

# Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

to be held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough  
on Tuesday 8 August 2023 commencing at 7:00pm.

## Agenda

**Carl Cowie**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Thursday 3 August 2023

Distribution: Public

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# 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**  
Manager  
Governance  
and Property

**Blaga Naumoski**  
Director  
Governance,  
Communications  
and Community  
Safety

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

**Carl Cowie**  
Chief Executive  
Officer

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**Nillumbik Shire Council**

**Agenda of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting to be held  
Tuesday 8 August 2023 commencing at 7:00pm.**

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**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

COM.001/23 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 6 June 2023

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**Summary**

Confirmation of the minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 6 June 2023.

**Recommendation**

**That** the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) confirms the minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 6 June 2023 **(Attachment 1)**.

**Attachments**

1. Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 6 June 2023

6. Officers' reports

PCC.008/23 Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan - hearing of submissions

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**Item:** Consultation Matter

**Distribution:** Public

**Manager:** Rosa Zouzoulas, Director Planning, Environment and Strategy

**Author:** Renae Ahern, Manager Planning Services

**Summary**

The State Environment Protection Policy, SEPP (Waters) Clause 29 requires Council to develop an Onsite Wastewater Management Plan (OWMP) every five years in consultation with the community and local water authority.

Council endorsed the draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2024-2029 for public consultation at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 26 April 2023. The four week public consultation period ended on 28 May 2023, and Council received one submission. An overview of the feedback received in the submission is attached. Yarra Valley Water also provided direct positive feedback.

The submitter to the draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan has been invited to make a verbal presentation at the August Planning and Consultation Committee meeting.

This report recommends that the Committee, having received the written submission and heard any verbal submissions, refers a decision regarding the adoption of the draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 26 September 2023.

<b>Recommendation</b>
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**That** the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Receives and notes the submission received for the Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan (**Attachment 2**).
2. Considers the feedback contained in the submission and this report for finalisation of the Onsite Wastewater Management Plan.
3. Resolves the confidential un-redacted copy of the written submission to the Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan (**Attachment 2**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the Local Government Act 2020.
4. Requests officers to submit a report to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 26 September 2023 to consider whether to adopt the Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2024-2029.
5. Requests that officers write to all respondents to the exhibition of the draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan to express Council's appreciation for their contribution and to advise them of the Committee's resolution and the next steps of the project.

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.008/23 Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan - hearing of submissions**

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**Attachments**

1. Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2024-2029
2. Participate Nillumbik Consultation results - *CONFIDENTIAL*

**Discussion**

1. As per the requirements of the Environment Protection Transitional Regulations 2021, State Environment Protection Policy, SEPP (Waters) Clause 29, Council must develop an Onsite Wastewater Management Plan every five years in consultation with the community and the local water authority. Council made a resolution at the 26 April 2023 Council meeting for the draft OWMP to commence public consultation via Participate Nillumbik.
2. Consultation and engagement for the draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan has been undertaken through the following means:
  - Survey conducted by Council of the Community Sewerage Program areas within the Shire, including St Andrews, Panton Hill, Yarrambat, Hurstbridge, Plenty, Diamond Creek and Wattle Glen, in 2021;
  - Participate Nillumbik – a four week period from 30 April 2023 to 28 May 2023, promoted on Council’s social media pages;
  - Correspondence sent to plumbing contractors who have submitted applications with Council for onsite wastewater system installations to Council within the last 24 months, advising of the consultation; and
  - Direct correspondence and communication with Yarra Valley Water
3. Over the consultation period, there were 114 views by 78 visitors to the Participate Nillumbik site. Council received one submission from a resident. Yarra Valley Water provided direct feedback to officers.
4. The objective of the community engagement was to gather feedback on the Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan from relevant stakeholders including property owners and residents in charge of the management of an onsite wastewater system and commercial stakeholders including plumbing contractors involved in the installation and servicing of onsite wastewater systems.
5. As the local water authority, Yarra Valley Water (YVW) received direct correspondence regarding the draft plan, along with contributions to the information contained within the plan.
6. The submission received via Participate Nillumbik, was primarily focused on the lack of sewer connection to a single property within a suburban area. The submission endorsed the draft plan based on the ongoing Community Sewerage Program (CSP) actions.



**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.008/23 Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan - hearing of submissions**

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7. Yarra Valley Water provided positive feedback and have provided additional up to date information regarding the Community Sewerage Program rollout in the next five years. This includes new maps identifying existing and proposed connection of sewer across the Shire that will be included in the final draft of the OWMP for Council's consideration at the September Council Meeting for adoption.

**Related Council decisions**

8. At the Council Meeting on the 26 April 2023, a resolution was carried unanimously:
1. *Endorsing the Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan for public consultation from 30 April to 28 May 2023,*
  2. *Inviting written submissions regarding the Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan by 28 May 2023; and*
  3. *Considers public submissions at a future Planning and Consultation Committee meeting.*

**Council plans and policies**

9. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategy:
- We seek to enhance community safety, public health, amenity and the environment through improved planning and community engagement, prioritising fair and transparent approaches to managing compliance and enforcement.

**Access, Equity and Inclusion**

10. The Onsite Wastewater Management Plan is intended to raise awareness of Council's activities in relation to onsite wastewater management across the Shire, including advocating for equitable sewer provision and providing improved environmental outcomes for all residents and visitors to the Shire.

**Sustainability implications**

11. Effective management of onsite wastewater management systems is directly aligned with Council's various environmental strategies, and is key to reducing the risk to human health and the environment.
12. Council officers are aware of the economic impact of installing, upgrading, monitoring and maintenance of onsite wastewater management systems and will provide education tools and assistance to owners and occupiers with onsite wastewater systems.
13. Installation approvals will consider the long term environmental sustainability of systems where reticulated sewer will not be a future option. Council's ongoing advocacy program for the provision of reticulated sewer throughout all the townships within Nillumbik achieves sustainability outcomes.

**Community engagement**

14. Following the 25 April 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, the Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2024-2029 was made available for public consultation for four weeks, closing on the 28 May 2023. One submission was received (**Attachment 2**).

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.008/23 Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan - hearing of submissions**

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15. Community engagement was achieved through the following:
- A survey was conducted by Council of the Community Sewerage Program areas within the Shire, including St Andrews, Panton Hill, Yarrambat, Hurstbridge, Plenty, Diamond Creek and Wattle Glen, in 2021;
  - Participate Nillumbik – a four week period from 30 April to 28 May 2023, promoted on Council’s social media pages; and
  - Correspondence sent to plumbing contractors who have submitted applications with Council for onsite wastewater system installations to Council within the last 24 months, advising of the consultation.
16. As with all engagement, submitters are invited to present their submissions at the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting post consultation.

**Innovation and continuous improvement**

17. The draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan includes an Action Plan outlining five Focus Areas, with strategies to achieve improvements in data maintenance, public education and awareness, and to commence an evidence based risk assessment and program in line with the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) guidance materials.

**Collaboration**

18. Council’s Environmental Health team will continue to build on the successful collaborative relationships established with Yarra Valley Water, Melbourne Water, RMIT, Environment Protection Authority, DEECA and the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), and with the community and internal stakeholders throughout the life of the new plan.

**Budget implications**

19. Implementation of the Onsite Wastewater Management Plan will be accommodated within the existing Environmental Health Services operational budget and will be supported by any future funding opportunities from MAV, DEECA (recently awarded a \$20,000 grant to assist with record cleansing) and Melbourne Water, who has previously assisted with a grant to fund a water sampling regime.

**Relevant law**

20. *Environment Protection Act 2017.*
21. *Environment Protection Regulations 2021.*
22. *Environment Protection Transitional Regulations 2021 (Clause 29 SEPP [Waters]).*

**Regional, state and national plans and policies**

23. Code of Practice – Onsite wastewater management, EPA Publication 891.2.
24. Regulating onsite wastewater management: local government toolkit, EPA Publication 1974.
25. Onsite wastewater management plans: risk assessment guidance, DWELP 2022.

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.008/23 Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan - hearing of submissions**

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**Conflicts of interest**

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

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.008/23 Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan - hearing of submissions**

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6. Officers' reports

**PCC.009/23 Draft Nillumbik Youth Hub Concept Plans - Outcomes of Community engagement**

**Item: Consultation Matter**

**Distribution: Public**

**Manager: Corrienne Nichols, Director Communities**

**Author: Nichole Johnson, Manager Community Partnerships**

**Summary**

The purpose of this report is to present the findings from the recent engagement on the Draft Concept Plans for the Nillumbik Youth Hub, and to enable any submitters to the draft concept plans to make verbal presentations.

Nillumbik Shire Council has received funding under the Victorian Government's Youth Hubs Grant program 2022-2023, to redevelop its community facility located at 32-34 Elizabeth St, Diamond Creek, into a dedicated, stand-alone youth hub to provide centralised support for young people 12-25 years old.

The engagement period on the draft designs for the new Youth Hub (**Attachment 1**) ran from 30 June 2023 – 25 July 2023 on Council's participate Nillumbik website.

A range of considerations and opportunities were identified in the feedback and these are summarised in the Community Engagement Report (**Attachment 2**). Copies of all feedback received from the online survey are provided confidential and un-redacted at **Attachment 3** and redacted at **Attachment 4**. A summary of feedback from the stakeholder workshops held during the public consultation period are also provided in **Attachment 5**.

<b>Recommendation</b>
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**That** the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Considers the feedback provided during community engagement of the draft concept plans for the Nillumbik Youth Hub (**Attachment 1**), including:
  - a) Summary of community engagement feedback (**Attachment 2**)
  - b) Survey responses provided confidential and unredacted (**Attachment 3**) and redacted (**Attachment 4**)
  - c) Feedback from stakeholder workshops (**Attachment 5**)
2. Resolves that the confidential un-redacted survey responses to the draft concept plans (**Attachment 3**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
3. Writes to all respondents to the engagement of the draft Concept Plans to express Council's appreciation for their contribution and to advise them of the Committee's resolution and the next steps in the project.

**Attachments**

1. Draft Concept Designs - Nillumbik Youth Hub

6. Consultation Matters

**PCC.009/23 Draft Nillumbik Youth Hub Concept Plans - Outcomes of Community engagement**

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2. Community Engagement Report - Nillumbik Youth Hub 2023
3. Youth Hub Survey Responses - Confidential and unredacted - *CONFIDENTIAL*
4. Youth Hub Survey Responses - Redacted
5. Summary of feedback - Youth Hub workshops

**Discussion**

1. Nillumbik Shire Council has received funding under the Victorian Government's Youth Hubs Grant program 2022-2023, to redevelop its community facility located at 32-34 Elizabeth St, Diamond Creek, into a dedicated, stand-alone youth hub to provide centralised support for young people 12-25 years old.
2. Draft concept designs have been prepared (**Attachment 1**), which have been informed by the Youth Hub Research & Engagement report completed in 2022, defining the desired impact, purpose, functions and location of a Youth Hub in Nillumbik. This report was supported by engagement with a broad range of young people, youth service providers and benchmarking across other Councils.
3. The engagement period on the draft designs ran from 30 June – 25 July 2023 on Council's Participate Nillumbik website.
4. In line with Nillumbik's Community Engagement Policy, and in an effort to reach as many people as possible, a range of promotional tools and information resources were used to encourage and support meaningful participation.
5. The draft designs were made available on Participate Nillumbik, alongside a short survey and opportunity for the public to provide comments and feedback on the proposed designs for the Youth Hub.
6. The engagement on Participate Nillumbik was promoted through social media channels, including paid Facebook ads, and general Council and Youth Facebook, Instagram and Twitter postings.
7. A3-size posters and postcards promoting the engagement were also placed across existing community facilities and schools across Nillumbik, with a QR code linking back to the Participate Nillumbik site, and digital content was provided to schools and other stakeholders to promote via newsletters and emails to networks.
8. The community engagement period was also supported by interactive workshops with young people and youth service providers onsite at 32-34 Elizabeth Street Diamond Creek, at local schools (including Sacred Heart Primary School, Diamond Valley College, St Helena and Eltham High School), and with other key stakeholder groups including Youth Council, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Araluen, Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, Nillumbeats FReeZA committee and Youth Rainbow Group.

6. Consultation Matters

**PCC.009/23 Draft Nillumbik Youth Hub Concept Plans - Outcomes of Community engagement**

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**Related Council decisions**

9. At the 13 December 2022 Council meeting, Council endorsed Officers proceed with a submission under the Victorian Government's Youth Hubs grant program 2022-23 by 5pm 14 December 2022 and if successful, commits to funding the ongoing operational and staffing costs to operate the Youth Hub over at least the next three financial years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.
10. The draft designs for the Nillumbik Youth Hub (**Attachment 1**) were endorsed for the purposes public consultation at the 27 June 2023 Council Meeting.

**Options**

11. A summary of the engagement activities and findings can be found in the Community Engagement Report (**Attachment 2**).
12. A total of 85 written responses were received from the online survey provided on Participate Nillumbik (presented as confidential and un-redacted in **Attachment 3** and redacted in **Attachment 4**).
13. In addition, a total of 181 people participated across the 13 workshops held during the engagement period. A summary of the stakeholder workshops is provided in **Attachment 5**.
14. Generally, there was broad support for the draft concept designs for the Youth Hub, including 93% of survey respondents who indicated they supported the proposed designs. In particular, there was support across all stakeholders on the flexible program spaces and outdoor area that can be used for a broad range of purposes, and the modernising of the building to be 'youth' friendly and welcoming.
15. Overall, young people who engaged throughout the public consultation period felt the designs were engaging, safe and inclusive and highlighted the importance of outdoor spaces for community gardens and biodiversity, open kitchen for cooking and barista programs, study spaces with charging stations, and flexible program spaces and equipment that will support a range of different activities young people are interested in including bmx/skate, basketball/netball, gaming, art, table tennis, music and more.
16. Local youth services also emphasised the importance of a secondary discreet entrance for young people accessing their services, and the flexibility of the program spaces to be utilised for a range of activities, including consulting spaces to expand services they are able to offer. Services also supported that inclusive designs, particularly for young people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness and/or financial insecurity, supporting the opportunity for a washing machine/dryer, accessible shower facility and provision of emergency relief items such as food and hygiene products.
17. Considerations and opportunities identified by a range of young people, local youth services and other stakeholders who engaged throughout the public consultation period included ensuring the final designs incorporate colour and other opportunities for art and creative design, having flexible and interchangeable furniture for a broad range of uses in the program spaces, ensuring safety for services, staff and young people accessing the space and consideration for minimising transfer of noise between program spaces and consulting rooms.

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.009/23 Draft Nillumbik Youth Hub Concept Plans - Outcomes of Community engagement**

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18. In addition, accessibility and inclusion were important topic areas emphasised by all stakeholders. Feedback received included ensuring areas within the Youth Hub including the kitchen, stage and outdoor area are accessible for people with a disability. Other suggestions included incorporating wayfinding signage and consideration of colour contrasting throughout the building and with furniture. Young people also highlighted the importance of visibility, such as displaying the Progress Pride, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, Acknowledgement of Country, incorporating first nation's artwork and use of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung language in naming of the rooms.
19. Environmentally sustainable design was also highlighted as an important consideration, including use of renewable energy, energy and water efficient fixtures and appliances such as LED lighting, recycling/composting systems, use of recycled, recovered and recycled content materials in design, biodiversity and supporting active transport to and from the Youth Hub.
20. The feedback received on the draft designs will be incorporated into an updated final design for the Youth Hub. Additional feedback received that falls outside of the scope of the designs will be noted and utilised where possible for future opportunities as the project progresses.

**Council plans and policies**

21. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategy:
  - We actively engage people of all ages and stages in decisions that affect them, ensuring that initiatives meet current and emerging needs.
22. This report also directly supports objectives in the Youth Strategy 2022-2026.

**Access, Equity and Inclusion**

23. A Gender Impact assessment was completed in May, including consideration for access, equity and inclusion requirements to ensure a broad reach throughout the public consultation process.
24. A Gender Impact Assessment has also be completed on the draft designs to ensure the overall project considers gender, access, equity and inclusion in construction and ongoing operations.

**Sustainability implications**

25. Not applicable.

**Community engagement**

26. This project has been identified as a priority within the Nillumbik Youth Strategy 2022- 2026, which has been co-designed by Nillumbik Youth Council and informed by the Young Minds: Your Voice, Our Future youth engagement program which ran from 14 June 2021 to 20 July 2021 and heard from a total of 897 young people aged 12-25 years old.



**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.009/23 Draft Nillumbik Youth Hub Concept Plans - Outcomes of Community engagement**

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27. A 'Youth Hub' was also identified as one of the top recommendations that came out of the 2022 Nillumbik Youth Summit, that heard from more than 50 students from Diamond Valley College, Eltham High School, Catholic Ladies College, St Helena Secondary College and Montmorency Secondary College.
28. The draft designs were informed and guided by findings from the Research and Engagement Report, which included a Youth Hub Forum with local young people undertaken in June/July 2022.
29. Public consultation on the draft designs is further outlined in this report.

**Innovation and continuous improvement**

30. Not applicable.

**Collaboration**

31. Officers have been working collaboratively with a number of internal and external stakeholders to support the detailed design of the Youth Hub. This includes Youth Council, Council staff and Youth Service Providers.

**Budget implications**

32. Council have been successful in receiving \$300,000 under the Victorian Governments Youth Hubs grant program 2022/23 towards the project.
33. Council resolved at the 13 December 2022 Council Meeting to contribute an additional \$300,000 towards the completion of the capital works from the 2023/24 capital expenditure budget if the grant application was successful.
34. Additional funding will be required to deliver the full scope of works outlined in the draft designs by June 2024.

**Relevant law**

35. Not applicable.

**Regional, state and national plans and policies**

36. *Our promise, Your future: Victoria's youth strategy 2022-2027*

**Conflicts of interest**

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

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.009/23 Draft Nillumbik Youth Hub Concept Plans - Outcomes of Community engagement**

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6. Officers’ reports

PCC.010/23 Outcome of Community Consultation - 2 Bell Street Eltham (Fabbro Fields)

**Item:** Consultation Matter

**Distribution:** Public

**Manager:** Rosa Zouzoulas, Director Planning, Environment and Strategy

**Summary**

At its Council Meeting on 27 June 2023, Council resolved to:

1. *Endorses the commencement of a community consultation process as outlined in Proposed Community Engagement Next Steps (**Attachment 1**) to seek the views of the Nillumbik community with respect to the potential use of land at 2 Bell Street Eltham for the purpose of an urban farm.*
2. *Following the conclusion of the community engagement period, hears from submitters at the Planning and Consultation Committee meeting on 8 August 2023 with respect to the potential use of land at 2 Bell Street Eltham for the purpose of an urban farm.*

Engagement was conducted over a three week period between 29 June 2023 and 20 July 2023.

The engagement was effective in reaching over 1000 people with the majority providing additional commentary to support their vote. Overall, 53.96% of the community that voted, voted yes to an urban farm, whilst 46.04% voted no to an urban farm.

With regard to the relevant feedback the following summarises the main themes arising from both the yes and no votes from those of the community that provided additional commentary:

Main themes arising from the community that voted yes	Main themes arising from the community that voted no
Increase local food security	We already have Edendale
Promotes family friendly social connectedness	Land is a floodplain and appropriate for use
Promote sustainable agriculture, provide education opportunities and grow community spirit	Maintain remaining open spaces
Need access to organic, locally produced fruit and vegetables	Loss of biodiversity and tree canopy – should seek to plant out the open space
Directly combats climate change	Not enough information upon which to make a considered decision
On the basis that there will still be open space available on the land for community enjoyment and local school involvement	Parking concerns

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.010/23 Outcome of Community Consultation - 2 Bell Street Eltham (Fabbro Fields)**

Based on input from the Planning and Consultation Committee meeting (PCC) and any additional feedback from submitters regarding the proposal, officers will compile recommendations for the 26 September 2023 Council Meeting. These recommendations will outline the course of action for Councillors to deliberate upon and decide how to address Local Food Connect's (LFC) application for written consent to apply for a planning permit for an urban farm 2 Bell Street Eltham.

**Recommendation**

**That** the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Notes the public responses, as outlined in this report and its attachments, to the public engagement of the 2 Bell St Eltham community consultation.
2. Resolves that the confidential un-redacted copies of written feedback and survey responses to the public engagement of the 2 Bell St Eltham community consultation (at **Attachments 2 and 4**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in Section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
3. Writes to all respondents to the public engagement to express Council's gratitude for their contribution and to advise them of the Committee's resolution and the next steps in the project on the updated Participate Nillumbik page.
4. Notes officers will bring a report to the Council meeting on 26 September 2023, to seek Council's resolution and respond to Local Food Connect.

**Attachments**

1. Community Consultation Overview
2. Community Consultation Overview - *CONFIDENTIAL*
3. Community Consultation inclusive of additional commentary
4. Community Consultation inclusive of additional commentary - *CONFIDENTIAL*

**Background**

1. At its Council Meeting on 27 June 2023, Council considered an officer report that detailed the history to the site located at 2 Bell Street, Eltham.
2. As previously documented, Local Food Connect (LFC) has received a Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) grant (Suburban Grants Program) to operate a proposed urban farm on the land, known as Fabbro Fields.
3. To create and operate an urban farm at the subject land, a planning permit must be applied for and received, and the use and development must accord with the planning permit.

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.010/23 Outcome of Community Consultation - 2 Bell Street Eltham (Fabbro Fields)**

4. In accordance with the provisions of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme, and given Council is the relevant land manager, written consent must be received by the land manager to apply for a planning permit.
5. Prior to Council as Land Manager providing written consent to LFC to apply for a planning permit to use and develop the land, it is advisable that Council also consider if it would agree and provide a lease/licence to LFC for the proposed use and development.
6. To assist Council, and prior to Council as Land Manager deciding on whether it will resolve to provide written consent to LFC to apply for a planning permit to use and develop the land, and to consider if it would resolve to and provide a lease/license to LFC for the proposed use and development, Council undertook community consultation to understand the community’s views on the proposed use and development of the land.

**Discussion**

7. Community consultation was undertaken in accordance with Council’s resolution from its meeting of 27 June 2023.
8. Consultation was undertaken is detailed at points 18-23 below.
9. The engagement was effective in reaching over 1000 people with the majority providing additional commentary to support their vote. Overall, 53.96% of the community that voted, voted yes to an urban farm, whilst 46.04% voted no to an urban farm.
10. With regard to the relevant feedback the following summarises the main themes arising from both the yes and no votes from those of the community that provided additional commentary:

Main themes arising from the community that voted yes	Main themes arising from the community that voted no
Increase local food security	We already have Edendale
Promotes family friendly social connectedness	Land is a floodplain and not appropriate for use
Promote sustainable agriculture, provide education opportunities and grow community spirit	Maintain remaining open spaces
Need access to organic, locally produced fruit and vegetables	Loss of biodiversity and tree canopy – should seek to plant out the open space
Directly combats climate change	Not enough information upon which to make a considered decision

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.010/23 Outcome of Community Consultation - 2 Bell Street Eltham (Fabbro Fields)

Main themes arising from the community that voted yes	Main themes arising from the community that voted no
On the basis that there will still be open space available on the land for community enjoyment and local school involvement	Parking concerns

11. Whilst the survey respondents reside in townships throughout most of the Shire, the overwhelming majority of the survey respondents reside in Eltham (63.45%) and Eltham North (9.32%).
12. It should be noted that 123 respondents voted no and asked for more information, 15 respondents voted yes and asked for more information and only 15 have requested more information without voting yes or no.
13. 255 respondents did not provide a written comment and voted either yes (177) or no (78).

**Related Council decisions**

At its Council Meeting on 27 June 2023, Council resolved to:

1. *Endorses the commencement of a community consultation process as outlined in Proposed Community Engagement Next Steps (**Attachment 1**) to seek the views of the Nillumbik community with respect to the potential use of land at 2 Bell Street Eltham for the purpose of an urban farm.*
2. *Following the conclusion of the community engagement period, hears from submitters at the Planning and Consultation Committee meeting on 8 August 2023 with respect to the potential use of land at 2 Bell Street Eltham for the purpose of an urban farm.*

**Options**

14. Council at its meeting in considering the request by Local Food Connect may choose to provide written consent to apply for a planning permit or may choose not to provide consent.
15. It is important to note should Council choose to provide written consent to Local Food Connect, this will initiate the statutory planning permit application and lease/licensing statutory processes. These processes will be outlined in the Council report at which this decision will be sought.

**Council plans and policies**

16. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategy:
  - We act in the best interests of our community.

**Access, Equity and Inclusion**

17. Not applicable

**Sustainability implications**

18. Not applicable

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.010/23 Outcome of Community Consultation - 2 Bell Street Eltham (Fabbro Fields)**

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**Community engagement**

19. As the matter involves the potential use of public land, it is appropriate for Council to engage with its community on the matter.
20. Engagement was conducted over a three week period between 29 June and 20 July 2023.
21. The community were invited to indicate whether or not they are supportive of the site being used for the purpose of an urban farm via a survey on Council's Participate Nillumbik website.
22. The website provided a short summary of the proposal and information about next steps.
23. The engagement was promoted through a detailed communications and engagement plan including:
  - Using our website Participate Nillumbik, where community members could indicate their support for or against;
  - Media release, newsletters, printed postcards/posters, on-site signage;
  - Series of social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn; and
  - Contacting key stakeholder groups.
24. Of the engagement tools utilised to inform the community, Facebook (39.98%), direct email (33.10%) and signage on the land (9.87%) were the most effective.
25. The engagement was effective in reaching over 1000 people with the majority providing additional commentary to support their vote. Overall, 53.96% of the community that voted, voted yes to an urban farm, whilst 46.04% voted no to an urban farm.

**Innovation and continuous improvement**

26. Not applicable

**Collaboration**

27. Not applicable

**Budget implications**

28. Costs associated with this matter can be met within operational expenditure.

**Relevant law**

29. Not applicable

**Regional, state and national plans and policies**

30. Not applicable

**Conflicts of interest**

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

**6. Consultation Matters**

**PCC.010/23 Outcome of Community Consultation - 2 Bell Street Eltham (Fabbro Fields)**

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