

Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

to be held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough
on Tuesday 14 March 2023 commencing at 7:00pm.

Agenda

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

Thursday 9 March 2023

Distribution: Public

Civic Drive, Greensborough
PO Box 476, Greensborough 3088
Telephone 9433 3111
Facsimile 9433 3777
Website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Email nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Council Chamber Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting seating plan

**Cr Natalie
Duffy**
Edendale Ward

Cr Karen Egan
Bunjil Ward

**Cr Richard
Stockman**
Blue Lake Ward

**Cr Peter Perkins
(Chairperson
Planning Matters)**
Ellis Ward

**Cr Ben Ramcharan
(Mayor)**
Sugarloaf Ward

**Cr Geoff Paine
(Deputy Mayor)**
Wingrove Ward

Katia Croce
Governance
Lead

Blaga Naumoski
Director
Governance and
Communications

**Cr Frances Eyre
(Chairperson
Consultation Matters)**
Swipers Gully Ward

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive
Officer

Nillumbik Shire Council

Contents

1. Welcome by the Chair	1
2. Acknowledgement of Country	1
3. Apologies	1
4. Disclosure of conflicts of interest	1
5. Confirmation of Minutes	2
Consultation Matters	
PCC.002/23 ALGA National General Assembly 2023 - Nillumbik Motions	3
PCC.003/23 Endorsement of Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting - 19 May 2023	9
7. Supplementary and urgent business	13
8. Confidential reports	13
9. Close of Meeting	13

Nillumbik Shire Council

**Agenda of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting to be held
Tuesday 14 March 2023 commencing at 7:00pm.**

1. Welcome by the Chair

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

2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Acknowledgement of Country to be read by the Chairperson

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

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

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

3. Apologies

Recommendation

That the apologies be noted.

4. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

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


5. Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14 February 2023.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) the minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14 February 2023 (**Attachment 1**).

Attachments

- 1 Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday
 14 February 2023

6. Officers' reports

PCC.002/23 ALGA National General Assembly 2023 - Nillumbik Motions

Item: Consultation Matter
Distribution: Public
Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Director Governance and Communications
Author: Katia Croce, Governance Lead

Summary

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), National General Assembly (NGA) provides the opportunity for councils throughout Australia to contribute to the development of national local government policy and receive updates on the major policy issues facing local government. The 29th NGA to be held in Canberra from 13-15 June 2023, this year's theme being 'Our Communities Our Future. The ALGA Secretariat has prepared a short discussion paper (**Attachment 1**) to assist councils to identify motions that address the theme of the 2023 NGA. The NGA is a major event and typically attracts more than 600 Mayors, Councillors and Senior Officers from councils across Australia.

The NGA is an opportunity for individual councils to identify matters of national relevance to the sector, influence the future direction of our Council and our community and to submit Motion to seek support at the NGA for these matters to be considered by NGA as national policy.

This report seeks endorsement of the Nillumbik Motions (**Attachment 2**) to be put forward to the ALGA, NGA in June 2023. Motions submitted will be reviewed by a committee of the ALGA Board as well as by State and Territory Local Government Associations to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers. When reviewing motions, the committee considers the importance and relevance of the issue to Local Government.

Motions need to be submitted no later than 24 March 2023. Motions that are carried by the NGA become resolutions. These resolutions are then considered by the ALGA Board when setting national local government policy and will also feed into the Australian Council of Local Government processes.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) resolves to:

1. Reschedule the Planning and Consultation Committee meeting from Tuesday 13 June 2023 to Tuesday 6 June 2023 to be held in the Council Chamber at Civic Drive, Greensborough at 7pm to allow Councillors to attend the Australian Local Government Association, National General Assembly.
2. Requests officers to update the 2022/2023 schedule of meetings and Council website with the revised Council meeting dates accordingly.
3. Adopts and lodged the following motions to the Australian Local Government Association, National General Assembly to be held in Canberra on 13-15 June 2023:

6. Consultation Matters



PCC.002/23 ALGA National General Assembly 2023 - Nillumbik Motions

- i. *“The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to provide direct support to local government in our important work to protect and manage unique plants, animals and habitats and to manage the threatening processes that negatively impact our biodiversity by:

 - a. *Providing adequate and long-term grant funding for on-ground action, monitoring and collaboration to enable landscape-scale biodiversity outcomes across all land tenures.*
 - b. *Supporting opportunities to increase and diversify environmental management and restoration employment*
 - c. *Supporting local government programs that promote a stronger connection between people and nature, improve the way nature is cared for, and build and share knowledge.**
- ii. *The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to:

 - a. *Ensure the national energy electricity grid can support our ambitious net zero targets which require rapid transition to all-electric homes, transport and industry based on renewable energy.*
 - b. *Legislate ambitious climate targets that align with meeting international Paris Agreement Protocols to keep warming below 2°C global temperature rise. That is, setting net zero emissions for Australia by 2035 in collaboration with local government emissions targets.**
- iii. *The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to provide funding for the delivery of flexible and dynamic youth outreach and support services for young people aged 12-25 years.*
- iv. *The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to provide immediate short term, adequate funding to support the spike in Regional Assessment Services.”*

Attachments

- 1 National General Assembly 2023 - Discussion Paper 
- 2 Nillumbik Shire Council Motions - Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly 2023 

Discussion

- 1. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the peak body for local governments in Australia and should take a lead role in advocating to the Federal Government on a variety of issues of concern to local governments in Australia.
- 2. Submitting motions to the ALGA National General Assembly (NGA) is consistent with Council’s practice of advocating on behalf of the community.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.002/23 ALGA National General Assembly 2023 - Nillumbik Motions

3. The theme for the 2023 NGA is 'Our Communities, Our Future'. This theme conveys the critical importance of our communities, how they are the focus of our attention, and how they are the centre of all our work. Our communities are the reason that the local governments exist, and it is the health and wellbeing of our communities that will shape Australia's future.
4. It is important to note that the NGA will focus debate on motions that address how councils can work in partnership with the Australian Government in particular to meet the current and future needs of local communities.
5. The ALGA Secretariat has prepared a short discussion paper (**Attachment 1**) to assist councils to identify motions that address the theme of the 2023 NGA – 'Our Communities, Our Future' and also provided guidance on how notices of motion are to address this theme.
6. The discussion paper explores data which identify critical areas local government needs to consider now and into the future.
7. To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:
 - Be relevant to the work of local government nationally.
 - Not be focused on a specific jurisdiction, location or region – unless the project or issue has national implications.
 - Be consistent with the themes of the NGA.
 - Complement or build on the policy objectives of ALGA and your state or territory local government association.
 - Be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association.
 - Propose a clear action and outcome ie call on the Australian Government to act on something.
 - Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.
 - Address issues that will directly improve the capacity of local government to deliver services and infrastructure for the benefit of all Australian communities.
 - Not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
 - Be supported by sufficient evidence to support the outcome being sought and demonstrate the relevance and significance of the matter to local government nationally.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.002/23 ALGA National General Assembly 2023 - Nillumbik Motions

8. This year's call for motions focusses on eight priority areas:

- Productivity;
- Local Government Infrastructure;
- Community Wellbeing;
- Local Government Workforce;
- Data, Digital Technology and Cyber Security;
- Climate Change and Renewable Energy;
- Natural Disasters; and
- Housing.

Related Council decisions

9. Nil.

Options

10. The ALGA Board is calling for motions, presenting an opportunity to gain peak local government body support for advocacy to the Federal Government.
11. Following consultation with Councillors, Officers propose that four (4) motions be submitted to the ALGA Board for consideration as per **Attachment 2**.
12. Local government plays an important role in coordinating biodiversity protection action across the landscape, particularly as the number of individual stakeholders is large, as well as having an important role in owning and managing land for conservation purposes.
13. All local governments require adequate Australian Government support to help achieve the objectives within *Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030* and as a Party to the *Convention on Biological Diversity*.
14. Council recognises that assistance is required from the Australian Government to elevate investments in local government programs that:
 - protect biodiversity;
 - identify and monitor the important components of biodiversity that need to be conserved and used sustainably;
 - establish and maintain protected areas to conserve biological diversity;
 - educate and encourage community involvement.
15. Motion 1 is calling for support to protect and manage unique plants, animals and habitats and to manage the threatening processes that negatively impact our biodiversity.
16. As Australia becomes more electrified, our ageing national energy grid will require upgrades and investments in ongoing technical improvements.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.002/23 ALGA National General Assembly 2023 - Nillumbik Motions

17. For Nillumbik to achieve our ambitious net zero targets, motion 2 calls for action by the Australian Government to ensure that the national electricity grid is able to absorb and distribute additional renewable energy inputs and supply an increased electricity demand.
18. Motion 3 relates to the need for urgent funding for the delivery of flexible and dynamic youth outreach and support services for young people aged 12-25 years. Council acknowledges the final report of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health system was tabled in Victorian Parliament on 2 March 2021.
19. This has led to Victoria's new Mental Health and Wellbeing Act (the Act) being passed in Victorian Parliament in September 2022.
20. Acknowledging that the implementation of the new Act is not due to commence until late 2023, local government is in need of urgent, short-term increased funding to address significant gaps and waiting lists in local mental health service provision.
21. Regional Assessment Services (RAS) are experiencing a significant increase in the number of assessment requests coming through over the last few months.
22. Funding is currently received as block funding and is not flexible to increase as demand increases.
23. Acknowledging there is a policy review and reform underway for RAS, Motion 4 is framed in such a way that seeks a short term increase in funding to address the spike in assessment referrals post COVID from the Australian Government.
24. The proposed motions to be submitted, if endorsed by Council will be reviewed by a committee of the ALGA Board as well as by State and Territory Local Government Associations to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers. When reviewing motions, the Committee considers the importance and relevance of the issue to local government.
25. Motions that are carried at the National General Assembly become Resolutions. These resolutions are then considered by the ALGA Board when setting national local government policy and will also feed into the Australian Council of Local Government processes.
26. All Motions must be received not later than 11:59pm on 24 March 2023.
27. To enable councillors to attend the National General Assembly in Canberra, it is proposed to reschedule the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting from Tuesday 13 June 2023 to Tuesday 6 June 2023.
28. Should the Committee resolve to reschedule the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting, the public will be notified by officers by updating the 2022/2023 schedule of meetings and Council website with the revised Council meeting dates.

Council plans and policies

29. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategy:
 - We partner with state and federal governments to advocate in our community's best interests.

Access, Equity and Inclusion

30. All community engagement projects are now required to undertake a Gender Impact Assessment prior to commencement.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.002/23 ALGA National General Assembly 2023 - Nillumbik Motions

Sustainability implications

31. The motions to be considered at ALGA will cover a range of matters including climate change and environment, as well as social and economic issues relating to local government.
32. The motions sponsored by Council has the potential to achieve worthwhile results for the Nillumbik community and the broader Australian community in protecting and conserving biodiversity within our Shire, together with ensuring the national energy electricity grid can support the ambitious net zero targets in relation to climate change.

Community engagement

33. Not applicable.

Innovation and continuous improvement

34. The proposed motion represents continuous improvement by increasing opportunities for council to innovate, work together and share resources.

Collaboration

35. The proposed motions have been prepared following advice from Councillors on the items they wish to raise. The content has been prepared with collaborative feedback from teams across the organisation.

Budget implications

36. Funds are available within the relevant operating budget to enable Councillors to attend conferences and meet costs associated with attendance at the National General Assembly of Local Government annually.
37. The estimated total cost of in person attendance at the 2023 NGA ALGA in Canberra per delegate including registration, flights and accommodation (minimum 3 nights) is approximately \$2,500 excl. GST. Travel is to be undertaken in accordance with the Councillors Expense Policy.
38. Virtual registration is also available at a reduced fee whereby Councillors attend as a virtual delegate and watch the NGA live on screen.

Relevant law

39. Not applicable.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

40. The National General Assembly of Local Government is an important opportunity for Council to influence the national policy agenda.

Conflicts of interest

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

6. Officers' reports

PCC.003/23 Endorsement of Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting - 19 May 2023

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Director Governance and Communications

Author: Katia Croce, Governance Lead

Summary

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meets to consider matters of state-wide significance. The next State Council meeting is scheduled for Friday 19 May 2023. The deadline for motions to be submitted for consideration at the 2023 MAV State Council Meeting is Monday 20 March 2023.

Motions submitted must have state-wide significance or relevance across the Victorian Local Government sector and be related to issues and initiatives that affect the livelihood and wellbeing of the Nillumbik community.

This report is seeking Council endorsement to lodge the three (3) motions (**Attachment 1**) to the 2023 MAV State Council Meeting prior to the deadline of 20 March 2023.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Resolves to adopt the following three (3) motions to the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Council Meeting to be held on 19 May 2023:
 - a) *That the MAV seek funding to improve mental health services by increasing support for the delivery of flexible and dynamic youth outreach and support services with an increased focus on mental health prevention.*
 - b) *That the MAV:*
 - *advocate for expanded capital funding for kindergarten infrastructure to ensure that eligibility:*
 - i. *Recognises individual needs and usage patterns of funded kindergarten programs across different LGAs*
 - ii. *Considers the ability of non-growth areas to expand facilities with limited land availability*
 - iii. *Funding streams and associated agreements offered by the State can work in partnership with each other to enable larger projects to be co-funded*
 - *advocate that the strategy applied for infrastructure planning for funded 3 year old kindergarten planning be reconsidered and a new approach be developed to plan for future infrastructure for expanded 4 year old kindergarten.*


6. Consultation Matters

PCC.003/23 Endorsement of Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting - 19 May 2023

- c) *That the MAV advocate to the State Government to undertake a review of the Maternal and Child Health Program Model and Funding with the intention to improve key quality components of the program including:*
- i. *Key Ages and Stages model to address increased scope*
 - ii. *Workforce attraction and retention to address workforce shortages*
 - iii. *Database functionality*
 - iv. *Program and capital funding provided by the State.*

2. Resolves to lodge the motions and rationale (**Attachment 1**) to the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Council Meeting to be held on 19 May 2023 prior to the deadline of 20 March 2023.

Attachments

- 1  Nillumbik Shire Council Motions to be submitted to the 19 May 2023 MAV State Council Meeting

Discussion

1. The MAV State Council Meeting provides the opportunity for councils to submit motions on matters of state-wide significance to the Victorian Local Government sector. MAV State Council Meetings are convened twice a year, in May and October.
2. Council has until 20 March 2023 to submit motions to the MAV. The [MAV Strategy 2021-25](#), adopted at the May 2021 State Council meeting, identifies six MAV Strategic outcomes:
 - Economically sound councils;
 - Healthy, diverse and thriving communities;
 - Well-planned, connected and resilient built environment;
 - Changing climate and a circular economy;
 - Sector capability and good governance; and
 - Effective and responsive MAV.
3. The MAV Rules (Rules) require motions be of state-wide significance to Local Government. Motions received and initially assessed as 'not of state-wide significance' will be the subject of follow-up communication with the submitting council's designated representative, then reviewed by the MAV CEO, and finally by the MAV Board, who will determine whether the motion is submitted for State Council consideration. The Board will also determine whether motions received after the due date but prior to the circulation of Business Papers, will be included as 'late motions'.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.003/23 Endorsement of Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting - 19 May 2023

4. The resolutions of the MAV State Council Meeting enable issues of significance and strategic importance for the local government sector to be acted upon through a peak organisation. Endorsement at the State Council indicates an issue has state-wide support and strengthens the profile of these issues, which facilitates stronger advocacy with other levels of government.
5. Under the Rules all motions are due to be submitted by no later than midnight on Monday 20 March 2023.
6. Early motions, received by 5:00pm on Friday 24 February 2023, will be distributed to MAV representatives on Monday 27 February 2023.
7. Submitters may amend their motions, prior to the State Council meeting, the amended motions must be submitted to MAV no later than 5pm Wednesday 19 April 2023.
8. The business papers for State Council will be emailed to MAV Representatives and posted on the MAV website on Wednesday 19 April 2023.
9. In preparation for Cr Peter Perkins attendance at the MAV State Council Meeting, as Council's endorsed MAV State Council proxy representative, a summary of the motions will be provided showing indication of whether Nillumbik supports the motion presented, and provide any necessary commentary and advice if the motion has relevance to Nillumbik.

Related Council decisions

10. Nil.

Options

11. Three (3) critical areas local government needs to consider now and into the future have been identified. Each of these needs has state-wide significance to the sector that will influence the future direction of many Councils and their communities. These areas are as follows:
 - **Motion 1:** Increased mental health and wellbeing support, specifically support for the delivery of flexible and dynamic youth outreach and support services for young people aged 12-25 years in Nillumbik Shire.
 - **Motion 2:** Expanded funding for Kindergarten Infrastructure. Increased financial support from State and Commonwealth Governments to ensure 3-year-old Kindergarten reforms are successfully implemented.
 - **Motion 3:** Increased State Government contribution to the Maternal and Child Health Program Model and Funding Review.
12. **Attachment 1** provides the details of the three (3) proposed motions being put forward on behalf of Council.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.003/23 Endorsement of Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting - 19 May 2023

Council plans and policies

14. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategy:
- We act in the best interests of our community.
 - We ensure people of all ages and stages have access to inclusive services that respond to their individual needs.
 - We address the social, environmental and economic factors of health to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for our communities.
 - We work with our local partners, government and non-government agencies to respond to health and wellbeing priorities in Nillumbik.

Access, Equity and Inclusion

15. A Gender Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report, however the proposed motions support Council's Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

Sustainability implications

16. The motions being considered at State Council cover a range of matters.
17. The subject matter of this report relates to economic, climate change and associated environmental, social and economic implications.
18. The motions sponsored by Council have the potential to achieve worthwhile results for the Nillumbik community and the broader Victorian community.

Community engagement

19. Not applicable.

Innovation and continuous improvement

20. The proposed motions may represent continuous improvement by increasing opportunities for council to innovate, work together and share resources.

Collaboration

21. Not applicable.

Budget implications

22. There are no budget implications associated with submitting motions to the MAV State Council Meeting.

Relevant law

23. Not applicable.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

24. The MAV State Council is an important opportunity for council to influence actions that support key priorities of the sector that are of state-wide significance.

Conflicts of interest

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

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