overview of participation outcomes is presented below.

Table 2. Overview of communication and engagement activities with participation outcomes

Communication and engagement methods	Participation outcomes
Engagement activities	
Survey (online and hard copy)	312*
Written submissions	20*
3 x place-based pop-ups	220
4 x Council Advisory Committee meetings	26
TOTAL	578
Communications activities (inform and raise awareness)	
Visitors to Participate Nillumbik project page	2,689
Contributors and number of contributions to the project page	310 (325)
Followers of the Participate Nillumbik project page	61
Click through to the project page from social media posts	1,678

^{*}Please note the number of survey responses and written submissions includes a reclassification of feedback provided by two participants. Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity.



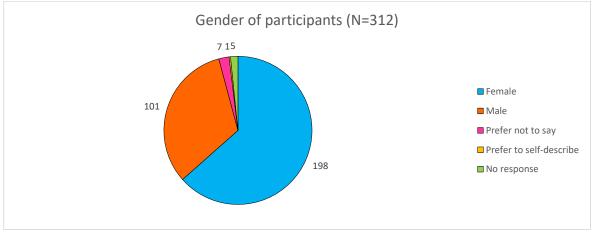
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3 Description of participation profile

3.1 Gender of participants

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their gender. As shown in Figure 2, all genders were represented. More respondents identified as Female (198 or 63%) than Male (101 or 32%). The respondent who selected "Prefer to self-describe" reported "Non-binary". Five respondents did not provide a response.

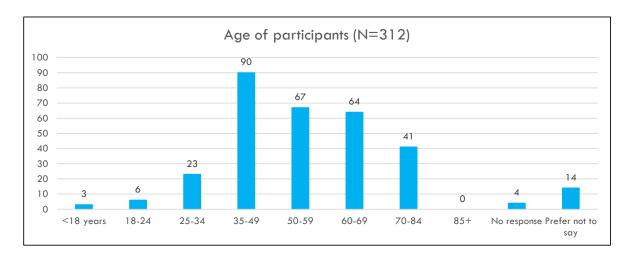
Figure 2. Gender of participants (Survey)



3.2 Age of participants

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their age. As shown in Figure 3, all age groupings were represented except for those aged 85 years and over. Many participants identified as 35 to 49 years (90 or 29%), 50 to 59 years (67 or 21%), and 60 to 69 years (64 or 20%).

Figure 3. Age of participants (Survey)

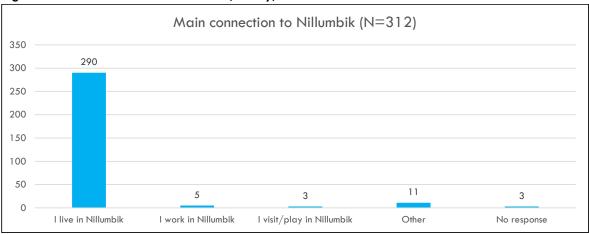


Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

3.3 Main connection to Nillumbik (live, work or visit/play)

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their main connection to Nillumbik from a listing of live, work, visit/play and "Other". All responses options were selected. As shown in Figure 4, the majority reported living in Nillumbik (290 or 93%).

Figure 4. Main connection to Nillumbik (Survey)



The 11 respondents who selected "Other" reported:

- All of the above (2)
- I live in Montmorency so we use Eltham all the time.
- Live and work here (4)
- Live on boundary of Nillumbik/Banyule in Eltham Nth. Volunteer for many things in Nillumbik. 48 years in Nillumbik
- Lived in area most of my life
- School
- Used to live there, grew up in the area and have connections, family now lives there

In relation to written submissions and Council Advisory Committee meetings, individuals with the following connections participated:

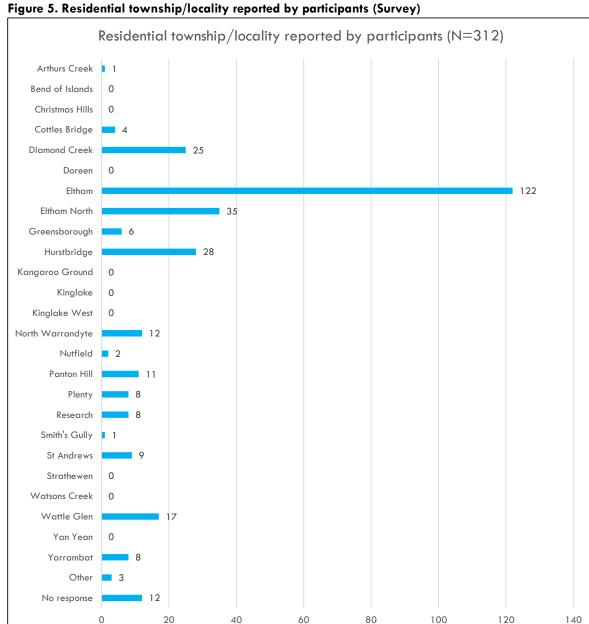
- Clean Energy Nillumbik
- Hurstbridge Community Voice
- Nillumbik Mudbrick Association Inc.
- Roads and Roadside Ecology (RARE) Northern Nillumbik
- Stringy Bark Community Nursery
- Wattle Glen Residents' Association Inc.
- Wildlife Advocates of Nillumbik)
- Council Advisory Committees (Environment and Sustainability; Inclusion and Access; Positive Ageing; and Youth Council)

Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects Attachment 7.

3.4 Residential township/locality

Survey respondents were asked to indicate the township/locality where they live. All responses options were selected. 12 respondents did not provide a response to this question.

As shown in Figure 5, 297 (or 95% of) respondents reported living in Nillumbik with many residing in Eltham (122 or 39%). No survey responses were received from Bend of Islands, Christmas Hills, Doreen, Kangaroo Ground, Kinglake, Kinglake West, Strathewen, Watsons Creek or Yan Yean. The three respondents who selected "Other" reported Lower Plenty, Midhurst and Montmorency.

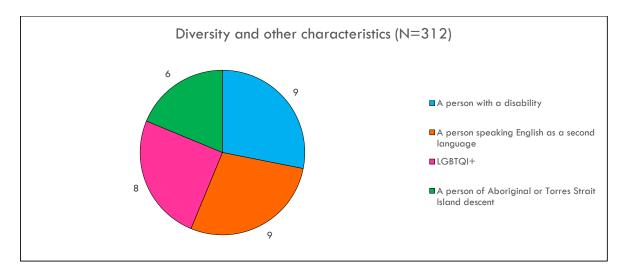


Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

3.5 Diversity and other characteristics of participants

Survey respondents were asked to indicate which diversity characteristics they identified with. As shown in Figure 6, some of the 312 survey respondents identified as a person with a disability, person speaking English as a second language, LGBTQI+ and/or person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent.

Figure 6. Diversity and other characteristics reported by participants (Survey)





Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4 Findings from the analysis of the community feedback

4.1 Introduction

This section reports the findings from the analysis of the community feedback gathered via the survey (online and hard copy formats), written submissions and three place-based pop-up engagement activities. Insights from the four Council Advisory Committee meetings are presented separately in Section 5.

Overall, the community feedback provided detailed information; participants described neighbourhood character now, neighbourhood character features that are liked, specific features that make a neighbourhood unique, ways that new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character, and some general feedback. The feedback gathered via the place-based pop-up engagement and excerpts from written submissions are presented throughout this section, alongside the most relevant survey findings. This feedback is informative as it elaborates the survey responses. Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity.

In relation to the analysis approach, responses to the closed-ended questions were tally counted overall and for each specific Study area and are presented as figures. Personalised responses to the open-ended questions were manually analysed and coded in MS Excel. The Neighbourhood Character features were used as an initial coding template (themes) and relevant feedback was grouped to each theme. Additional themes also emerged from the feedback during the analysis process, and these are reported. The summary tables in this Section present the findings from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each Neighbourhood Character feature is presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. Neighbourhood Character themes attracted no feedback are shaded light grey. For ease of reading, Neighbourhood Character themes are presented first and have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Following this, emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback.

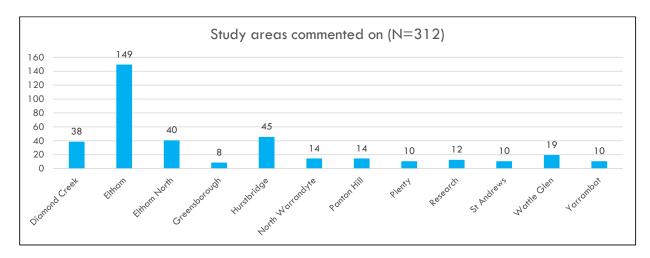
Personalised responses referred to one or more topics and some responses were regarded as referring to topics outside the scope of this consultation (i.e., improvements to sporting grounds). This feedback will be noted by Council and is not included in this report. Themes with summary statements which describe the sentiment in the relevant feedback are presented in tables, accompanied by tally counts.

This section outlines the volume of survey feedback for each Study area and Neighbourhood Character features. Following this, feedback for each specific Study area is presented in alphabetical order. Feedback that referred to the overall Shire or did not specify a Study area is presented in 4.14.

Survey respondents were asked to indicate which neighbourhood (or study area) they would like to comment on and were permitted to comment on one or two neighbourhoods. As shown in Figure 7, the 312 respondents commented on 369 neighbourhoods and all study areas were selected. The area of Eltham attracted the most feedback, followed by Hurstbridge, Eltham North and Diamond Creek. The other study areas received lower levels of feedback. Place-based pop-up engagement activities were conducted in Diamond Creek, Eltham and Hurstbridge and provide additional feedback for those study areas.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

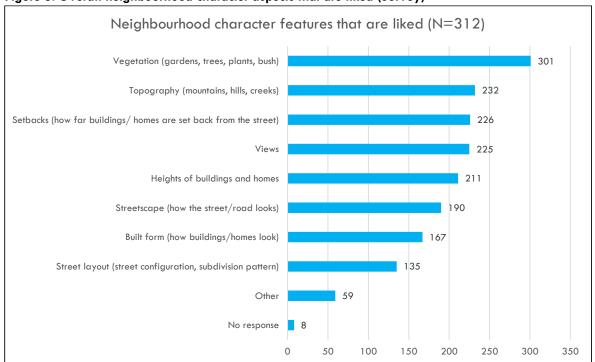
Figure 7. Level of survey feedback for each of the Study areas (Survey)



Survey respondents were asked to indicate which features of the neighbourhood character they like now. Eight respondents did not answer this question.

As shown in Figure 8, respondents selected all features. Most respondents selected Vegetation (301 or 96%), followed by Topography (232 or 74%), Setbacks (226 or 72%) and Views (225 or 72%).

Figure 8. Overall neighbourhood character aspects that are liked (Survey)



The responses for the 59 respondents who selected "Other" are presented verbatim in the relevant Study area throughout this report.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.2 Diamond Creek

This section presents the findings relating to Diamond Creek. Survey respondents had the opportunity to comment on one or two neighbourhood study areas and **38 survey respondents** commented on Diamond Creek. In addition, a place-based pop-up engagement activity was conducted at Diamond Creek which focused on this area. Feedback from the **pop-up participants** as well as relevant insights from the **written submissions** are also outlined here.

The Neighbourhood Character features were used as an initial coding template (themes) and relevant feedback was grouped to each theme. Additional themes also emerged from the feedback during the analysis process, and these are reported. The summary tables in this Section present the findings from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each Neighbourhood Character feature is presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, Neighbourhood Character themes have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback. Some individuals may have participated in more than one activity. Personalised feedback referred to one or more topics.

4.2.1 Key highlights for Diamond Creek

- When asked to describe the character of this neighbourhood now, participants reported a variety of elements. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (1980-1990s style garden city, spread out with big blocks and privacy. Low density family homes, contemporary boxy homes with earthy tones and eves. Old with limited housing diversity) and Vegetation (It is green, green wedge, bushy, beautiful trees, river red gums, lovely gardens, and nature)
- When asked what they like about the character of this neighbourhood and presented with a list of options, participants most frequently selected: Vegetation; Views; Topography and Setbacks
- When asked how much they love or value the neighbourhood character, many pop-up participants indicated they Love or Like the neighbourhood character of Diamond Creek
- When asked about specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique, participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (The greenery and green wedge look and feel. The beautiful trees, treed areas, river red gums, gardens, vegetation, and bushland) and Built form (Relatively low density, homes on big blocks with family friendly outdoor spaces and open green spaces. Some consistency in buildings, older cottages being done up, new contemporary design houses and mud brick homes)
- When asked how new development in this neighbourhood could be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character, participants provided a variety of suggestions. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (Retain old homes and maintain consistency. Keep the larger blocks for family homes and backyards, permit the redevelopment of homes. No overdevelopment and no unit and townhouse developments on big blocks, minimum subdivision block size of 400m2. Thoughtful house orientation and designs to include eves, shaded roofs, lighter roofs, broader colour palette) and Vegetation (Protect native vegetation, more native vegetation, tree planting and larger gardens as part of new estates to cool blocks and neighbourhoods. Avoid damaging old river red gums and clear dangerous trees on the roadside)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Survey respondents were invited to report the name/s of a particular or relevant street, road or area of interest. Of the 38 survey respondents, 28 provided the following details in relation to Diamond Creek:

Street/Area	Street/Area
■ Brimar Close	 Haley street, Wensley Street and Phipps
■ Chapman Street	Crescent Heidelberg Kinglake Rd shops
Chute Street	 Heidelberg Kinglake Road (2)
Clyde Street	 Helen Court
 Collard Street new estate 	 Herberts Lane
Dering Street	 James Cook Drive/Fraser Street
Discovery Drive	 Lambert street
Edinburgh Street	 Main Hurstbridge Road (2)
Edmonds Street	Main township
 Everard Street and Ward Street 	 Mitchell Court
Everleigh Drive	 Orme Road
 Fyffe Street 	 Reynolds Road and Mt Pleasant Road
 Haley Street and surrounds 	 River Gum Close and Harmony Drive.

4.2.2 How the character of this neighbourhood is described now

Survey respondents were asked "Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 36 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 3 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. The Neighbourhood Character features are presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, the Neighbourhood Character themes are presented first and have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Neighbourhood Character themes attracted no feedback are shaded light grey. Following this, emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback.

As shown in Table 3, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Built form (how buildings or homes look)
- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)



Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Table 3. Summary of themes and topics describing current neighbourhood character of Diamond Creek (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=36)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	
It is green, green wedge, bushy, beautiful trees, river red gums, lovely gardens, and nature	11
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
1980-1990s style garden city, spread out with big blocks and privacy. Low density family homes, contemporary boxy homes with earthy tones and eves. Old with limited housing diversity	14
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern) Car centric, poorly planned streets that are unsafe. Roads need sealing and speed humps	4
4 Heights of buildings and homes	2
Single and double storey houses	2
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	
Tree-lined streets, large sidewalks. Improve streetscape and address dangerous trees on roadside	4
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street) Lack of setbacks, some space between neighbours	2
7 Front fencing and footpaths	
Homes have front fencing	1
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Family friendly, welcoming and sense of community	5
Relaxed country town vibe	4
Semi-rural township feel	3
City fringe meets bush, urban to rural feel	3
Rural township feel	1
Suburban township feel	1

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Local meeting place
- Remnant River Red Gum dominated

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.2.3 Features of the neighbourhood character that are liked now

Survey respondents were asked "What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply?" and presented with a listing of eight options plus "Other".

Figure 9 presents the results for the above survey question. As shown, all response options were selected, to varying degrees for Diamond Creek. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Views
- Topography (mountains, hills, creeks) and Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street).

Aspects of neighbourhood character that are liked (N=38)Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) 21 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks) 20 Setbacks (how far buildings/ homes are set back from the street) 20 Heights of buildings and homes Built form (how buildings/homes look) Streetscape (how the street/road looks) Street layout (street configuration, subdivision pattern) Other 10 0 5 15 20 25 30

Figure 9. Neighbourhood character features in Diamond Creek that are liked now (Survey)

The six respondents who selected "Other" provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

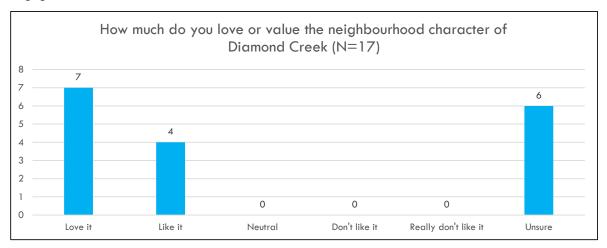
- Fencing
- Flat access to all areas. Nice Community
- How much open green spaces we have that we're a godsend during iso but are sanity savers in our normal day to day
- Not built up. Privacy/ large blocks
- Not much it's not at all like diamond creek. No trees just new homes yuk
- Trees abutting road EXTREMELY dangerous. People before trees

Place-based pop-up (voting pod) participants in Diamond Creek were asked "How much do you love or value the neighbourhood character of Diamond Creek (think architecture style, setbacks, fences and footpaths, vegetation, view lines and typography)? Participants were presented with a listing of five emojis (reflecting Love it, Like it, Neutral, Don't like it and Really don't like it) as well as an Unsure response option, and invited to place one ball in the appropriate tube.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

As shown in Figure 10, most participants indicated they **Love** or **Like** the neighbourhood character of Diamond Creek.

Figure 10. Neighbourhood character features in Diamond Creek that are loved or valued (Pop-up engagement)



Place-based pop-up (chatboard) participants in Diamond Creek were asked "What do you love and value now about the character of this neighbourhood?" Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity or provided more than one Chatboard comment. Participants provided the following feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Heritage architecture
- Lots of green open space
- Open space
- The Windmill House
- Trails
- Village feel

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- This area has a rural feel to it which is very different to the surrounding areas. The land is divided into large blocks with mostly single-story houses and large areas of green, open space. The smallest property on Valley Court is 690 m2. Everybody who lives on Valley Court and the several houses on Edinburgh Street all know each other. This is a neighbourhood, and it is special. The reason people live here is because of the peace and quiet we have, the open spaces on our property
- Built form, Setbacks, Heights of buildings and homes, Vegetation, Topography, Views
- Vegetation

4.2.4 Specific features that make this neighbourhood unique

Survey respondents were asked "Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 32 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 4 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown in Table 4, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the unique feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 4. Summary of themes and topics describing specific unique neighbourhood features of Diamond Creek (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=32)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	
The greenery and green wedge look and feel. The beautiful trees, treed areas, river	12
red gums, gardens, vegetation, and bushland	
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Relatively low density, homes on big blocks with family friendly outdoor spaces and	9
open green spaces. Some consistency in buildings, older cottages being done up, new	,
contemporary design houses and mud brick homes	
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	_
Short drive from a rural area to the shopping precinct and public transport. Access	3
roads are unsafe and the carpark as a town centre	
4 Heights of buildings and homes	2
Single and double storey houses only	_
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	2
Large wide street, sidewalks with tree coverage and walking access to bush	_
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	,
Set back homes and large gaps on the side of properties, garden setbacks and	4
space between neighbours	
7 Front fencing and footpaths	4
Some homes with fencing others with no fences, nice sidewalks	
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	1
Elevated street at one end going down to the creek	
9 Views	3
Views, at the very top of the hill it is possible to see the bush behind the houses	_
No specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique	2
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Sense of community	2
Country town vibe	2
Peaceful	1

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- The remnant River Red Gums. The views to the Diamond Creek riparian area
- The remnant River Red Gums. Separation of residential area from that of neighbouring towns by zoning. The recreation and habitat area following the Diamond Creek in part of the town. Bitumen rather than concrete footpaths

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.2.5 Ways that new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character

Survey respondents were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 33 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 5 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown in Table 5, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Built form (how buildings or homes look)
- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)

Table 5. Summary of themes and topics describing ways new development could enhance the neighbourhood character of Diamond Creek (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=33)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Protect native vegetation, more native vegetation, tree planting and larger gardens as part of new estates to cool blocks and neighbourhoods. Avoid damaging old river red gums and clear dangerous trees on the roadside	12
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Retain old homes and maintain consistency. Keep the larger blocks for family homes and backyards, permit the redevelopment of homes. No over-development and no unit and townhouse developments on big blocks, minimum subdivision block size of 400m2. Thoughtful house orientation and designs to include eves, shaded roofs, lighter roofs, broader colour palette	20
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern) No at grade carparking and a better pedestrian environment	1
4 Heights of buildings and homes No high-rise buildings or house, no more than 2 storeys high	4
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks) Better street frontage interface, enhanced green space in common areas and more native planting along nature strips	3
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street) Greater setbacks around buildings, maintain space between neighbours and setbacks from the street should be at least 5m to allow off street parking	3
7 Front fencing and footpaths Permit front fences. The sidewalks are beautiful	2
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0

Survey respondents were also asked for any other feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character and invited to provide a personalised comment.

In relation to Diamond Creek, the other comments reported by Survey respondents largely reiterated the feedback previously presented. Other aspects referenced the general feedback included: requests to consider traffic flow and better manage cars parked on the side of the road; suggestions to further modernise amenities and infrastructure and expand local dining and retail options.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Place-based pop-up (Chatboard) participants in Diamond Creek were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance and improve the neighbourhood character?" Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity or provided more than one Chatboard comment. Participants provided the following feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Advocate to remove level crossing in Diamond Creek
- No razing of land before development begins
- Wildlife corridors

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Allowing all the trees on a single block of land to be cut down so a multi-unit development can be built does not respect the neighbourhood character. When all or most of the existing houses are single story, adding a development of double story units does not respect the neighbourhood character. My neighbourhood is mostly single storey houses. Adding 1 double storey house to the neighbourhood would fit in as the blocks are large. However, a multi-unit development of double storey units does not fit in a rural setting. The current requirement for 1 visitor space per 5 units may work well on the wide, through road with lots of on street parking, but it doesn't work at all in a neighbourhood that has no on street parking and is a dead-end road, or an unsealed road. People will park on council nature strips. My neighbourhood has no on-street parking. This makes it unsuitable for multi-unit developments. If there were an emergency where we had to leave our houses, it would be very slow going with the narrow, one lane road and dirt road
- RARE supports the retention of all of the elements in the current precinct guidelines: GC2*, GC3, GC4, GC5, HNR dc north research**, and the Residential design guidelines*except the comment that the key characteristic is low gardens predominantly exotic this appears to have changed there is now a predominance of canopy trees and native gardens with natural indigenous vegetation along aqueduct road which should be prioritised for retention. This roadside needs significant vegetation classification and signage to be erected to preserve this remnant understory. ** with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads. Views to the Diamond Creek corridor have been impacted by the development on the hillside west of the creek
- More indigenous vegetation. A minimum amount of area required for landscaping that can screen developments and reduce the visual and heat impact of developments including car parks. Permits that include landscaping should require a permit to remove said landscaping, eg the Mitre 10 car park eucalypts trees have been removed, and the plant species dramatically changed. The vegetation between the petrol station and the road has been removed. No development in Land Subject to Inundation Overlay areas. Permit requirement for tree root encroachment to be enforced eg The current development in the Main Rd near the Ambulance will no doubt kill the remnant river red gums adjoining it due to encroachment into the structural root zone and more than 10% of the tree protection zone

4.3 Eltham

This section presents the findings relating to Eltham. Survey respondents had the opportunity to comment on one or two neighbourhood study areas and 149 survey respondents commented on Eltham. In addition, a place-based pop-up engagement activity was conducted at Eltham which focused on this area. Feedback from the pop-up participants as well as relevant insights from the written submissions are also outlined here.

The Neighbourhood Character features were used as an initial coding template (themes) and relevant feedback was grouped to each theme. Additional themes also emerged from the feedback during the analysis process, and these are reported. The summary tables in this Section present the findings from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each Neighbourhood Character feature is presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, Neighbourhood Character themes have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback. Some individuals may have participated in more than one activity. Personalised feedback referred to one or more topics.

29 | Page

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.3.1 Key highlights for Eltham

- When asked to describe the character of this neighbourhood now, participants reported a variety of elements. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (Leafy, green residential suburb with lots of trees, tree canopy and nature. Beautiful native bush and grassland with native birdlife. Lovely vegetation, natural, native flora and fauna and indigenous and native plants); and Built form (Generally low-profile, low-density housing. One house per block with a large backyard and the house is integrated into the landscape. Diverse housing, historic homes, rustic, charming, mudbrick, and distinctive character. 1950s housing, 1970s modern architecture and ultramodern in town zone. Generally sympathetic development, under threat of overdevelopment and large apartments are inappropriate)
- When asked what they like about the character of this neighbourhood and presented with a list of options, participants most frequently selected: Vegetation; Heights of buildings and homes; and Setbacks
- When asked how much they love or value the neighbourhood character, almost all pop-up participants selected Love or Like the neighbourhood character of Eltham
- When asked about specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique, participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (Beautiful trees, green, leafy open spaces, and natural settings. Tall trees, large canopy trees, native trees, mature, older eucalyptus trees, yellow box, and gum trees. Indigenous and native vegetation, plants, flora, and fauna. Vegetation provides a birdlife and wildlife habitat. Gardens, big gardens and native bush gardens with natural features and mature vegetation); and Built form (Generally low-rise, low-density housing with large block sizes. Houses are integrated into the landscape or nestled in large gardens and yards. Mix of architectural styles, diverse housing, rustic, mudbrick, weatherboard, and distinctive character. 1950s housing, 1960s Alistair Knox designs, 1970s Woodridge Estate and modern architecture with ultramodern in town zone. Natural building materials and subtle earthy colour palette complement the environment and blend in with the vegetation. Not over-developed, some undeveloped areas, limited subdivisions with new developments mainly apartments or townhouses)
- When asked how new development in this neighbourhood could be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character, participants provided a variety of suggestions. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (Respect the current architecture and the green leafy character of the town. Retain the low-rise, low-density housing with large block sizes, backyards, and gardens. Houses to be integrated into the landscape or nestled in large gardens and yards. Permit diverse housing, rustic, mudbrick, country, as well as architectural and traditional styles. Encourage eaves, skylights, slanted roofs reminiscent of the 60s and 70s and the retention of miners' cottages. Use natural building materials and subtle earthy colour palette to complement the environment and blend in with the vegetation. Encourage green living, sustainable designs and roof or vertical gardens. No black colourbond fences, cladding, or roofs. Do not over-develop, limit new subdivisions, and limit the number of bedrooms, apartments, units, and townhouses per development. Keep high density in town zone and near the transit hubs); and Vegetation (Protect the tree canopy, work with existing nature, bush plantings, mature trees, and native vegetation. Have strict controls on the removal of trees and vegetation for new developments and enforce them including the SLO3 overlay. Compulsory requirements for indigenous plantings, greenery, vegetation, plants, native trees, and tree canopy to offset new buildings. Ensure sufficient space on blocks to permit the growth of large trees and provide habitat for birdlife and wildlife. Include front gardens and large gardens or areas with indigenous trees and shrubs and quality landscaping)

Survey respondents were invited to report the name/s of a particular or relevant street, road or area of interest. Of the 149 survey respondents, 107 provided the following details in relation to Eltham:

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

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Street/Area	Street/Area		
Arthur Street	John Street (4)		
 Shopping area of Eltham 	Kapili Way		
 Park West Road 	Kent Hughes Rd Eltham		
Echidna Road	 Kent Hughes Road, Eltham & Eltham South 		
Frank St	area		
 Alistair Knox style 	Kerrie Cres		
 Antoinette Boulevard (2) 	■ Kirwin Ave		
 Around Silver Street, Ryans Road, Diamond 	 Leanne Drive, Zig Zag Road 		
Street between Progress Road to Swan	 Locally known as 'Harcourt Hill', the area 		
street	bounded by Bridge St, Diamond Creek,		
 Beard Street 	Silver Street, and Diamond Street		
 Bellevue Rd, Batman Rd, Livingston Rd 	 Main Eltham community space near Woolies 		
 between Eltham town and Research, 	lower car park		
 Bird Street, Ryan's Road, Sandra Avenue, 	Main Road (10)		
Peter Street	 Main Street, Bible Street, John Street 		
 Bolton Street, Main Road, Bridge St, all 	 Main Street, Eltham / Gateway / Town 		
these roads have been mentioned because	Centre / Montsalvat		
these roads are the key road to the Eltham	Park Road (3)		
(Greenwedge) these streets should always	 Peter Street, Stanhope Street, Diamond 		
keep the Eltham Feel to welcome tourists and	Street, Fay Street.		
show what Eltham is about	 Piper crescent/Artists Hill intersection. 		
 Bridge street between Main and Bible 	 Pitt street and Rockliffe St 		
 Brownes Crescent, Eltham 	Porter Street		
 Cecil Street, Eltham 	Progress Road		
 Central Activity Centre including residential 	 Pryor Street 		
streets and areas.	 region south of Bridge street and north of Mt 		
 Central Eltham. The character of this area is 	Pleasant Rd		
changing to be one of no character. Little	 Ryan's Road, Bird Street, Silver Street and 		
attention is given to overdevelopment and	Diamond Street		
the complete inability to conceal unsightly	Ryans Road (2)		
buildings with adequate vegetation	 Shalbury Avenue / Sheffield Street / 		
 Corner Bible and Arthur Streets 	Stanley Avenue		
 Cromwell Street 	 Silver Street, Eltham 		
 Dandallo drive 	 Silver, Bird Streets and Ryans Road area in 		
Diamond Street	particular		
Elouera Close Flat Control (1)	Stanhope Hill bordered by the train line,		
Eltham South (4)	Diamond St and Silver St.		
Eltham town centre (3)	■ Stanhope Street		
Eltham township and surrounding (2)	The area behind the shopping precinct		
Eltham Woodridge Estate area Fuent area Pared Manadalana Estate	The whole of Eltham is starting to lose its		
 Eucalyptus Road, Woodridge Estate, 	appeal with the poor development and		
surrounding Linear Reserve	removal of trees. It's a disgrace that what		
Frank St Reserve	set us apart as a desirable suburb is		
Franklin St	gradually being eroded to turn us into an		
Glenister drive ,Mount pleasant road.	area like any inner suburb in Melbourne.		
Godalmin Street (3)	The Woodridge estate in Eltham The Control of the		
Hartland Way Eltham	Thornton Street and Porter Street		
Heddon Ct Helana Street (2)	• View Hill Crescent (2)		
Helene Street (2) Helene Street (2) Helene Street (2)	Woodridge Estate/area (6) Woodridge Estate/area (7)		
Hohnes road and Homestead road (east)	 Wycliffe Cres, Eucalyptus rd 		
Jinkana Grove, Frank Street, Frank St	Wycliffe Crescent		

Reserve, Linear Reserve

■ Zig Zag Rd

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.3.2 How the character of this neighbourhood is described now

Survey respondents were asked "Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 144 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 6 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. The Neighbourhood Character features are presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, the Neighbourhood Character themes are presented first and have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Neighbourhood Character themes attracted no feedback are shaded light grey. Following this, emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback.

As shown in Table 6, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 6. Summary of themes and topics describing current neighbourhood character of Eltham (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=144)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	
Leafy, green residential suburb with lots of trees, tree canopy and nature. Beautiful	88
native bush and grassland with native birdlife. Lovely vegetation, natural, native	
flora and fauna and indigenous and native plants	
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Generally low-profile, low-density housing. One house per block with a large	
backyard and the house is integrated into the landscape. Diverse housing, historic	
homes, rustic, charming, mudbrick, and distinctive character. 1950s housing, 1970s	82
modern architecture and ultramodern in town zone. Generally sympathetic	
development, under threat of overdevelopment and large apartments are	
inappropriate	
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	9
Narrow, bustling thoroughfares with traffic congestion and parked challenges	,
4 Heights of buildings and homes	
Low-level, low-rise buildings. Single-levelled home, split level homes and some	9
double storey developments built into the landscape. Some high buildings,	,
preference for no high rise	
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	5
Some unsealed roads, quiet, dusty, and treed roads. Large nature strips	
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	
Houses are well spaced and set back, some are eight metres or more from the	5
footpath. There are some side and back setbacks	
7 Front fencing and footpaths	4
No front fences, minimal fencing/gates, no footpaths and pedestrian friendly	'
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	3
Hilly and undulating	Ţ.
9 Views	2
Vista views and views of hills	_

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=144)
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Family friendly, welcoming and sense of community	15
Quiet, peaceful, and tranquil	12
Rural township feel	3
Relaxed country town vibe	5
Semi-rural township feel	4
City fringe meets bush, urban to rural feel	3
Suburban township feel	3

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- The main feature setting Eltham aside from other areas of Melbourne is its canopy cover of indigenous eucalypts. From the strongly worded statements from residents at the time of the Fitzsimons Lane Roundabout removal we know how passionately Eltham people feel about the eucalypt tree canopy. To very many it denotes 'home.' There is nothing that causes more angst in the community than the loss of trees and loss of open space. The defining feature of all Eltham precincts is trees, particularly our indigenous eucalypts
- The defining feature of the Eltham Neighbourhood Character is the eucalypt tree canopy. Treed, mainly with a canopy of blue-grey eucalyptus, Leafy, Informal, Low profile houses sitting within the tree canopy in well vegetated gardens (often bushy and native) The dwellings do not aim to dominate. Natural, housing blending with and respecting the environment, Hilly, A feeling of spaciousness
- The houses in this area are set back from the road, and the properties have big backyards. Most houses are single storey or split-level due the topography in the area, with some double storey dwellings. The roofs are typically pitched, either tiled or corrugated iron, and most of the houses are brick with the odd mud brick. The view from many different vantage points in the area is that of trees and vegetation. It is difficult to see how many houses are in the local area because of the vast spread of established vegetation. The local streets wind through the area, most likely due to the many hills, making it very different to the grid pattern found in many suburban areas

4.3.3 Features of the neighbourhood character that are liked now

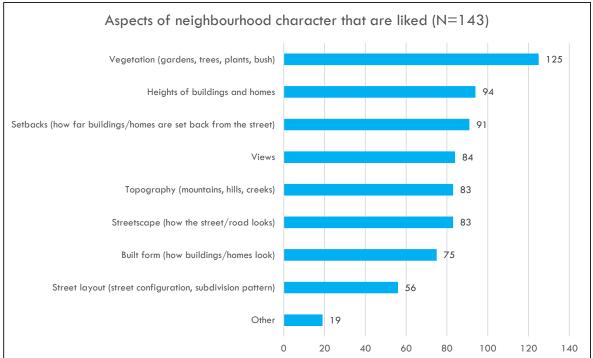
Survey respondents were asked "What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply?" and presented with a listing of eight options plus "Other".

Figure 11 presents the results for the above survey question. As shown, all response options were selected, to varying degrees for Eltham. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Heights of buildings and homes
- Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are from the street)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Figure 11. Neighbourhood character features in Eltham that are liked now (Survey)



The 19 respondents who selected "Other" provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Comfortable footpaths
- Environmentally friendly
- Historic mud brick homes and gardens (Gordon Ford Garden)
- History. The block bounded by Fay, Silver and Swan Streets is exclusively Harcourt/Pise houses.
- Hope to project village feel, tressel bridge, library, creek views, pond, sculptures, art, wildlife, bike/walking tracks, bush setting, no high-rise developments to block views, heritage buildings/precincts - White Cloud Cottage, Eltham Gateway
- It is quiet...for now, but is slowly being developed / in-filled with large blocks of land housing units etc.
- Most houses are built from natural materials like brick and wood with muted colours and are obscured by trees
- Neighbourhood walking circuits and hidden cut throughs
- No front fences
- Nothing, now. It has lost its character.
- Nothing. It is not Eltham. It resembles units in Carlton or Collingwood.
- Once had a country lane feel, now too congested.
- Predominance of natural, indigenous vegetation esp. Yellow Box trees
- Safety concerns about Council planting in median not being maintained. Too dangerous
- The number if trees and low-density residence.
- The vegetation density provides for native wildlife which have returned / recovered following clearing and development in earlier decades
- This obviously not the majority... I am talking about the older residences
- Varied building styles that don't dominate in large gardens
- Wildlife (birds etc)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Place-based pop-up (voting pod) participants in Eltham were asked "How much do you love or value the neighbourhood character of Eltham (think architecture style, setbacks, fences and footpaths, vegetation, view lines and typography)? Participants were presented with a listing of five emojis (reflecting Love it, Like it, Neutral, Don't like it and Really don't like it) as well as an Unsure response option, and invited to place one ball in the appropriate tube.

Figure 12 presents the results for the above survey question. As shown, almost all participants indicated they **Love** or **Like** the neighbourhood character of Eltham.

How much do you love or value the neighbourhood character of Eltham (N=72)60 52 50 40 30 19 20 10 1 0 0 0 Love it Like it Neutral Don't like it Really don't like it

Figure 12. Neighbourhood character features in Eltham that are loved or valued (Pop-up engagement)

Place-based pop-up (Chatboard) participants in Eltham were asked "What do you love and value now about the character of this neighbourhood?" Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity or provided more than one Chatboard comment. Participants provided the following feedback (presented verbatim as submitted). The number in brackets indicates the number of participants who indicated support for a comment:

- Calm
- Dirt road (2)
- Diversity of architecture
- Low density scale (2)
- Low houses
- Sense of community (4)
- Trees (9)
- Trees and friendly people
- Variety of housing
- When Council is proactive in restricting development and prosecuting developers who want to only cut down trees

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Built form, Setbacks, Heights of buildings and homes, Vegetation, Street layout, Topography, Views. All areas of Eltham have similar characteristics, albeit in differing degrees. All are treed /leafy, hilly. The low-profile nature of the built form where the colours and materials blend with and respect the natural environment gives a feeling of informality is prevalent. The canopy of indigenous eucalypts being the main type of vegetation gives the hillsides a soft and blue-grey appearance. Dwellings, for the most part, are well set back from the street with gardens that at least partially screen the built form

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

- Trees, particularly eucalypts, topography, hilly, including views of distant tree covered hills, gardens, often native, generous setbacks, dwellings not aiming to dominate, colour schemes blending with environment, screening vegetation, dominance of mature, indigenous, eucalypt canopy, mud brick buildings, waterways and natural adjacent environment/ parklands
- I appreciate the tree canopy on Main Road for many reasons. The trees provide shade during the summer, they provide habitat for the many birds and creatures and help to reduce the temperature in the valley. These trees most importantly absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere along this busy road

4.3.4 Specific features that make this neighbourhood unique

Survey respondents were asked "Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 136 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 7 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the unique feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 7. Summary of themes and topics describing specific unique neighbourhood features of Eltham (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=136)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	
Beautiful trees, green, leafy open spaces, and natural settings. Tall trees, large canopy trees, native trees, mature, older eucalyptus trees, yellow box, and gum trees. Indigenous and native vegetation, plants, flora, and fauna. Vegetation provides a birdlife and wildlife habitat. Gardens, big gardens and native bush gardens with natural features and mature vegetation	77
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Generally low-rise, low-density housing with large block sizes. Houses are integrated into the landscape or nestled in large gardens and yards. Mix of architectural styles, diverse housing, rustic, mudbrick, weatherboard, and distinctive character. 1950s housing, 1960s Alistair Knox designs, 1970s Woodridge Estate and modern architecture with ultramodern in town zone. Natural building materials and subtle earthy colour palette complement the environment and blend in with the vegetation. Not over-developed, some undeveloped areas, limited subdivisions with new developments mainly apartments or townhouses.	77
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	8
Winding streets and curved roads. Some narrow, single lane roads 4 Heights of buildings and homes	
Low housing, mostly single or double storey buildings	4
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	
Rural style roads, unsealed, gravel, dirt, unmade and private roads. Unsculptured road edges, informal streetscape, naturalised verges and roadside trees	11
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	
Homes are setback, setbacks are usually generous, and houses are well set back	7
from the road or street	
7 Front fencing and footpaths	13

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=136)
Some informal paths, no sidewalks or footpaths. Mostly open wire, post and wire	
fences, few dividing fences. No front fences and unfenced gardens	
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	10
Hills, undulating hills, Yarra River and waterways	. •
9 Views A neighbourhood open to the sky. Great views, views of the hill, ranges, tree lined distant ridges and across the valley to the ridgeline. Views from the sports fields, parks, and cafe terraces of the town centre	10
No specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique	3
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Rural village vibe, country feel in a suburb	5
Peaceful and serene	2

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- The dominance of a canopy of indigenous eucalypts. Hilly topography. Blue-grey vista of eucalypt covered hillsides. Diamond Creek and adjacent parkland. Dwellings set in gardens, often of native and indigenous plants. Dwellings partly screened by vegetation. Dwellings setback from the street and neighbouring dwellings that enables the planting of trees and shrubs to soften and screen, provide food and cover for birds, insects, lizards. Dwellings not aiming to dominate the landscape. Colour schemes that blend with the environment. Native birds. Lack of front fences
- Trees, particularly eucalypts, topography, hilly, including views of distant tree covered hills, gardens, often native, generous setbacks, dwellings not aiming to dominate, colour schemes blending with environment, screening vegetation, dominance of mature, indigenous, eucalypt canopy, mud brick buildings, waterways and natural adjacent environment/parklands
- The current Neighbourhood Character, with houses set back from the roads, and large backyards with lots of established trees and gardens, provides much needed homes and corridors for the abundant wildlife in the area. These corridors haven't been in place since the area was originally developed, they have evolved over time as the trees and gardens in the area have become established and then the wildlife has slowly returned.

4.3.5 Ways that new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character

Survey respondents were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 144 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 8 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Built form (how buildings or homes look)
- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)

Table 8. Summary of themes and topics describing ways new development could enhance the neighbourhood character of Eltham (Survey)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme
	(N=144)
Neighbourhood character features	(4.00)
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	
Protect the tree canopy, work with existing nature, bush plantings, mature trees, and	
native vegetation. Have strict controls on the removal of trees and vegetation for	
new developments and enforce them including the SLO3 overlay. Compulsory	
requirements for indigenous plantings, greenery, vegetation, plants, native trees, and	55
tree canopy to offset new buildings. Ensure sufficient space on blocks to permit the	
growth of large trees and provide habitat for birdlife and wildlife. Include front	
gardens and large gardens or areas with indigenous trees and shrubs and quality	
landscaping	
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Respect the current architecture and the green leafy character of the town. Retain the	
low-rise, low-density housing with large block sizes, backyards, and gardens. Houses	
to be integrated into the landscape or nestled in large gardens and yards. Permit	
diverse housing, rustic, mudbrick, country, as well as architectural and traditional	
styles. Encourage eaves, skylights, slanted roofs reminiscent of the 60s and 70s and	91
the retention of miners' cottages. Use natural building materials and subtle earthy	
colour palette to complement the environment and blend in with the vegetation.	
Encourage green living, sustainable designs and roof or vertical gardens. No black colourbond fences, cladding, or roofs. Do not over-develop, limit new subdivisions,	
and limit the number of bedrooms, apartments, units, and townhouses per	
development. Keep high density in town zone and near the transit hubs	
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	
Consider no through roads, speed humps or contained roadside parking and	4
intersections with clear right of way	
4 Heights of buildings and homes	
Tight planning controls on height and height restrictions to maintain low rise housing.	29
Permit single storey houses or split-level housing with a maximum height of two	2,
storeys. No high rise, it ruins the look and feel	
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	,
Consistent streetscape view, further expansion of streetscape on train station side.	4
Seal the road	
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	
Retain minimum setbacks or current setback pattern. Have large setbacks and	19
staggered setbacks. Generous setbacks from side and front boundaries, from the	17
building to boundaries and no building on the fence line. Rear and side set back	
requirements for double story units 7 Front fencing and footpaths	
Fencing to remain consistent, low or no fencing and fencing made of natural materials	5
or post and wire. Build a footpath	
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	2
Not block views or change the view of the hill, and from the hill	3
10 No development, no new development	17

Survey respondents were also asked for any other feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character and invited to provide a personalised comment.

In relation to Eltham, the other comments reported by Survey respondents largely reiterated the feedback previously presented. Other aspects referenced the general feedback included: requests to better manage traffic movement and cars parked on the side of the road (i.e., Bridge Street between Main Street and Bible

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Street) and to duplicate access bridges and roads both in and out of the area; and suggestions to revitalise and beautify the town centre and for community education on heat mitigation such as greenery and light roofing.

Place-based pop-up (Chatboard) participants in Eltham were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance and improve the neighbourhood character?" Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity or provided more than one Chatboard comment. Participants provided the following feedback (presented verbatim as submitted). The number in brackets indicates the number of participants who indicated support for a comment:

- Better noise control especially dogs barking at night
- Express creativity of the community in public spaces
- Fruit trees in streets and reserves (2)
- High quality / earthy development
- Low density scale
- Low or no fencing
- Natural materials
- Natural materials and colours
- Not too overdeveloped
- Walkable streets inclusive accessibility
- Wildlife corridors (2)

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- The vegetation is the primary factor in the neighbourhood character. Understorey plants need to be better defined and protected. Arborists focus on trees rather than understorey plants and arborists have a 'park garden' view of trees rather than matching species to the local EVC. A neighbourhood character description should mention wildlife, in particular birdlife. The role of vegetation in supporting local wildlife needs to be recognised. I would like to see Neighbourhood Character guidelines have more influence on planning decisions, and perhaps see some follow through to maintain the preferred character
- Respect for the existing and preferred character and environment particularly with regards to height, setbacks, colours, size, density, gardens, materials, canopy trees especially eucalypts. Retain existing canopy trees. Provide room for meaningful landscaping including canopy trees. Provide enough room that trees will be sustainable and safe in the location where the landscape plan has located them. Native gardens. Generous setbacks, front, rear and sides, to allow for planting between properties. Encourage innovative designs that respond creatively to the actual site and neighbourhood character, rather than accepting the standard box like two storey, 4 bedroom design seemingly designed for maximum fit on a block, that is seen all over Melbourne. Follow up compliance with permit conditions especially landscape plans. Neighbours have usually not seen endorsed landscape plans so are unaware of what should be planted and would be reluctant to contact council
- Respect the existing and preferred character especially with relation to height, materials, size, colours, setbacks, gardens, canopy trees. More room on site for substantial and meaningful planting including indigenous canopy trees. Retention of existing canopy trees. Native gardens. Generous setbacks, on four sides, to allow for above. Encourage innovation that suits the locale and particular site rather than the stock standard latest double storey 4-bedroom dwelling that is designed to fit the maximum number on any site and can be found all over Melbourne. Permit conditions, especially compliance with landscape plans, needs to be systematically and vigorously followed up by officers. Neighbours are usually not aware of any endorsed plans and reluctant to contact council. Council policy needs to be strong enough that developers see the need to adhere to the neighbourhood character policy, not think they can get away with ignoring it.
- We are not a growth corridor. The government's expectation of population growth in Nillumbik, and our provision of extra housing is not high. We therefore should be able to state our preferred Neighbourhood Character strongly and unequivocally and plan any increase in housing to fit within those parameters. Housing diversity and provision of housing for Nillumbik's ageing population (which is what we are told we

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

have) is not represented in the planning applications before council. Most applications are for 3 or 4 four-bedroom double storey dwellings per block. These are not for retirees/empty nesters/downsizers or young couple's first house. The needed diversity spoken of should be further investigated. These developments are very quickly, by removal of mature, canopy trees and the lack of space left for sustainable replacement planting, destroying the neighbourhood character the community values and that draws people to Eltham. The only people these developments benefit are the developers

- The character of this area will not be enhanced by future development, as any development will reduce the existing wildlife corridors, and reduce the wildlife in the area due to the removal of well-established trees and vegetation. Any development in the area should not reduce the front and backyard open spaces as these make this area unique. Developing will take away what makes this area so special. People choosing to live in this part of Eltham, do so because of the natural environment that surrounds us. If we wanted to live in a built environment, we would be living elsewhere. Any extra development not only removes established vegetation but leads to more traffic in the area as it is quite a distance from the train station, and there are a lot of hills to navigate to get to any bus stops. More traffic in the local area, along with smaller corridors for wildlife, would be a disaster for our wildlife, and would reduce the appeal the area currently has, changing it in a negative way in the long-term. The current character of the area is what gives it its appeal, it would be devastating to lose what we have, especially with the climate crisis that is now upon us
- The issue in Eltham, for example, is protecting the existing tree canopy and that can be addressed through the SLO but in our area I have a local example where all the canopy trees were removed to make way for a large double storied residential dwelling. No new canopy trees are being planted. The other really crucial issue is that under both the residential zoning and ResCode there is no requirement for a garden space that would support planting a canopy tree. I think both the zoning and ResCode could be addressed to require definition of a garden bed suitable for supporting a canopy tree. I realise this is a state level planning issue and of course it won't be easy but without it the tree canopy that is lost in development will not be able to be replaced. I don't share the pessimism about tackling such an issue as some others have shown. For two reasons. Firstly the requirements for water sensitive urban design have been successfully incorporated in ResCode and I think biodiversity sensitive urban design could also be achieved along the same lines. However the incorporation of water sensitive urban design was made easier by the allowance of structures such as decks that are a natural extension of the indoor/outdoor housing design. Space for garden beds does not allow for any such uses. The other reason is that the item is increasingly gaining traction as demonstrated by the any articles about the issue of urban heat islands in residential areas. Public open space being an important part of neighbourhood character is really important especially given increased housing density such as townhouses and apartments that lack any private open space of the traditional detached dwellings

4.4 Eltham North

This section presents the findings relating to Eltham North. Survey respondents had the opportunity to comment on one or two neighbourhood study areas and **40 survey respondents** commented on Eltham North. Relevant insights from the **written submissions** are also outlined here.

The Neighbourhood Character features were used as an initial coding template (themes) and relevant feedback was grouped to each theme. Additional themes also emerged from the feedback during the analysis process, and these are reported. The summary tables in this Section present the findings from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each Neighbourhood Character feature is presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, Neighbourhood Character themes have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback. Some individuals may have participated in more than one activity. Personalised feedback referred to one or more topics.

4.4.1	Key highlights for Eltham North	

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

- When asked to describe the character of this neighbourhood now, participants reported a variety of elements. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (Green wedge, bushy, leafy, greenery, vegetation, and a good tree canopy cover. A variety of trees such as mature native canopy trees, eucalyptus, and pine trees. Lots of nature, a natural environment, fauna and flora and native plantings. Birds and wildlife); and Built form (Lovely homes, single dwellings that are unobtrusive on large blocks and nestled in vegetation and trees. Mixed home styles that are generally sympathetic to the area, rustic, unique architecture, natural materials, mud brick, wood, brick, and stone. The right amount of housing and low building density)
- When asked what they like about the character of this neighbourhood and presented with a list of options, participants most frequently selected: Vegetation; Topography; and Setbacks
- When asked about specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique, participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (Lots of trees, native and indigenous trees, tall gum trees, eucalyptus trees, mature canopy trees and leaves. Natural environment, bushland and landscape with wildlife and wildlife corridors. Uncultivated native gardens, native and indigenous vegetation, and plantings); Built form Single dwellings on large blocks (quarter acre), obscurely nestled in vegetation, native and indigenous trees and built into hills. Low density with mudbrick and other rustic buildings; and Front fencing and footpaths (No formalised fences, minimal fencing and limited or no footpaths. Some walking paths and walking/bike riding tracks)
- When asked how new development in this neighbourhood could be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character, participants provided a variety of suggestions. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (Retain existing large blocks, one house per block, space between houses and for backyard scapes. Ensure low density, limit subdivisions, townhouse developments, multiple dwellings on one allotment and developments which involve small parcels of land. New buildings to be consistent with existing colours or styles and hidden within canopies, integrated into nature, or screened by planting. Environmental and sustainability building designs with natural elements and materials. Roof pitch to mimic topography); and Vegetation (Protect trees, canopy trees, vegetation, large gardens, grassed areas, nature reserves, and natural habitats. Promote native vegetation, native plant gardens and tree planting. Avoid removing trees and wildlife to facilitate new development. Where tree and vegetation are removed, replace with appropriate indigenous species)

Survey respondents were invited to report the name/s of a particular or relevant street, road or area of interest. Of the 40 survey respondents, 23 provided the following details in relation to Eltham North:

Street/Area	Street/Area
 Glen Park Road and surrounds Hillcrest Road (2) Jessica's Lane Kerrie Crescent Lower Road Parry Road (2) Progress Road (3) Orchard Avenue 	 Ryans Road (3) Scenic Crescent Vine Street Warringah Crescent and Ramptons Road Wattletree Road (3) Glen Park Road and Whole area.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.4.2 How the character of this neighbourhood is described now

Survey respondents were asked "Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 38 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 9 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. The Neighbourhood Character features are presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, the Neighbourhood Character themes are presented first and have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Neighbourhood Character themes attracted no feedback are shaded light grey. Following this, emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback.

As shown in Table 9, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 9. Summary of themes and topics describing current neighbourhood character of Eltham North (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=38)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	
Green wedge, bushy, leafy, greenery, vegetation, and a good tree canopy cover. A	
variety of trees such as mature native canopy trees, eucalyptus, and pine trees. Lots	30
of nature, a natural environment, fauna and flora and native plantings. Birds and wildlife	
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Lovely homes, single dwellings that are unobtrusive on large blocks and nestled in	
vegetation and trees. Mixed home styles that are generally sympathetic to the area,	15
rustic, unique architecture, natural materials, mud brick, wood, brick, and stone. The	
right amount of housing and low building density	
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes	1
Single storey	
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	2
Street is bush, natural and tree lined, underground power	
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street) Set back houses	1
7 Front fencing and footpaths	
Minimal or no fencing and smaller one-side footpaths	2
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	1
Hilly	Į.
9 Views	1
Views	•
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Quiet, peaceful and tranquil	4
Rural township feel	3
Family friendly, welcoming and sense of community	2

42 | Page

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=38)
Semi-rural township feel	1
Suburban township feel	1

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

 Differences in character include more hilly terrain, less formalised road reserves and footpaths, street layout less formal and often meandering or curved, some unmade roads, more indigenous eucalypt canopy and lower storey vegetation, larger blocks than other areas

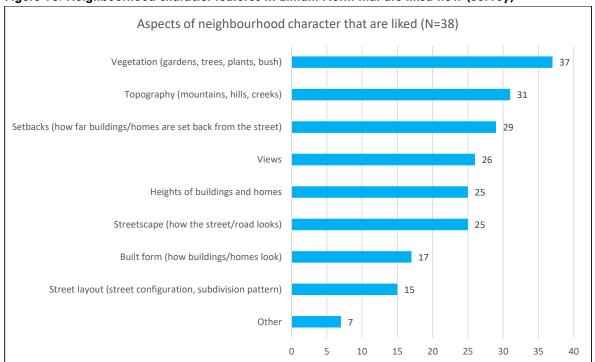
4.4.3 Features of the neighbourhood character that are liked now

Survey respondents were asked "What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply?" and presented with a listing of eight options plus "Other".

Figure 13 presents the results for the above survey question. As shown, all response options were selected, to varying degrees for Eltham North. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)
- Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)

Figure 13. Neighbourhood character features in Eltham North that are liked now (Survey)



The seven respondents who selected "Other" provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Lack of uniformity in land size, variety of built form although all respecting the semi-bush nature

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

- Large plots not subdivided into small townhouses or apartments
- Street is unsealed. No fences at the front. Shared driveways very encouraging of a community dynamic. We all care for the birds and wildlife.
- The parks and open nature reserves are crucial
- Treed and grassed areas integrating with river and road area.
- Wildlife corridors
- Wildlife friendly

4.4.4 Specific features that make this neighbourhood unique

Survey respondents were asked "Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 37 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 10 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the unique feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)
- Front fencing and footpaths

Table 10. Summary of themes and topics describing specific unique neighbourhood features of Eltham North (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=37)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Lots of trees, native and indigenous trees, tall gum trees, eucalyptus trees, mature canopy trees and leaves. Natural environment, bushland and landscape with wildlife and wildlife corridors. Uncultivated native gardens, native and indigenous vegetation, and plantings	24
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Single dwellings on large blocks (quarter acre), obscurely nestled in vegetation, native and indigenous trees and built into hills. Low density with mudbrick and other rustic buildings	10
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	1
Winding streets	·
4 Heights of buildings and homes Split-level houses	1
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	
An informal streetscape, greenery beside driveways. Meandering road layout, minimal paving, soft verges and unsealed roads and some treed, narrow streets	5
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street) Setback, large setbacks	2
7 Front fencing and footpaths No formalised fences, minimal fencing and limited or no footpaths. Some walking paths and walking/bike riding tracks	7
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks) Hills, steep hills, dips, crests and valleys, creeks and surrounded by mountains	6
9 Views Views across the valley, treed views, and leafy skyline	3

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=37)
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Sense of community	2

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Trees, particularly eucalypts, topography, hilly, including views of distant tree covered hills, gardens, often native, generous setbacks, dwellings not aiming to dominate, colour schemes blending with environment, screening vegetation, dominance of mature, indigenous, eucalypt canopy, mud brick buildings, waterways and natural adjacent environment/ parklands

4.4.5 Ways that new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character

Survey respondents were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 39 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 11 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Built form (how buildings or homes look)
- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)

Table 11. Summary of themes and topics describing ways new development could enhance the neighbourhood character of Eltham North (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=39)
Neighbourhood character features	
l Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Protect trees, canopy trees, vegetation, large gardens, grassed areas, nature reserves, and natural habitats. Promote native vegetation, native plant gardens and tree planting. Avoid removing trees and wildlife to facilitate new development. Where tree and vegetation are removed, replace with appropriate indigenous species	13
Retain existing large blocks, one house per block, space between houses and for backyard scapes. Ensure low density, limit subdivisions, townhouse developments, multiple dwellings on one allotment and developments which involve small parcels of land. New buildings to be consistent with existing colours or styles and hidden within canopies, integrated into nature, or screened by planting. Environmental and sustainability building designs with natural elements and materials. Roof pitch to mimic topography	27
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern) Better road and drainage system, create a court at the end of the road	1
4 Heights of buildings and homes Be consistent with existing housing height. Ensure low rise, single storey housing or no more than two storeys	6

45 | Page

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=39)
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks) Keep streetscapes natural, plant more trees on nature strips. Have a vegetation strip next to fences and flora plantings on verge	4
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street) Keep houses well-spaced, respect the dominant street setback and consider side setbacks from other dwellings. Larger setbacks may be required to retain trees and vegetation	6
7 Front fencing and footpaths Enforce boundary between front fence line, footpath, and nature strip	1
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0
10 No development, no new development	4

Survey respondents were also asked for any other feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character and invited to provide a personalised comment.

In relation to Eltham North, the other comments reported by Survey respondents largely reiterated the feedback previously presented. Other aspects referenced the general feedback included: requests to manage the traffic flow and parking around St Helena College, exacerbated by an increase in units and consider that cars are likely the only viable transport alternative; and suggestions for facilities for older children, and a mains drainage system to all houses.

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Respect the existing and preferred character especially with relation to height, materials, size, colours, setbacks, gardens, canopy trees. More room on site for substantial and meaningful planting including indigenous canopy trees. Retention of existing canopy trees. Native gardens. Generous setbacks, on four sides, to allow for above. Encourage innovation that suits the locale and particular site rather than the stock standard latest double storey 4-bedroom dwelling that is designed to fit the maximum number on any site and can be found all over Melbourne. Permit conditions, especially compliance with landscape plans, needs to be systematically and vigorously followed up by officers. Neighbours are usually not aware of any endorsed plans and reluctant to contact council. Council policy needs to be strong enough that developers see the need to adhere to the neighbourhood character policy, not think they can get away with ignoring it

4.5 Greensborough

This section presents the findings relating to Greensborough. Survey respondents had the opportunity to comment on one or two neighbourhood study areas and **eight survey respondents** commented on Greensborough. Relevant insights from the **written submissions** are also outlined here.

The Neighbourhood Character features were used as an initial coding template (themes) and relevant feedback was grouped to each theme. Additional themes also emerged from the feedback during the analysis process, and these are reported. The summary tables in this Section present the findings from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each Neighbourhood Character feature is presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, Neighbourhood Character themes have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback. Some individuals may have participated in more than one activity. Personalised feedback referred to one or more topics.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.5.1 Key highlights for Greensborough

- When asked to describe the character of this neighbourhood now, participants reported a variety of elements. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (Green, leafy, trees, bush, gardens, and lawn); and Built form (Open space, spacious homes, and land with nice and well-maintained homes)
- When asked what they like about the character of this neighbourhood and presented with a list of options, participants most frequently selected: Street layout; Views; and Vegetation
- When asked about specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique, participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Street layout and road network (Most streets are local traffic only although proximity to busy roads, education and Council facilities sees non-local traffic on key roads)
- When asked how new development in this neighbourhood could be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character, participants provided a variety of suggestions. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (No new development and a limited number of town houses per block, with a 450 sqm minimum. Homes with space for mulched garden or lawn. Consistent and completed buildings)

Survey respondents were invited to report the name/s of a particular or relevant street, road or area of interest. Of the eight survey respondents, six provided the following details in relation to Greensborough:

Street/Area

- Apollo Parkways (2)
- Civic Drive and Whittingham Terrace Park
- Plenty River Drive
- Sunrise
- Wanbanna Avenue

4.5.2 How the character of this neighbourhood is described now

Survey respondents were asked "Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of eight respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 12 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. The Neighbourhood Character features are presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, the Neighbourhood Character themes are presented first and have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Neighbourhood Character themes attracted no feedback are shaded light grey. Following this, emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback.

As shown in Table 12, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 12. Summary of themes and topics describing current neighbourhood character of Greensborough (Survey)

47 | Page

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=8)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Green, leafy, trees, bush, gardens, and lawn	5
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Open space, spacious homes, and land with nice and well-maintained homes	5
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	0
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0
7 Front fencing and footpaths	0
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks) Sloping	1
9 Views	0
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Relaxed country town vibe, comfortable	1



Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

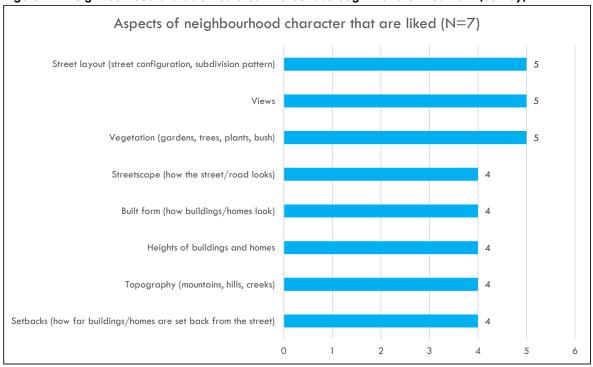
4.5.3 Features of the neighbourhood character that are liked now

Survey respondents were asked "What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply?" and presented with a listing of eight options plus "Other". One respondent did not answer this question.

Figure 14 presents the results for the above survey question. As shown, all response options were selected, to varying degrees for Greensborough. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Street layout (street configuration, subdivision pattern)
- View
- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)

Figure 14. Neighbourhood character features in Greensborough that are liked now (Survey)



4.5.4 Specific features that make this neighbourhood unique

Survey respondents were asked "Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of six respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 13 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the unique feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced theme in the feedback was:

Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Table 13. Summary of themes and topics describing specific unique neighbourhood features of Greensborough (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=6)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Near Plenty Gorge Parklands, close to nature	1
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Space to walk our dogs	1
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern) Most streets are local traffic only although proximity to busy roads, education and Council facilities sees non-local traffic on key roads	2
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks) No powerlines	1
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0
7 Front fencing and footpaths Pathways	1
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0
No specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique	0
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Sense of community	1

4.5.5 Ways that new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character

Survey respondents were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of seven respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 14 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features. The most frequently referenced theme in the feedback was:

Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 14. Summary of themes and topics describing ways new development could enhance the neighbourhood character of Greensborough (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=7)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) New developments make a set contribution towards planting in appropriate areas	1
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) No new development and a limited number of town houses per block, with a 450 sqm minimum. Homes with space for mulched garden or lawn. Consistent and completed buildings	6
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=7)
4 Heights of buildings and homes	2
One to two storey homes	2
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	1
Wider streets	•
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	2
Set back from street, no forward garages	
7 Front fencing and footpaths	2
No or low fencing	
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0

Survey respondents were also asked for any other feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character and invited to provide a personalised comment.

In relation to Greensborough, the other comments reported by Survey respondents largely reiterated the feedback previously presented. Other aspects referenced the general feedback included: requests to clean up broken branches and more regularly mowing of Council nature strips and install more rubbish bins.

4.6 Hurstbridge

This section presents the findings relating to Hurstbridge. Survey respondents had the opportunity to comment on one or two neighbourhood study areas and **45 survey respondents** commented on Hurstbridge. In addition, a place-based pop-up engagement activity was conducted at Hurstbridge which focused on Hurstbridge. Feedback from the **pop-up participants** as well as relevant insights from the **written submissions** are also outlined here.

The Neighbourhood Character features were used as an initial coding template (themes) and relevant feedback was grouped to each theme. Additional themes also emerged from the feedback during the analysis process, and these are reported. The summary tables in this Section present the findings from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each Neighbourhood Character feature is presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, Neighbourhood Character themes have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback. Some individuals may have participated in more than one activity. Personalised feedback referred to one or more topics.

4.6.1 Key highlights for Hurstbridge

- When asked to describe the character of this neighbourhood now, participants reported a variety of elements. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (Quaint historical and heritage buildings from 1920s. Unique, neat houses with individual style and character involving wood and mud brick. Diverse types of properties such as higher density, framing or grazing land, equine properties, and open space); and Vegetation (Nature, green, beautiful trees, and leafy. Natural and bushy with native wildlife corridor and mixed landscapes)
- When asked what they like about the character of this neighbourhood and presented with a list of options, participants most frequently selected: Vegetation; Topography; and Setbacks
- When asked how much they love or value the neighbourhood character, most pop-up participants selected Love or Like the neighbourhood character of Hurstbridge

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

- When asked about specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique, participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (Historic village with heritage buildings, many historical features and mid-century architecture. An old-fashioned, traditional feel with a mix of architectural styles. Low density housing, good size blocks, not overcrowded, one home per block with green areas. A strong neighbourhood character statement has largely avoided inappropriate development. Some vacant acreage and rural land, no need for new development); and Vegetation (Green spaces and landscapes, lots of trees, large trees, mature indigenous trees, and tree canopies. Nature, native flora, vegetation, and gardens. A natural habitat with birdlife and wildlife)
- When asked how new development in this neighbourhood could be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character, participants provided a variety of suggestions. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (New buildings to be respectful of existing small-town character and designed to preserve historic features and charm to retain a country rural feel. Retain low density housing, large block size, rural hobby farms and grazing land. No overdevelopment or large subdivisions and limit subdivisions and continue to limit density, particularly for multi-unit developments. Maintain uniform colour scheme with muted colours, uniformity of roof lines, and use of natural materials (timber, corrugated iron, mudbrick). Buildings to be energy efficient); and Vegetation (Preserve existing trees and leafy feel. No removal of trees, retain the canopy trees for shade and avoid damage to mature trees. Ban the removal of indigenous canopy trees with a permit. Native flora and gardens to attract birdlife and provide homes for wildlife. Leave space for substantial trees and use appropriate screening and suitable native trees and shrubs to break up residential and commercial zones)

Survey respondents were invited to report the name/s of a particular or relevant street, road or area of interest. Of the 45 survey respondents, 24 provided the following details in relation to Hurstbridge:

Street/Area	Street/Area
Arthur's Creek Road	Arthur's Creek
Bambara	■ Bingley Avenue
Cherry Tree Road (2)	■ Coolaroo Avenue
Curtain Road (2)	 Entire area within township zone including parkland
 Flat Rock Road 	 General neighbourhood
 Hayley's Gully Road 	 Heather Avenue
 Heidelberg-Kinglake Main Road (2) 	 Heidelberg-Kinglake Road and Arthur's Creek Road
Hurst Road	Hurstbridge shopping strip (3)
 Hurstbridge-Kinglake Road 	 Main Hurstbridge Road
Main Street	■ Midhurst
Silvan Road	■ Taylor Road
 Wattletree Road 	

4.6.2 How the character of this neighbourhood is described now

Survey respondents were asked "Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 44 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 15 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. The Neighbourhood Character features are presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, the Neighbourhood Character themes are presented first and have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Neighbourhood Character themes attracted no feedback are shaded light grey. Following this, emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

As shown in Table 15, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Built form (how buildings or home look)
- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)

Table 15. Summary of themes and topics describing current neighbourhood character of Hurstbridge (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=44)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Nature, green, beautiful trees, and leafy. Natural and bushy with native wildlife corridor and mixed landscapes	21
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Quaint historical and heritage buildings from 1920s. Unique, neat houses with individual style and character involving wood and mud brick. Diverse types of properties such as higher density, framing or grazing land, equine properties, and open space	24
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	0
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0
7 Front fencing and footpaths Few fences, pedestrian friendly	2
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks) Hills and gullies	1
9 Views Views	1
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Family friendly, welcoming and sense of community	9
Quiet, peaceful, and tranquil	8
Rural township feel	7
Relaxed country town vibe	4
Semi-rural township feel	4

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Hurstbridge to us is a place where community lives in the environment
- Connected to history
- Eucalypt covered rural town

4.6.3 Features of the neighbourhood character that are liked now

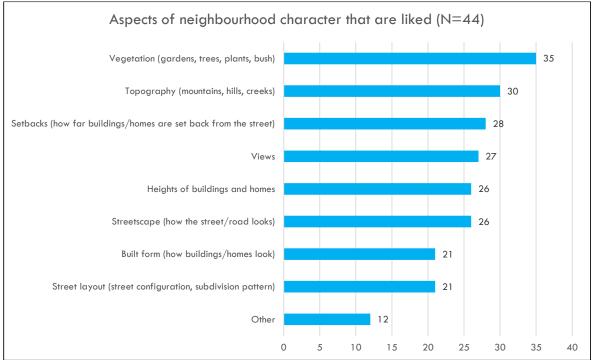
Survey respondents were asked "What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply?" and presented with a listing of eight options plus "Other".

Figure 15 presents the results for the above survey question. As shown, all response options were selected, to varying degrees for Hurstbridge. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)
- Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)

Figure 15. Neighbourhood character features in Hurstbridge that are liked now (Survey)



The 12 respondents who selected "Other" provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

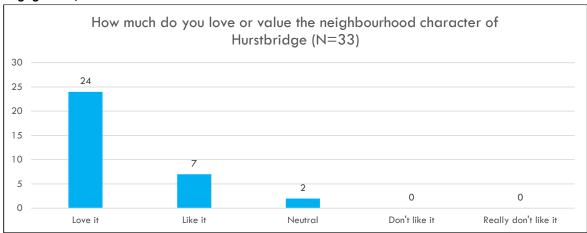
- A village feeling
- Community/Village feel
- Every category contains some negative exceptions.
- Grazing land and associated open spaces
- I like that the character has developed without Soviet style interference
- Love the green wedge less infill and more room for wildlife.
- Low density
- Overall similarity of rooflines and attractiveness of garden area specifically in front of units designed by Robert Marshall (next to Bendigo Bank). Also, old bank building, Saunders Garage, Use of corrugated iron as exemplified in some older buildings.
- Right mix of homes for parking
- Rural grazing land with dispersed housing and agricultural buildings, equine properties and associated infrastructure, trails.
- The houses are all on big blocks. Stop subdivision!!
- Undeveloped

Place-based pop-up (voting pod) participants in Hurstbridge were asked "How much do you love or value the neighbourhood character of Hurstbridge (think architecture style, setbacks, fences and footpaths, vegetation, view lines and typography)? Participants were presented with a listing of five emojis (reflecting Love it, Like it, Neutral, Don't like it and Really don't like it) as well as an Unsure response option, and invited to place one ball in the appropriate tube.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Figure 16 presents the results for the above voting pod question. As shown, most participants indicated they Love or Like the neighbourhood character of Hurstbridge.

Figure 16. Neighbourhood character features in Hurstbridge that are loved or valued (Pop-up engagement)



Place-based pop-up (Chatboard) participants in Hurstbridge were asked "What do you love and value now about the character of this neighbourhood?" Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity or provided more than one Chatboard comment. Participants provided the following feedback (presented verbatim as submitted). The number in brackets indicates the number of participants who indicated support for a comment:

- Country feel
- Historic feel
- Love our views
- No high rises keep it green
- Parks and playgrounds
- Quiet and peaceful
- Relaxing
- The environment
- The green wedge
- The rural feel
- Tree
- Village feel

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Built form, Setbacks, Heights of buildings and homes, Vegetation, Street Layout, Topography, Views
- Setbacks, Vegetation, Street layout, Streetscape
- Setbacks, Vegetation, Street layout, Streetscape

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.6.4 Specific features that make this neighbourhood unique

Survey respondents were asked "Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 41 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 16 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the unique feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Built form (how buildings or home look)
- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)

Table 16. Summary of themes and topics describing specific unique neighbourhood features of Hurstbridge (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme
	(N=41)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	
Green spaces and landscapes, lots of trees, large trees, mature indigenous trees, and tree canopies. Nature, native flora, vegetation, and gardens. A natural habitat with birdlife and wildlife	18
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Historic village with heritage buildings, many historical features and mid-century architecture. An old-fashioned, traditional feel with a mix of architectural styles. Low density housing, good size blocks, not overcrowded, one home per block with green areas. A strong neighbourhood character statement has largely avoided inappropriate development. Some vacant acreage and rural land, no need for new development	19
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes	3
Single storey traditional buildings, variety of low rise-built forms	3
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	
Large grass nature strips, no gutters and roadside verge trails for horse riding and walking	3
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	1
Houses set back and not overcrowded	1
7 Front fencing and footpaths Pedestrian friendly with informal paths and wide footpaths. Minimal front fencing and low fencing	4
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	2
Creeks and billabongs	
9 Views Peaceful views, landscape views	2
No specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique	2
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Village atmosphere and rural feel	5

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Hurstbridge is unique in the way a substantial sized community and commercial centre can thrive within a relatively intact and healthy environment. Indigenous plants and native fauna are dominant and not separated from community, trees which have died also seen as part of the natural environment and retained. Ancient trees stand right within the centre of the busy shopping strip and attract flocks of native birds, platypus thrive in the creek running through the centre of town, kangaroos move into the recreational areas as people move inside for the night. Threatened species are seen here. Trees with natural understory line the roads with minimal cleared verges
- The town plan for Hurstbridge is unusual residents from both sides of the creek look towards this beautiful central area and can readily access it for passive and active recreation. Most parts of town would experience more wildlife than in most suburbs of Melbourne. Very few main shopping strips would have ancient trees shading the shops and paths. It is close to a 20-minute town. House gardens blend into one another with a consistent theme of indigenous plants. Most views of the town are dominated by eucalypt canopy rather than roofs. Most streets have wide natural nature strips with porous tracks with pedestrians and children on bikes using dirt tracks in the grass. The town is separated from other towns by rural zones
- Healthy creek with associated riparian vegetation area that forms the 'spine' of the town. This is a wide and continuous green area from the north to the south of the town and provides an important wildlife corridor and passive and active recreation area for residents and visitors. The green 'spine' of the town is well used and close to properties on both sides of town. The large old native trees. Native vegetation in front gardens. Setbacks to allow for these gardens and for street trees to thrive (for residential sites in the street). Low density housing. Wide nature strips. Bitumen rather than concrete paths in township and porous (gravel, granitic, or dirt) paths in recreation areas. Areas that have natural appeal and have no built form. Canopy cover over the residential area as well as over the creek area. The views into the residential parts of town from the recreational area and town centre are dominated by tree canopies. Separation of residential area from that of neighbouring towns by zoning

4.6.5 Ways that new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character

Survey respondents were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 43 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 17 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Built form (how buildings or home look)
- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)

Table 17. Summary of themes and topics describing ways new development could enhance the neighbourhood character of Hurstbridge (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=43)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Preserve existing trees and leafy feel. No removal of trees, retain the canopy trees for shade and avoid damage to mature trees. Ban the removal of indigenous canopy trees with a permit. Native flora and gardens to attract birdlife and provide homes for wildlife. Leave space for substantial trees and use appropriate screening and suitable native trees and shrubs to break up residential and commercial zones	13
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	23

57 | Page

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=43)
New buildings to be respectful of existing small-town character and designed to preserve historic features and charm to retain a country rural feel. Retain low density housing, large block size, rural hobby farms and grazing land. No over-development or large subdivisions and limit subdivisions and continue to limit density, particularly for multi-unit developments. Maintain uniform colour scheme with muted colours, uniformity of roof lines, and use of natural materials (timber, corrugated iron, mudbrick). Buildings to be energy efficient	
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern) Connected shared trails between larger and rural townships and neighbourhoods	1
4 Heights of buildings and homes Reduce height limits, remain low rise and single storey. Avoid high rise, no buildings of three or more storeys and no multi-storey buildings	8
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks) Enhance nature strips, continue to promote the use of verandas over paths and resituate powerlines underground	3
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street) Keep housing back from the street	1
7 Front fencing and footpaths Few fences. Some more footpaths and a roadside walking track	3
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0
10 No development, no new development	9

Survey respondents were also asked for any other feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character and invited to provide a personalised comment.

In relation to Hurstbridge, the other comments reported by Survey respondents largely reiterated the feedback previously presented. Other aspects referenced the general feedback included: requests to review the traffic flow and parking around the school, mow the grass on the roadside, and mulch the parks; and suggestions to consider parking for retailers and plan the shopping precinct for future growth.

Place-based pop-up (Chatboard) participants in Hurstbridge were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance and improve the neighbourhood character?" Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity or provided more than one Chatboard comment. Participants provided the following feedback (presented verbatim as submitted:

 Diversity of housing types to allow for housing affordability (especially for young people who wish to stay in the area when they leave home)

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

■ Views of the Diamond Creek corridor are being impacted by the diamond creek trail. Revegetation is required to screen the view of the concrete path from the Heidelberg – Kinglake Rd. The shady character of the Creekside has been eroded by tree loss and pruning for this trail and should be restored by canopy tree planting. Support the retention of all of the elements in the current precinct BG3 guidelines with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads. Support the retention of all of the elements in the current precinct SB4 guidelines - with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads'. Support the retention of all of the current residential design guidelines. Note that the Public Park and Recreation Zone is a dominant feature of Hurstbridge, this area runs the length of Hurstbridge township and features in most views from the town. The creekside wildlife corridor contributes to

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

the abundance of wildlife in the area. These areas are essential elements of the character and should be protected from inappropriate modification by Council by inclusion in the character strategy. Encroachment into tree structural zones and more than 10 % of tree protection zones has caused significant tree loss in Hurstbridge. Valuable large old trees on roadsides in Hurstbridge have been killed by root damage such as the Yellow box on Arthurs Creek Rd near 'Burkes tree' killed by Melbourne Water works in the root zone; the ancient Yellow Box and Eucalyptus Blakelyi west of Lot 1 Graysharpes Rd killed by Council footpath construction in the root zones; and the 2 Yellow Gums outside 816 Kinglake – Heidelberg Rd killed by Council's unnecessary mechanical ripping of root zones before the planting of shrubs. The recent landscape works around the war memorial on the corner of Anzac Rd has killed the remnant River Red Gum near the works

- The Public Park and Recreation zoned areas need to be included in the neighbourhood character strategy. Retain all elements of the current neighbourhood character statements BG3 and SB4 with the inclusion (as seen in the GC statements) of the road treatment design objective to reduce traffic speeds. Retain all elements of the current residential design guidelines. The traditional custodians of the area and their culture should be consulted in regards to place naming and any developments on public land. Retain all overlays. Add heritage overlays to all trees at or over the Large Old Tree size for the ecological vegetation class in which the tree is located. Protect views of the town from the recreational / wildlife (the green space along the Diamond Creek) area by not allowing permits for canopy tree removal or lopping where removals allow built form to intrude into the canopy cover. Tree removals or lopping for safety when verified by an independent arborist excluded from this requirement. Protect views of the recreational / wildlife area (the green space along the Diamond Creek) from the shopping and residential areas by not allowing permits for canopy tree removal or lopping where removals allow built form to intrude into the canopy cover. Tree removals or lopping for safety when verified by an independent arborist excluded from this requirement. All Council developments should be required to comply with neighbourhood character – including paving, buildings, signs, fences, retaining walls, curbs, water sensitive design etc. This would encompass ensuring that the development improves the area's biodiversity, natural appeal and clean air and reduces the area's embodied and ongoing carbon emissions and pollution. Advise new residents of tree removal laws and penalties for removing trees without a permit where required. Ensure Council abide by cl 52.17 of the Planning Scheme and all overlays in regards to tree removal including tree root encroachment. Ensure maintenance of the PPRZ area does not destroy the character – eg mowing is destroying natural regeneration and thus over time reducing vegetation cover and biodiversity. Improve transparency in the development approval process by making applications public, including all council development proposals
- Consideration of traditional custodians of the area in place naming, use of native plants, restoration of environment and historical communications. All development applications should be freely available to community for assessment. No canopy tree removal should be allowed without a permit (native or other). Consideration of sustainability in decision making for approval of all development permits (including municipal and state government developments). This would encompass ensuring that the development improves the area's biodiversity, and reduces the area's embodied and ongoing carbon emissions. Ensure that the current planning scheme requirement for permits for tree root zone encroachment for native trees – is enforced. (Note that The current planning scheme Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation requires applicants to identify all native vegetation loss, including consequential and assumed loss of native vegetation (Section 2.3.3 of the Guidelines). Assumed loss includes encroachment into the Tree Protection Zone or Structural Root Zone, as specified in AS4970-2009.) Retain all of the elements and boundaries in the current neighbourhood character statement with the addition of the value and retention of the wide green habitat and recreation 'spine' of the town. Enhancement of the habitat of the creek corridor by widening the area of riparian vegetation on either side of the creek. Retention of the natural appeal of areas that currently are not dominated by built form. Consideration of the canopy cover of the town when assessing development permits

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.7 North Warrandyte

This section presents the findings relating to North Warrandyte. Survey respondents had the opportunity to comment on one or two neighbourhood study areas and 14 survey respondents commented on North Warrandyte. Relevant insights from the written submissions are also outlined here.

The Neighbourhood Character features were used as an initial coding template (themes) and relevant feedback was grouped to each theme. Additional themes also emerged from the feedback during the analysis process, and these are reported. The summary tables in this Section present the findings from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each Neighbourhood Character feature is presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, Neighbourhood Character themes have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback. Some individuals may have participated in more than one activity. Personalised feedback referred to one or more topics.

4.7.1 Key highlights for North Warrandyte

- When asked to describe the character of this neighbourhood now, participants reported a variety of elements. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (Natural bushland and vegetation, nature, greenery, and lots of trees. Native wildlife and indigenous flora); and Built form (Open spaces, acreage, large natural bush blocks, secluded, low density, and minimal development. Varied and modern buildings, with home hidden behind trees)
- When asked what they like about the character of this neighbourhood and presented with a list of options, participants most frequently selected: Vegetation; and Views
- When asked about specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique, participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (Lots of natural vegetation, nature, native bushes, trees, and plants. An abundance of wildlife, native wildlife, animals, birds, reptiles, and invertebrates); and Built form (Large private residential bush blocks, native bushland blocks. Most houses are partly visible from the road and suit the landscape. Natural building materials sensitive to surrounds, some variety although no concrete boxy structures on cleared blocks)
- When asked how new development in this neighbourhood could be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character, participants provided a variety of suggestions. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (Restrict new development to limited, small scale development. New dwelling designs to be natural, environmentally friendly and suited to and around the bush. Existing buildings are diverse so allow some flexibility and variation with new developments. Consider allowing extra buildings on properties without a subdivision); and Vegetation (Preserve vegetation and current landscapes and retain the treed, bush environments. Encourage native gardens)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Survey respondents were invited to report the name/s of a particular or relevant street, road or area of interest. Of the 14 survey respondents, eight provided the following details in relation to North Warrandyte:

Street/Area

- Blooms Road
- Bradleys Lane
- Castle Road; Hamilton Road
- Glynn's Road, and all surrounding streets
- Kangaroo Ground
- Kruses Road and surrounding roads
- Pigeon Bank Road
- Research Roads
- Research-Warrandyte Road and the whole of North Warrandyte
- Warrandyte

4.7.2 How the character of this neighbourhood is described now

Survey respondents were asked "Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 14 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 18 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. The Neighbourhood Character features are presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, the Neighbourhood Character themes are presented first and have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Neighbourhood Character themes attracted no feedback are shaded light grey. Following this, emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback.

As shown in Table 18, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 18. Summary of themes and topics describing current neighbourhood character of North Warrandyte (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=14)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	
Natural bushland and vegetation, nature, greenery, and lots of trees. Native wildlife	10
and indigenous flora	
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Open spaces, acreage, large natural bush blocks, secluded, low density, and minimal	8
development. Varied and modern buildings, with home hidden behind trees	
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	1
Winding, busy roads	I
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	2
Walker-friendly, tree-lined roads	2
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0

61 | Page

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=14)
7 Front fencing and footpaths	0
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Informal country town vibe	3
Rural township feel	1

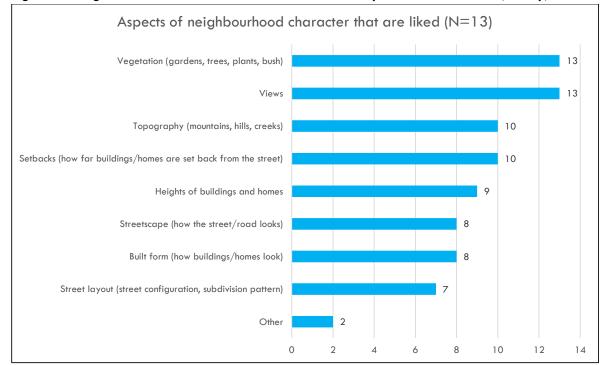
4.7.3 Features of the neighbourhood character that are liked now

Survey respondents were asked "What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply?" and presented with a listing of eight options plus "Other".

Figure 17 presents the results for the above survey question. As shown, all response options were selected, to varying degrees for North Warrandyte. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Views

Figure 17. Neighbourhood character features in North Warrandyte that are liked now (Survey)



The two respondents who selected "Other" provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Largely native bush, though some gardens have introduced exotic species close to the houses
- The river and creeks

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Character Attributes & Architectural Style, form and layout: Built structures have low visual impact and blend in with the environment. Era of buildings: Mixed. Existing building quality: Some existing buildings are unique, most are high quality, many are significant or architecturally interesting, e.g. Robin Boyd houses, the Danila Vassilieff house, and Alistair Knox houses. A few artists shacks and studios remain, for example Deborah Halpern, Gus McLaren. Primary materials: Everything including mud brick, single brick, timber, solid brick.
- Roof form: flat or pitched. Roof material: some clay tiles, and flat or pitched colorbond steel. Scale of existing development: Dominant residential form: Single dwellings on allotments mostly ½ acre to two acres in size, though there are a few older $\frac{1}{4}$ acre subdivisions. Dominant residential typology: mix of single level, split level because of steep typography, and some two-storey. Setbacks and Siting: most are setback from the front and sides as blocks are relatively large, and most people do not want to be too close to their neighbours. By having side setbacks, neighbours can avoid unsightly and costly fencing, and it allows movement of native animals. Consistency of setbacks: most are setback. Dominance of parking structures: most houses have a carport or garage/ garages. This is because the blocks are relatively large and can accommodate parking structures, the roads are narrow and do not allow parking, and being a treed area, there is a risk of tree damage if cars are not garaged. Front fencing and Footpaths: Front fencing is variable. Front fencing has increased, in part due to the increase in dog ownership. Houses where the native bush has been cleared tend to have fences in order to provide the privacy that native bush once allowed. We prefer no fencing in front yards to maintain the character of the area. Front fence height: Preference is for low fences if there are any. Front fence type: currently variable, from post and wire to high cement block or stone walls. We advocate no front fences on boundary in order to keep bush environment. Footpath presence; it varies and is often just on one side of the street. Generally there is a winding gravel path on side streets, but main roads have asphalt paths in places. Vegetation. Most blocks have native vegetation, and there is considerable roadside native vegetation. Public and private landscaping: there are a few formally landscaped blocks but most are natural, or have enhanced native bush, that is owners have used a native landscape design. Private garden type. We prefer the retention of the native landscape. However, we also support built or enhanced native gardens, that harmonise with the bush environment. We do not support the exotic gardens for example, palm trees, cactus, Agapanthas and weed species (for example Pittosporum and Cootamundra Wattle). Street tree types: mostly it is native vegetation and trees in the streets. We would like to see more understory in streets, as they provide good screening, and habitat for birds and small animals. View-lines and Topography: North Warrandyte has beautiful view-lines to the Dandenongs, Kangaroo Ground, the Green Wedge and city, as there are many ridgelines. We discourage the higher form of houses, built to get viewlines, as this often destroys everyone else's natural views. We oppose bulky form buildings where the aim is to enhance view-lines to owner but have the consequence of destroying view-lines from the streetscape. Road Network: There are two main roads and the rest are meandering lanes and small roads. Road layout: Roads largely have been designed to achieve gentle grades by routing along contours, for example The Boulevard. Road surface: Mostly informal sealed roads, still some dirt roads. Drainage: currently there are mainly table or open channel (OUD) drains. Many of the discharge points are not properly connected up so you get erosion. We recommend improvements here, but not kerb and channel.

4.7.4 Specific features that make this neighbourhood unique

Survey respondents were asked "Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 14 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 19 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the unique feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Table 19. Summary of themes and topics describing specific unique neighbourhood features of North Warrandyte (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=14)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Lots of natural vegetation, nature, native bushes, trees, and plants. An abundance of wildlife, native wildlife, animals, birds, reptiles, and invertebrates	8
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Large private residential bush blocks, native bushland blocks. Most houses are partly visible from the road and suit the landscape. Natural building materials sensitive to surrounds, some variety although no concrete boxy structures on cleared blocks	8
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern) Winding road through natural bush	1
4 Heights of buildings and homes No high-rise buildings	1
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	0
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street) Setbacks	1
7 Front fencing and footpaths Good footpaths, few fences	2
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks) Very hilly, the river, proximity to the Yarra River and creeks	4
9 Views Scenic views of the trees and bush or distant views of mountains, city and bush	2
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Peaceful, semi-rural feel	1

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Having primarily native vegetation on the roadside and on properties. The predominance of gentle to steep hills. North Warrandyte is not flat. It is a hilly terrain, and this contributes to the gullies and vistas which open up as you drive through. Absence of intrusive built form. The consistency of low density character. No commercial areas. North Warrandyte does not have any parks, which means that as there are no places for families to meet or congregate. There are no shops or formal commercial businesses or centre. There is only one small park in Weerona Way, built when the street was developed. However, North Warrandyte has a number of State Parks (Glynns Road and Norman Reserve) and riverside walks. This adds to the character and makes it very attractive for locals and people from adjacent suburbs. It also has very special wildflower reserves (e.g. Professor's Hill). All of this creates a beautiful riverine environment, which is reflected in the character. Many houses are sited or designed to take advantage of this. North Warrandyte abuts the Yarra River and also has a number of beautiful gullies and creeks, (e.g. Stoney Creek and Pigeon Bank). Because of the meandering flow of the river, most residents can easily access the River within 5-10 minutes walks from their houses. This is central to the neighbourhood character of North Warrandyte

4.7.5 Ways that new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character

Survey respondents were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 14 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Table 20 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Built form (how buildings or homes look)
- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)

Table 20. Summary of themes and topics describing ways new development could enhance the neighbourhood character of North Warrandyte (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=14)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	
Preserve vegetation and current landscapes and retain the treed, bush environments.	4
Encourage native gardens	
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Restrict new development to limited, small scale development. New dwelling designs	
to be natural, environmentally friendly and suited to and around the bush. Existing	6
buildings are diverse so allow some flexibility and variation with new developments.	
Consider allowing extra buildings on properties without a subdivision	
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes	2
Low rise	
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	2
Plants on nature strip or keep it a bush, less concrete speed humps to slow traffic	2
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	2
Properties should be setback, plenty of setbacks	
7 Front fencing and footpaths	0
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0
10 No development, no new development	4

Survey respondents were also asked for any other feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character and invited to provide a personalised comment.

In relation to North Warrandyte Creek, the other comments reported by Survey respondents largely reiterated the feedback previously presented. Other aspects referenced the general feedback included: requests to keep it safe and reconsider the limitation around placing an office or granny flat on private property; and a suggestion to consider insights from First Nations people.

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Encouraging developments that blend with the environment, rather than making an architectural statement. We want to houses that are sympathetic to the environment and the landscape. Limiting the built form on the block with a building envelope, suitable for the size and dimensions of the block. Scale the building to the size of the block, having regard to the size, dimensions and gradient of the block. The built form envelope should include the residence, sheds, gardens, pool and other ancillary buildings. This needs to be given effect through the use of a defined building envelope. Our preference is that fences on the front boundary should not be permitted. Where fencing is required to contain an animal or small children, it should run from the side of the residence to the side boundary. We need guidelines regarding the scale of ancillary structures that are appropriate to residential use. We are not against people having a hobby facility, but when a structure

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

becomes commercial in size it is clearly not ancillary to residential use and can often be surreptitiously used for commercial or business purposes which undermine the residential zoning. Just because allotments in North Warrandyte are larger than a typical suburb does not mean that they can be filled with storage sheds and commercial workshops. It is not appropriate because of traffic movements, inappropriate land use, the inevitable destruction of a bush block and the impact on the amenity of other residents. We need to restrict the area of disturbance on a property and ensure that land uses are truly residential. Any new planning controls will need to be implemented and enforced

4.8 Panton Hill

This section presents the findings relating to Panton Hill. Survey respondents had the opportunity to comment on one or two neighbourhood study areas and **14 survey respondents** commented on Panton Hill. Relevant insights from the **written submissions** are also outlined here.

The Neighbourhood Character features were used as an initial coding template (themes) and relevant feedback was grouped to each theme. Additional themes also emerged from the feedback during the analysis process, and these are reported. The summary tables in this Section present the findings from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each Neighbourhood Character feature is presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, Neighbourhood Character themes have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback. Some individuals may have participated in more than one activity. Personalised feedback referred to one or more topics.

4.8.1 Key highlights for Panton Hill

- When asked to describe the character of this neighbourhood now, participants reported a variety of elements. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (A bush township, bush and trees); and Built form (Grazing land with livestock, equine properties, and nice houses. Historic and varied across 100 years)
- When asked what they like about the character of this neighbourhood and presented with a list of options, participants most frequently selected: Topography; and Views
- When asked about specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique, participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: **Built form** (Buildings reflect the history, past fires, and gold rush. Rural small-town features, larger residential blocks, grazing land with dispersed housing and agricultural buildings and equine properties. Uniformity of materials and pavements in public and private buildings); and **Vegetation** (Green wedge, proximity to the bush, conservation bush, beautiful landscapes, lots of nature and trees)
- When asked how new development in this neighbourhood could be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character, participants provided a variety of suggestions. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (New development must be consistent with a rural township and existing character in terms of design, colour and appearance. Retain rural hobby farms and preserve existing grazing land for livestock. Permit detached houses that are like existing buildings and some subdivisions with smaller plots to encourage young families and provide a downsizing option for ageing residents); and Streetscape (Streetscaping and dirt roads and streets to be bituminised. Provide an alternative for the pedestrians and cyclists using the 80km stretch of dangerous road)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Survey respondents were invited to report the name/s of a particular or relevant street, road or area of interest. Of the 14 survey respondents, 10 provided the following details in relation to Panton Hill:

Street/Area

- Bishop Road (2)
- Church Road
- Heidelberg-Kinglake Road (from Hurstbridge to Cottles Bridge)
- Kangaroo Ground St Andrews Road
- Main Road (2)
- Main Road/Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Road
- Rodger Road
- Rodger Road
- Rodger Road
- Rodger Road and Main street of Panton Hill
- Township

4.8.2 How the character of this neighbourhood is described now

Survey respondents were asked "Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 13 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 21 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. The Neighbourhood Character features are presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, the Neighbourhood Character themes are presented first and have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Neighbourhood Character themes attracted no feedback are shaded light grey. Following this, emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback.

As shown in Table 21, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 21. Summary of themes and topics describing current neighbourhood character of Panton Hill (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=13)
1. Neighbourhood character features	
1.1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) A bush township, bush and trees	6
1.2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Grazing land with livestock, equine properties, and nice houses. Historic and varied across 100 years	4
1.3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
1.4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
1.5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	0
1.6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street) Well spaced	1

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=13)
1.7 Front fencing and footpaths	1
Lacking footpaths	'
1.8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
1.9 Views	0
2. Feel of the neighbourhood	
2.1 Family friendly, welcoming and sense of community	3
2.2 Rural township feel	4
2.3 Relaxed country town vibe	1

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Panton Hill is an active community surrounded by reserves

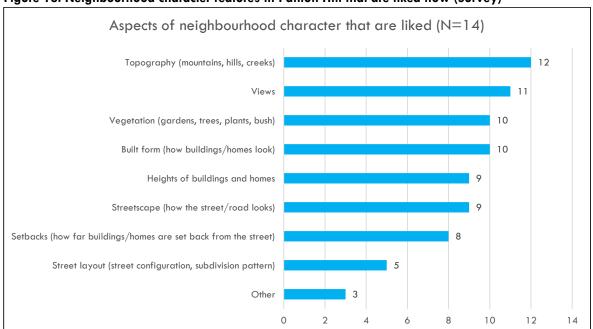
4.8.3 Features of the neighbourhood character that are liked now

Survey respondents were asked "What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply?" and presented with a listing of eight options plus "Other".

Figure 18 presents the results for the above survey question. As shown, all response options were selected, to varying degrees for Panton Hill. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)
- Views

Figure 18. Neighbourhood character features in Panton Hill that are liked now (Survey)



The three respondents who selected "Other" provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

- The buildings (except for the more recent addition to the church) are similar in style and colour, so present a
 distinctive historical character
- The guiet nature of the area, roundabouts, and bluestone
- Rural grazing land with dispersed housing and agricultural buildings, equine properties and associated infrastructure, trails

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Built form, Setbacks, Heights of buildings and homes, Vegetation, Street Layout, Topography, Views

4.8.4 Specific features that make this neighbourhood unique

Survey respondents were asked "Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 10 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 22 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the unique feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Built form (how buildings or homes look)
- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)

Table 22. Summary of themes and topics describing specific unique neighbourhood features of Panton Hill (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=10)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	
Green wedge, proximity to the bush, conservation bush, beautiful landscapes, lots of nature and trees	4
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Buildings reflect the history, past fires, and gold rush. Rural small-town features,	
larger residential blocks, grazing land with dispersed housing and agricultural	5
buildings and equine properties. Uniformity of materials and pavements in public	
and private buildings	_
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	1
Character of Main Road reflects the history of the town and area	
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0
7 Front fencing and footpaths	0
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Country town vibe	1

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

 Panton Hill is a place where community is always out — in the natural bush reserves or on the oval. The joy and beauty of these reserves dominate the character of the town

4.8.5 Ways that new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character

Survey respondents were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 12 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 23 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Built form (how buildings or homes look)
- Streetscape (how the street/road looks)

Table 23. Summary of themes and topics describing ways new development could enhance the neighbourhood character of Panton Hill (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=12)
1. Neighbourhood character features	
1.1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	0
1.2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) New development must be consistent with a rural township and existing character in terms of design, colour and appearance. Retain rural hobby farms and preserve existing grazing land for livestock. Permit detached houses that are like existing buildings and some subdivisions with smaller plots to encourage young families and provide a downsizing option for ageing residents	6
1.3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
1.4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
1.5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks) Streetscaping and dirt roads and streets to be bituminised. Provide an alternative for the pedestrians and cyclists using the 80km stretch of dangerous road	4
1.6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street) Setbacks	1
1.7 Front fencing and footpaths Footpaths or bike paths, connected shared trails between both larger and rural townships and neighbourhoods	2
1.8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
1.9 Views	0
1.10 No new development	1

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Survey respondents were also asked for any other feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character and invited to provide a personalised comment.

In relation to Panton Hill, the other comments reported by Survey respondents largely reiterated the feedback previously presented. Other aspects referenced the general feedback included: requests to consider maintaining the garden beds on the main road and safe fencing for wildlife; and suggestions for low-cost housing for people with disabilities and weed management solutions.

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- RARE supports the retention of all of the elements in the current precinct S guidelines with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads'
- WAN supports the retention of all of the elements in the current precinct S guidelines

4.9 Plenty

This section presents the findings relating to Plenty. Survey respondents had the opportunity to comment on one or two neighbourhood study areas and 10 survey respondents commented on Plenty. Relevant insights from the written submissions are also outlined here.

The Neighbourhood Character features were used as an initial coding template (themes) and relevant feedback was grouped to each theme. Additional themes also emerged from the feedback during the analysis process, and these are reported. The summary tables in this Section present the findings from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each Neighbourhood Character feature is presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, Neighbourhood Character themes have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback. Some individuals may have participated in more than one activity. Personalised feedback referred to one or more topics.

4.9.1 Key highlights for Plenty

- When asked to describe the character of this neighbourhood now, participants reported a variety of elements. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (Rustic and old buildings, modern family homes, spacious and open)
- When asked what they like about the character of this neighbourhood and presented with a list of options, participants most frequently selected: Vegetation; and Topography
- When asked about specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique, participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (Natural parklands, nature, the Gorge Park, general retention of vegetation particularly native vegetation); and Built form (Modern development taking account of local environment, properties blending rural and suburban character, maintained homes)
- When asked how new development in this neighbourhood could be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character, participants provided a variety of suggestions. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: **Built form** (Retain rural character. Limit subdivisions and multi-unit developments, keep subdivisions at one-acre. Respectful development rather than outdated and inconsistently applied principles. Small eco village creation with smaller subdivisions if environmental footprint was addressed); and **Vegetation** (Retain tall trees and native vegetation planting, increase vegetation cover)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Survey respondents were invited to report the name/s of a particular or relevant street, road or area of interest. Of the 10 survey respondents, five provided the following details in relation to Plenty:

Street/Area

- Browns land and adjoining streets
- Browns Lane
- Grange avenue
- Mackelroy Road (2)
- Memorial Road and Old Yan Yean Road (heart area Plenty)
- River Avenue
- Thornbill Drive

4.9.2 How the character of this neighbourhood is described now

Survey respondents were asked "Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 10 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 24 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. The Neighbourhood Character features are presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, the Neighbourhood Character themes are presented first and have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Neighbourhood Character themes attracted no feedback are shaded light grey. Following this, emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback.

As shown in Table 24, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced theme in the feedback was:

Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 24. Summary of themes and topics describing current neighbourhood character of Plenty (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=10)
1. Neighbourhood character features	
1.1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Untouched and natural	1
1.2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Rustic and old buildings, modern family homes, spacious and open	4
1.3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
1.4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
1.5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	0
1.6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0
1.7 Front fencing and footpaths	0
1.8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
1.9 Views	0
2. Feel of the neighbourhood	
2.1 Family friendly, welcoming and sense of community	2
2.2 Quiet, peaceful and tranquil	2
2.3 Rural township feel	1

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=10)
2.4 Relaxed country town vibe	1
2.5 Semi-rural township feel	2

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Established community beside the gorge

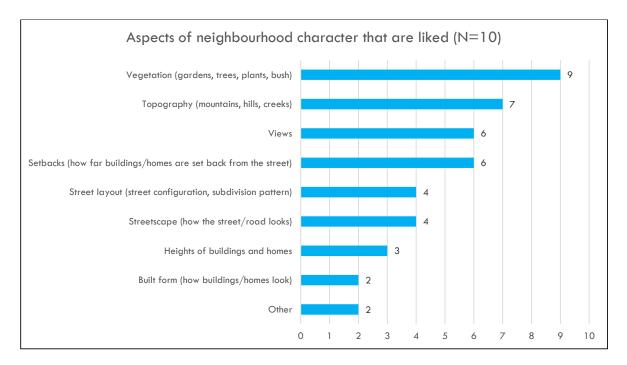
4.9.3 Features of the neighbourhood character that are liked now

Survey respondents were asked "What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply?" and presented with a listing of eight options plus "Other".

Figure 19 presents the results for the above survey question. All response options were selected, to varying degrees for Plenty. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)

Figure 19. Neighbourhood character features in Plenty that are liked now (Survey)



The two respondents who selected "Other" provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- The gorge
- Lack of density and semi-rural feel

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Built form (except for the fire station), Setbacks, Heights of buildings and homes, Vegetation, although removal
of old trees and indigenous ground flora becoming an issue, Street Layout (with exception of the divide that
Yan Yean Rd has created), Topography, Views (with the exception of the Fire Station and Yan Yean Rd)

4.9.4 Specific features that make this neighbourhood unique

Survey respondents were asked "Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of nine respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 25 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the unique feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 25. Summary of themes and topics describing specific unique neighbourhood features of Plenty (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=9)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Natural parklands, nature, the Gorge Park, general retention of vegetation particularly native vegetation	4
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Modern development taking account of local environment, properties blending rural and suburban character, maintained homes	3
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks) Combination of sealed and unsealed roads, clever planting retains a bush feeling along the roadsides	2
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0
7 Front fencing and footpaths Walkways	1
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks) The hilly topography	1
9 Views	0
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Country town, semi-rural vibe	2
Welcoming	1

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Large blocks with large old trees. Proximity to the Plenty Gorge, and Blue Lake

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.9.5 Ways that new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character

Survey respondents were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 10 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 26 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Front fencing and footpaths
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 26. Summary of themes and topics describing ways new development could enhance the neighbourhood character of Plenty (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=10)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Retain tall trees and native vegetation planting, increase vegetation cover	3
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Retain rural character. Limit subdivisions and multi-unit developments, keep subdivisions at one-acre. Respectful development rather than outdated and inconsistently applied principles. Small eco village creation with smaller subdivisions if environmental footprint was addressed	4
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes Limit building heights, height limitation on dwellings	2
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	0
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street) Retain setbacks, set back from road and spacing between dwellings	2
7 Front fencing and footpaths Upgrade walkways, footpaths that enhance pedestrian movement and streetlights	5
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0

Survey respondents were also asked to provide any other feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character to be considered?" and invited to provide a personalised comment.

In relation to Plenty, the other comments reported by Survey respondents largely reiterated the feedback previously presented. Other aspects referenced the general feedback included: requests for more lighting in some areas; and suggestions to review the limited footpaths and bike tracks as more people are coming to Plenty to access cafes and the Gorge, and replace the old CFA building with a green, community area.

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

 RARE supports the creation of a neighbourhood character strategy that includes all of the elements in the current precinct S guidelines for Panton Hill and St Andrews with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads'

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.10 Research

This section presents the findings relating to Research. Survey respondents had the opportunity to comment on one or two neighbourhood study areas and 12 survey respondents commented on Research. Relevant insights from the written submissions are also outlined here.

Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity. Personalised feedback may refer to one or more topics.

4.10.1 Key highlights for Research

- When asked to describe the character of this neighbourhood now, participants reported a variety of elements. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (Large trees, shade, natives, and natural bush settings. Native vegetation established trees and large gardens with wildlife); and Built form (Variety of areas including suburban, semi-rural, bushy and countryside. Large, natural bush blocks, wineries, grazing paddocks. 1980's suburban and mixed housing styles. Minimal development, needs improvement and protection)
- When asked what they like about the character of this neighbourhood and presented with a list of options, participants most frequently selected: Vegetation; Topography; and Setback
- When asked about specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique, participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (The bush, remnant bush, trees, fauna, greenery, large gardens, native landscapes and associated native wildlife, birds, and animals)
- When asked how new development in this neighbourhood could be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character, participants provided a variety of suggestions. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (Retain vegetation and bush, control tree clearance and protect native species. More trees, native trees, gardens, and rain gardens rather than curbs/stormwater. Guidance for indigenous vegetation); and Built form (Retain current form, sympathetic building size and mass. Quality materials and design with garden space. Upgrade old houses on large blocks or sensitively develop 0.5 acre lots with sustainable housing)

Survey respondents were invited to report the name/s of a particular or relevant street, road or area of interest. Of the 12 survey respondents, five provided the following details in relation to Research:

Street/Area

- 4-38 Brinkkotter Road
- Cassells Road and Aqueduct trail
- Research shops, new toilet and CFA carpark
- Reynolds Road

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.10.2 How the character of this neighbourhood is described now

Survey respondents were asked "Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 12 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 27 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. The Neighbourhood Character features are presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, the Neighbourhood Character themes are presented first and have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Neighbourhood Character themes attracted no feedback are shaded light grey. Following this, emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback.

As shown in Table 27, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 27. Summary of themes and topics describing current neighbourhood character of Research (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=12)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Large trees, shade, natives, and natural bush settings. Native vegetation, established trees and large gardens with wildlife	6
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Variety of areas including suburban, semi-rural, bushy and countryside. Large, natural bush blocks, wineries, grazing paddocks. 1980's suburban and mixed housing styles. Minimal development, needs improvement and protection	6
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	0
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street) Houses set back from the road	1
7 Front fencing and footpaths	0
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks) Quite hilly	1
9 Views	0
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Quiet, peaceful, and tranquil	2
Semi-rural township feel	2
Rural township feel	1
Relaxed country town vibe	1
Family friendly, welcoming and sense of community	1

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

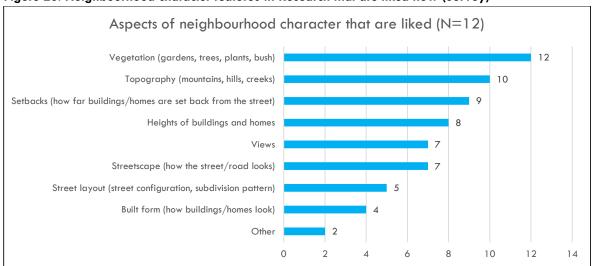
4.10.3 Features of the neighbourhood character that are liked now

Survey respondents were asked "What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply?" and presented with a listing of eight options plus "Other".

Figure 20 presents the results for the above survey question. As shown, all response options were selected, to varying degrees for Research. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)
- Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)

Figure 20. Neighbourhood character features in Research that are liked now (Survey)



The two respondents who selected "Other" provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Large established native trees
- Unsealed road

4.10.4 Specific features that make this neighbourhood unique

Survey respondents were asked "Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 10 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 28 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the unique feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced theme in the feedback was:

Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Table 28. Summary of themes and topics describing specific unique neighbourhood features of Research (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=10)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	
The bush, remnant bush, trees, fauna, greenery, large gardens, native landscapes and associated native wildlife, birds, and animals	9
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Large, native bushland blocks and farmlands. Natural building materials sensitive to	2
surrounds, no huge concrete box structures	
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	2
No formal road guttering and unsealed roads	2
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	1
Set back from street	'
7 Front fencing and footpaths	0
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks) Mountains	1
9 Views	1
Scenic mountain views	I
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Small town vibe	1
Peaceful	1

4.10.5 Ways that new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character

Survey respondents were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 12 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 29 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 29. Summary of themes and topics describing ways new development could enhance the neighbourhood character of Research (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=12)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Retain vegetation and bush, control tree clearance and protect native species. More trees, native trees, gardens and rain gardens rather than curbs/stormwater. Guidance for indigenous vegetation	5
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	4

79 | Page

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=12)
Retain current form, sympathetic building size and mass. Quality materials and	
design with garden space. Upgrade old houses on large blocks or sensitively develop 0.5 acre lots with sustainable housing	
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	1
Prevent on street parking	
4 Heights of buildings and homes Respect the surrounding area height limits	1
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	
Sealed roads, solar streetlights, tree planting along the Aqueduct trail and native trees along streets	2
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	1
Buildings setback from streets	l
7 Front fencing and footpaths	0
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0

Survey respondents were also asked for any other feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character and invited to provide a personalised comment.

In relation to Research, the other comments reported by Survey respondents largely reiterated the feedback previously presented. Other aspects referenced the general feedback included: requests to address a group of young people displaying anti-social behaviours and for more rubbish bins near the toilet block and creek; and suggestions to provide information to residents on fire, heat, energy in times of changing climate, and maintaining shop fronts.

4.11 St Andrews

This section presents the findings relating to St Andrews. Survey respondents had the opportunity to comment on one or two neighbourhood study areas and 10 survey respondents commented on St Andrews. Relevant insights from the written submissions are also outlined here.

The Neighbourhood Character features were used as an initial coding template (themes) and relevant feedback was grouped to each theme. Additional themes also emerged from the feedback during the analysis process, and these are reported. The summary tables in this Section present the findings from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each Neighbourhood Character feature is presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, Neighbourhood Character themes have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback. Some individuals may have participated in more than one activity. Personalised feedback referred to one or more topics.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.11.1 Key highlights for St Andrews

- When asked to describe the character of this neighbourhood now, participants reported a variety of elements. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (Bush blocks, paddocks, and large open areas for livestock as well as small and medium lots. Eclectic, rustic, and mostly natural colours); and Vegetation (Bush and gumtrees)
- When asked what they like about the character of this neighbourhood and presented with a list of options, participants most frequently selected: Vegetation; Views; and Topography
- When asked about specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique, participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (Bush, bushland, green wedge, unique native/indigenous trees and vegetation and abundant wildlife); Built form (Large allotments, combination of residences and working farms); and Streetscape (Steep dirt road and an absence of the curb-and-channel)
- When asked how new development in this neighbourhood could be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character, participants provided a variety of suggestions. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (No subdivisions, no developments, no big developments, no smaller blocks, keep block sizes large (more than 1000m2), preserve for wildlife and future generations. No new development or limit new development, no townhouses. If necessary, use natural materials, sustainable design, no outside lighting. New houses or more homes to be built and landscaped in the character of the existing buildings and sited amongst the bush setting); Vegetation (Green wedge to be protected, developments must not damage the environment, creeks, wildlife or trees. Use only native vegetation); and Streetscape (Road improvements, sealed road, asphalt, regular grade direct, no excessive signage and safety barriers)

Survey respondents were invited to report the name/s of a particular or relevant street, road or area of interest. Of the 10 survey respondents, five provided the following details in relation to St Andrews:

Street/Area

- Caledonia Street
- Charlber Lane
- Mittons Bridge Road
- St Andrews Market and surrounds
- St Andrews Street.

4.11.2 How the character of this neighbourhood is described now

Survey respondents were asked "Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 10 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 30 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. The Neighbourhood Character features are presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, the Neighbourhood Character themes are presented first and have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Neighbourhood Character themes attracted no feedback are shaded light grey. Following this, emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback.

As shown in Table 30, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

81 | Page

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

- Built form (how buildings or homes look)
- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)

Table 30. Summary of themes and topics describing current neighbourhood character of St Andrews (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=10)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	5
Bush and gumtrees	
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Bush blocks, paddocks, and large open areas for livestock as well as small and	7
medium lots. Eclectic, rustic, and mostly natural colours	
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	0
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0
7 Front fencing and footpaths	0
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Rural township feel	4
Relaxed country town vibe	3
Semi-rural township feel	2
City fringe meets bush, urban to rural feel	1
Quiet, peaceful, and tranquil	1

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

St Andrews to us is precious wildlife, trees, and beauty

4.11.3 Features of the neighbourhood character that are liked now

Survey respondents were asked "What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply?" and presented with a listing of eight options plus "Other".

Figure 21 presents the results for the above survey question. As shown, all response options were selected, to varying degrees for St Andrews. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Views
- Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

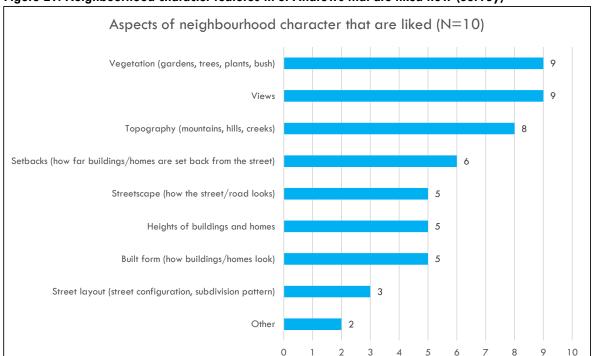


Figure 21. Neighbourhood character features in St Andrews that are liked now (Survey)

The two respondents who selected "Other" provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Reserves, wildlife, orchids, plants and trees, walking track, bugs, butterflies, people
- Quietness, country town feel

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Built form, Setbacks, Heights of buildings and homes, Vegetation, Street Layout, Topography, Views

4.11.4 Specific features that make this neighbourhood unique

Survey respondents were asked "Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of nine respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 31 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the unique feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)
- Streetscape (how the street/road looks)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Table 31. Summary of themes and topics describing specific unique neighbourhood features of St Andrews (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=9)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Bush, bushland, green wedge, unique native/indigenous trees and vegetation and abundant wildlife	5
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Large allotments, combination of residences and working farms	2
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks) Steep dirt road and an absence of the curb-and-channel	2
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0
7 Front fencing and footpaths	0
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Small country town, community feel	2

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- St Andrews is dominated by natural bush vegetation and aesthetic; the built form is significantly screened. Built form has natural elements such as mud brick, wood and natural colours. Infrastructure is natural such as dirt or gravel paths and car parking areas. The small area of bitumen parking is not consistent with the town character but at least it is reasonably screened by indigenous vegetation
- St Andrews is, always has been and hopefully will remain a non-urban environment

4.11.5 Ways that new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character

Survey respondents were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 10 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 32 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced theme in the feedback was:

- Built form (how buildings or homes look)
- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Streetscape (how the street/road looks)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Table 32. Summary of themes and topics describing ways new development could enhance the neighbourhood character of St Andrews (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=10)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Green wedge to be protected, developments must not damage the environment, creeks, wildlife, or trees. Use only native vegetation	3
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) No subdivisions, no developments, no big developments, no smaller blocks, keep block sizes large (more than 1000m2), preserve for wildlife and future generations. No new development or limit new development, no townhouses. If necessary, use natural materials, sustainable design, no outside lighting. New houses or more homes to be built and landscaped in the character of the existing buildings and sited amongst the bush setting	8
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes No high-rise developments, low set, single storey	2
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks) Road improvements, sealed road, asphalt, regular grade direct, no excessive signage and safety barriers	3
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street) Small buildings setback away from other	1
7 Front fencing and footpaths No ugly fencing	1
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Rural country town vibe	1

Survey respondents were also asked for any other feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character and invited to provide a personalised comment.

In relation to St Andrews, the other comments reported by Survey respondents largely reiterated the feedback previously presented. Other aspects referenced the general feedback included: requests to address the proliferation of shipping containers, piles of building materials and abandoned vehicles being stored on rural properties, and speeding, heavy noisy vehicles; and suggestions to increase footpaths to improve access for ageing residents and young mothers with prams and install wayfinding signage in the town along the path between the market and community centre.

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- WAN supports the retention of all elements in the current precinct S guidelines
- We do not want exotic trees, pavements, or street furniture. We do not want streetlights, traffic lights or other urban features. We do not want our rural roads to be zoned at 100kph and used as racetracks; not do we wish to confront huge 10 tonne trucks with trailers on a daily basis on our rural roads. All these issues affect residents of St Andrews, both in the township and surrounding areas. It would appear Planning Department staff cannot protect the rural landscape, even with RCZs and other overlays. What hope is there then in retaining the rural feel of our townships

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.12 Wattle Glen

This section presents the findings relating to Wattle Glen. Survey respondents had the opportunity to comment on one or two neighbourhood study areas and 19 survey respondents commented on Wattle Glen. Relevant insights from the written submissions are also outlined here.

The Neighbourhood Character features were used as an initial coding template (themes) and relevant feedback was grouped to each theme. Additional themes also emerged from the feedback during the analysis process, and these are reported. The summary tables in this Section present the findings from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each Neighbourhood Character feature is presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, Neighbourhood Character themes have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback. Some individuals may have participated in more than one activity. Personalised feedback referred to one or more topics.

4.12.1 Key highlights for Wattle Glen

- When asked to describe the character of this neighbourhood now, participants reported a variety of elements. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (Green, leafy, bushy with trees, nature, birds and increasing indigenous vegetation); and Built form (Low density housing with a variety of homes that are rustic, eclectic, and nestled or integrated within the landscape. No McMansions)
- When asked what they like about the character of this neighbourhood and presented with a list of
 options, participants most frequently selected: Vegetation; and Topography
- When asked about specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique, participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Vegetation (Features of the Green Wedge, lots of trees, old growth trees, native trees, and native birdlife. Protect the vegetation and wildlife. Peppers Paddock with years of community indigenous revegetation is unique and valued); and Built form (Bushy with minimal unnecessary built form, not built up, blocks are large and not mass subdivided. Diverse buildings, individual houses, and some vacant land)
- When asked how new development in this neighbourhood could be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character, participants provided a variety of suggestions. Participants most frequently referred to topics relating to: Built form (Keep large blocks of land and period houses. New developments to integrate a rural, rustic appearance. No out of character modern looking buildings, McMansions, Metricon style homes. No concrete or modern looking amenities); and Street layout and road network (Improve accessibility and safety of roads. Better connectivity across Mannish Road for pedestrians, cyclists and horses riders and connect the station to the village)

Survey respondents were invited to report the name/s of a particular or relevant street, road or area of interest. Of the 19 survey respondents, nine provided the following details in relation to Wattle Glen:

Street/Area

- Heidleberg-Kinglake Road
- Andrews Road
- Kangaroo Ground Street
- Main Hurstbridge Road Roundabout towards Kangaroo Ground (Kangaroo Ground-Wattle Glen Road)
- Manish Road
- Mannish Road (2)
- Reynolds Road (2)
- Valley Road
- Wattle Glen area inside the Urban Growth Boundary

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.12.2 How the character of this neighbourhood is described now

Survey respondents were asked "Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 18 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 33 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. The Neighbourhood Character features are presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, the Neighbourhood Character themes are presented first and have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Neighbourhood Character themes attracted no feedback are shaded light grey. Following this, emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback.

As shown in Table 33, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 33. Summary of themes and topics describing current neighbourhood character of Wattle Glen (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=18)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	9
Green, leafy, bushy with trees, nature, birds and increasing indigenous vegetation	,
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Low density housing with a variety of homes that are rustic, eclectic, and nestled or	6
integrated within the landscape. No McMansions	
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	0
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0
7 Front fencing and footpaths	0
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	1
9 Views	0
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Semi-rural township feel	3
Family friendly, welcoming and sense of community	1
Quiet, peaceful and tranquil	1
Rural township feel	1
Relaxed country town vibe	1
Suburban township feel	1

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Semi-bush; treed; undulating; nestled; birds

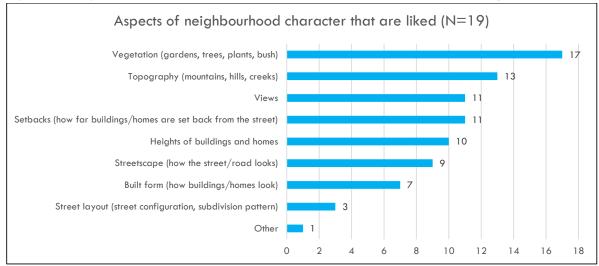
4.12.3 Features of the neighbourhood character that are liked now

Survey respondents were asked "What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply?" and presented with a listing of eight options plus "Other".

Figure 22 presents the results for the above survey question. As shown, all response options were selected, to varying degrees for Wattle Glen. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)

Figure 22. Neighbourhood character features in Wattle Glen that are liked now (Survey)



The one respondent who selected "Other" provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Left unattended by council. Overgrowth now a fuel disaster waiting to happen. Black Saturday all over again

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Built form, Setbacks, Heights of buildings and homes, Vegetation, Street Layout, Topography, Views
- Setbacks, Heights of buildings and homes, Vegetation, Street Layout, Topography, Views, Streetscape

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.12.4 Specific features that make this neighbourhood unique

Survey respondents were asked "Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 17 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 34 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the unique feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 34. Summary of themes and topics describing specific unique neighbourhood features of Wattle Glen (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=17)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	
Features of the Green Wedge, lots of trees, old growth trees, native trees, and native birdlife. Protect the vegetation and wildlife. Peppers Paddock with years of community indigenous revegetation is unique and valued	8
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Bushy with minimal unnecessary built form, not built up, blocks are large and not mass subdivided. Diverse buildings, individual houses, and some vacant land	5
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	1
Attracts speeding cars since graded roads	'
4 Heights of buildings and homes	1
No high buildings	'
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	1
Informal nature of the street scape and front yards	'
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0
7 Front fencing and footpaths	0
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0
No specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique	1
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Semi-rural or rural town vibe	2
Sense of community	1

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

■ Wattle Glen is not only home to many people but also to much wildlife – the latter indeed, very much in the urban areas as well. Even though a 'residential' street, when one turns into Clarke (& Park) Ave, one is very likely to see ducks, galahs, sulphur-crested cockatoos, correlas, kangaroos. A sense/awareness of living in nature; 'nestling into the landscape'; the wildlife (birds, echidnas, blue tongues, etc). The trees and landscape values (eg. the treed distant views to surrounding hills). The setbacks; minimal fencing; privacy. Close connection to the Green Wedge and areas of significant wildlife. The majority of land in Wattle Glen is rural-zoned and Green Wedge land; and the Urban Growth Boundary passes through Wattle Glen. For years, the Wattle Glen Residents' Association has been promoting 'Wattle Glen as a Gateway to the Green Wedge' as part of our township's role and identity, as well as the notion of 'living in harmony with nature'.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

When we moved into the area (1989) it was quiet. Not so any more – traffic noise has hugely increased. The Wattle Glen Township Strategy recommendation 'that building on slopes in excess of a 20 degree gradient should be discouraged' needs to be upheld. Views very important, especially from the main approaches into the township: north and south entrances along Main Hurstbridge Road; east entrance along Wattle Glen, Kangaroo Ground Road; south entrance along Reynolds Rd. The view is very important as I travel up and down my street - I am very appreciative of the natural environment

4.12.5 Ways that new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character

Survey respondents were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 19 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 35 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Built form (how buildings or homes look)
- Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)

Table 35. Summary of themes and topics describing ways new development could enhance the neighbourhood character of Wattle Glen (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=19)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	2
Keep the trees and have well landscaped surroundings with indigenous species	
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
Keep large blocks of land and period houses. New developments to integrate a	5
rural, rustic appearance. No out of character modern looking buildings, McMansions,	
Metricon style homes. No concrete or modern looking amenities	
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	
Improve accessibility and safety of roads. Better connectivity across Mannish Road	3
for pedestrians, cyclists and horses riders and connect the station to the village	
4 Heights of buildings and homes	1
Maintain a low-profile look	ı
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	1
Bitumen the road	ı
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0
7 Front fencing and footpaths	
Foot paths or gravel paths would be more accessible and safer. Consider connecting	3
the new bike trail with the railway station and Wattle Glen precinct	
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0
10 No development, no new development	4

Survey respondents were also asked for any other feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character and invited to provide a personalised comment.

In relation to Wattle Glen, the other comments reported by Survey respondents largely reiterated the feedback previously presented. Other aspects referenced the general feedback included: requests to

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

reconsider large car parks and address the new bus stops which do not have a country bus stop appearance and are attracting anti-social and illegal behaviours; and a suggestion to provide a safe connection to cross at the Manish Road corner.

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- It would be great if this Neighbourhood Character Strategy could help bring all of Wattle Glen residential areas together as a neighbourhood and encourage the protections we already have to be appreciated, widened and improved where possible. It is our understanding that Nillumbik Council does have a streetscape tree planting program; and for the Wattle Glen township, this should be used to help provide a combined visual neighbourhood character, but using indigenous trees, not just native trees, to be consistent with the community council planting on Peppers Paddock and with Melbourne Water planting along the Watery Gully Creek that goes through the middle of Wattle Glen township. The majority of land in Wattle Glen is ruralzoned Green Wedge land; and the Urban Growth Boundary passes through Wattle Glen township. For years, the Wattle Glen Residents' Association has been promoting the notion of 'living in harmony with nature' as well as 'Wattle Glen as a Gateway to the Green Wedge' as part of our role and identity. Therefore, this should be incorporated into any descriptors of our Neighbourhood Character for the residential areas. Unfortunately, we currently have huge environment-destroying developments occurring at the railway station area, in the centre of Wattle Glen. To prevent these carparking and substation developments destroying our Neighbourhood Character, we need Nillumbik Council to use its influence, and insist on consistency with the aims of the adjacent SLO2. Ideally that involves vegetation rehabilitation using indigenous plant stock around new structures and carparks; creative rehabilitation of at least the three smaller gullies (on map below, nos. 1, 2 & 3) near the station; only using wildlife friendly fencing; and aim to have the area meld in with Peppers Paddock, which is within a stone's throw of the new station works. For this to happen on this and all public land, we need better communication between public landowners and council's (land use) planning and environment department. 5. By the way, to help with Neighbourhood Character of residential areas generally, we would also like to see the promotion and greater incorporation of a 'green rather than a grey infrastructure' design approach to any new local public infrastructure including water (storm water and waterways) management. This we believe is possible as it would be very consistent with our current "semi bush' Council designation for much of the Wattle Glen residential area. Wattle Glen is not only home to many people but also to much wildlife - the latter indeed, very much in the urban areas as well. Raising awareness about local wildlife and their needs (eg. their habitat and movement corridors), is an ongoing commitment. Ergo, the need to affirm indigenous vegetation is important: to strengthen the integrity (and consistency) of landscape values (SLOs), of the Green Wedge and Gateway values, of the habitat of indigenous wildlife, and possible ESOs (Environmental Significant Overlay) where that applies on residential land. Much of the residential areas in Wattle Glen abut the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and hence the rural land; therefore the residential land use impacts on the adjacent Green Wedge. The land use happening on residential land should be considered and the impact on wildlife minimised. Eg. wildlife habitat, and the ability of local wildlife to traverse land (including between residential and rural zoned land), should be encouraged. In theory the current Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO2) in Wattle Glen supports this Neighbourhood Character aspect with it requiring only "post and wire" rural fencing, however just recently council officers appear to have approved a six foot high cyclone fence as meeting the 'post and wire' criterion – not only a SLO breach, but impassable for most wildlife. Another significant feature about Wattle Glen's identity and character are the increasing recreational trails converging in our township (Diamond Creek Regional Trail, Green Wedge Regional Trail and Council's Pretty Hill Trail). We expect them, as well as being local (urban) walking trails, to offer significant opportunities in the future as they get to join together. Thus land-use planning should be sympathetic in this aspiration and the trails be recognised, both as alternatives to road use, but also as connectors within Wattle Glen and as connectors to the wider Nillumbik network. In fact, with development of these trails they should be recognised as part of the Neighbourhood Character of our township and pa part of its endearing landscape. In considering Nillumbik communities like Wattle Glen where the residential area abuts the Urban Growth Boundary, officers should consider Nillumbik Shires own publication for residential housing
- RARE supports the retention of all of the elements in the current precinct S guidelines with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads'. RARE supports the retention of all of the current residential design guidelines

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Aim for buildings to 'nestle into the landscape' rather than 'being imposed on top of the landscape'; and maintain setbacks, to help promote the 'nestling in' objective of SLOs; so that front gardens help privacy, as well as provide habitat for wildlife. Unfortunately, unnecessary compromises to neighbourhood character have occurred in recent times - eg. (the bulk and stark, white colours) at 12 Mannish Rd; (the 2nd storey development can be seen from afar, and new 2m tall fencing bordering the Green Wedge) at 44 Mannish Rd; keeping fingers crossed to see what gets build at 7 Clarke and 3 Clarke. Encourage efficient building design in terms of space and bulk, energy and water; and a small as possible ecological footprint in all that we do. Eg. o Space: To contain scale (footprint) and bulk of new housing and extensions, optimise the functioning of the building within a small as possible size/space. o Energy (eg. optimise orientation and passive solar). Promote opportunities to integrate the rural environment into residential areas. Raising awareness about, and the integration of local wildlife and their needs (eg. their habitat and corridors), is an ongoing commitment. Much of the residential areas in Wattle Glen straddle rural land; therefore the impact (at the interface) on nearby rural land of land use happening on residential land should be considered and minimised. Eg. (especially vis-a-vis the ever-increasing threats to biodiversity) strengthening of wildlife habitat, and the ability of local wild life to traverse land (including between residential and rural zoned land) should be encouraged; and habitat connectivity should become a more prominent decision making criteria in planning applications. Any building or extension ought to pay proper regard and facilitate the needs of wildlife. Rather than ending up with a 'dog's breakfast', encourage consistent, wildlife-friendly fencing. Eg. When it comes time to replace or install fencing, it should be encouraged that they are a 'post and wire' construction, and 'see through', and to create privacy via screening vegetation planting; and of a height that enables wildlife to pass. To be consistent with the community and Council planting on nearby "Peppers Paddock" public open space, and Nillumbik's 'conservation and protect Green Wedge and biodiversity' ethos, encourage indigenous vegetation: to help promote a more consistent/cohesive and stronger neighbourhood character and landscape values; to best promote indigenous (rather than exotic) wildlife; to minimise maintenance and water use (compared to exotic vegetation); is most suitable to conserving Australian/ Nillumbik soil types; to reduce the bushfire risk (as indig veg carries lower biomass compared to exotic veg). The requirements of the Bushfire Management Overlay impact severely on local landscape values and wildlife. A better, fairer (to wildlife) and more sustainable balance needs to be struck; and greater awareness of latest bushfire risk management research needs to be incorporated. · Much of Wattle Glen is in bushfire prone area. Laying underground overhead powerlines would significantly reduce fire risk; plus it would improve the visual appeal of streetscapes. The yearly/regular tree lopping around powerlines, public liabilities, etc must cost SP Ausnet/State Government a bomb. Advocate for a long term cost and benefit analysis of the laying underground of powerlines in (& prioritising bushfire prone) urban areas. There exist plenty opportunity to incorporate and demonstrate the "Urban Ecology" and a 'green infrastructure' design approach to our storm water and street scapes, especially in relation to sealing unmade streets such as Clarke and Park Ave. By combining indigenous street planting (especially along lower Clarke Ave) and a 'green infrastructure' design approach, integrate road sealing (to reduce dust problem and storm water pollutants runoff into the creek), a new footpath, excellent storm water management, and wildlife needs. The positive impacts of these measures on our streetscape and neighbourhood character, health and safety, water quality, and our natural environment/biodiversity would be huge.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.13 Yarrambat

This section presents the findings relating to Yarrambat. Survey respondents had the opportunity to comment on one or two neighbourhood study areas and 10 survey respondents commented on Yarrambat. Relevant insights from the written submissions are also outlined here.

The Neighbourhood Character features were used as an initial coding template (themes) and relevant feedback was grouped to each theme. Additional themes also emerged from the feedback during the analysis process, and these are reported. The summary tables in this Section present the findings from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each Neighbourhood Character feature is presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, Neighbourhood Character themes have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback. Some individuals may have participated in more than one activity. Personalised feedback referred to one or more topics.

4.13.1 Key highlights for Yarrambat

- When asked to describe the character of this neighbourhood now, participants reported to a variety of elements. Participants most frequently referred to: to Built form (Unobtrusive houses in the bush, hobby farms, old and dated. Low density but should be high)
- When asked what they like about the character of this neighbourhood and presented with a list of options, participants most frequently selected: Vegetation; and Views
- When asked about specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique, participants most frequently referred to: Built form (Large plots and property sizes)
- When asked how new development in this neighbourhood could be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character, participants provided a variety of suggestions. Participants most frequently referred to: Built form (More housing and higher density subdivision will permit long term residents to downsize without having to move from the area. Retain all elements in the current planning overlay and neighbourhood character statement. Focus on the environmental impact of development. More bush land settings, minimum block size to stay 1 hectare); and Vegetation (Maintain gum trees, no removal of canopy tree without a permit, retain vegetation and trees)

Survey respondents were invited to report the name/s of a particular or relevant street, road or area of interest. All of the 10 survey respondents provided the following details in relation to Yarrambat:

Street/Area

- Bannons Lane (3)
- Heidelberg Kinglake Road
- Ironbark Road (2)
- North Oatlands Road
- Yan Yean Road (3)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.13.2 How the character of this neighbourhood is described now

Survey respondents were asked "Tell us, in five words or less, how you would describe the character of this neighbourhood now? (Think how the buildings/homes, the street, landscape look and feel)?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 10 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 36 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. The Neighbourhood Character features are presented as the theme in **bold** and followed by a descriptive summary of the relevant feedback. For ease of reading, the Neighbourhood Character themes are presented first and have been numbered consistently throughout the report. Neighbourhood Character themes attracted no feedback are shaded light grey. Following this, emergent themes are presented in descending order according to the frequency of mentions within the feedback.

As shown in Table 36, the respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and, described the feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 36. Summary of themes and topics describing current neighbourhood character of Yarrambat (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=10)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	0
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Unobtrusive houses in the bush, hobby farms, old and dated. Low density but should be high	4
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern) Busy, speedway and dangerous	1
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks) Lovely tall gums and old native trees lining roadsides	2
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0
7 Front fencing and footpaths	0
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	1
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Quiet, peaceful, and tranquil	1
Rural township feel	1
Relaxed country town vibe	1

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Space for recreation and trees

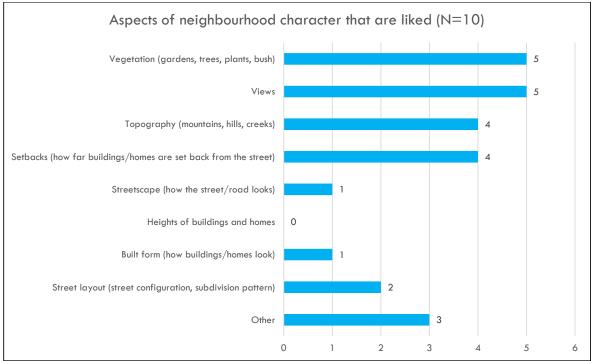
4.13.3 Features of the neighbourhood character that are liked now

Survey respondents were asked "What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood? Tick all that apply?" and presented with a listing of eight options plus "Other".

Figure 23 presents the results for the above survey question. All response options were selected, to varying degrees for Yarrambat. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Vegetation
- Views

Figure 23. Neighbourhood character features in Yarrambat that are liked now (Survey)



The three respondents who selected "Other" provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

- Large blocks
- At the moment nothing
- Not much it seems that there is a pocket between Iron bark Rd and the golf course where land use could be better maximised via subdivision

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

 Built form, Setbacks, Heights of buildings and homes, Vegetation, although removal of old trees and indigenous ground flora will be an issue with Yan Yean Rd stage 2, Topography, Views

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.13.4 Specific features that make this neighbourhood unique

Survey respondents were asked "Are there any specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of nine respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 37 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features and described the unique feel of the neighbourhood. The most frequently referenced theme in the feedback was:

Built form (how buildings or homes look)

Table 37. Summary of themes and topics describing specific unique neighbourhood features of Yarrambat (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=9)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush) Large old native trees, native vegetation in front gardens	1
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look) Large plots and property sizes	2
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	0
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks) Big gums lining the road	1
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street) Setbacks to allow for gardens	1
7 Front fencing and footpaths Wide nature strip, bitumen rather than concrete paths, not overly wide paths	1
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	1
No specific features that make this neighbourhood different or unique	2
Feel of the neighbourhood	
Country town vibe	1

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

■ Large blocks. Old trees line the roads and there are large well used recreation areas which are shared with the wider community. Threatened bird species visit and attract twitchers from afar. Kangaroos are nearly always seen and make a picture in the paddocks on misty mornings. Recreational fishing is popular in the Yarrambat Lake (Yarrambat Casting Pool)

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

4.13.5 Ways that new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character

Survey respondents were asked "How could new development in this neighbourhood be designed to enhance or improve the neighbourhood's character?" and invited to provide a personalised response. A total of 10 respondents provided a response which referred to one or more topics.

Table 38 presents a summary of the findings from the analysis of the feedback for the above survey question. As shown, respondents referred to specific neighbourhood character features. The most frequently referenced themes in the feedback were:

- Built form (how buildings or homes look)
- Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)

Table 38. Summary of themes and topics describing ways new development could enhance the neighbourhood character of Yarrambat (Survey)

Theme and descriptive summary of topics	No. of responses referencing Theme (N=10)
Neighbourhood character features	
1 Vegetation (gardens, trees, plants, bush)	
Maintain gum trees, no removal of canopy tree without a permit, retain vegetation and trees	3
2 Built form (how buildings or homes look)	
More housing and higher density subdivision will permit long term residents to	
downsize without having to move from the area. Retain all elements in the current	_
planning overlay and neighbourhood character statement. Focus on the	5
environmental impact of development. More bush land settings, minimum block size to	
stay 1 hectare	
3 Street layout and road network (street configuration, subdivision pattern)	1
Improve traffic on Yan Yean Road	'
4 Heights of buildings and homes	0
5 Streetscape (how the street/road looks)	1
Power lines underground, native plants on roadside	'
6 Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)	0
7 Front fencing and footpaths	1
Permit reasonably high front fencing for aesthetics, security and noise reduction	ı
8 Topography (mountains, hills, creeks)	0
9 Views	0

Survey respondents were also asked for any other feedback or ideas about neighbourhood character and invited to provide a personalised comment.

In relation to Yarrambat, the other comments reported by Survey respondents largely reiterated the feedback previously presented. Other aspects referenced the general feedback included: requests to reduce the speed limit through Yarrambat to a permanent 40kph and consider public safety regarding large trees close to power lines and along Bannons Lane due to risks of dropping branches and bushfire; and suggestions to build a roundabout at the intersection of Ironbark and DeFredericks Roads and entrance to Yarrambat War Memorial Park.

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback (presented verbatim as submitted):

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

■ RARE supports the creation of a neighbourhood character strategy that includes all of the elements in the current precinct S guidelines for Panton Hill and St Andrews with the addition to 'roadway treatments' of 'to reduce traffic speed on Council maintained roads'. More consideration needs to be given to restricting the vegetation removal proposed by the Yan Yean Rd development which will dramatically change the character of the area. Old trees such as the 6 ancient River Red Gums in the paddocks of 900 Yan Yean Rd should be considered for heritage registration and protection. These ancient trees are proposed to be destroyed for the Yan Yean Rd interchange. The Yan Yean Rd development should be redesigned to minimise the footprint in Rural Conservation Zone Land and Public Park and Recreation Zone land.

4.14 General feedback - overall Shire, unspecified study area

Written submission participants provided the following personalised feedback which relates to the overall Shire and no specific study area (presented verbatim as submitted):

- These characteristics suggest that residents in Nillumbik shire believe that they are fortunate to live in a very special place, a region with distinctive qualities that they value and wish to sustain. In its nearly 200-year history of European settlement, the Nillumbik region has undergone great changes. There is some awareness and knowledge of the lives of the early settlers and some of the characteristics I have listed may be regarded as coming in a direct line from their formative experiences in building communities. Contemporary residents in Nillumbik find the natural environment inspiring and wish to live in harmony with it. Equally, they wish to live in cooperation with their neighbours, rather than in competition.
- The new Neighbourhood Character Strategy MUST outline ways that the community as individuals, groups, and Council itself (including Officers and Councillors) will proactively protect and reinvigorate indigenous flora and fauna, our waterways and soils. Every decision made in Strategy development and Planning throughout the Shire, must be assessed through a rigorous system with the health and reinvigoration of biodiversity at the centre. The Neighbourhood Character Strategy must ensure habitat connectivity occurs throughout the Shire, on a much larger scale than what is currently in place. That is, habitat that continues across vast areas, is biodiverse, therefore resilient, and is present in our every day from indigenous grasses and herbs to small shrubs, bushes and giant trees. This would be evident throughout the Shire in its thriving backyards and township areas with buzzing gardens, to paddocks that are teeming with indigenous vegetation beneath giant trees, providing food and shelter for the beautiful creatures of the area... and people would really know and love them, every single day
- Whilst current Council guidelines already consider 'Sustainability and environmental factors' in their own right, we believe that future guidelines will benefit from sustainability and environmental factors being integrated across all aspects of the guidelines, including aesthetics, certain building forms and styles, and construction materials. By fully embedding specific carbon-reduction actions into the Study and its guidelines, the Shire will significantly reduce the carbon footprint of every new building development in the Shire.
- When considering neighbourhood character please don't be restrained by what Engineers claim are national standard that MUST be adhered to. An example of this is the need for concrete gutters on all roads, or minimum road widths, etc. Planners and landscape designers must have the ability to listen to what the community wants and what would make a sustainable solution to any proposed development or construction. In the case of a local road, there may be pressure to have a minimum width or a certain tree clearance. This pressure must be resisted. I have been in Eltham Shire and Nillumbik Shire long enough to see major projects literally ruin neighbourhood character because of these "engineering essentials". On the other hand I have seen extremely successful outcomes where community push-back has resisted this pressure and fabulous outcomes have eventuated.

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Written submission 19

Existing guidelines	CEN submission	Rationale
Vegetation retention and		
landscaping		
"Retain trees that form	Encourage large trees to	Increasing north-facing
part of a continuous	be planted in a position	solar access to dwellings
canopy beyond your	where they will add to a	can reduce energy use for
property, and plant large	continuous canopy AND	active heating in cold
trees in a position where	retain appropriate solar	weather.
they will add to a	access for north-facing	
continuous canopy	windows.	
cultivated or kitchen	Provision could be made	Food gardens can reduce
gardens".	for locating cultivated or	energy costs for
	kitchen gardens where	households and reduce
	there is adequate solar	reliance on energy-
	access, including when	intensive industrial/
	viewed from the street.	commercial food
		productions systems
"Use indigenous plants to	Consideration should be	Deciduous trees can
screen and soften	given to use of deciduous	significantly moderate
buildings, driveways and	trees where solar access is	temperatures and dwelling
tanks, to define outdoor	a priority – eg adjacent to	microclimates by providing
spaces and reestablish	north-facing windows.	summer shade and winter
disturbed areas"		solar access
"Use landscaping materials	Encourage use of lighter-	Light-coloured landscaping
such as gravel that blend	coloured gravels and	gravels can increase
with the colour, tone and	landscaping materials,	reflected light into
texture of the bush. When	especially adjacent to	dwellings (thus reducing
designing landscape	dwellings.	artificial lighting needs,
details, such as steps,	Avoid black and dark	and moderate outdoor
retaining walls etc.	drown coloured or dyed	summer temperatures.
consider them in relation	mulches.	Avoiding black and dark
to the scale of the bush".		brown coloured dyed
		mulches can moderate
		outdoor summer
		temperatures and limit
		chemical additives in
		outdoor environments.
PO Box 391, Diamond Creek, Vict		

Existing guidelines	CEN submission	Rationale
earth toned brick, and	only where they will not	forms need to be assessed
roofs of terracotta, brown	increase summer	in relation to their
or grey coloured tiles,	temperatures in the home.	suitability for future
Colourbond or painted	For example, these colours	climates and precinct
Zincalume"	should not be considered	microclimates in Nillumbik,
	for roofing.	rather than simply in the
	Can the Shire please	context of historical
	consider the energy-costs	precedent (ie. existing
	of preferencing certain	character elements may
	materials, for example,	not be the most "livable").
	production of terracotta	
	tiles vs steel roofing.	
Sustainability and		
environment factors		
"Maximise windows to the	Indicate a specific	So many new
north with appropriate	dimension range for	developments still do not
eaves overhangs to provide	northern eave overhangs	have appropriate north-
winter sun and summer	for year-round solar	facing eaves under the
shade."	benefit.	existing guidelines.
"Use verandas, eaves	to shade walls and	Consideration of solar
overhangs or pergolas to	windows for optimal	access to be a priority in all
shade walls and windows."	summer shade and winter	design.
	solar access.	
Street tree planting		
"Retain and replant	In some situations,	Consideration of solar
indigenous canopy trees	deciduous trees may be	access to be a priority in all
within the street space in	suitable, for example on	design.
an informal layout."	the south side of streets in	
"Retain and enhance the	order to provide summer	
street tree planting with	shade and winter solar	
both native Australian and	access for north-facing	
indigenous street trees."	dwellings and windows.	
Roadway treatments		
"(Eltham Central) Include	Consider mixed species	Deciduous trees can
additional space for	street tree planting where	significantly moderate
avenue street tree planting	this will improve summer	temperatures and dwelling
with street	shade and winter solar	microclimates by providing
reconstruction".	access – e.g. deciduous	summer shade and winter
	species in front of north-	solar access
	facing dwellings/ windows.	

Existing guidelines	CEN submission	Rationale
materials		
"Use verandas and pergolas to reduce the mass of the building"	Use verandas and pergolas where they improve summer shading and maintain adequate winter solar access	Locating verandas appropriately for summer shade and winter solar access will reduce unnecessary artificial lighting, and moderate temperature/ reduce energy use.
"Appropriate paint and finishing colours are earth and bush tones, silver/grey, blue grey and black".	Black and dark colours should only be used where they will not increase summer temperatures in the home. For example, these colours should not be considered for roofing.	Avoiding black and dark colour construction materials, especially for roofing, will reduce the need for active energy use air-conditioning in homes.
"Select materials for outbuildings such as carports, sheds and garages which complement the main dwelling."	Make provision for solar panels to be considered an acceptable building material. Allow solar panels to be mounted on dwelling and carport roofs, designed sympathetically where visible from the street.	Accommodating solar panels as an aesthetically acceptable material will facilitate greater capacity for residential solar power generation.
(Garden Court) "Incorporate mono-pitch, split gable, or hip roof forms."	Encourage roof forms that will provide optimal summer and winter comfort through passive design forms rather than purely on historical precedent for a neighbourhood precinct (eg the split gable roofs that typify Woodridge Estate in Eltham can increase the need for active home heating and	Preferences for aesthetic forms will benefit from being assessed in relation to their suitability for future climates and precinct microclimates in Nillumbik, rather than simply in the context of historical precedent (ie. existing character elements may not be the most "liveable" in the future).
"Suitable materials include	cooling). Allow use of darker colours	Preferences for aesthetic

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

5 Insights from Council Advisory Committees

Council Officers attended four Council Advisory Committee meetings to present the Neighbourhood Character Strategy project and seek feedback. 26 community members participated in these meetings. This engagement took place at the following meetings:

- Positive Ageing Advisory Committee on Friday 8 April (This was a stand-alone workshop on the project, which was offered to members of the Committee, rather than a scheduled meeting of the Committee)
- Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee on Friday 22 April
- Youth Advisory Committee on Monday 2 May
- Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee on Friday 13 May

Council also presented to the Wurrundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation on the 14 May regarding the Neighbourhood Character Strategy and received feedback that the Corporation would like to provide feedback on the project in a later round of engagement.

The feedback from Advisory Committee members was provided through open discussion and the use of some structured questions. Some feedback was provided on specific study areas, and some was about neighbourhood character in general. The feedback received was consistent with the feedback from the broader community.

Below is a collated summary of the feedback that was provided across the four meetings.

- When describing or talking about the neighbourhood character of Nillumbik or specific areas trees and vegetation was mentioned the most followed by large spaces including larger block sizes and open spaces.
- Other common feedback included no fencing; natural areas like creeks and rivers; towns having a village, bush, natural feel; and the use of natural materials on housing like timber and mud brick.
- The conversations that followed, in relation to how new development could be designed to enhance or improve neighbourhood character, mirrored the above feedback with the most common feedback requesting that new development:
 - result in minimal loss of tress and vegetation/ or result in more trees being planted;
 - use appropriate materials like timber and colours to fit in better with the surrounding environment; and
 - fit in with the style of older homes in the area including maintaining lower heights.

Specific comments relating to individual committees included:

- Nillumbik needing a diversity of housing and accessible housing so people can downsize and age in place (Positive Ageing Advisory Committee)
- The incorporation of environmentally sustainable design features in new developments while still respecting local neighbourhood character (Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee)
- Nillumbik's neighbourhood character needing to contribute to safety as well as accessibility and connectivity (Youth Advisory Committee)
- Being mindful of accessibility when planting or adding trees to an area (Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee)

100 | Page

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Table 39 presents a summary of the feedback from the Youth and Positive Ageing Advisory Committees in relation to specific Study areas.

Table 39. Summary of feedback by Study areas

Area	Committee	Describe/ like
Diamond Creek	Youth	Vegetation
		 Open fences
		 Pathways/transport routes
		 Not excessive infrastructure
		 Open spaces/ creeks
Eltham	Youth	■ Trees / Greenery
	Positive Ageing	■ River
		 Hills/ undulating topography
		 Open spaces
		 No fences
Eltham North	Youth	■ Trees
		 Space between homes
		 Native vegetation
Greensborough	Youth	Built up/infrastructure
		 Apartments
		■ The Plaza
Hurstbridge	Youth	Natural habitat/ fauna and flora
	Positive Ageing	 Trees / vegetation
		Diversity in housing
		 Variations in setbacks
		 Old style of houses/ use of timber
		• Hills
		Open spaces/
		Big wild front gardens
		■ No fences
North	Youth	Rural feel
Warrandyte		■ River
Panton Hill	Youth	Bush township
	Positive Ageing	 Historical/ Village feel
		 Trees, nature, biodiversity, flora and fauna
		 Open areas - farms, large blocks, open gardens
		 Properties set back form the road
Plenty	Youth	 Setbacks
,		■ Trees
		Natural look - native plants
		■ Rural
		Larger blocks
St Andrews	Youth	Trees
		Orange Clay Rock paths Orange Clay Rock paths
		Nature and feel
		Quirky wooden feel houses
Wattle Glen	Youth	Nature/vegetation
	100111	Front gardens
		 Front gardens Houses set back from road
		- Houses set back from road

Area	Committee	Describe/ like
		 Quarry style cut-ins (i.e. embankments) with trees along
		Main Hurstbridge Road
		■ Little fencing
Yarrambat	Youth	Big properties
		■ Lots of space

engagement

Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Appendix 1. Engagement survey

Neighbourhood Character Strategy Survey



Tell us about the character of Nillumbik's residential neighbourhoods to help develop the new Neighbourhood Character Strategy

Nillumbik Shire Council is developing a Neighbourhood Character Strategy. The purpose of the Strategy is to guide new development in residential areas, ensuring that it respects and responds to the valued features or character of an area.

Tell us what is important to the character of the Shire's residential neighbourhoods (by completing the survey below).

Your input will assist Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Character Strategy for the Shire's residential areas (including designated rural townships).

What is neighbourhood character and a Neighbourhood Character Strategy?

Neighbourhood character is essentially how an area looks and feels and the qualities that make that area distinct from others. It includes elements like:

- Built form (how buildings/homes look)
- Setbacks (how far buildings/homes are set back from the street)
- Heights of buildings and homes
- Vegetation (like gardens, trees, plants, bush)
- Street layout (configuration, subdivision pattern)
- Topography (mountains, hills, creeks etc.)
- Streetscape (how the street/road looks)

To develop the Strategy, each residential area is carefully assessed to determine the key character attributes which are to form neighbourhood character statements and guidelines.

Community input into understanding the character of each area is an essential part of the process. We would appreciate and value if you could share your thoughts and opinions about neighbourhood character in the Shire.

This first round of engagement closes 11.59pm Sunday 8 May



nillumbik.vic.gov.au f @ in 🕥



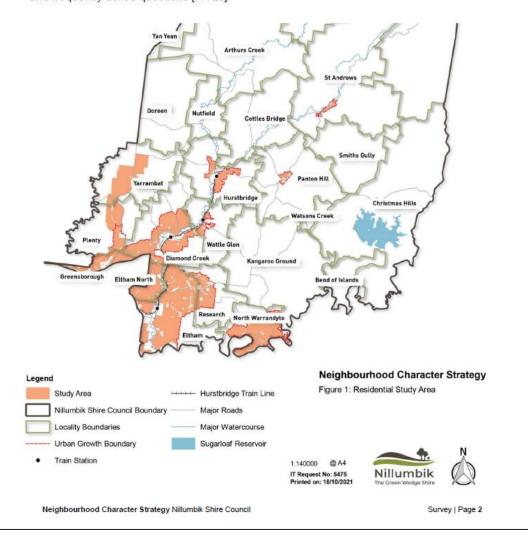


Residential neighbourhoods covered by the strategy

The map below outlines the residential areas that will be covered by the Nillumbik Neighbourhood Character Strategy, which includes all residential land within the General Residential Zone (GRZ), Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ), Mixed Use Zone (MUZ), Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ) and Township Zone (TZ).

These residential areas are more likely to experience change and growth into the future and therefore need guidelines in place to ensure any new development is respectful of the relevant neighbourhood character.

Visit <u>participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-character-strategy</u> or scan the QR Code (page 1) to determine if a property is within the study area for the Neighbourhood Character Strategy or to view a virtual walking tour video as well as other project information, including a policy hierarchy map, relevant study area map, project factsheet and frequently asked questions [FAQs].



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mail or Mailing Address	(required)	
leighbourhood Chara	cter	
	see study area map above) we You will have the opportunity	-
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☐ Eltham	☐ Panton Hill	☐ Yarrambat
☐ Hurstbridge	☐ Plenty	□ Farrannuat
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☐ Greensborough	☐ St Andrews	
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Attachment 7. Consultation Findings Report - First round of NCS engagement - Chatterbox Projects

Nillumbik Shire Council is inviting feedback for the purpose of facilitating effective consultation to the development of its Neighbourhood Character Strategy. Your submission, may be shared in full with the consultant team (Ethos Urban and Chatterbox Projects), engaged by Council to assist with developing the Strategy, and may appear in a future Council or Planning and Consultation Committee meeting business paper considering the drafting of the Neighbourhood Character Strategy with personal and contact information redacted. The personal information you provide will not be disclosed or shared with other third parties unless we are permitted or required to by law. If you do not provide the mandatory information required then your feedback cannot be accepted. You have the right to access and correct your personal information. Enquiries for access should be made to the Privacy Officer 9433 3271, privacy@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or PO Box 476 Greensborough Vic 3088.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and ideas!

To complete this survey online go to participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-character-strategy or scan the QR code



Return your survey by mail:

Strategic Planning Team Nillumbik Shire Council Civic Drive (PO Box 476) Greensborough VIC 3088

Or

Drop-off your survey:

You can hand in your completed survey at any of the following locations:

- Nillumbik Shire Offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough
- · Living and Learning Centres in the Shire of Nillumbik
- · The Eltham Regional Library, Panther Place, Eltham
- The Diamond Valley Regional Library, Civic Drive, Greensborough

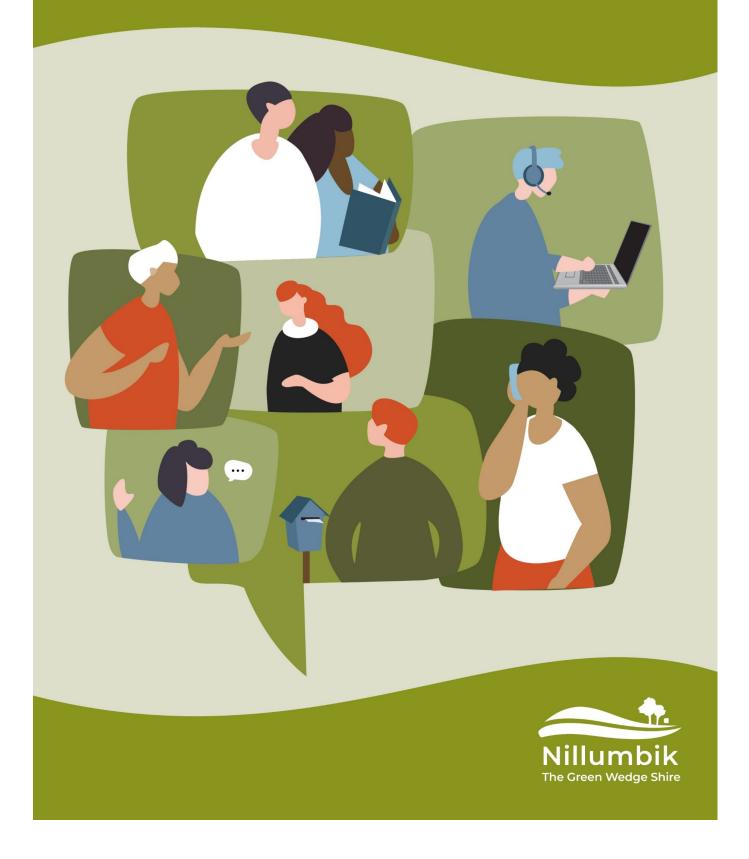
Return your survey by email:

You can email your completed survey to: strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Neighbourhood Character Strategy Nillumbik Shire Council

Survey | Page 8

Draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025



If you need this document in another format please contact Nillumbik Shire Council on 9433 3111.

Acknowledgement of Country

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.

Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	2
Councillor Message	3
Why do we need a whole-of-council Communications Strategy?	3
Who is this Strategy for?	4
Guiding principles	
Challenges and focus areas	
Focus areas	
Our strategic objective	g
Strategic pillars of action	
Strategic alignment with the Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040 a	
Implementation and reporting	13
Appendix One: Action Plan	
TRUST AND TRANSPARENCY	
IDENTITY	
CAPABILITY	
REACH	
Appendix 2 - How we currently communicate	
Appendix 2 Mbet we board	20

Councillor Message

A joint message from all Councillors will be included once community feedback has been incorporated and Strategy finalised.

Why do we need a whole-of-council Communications Strategy?

Good communication is at the heart of everything we do.

The services we provide and the decisions we make affect the lives of people in our communities every day. Putting in place timely, effective and engaging methods of communicating with the community about services and programs, events and initiatives in the Shire, promotes equitable access to the things they need to feel connected and supported

In line with the actions of the *Council Plan 2021-2025*, this Strategy is our framework to deliver effective communication, that continues to meet the needs of community members as they seek to be informed and engaged with Council and its activities.

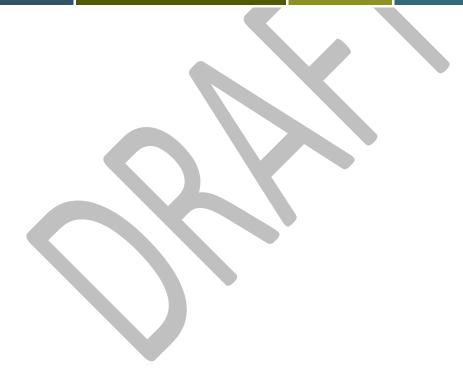
This Strategy supports and is closely aligned to Council's *Community Engagement Policy* and our strong focus on advocacy as highlighted in our *Advocacy Priorities 2022* document. Together, these documents support our commitment to delivering our *Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040* which emphasises the importance of Council working to keep our community engaged and connected (see page 11).

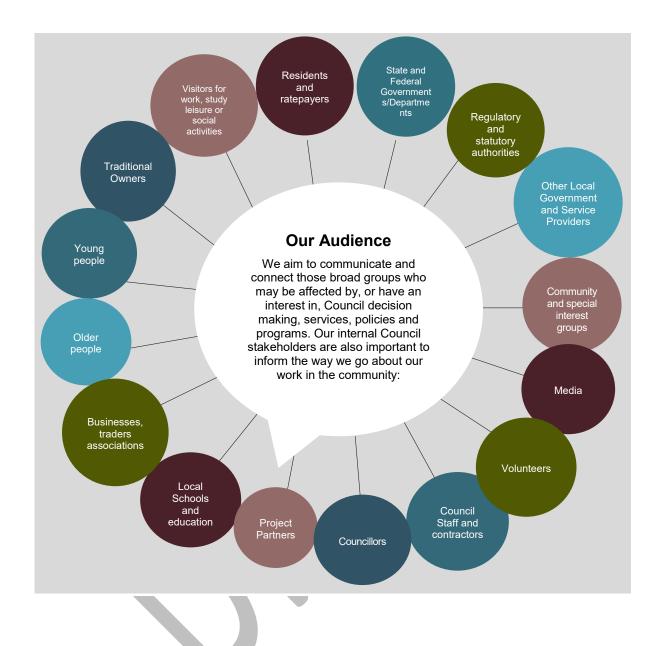
In line with our *Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy*, our communications activities within this Strategy apply a lens of gender equity, diversity and accessibility. It will also link closely with our *Customer First Strategy* as we continue to develop and refine the next iteration and that guiding document.

Draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025 Nillumbik Shire Council

Who is this Strategy for?

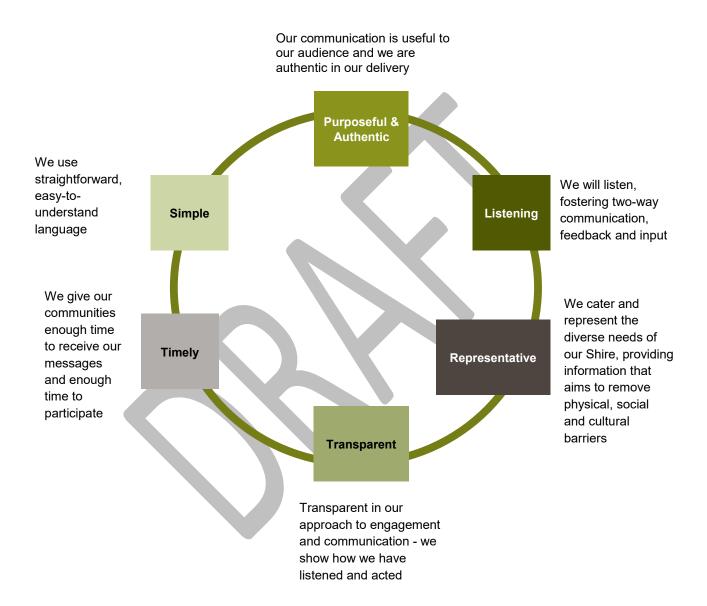
A snapshot of our diverse Nillumbik community								
65,369 Total Population	90% Green Wedge covers total area of shire	25 townships	41 years Median age	1/4 are Children & Youth (Aged 0-17 years)				
1 in 5 people in Nillumbik have a disability This is forecast to increase by 67 per cent by 2026	30% of older residents are aged over 55 years		9% speak a language other than English were born overseas	428 Council staff 7 Councillors				





Guiding principles

The following principles will guide the way we will communicate with our audiences to deliver honest and meaningful communications that meets their diverse needs.



Challenges and focus areas

When it comes to communicating and informing our community, there are three potential challenges that are characteristic of the Nillumbik experience.

1. Reaching a broad audience

In a Shire where there is a significant urban population, but significant rural land area, the channels to reach our communities must be diverse and must include a mix of digital, traditional and in-person methods.

- Urban households typically have adequate mobile and internet connection and high digital device usage among some user groups. However, some groups, such as older, residents may not be using digital channels and require more direct-to-home or 'at-place' methods.
- Rural households (those living within the Green wedge zones) comprise about 12,000 out of the Shire's approximately 65,000 residents. Mobile phone and internet coverage is at times limited in these areas. Further, a number of properties, especially in rural parts of the Shire, have no formal letterbox.

2. Engaging people's interest

When we communicate with our communities, we acknowledge that not everyone, at all moments in time, will wish to engage with us.

Many residents within the Shire prefer to seek information when they need it, having minimal interaction with Council unless a problem occurs and they are seeking a solution or service.

This group of 'the unengaged', may shift into 'potentially engaged' where the communication is interesting to them or has relevance to their lives at that point in time.

Compared to the majority, a cohort of residents and community groups exist that are 'highly engaged' with Council activity and decision making and have high information and engagement needs.

Our strategy aims to reflect the needs of both the engaged, unengaged and potentially engaged groups, noting that enhancing the relevance of information to people's everyday lives will assist in keeping the unengaged connected to vital information that serves them.

3. High volumes of information out and low volumes of insight

Council has the responsibility for delivering many services that directly impact the lives of those in our community. We therefore have a great deal of information to share about our services, laws, policies, programs and decisions. Understanding what is most important to specific areas of our community and what information they seek will help better target our communication to what people need and want, and help manage this

However, while our Annual Community Survey gives a good indication of the ways that people like to hear from Council (such as online or direct mail), and their top issues related to satisfaction with Council, we lack an evidence-based understanding of 'what' people like to hear about from us.



Focus areas

In developing this Strategy, we have acknowledged that these key challenges can impact the effectiveness of our communication and engagement activities within the community. The focus of this Strategy will be on excelling in these three focus areas:

1. Focusing our efforts on reaching the 'potentially engaged'

We recognise that not every resident or group within Nillumbik will engage with us every time and our best efforts should be directed to finding the cross-over where people's interest and need meets our message at the time (the potentially engaged).

The opportunity to be connected to information should be easily accessible to all who need it, and our communication will be better targeted to sectors of the community. To find that cross-over of community need and our message, we, at **Council, will adopt a more proactive** way of forward-planning our communication activity.

2. Increasing the relevance of our communications

Our communication with you should always be timely, relevant and accessible to your needs, and not only to Council requirements. We will aim to put you at the heart of our stories, our language and our communications content.

Relevance means that we show the importance of our message/service/offering to the everyday lives of our community members. This means that our message and content approach will be strengthened to focus more on the language of and interest or benefits to our community and feature Nillumbik people in our images and stories.

To get that right, we'll enhance our understanding with a stronger evidence base about what community needs and want.

3. Expanding the reach of our communication

Our current channels for communication remain an essential part of how we communicate with you, so our **focus will be to enhance** them with more evidence about what makes them successful. Priority actions in this strategy seek to continue to build a clear picture of what works best for our community.

As the audience online continues to grow, we will continue to enhance our digital communications while also realising more 'placed-based' avenues and tap into other networks to help spread the word.

Our strategic objective

We will improve how Nillumbik's people are connected to the information they need and want about relevant Council programs, services and decisions, to enable them to live supported, active and connected lives within our community.

We will do this by expanding the reach of our message and increasing the relevance of and trust in our communication with community.

With our Strategy's focus on increasing the connection to and relevance of our communication to our audiences, the way we deliver and design our communications for them requires Council to adapt our approaches internally.

This strategic approach of building relevance and increasing the proactivity of our information, will underpin all of our communication activity going forward.

Strategic pillars of action

These four pillars inform the action plan that will deliver our strategic aim of connecting people to information in a more relevant way that expands the opportunity to reach them.

TRUST AND TRANSPARENCY

Use communication to enhance our transparency about why we've made decisions and taken actions

REACH

Improve our digital presence with more engaging content tailored to audiences on those channels

Strengthen our non-digital communications options to cater to communities that are not online

IDENTITY

Enhance the Nillumbik identity by embedding a strong visual presence and consistent and engaging messaging

CAPABILITY

Build Council capacity to clearly communicate and champion Council priorities to our community and other stakeholders

Draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025 Nillumbik Shire Council

TRUST AND TRANSPARENCY

Use communication to enhance our transparency about why we've made decisions and taken actions

Key Actions

- 1. Build relationships with third parties via an 'open door' to help inform broader community about Council services and decisions, recognising their independence
- 2. Consistently show the action we've taken to listen, hear and advocate for community issues

We will focus on working better with third parties, such as interested community and civic groups, local and metropolitan media and prominent local identities, to share Council information, news and decisions, with the full information we can provide them. We will also show how we've listened and what we've heard, and how we have or why we couldn't take on feedback in final decisions made.

IDENTITY

Enhance the Nillumbik identity by embedding a strong visual presence and consistent and engaging messaging

Key Actions

- 1. Refocus our messaging to be 'audience-centric' and feature more of the people of our community
- 2. Create a forward plan of our content based on known interests of people at particular times of year
- 3. Build a clear evidence base of 'what works' and what information people seek from us through research and data analysis

We will focus strongly on building relevance in our messages to our audience's interest.

By engaging and consistent messaging, we mean:

- Simple, yet creative and targeted language. We use the appropriate tone for the message, but most importantly we speak authentically as a Council that cares for its community.
- Using angles of interest to the community to highlight what the benefit is to the audience. Feature community enjoying or benefiting from a council service or event.

By persistent visual presence we mean:

- Consistent use of the Nillumbik brand style on all digital and physical communications materials across Council.
- Allowing our creative, 'green' and community-focused identity to shine through imagery and graphics.

CAPABILITY

Build Council capacity to clearly communicate and champion Council priorities to our community and other stakeholders

Key Actions

- 1. Provide in-house training in how to use branding and content creation that is audience focused, not 'Council focused'
- 2. Work together to build a forward plan for community engagement opportunities
- 3. Assist all areas of council to understand audience needs and what is effective, with a foundation of inclusiveness and equity in access to communications messages.

There are many points of contact between our community and Council. Across the organisation, knowledge varies about community needs and about how best to interact with our community. We will focus on how the Communications and Engagement team can assist others within Council create a consistent and streamlined experience for community and stakeholders with how we better engage and communicate with them.

REACH

Improve our digital presence with more engaging content tailored to audiences on those channels

Strengthen our non-digital communications options to cater to communities that are not online

Key Actions

- 1. Explore the feasibility of new, physical channels to target 'hard–to-reach' community at places they frequent.
- 2. Drive traffic to social channels through a campaign that highlights 'What locals need to know' and offer incentives to connect with Council.
- 3. Keep audiences engaged with better digital content more video, better images, more about 'them'
- 4. Repurpose content good stories across e-newsletters and various sites get lost 'forever' and seen by only small audiences.

A number of our audiences spend significant time online but don't follow Council on our social media channels or request our newsletters. Engaging with Council doesn't come to mind for these audiences, unless they get something 'delivered' to their letterbox, or have an issue to resolve. We will focus on creating more 'digital impressions' for the audiences already online, by offering more engaging social media content that captures their attention. Council will implement a sustained campaign to entice audiences to include Nillumbik into their digital 'feeds' by subscribing or following us.

Recognising that a portion of our audiences aren't online, and may be harder to reach, we will focus also on finding new physical spaces and network opportunities to promote key activities and opportunities.

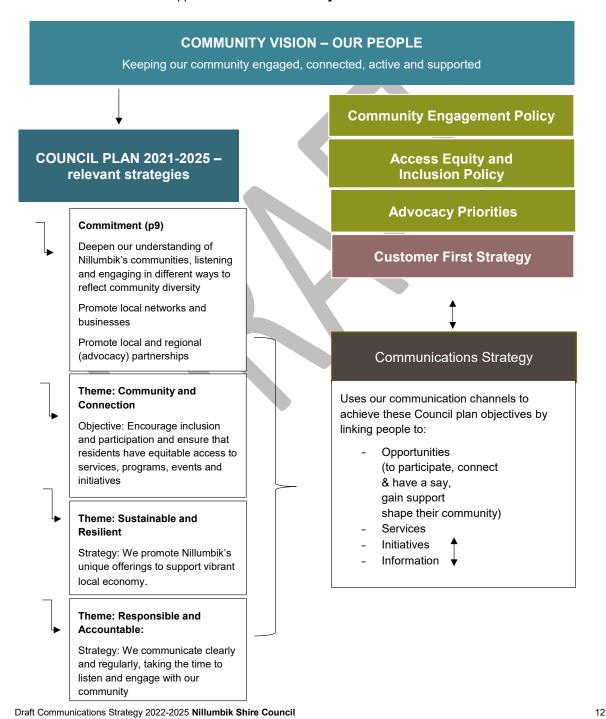
PRIORITY ACTIONS AND MEASURES OF SUCCESS UNDER EACH PILLAR CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIXED ACTION PLAN.

Draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025 Nillumbik Shire Council

Strategic alignment with the Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040 and the Council Plan 2021-2025

The Strategy is a priority action of the Council Plan 2021-2025 and also aligns with other objectives and actions within the Plan. It supports and is closely aligned to Council's Community Engagement Policy, our Access Equity and Inclusion Policy and our Advocacy Priorities for 2022. It will also align with future iterations of the Customer First Strategy.

All four of these documents support our overall Community Vision - Nillumbik 2040.



Implementation and reporting

Council is committed to monitoring and reporting progress on the actions in our Communications Strategy.

Implementation

In line with the timeframes for Council Plan, this Strategy guides our actions to end of 2025.

Our Strategy's Priority Actions will be reviewed every year and updated where necessary to reflect current needs or changes. We will also indicate where actions are complete or ongoing.

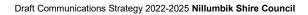
An internal Annual Action Plan will be developed to create a more detailed implementation roadmap to deliver the actions contained in this Strategy. It will include which areas of Council are responsible for which actions and outline the actions for each year of the Strategy.

Reporting Progress

A progress report against key deliverables in the Annual Action Plan aligned to the Strategy will be prepared and reported to a Council Meeting each year, including our progress against measures of success.

A summary of our progress against the Council Plan will be reported annually through the Annual Report.

Outcomes from this Strategy will also align with and be actioned through other Council strategy documents and plans, and reported to a Council Meeting periodically.



Appendix One: Action Plan TRUST AND TRANSPARENCY

Use communication to enhance our transparency about why we've made decisions and taken actions

PRIORITY ACTIONS

- 4.1 Build our **relationships with local community news and selected community groups online** by offering them more of the detail behind Council stories.
- 4.2 Identify our community groups with whom we could better engage.
- **4.3 Standardise and improve for transparency the way we report feedback** from engagements and how it has been used in decision making.
- 4.4 Ensure our public statements, media releases and short videos about Council decisions communicate the outcome, but also the *reason for* the outcome
- 4.5 Work with other councils to **develop forward plans for advocacy stories** with national and metropolitan media outlets, as well as our own channels.
- 4.6 Monitor social media (and other feedback channels) to **identify potential areas of confusion or concern** in the community that need to be addressed proactively.
- 4.7 Develop updated Issues Management Communications Plan including templates and processes.

MEASURING OUR SUCCESS

In our Annual Community Survey:

- Increase 'Community consultation' core measure score to 'good', up from 'solid' in 2021
- Increase 'advocacy' core measure to 'good', up from 'poor' in 2021
- Increase 'Maintaining Trust and confidence in local community score to 'Good' or better, up from 'solid' in 2021

Social media:

Responses to negative or incorrect comments on our social media channels are posted within 24 hours **Feedback**

During our debrief processes for engagement projects we see a rise in positive comments coming from any of these sources:

- Councillors and Council staff reporting back positive comments from community about our transparency.
- A rise in positive social media comments about the way we have explained or given information.
- Community groups we interact with that, commenting positively that we 'listened', were transparent, and
 or authentic.

IDENTITY

Enhance the Nillumbik identity by embedding a strong visual presence and consistent and engaging messaging

PRIORITY ACTIONS

- 1.1 Develop an annual whole of council **communications calendar** that outlines the priority information, about services and key projects, that the community needs, as well as opportunities to connect to actions from the Council Plan.
- 1.2 Develop the **processes and framework for our new strategic approach** of 'community focused', 'proactive' stories across our channels.
- 1.3 Enhance our content about Nillumbik's people and places on our digital channels by working with the community to tell our stories.
- 1.4 Enhance Council staff **capacity to use audience-centric and engaging language** for community by developing or revising guidelines and training.
- 1.5 Enhance **Council's ability to implement the brand** and **visual identity** consistently, through internal image libraries and revised guidelines, templates and processes.
- 1.6 Examine ways to increase our evidence base of 'what people want to hear about from us' and continue building on current data analysis and review methods of our channels.

MEASURING OUR SUCCESS

Social media:

We increase engagements with our posts by at least 20% (such as likes or shares) on 2021 levels.

All communications outputs:

- We reach target of featuring one new 'direct from community' story or social media post per quarter.
- We reach target of 98% of communications outputs containing correct Nillumbik brand

Nillumbik E-newsletter engagement:

- We establish a consistent open rate of 50%
- We establish click-throughs to articles rate of 15%

Participate Platform engagement

We increase the number of people participating in our engagements by 15% on 2021 levels.

Website

We maintain the satisfaction score of the 'Interest and relevance of articles on website in our Annual Community Survey, at 'Very Good' or higher.

Internal to Council:

- The annual content and communication priorities calendar is developed and signed off with input from all relevant departments.
- Annual feedback from Council staff satisfaction shows that the Communications and Engagement team processes and outputs are ranked as 'solid or 'good'.
- Our internal digital image library use increases to 30% of Council staff users by end 2023.

CAPABILITY

Build staff and Councillor capacity to clearly communicate and champion Council priorities to our community and other stakeholders

PRIORITY ACTIONS

- 2.1 Refresh our **internal processes and guidelines**, ensuring objective, audience and message are in line with the annual calendar and have a more proactive and audience-focused approach.
- 2.2 Reintroduce **training for staff in 'Communications and brand 101'** for new staff inductions into Council and available to wider staff.
- 2.3. Enhance the ways staff across council can **have a shared idea** 'what community has said and what their areas of interest are' in a more cohesive way.
- 2.4 Develop **a calendar of engagement** with Council departments/teams for each year, with 'no-go zones' (such as holidays etc) and clear thematic ties to community based on their interest.
- 2.5 Develop guidelines that will **help streamline and improve engagement methods** and the way they are promoted.
- 2.6 Make messages about projects, initiatives and issues available to all Council teams and Councillors so more of us can **talk confidently and consistently** on Council behalf.
- 2.7 Increase **direct engagement** with Councillors and the Communications Team **to obtain grass roots insight** and areas of support.

MEASURING OUR SUCCESS

We increase staff downloads and visits to communications tools on the Council staff intranet by 15% on 2021 levels.

An internal working calendar of engagement is developed and signed off with all input from divisions.

At least 75% of relevant council staff have attended training sessions.

During bi-annual meet ups, Councillors and spokespeople express that they feel well-prepared to talk to community about council business.

REACH

Improve our digital presence with more engaging content tailored to audiences on those channels

Strengthen our non-digital communications options to cater to communities that are not online

PRIORITY ACTIONS

Digital channel actions

- 3.1 Develop **a Social Media Strategy** to review channels and their audiences, and refocus and plan content accordingly to be more impactful and meet audience preferences.
- 3.2 Increase **the amount of digital video content produced** for Council's social media channels, featuring real Nillumbik people and stories.
- 3.3 Promote Council's website and social media channels as primary sources at every customer interaction.
- 3.4 Review the **effectiveness, reach and popularity of all Nillumbik digital channels** at various intervals and develop plans for future improvements, with particular emphasis on website useability.

Printed collateral actions

- 3.5 Continue **Nillumbik News at same quarterly frequency** with a view to review frequency and mode of delivery every two years.
- 3.6 Investigate new printed collateral options to deliver directly to 'hard to reach groups'.
- 3.7 Explore the **reintroduction of a hard copy new residents pack** with a view to providing key information about Council services and facilities.

'At place' actions

- 3.8 Investigate **expanding the range of 'at place' noticeboards** (eg. Civic and Rec Centres/libraries) and include ways to measure their use, digitise them and run relevant expanded content.
- 3.9 Investigate an expanded calendar of Council presence at key community events and festivals.

Other actions

- 3.10 Audit and review the entire range of external **channels within each division**, mapping the audience they are reaching and understanding the content that could be repurposed, shared or combined.
- 3.11 Apply **a lens of equity and accessibility** (including language and ease of use) to our key informative, strategic and consultation documents.

MEASURING OUR SUCCESS

Social media

We increase engagement across all platforms, but in particular:

• Increase Nillumbik Instagram Facebook and LinkedIn followers

Nillumbik E-newsletter engagement

• We establish 10,000 subscribers to Nillumbik E-news by 2024

Website engagement

- We increase Nillumbik website visitors
- We increase satisfaction score of customer visits to website in Biannual Customer Experience Survey
- We increase the number of visits to our Participate Platform
- We increase awareness of Participate in our Annual Community Survey
- Our website meets accessibility standards by end 2023

Internal to Council

- Our annual review of channels (across Council) show a rise in engagement
- We repurpose at least 4 news stories into different channels per month

Physical channel engagement

- The Nillumbik News surveys get a 30% response rate
- We maintain Nillumbik News readership score at greater than 50% in our Annual Community Survey
- We establish a 12 month event engagement calendar
- QR codes on physical notice boards confirm usage rates



Appendix 2 - How we currently communicate

We use a number of channels to communicate and engage.

Digital and Social	Publications
 Participate Nillumbik website, participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au Nillumbik Shire Council website, nillumbik.vic.gov.au Nillumbik Youth Living & Learning Nillumbik Edendale Community Environment Farm Social media Instagram Facebook (plus Family & Children's Services, Nillumbik Arts, Hurstbridge Hub, Edendale, Visit Nillumbik, Nillumbik Youth, Living & Learning) Twitter YouTube LinkedIn 	Nillumbik News (our quarterly magazine direct to residents) E-Newsletters Nillumbik E-news (monthly) Nillumbik Arts News (monthly) Ageing Well in Nillumbik (quarterly) Business in Nillumbik (fortnightly) Disability Inclusion Network (monthly) Environmental News (monthly) Living & Learning Nillumbik (monthly) Club Development update (?) Quarterly email sent to Early Learning Centre providers and Preschools Print promotions such as posters or flyers - in Council buildings, libraries and recreation facilities Annual reports and Council plans, strategies and policies (with accessible versions available and, in some cases, Easy English versions)
In person	Other channels
 Drop-in sessions, site visits and open days Focus groups, workshops and stakeholder briefing sessions Through our Customer Service Team on 9433 3111 Community information/consultation sessions, workshops, focus groups Monthly Council Meeting, and Planning and Consultation Meeting - in person and livestreamed Councillor and CEO speaking engagements 	 Media promotion including media releases and/or advertising, including Public Notices, radio interviews Electronic noticeboards at Council buildings and recreation facilities Community noticeboards across the Shire Participation in Annual Community Survey Emergency Management – community committees and participation Language Interpretation Services

Appendix 3 - What we heard

From the 2021 Annual Community Satisfaction Survey

501 respondents (out of a total population of over 65,000) participated in a telephone survey in early 2021. Results showed, that in 2021, respondents prefer to receive information from or interact with Council by:

- **1. Email** (47.5% up from 35.4% compared to the previous year)
 - Nillumbik e-news was introduced in February 2022
- 2. Direct mail / letterbox drop of information (26.3% down from 43.0%)
- **3. Nillumbik News** (25.0% down from 25.6%)
 - Almost half of respondents regularly receive and read it
 - 18% report that they do not receive it
- 4. Council's website (20.8% down from 29.2%).
 - · Almost 10% visit frequently
 - 45.2% visit at least 'infrequently'
 - Average satisfaction with website is 7.39 ("Very Good")

Results for Engagement and Participate Nillumbik

40 projects in 2021*	8,000*
out for community engagement and consultation	submissions gathered.
	*approximately

Of those surveyed:

- Lack of communication or consultation with community was expressed as an issue to address by 4.6% of respondents.
- Only 10.7% were aware of the Participate Nillumbik engagement site
 - o Of those, only 11 people have actively used the site (3 of them up to once per month)
 - 13 people have visited but not used it.
- Maintaining community trust and confidence represented a solid satisfactory performance.

Feedback from our Community Engagement Policy Consultation

Engagement matters to the Nillumbik community, regardless of whether they choose to engage or not, there is a strong view among the community that the opportunity to provide feedback be made easily available.

Improvements are needed to:

- The method in which we communicate engagement activities (the majority of community groups reported that they are not aware of engagement when it is happening).
- The need to communicate through a mix of channels and platforms (digital and traditional).
- Providing a clear purpose for particular consultation. There was a strong view expressed of the importance of 'closing the loop' at the culmination of consultation.
- The way we inform the community of the results of the engagement, (if they do engage there is a view that their voices will not be heard and Council are not clear and transparent with their feedback and decision making).



Contribution ID	Does this strategy address what is important about Council's communication with you and the Nillumbik community in general?	Any additional comments	Do you agree with our Three Focus areas and our Objective?	What would you change or add?	Do you agree with our Four Strategic Pillars of actions? (Trust, Identity, Reach and Capability)	What would you change or add to the actions?	Any additional comments?	First Name	Last Name	In Scope Y/N
20669	No	I am a frequent participant and keep an eye on updates. The Four pillars read like headings of a Communication KPA review form. The central focus should "WHAT the Shire communicates ABOUT". This defies the pillars, not the other way around.	No	North Warrandyte residents are typical of boundary communities with easier access to facilities and social contact outside Nillumbik. It is a matter of history that most community leaders in Warrandyte live north of the River in Nillumbik and 2/3rds of their activity involves City of Manningham issues. We love the living environment of Nillumbik but tend not to rely on Council resources. Although the strategy is positive about Nillumbik it fails to persuade such residents that the Shire has sufficient resources to undertake any meaningful community building projects in North Warrandyte. Focus more on what services the Shire has to offer; build confidence.	Yes	Mechanisms seem OK	My response may be a bit frank & I accept I have not had the opportunity to research in depth. I have a long standing and genuine interest in the wellbeing of the municipality.			Y
20668	Not sure	Council needs to ensure that there is a fair system every and all consultations. They can't have postal for one, newsletter for another, Facebook for another. There needs to be a system in place where ALL ratepayers are personally addressed. Older residents who do not use social media, and may miss an article in the council newsletter; all consultations need only be a postcard BY POST to every resident. every ratepayer must be fairly contacted for every consultation otherwise you will not have the views of all your ratepayers.	Unsure		No	'Expanding the reach' is ridiculous. Just contact ALL RATEPAYERS EVERY TIME No more no less. THEN THERE wouldn't be the need for this strategy. Waste of my ratepayer funds				Y

Contribut ID	Does this strategy address what is important about	Any additional comments	Do you agree with our Three Focus areas and our Objective?	What would you change or add?	Do you agree with our Four Strategic Pillars of actions? (Trust, Identity, Reach and Capability)	What would you change or add to the actions?	Any additional comments?	First Name	Last Name	In Scope Y/N
20667	No	On Page 4 the Snapshot could include more data such as: a snapshot of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community (even if it's a small number), it could include a snapshot of people who identify as LGBTQIA+ and people who were born overseas. On Page 5 - for OUR AUDIENCE > you could include people living with a disability and CALD community On Page 6 - In Representative you could add > We see ourselves in the marketing collateral in the promotional images Pg 7 - For Reaching a broader audience: How do people living with a disability access the communication? What does Council do for this group of people? Pg 9 - In IDENTITY you could add - Enhance the Nillumbik Identity by ensuring we are a welcoming and inclusive service for everyone. Pg 11 - In key actions you could add: 3. Keep Audiences engaged with better digital content - more video, inclusive and welcoming imagery. Pg 12 - In Theme Community and Connection> Add to the Objective: To Promote Inclusion COMMENT: Council could ask Community for more feedback. What does community want to know from Council. What is Council not communicating at the moment.	No	Reaching a broad audience could also be about increasing engagement with LGBTQIA+ community, CALD community and People living with a disability.	No	For Identity: this pillar could talk about enhancing the Nillumbik Identity by ensuring Council is a welcoming service for everybody.				Y

Drait Communi	cations offategy -	Participate submissions. Engagement date	3 23 April -	20 May 2022						
Contribution ID	Does this strategy address what is important about Council's communication with you and the Nillumbik community in general?	Any additional comments	Do you agree with our Three Focus areas and our Objective?	What would you change or add?	Do you agree with our Four Strategic Pillars of actions? (Trust, Identity, Reach and Capability)	What would you change or add to the actions?	Any additional comments?	First Name	Last Name	In Scope Y/N
20665	Yes	From my perspective as a retiree and having lived in the Nillumbik Shire for almost all of my adult life, this draft Communication Strategy is a good working document although it is broad ranging and very ambitious. As we are all aware, Nillumbik has changed exponentially in the last 20 years, well away from what many of us older residents chose. Please try to hang onto what you can of it's original character. We abhor becoming more like Doncaster or particularly what is being done to Banyule, where I lived for 5 years before the real mess there began.	Yes	Given how comprehensive you are being I am not qualified to make changes. If anything I would emphasise each consultation be a bit more focussed on the issue on which Council wants to have feedback. Often when I have received an email looking for feedback the subjects are about parts of the Shire that really don't affect me enough to spend a half day researching the matter in order to give sensible/useful feedback.	Yes	Trust and reach seem to me to be the central issues. We need to trust Council to do everything in its power to stop Eltham becoming just another clone in the push for big Australia. If the topic has immediate relevance - like when our reserves were likely to be sold off by the it will galvanise us all in numbers!	Good Luck and I will try to respond to your feedback requests more often.			Y
20657	Yes	A 20 page document not filled with images or photos which is great. Relatively easy to read by any ratepayer. Page 4 has incorrect information and needs fixing.	Yes	none	Yes	Have been covered before in Zoom meeting on 16th May.	No			Y
20656										N
20655	Not sure	All the summary statements are about one way communication, none mention how feedback will be encouraged, welcomed, obtained or collated.	Unsure	Focussing our efforts on reaching the potentially engaged???? How about 'focussing our efforts on reaching all members of the community for their input on potential key decisions'	Not sure	Include in the summary statements an implication that communication will be in both directions	It's a good start, transparency. However given the way things can be decided without any consultation it feels that this strategy still aims to ensure we're all told what's happening after its happened. The full document mentions listening,			Y

Page 3 of 7

Contribution ID	Does this strategy address what is important about Council's communication with you and the Nillumbik community in general?	Any additional comments	Do you agree with our Three Focus areas and our Objective?	What would you change or add?	Do you agree with our Four Strategic Pillars of actions? (Trust, Identity, Reach and Capability)	What would you change or add to the actions?	Any additional comments?	First Name	Last Name	In Scope Y/N
					,		2way communication and engaging the community, but it isn't mentioned in the summaries of objectives and the pillars above in this survey			
20650	Yes	Council has some ground to make up as many residents bad mouth Council, mainly because of their personal experience or of their neighbours over planning issues. In my recent experience I have had no returned emails or phone calls from the planning and compliance section, so this Communications Draft Strategy needs to be across Council with appropriate training of staff if it is to make a meaninful difference. There is a strong PR element to this - to raise the profile of Council and to represent its activities in a positive and improved light to the broader Nillumbik community. Need to reach more peole in a more interesting way and to make people feel more connected and engaged.	Yes	Agree that there needs to be more evidence based information about what the community needs and wants. Look at the 2021 Manningham Council survey of residents for a recent example here (adjoining Council) and look at targeted focus groups and public online workshops or a community panel online forum with 30-40 members from a cross section of the community, covering various groups (OMni, senior Citizens, Playgroups, Schools, sports clubs, gyms, etc).	Yes	Word "channels" is not clear here - needs explaining or broadening to be clearer. Many older people are not online so this means this audience needs to be catered to still.	Page 14, need to add timelines for staff to respond to letters, emails and phone calls and not only social media response time of 24 hours. Strongly support the reintroduction of a hard copy new residents pack as demography of Nillumbik has changed and new residents often do not understand the "ethos" and responsibilities of living in a Green Wedge Shire. Strongly support 'at place" actions to better advertise activites and events related to Council services/facilties and especially want to see better use of electronic signage across the shire to promote all the good things that regularly occur plus annual festivals, etc.			Y

Contribution ID	Does this strategy address what is important about Council's communication with you and the Nillumbik community in general?	Any additional comments	Do you agree with our Three Focus areas and our Objective?	What would you change or add?	Do you agree with our Four Strategic Pillars of actions? (Trust, Identity, Reach and Capability)	What would you change or add to the actions?	Any additional comments?	First Name	Last Name	In Scope Y/N
20644	Yes	I would just like to add that it is important not to rely on Facebook because not everyone uses Facebook. Important information should be sent via mail, and more general information via the eNewsletter. Please advertise the eNewsletter more broadly.	Yes		Yes					Υ

Draft Communications Strategy – Participate submissions. Engagement dates 29 April – 25 May 2022 Participate Vision Tool

Question: What is important when Council communicates with you?

Contribution ID	Screen Name	Title	Description	In scope (Y/N)
20663			The Football Clubrooms are out of date and not fit for service (No female change-rooms for umpires) and the Netball Club don't have a playing court at all.	The issue raised in this submission, is in direct reference to the suitability of particular facilities and therefore sits beyond the scope of a communications strategy.
20652		As Requested	informed consent	Y
20651	Mcd	Communicating to the community	-Timely communication that allows for feedback. If feedback poor then time to allow for a change in tack as to how to get a message out there. -Have your own expectations/goals as to what the response rate should be for different topics. -Be blunt about if we don't give our opinion what would outcome potentially be use dot points of challenging statements to stimulate interest. -Be seen -Door knock -Visual cues in the town centres Simplify responses eg voting system eg drop a coloured counter into a box in response to some well thought out statements boxes placed in shopping areas -Pick out what will the talking points in documents eg eltham activity centre documents with last council ridiculous amount of paper for most people to trawl through key points highlighted could have said things such as " this document suggests that the building heights in eltham town centre and these streets be raised to 3-5 stories " " there is thought to where a local hospital could go this area has been suggested" " extra parking is being highlighted for this area" " etc -tiktoc " eye catching" says an 18 year old - transparency, enthusiasm, clear philosophy and ambitions for the community.	Y

Draft Communications Strategy – Participate submissions. Engagement dates 29 April – 25 May 2022

Contribution ID	Screen Name	Title	Description	In scope (Y/N)
20649		Clear messaging and responses from staff within 2-3 days.	Good langauage, easy to read and sometimes the use of videos and photos to represent the story/message.	Y

Submission prepared on behalf of the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee for the community consultation on Council's Draft Communications Strategy

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the **draft Communications Strategy.** The Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC) plays an important role in providing Council with guidance and advice from community representatives, so that Council can be responsive to emerging issues and opportunities for older people. Effective relevant and accessible information enables the participation for older people in health and wellbeing, and for social opportunities in the Shire.

The World Health Organisation (WHO)'s age-friendly principles identifies the importance of communication and information in active ageing. Information that is timely, accessible and practical plays a key role in social inclusion, access to services, opportunities, and civic and community participation.

About the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee

The Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC) was established as a reference group in August 2012, and became formally endorsed as an advisory committee by Council in 2018. Council recognised then, as it does now, the importance of including and amplifying the voices of older people so that we can create an age-friendly community for all Nillumbik residents to live and age well. Council also recognises that representatives of our older community are best placed to provide input to policy and planning so that programs and services are inclusive, and respond to current and emerging needs of older adults.

The PAAC has a vision to assist Council in supporting our older population (aged 55 and over) to be informed, connected and supported to live well and age even better. Furthermore, the PAAC provides advocacy and insight into what our older community members need and want, leading the way in the creation and dissemination of information guides and toolkits, organising and running information community awareness sessions.

There are 12 current members of the PAAC, representing various townships throughout Nillumbik, including Eltham, Greensborough, Hurstbridge and Panton Hill.

About this submission

This submission is a compilation of feedback provided by the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee members and has been received through various forums, including a consultation with on 16 May 2022, and through individual responses provided to Council officers through email and phone.

Several PAAC members have also submitted individual submissions throughout the consultation period. This submission should be read in conjunction with the individual submissions provided by the PAAC as individuals as it demonstrates the breadth of experiences and perspectives concerning the importance of effective Council communication for older people.

Does this strategy address what is important about Council's communication with you and the Nillumbik community in general?

Yes.

The guiding principles, in particular 'transparency' – showing how Council has listened and acted – is very important.

Three Focus areas and Objective

Do you agree with our Three Focus areas and our Objective? Yes

What would you change or add?

- Page 5: This diagram suggests that there is no hierarchy in Council's
 communications audience, however the relationship between who Council aims to
 communicate with and the relationships between stakeholders and Council is
 potentially obscured. Perhaps Council could consider working with visual artists to
 represent this audience visually.
- Council's target audience and purpose for communicating with such audiences could be clearer; ie. to service equally residents and taxpayers, and community (including the youth, older people and Traditional Owners). The rest are either subsumed under those groups. Or, it could be shown that Council is there to service other independent groups, traders for example, or groups who exist because Council and community exist, such as volunteers, council staff, other government department etc.
- Page 7 Challenges and Focus areas:
 - Page 7: helpful to see this explanation of challenges and focus areas.
 - Point 3 (High volumes of information out and low volumes of insight)
 acknowledges that there is no evidence-base regarding what people want to hear
 about from Council, which relates to point 2; where there are varying levels of
 engagement across various groups of 'unengaged', 'potentially engaged' and
 'highly engaged'. Greater explanation of how this evidence base will be
 developed should be outlined in the implementation plan
 - "Rural households, comprise about 12,000 out of shires approx. 65,000
 residents" needs or will be treated in the 18.5% share of total communications
 resources and financial budgets available for communications. It is a confusing
 statement as states "households" and then "residents", it's either one or the other.
- Page 8: focus area 2: It is unclear how the evidence base about what community
 needs and wants will be developed and subsequently enhanced. How this will occur
 needs to be detailed in implementation plans.
- Page 8: To be clearer, phrasing in focus area 3: 'As the audience online....while also realising more "place-based" avenues of communication and tapping into other communication networks to help spread the word to audiences not online.'

Four strategic pillars of actions

Do you agree with our four strategic pillars of actions? Yes

What would you change or add?

 Page 9: Greater clarity needed in 'Reach' –both elements listed under Reach could be clarified so they are represented vertically to demonstrate the equal importance of both aims (and not a hierarchy). Eg.

REACH

Improve our digital presence with more engaging content tailored to audiences on those channels Strengthen our non-digital communications options to cater to communities that are not online

- Page 9: Move 'Capability' before 'Reach' as per order of pillars in the document
- Page 9: Capability should say: Build Council's capacity to clearly communicate and champion Council and community priorities to our community and other stakeholders

Strategic pillar: Trust and transparency

- Page 10: Hard to read black font on the dark colour backgrounds here. Not sure that
 the colour is needed here, or if a colour is to connect it to the pillar go for a light
 shade with black type or use white type.
- Key action 2: "... action taken." This should not be just to listen, hear and advocate for community issues. This should apply to rate-payers who bring up issues that they are listened to, that action is taken (the response), and that feedback and further engagement occurs in GOOD time. e.g. We have had an experience where the issue we raised was responded to, we were listened to (in a good manner), but it is now past the time frame we were given for a response and no follow up has occurred. This may be why many are "not engaged" when trust is lost at this level.
- Council needs to use various new methods of communication to raise its public profile and PR (better public relations) with disaffected residents and those not engaged.
- In Appendix Measuring our success:
 - Feedback: Phrasing is confusing. 'Community groups that we interact with comment positively that....'
 - Another measure of success should incorporate targets for phone or written enquiries or complaints, as these will general be methods of communication predominantly used by older residents

Strategic pillar: Identity

- Page 10, Point 2 on engaging and consistent messaging to highlight benefits to audience: The benefit of what? This seems a vague and indeterminate sentence and adds nothing to make it clearer what is meant by "engaging and consistent messaging". Is this trying to say that messaging will reflect the various angles of community interest to provide evidence that Council is addressing the full width of community needs?
- Recent example in Council media release about volunteer recognition in Nillumbik, where there is a perception amongst community that the main form of volunteering in Nillumbik is driving the community bus. Collecting and showcasing creative and community-focused stories should be expanded so that content about Nillumbik's people and places is diverse and includes the breadth of volunteerism in Nillumbik – including representing and profiling the numerous advisory committees of Council
- Greater clarity around the use of 'creative' language: the term Creative is loaded –
 and there is a perception that community gets enough 'creative' language from our
 politicians, which is often counter to the concepts of trust and transparency.

Strategic pillar: Capability

- Excellent aims
- Appendix priority action 2: The Art of Hosting and similar forms of engagement are
 excellent grass roots model for improving community communication and
 engagement. Could such models be explored and training incorporated at all levels
 of Council, particularly for staff responsible for Community Engagement
- Measuring success: Ensure that feedback from training that Council staff attend is conducted, evaluated and responded to appropriately in the future. This should apply for any training received by councillors as well.

Strategic pillar: Reach

- Strongly agree with both aims, particularly for older people who may not be online and rely on in person, at place and non-digital communications options.
- More explanation on at place electronic noticeboards to advertise Council events, facilities, festivals, etc
- Non-English speaking older residents affirm the importance of deliberative communication and translated information from Council, particularly in regards to why decisions have been made, and what actions have been taken in matters that affect them
- Key Action 1: define or provide examples of 'channels' eg. Methods and materials, noticeboards that are digital or traditional
- Appendix actions:
 - 3.6: investigate new and enhance/ expand existing printed collateral options including the Ageing Well in Nillumbik newsletter to deliver directly to hard to reach groups
 - 3.7 supportive of this, to reflect changing demographics of new residents
 - o 3.8 noticeboards should also be visible from the road
- Consider the role of Community Information Hubs for older people. Although there is a plethora of information available on events/ activities/ and services throughout the Shire, people have difficulty or are unable to obtain relevant, needed information, and many older Nillumbik residents have difficulty accessing the internet. A strategically located community hub eg in the Eltham Town Square, staffed by Council staff will provide a personal, warm service and concierge for residents and visitors to the shire seeking information
- More people might participate in completing surveys and providing feedback and ideas of they were somehow part of a social event eg a morning tea or community event

Additional comments:

- Page 3 a typo –"these will **generally** be methods"
- Page 4 Snapshot:
 - The snapshot of our community could also include how much it costs to operate the Communications Team with Overhead Cost (Payroll) and the annual additional costs for all Printing documents, Signage, etc.
 - The full list of age segments to be listed, not just the 0-17 years and 55+years groups.
 - Need greater clarity around '30% of older residents are aged over 55' does this mean 30% of Nillumbik residents are aged over 55?
 - Inconsistencies in the presentation of information eg. Use of percentages as well as statistics
- It would be useful to also include a 'snapshot' of Council methods of communications for example # of Nillumbik News delivered, # of subscribers to e-Nill News etc.
- Could be useful to also include info about how many people live in the shire without internet access due to no network coverage

4

PCC.021/22 Draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025 Attachment 3. Draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025 - Redacted written submissions

- Increasing digital channels should also include additional focus on the increased risks to cyber security – where older people may be more at risk to scams or fraudulent activity. Council could play a role in educating community around risks of being online
- Page 5: Our Audience statement is repetitive in that 'internal council stakeholders' are also represented in two bubbles in the bottom right hand corner.

Any questions about this submission, please contact on or positive.ageing@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Prepared 23 May 2022.

PCC.021/22 Draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025
Attachment 3. Draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025 - Redacted written submissions

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Consultation Findings Report

Draft Communications Strategy



May 2022



Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which Nillumbik is located, we pay our respects 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 that sovereignty was never ceded.

1. Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the feedback gleaned through a round of community engagement, conducted from 29 April to 25 May 2022, on Council's draft Communications Strategy and on how this feedback could inform the Strategy, when finalised.

The draft Strategy aims to provide an overarching framework through which Council will communicate relevant information clearly, accurately and in timely fashion, to its community and other key audiences.

Equally important, is ensuring the two-way flow of communication and ensuring the community is able to communicate with Council when and how it finds most appropriate.

These aims will be achieved through an effective combination of approaches and channels and in pursuing a continual process of engagement to ensure Council has a strong insight into the community's preferred means of communication.

Council received 21 formal responses to the engagement. Additional verbal feedback was received from Advisory Committees, as well as at community and staff feedback and information sessions.

Staff feedback will be analysed separately to this particular process, but where relevant, will be incorporated into the revised strategy document and the subsequent implementation plan.

A number of themes emerged through the feedback. These included:

- The importance of transparency and the two-way flow of communication between Council and community.
- Access, equity and inclusion considerations must be central to ensure the Strategy addresses the needs of our diverse community.
- Timeliness of information is important to ensure adequate time for community feedback or responses to any other call to action.

The draft Strategy was intentionally developed as a high-level document aimed at providing the overarching framework to guide Council's day-to-day communications activities.

Some of the feedback included specific actions, more applicable to the implementation plan which will be finalised upon the formal endorsement of the Strategy. This feedback was nevertheless important as it will be used to inform the Strategy itself.

The feedback already received and any further feedback from the Planning and Consultation Committee meeting will be assessed and if within the project scope, will be incorporated to inform the updated draft Strategy to be presented at the July Council Meeting for adoption.

1.1 Overview of participation

Table 1 shows the number of individuals who participated as part of communications and engagement activities. This figure includes individual submissions and those who attended feedback and information sessions without necessarily making a formal submission.

Table 1

Engagement activity	Number of participants
Online survey	20
Submissions (online, written and email)	3
Online feedback and information sessions	13
TOTAL	36

Gender: The majority of respondents identified as 'Female' (28 or 80%)

Relationship to Nillumbik: All survey respondents who provided a response reported living in Nillumbik.

1.2 Key Findings

Overall, the community feedback received regarding the draft Communications Strategy is supportive. The majority of respondents (56 per cent) indicated 'Yes' to supporting the draft Communications Strategy. Approximately 22 per cent were 'Not sure' while a further 22 per cent indicated no they 'Did not support'.

1.3 Recommendations

The draft Communications Strategy must include:

- A strong emphasis on accessibility and inclusion
- An emphasis on two-way communication
- Regularly engaging our community more about what information they would like from Council and how they would like to receive this information
- More targeted communications using a range of methods

Figure 1. Poster /DL postcard





2. Project Background and Engagement Overview

2.1 Background and purpose

Good communication is at the heart of everything we do.

In line with the actions of our Council Plan 2021-25, we've developed a draft Communications Strategy providing a framework to deliver effective communication that meets the needs of our community.

The draft includes three focus areas, a strategic objective and four pillars of action.

- Focusing our efforts on reaching the potentially engaged
- Increasing the relevance of communication
- Expanding the reach of our communication

Our objective is:

To improve how Nillumbik's people are connected to the information they need and want about relevant Council programs, services and decisions, to enable them to live supported, active and connected lives within our community.

The Strategy is guided by the following four pillars:

Trust and Transparency Identity Reach Capability

2.2 Engagement and communication activities

Website	The initiative was hosted on Council's draft Communication		
	Strategy 2022-2025 Participate Nillumbik webpage.		
	The page contained information about the program including		
	resource materials, promoted engagement activities, copies		
	of the surveys, timelines for the project and contact		
	information.		
	During the engagement period, a total of <u>503</u> visits were		
	recorded to the draft Communications Strategy Participate		
	Nillumbik website page.		
Posters	Displayed throughout the Shire at Council and non-Counc		
	locations.		

Postcards	A total of <u>300</u> postcards were displayed across the Shire in both Council and non-council locations (Figure 1). The posters included a QR code that linked to the project website.		
Social Media	14 Social media posts and paid targeted ads (Facebook and Instagram) were used to promote the draft Strategy and encourage engagement and feedback. Our social posts achieved a total reach of approximately 6000.		
Newsletters	The project was promoted through a range of Council and non-Council newsletters including through local schools, community and sporting groups.		
Advisory Committee	PAAC Communications Sub-committee (16 May).		
Word of Mouth Councillors, Council Officers, local service procommunity groups were encouraged to promote the through their networks. Project information and were provided to support this promotion.			
Youth Council	The draft Strategy was also shared with the Youth Council who were in turn encouraged to share it through their networks.		

3. Description of participation profile

3.1 Gender of participants

80% Female 20% Male

3.2 Residential suburb of participants

20% Eltham

20% Eltham North

20% Greensborough

20% Panton Hill

10% North Warrandyte

10% Arthurs Creek

3.3 Participants relationship to Nillumbik Shire Council

80% Live in Nillumbik Shire Council 20% Work in Nillumbik Shire Council

4. Findings from analysis of community feedback

4.1 Level of support on the draft Communications Strategy

1. Does this strategy address what is important about Council's communication with you and the Nillumbik community in general?

Yes	55.6%		
Not	22.2%		
sure			
No	22.2%		

4.2 Overall feedback on the draft Communications Strategy

2. Do you agree with the Three focus areas and our Objective?

Yes	55.6%		
Not	22.2%		
sure			
No	22.2%		

3. Do you agree with our Four Strategic Pillars of actions? (Trust, Identity, Reach and Capability)

Yes/Not	66.7%		
sure			
Not	11.1%		
sure			
No	22.2%		

4.3 Feedback and themes

Across the 36 voices that were captured during the engagement period, the following key themes were identified and consideration should be made to include in the draft Communications Strategy:

- More emphasis on accessibility and inclusion
- Detail on two-way communication
- Asking community more about what they would like to hear from Council
- Targeted communications

KEY TOPICS/THEMES

OVERALL

- Strong support for the focus and the pillars that underpin the strategy in particular the commitment to transparency.
- The document's relative simplicity and the recognition of this as a key blueprint to guide Council's interactions with its community was also positively received.

FEEDBACK

- A small number expressed the view that the reach should not be limited. Going to every
 address in the Shire (primarily via letterbox) was that greater effort should be made to
 reach all ratepayers or community members at all times with their input and feedback,
 particularly by post to ensure they're reached.
- Another point raised is about this being a strategy that focuses on one-way communication, not two-way (how are we dealing with feedback and comments)

TIMELINESS

- There were a number of comments on the importance of timeliness in Council communications and that it needed to be more explicitly detailed. This is another area to be more comprehensively addressed in the implementation phase.
- The need to allow enough time for feedback to happen and especially for developments and proposals. Keeping timely is linked with trust.

EVIDENCE-BASED

- There was strong support for this acknowledgement.
- Some respondents expressed the need for more detail about how we' would achieve
 this greater evidence-based understanding of community needs and wants in the
 implementation phases.

AUDIENCES

 A few detailed comments here about the need to be more representative and better laid out or re-written to be clear about all the segments we refer to.

LANGUAGE AND STORIES

- Support for 'keeping language simple and easy to read. Photos and images should be inclusive and representative.
- Greater emphasis on showcasing community focused stories and expanding this in our content

METHODS AND MATERIALS

 Avoid jargon terms such as 'Channels". Preferably use clearer terms such as 'methods' or refer explicitly to the action or platform.

Broaden our methods – eg: don't rely solely on Facebook. Rather use a combination of digital and traditional communications methods.

Feedback examples;

"For Identity: this pillar could talk about enhancing the Nillumbik Identity by ensuring Council is a welcoming service for everybody."

"Reaching a broad audience could also be about increasing engagement with LGBTQIA+ community, CALD community and People living with a disability."

"Non-English speaking older residents affirm the importance of deliberative communication and translated information from Council, particularly in regards to why decisions have been made, and what actions have been taken in matters that affect them."

"All the summary statements are about one-way communication, none mention how feedback will be encouraged, welcomed, obtained or collated."

5. Next Steps

Collate and analyse further feedback obtained at the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting on 14 June 2022 and make the necessary amendments to the draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025 before presenting it to the Council Meeting in July for adoption.

A final designed Council-endorsed copy of the Communications Strategy will be made available on Council's website on Participate and at various Council facilities and events.

We thank all those individuals who took the time to comment on the Strategy.



MAV RULES 2013

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA RULES 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

- 1 Objectives
- 2 Definitions
- 3 Alteration of Rules

PART 2 - MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

Division 1 - Council membership

- 4 Membership of the Association
- 5 Non participating member councils

Division 2 - Appointment and obligations of representatives

- 6 Appointment of representatives
- 7 Obligations of representatives and Board members

Division 3 – The Management Board and Elections

- 8 The Management Board
- 9 The Interim Management Board
- 10 Conduct of elections
- 11 Election of the President
- 12 Election of regional Board members
- Voting entitlements for elections
- 14 By elections
- 15 Vacancies and resignations
- 16 Revocation of Appointment
- 17 Filling of casual vacancies State Council and Regional Representatives

Division 4 - Meetings and Forums of the Association

- 18 The State Council
- 19 Annual Meeting
- 20 Additional State Council meetings
- 21 Submission of business by members
- 22 Business papers
- 23 Committees
- 24 Issues Forums
- 25 Holding of Issues Forums
- 26 Attendance at Issues Forums

Division 5 – Regulation of proceedings

27 Conduct of meetings

PART 3 – MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Division 1 – The Board

- 28 The Board
- 29 Election of Deputy Presidents
- 30 Functions of the Board
- 31 Delegation
- 32 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

264 G 6 7 February 2013

Victoria Government Gazette

Division 2 - Revenue of the Association

- 33 Accounts and records
- 34 Audit
- 35 Duties of auditors
- 36 Subscriptions
- 37 Investments
- 38 Members of the Fund
- 39 Management of the fund
- 40 The Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund
- 41 Decisions of the Board
- 42 Expiration of Policies
- 43 Application for guarantee
- 44 Renewal of policies
- 45 Cancellation of policies
- 46 Notice of cancellation
- 47 Liability of the Association
- 48 Investment of funds
- 49 Expenses

PART 4 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 50 Seal
- 51 Business Name

SCHEDULE 1

Notification of appointment (Rule 6)

SCHEDULE 2

Election Procedures for President and members of the

MAV Management Board (Rules 11& 12)

Division 1 – General requirements applying to elections

Division 2 – Optional postal voting

SCHEDULE 3

Regulation of proceedings (Rule 27)

SCHEDULE 4

Nomination Form (Clause 1 of Schedule 2)

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA RULES 2013 PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1 Objectives

- 1.1 The objectives of the Association are to:
 - 1.1.1 promote local government and improve community awareness of the capacity of local government throughout Victoria to act effectively and responsibly;
 - 1.1.2 promote through its advocacy role appropriate powers, functions and responsibilities for local government having regard to the individual needs and characteristics of its individual members;
 - 1.1.3 act as the representative body of local government for the purpose of promoting effective inter-government co-operation;
 - 1.1.4 strengthen the Association's leadership role in local government in Victoria by focusing on:–
 - 1.1.4.1 targeted advocacy to Governments and relevant organisations;
 - 1.1.4.2 continually improving systems for effective member liaison, communication and participation.
 - 1.1.5 identify the administrative requirements relating to various matters under the **Municipal Association Act 1907** including provisions that:
 - 1.1.5.1 establish the management of the Association;
 - 1.1.5.2 provide mechanisms for participation by members;
 - 1.1.5.3 regulate its proceedings;
 - 1.1.5.4 fix subscriptions;
 - 1.1.5.5 regulate and manage the Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund; and
 - 1.1.5.6 generally provide for all matters affecting the management of the Association.
- 1.2 The Association may exercise all functions and powers which are necessary or convenient for it to carry out its objectives provided it is not inconsistent with the **Municipal Association Act 1907** or any other Act.
- 1.3 Revocation

Any previous Rules made under the Municipal Association Act 1907 are revoked.

1.4 These Rules are made under the **Municipal Association Act 1907**.

2 Definitions

'Act'	means the Municipal Association Act 1907.		
'Association'	means the Municipal Association of Victoria.		
'Board'	means the Management Board or the Interim Management Board.		
'Chief Executive Officer'	means the person appointed by the Board to be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association or any person acting in that position.		

Victoria Government Gazette

'Councillor'	means a person who holds the office of member of Council; and includes a person appointed by Order in Council under section 219 or section 220R of the Local Government Act 1989 .		
'Member'	means – (a) in relation to meetings of the State Council or annual meetings, a representative; (b) in relation to meetings of the Board, a member of the Board; (c) in relation to a committee – a person who is a member of that committee.		
'Non participating member council'	means any council which is not a financial member of the Association because it has not complied with clause 4 of the Rules.		
'Local Government General Election'	means a general election held in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989		
'Participating member Council'	means a Council which is a financial member of the Association under clause 4.		
'Regional groupings of councils'	means — (a) the councils within the metropolitan area that comprise the 6 metropolitan regions; and (b) the councils outside the metropolitan area that comprise the 6 rural regions — that are determined and classified from time to time by the Board.		
'Representative'	means a councillor and includes, in the absence of the representative of the council at a meeting, the substitute representative of that council who exercises a vote on any matter as if he or she were the representative of the council.		
'State Council'	means the body consisting of all the representatives of councils which are financial members of the Association.		
'Significant Decision'	means a decision relating to: (a) a change in the policy position of the MAV; (b) entering into contracts with the value of \$200,000 or more; (c) the expenditure of unbudgeted funds; or (d) the employment or remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer.		

3 Alteration of Rules

- 3.1 An amendment to the Rules may be proposed by:
 - 3.1.1 any member notifying the Chief Executive Officer; or
 - 3.1.2 the Board.

- 3.2 The Chief Executive Officer must provide written notice of the proposed amendments to the Rules to members thirty five (35) days before submission of the amendments to the State Council for determination.
- 3.3 Despite clause 15 of Schedule 3, the State Council may amend the Rules where 60% of the representatives of participating member councils vote in favour of the proposed amendment.
- 3.4 When the Rules obtain the approval of the Governor in Council under section 3 of the Act, they become the Rules of the Association.

PART 2 – MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

Division 1 - Council Membership

4 Membership of the Association

- 4.1 Subject to clause 5.1. a council is a financial member of the Association:
 - 4.1.1 if it has paid the amount of the annual subscription and any other monies levied on it by the Association for membership within 2 months of a notice requiring payment being given or by 31 August in every year (whichever is earlier); or
 - 4.1.2 for the period of any financial year subsequent to its payment of its annual subscription; and
 - 4.1.3 remains a financial member until 31 August in the financial year after the year for which the payment of the annual subscription is made.
- 4.2 A council which is a financial member of the Association is entitled to participate in the activities of the Association in the way provided for in these Rules.

5 Non participating member councils

- A council which fails to pay in full its annual subscription or other monies levied on it by the Association in accordance with clause 4.1.1. will become a non participating member council and will remain as a non participating member council until that annual subscription or the next year's annual subscription is paid.
- 5.2 A non participating member council is not entitled to avail itself of the privileges and benefits of any of the functions or services performed or carried on by the Association.
- 5.3 A representative of a non participating member council is not eligible to participate in the activities of the Association or to exercise the powers of a representative to:
 - 5.3.1 vote on any motion or matter under consideration at a meeting of the Association;
 - 5.3.2 nominate any person or be nominated for any office or position on a committee of the Association; and
 - 5.3.3 hold the position of President or be a member of the Board of the committee of the Association.
- 5.4 When the annual subscription or any other monies levied on a council remain unpaid for two months after a notice requiring payment has been sent, the Chief Executive Officer of the Association must notify the Chief Executive Officer of the council of the ineligibility of the council and its representative to participate in the matters identified in sub-clauses 5.2. and 5.3.

Division 2 – Appointment and Obligations of Representatives

6 Appointment of representatives

6.1 A council which is a financial member of the Association must appoint a representative and a substitute representative of the council to the Association and must notify the Association in the form specified in Schedule 1 as soon as possible after the Council has made the appointment and, where an Election Day has been appointed by the Chief Executive Officer, no less than four weeks prior to that date.

- 6.2 Appointments must be made by resolution of council.
- 6.3 The Council from which the President is elected must appoint an additional representative to vote on matters under consideration by the State Council.

7 Obligations of representatives and Board members

- 7.1 A person appointed as a representative of the Association must use his or her reasonable endeavours to attend all meetings of the Association which the person is eligible to attend.
- 7.2 A representative must:
 - 7.2.1 attend every meeting of the State Council and if he or she is unable to attend a meeting, must encourage the council's substitute representative to attend;
 - 7.2.2 if present, vote on every matter under consideration by the State Council, in accordance with either the resolution of his or her council or the view of the majority of the Councillors where known, unless prohibited from doing so;
 - 7.2.3 provide regular reports to his or her council on matters discussed and considered by the Association and on the decisions made; and have regard to any codes or guidelines published by the Board that relates to his or her functions as a representative.
- 7.3 A representative elected as a regional member of the Board must liaise with other representatives and councils within the region that he or she represents by meeting with them on a regular basis and by providing written reports and information on the Association's activities and by any other means which is convenient and satisfies the needs of the regional grouping of councils.

Division 3 - The Management Board and Elections

8 The Management Board

- 8.1 There will be a Municipal Association of Victoria Management Board that is comprised of the President and twelve (12) other members who are the representatives of the twelve regional groupings of councils.
- 8.2 Subject to the provisions of Clause 8, the President and the twelve regional members of the Board go out of office at 6.00 am on the Election Day or 6.00 am on the day of the Local Government General Election.
- 8.3 Despite the provisions of Clause 8.2. the Management Board may make recommendation to State Council for a longer term of office of the President and the twelve regional members of the Management Board.
- 8.4 Despite the provisions of Clause 15 of Schedule 3, for the purposes of this clause 8 the State Council may approve such longer term of office for the President and the twelve regional members of the Board where 60% of the representatives of participating member councils vote in favour of the proposed term of office.

9 The Interim Management Board

- 9.1 Subsequent to each Local Government General Election, an Interim Management Board comprising members of the immediate past Management Board who are declared elected following that General Election will be formed.
- 9.2 The Interim President of the Association will be the immediate past President if that person is declared elected following the Local Government General Election and, if that person is not declared elected following the Local Government General Election, the Interim Management Board must elect a member to be the Interim President.
- 9.3 The quorum for the Interim Management Board is a majority of the members.

- 9.4 The Interim Management Board may not make a Significant Decision except by unanimous vote by all members of the Interim Management Board.
- 9.5 The members of the Interim Management Board go out of office at 6.00 am on the Election Day.

10 Conduct of elections

- 10.1 The Chief Executive Officer is the Returning Officer and is responsible for the conduct of elections for the office of President and the twelve (12) regional members on the Board.
- 10.2 The Chief Executive Officer may appoint another person or organisation to be the Returning Officer responsible for the conduct of elections.
- 10.3 The Election Day is the first Friday in March 2009 and thereafter on the first Friday in March in the second year after the last general election was held.

11 Election of the President

- 11.1 The President of the Association will be elected by the representatives that comprise the State Council.
- 11.2 The Chief Executive Officer may after advising the Board, determine whether postal, attendance or electronic voting will apply to the election of the President and must notify the representatives of all participating member councils at least 42 days before Election Day of the voting method to apply.
- 11.3 An election for the position of President must be conducted in accordance with the provisions in Schedule 2.

12 Election of regional Board members

- 12.1 A representative of a regional grouping of councils will be elected by the representatives in each region to be that region's member on the Board.
- 12.2 The Chief Executive Officer may, after advising the Board, determine whether postal, attendance or electronic voting will apply to the election of the twelve regional members of the Board and must notify the representatives of all participating member councils at least 42 days before the Election Day of the voting method to apply.
- 12.3 An election for a regional member position on the Board must be conducted in accordance with the provisions in Schedule 2.

13 Voting entitlements for elections

- 13.1 For the purposes of electing the President, each representative of the State Council has one vote
- 13.2 For the purposes of electing a representative of each of the regional groupings of councils to the Board each representative has one vote for the representative of the region within which his or her council is located.

14 By elections

- 14.1 Subject to 14.2 and 14.3, an election must be held to fill a casual vacancy on the Management Board and must be conducted by postal ballot or at a special meeting of the State Council.
- 14.2 If a casual vacancy occurs in the position of President within nine months of the date at which the President goes out of office the Management Board must elect a member of the Board as an Acting President for the remainder of the term.
- 14.3 If any other casual vacancy occurs on the Management Board within two months of the date at which that member goes out of office the Board may decide that the casual vacancy is not to be filled.
- 14.4 If a casual vacancy occurs on the Interim Management Board it is not to be filled.

15 Vacancies and resignations

- 15.1 A casual vacancy is created either on the State Council or the Board where a representative:
 - 15.1.1 dies;
 - 15.1.2 resigns in writing to the Chief Executive Officer; or
 - 15.1.3 ceases to be a councillor.
- 15.2 A casual vacancy on the Board also occurs if the council for which that Board member is a representative ceases to be a participating member of the Association.

16 Revocation of Appointment

The revocation of the appointment of a representative, who has been elected as the representative of a region by a Council, will not affect that Councillor remaining a Board member for the remainder of their term, subject to Rule 14.

17 Filling of casual vacancies – State Council and Regional Representatives

- 17.1 Where a vacancy occurs on the State Council for any of the reasons specified in clause 15.1 the council to which that vacancy relates may appoint a replacement representative.
- 17.2 Where a vacancy occurs on the Management Board for any of the reasons specified in clause 15, the representatives of the region may as soon as practicable, elect another representative from the region in which the vacancy has occurred to fill the vacancy until the next election of a new Management Board falls due.

Division 4 – Meetings and Forums of the Association

18 The State Council

- 18.1 The appointed representatives of participating member councils meeting together in accordance with the Rules comprise the State Council.
- 18.2 The State Council will meet at least twice in each year and may meet at any other time appointed by the President.
- 18.3 A special meeting of the State Council may be called by the President or any ten representatives of participating member councils to deal with the matters specified in the notice calling the meeting.
- 18.4 The quorum necessary to transact business at a meeting of the State Council is the number of representatives capable of exercising 20 votes and no business may be transacted at a meeting of the State Council unless that number of representatives is present.
- 18.5 Meetings of the State Council may be adjourned or deferred at any time by the President or by a resolution to adjourn to a date to be fixed carried at the meeting.

19 Annual Meeting

- 19.1 The annual meeting of the State Council will be held in October of each year or at such other time as the Board may determine.
- 19.2 Preliminary notice in writing giving a general description of the business to be transacted and the date, time and place of the annual meeting will be given to members not less than 35 days before the date fixed for the meeting.
- 19.3 The purpose of the annual meeting is to:
 - 19.3.1 consider an annual report from the President about the activities and financial affairs of the Association;
 - 19.3.2 appoint an auditor whenever the appointment of auditor is about to expire; and
 - 19.3.3 generally deal with the business of the Association.

20 Additional State Council meetings

Victoria Government Gazette

- 20.1 In addition to the annual meeting of the State Council, the Association will hold a State Council meeting in November of each calendar year or at such other time as may be determined by the Board, for the purpose of:
 - 20.1.1 identifying and determining the issues, objectives and strategic direction of the Association to enable it to fulfil its primary advocacy role;
 - 20.1.2 communicating councils' views about issues impacting on local government;
 - 20.1.3 providing a forum in which effective communication between the Association and councils occurs; and
 - 20.1.4 dealing with any other matter which the Association considers is critical to achieve effective and efficient local government.
- 20.2 Preliminary notice in writing giving a general description of the business to be transacted and the date, time and place of the meeting will be given to members not less than 35 days before the date fixed for the meeting.
- 20.3 Except for items of business to be dealt with at the annual meeting of the Association or for the conduct of elections to which a separate postal voting procedure applies, the Board may determine that members of the State Council may vote on any item of business by post, facsimile or email or any combination of those methods.

21 Submission of business by members

- 21.1 Members may submit matters, in accordance with a form determined by the Board, for consideration at meetings of the State Council which may be included in the business to be dealt with provided that
 - 21.1.1 notice of such matters has been given to the Chief Executive Officer not less than 28 days before the meeting; and
 - 21.1.2 the Chief Executive Officer considers that the matters raised by the member is of state-wide significance to local government and ought to be considered at the meeting; and
 - 21.1.3 where the Chief Executive Officer is of the view that a matter submitted ought not be dealt with at the meeting, he or she must submit the matter to the Board for final determination.
 - 21.1.4 matters which relate to the same subject may be consolidated into a single matter, with such amendments as the Board in its discretion determines are warranted, prior to inclusion in the business papers and circulation to members.

22 Business papers

Business papers must be forwarded to members not less than 14 days before the date specified for any meeting of the State Council.

23 Committees

- 23.1 The Management Board may appoint committees of persons to undertake any function of the Board.
- 23.2 A committee may consist of:
 - 23.2.1 representatives;
 - 23.2.2 members of staff of the Association;
 - 23.2.3 council staff; or
 - 23.2.4 any other person that the Board considers necessary or convenient to facilitate the function to be performed.

24 Issues Forums

- 24.1 The Association may from time to time conduct issues forums for the purposes of:
 - 24.1.1 developing a local government response to the State or Federal Government or any other organisation on specific issues which have not been addressed by the State Council;
 - 24.1.2 providing a forum for councils to participate in the formulation of local government policy on issues of significance to local government;
 - 24.1.3 providing a forum for councils to exchange information or to engage in problem solving on issues of significance or concern to local government;
 - 24.1.4 providing a means by which information can be given about new and emerging issues or by which new and emerging issues can be developed and assessed; and
 - 24.1.5 presenting information or decisions of the Board.

25 Holding of Issues Forums

- 25.1 Issues forums may be held by the Association at any time after the Association has given 7 days notice to members.
- 25.2 Issues forums must be chaired by a member of the Board.

26 Attendance at Issues Forums

- 26.1 Any person who is a councillor or a member of council staff may attend issues forums.
- 26.2 Each council attending an issues forum is entitled to one vote which may be cast by any person irrespective of whether that person is a representative or not.
- 26.3 A matter before an issues forum is passed by a majority of votes.
- 26.4 Except where an issue is considered urgent by the Chief Executive Officer any decision which results in a policy position of the Association must be submitted to the next meeting of the Board for endorsement.

Division 5 – Regulation of proceedings

27 Conduct of meetings

27.1

- 27.1.1 The meetings of the State Council and the Board will be conducted in accordance with the procedures in Schedule 3.
- 27.1.2 Meetings of the State Council and the Management Board will be chaired by the President or, in his or her absence by a Deputy President or in the absence of the President and the Deputy Presidents, by a representative appointed by the State Council or the Management Board to chair the meeting.
- 27.1.3 Meetings of the Interim Management Board will be chaired by the Interim President or, in his or her absence, by a member elected by the Interim Management Board to chair the meeting

27.2

- 27.2.1 At any meetings of the Association other than a State Council meeting, each representative present is entitled to one vote.
- 27.2.2 At any meeting of the State Council, voting entitlements will be those set out in clause 15 of Schedule 3.
- 27.3 At meetings of the State Council if the representative of a participating member council is not present the substitute representative of that council may vote in place of that representative.

- Victoria Government Gazette
 - 27.4 At State Council the President may not exercise a deliberative vote.
 - 27.5 A question arising at a meeting is determined by the majority of votes of the members present who are eligible to vote and in accordance with their respective eligibility to vote on that question and, if voting is equal, the chairperson or other person presiding, has a casting as well as a deliberative vote. If voting is equal at a meeting of State Council, the President, if present, has a casting vote only.
 - 27.6 Business which is not included in the notice for a meeting of any State Council or the Board may not be dealt with unless 50% of the members eligible to attend and vote at the meeting are present and agree.
 - 27.7 The Association must ensure that accurate records are kept of its meetings.

PART 3 – MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION Division 1 – The Board

28 The Board

- 28.1 The Board has responsibility for the conduct of the affairs of the Association in accordance with the Rules.
- 28.2 Notice of meetings of the Board must be given to Board members not less than seven days before the meeting, unless the meeting is to deal with business which the President considers to be urgent or requiring immediate resolution by the Board.
- 28.3 The quorum necessary to transact business at a meeting of the Management Board will be 7 and no business may be transacted at a meeting of the Management Board unless that number of representatives is present.
- 28.4 The quorum for the Interim Management Board is a majority of the members.
- 28.5 The Interim Management Board may not make a Significant Decision except by unanimous vote by all members of the Interim Management Board.
- 28.6 Meetings of the Board may be deferred or adjourned at any time by the President, Interim President or member presiding, as the case may be, to a date to be fixed.
- 28.7 Meetings of the Board must be conducted in open session unless the Association will be prejudiced by the requirement to do so.
- 28.8 Where the business of the Board requires urgent or immediate resolution by the Board, Board members may participate in a meeting of the Board by phone, closed circuit television or any other means of communication and a member who participates for the duration of the meeting is deemed to be present at the meeting.

29 Election of Deputy Presidents

- 29.1 The Management Board must elect two of its members to be Deputy Presidents of the Association; one Deputy President must be a representative of a rural grouping of councils and the other a representative of a metropolitan grouping of councils.
- 29.2 The role of the Deputy Presidents will be determined by the Management Board.
- 29.3 A Deputy President may act in the place of the President when requested by the President to do so.
- 29.4 The Management Board may appoint a Deputy President to act in the place of the President when the President is absent, incapable or refuses to act.

30 Functions of the Board

- 30.1 The functions of the Board will be to:-
 - 30.1.1 determine and classify the regional groupings of councils after consultation on proposals for the regional groupings has been undertaken with councils;
 - 30.1.2 define the detail of the broad policies, objectives and strategies determined by the State Council;

- 30.1.3 implement the broad policies, objectives and strategies of the Association;
- 30.1.4 regularly liaise with representatives of participating member councils and regional groupings of councils;
- 30.1.5 set service standards and priorities and monitor the performance of the Association;
- 30.1.6 publish practice notes, guidelines or codes to be used and applied by representatives when they are acting as representatives of the Association;
- 30.1.7 determine the budget including the level of subscription to be paid by participating member councils and monitor the financial performance of the Association after consultation with the State Council on the level of subscriptions to be paid.
- 30.1.8 determine the levels of cover, guarantees and other matters associated with the Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund;
- 30.1.9 operate and manage liability and workcover insurance schemes;
- 30.1.10 determine issues of policy, legislative and financial significance to local government;
- 30.1.11 appoint a Chief Executive Officer who will be responsible for the day to day management and administration of the Association;
- 30.1.12 annually set performance appraisal objectives for the Chief Executive Officer and regularly monitor the performance of the Chief Executive Officer;
- 30.1.13 determine the allowances (if any) to be paid to representatives;
- 30.1.14 provide appropriate insurance cover for representatives; and
- 30.1.15 appoint representatives and persons to committees.
- 30.2 The Board must provide notice to councils of the classification of Metropolitan, interface and rural councils into regional groupings of councils within 14 days of its decision.

31 Delegation

The Board may, by instrument of delegation, delegate to a committee appointed by the Board or to the Chief Executive Officer of the Association any power or function of the Board, other than this power of delegation.

32 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

- 32.1 If-
 - 32.1.1 a member has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter being considered, or about to be considered, by the Board; and
 - 32.1.2 the interest could conflict with the proper performance of the member's duties in relation to the consideration of the matter –

the member, as soon as practicable after the relevant facts come to a member's knowledge, must disclose the nature of the interest at a meeting of the Board.

- 32.2 A member who has made a disclosure under sub-clause 32.1 may remain in the room in which the meeting is being held during any consideration or discussion of the matter, and may take part in discussion, but must leave the room while any vote is taken on the matter.
- 32.3 A disclosure under sub-clause 32.1 must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 32.4 Sub-clause 32.1 does not apply in relation to a matter relating to the supply of goods or services to the member if the goods or services are, or are to be, available to other members of the Association on the same terms and conditions.

Division 2 - Revenue of the Association

33 Accounts and records

The Association must ensure that proper accounts and records of its transactions and affairs and other appropriate records are kept so that its financial operations and financial position can be adequately explained at any time.

34 Audit

The Association must appoint an independent person or firm to be the auditor of the Association for a period up to five years.

35 Duties of auditors

The auditor must audit the financial statements of the Association in accordance with applicable Australian Auditory Standards and Statutory requirements including reporting in accordance with those requirements.

36 Subscriptions

The subscription to be paid by member councils and the date of sending subscription notices will be determined each year by the Board.

37 Investments

The Association may invest in any of the funds that councils may invest in under section 143 of the Local Government Act 1989 or the Trustee Act 1958.

Division 3 - Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund

38 Members of the Fund

For the purposes of this Division, 'Authority' includes the bodies referred to in section 5 of the Act contributing to the fund.

39 Management of the fund

Subject to these Rules, the Board is responsible for the management and operation of the Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund.

40 The Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund

- 40.1 The Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund consists of:
 - 40.1.1 all premiums received by the Association by way of premiums on guarantees;
 - 40.1.2 all monies received by the Association under section 7 of the Act;
 - 40.1.3 all monies received by the Association by way of interest on moneys invested under these Rules;
 - 40.1.4 all other moneys received by the Association in connection with the activities of the Fund.

41 Decisions of the Board

- 41.1 The Board will from time to time determine:
 - 41.1.1 the manner and form of an application for a guarantee;
 - 41.1.2 the form of the policies to be issued;
 - 41.1.3 the level of premium payable; and
 - 41.1.4 the level of cover available.

42 Expiration of Policies

Unless renewed, all policies will terminate on the 30th June next following the date of their issue.

43 Application for guarantee

Any Authority may make application for a guarantee in respect of its employees. Upon acceptance of any application and upon acceptance and payment of the appropriate premium fixed by the Board, the Association will issue to the Authority a policy in the appropriate form determined by the Board.

44 Renewal of policies

Before becoming entitled to the renewal of any policy, the Authority in the name of which the policy has been issued must submit to the Board a statement of its revenue from general rates and charges during the preceding financial year and the Board will fix the premium payable on the basis of such revenue and such other information as the Board may determine from time to time; including, without limitation, claims history and risk management practices.

45 Cancellation of policies

- 45.1 Any policy may be cancelled:
 - 45.1.1 at any time at the written request of the Authority, in which case the Association will be entitled to retain the premium for the period during which the policy has been in force; and
 - 45.1.2 by the Association in the event of the Authority;
 - 45.1.2.1 failing to comply with its duty of absolute good faith;
 - 45.1.2.2 failing to comply with its duty of disclosure;
 - 45.1.2.3 making a misrepresentation to the Association during negotiations for the policy before it was entered into;
 - 45.1.2.4 failing to comply with a condition or other provision of the policy, including the provision with respect to payment of the premium; or
 - 45.1.2.5 making a fraudulent claim under the policy.

46 Notice of cancellation

- 46.1 The Association may give written notice to the Authority that it has cancelled the policy and that the cancellation will take effect 14 days from the date of the written notice.
- 46.2 Where the Association cancels the policy of an Authority the Association will refund to the Authority an amount of premium proportionate to the unexpired term of the policy.

47 Liability of the Association

The liability of the Association under any blanket policy to pay out of the Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund any loss sustained by the Authority will be based on the absolute good faith of the application and of the truth and completeness of any information supplied by and on behalf of the Authority and will depend upon the due payment of the premium.

48 Investment of funds

The Board may invest the fund or any part of it in the funds in which councils may invest under section 143 of the Local Government Act 1989 or the Trustee Act 1958.

49 Expenses

All expenses incurred in the management of the Fund will be paid out of the Funds and the Fund will contribute from time to time an amount determined by the Board towards the overall cost of management and administration of the Association.

Victoria Government Gazette

G 6 7 February 2013

277

PART 4 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

50 Seal

- 50.1 The Seal of the Association may only be used in accordance with the direction of the Board and affixed in the presence of any member of the Board and the Chief Executive Officer or any other Director of the Association.
- 50.2 Any documents to which the Seal has been affixed must be kept in a register maintained for that purpose.
- 50.3 The Chief Executive Officer must report to the Board at each meeting, the documents to which the Seal has been affixed.

51 Business Name

The Association in conducting its activities may use with the approval of the Board any business name which it determines to register under the **Business Names Act 1962**.

278 G 6 7 February 2013

Victoria Government Gazette

Municipal Association of Victoria SCHEDULE 1 Notification of appointment (Rule 6)

The Chief Executive Officer Municipal Association of Victoria

At the meeting of the	on		
C _	(insert name of council)		(insert date)
Cr			was appointed as the council's
representative to the As	sociation.		
Cr			was appointed as the substitute
representative to the As	sociation.		•

Chief Executive Officer (insert name of council)

Municipal Association of Victoria

SCHEDULE 2

Election Procedures for President and members of the MAV Management Board (Rules 11 & 12)

Division 1 – General requirements applying to elections

1 Nomination

- 1.1 Any representative wanting to nominate as a candidate for election either to the position of President or as a regional representative of the Board must submit to the Returning Officer a nomination in the form specified in Schedule 4.
- 1.2 A nomination must be received by the Returning Officer no later than 4.00 pm on the twenty first day before Election Day and may be posted, hand delivered or sent by facsimile.
- 1.3 A representative nominating for election may nominate himself or herself or be nominated by another representative but must be the council's representative appointed by the council under rule 6.1. and notified to the Association in the form of Schedule 1.
- 1.4 The Returning Officer must reject the nomination if:
 - 1.4.1 the person nominating is not the representative appointed by a participating member council; or
 - 1.4.2 the person nominating has been nominated by a person who is not the representative of a participating member council; or
 - 1.4.3 the nomination has not been received by the specified closing time.

2 Candidate's entitlements

- 2.1 Each candidate for election may provide to the Returning Officer a statement containing no more than 150 words and a photograph of himself or herself a copy of which must be lodged with the nomination form so that it is circulated under clause 12 of this Schedule.
- 2.2 Each candidate may appoint a scrutineer in writing to the Returning Officer to be present at the ballot to determine the order of candidates on the ballot paper and at the count of the votes.
- 2.3 A scrutineer appointed in accordance with sub-clause 2.2. has the right to attend either or both of a ballot or count of votes for which he or she is appointed.

3 Withdrawal or death of a candidate

- 3.1 If the withdrawal or death of a candidate before the conduct of an election means that only one candidate remains in the election, the Returning Officer must declare the remaining candidate to be elected.
- 3.2 If the withdrawal or death of a candidate before the conduct of an election means that there are no candidates for an election, the election fails and the Returning Officer must:
 - 3.2.1 if the failure relates to the election of President, advise all the representatives;
 - 3.2.2 in any other case, advise the representatives within the relevant region that the election has failed and that a new election will be conducted.
- 3.3 The Returning Officer must proceed to conduct an election in accordance with these Rules to fill an extraordinary vacancy as soon as practicable.

4 Returning Officer's duties

If an election is to be conducted for the office of President and for any of the regional member positions on the Board, the Returning Officer must:

- 4.1 as soon as practicable after 4.00 pm on the closure of nominations hold a ballot by lot to determine the order in which the name of each candidate is to appear on the ballot paper;
- 4.2 within 7 days of the close of nominations send to each representative eligible to vote a statement setting out the names of the representatives who have nominated, the positions for which they have nominated and the order in which candidates names will appear on the ballot paper; and
- 4.3 prepare separate ballot papers for each of the elections setting out the names of the candidates who have nominated.

5 Election of President

- 5.1 If only one representative nominates for the office of President, he or she will be declared elected by the Returning Officer.
- 5.2 If two or more representatives nominate for the office of President, an election must be conducted by the Returning Officer.

6 Marking of ballot papers for election of President

- 6.1 Where there are more than two candidates for the office of President, the representative must mark his or her vote on the ballot paper delivered to him or her by placing
 - 6.1.1 the figure 1 opposite the name of the candidate for whom he or she votes as his or her first preference; and
 - 6.1.2 the figures 2, 3, 4 (and so on as the case requires) opposite the respective names of all remaining candidates so as to indicate by numerical sequence the order of his or her preference for each candidate.
- 6.2 Where there are only two candidates a ballot paper will be deemed to be sufficiently marked if marked with the figure 1 so as to indicate the representative's first preference.
- 6.3 At any election where there are more than two candidates the requirements of this subclause will be deemed to be sufficiently complied with if the ballot paper is marked with the figures 1, 2, 3, 4, (and so on as the case requires) opposite the names of all the candidates on the ballot paper except one, and in any such case the representative will be deemed and taken to have given his or her last preference vote for the candidate opposite whose name no figure is placed.
- 6.4 A ballot paper must be rejected if it is not marked in the manner required.
- 6.5 If the election is conducted by attendance voting, each representative must within 30 minutes after the delivery of the ballot papers, place his or her ballot paper in the appropriate box provided by the Returning Officer.

7 Election Results for the office of President

- 7.1 If an election for the office of President has been conducted, the candidate who has received the greatest number of first preference votes, if that number constitutes an absolute majority of votes, is to be declared elected by the Returning Officer.
- 7.2 'Absolute majority of votes' means a number of votes greater than one-half of the total number of ballot papers (excluding ballot papers which are rejected) and if necessary, includes a vote by lot.
- 7.3 If no candidate has received an absolute majority of votes, the Returning Officer must
 - 7.3.1 arrange the ballot papers by placing in a separate parcel all those on which a first preference is indicated for the same candidate and preference votes are duly given for all (or all but one) of the remaining candidates, omitting ballot papers which are rejected; and
 - 7.3.2 declare the candidate who received the fewest first preference votes a defeated candidate; and

- Victoria Government Gazette
 - 7.3.3 distribute the ballot papers counted to the defeated candidate amongst the defeated candidates next in order of the voters' preference; and
 - 7.3.4 after the distribution, again ascertain the total number of votes given to each non-defeated candidate.
 - 7.4 The candidate who has then received the greatest number of votes, if that number constitutes an absolute majority of votes, is declared elected by the Returning Officer.
 - 7.5 If no candidate then has an absolute majority of votes, the process of declaring the candidate who has the fewest votes a defeated candidate and distributing the ballot papers counted to the defeated candidate amongst the non defeated candidates next in order of the voters' preference is to be repeated until one candidate has received an absolute majority of votes and is declared elected by the Returning Officer.
 - 7.6 If on any count two or more candidates have an equal number of votes and one of them has to be declared a defeated candidate, the result is to be determined by lot by the Returning Officer.
 - 7.7 If on a final count two candidates have an equal number of votes, the result is to be determined by lot by the Returning Officer.

8 Election of 12 regional members of the Board

- 8.1 If only one representative from a regional grouping of councils nominates for the position of Board member for that region he or she will be declared elected as the Board member for that region.
- 8.2 If two or more representatives from a regional grouping of councils nominate for the position of regional member of the Board, an election must be conducted by the Returning Officer.

9 Marking of ballot papers for election of regional member of the Board

- 9.1 Where an election is conducted for a position as a regional Board member, the representative must mark his or her vote on the ballot paper delivered to him or her by placing
 - 9.1.1 the figure 1 opposite the name of the candidate for whom he or she votes as his or her first preference; and
 - 9.1.2 the figures 2, 3, 4 (and so on as the case requires) opposite the respective names of all remaining candidates so as to indicate by numerical sequence the order of his or her preference for each candidate.
- 9.2 Where there are only two candidates a ballot paper will be deemed to be sufficiently marked if marked with the figure 1 so as to indicate the representative's first preference.
- 9.3 At any election where there are more than two candidates the requirements of this subclause will be deemed to be sufficiently complied with if the ballot paper is marked with the figures 1, 2, 3, 4, (and so on as the case requires) opposite the names of all the candidates on the ballot paper except one, and in any such case the representative will be deemed and taken to have given his or her last preference vote for the candidate opposite whose name no figure is placed.
- 9.4 A ballot paper must be rejected if it is not marked in the manner required.
- 9.5 If the election is conducted by attendance voting, each representative must within 30 minutes after the delivery of the ballot papers, place his or her ballot paper in the appropriate box provided by the Returning Officer.

10 Election results for regional members of the Board

10.1 If an election for any of the regional members of the Board has been conducted, the candidate who has received the greatest number of first preference votes, if that number constitutes an absolute majority of votes, is to be declared elected by the Returning Officer.

- 10.2 'Absolute majority of votes' means a number of votes greater than one-half of the total number of ballot papers (excluding ballot papers which are rejected) and if necessary, includes a vote by lot.
- 10.3 If no candidate has received an absolute majority of votes, the Returning Officer must
 - 10.3.1 arrange the ballot papers by placing in a separate parcel all those on which a first preference is indicated for the same candidate and preference votes are duly given for all (or all but one) of the remaining candidates, omitting ballot papers which are rejected; and
 - 10.3.2 declare the candidate who received the fewest first preference votes a defeated candidate; and
 - 10.3.3 distribute the ballot papers counted to the defeated candidate amongst the non defeated candidates next in order of the voters' preference; and
 - 10.3.4 after the distribution, again ascertain the total number of votes given to each non-defeated candidate.
- 10.4 The candidate who has then received the greatest number of votes, if that number constitutes an absolute majority of votes, is declared elected by the Returning Officer.
- 10.5 If no candidate then has an absolute majority of votes, the process of declaring the candidate who has the fewest votes a defeated candidate and distributing the ballot papers counted to the defeated candidate amongst the non-defeated candidates next in order of the voters' preference is to be repeated until one candidate has received an absolute majority of votes and is declared elected by the Returning Officer.
- 10.6 If on any count two or more candidates have an equal number of votes and one of them has to be declared a defeated candidate, the result is to be determined by lot by the Returning Officer.
- 10.7 If on a final count two candidates have an equal number of votes, the result is to be determined by lot by the Returning Officer.

11 Where representative has nominated for President and Board member

- 11.1 If any candidate declared elected as President has also nominated for a position as a regional member of the Board that nomination must be declared to be invalid and any vote expressed for him or her for that other position will be dealt with as if his or her name had not been on the ballot paper and the numbers indicating subsequent preferences had been altered accordingly.
- 11.2 In the event that such a procedure results in no candidate for a regional member of the Board, an election must be held for the vacancy.

Division 2 – Optional postal voting

12 Application of postal voting

- 12.1 If the Chief Executive Officer has determined that postal voting will apply to an election, then in addition to the notification required to be given a representative under clause 4, the Returning Officer must at least 10 days before the last day of voting, deliver or send to each representative who is entitled to vote at the election
 - 12.1.1 a postal vote certificate or declaration;
 - 12.1.2 a ballot paper for postal voting;
 - 12.1.3 a prepaid envelope for the return of the certificate and the ballot paper;
 - 12.1.4 instructions on how to vote;
 - 12.1.5 notice of how and when the ballot paper must be returned by; and
 - 12.1.6 any other material that the Returning Officer thinks is appropriate.
- 12.2 If an election is conducted by postal voting, a reference in the Rules to 'Election Day' is to be taken as a day fixed by the Chief Executive Officer as the last day on which postal ballots may be validly received by the Returning Officer.

13 Ballot papers and declaration envelopes

- 13.1 Subject to sub-clause 13.2, the Returning Officer must ensure that
 - 13.1.1 ballot papers are made of marked security paper; and
 - 13.1.2 declaration envelopes are opaque.
- 13.2 Each replacement declaration envelope issued under clause 14 must be identified as a replacement declaration envelope.
- 13.3 The Returning Officer must keep a record of all persons who have been issued with a postal voting envelope and must keep a record of all those who have returned a declaration envelope.

14 Issuing duplicate voting materials

- 14.1 If on or before the last day of voting a representative
 - 14.1.1 claims that he or she has lost or destroyed the declaration envelope or ballot paper or both; or
 - 14.1.2 claims that he or she has not received a postal ballot envelope; or
 - 14.1.3 satisfies the Returning Officer that he or she has spoilt the declaration envelope or ballot paper or both and returns the spoilt declaration envelope or spoilt ballot paper or both,

the Returning Officer must issue the voter with the appropriate replacement material.

- 14.2 If a spoilt declaration envelope or ballot paper has been returned under sub-clause 14.1.3 the Returning Officer must cancel the spoilt declaration envelope or ballot paper.
- 14.3 The Returning Officer may use any means of identifying declaration envelopes, ballot papers and postal ballot envelopes issued under this provision which he or she considers appropriate to comply with clause 16.

15 Requirements applying to representatives

- 15.1 A representative voting must
 - 15.1.1 mark his or her preference on the ballot paper in the manner required in this Schedule:
 - 15.1.2 sign his or her name on the declaration envelope in the place provided and complete any details where indicated;
 - 15.1.3 insert the completed ballot paper in the declaration envelope provided and seal the envelope; and
 - 15.1.4 place the declaration envelope in the prepaid envelope provided.
- 15.2 The representative must post or deliver the prepaid envelope containing the declaration envelope and ballot paper to the Returning Officer at the address on the envelope so as to reach the Returning Officer not later than 6.00 pm on the last day of voting or to deliver it to the address designated by the Returning Officer for that purpose not later than 6.00 pm on the last day of voting or by any other time specified by the Returning Officer.

16 Receipt of declaration envelopes

- 16.1 The Returning Officer may before the close of voting
 - 16.1.1 remove the declaration envelopes from the prepaid envelopes;
 - 16.1.2 separate the signed declaration envelopes from the unsigned declaration envelopes;
 - 16.1.3 disallow the unsigned declaration envelopes;
 - 16.1.4 arrange all signed declaration envelopes according to the appropriate regional grouping of councils.

284 G 6 7 February 2013

Victoria Government Gazette

- 16.2 The Returning Officer must
 - 16.2.1 identify the declaration envelopes issued under clause 14;
 - 16.2.2 satisfy himself or herself that
 - 16.2.2.1 the person voting was entitled to vote; or
 - 16.2.2.2 the person has not voted or attempted to vote more than once at the election; or
 - 16.2.2.3 the replacement declaration envelope was signed by the same person whose name appears on the list of representatives entitled to vote.
- 16.3 If the Returning Officer is satisfied he or she must accept the ballot paper within the declaration envelope for further scrutiny without opening the declaration envelope in which it is contained, but if the Returning Officer is not satisfied the ballot paper within the declaration envelope must be disallowed without opening the declaration envelope within which it is contained.
- 16.4 The Returning Officer must arrange all the declaration envelopes containing accepted ballot papers in accordance with sub-clause 16.1.4.

17 Security of declaration envelopes

- 17.1 The Returning Officer must ensure that all declaration envelopes received are placed in a properly secured postal ballot container until after the close of voting.
- 17.2 The Returning Officer must ensure that all declaration envelopes remain unopened until the close of voting.

18 Handling of election materials

- 18.1 The Returning Officer must as soon as practicable after the close of voting do the following in the presence of any scrutineers and any other person who is authorised –
 - 18.1.1 open the postal voting container and remove its contents;
 - 18.1.2 make up into separate parcels
 - 18.1.2.1 the records kept of persons who have returned a declaration envelope;
 - the spoilt ballot papers and the declaration envelopes;
 - 18.1.2.3 the unsigned declaration envelopes;
 - 18.1.2.4 the declaration envelopes disallowed under sub-clause 16.1.3 and 16.3;
 - 18.1.2.5 the unused declaration envelopes;
 - 18.1.3 open the signed declaration envelopes and take out the ballot papers;
 - 18.1.4 make up the signed declaration envelopes into separate parcels and ascertain the number of votes received by each candidate and the number of informal votes;
 - 18.1.5 set aside the informal ballot papers;
 - 18.1.6 make up into separate parcels
 - 18.1.6.1 the used ballot papers;
 - 18.1.6.2 the informal ballot papers;
 - 18.1.6.3 the unused ballot papers;
 - 18.1.7 prepare and sign a certificate which may be signed by any of the scrutineers specifying the number of
 - 18.1.7.1 votes received by each candidate;
 - 18.1.7.2 ballot papers set aside as informal;

- 18.1.8 make a statement on the outside of each parcel containing
 - 18.1.8.1 a description of its contents;
 - 18.1.8.2 the name of the council and the regional grouping of councils;
 - 18.1.8.3 the date of the count;
 - 18.1.8.4 enclose and properly fasten each parcel and sign the statement made under paragraph (h) and permit any scrutineer to sign the statement.
- 18.2 As far as practicable, the Returning Officer must ensure that the ballot paper is removed from a signed declaration envelope in a way that prevents any person from seeing how a representative voted.
- 18.3 The Returning Officer must as soon as practicable ascertain from the certificate prepared under sub-clause 18.1.7 the number of first preference votes given to each candidate.

19 Safe custody of ballot materials

- 19.1 The Returning Officer is responsible for the safe custody of postal ballot envelopes and all documents and materials, including during the adjournment of any count of the vote, and must –
 - 19.1.1 keep a record of the ballot papers that have been printed; and
 - 19.1.2 reconcile that number with the number of ballot papers which have been issued, spoilt or unused
- 19.2 The Returning Officer must
 - 19.2.1 certify the record kept under sub-clause 19.1. as being true and correct; and
 - 19.2.2 submit the record to the Association as soon as practicable after election day.

Municipal Association of Victoria SCHEDULE 3

Regulation of proceedings (Rule 27)

1. Definitions

In this Schedule, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires –

'Member' means and includes any representative appointed under clause 3 of the Rules, or in his or her absence, any substitute representative who has been appointed or any person appointed by the Board to a committee.

2. Application of Parliamentary Procedures

Where the Rules do not make provision for any matter, the members may determine by a majority of votes the procedure to apply to the particular meeting of the Association.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

- 3.1. A copy of the minutes of the preceding meeting of the State Council must be sent to the members at least a day before the meeting, or in the case of any other meeting, must be sent to the members at least 48 hours before the meeting.
- 3.2. The minutes of any meeting are to be confirmed at the next following meeting of the State Council, Board or committee to which they relate and are to be the first business dealt with at that meeting.
- 3.3. If a copy of the minutes of the preceding meeting has not been delivered within the period specified in sub-clause 3.1., members will be permitted to read the minutes prior to the confirmation of such minutes.
- 3.4. No discussion will be permitted on the contents of the minutes except as to their accuracy as a record of proceedings.
- 3.5. When the minutes have been confirmed by the meeting they will be signed by the Chairperson.

4. Order of Business

The order of business at the meeting will be the order in which the business stands in the notice of the meeting, unless the members present agree to alter it.

5. Meeting Protocol

- 5.1. Any member wishing to make a motion or amendment or take part in discussion on any matter or subject will address the Chairperson and must not be interrupted unless called to order, when he or she must sit down until the member (if any) calling to order has been heard and the question of order disposed of, when the member making the motion or amendment or taking part in the discussion may proceed with the subject.
- 5.2. Any other person in attendance at any meeting may take part in discussion only at the discretion of the chairperson of the meeting but may not move a motion or amendment or vote on any question.

6. Proposing Motions or Amendments

- 6.1. Any member wishing to propose an original motion or amendment must state the nature of the motion or amendment before he or she addresses the meeting.
- 6.2. No motion or amendment may be withdrawn except where leave of the meeting has been given.
- 6.3. No motion or amendment may be discussed or put to the vote unless it has been seconded.
- 6.4. A member moving a motion will be held to have spoken on the matter, but a member merely seconding a motion will not be held to have spoken to it.

- Victoria Government Gazette
 - 6.5. If two or more members rise to speak at the same time, the Chairperson will decide who is entitled to priority.
 - 6.6. No member may speak a second time on the same question, unless entitled to reply or to ask a question of clarification or to give an explanation when he or she has been misrepresented or misunderstood.

7. Submission of Motions

If required by the Chairperson, all motions (whether original motions or amendments) will be put in writing, signed by the mover and delivered to the Chief Executive Officer immediately on their being moved or seconded.

8. Dealing with amendments

- 8.1. No second or subsequent amendment (whether on an original proposition or on an amendment) will be taken into consideration until the previous amendment has been dealt with and finalised.
- 8.2. If any words of an original question are rejected, the insertion of other proposed words will form the next question, whereupon any further amendment to insert other words may be moved.
- 8.3. If an amendment is lost, then a second amendment may be moved to the question to which the first amendment was moved, but only one amendment may be submitted to the meeting for discussion at a time.

9. Right of Reply

The mover of every original motion, but not of any amendment, will have a right of reply immediately after which the question will be put from the chair, except no member will be allowed to speak more than once on the same question unless permission is given to explain or the attention of the chair is called to a point of order.

10. Time limits

- 10.1. The original mover of a motion will not speak for more than four (4) minutes and all other speakers will be allowed not more than three (3) minutes to speak on any motion or amendment.
- 10.2. Any speaker may be granted an extension of time for a further three (3) minutes upon a motion being moved, seconded and carried by the meeting, but no discussion will be allowed upon a motion to grant an extension of time.

11. Adjournment of meeting

- 11.1. No discussion will be allowed on any motion for adjournment of the meeting.
- 11.2. If the question for adjournment is lost, the subject then under consideration or the next subject on the business paper, or any other matter that may be allowed precedence, will be discussed before any subsequent motion for adjournment is made.

12. Enforcement of Standing Orders

A member may require the enforcement of any standing order by directing the Chairperson's attention to any failure to observe it.

13. Points of Order and Members' Conduct

- 13.1. When called upon to decide on points of order or practice, the Chairperson will state the provision, rule or practice which the Chairperson deems applicable to the case without discussing or commenting on it, and the Chairperson's decision as to order or practice in each case is final.
- 13.2. No member may digress from the subject matter of the question under discussion or comment on the words used by any other member in a previous debate; and all imputations of improper motives and all personal reflections on members will be deemed out of order.

13.3. Whenever any member makes use of disorderly expression or one which is capable of being applied offensively to any other member, the member so offending will be required by the Chairperson to withdraw the expression and to make an acceptable apology to the meeting.

14. Voting Entitlements at Meetings

At any meeting of the Association other than a meeting of State Council, members will vote by a show of hands and the Chairperson in taking the sense of the meeting will put the question first in the affirmative, then in the negative, and the result of the vote will be recorded in the minutes.

15. Voting Entitlements at State Council Meetings

- 15.1 At any meeting of State Council, voting entitlements on any motion or amendment will be:
 - 15.1.1 the representative of each participating member council paying an annual subscription to the Association which exceeds the mid point between the lowest and highest subscriptions will have two (2) votes; and
 - 15.1.2 the representative of each participating member council paying an annual subscription to the Association which does not exceed that mid point will have one (1) vote;
- 15.2 and questions will be decided on the basis of the votes of the representatives voting. Should there be an equality of votes on any question before a meeting, the Chairperson has the casting vote.

16. Absence of a Quorum

If debate on any motion which has been moved or seconded is interrupted by the absence of a quorum the debate may be resumed at the next meeting.

17. Suspension of Procedures

Any one or more of the clauses to this Schedule may be suspended by resolution for a special purpose at any meeting.

Victoria Government Gazette

G 6 7 February 2013

289

Municipal Association of Victoria SCHEDULE 4

Nomination Form (Clause 1 of Schedule 2)

Nomination for election of Board Members held on		
I, the undersigned		
Being the representative of the		
(insert name of council)		
do hereby nominate		
(insert name of councillor in full)		
as a candidate for election to the following position:		
[] President		
Board member for theregion		
(insert name of region)		
(Mark with an 'X' the election for which the candidate is nominated)		
Signature		
And I, the above-named		
(insert name in full)		
consent to the nomination and declare that I am the appointed		
representative of		
(insert name of council)		
Signature		

NOTE: A separate nomination form must be completed and delivered to the Returning Officer for each election for which a candidate is to be nominated.



A future focused MAV——



Contents

7

Foreword

From the MAV President



Background

What are the MAV Rules?
What Has Happened So Far?
What Have We Learnt?
What Happens Next?
The Decision-Making Journey



Rules Affecting the Office of MAV President

Nominating for President
The President's Term in Office

The President's Tenure



Rules Affecting the MAV Board

Electing a Board

Skill Based Board Members to Consider

The Size of the Board

Term and Tenure of Board Members

Interim Board Arrangements

Board Performance and Accountability

16

Rules Affecting State Council

State Council Making Policy

Plural or Weighted Voting

Who May Submit Matters for Consideration at State Council?

High Standards of Ethical Behaviour

Councils Discontinuing Their MAV Financial Membership

Other MAV Rules Changes

Responding to this Directions Paper

22

Summary of Directions

MAV RULES REVIEW 2021-22: DIRECTIONS PAPER



Foreword



From the MAV President

We are pleased to release this Directions Paper that signals the commencement of Phase 2 of the review of the MAV Rules, on behalf of the MAV Board.

The MAV Rules is an important legal document that defines how the organisation runs, governs and operates. The review and update of the Rules aims to ensure the MAV is fit-for-purpose and future-focused. As proposed in the initial Discussion Paper, the MAV's success will depend on demonstrating we are:

- A strong sector leader
- · Modern and contemporary
- Credible
- Well governed.

We particularly wish to thank those who responded to the Discussion Paper, those who participated in the Phase 1 consultation forums, provided feedback and submissions. We acknowledge and have actively listened to the range of views.

The proposed reforms outlined in this Directions Paper have been informed by research, feedback and submissions received as part of Phase 1. Our conversations have confirmed many of the issues covered by the Rules dovetail, making them somewhat complex and interdependent.

Rules that relate to the President, the Board and State Council are key issues considered at length in this Directions Paper. These Rules are critical to the way we lead, manage our affairs and work in partnership with and for the sector. This Directions Paper seeks to provide some clarity on a way forward on these key issues and the required Rule changes under consideration.

We are committed to a comprehensive consultation and engagement process. As with Phase 1, consultation on this Directions Paper will include further opportunities for engagement through a second round of forums and calling for submissions. I encourage all those with an interest to have their say.

At the MAV State Council in June, the feedback from the Directions Paper and any further refinements to proposed Rule changes will be considered by MAV Representatives, who will provide further direction to the Board. Then the final phase, drafting of the Rules to be considered for adoption at a Special State Council meeting in September this year.

Again, thank you to all who have contributed to the review of the MAV Rules to date. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming round table discussions and receiving written submissions in response to this Paper.

David Clark MAV President



Background

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council on 21 May 2021 resolved to review the MAV Rules.

The MAV's current Rules were approved by an Order in Council dated 5 February 2013. This review will be the first comprehensive Rules review undertaken since 2006.

Rule changes have tended to be incremental. That has led to a set of Rules that no longer serves the MAV well.

What are the MAV Rules?

The MAV is established by the *Municipal Association Act 1907*. The MAV is not a Council and is governed by its own legislation. The MAV's operations are subject to normal review mechanisms of the State, like the Victorian Auditor General. Also, the MAV is subject to prudential regulation required by the Federal *Corporations Act 2001*. This is because of the MAV's insurance business. The MAV entity can be described as something between a corporation (in terms of its independence) and a statutory body (in terms of the accountability mechanisms applied to it).

It is the *Municipal Association Act 1907* which empowers the MAV to make Rules. The Act says:

"— It shall be competent for the Association with the approval of the Governor in Council to make rules (a) for the management of the association; (b) for the regulation of its proceedings; (c) for fixing the amount of the subscription to be paid annually to the Association by each municipality; (d) for the regulation and management of and for fixing the rate of contributions to the Municipal Officers Fidelity Guarantee Fund and terms and conditions upon which the benefit of such fund shall be available; and (e) generally for all matters whatsoever affecting the management of the Association not inconsistent with the laws of Victoria."

This power to make Rules is a broad one. Any change to the Rules requires a State Council resolution. The resolution must be carried in two ways by:

- a majority of votes (noting the plural voting system); and
- 2. 60% of the representatives of participating member councils voting in favour.

Any changes to the Rules require the approval of the Governor in Council. That means securing positive support from the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions through to the Minister for Local Government

The MAV's current Rules are on the MAV website at **mav.asn.au**



What Has Happened So Far?

On 22 November 2021 the MAV released a Discussion Paper entitled "2021-22 Rules Review - A future focused MAV". The Discussion Paper outlined a range of possibilities for different MAV Rules. The Discussion Paper is on the MAV website at mav.asn.au

An extensive consultative process took place between November 2021 and February 2022. Working with the President, the Board and MAV Management Executive, the consulting team engaged with MAV representatives, Mayors, Councillors, CEOs, and governance officers. The purpose of the engagement was to generate conversations about possible Rule changes. Those conversations concentrated on seven key aspects of change:

- MAV Rules need to be modern, clear and more widely understood.
- MAV Rules need to address oversights and unintended consequences of the current Rules.
- MAV Rules need to better enable the MAV to fulfil its role and function.
- MAV Rules should respond to some principles or a framework that supports the MAV to do its job well. The Rules Review Discussion Paper described that framework as:
 - A strong sector leader highly influential, strongly supported by its participating Councils and respected across a wide constituency.
 - Modern and contemporary an adopter of best practice and nimble and agile in the way it responds and adjusts to change and opportunity.
 - Credible well informed, highly skilled and capable of arguing complex issues with rigour, persuasion and timely data.
 - Well governed seek high performance, be highly accountable to its members and set a shining example of ethical practice.

- MAV Rules must provide sound arrangements to elect and support the role of the MAV President.
- MAV Rules must provide sound arrangements to elect and support the role of the MAV Board.
- MAV Rules must enable the MAV State Council to be an effective forum for creating local government policy.

The consultative process included:

- 170 people representing 55 Councils taking part in online briefings and small round table conversations
- 5 council briefings attended by the consulting team.
- 34, or 43% of MAV's member Councils providing a submission.

What Have We Learnt?

Responses to the Discussion Paper have been reported in detail throughout this Directions Paper. Where possible, feedback has been synthesized, providing a justification for a Rule change option.

Through the consultative process we know there is strong, often unanimous support for new Rules that:

- Address the perceived weaknesses in the current Rules
- Respond to the principles or framework put forward.
- Make important changes affecting the office of MAV President, the MAV Board and the State Council.

There is a real appetite in the local government sector for changes that will help the MAV be effective.

"

Glen Eira suggested another key principle was important. Council said:

"In particular – the themes of strong sector leader, modern and contemporary, credible and well governed – as outlined in the Discussion Paper are supported. The only addition we would suggest is incorporating an element of value – the MAV needs to deliver value to

the sector both financially and in the context of outcomes. In terms of outcome value, the advocacy, lobbying and representational role of the MAV must deliver tangible strategy, policy or funding shifts on the part of Government at both State and Federal levels."



What Happens Next?

This Directions Paper represents the **second phase of four key phases** in the Rules Review process. Those phases are:

- A Discussion Paper canvassing possible Rule changes and seeking sector and stakeholder responses.
- 2. **A Directions Paper** clarifying the kind of Rule changes contemplated.
- State Council deliberations deciding on the matters set out in the Directions Paper and providing clear advice to the MAV Board.
- Revised Rules and a Special State Council Meeting scheduled for September 2022 voting on the new Rules.

The sector and stakeholders will be consulted in this Directions Paper in the same way as the earlier Discussion Paper. MAV representatives, Mayors, Councillors, CEOs and governance offices will be invited to take part in online round table discussions to consider this Directions Paper. These will occur during April and May 2022.

The MAV and its consulting team will also continue to consult with a range of other key stakeholders about this Directions Paper. These stakeholders include Local Government Victoria, the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, the Victorian Electoral Commission and other relevant state agencies

The MAV representatives will participate in the June State Council. Sufficient time will be set aside for MAV representatives to provide clear direction on Rules change preferences to the Board.

The MAV is on schedule to complete this decision making journey.





Rules Affecting the Office of MAV President

The Discussion Paper raised several important issues in relation to the office of the MAV President. Those issues were all predicated on the belief that the MAV President's role is critical to MAV success. The role and function of the President is fundamental to the MAV achieving sector leadership, organisational credibility and good governance.

Respondents to the Discussion Paper acknowledged the importance of the role. Submissions supported the idea that new MAV Rules should set out the role and function of the MAV President. Rather than relying on a Board protocol for that task.

The Discussion Paper raised questions about aspects of the office of the MAV President relating to:

- Qualifications required to nominate for the office of MAV President;
- · The length of a President's term in office;
- The tenure for a person holding the office of MAV President; and
- Qualifications necessary for a MAV President to stay in office and complete their term.

Nominating for President

Current MAV Rules require a councillor can only nominate for the office of MAV President if they are the current nominated MAV representative for their Council. 77% of respondents to the Discussion Paper supported that requirement. There were also submissions supporting very different arrangements.

Some argued any sitting Victorian councillor should be eligible to nominate for the office of MAV President. Two key reasons supported this view.

- A 'good' MAV representative might not necessarily make a 'good' President. There are different skill sets involved.
- 2. The MAV President should be elected from a competitive and diverse candidate field.

Those supporting this approach also suggested the practicalities of such a change. For example, requiring nominations to only come from Councils and limiting each Council to one nomination. Another, requiring nominations to come from nominated Council representatives and requiring multiple representatives to support a nomination. Avoiding a "Melbourne Cup" field of candidates, especially when only seventy-nine votes would be cast, seems desirable.

Other submitters suggested that the Board might elect the President. This initiative aims to ensure high levels of trust and respect between the Board and President. Furthermore, a "Board elected" President would be more likely to produce a strong synergy between desirable leadership styles and the strategic intent of the organisation.

These models for electing a MAV President are worthy alternatives. However, the quality of the links between MAV representatives, the collective body of State Council and the MAV President are important. The current arrangement recognises the quality of those linkages. First, the MAV is a membership-based organisation. Drawing a President from the ranks of the MAV's nominated member representatives reaffirms the central importance of the membership. The representatives elect one of their own to lead the organisation. Second, to secure the support of their own Council as MAV representative is a reasonable preselection process. A process that probably enhances the credibility of the Presidential election.

The preferred option is to retain current arrangements and require councillors nominating for the office of MAV President to be the nominated MAV representative of their Council.



The President's Term in Office

Current MAV Rules provide for a two year Presidential term. Respondents to the Discussion Paper were almost equally divided over whether a two or four year term might be best.

On the one hand, some saw merit in a four year term, synchronised with Local Government General Elections. They observed that a longer term provides more time for building the relationships, networks, and trust. Important ingredients in influential intergovernmental relations.

On the other hand, many respondents saw merit in the two year term. They took several perspectives including:

- A four year term is a lot to ask from a sitting Councillor and, may create a disincentive for those willing to seek office.
- A four year term would be less than satisfactory in the event of electing a mediocre (or worse) President.
- There was no reason to suspect that a well performed President over a two year term would not be re-elected.
- Furthermore, the Presidential election process is not complicated or costly.

The Discussion Paper canvassed relatively recent events where the office of the President had been "weaponised" by the Council where the President was a sitting Councillor by withdrawing financial membership from the MAV. By withdrawing from financial membership such a Council hoped to force the President out of office. Whilst it would be open to make Rules that allowed such a President to continue in office until the end of their term, credibility issues arise in such circumstances where the MAV President sits at a Council which is no longer a participating MAV member. Throughout the consultation process it became clear to seek a solution which can provide security for the office of President without a loss of personal or organisation credibility.

The answer might lie in **matching** the length of the MAV Presidential term to the length of a Council's financial membership. This would negate tactical withdrawal of financial membership and be inconsequential to the MAV President's term in office. All Council members would be financial members for the entirety of the Presidential term. It would, of course, need member Councils to "sign up" for two or four-year terms of membership. Membership for

more than one year should be regarded a reasonable arrangement. The Discussion Paper made the very point that membership of an important peak body should not be a year by year consideration. Membership is a long-term commitment and a partnership.

This has been a very persuasive factor in reaching a preferred option in relation to the term in office for the MAV President. It provides a sensible solution to a problem that must be addressed. A two year membership commitment would need to be accompanied by a two year Presidential term in office. And, notwithstanding the sound arguments for a four-year presidential term, a four year term matched by four year membership commitment is a "bridge too far" for many member Councils.

The preferred option is to continue two year presidential terms in office but to change the MAV Rules to require member Councils to commit to two year memberships, payable in two annual instalments.

The President's Tenure

The Discussion Paper suggested a cap on a President serving consecutive terms in office is consistent with contemporary practice. It provides an opportunity for renewal and reinvigoration. A vast majority of respondents to the Discussion Paper agreed with that proposition. Choosing a suitable cap for tenure is somewhat arbitrary but eight years (four two year terms) seems about right.

The preferred option is to change MAV Rules to cap the tenure of a MAV President at four consecutive two year terms.



Rules Affecting the MAV Board

Electing a Board

The Discussion Paper pointed to the central nature of the MAV Board - it is a representative board. The Discussion Paper said:

"...Current Board membership consists of 12
Councillors elected from small groupings of Councils.
It is a highly representative Board. When electing
Board members, the current Rules require the Board
divide the State into 12 regional groupings. The
strength of the current "regional groupings" Rule is it
ensures a geographic distribution of Board members
around Victoria. This geographic distribution enables
the MAV Board to better understand what issues are
important all over the State.

The weakness in this arrangement is it creates an obligation for Board members to represent the interests of their region at the MAV. And the practice of that representation has too little to do with conventional Board members' key responsibilities.

There are important differences between a functional and representative approach to board membership. A functional approach to board membership requires members to be selected (elected) for the skills they bring to the board to address the strategic priorities of the organisation. A representative approach sees board members elected to represent the primary stakeholders of the organisation."

The Discussion Paper asked respondents to consider moving away from regional groupings. Instead electing Board members "at large" and equally from the rural and metropolitan areas. The proposal sought to create a board more concerned with the issues that conventional boards address.

There was only modest support for this proposal from respondents to the Discussion Paper. One third of respondents, mostly metropolitan councils favoured the idea. Many rural councils were not in favour of the proposal. Smaller rural councils highly value the idea that their opportunities and challenges can gain prominence through their regional Board member. They do not want to put that idea at risk.

Although this concept of "at large" elections was always developed to enable a more functional board, the consultation process revealed how "at large" elections might play out. Those MAV representatives seeking election to the Board would almost certainly canvass votes from Councils in their geographic region. That is exactly how candidates would initially seek support, thereby continuing to create something of an obligation and a responsibility to represent the regional interest.

"

Verbatim comments from round table conversations about the Board

"The current Board model allows for Board members to represent their own Regions and then also make decisions and contributions based on the whole sector."

"Skill based members are a good idea."

"Perhaps a gender quota should be considered by the Board."

"It is important that representative regions remain- it is the best way of filtering the information into the Board."



That likelihood suggests that "at large" elections may not diminish the representative nature of the MAV Board. The introduction of a proportional electoral model to go with "at large" elections would have assisted the process. It would probably create a different type of representation. But it is difficult to understand all of the nuances that might accompany such a change.

The current regional model can also be improved by readdressing the membership of each of the regional groupings, particularly in the rural areas. In addition, fewer regional groupings are likely to produce a Board that is less focussed on representation and more focussed on a functional approach.

Changing the Board is a significant matter. It should not be "let go" lightly. The responses to the Discussion Paper on this matter suggest that most rural Councils are strongly in favour of continuing with the current model. Reponses from metropolitan Councils were more encouraging.

Accordingly, this is an important issue which deserves further consideration and consultation during the Directions Paper phase of the Rules Review and two options are put forward for comment.

Options to consider

Option 1: Maintain an equal number of regional groupings of rural and metropolitan Councils for the purpose of electing MAV representatives to the MAV Board.

Option 2: Maintain an equal number of Board members from rural and metropolitan members, and conduct "at large" elections, using a proportional representation electoral model in the metropolitan area and maintain regional groupings for regional and rural Victoria.

"

City of Melbourne Council offered a strong conceptual analysis of the current board arrangements. Council said:

"The Board in its current structure attempts to be both a representative body and a functional board governing the organisation.

- The State Council is a purely representative body and it is not necessary for the Board to also attempt to be a purely representative body.
- Reinforcing the representational roles of the State Council, while removing the rigid representational roles of the Board, may improve the Board's functional responsibilities and its ability to maturely and collaboratively govern the organisation and provide leadership on matters important to the sector.
- The Board's purely representational structure has necessarily required the creation of appointed skills-based subsidiary boards to manage the insurance and work care arms.
- This structure facilitates a large number of paid Directors for one organisation, despite a relatively small number of staff and annual turnover.
- The Board's single-member electorates do not naturally facilitate a diverse Board overall, in terms of politics, gender and other characteristics."



Skill-Based Board Members

There was sound support for a proposal to appoint a small number of skill-based Board members. Three-quarters of respondents were supportive of the idea. Submissions referred to the proposal enhancing the Board's commercial capabilities. Some submissions noted the presence of some skill-based Board members would, of itself, help transition from a representative to a functional Board.

Some submitters suggested that any independent Board members should not be vested with voting rights. That point of view is understandable from the perspective that independent members would come to their Board role very differently to the elected Board members. Other respondents drew attention to the very significant skills retained by the MAV on the subsidiary Boards and Committees the MAV has established to oversee the insurance business and the audit and risk management functions. These independent appointed members of the MAV subsidiary Boards and Committees are very experienced and provide the MAV Board with high quality advice. Furthermore, the MAV Board is comprised only of Councillors who are normally very familiar with the importance of retaining expertise and seeking sound advice from experienced people to inform decisions.

A proposal which adds Board members to an already large Board needs to be carefully considered. It should be noted that there has been strong support from respondents to the Discussion Paper for a smaller Board! A smaller elected Board with two additional skill based appointed members would only result in a Board the same size as is currently the case.

Whilst there is clearly potential for independent members to add value to Board deliberations it would seem desirable to retain the current arrangements for involving skill-based members on the MAV's subsidiary Boards and pursuing a smaller, elected MAV Board. A sort of "hybrid" Board, with both elected and appointed members might potentially create unnecessary confusion.

The preferred option is to retain current arrangements for all members of the MAV Board to be elected members.



The Size of the Board

The Discussion Paper drew attention to the current size of the MAV Board. A President and twelve Board members is a considerable number for an organisation with a maximum of seventynine members. Two-thirds of responders to the Discussion Paper favoured a smaller Board.

The regional groupings model attempts to create groupings of common interest and shared socio-economic links. However, it is not always possible to achieve that outcome. The regional groupings in the rural areas vary somewhat in the number of Councils they contain. The six regional groupings in rural Victoria are:



The results are imperfect but do strive to create regional groupings of **common interest**.

Some submitters suggested very different models. For example, the MAV groupings could follow Victorian Legislative Council regions. Victoria has eight Legislative Council regions (and elects five members from each Region). But, to ensure there is no voting "gerrymander" caused by the regional boundaries the State must include large parts of rural and metropolitan areas into one region. Nor do Legislative Council regional boundaries align well with municipal districts.

For the MAV to continue with regional groupings, particularly in rural Victoria, it should be understood that the main benefit of creating groupings to elect Board members is to enable Councils who share interests to have those interests represented at the Board table. Creating a regional grouping only for the purpose of creating an electorate for a Board member, without those shared interests, would be unhelpful.

Given the support for a smaller Board the current six regional groupings in both the metropolitan and rural areas should be reduced to five groupings to produce five Board members from both metropolitan and rural members. (Noting of course, that the metropolitan area might proceed on the basis of 'at large" elections and would be required to elect five Board members.)

Any smaller number than five elected Board members is very difficult to achieve under a regional groupings model if some level of shared common interests are to remain a feature of each grouping.

The preferred option is to reduce the number of elected Board members from twelve to ten (not including the President).



Term and Tenure of Board Members

The Discussion Paper suggested:

- A four year Board term might replace the current two year term to create stability and continuity. This might better enable Board members to make a stronger contribution to the governance of the MAV.
- In the interests of renewal and reinvigoration, a cap for consecutive Board terms might be established.

On the matter of the Board term, respondents to the Discussion Paper were almost equally divided in opinion over a two year or four year term. On the one hand, a four year Board term would enable Board members to bring a deeper understanding about the MAV's strategic imperatives to their role. It usually takes about six months to complete the induction and learning processes which equip Board members to make considered contributions to the governance of the MAV.

Many member Councils regard board membership as an "opportunity" for Councillors to broaden their experience and to make a contribution at a different level. These are two, somewhat competing notions. The notion of stability and continuity is to contribute to good governance at the MAV. The notion of an opportunity for Councillors is to make a contribution at a state level. Both notions have merit.

In considering the ideal Board term it is also important to understand the connection between the length of the Board term and the role played by Councillors who have been elected to the Board but who have been **replaced** as their Council's nominated Council representative. Under current Rules the Board member who is no longer their Council's nominated MAV representative can complete their term on the Board.

The Discussion Paper sought views from respondents about whether the "dis-endorsed" Board member should be able to complete their Board term or should a casual vacancy be declared. Sixty percent of respondents favoured the Board member completing their Board term, forty percent thought a casual vacancy should be declared and an election held for that Board position.

Once again, it would seem there are competing notions at work here. A Board member, who is no longer the Council's nominated MAV representative can currently complete the Board term. Thereby creating the stability and continuity that good governance often requires. Alternatively, MAV credibility might be severely tested if the MAV Board, operating on, say, a four year Board term, was eventually comprised of several, or worse, a majority of members who were no longer their Councils nominated MAV representative.

Member Councils could solve this "problem" by appointing MAV representatives for the whole of a Board term. That is a two year or perhaps four year nomination. Perhaps Councils would be unwilling to make four year representative appointments. It also should be noted that an increasing number of

Councils are recognising the importance of the MAV and are appointing the elected Mayor of the day as their Council's nominated MAV representative. Currently, 49% of MAV representatives are Mayors.

49% of MAV representatives are Mayors

Finally, on the matter of a cap limit on consecutive Board terms. Respondents to the Discussion Paper were almost unanimous in their support for such a cap. There was less agreement about how many terms should be capped. The ideal stay on a commercial board has often been the subject of analysis and reports. The Australian Institute of Company Directors says Board tenure limits of 9-12 years are common. It would be inappropriate to draw a direct parallel between the MAV Board and those operating in corporations across the country. In the corporate sector tenure on the Board is more often governed by individual and collective performance at the Board level. Arbitrary tenure limits are somewhat controversial for corporate Australia.

Board turnover, diversity and skills balance are increasingly important.



"

Darebin City Council had a clear view about the need for an interim board. Council said:

"In the interests of stability and orderly transitions, board members (including President) who do not recontest the Council elections, or who are not re-elected should be able to see out their period on the Board. We note that once serving on the board, a director has a fiduciary duty to that board

and that this duty remains independently of their role as a councillor. This rule could only apply for the period between the declaration of Council election results and the election of a new MAV board."

For the MAV there is another issue which impacts the tenure of Board members. It is necessary for the MAV to develop Board members who have the talent, knowledge and experience to represent Victorian local government at the national level. Victorian advocacy through the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is important and requires skilled representation. ALGA is a forum where Victorian local government needs to be highly influential. It often takes time to build the experience at an MAV Board level necessary to be successful on a national stage. There is a sound argument to say that we should err on the conservative or generous side when applying a cap to Board service. And, as with the cap suggested for the office of MAV President, any change in MAV Rules applying a Presidential or a Board service cap would not be retrospective. The clock would only begin ticking on the proclamation of the new MAV Rule.

Finally, there is a strong case to align the Board term with the Presidential term. If the reasoning outlined in this Directions Paper for two year Presidential terms is sound, then much of the same logic can be extended to the Board term. A longer Board term (e.g. 4 years) could create a situation where a President seeking re-election would face an election and the Board members would not. Board members can, of course, stand for the office of President. Any inconsistency between the term for the President and the term for the Board has the potential to create an unhealthy political dynamic between the Board and the President.

The preferred option is

- Two year Board terms, capped at four (4) consecutive terms.
- Board members who are no longer their Council's MAV representative may complete their term of office.
- Councils be encouraged to reappoint their MAV representative when that representative has been elected to the Board.

Interim Board Arrangements

The Discussion Paper referred to current MAV Rules which establish an Interim Board (and Interim President) for the period between Council General Elections and the declaration of MAV President and Board elections in the following March. The Interim Board is constrained in its decision making. For example, a **unanimous** vote is required on "significant" decisions.

The MAV Rules define "significant" decisions relating to:

- A change in the policy position of the MAV;
- Entering into contracts with the value of \$200,00 or more;
- The expenditure of unbudgeted funds; or
- · The employment or remuneration of the CEO.



80% of respondents to the Discussion Paper favoured simplified arrangements. Participants noted that the MAV continues to operate during the four months between Council and MAV elections. It needs to take a "business as usual" approach

80% favoured simplified arrangements

as far as is possible. Important decisions are made particularly in relation to the MAV's commercial activities like procurement and insurance services.

The key issue at stake during this period is whether sufficient members of the Board have been re-elected as Councillors. If a reasonable proportion of the Board have been re-elected it would seem that there is no need for unanimity on any Board decisions. For the purposes of this Directions Paper it is expected that the timetable for both Council General Elections and the MAV Presidential and Board elections will broadly continue around the current dates - Council elections in late October and MAV elections in early March immediately following. Some consideration was given to the possibility of shortening this "in-between period" but given regular issues associated with declaring elections in local government and the period taking in the Christmas and New Year break, it seems likely that this period of about four months will remain a necessary feature of arrangements.

It should also be noted that the current MAV Rules are silent on an unlikely but plausible scenario where a very small number, or indeed none, of the immediate past Board are re-elected as Councillors and are able to form the Board. It clearly raises questions about how the MAV would be governed in such circumstances. The new MAV Rules will include provisions to address this scenario.

It should further be noted that, in the event that the immediate Past President is no longer a Councillor, current Rules provide that the Interim Board **elect** one of their Board members to be the Interim President. It does seem more logical that, in such circumstances, the President, for the period only between the declaration of local government General Elections and the MAV Presidential election, should be the Immediate Past Deputy President from the same general grouping of the immediate Past President (Metropolitan or Rural) and if that immediate Past Deputy President was no longer a Councillor, the other Immediate Past Deputy President. If both of the Immediate Past Deputy Presidents were no longer a Councillor, the Board would elect a President.

The preferred options are:

- The concept of an Interim Board be abolished.
- The concept of a "significant decision", as defined in the current MAV Rules be abolished and such matters be resolved by a simple majority vote.
- 3. In the event that the Immediate Past
 President is no longer a Councillor, the
 MAV President (for the period between
 local government General Elections
 being declared and the MAV Presidential
 elections) should be the Immediate Past
 Deputy President from the same general
 grouping of the Immediate Past President
 (Metropolitan or Rural). If that Immediate
 Past Deputy President was no longer
 a Councillor, the other Immediate Past
- Deputy President would be appointed as President. If both Immediate Past Deputy Presidents were no longer a Councillor, the Board would elect a President from the remaining members of the Board.
- 4. MAV Rules be amended to make suitable provisions for securing a Board quorum in the event that fewer than a quorum of members of the Board, who were in office immediately prior to the Council General Elections, have been re-elected as Councillors or have not resigned their positions as MAV President or Board members.



Board Performance and Accountability

The Discussion Paper referred to the desirability of the Board's current "Board Performance and Assessment Policy" being located in MAV Rules. There was unanimous agreement about this proposal from respondents. Several submissions also suggested, for accountability purposes, that the results of such performance assessments be reported annually.

The preferred option is MAV Rules be changed to require the Board to annually undertake a review of Board performance and to include the results of such reviews in the MAV's Annual Report.



Rules Affecting State Council

State Council Making Policy

The Discussion Paper argued that reforming the way State Council operates is overdue. For State Council to be an authentic and energising forum it will be necessary to make changes that can **elevate the impact of State Council**.

The Discussion Paper highlighted weaknesses in current arrangements, including:

- Member policy proposals that are parochial or peripheral.
- Member proposals that have little or no connection with the current MAV Strategy.
- Too many member proposals on matters that fall short of meeting the threshold of "State-wide significance to local government".
- Member proposals that dilute what MAV can achieve with a strategic approach and create an unsustainable burden on limited MAV resources.

The Discussion Paper also suggested a more **visionary** approach to the role and function of the State Council. It said:

"It would also seem there is an important role for State Council in the development and monitoring of the MAV's Four Year Strategy. For several years the arrangements made for State Council have had a wider scope than debating member propositions. In many ways the entire event has been a combination of policy forum, conference and a celebration. All of these ingredients are important enough. It could be argued, however, that State Council plays too small a role in effective stewardship around the MAV Strategy. Can the Strategy's implementation and continuing relevance be more regularly evaluated through expert information and analysis at State Council? Whilst members are regularly exposed to high quality guest speakers in the "conference" mode of State Council, this would entail a more targeted use of expert participants and stakeholders to inform and alert members to emerging trends impacting the MAV's strategic approach. This kind of format would encourage members to bring to the Board's attention what they see and hear from contemporary thinkers about the key issues being addressed through the MAV Strategy. A more dynamic, less insular model is one that may improve policy and strategy development and elevate the impact of State Council.

State Council Meetings that could process quality information into opportunities for the Board to evaluate, and a Board that has a **stronger mandate** to develop policy, monitor and evaluate strategy implementation and provide accountable reporting to the State Council, seem to represent a **better balance or partnership** between the two MAV organs that could advance the interests of the MAV."

"

Some verbatim comments from the round table conversations about reforming State Council.

"Clarify who the MAV represents - Councils or people? Need to figure out whether it is population or the number of member Councils that is the basis of equity."

"Improve the quality of motions."

"We shouldn't be voting on so many things."

"Can we limit the number of motions so only the important issues come up?"

"Pleased there is an appetite to improve standards to include better screening and a framework."

"One Council, one vote."



96% of respondents to the Discussion Paper supported State Council reforms. There is a strong appetite to keep that which is stimulating and strategic about State Council but at the same time address the weaknesses most members

are recognising. Many suggestions were made about how, exactly, the impact of State Council can be elevated and how the State Council processes of creating MAV policy might be improved, including:

96% support State Council reforms

- Limiting the number of motions any one Council can submit.
- Providing the MAV Board with stronger powers to set aside proposed motions not of sufficient relevance to the MAV Strategy and provide other pathways for such proposals away from the State Council process.
- Establishing an interactive, informative and less insular process as a part of State Council proceedings to enable State Council to evaluate the implementation and continuing relevance of MAV Strategy.
- Deliberating on Board proposed motions the MAV Board has a highly informed view of issues needing consideration and resolution by the membership and might adopt the practice of bringing Board proposals to State Council.
- Enabling Councils to submit proposed motions at any time during the year but requiring a significantly longer period of time (currently 28 days) for the MAV to review and determine the suitability of proposed motions.
- Providing Councils with significantly more time (currently 14 days) to consider State Council agendas and provide their nominated MAV representative with appropriate advice and instruction

Many sensible suggestions. It is highly unlikely that there is one simple solution. It is more likely that a multi-faceted set of changes can shift the State Council processes into a more contemporary phase. State Council's policy formation role has changed little over decades. It is something of an institution. But a more focussed strategic approach which recognises an ever changing intergovernmental landscape and context is clearly required. The tradition of member inspired policy through robust debate must continue. Grassroots participation in policy formation is just as important as ensuring the MAV is discussing the right things at the right time.

Of the specific reforms identified by respondents, the least attractive may be the idea of limiting the number of proposals any one council can submit. That seems a very arbitrary approach. Reforms are more aimed at a change in the **quality** of proposals which, in turn, might have an impact on the quantity of proposals received. It will be important, when implementing State Council reforms, members give the MAV Board and the MAV CEO strong support to take the necessary decisions which will elevate the impact of State Council.

It would seem there are three critically important aspects of State Council which require some attention at State Council. Firstly, State Council's primary function is to enable members to create the policy framework for the Association. That policy framework underpins a significant proportion of the Association's advocacy program, especially in the intergovernmental space. It is of utmost importance. If the impact of State Council is to be elevated, it will be important to ensure that the policy formation function exhibits some fundamental characteristics. These would include policy formation that:

- Deals with matters of state-wide significance to local government;
- Responds to important emerging issues that demand the Association has clearly adopted positions; and
- Has a significant and clear connection with the adopted MAV Strategy.



Secondly, it will be inevitable that some member matters and proposals will not demonstrate the threshold characteristics set out above. It will be important for such matters to be appropriately considered by the MAV organisation and suitable pathways found for them. These alternative pathways should encourage member Councils to refer matters to the MAV at any time of the year, not only immediately prior to State Council meetings.

Thirdly, some of the reforms around State Council, already in evidence, do not require MAV Rule changes. State Council meetings are already a major event in the local government calendar and the significance of the event should grow. The MAV should continue the process of creating State Council as an engaging and influential forum across all of its formats. Developing a stronger link between State Council's deliberations on member proposals and members providing evaluation and direction on the continuing relevance of the MAV Strategy is probably one of those formats.

The preferred option is to make changes to MAV Rules which:

- Empower the MAV Board to ensure that member proposals for State Council:
- Are of state-wide significance to local government.
- Respond to important emerging issues which require the MAV to have clearly adopted positions.
- Have a significant and clear connection with the adopted MAV Strategy.
- Are reviewed by the MAV Board and consolidated, amended or modified when broadly dealing with similar subject matter to other member proposals.
- Require member Councils to provide notice of member proposals not less than sixty days before the meeting.
- Require the MAV to provide member Councils with the agenda for State Council meetings not less than thirty days before the meeting.
- Empower the MAV Board to place Board motions on the agenda of State Council meetings.

Plural or Weighted Voting

The Discussion Paper asked whether plural voting was in the long term best interests of the MAV. Plural voting is provided for in the current MAV Rules. Under plural voting "larger" Councils receive two votes on matters before State Council whereas "smaller" Councils receive one vote on such matters. The relevant Rule says:

At any meeting of State Council, voting entitlements on any motion or amendment will be:

- 15.1.1. the representative of each participating member council paying an annual subscription to the Association which exceeds the mid-point between the lowest and highest subscriptions will have two (2) votes; and
- 15.1.2. the representative of each participating member council paying an annual subscription to the Association which does not exceed that mid-point will have one (1) vote.

Respondents to the Discussion Paper were somewhat divided in their views about plural voting. It should be noted, with only two exceptions, the divide was entirely predictable. That is, those Councils receiving two votes supported the

63% support abolishing plural voting

retention of plural voting and those Councils receiving one vote argued for the abolition of plural voting. However, 63% of respondents who offered a view about plural voting favoured its abolition.

Submissions made varying references to the concept of fairness. Larger Councils saw fairness in plural voting because it addressed the huge variations in Council populations across Victoria. The constituencies of larger Councils are many, many times greater than those of many smaller Councils. Smaller Councils saw fairness differently. They pointed to the MAV as a membership organisation comprising seventy-nine Councils all equal before the law. All responding to the same legislation and not suffering any discrimination on the basis of "size" on any significant matter.

Some of the discussion at round table consultations connected the membership fees paid by 'larger' Councils with an 'entitlement' to plural voting. Some submissions thought a more graduated form of plural voting might be fairer. They suggested a graduated arrangement of perhaps four quartiles of council membership (largest to smallest) going from 4 votes to 1.



Can the MAV members find an answer here? There is no practical revised formula that will suffice. This matter must be resolved on principle. The issue raised about membership fees is surely a furphy. Membership fees are calculated by a simple "shandy" formula which involves a council's population and budget. It is purely aimed at the principle of relative affordability. The membership fees are proportional to the size and scale of each council. The idea of paying higher fees for a greater "say" seems a very unlikely argument to make.

While a graduated system might be preferable to the "middle of the membership", it would grate against those who fervently believe in one vote per member.

The real genesis of plural voting simply lies in the structure of Victorian local government. There are more small councils than larger ones. Or, put another way, rural councils outnumber metropolitan councils quite comfortably. Without plural voting the voting strength would very much be with smaller rural councils. The larger and mostly metropolitan councils may feel that plural voting is necessary to ensure that MAV policy is more than a local government policy framework for rural Victoria. That notion,

however, is somewhat contradicted by compelling evidence from the 2021 State Council. Of the 102 motions submitted by member councils for consideration at State Council, 84% of those motions were from metropolitan councils.

84% of motions were from metropolitan Plural voting has not always been a feature of the MAV Rules. For many years normal voting prevailed. In recent times, under plural voting, most member councils on both sides of the ledger have, to some extent, "learned to live" with plural voting. But there is no denying that it remains a thorn in the side of smaller rural councils. It is regarded as an extension of a metropolitan centric world so often the bane of rural life.

To return to the earlier theme – if this matter is to once again be tested by the members then it should be tested as a matter of principle. And, it would seem the dominant principle here is that the MAV is a membership based organisation with seventy nine equal members.

The preferred option is to abolish plural voting.

"

Corangamite Shire Council offered a succinct but reasoned response to Plural Voting Council said:

"The Corangamite Shire does not support the current rules that dictate that larger councils receive two votes on matters before the State Council whereas smaller councils only receive one vote. As previously mentioned, Corangamite is concerned with equity between larger metro councils and smaller rural councils and seek that the rules of the MAV ensure that metro councils cannot ignore the concerns of regional areas through having greater power at State Council. It is also

important to note that the MAV does not represent people or the Victorian electorate at large, it represents the membership of the MAV, which is individual Councils. Any given member of the organisation should not be discriminated against because of the size of its constituency."



Who May Submit Matters for Consideration at State Council?

The Discussion Paper noted the current MAV Rules require a Council's nominated MAV representative to submit matters for consideration at meetings of State Council. That has not been the custom and practice at the MAV.

80% of respondents supported the proposal to require member Councils (and not Councils nominated MAV representative) to submit matters for consideration at meetings of State Council. Respondents also favoured the requirement that Councils must actually resolve to submit a matter for consideration.

Some may see such changes as pedantic or bureaucratic. However, both requirements for a Council to submit such matters and to do so by a Council resolution should contribute to improving the quality of proposals. It might also be noted that earlier in this Directions Paper, in the section dealing with "State Council making policy", it has been proposed to significantly extend both the timelines associated with Councils lodging such proposals with the MAV and for the MAV to provide Councils with longer notice of matters included on the State Council Meeting agenda. These changes should also contribute to better proposals and more thorough examination of proposals by Councils.

The preferred option is to require member Councils to submit matters for consideration at meetings of State Council and to do so by Council resolution.

High Standards of Ethical Behaviour

The Discussion Paper pointed out that current MAV Rules are silent about members of State Council declaring and managing their conflicts of interest. Such arrangements are prescribed in the current MAV Rules for Board members at Board meetings.

Respondents to the Discussion Paper unanimously supported a MAV Rule change to require members of State Council to declare and manage conflicts of interest. The current MAV Rules are also silent about the establishment and operation of a MAV Audit and Risk Committee. While the MAV **does** currently operate an Audit and Risk Committee it is a significant matter that should be required in MAV Rules.

The preferred option is for MAV Rules changes to prescribe how members of State Council will declare and manage conflicts of interest and to require the establishment and operation of a MAV Audit and Risk Committee.

Councils Discontinuing Their MAV Financial Membership

The Discussion Paper canvassed the difficulties experienced by the MAV when a member Council discontinues financial membership of the organisation with little or no notice. The MAV is not a large organisation and the loss of membership fees has a material impact on its operation.

92% of respondents to the Discussion Paper agreed that reasonable notice of a Council withdrawing financial membership should be required.

Respondents also made a variety of suggestions about what might constitute "reasonable notice" ranging from three months to two years. The notice period needs to be long enough to ensure the issue or problem leading a Council to withdraw from financial

membership isn't whimsical. It also needs to allow sufficient time to discuss remedies or solutions other than non-participation. Enough time must also be allowed for a member Council in that position to fully understand the ramifications of non-participation.

92% agreed that reasonable notice of a Council withdrawing financial membership should be required



Having regard to all of these matters it would seem that a longer, not a shorter period of notice to withdraw financial membership should be required.

Current Rules also provide that a non-participating member Council is "not entitled to avail itself of the privileges and benefits of any of the functions or services provided by the MAV". Respondents to the Discussion Paper unanimously support the continuation of that Rule.

Several respondents suggested that special, fee-for-service arrangements might be made available to a non-participating member Council. There seems to be merit in that suggestion. There are several MAV services (insurances, procurement and perhaps training) where there are few or no alternative providers. Now, in itself that should serve as a significant **disincentive** to Councils considering non-participation. Never-the-less, continuing to make some services available to a non-participating Council, albeit through an appropriate fee-for-service arrangement, might provide fertile ground for maintaining a relationship that could result in the reversal of a decision to withdraw.

The preferred option in relation to Councils who wish to discontinue their financial membership of the MAV is:

- To require six (6) months' notice of that decision to be provided, and
- To retain MAV Rules that exclude a nonparticipating Council member from the services or functions of the MAV except where the MAV CEO has agreed to provide selected services under special fee-for-service arrangements.

Other MAV Rules Changes

There will be a myriad of less noticeable Rules changes. In fact, if the MAV is to achieve the goals of Rules that are clearer and more easily understood, and Rules that have been modernised, then the new MAV Rules will probably be unrecognisable from the old Rules.

Rules changes other than those specifically canvassed in this Directions Paper are highly unlikely to be contentious or contested by member Councils. They will simply be the product of well drafted, modern rules fit for the 21st Century.

Responding to this Directions Paper

Persons and organisations intending to make a response to the Directions Paper should do so by close of business on Monday 30 May 2022. Responses will be posted on the MAV's website after the close of the submission period unless submitters indicate otherwise. To assist in receiving your response, please complete the electronic survey form which is available via the MAV website at may.asn.au. Alternatively, we would encourage more comprehensive submissions with expanded commentary about the ideas in the Directions Paper. These submissions can be emailed to rules@may.asn.au.

The MAV would encourage participating member Councils to provide a response by adopting a preferred position to the matters raised in the Directions Paper by Council resolution, if possible. Councils and other stakeholders wanting to ask questions about the content of the Directions Paper, the processes to be followed to arrive at new Rules or avenues available to make a response to the Directions Paper can contact Ms. Celia Robinson, MAV Manager Governance at (03) 9667 5535 or crobinson@mav.asn.au. The lead consultant, Mr. Phil Shanahan, will also be available to assist those with enquiries and can be contacted through Celia. The MAV wants widespread responses to this Directions Paper.



Summary of Directions

Area of Rules	Options & Directions
Nominating for President	The preferred option is to retain current arrangements and require councillors nominating for the office of MAV President to be the nominated MAV representative of their Council.
President's term in office	The preferred option is to continue two year presidential terms in office but to change the MAV Rules to require member Councils to commit to two (2) year memberships payable in two annual instalments.
President's tenure	The preferred option is to change MAV Rules and to cap the tenure of a MAV President at four (4) consecutive two (2) year terms.
Electing a Board	Option 1. Is to maintain an equal number of regional groupings of rural and metropolitan Councils for the purpose of electing MAV representatives to the MAV Board.
	Option 2. Is to maintain an equal number of Board members from rural and metropolitan members, but to conduct "at large" elections, using a proportional representation electoral model in the metropolitan area whilst maintaining regional groupings amongst regional and rural Councils.
Skills-based Board members	The preferred option is to maintain current arrangements whereby members of the MAV Board are all elected members.
Size of Board	The preferred option is to reduce the number of elected Board members from twelve to ten (not including the President).
Term and tenure of Board Members	The preferred option is:
	 Two (2) year Board terms, capped at four (4) consecutive terms. Board members who are no longer their Council's MAV
	Representative may complete their term of office.
	 Councils be encouraged to reappoint their MAV representative when that representative has been elected to the Board.
Interim Board arrangements	The preferred options are:
	To abolish the concept of an Interim Board,
	 To abolish the notion of significant decisions and allow the Board to make all decisions on a simple majority vote, and
	 To provide new Rules for that period after the local government General Elections and before the MAV elections for President and Board which will clarify who would be the President during this period and what would occur in the event that a Board quorum didn't result from the council elections process.
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Area of Rules	Options & Directions
Board performance and accountability	The preferred option is that MAV Rules be changed to require the Board to annually undertake a review of Board performance and to include the results of such reviews in the MAV's Annual Report.
State Council making Policy	The preferred option is to make changes to MAV Rules which:
	1. Empower the MAV Board to ensure that member proposals for State Council:
	Are of state-wide significance to local government.
	 Respond to important emerging issues which require the MAV to have clearly adopted positions.
	 Have a significant and clear connection with the adopted MAV Strategy.
	 Are reviewed by the MAV Board and consolidated, amended or modified when broadly dealing with similar subject matter to other member proposals.
	• Require member Councils to provide notice of member proposals not less than sixty days before the meeting.
	 Require the MAV to provide member Councils with the agenda for State Council meetings not less than thirty days before the meeting.
	2. Empower the MAV Board to place Board motions on the agenda of State Council meetings.
Plural or weighted voting	The preferred option is to abolish plural voting.
Matters for consideration at State Council	The preferred option is to require member Councils to submit matters for consideration at meetings of State Council and to do so by Council resolution.
High standards of ethical behaviour	The preferred option is for MAV Rules changes to prescribe how members of State Council will declare and manage conflicts of interest and to require the establishment and operation of a MAV Audit and Risk Committee.
Discontinuing MAV financial membership	The preferred option in relation to Councils who wish to discontinue their financial membership of the MAV is:
	To require six months' notice of that decision to be provided, and
	 To retain MAV Rules that exclude a non-participating Council member from the services or functions of the MAV except where the MAV CEO has agreed to provide selected services under special fee-for-service arrangements.

Submission in response to the Municipal Association of Victoria Rules Review - Direction Paper 2021-22

Area of rules	Direction paper advice & options	Council's position
Nominating for president	Directions paper preferred option to retain current arrangements and require councillors nominating for the office of MAV president to be the nominated MAV representative of their council	Support The MAV President's role is critical to the success of the MAV. The current practice of nominating for office as the current nominated representative is the most logical approach.
President's term in office	Directions paper preferred option is to continue two year terms in office but require MAV rules to require member councils to commit to two year memberships payable in two annual instalments	Support The current Presidential term is two years and should be retained.
President's tenure	Directions paper preferred option is to change MAV rules and to cap the tenure of a MAV president at four (4) consecutive two (2) year terms.	Support A cap on the number of consecutive terms is not currently provided for in the Rules. Restricting a President to a maximum number of consecutive terms would be in the interests of contemporary practice.
Electing a board	Directions paper lists two options: Option 1. Is to maintain an equal number of regional groupings of rural and metropolitan councils for the purpose of electing MAV representatives to the MAV board. Option 2. Is to maintain an equal number of board members from rural and metropolitan members, but to conduct "at large" elections, using a proportional representation electoral model in the metropolitan area whilst maintaining regional groupings amongst regional and rural councils.	MAV board representation currently has 1 board member representing each of the 6 rural regions, 5 metro regions and 1 interface region. Council is part of the only interface region. This region contains most of the larger Green Wedge areas but it is deficient in that many of the other interface municipalities are excluded. Council strongly believes that the groupings must balance growth with the importance of protecting the significant features and assets found in these areas to ensure ongoing environmental, economic, cultural and health and wellbeing outcomes for our community. The declaration of a climate emergency from many of us requires nothing less. The Victorian State Government composition of Interface Councils includes ten Local Councils. It is with

		this in mind that Council requests MAV consider creating 2 separate interface region groupings comprising of 5 Councils each. The East Interface Region consisting of Casey, Cardinia, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik and Yarra Ranges Councils. The West Interface Region consisting of Whittlesea, Hume, Melton, Mitchell, Wyndham. This would help ensure MAV regional groupings and board representation aligns with State Government Policy.
		The strength of this suggestion is it ensures a geographic distribution of Board members, greater representation of Green Wedge and growth Councils in the regional groupings and an ability to align the community needs and values of comparable councils. This version of geographic distribution also enables the MAV Board to better understand the important issues all Interface Councils encounter financially, environmentally and economically in the face of unprecedented growth. Council will struggle to adequately deliver what is needed to manage and protect the green wedge and deliver on meaningful climate change action without MAV's continued advocacy and support in the regional groupings of Green Wedge/Growth municipalities.
		Options 1 and 2 are <u>strongly</u> <u>opposed</u> and would significantly disadvantage Council.
Skills based board members	Directions paper preferred option is to maintain current arrangements whereby members of the MAV board are all elected members.	Support Council supports the retention of the requirement for members of the elected board to be all elected members.
Size of board	Directions paper preferred option is to reduce the number of elected board members from twelve to ten (not including the president).	Not supported

		Board structure and is strongly opposed.
Term and tenure of board members	 Two (2) year board terms, capped at four (4) consecutive terms. Board members who are no longer their council's MAV representative may complete their term of office. Councils be encouraged to reappoint their MAV representative when that 	Support A four-year term for board members is supported to ensure there is the capacity for board members to develop knowledge and experience to benefit the sector. A two-year term is suggested for the role of President. A cap on the number of consecutive terms is not currently provided for in the Rules. Restricting Board members to a maximum number of consecutive terms would be in the interests of contemporary practice.
Interim board arrangements	 Directions paper preferred options are: To abolish the concept of an interim board, To abolish the notion of significant decisions and allow the board to make all decisions on a simple majority vote, and To provide new rules for that period after the local government general elections and before the MAV elections for president and board which will clarify who would be the president during this period and what would occur in the event that a board quorum didn't result from the council elections process. 	
Board performance and accountability	The directions paper preferred option is that MAV rules be changed to require the board to annually undertake a review of board performance and to include the results of such reviews in the MAV's annual report.	Support Supportive of Rule changes to incorporate the requirement for periodic Board performance evaluation.
State council making policy		Support

	 Require the MAV to provide member councils with the agenda for state council meetings not less than thirty days before the meeting. Empower the MAV board to place board motions on the agenda of state council meetings. 	
Plural or weighted voting	Directions paper preferred option is to abolish plural voting.	Support Under the current MAV Rules, "larger" Councils receive two votes on matters before the State Council whereas "smaller" Council's receive one vote on such matters (plural voting). It is important to note that the election of the President and the Board is not determined by plural voting. Abolishing the plural voting will ensure all Councils regardless of size on are on an equal platform regardless of demographic distribution and membership fees.
Matters for	Directions paper preferred option is to require	Support
consideration of state council	emember councils to submit matters for consideration at meetings of state council and to do so by council resolution.	Council agrees that in order to submit matters for the consideration of the MAV, through State Council, and all motions submitted be confirmed by a resolution of the Council.
High standards of ethical behaviour	Directions paper preferred option is for MAV rules changes to prescribe how members of state council will declare and manage conflicts of interest and to require the establishment and operation of a MAV audit and risk committee.	Support Council agrees that the MAV Rules should require the declaration of State Council member's conflicts of interest and prescribe how any member's conflict of interest must be handled.
The discontinuing MAV financial membership	Directions paper preferred option in relation to councils who wish to discontinue their financial membership of the MAV is: • To require six months' notice of that decision to be provided, and • To retain MAV rules that exclude a non-participating council member from the services or functions of the MAV except where the MAV CEO has agreed to provide selected services under special fee-for-service arrangements.	Support Peak organisations often require members to provide reasonable notice of a member's intention to withdraw from membership. The intention of such notice provides the organisation with time to adjust programs and budgets.