

Council Meeting

to be held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough
on Tuesday 26 April 2022 commencing at 7:00pm.

Attachments

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

Thursday 20 April 2022

Distribution: Public

Civic Drive, Greensborough
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Nillumbik Shire Council

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Council Meeting

held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough
on Tuesday 22 March 2022 commenced at 7:00pm.

Minutes

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

Friday 25 March 2022

Distribution: Public

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

22 March 2022

Nillumbik Shire Council

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Nillumbik Shire Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of Nillumbik Shire Council held Tuesday 22 March 2022.
The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.**

Councillors present:

Cr Frances Eyre	Swipers Gully Ward (Mayor)
Cr Richard Stockman	Blue Lake Ward
Cr Karen Egan	Bunjil Ward
Cr Natalie Duffy	Edendale Ward
Cr Peter Perkins	Ellis Ward
Cr Ben Ramcharan	Sugarloaf Ward (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Geoff Paine	Wingrove Ward

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 Community Services
Jeremy Livingston	Executive Manager Business Transformation and Performance
Rosa Zouzoulas	Executive Manager Planning and Community Safety
Eddie Cheng	Manager Infrastructure and Technology
Emma Christensen	Senior Governance Advisor

1. Welcome by the Mayor

2. Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was read by the Mayor, Cr Frances Eyre.

3. Good Governance Pledge

The Good Governance Pledge was read by Cr Geoff Paine.

4. Prayer

A prayer was read by Alison Footer from the Salvation Army.

5. Apologies

Nil

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22 March 2022

6. Presentations

Condolence – Ron Mendelson

The Mayor acknowledged one of Nillumbik's long standing volunteers Ron Mendelson, who sadly passed away over the recent long weekend.

Ron joined Community Support Services as a volunteer with Nillumbik Shire Council in 2012. Ron provided transport to older people in need, whether it be medical appointments, shopping or social activities. All Nillumbik staff and clients who knew him, loved him.

Community Support Services considered Ron to be the backbone of the community transport service. Ron was famous for taking on the "long-shift" and was always willing to help out at the last moment. Nothing was too much trouble for him.

Because of his amazing commitment and contribution to our community, Ron received the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2015. Ron continued to provide support to older people through the community transport service until his recent passing at 83 years of age.

Council are so appreciative of Ron's service and our thoughts are with his family at this time.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 2022.

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins

SECONDED: Cr Karen Egan

That Council confirms the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 2022 (**Attachment 1**).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

Carl Cowie declared a material conflict of interest in Item CM.028/22 CEO Employment Committee – 2021/2022 Mid-year Performance Review.

9. Petitions

Nil

10. Questions from the gallery

Nil

Council Meeting Minutes

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11. Reports of Advisory Committees

AC.002/22 Advisory Committee Report - 22 March 2022

Distribution: Public

Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Executive Manager Governance, Communications and Engagement

Author: Emma Christensen, Acting Governance Lead

Summary

Council has a range of Advisory Committees which provide a formal mechanism for Council to consult with key stakeholders, seek specialist advice and enable community participation. Although they do not make any formal decisions, they provide valuable advice to Council.

In accordance with Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, the following minutes of Advisory Committee meetings are attached (**Attachment 1**) and presented to Council for noting:

1. Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee Meeting held 15 November 2021;
2. Youth Council Formal Advisory Committee Meeting held 7 February 2022;
3. Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting held 16 February 2022; and
4. Panton Hill Bushland Reserve System User Group Advisory Committee held 17 February 2022.

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr Natalie Duffy

Seconded: Cr Geoff Paine

That the minutes of the Advisory Committee meetings (**Attachment 1**) reported be noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Meeting Minutes

22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.017/22 Planning Scheme Amendment C138nill - Applying the Heritage Overlay on a Permanent Basis to 14-26 Browns Lane, Plenty

Distribution: Public

Manager: Rosa Zouzoulas, Executive Manager Planning and Community Safety

Author: Leigh Northwood, Strategic Planning Lead

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Council in regard to the outcomes of exhibition of Amendment C138nill (the Amendment) and to provide an officer recommendation based on the outcomes of such exhibition in meeting the requirements of consideration required by Council in accordance with Section 22 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).

The Amendment seeks to apply a Heritage Overlay (HO) on a permanent basis to part of 14-26 Browns Lane, Plenty. The property is also subject to a current planning permit application (807/2021/14P), which is a subdivision application into 4 lots.

The property was programmed to be reviewed as part of Council's Stage B Heritage Review, however Council received a Section 29A demolition consent application pursuant the *Building Act* 1993 to demolish the dwelling located on the property in July 2021, which facilitated the need to bring review of this property forward.

Given threat of demolition, officers sought approval (under delegation) from the Minister for Planning for Amendment C137nill to introduce the HO to the property on an interim basis pursuant to Section 20(4) of the Act, providing protection and allowing this planning scheme amendment to introduce the HO permanently.

Amendment C138nill was placed on exhibition pursuant to the requirements of the Act, from 9 December 2021 to 27 January 2022 and notifications were sent out to relevant stakeholders as well as being advertised in local media. Council received one (1) submission in total (from the landowner) in total during the exhibition period objecting to the amendment.

The submitter was invited to attend the 8 March 2022 Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting (PCC) to speak to their submission. Council officers have engaged in negotiations with the submitter regarding an alternate curtilage for the HO mapping as proposed in the received submission (**Attachment 6** Plan 26648M2).

Council's heritage consultant has reviewed the proposed reduced curtilage (as identified above) and provided advice that they are satisfied with the curtilage as per the plan marked as 26648M2 on heritage grounds.

Where an objection to an amendment cannot be resolved, Council must refer the submission to Panel, however given that an effective outcome has been agreed to by the submitter (the submitter has withdrawn their objection subject to agreement by Council to the reduced curtilage), there is no requirement to convene a panel to consider the Amendment.

As such, this report recommends that Council resolve to adopt the amendment with the identified changes and seek approval from the Minister for Planning.

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12. Officers' reports

CM.017/22 Planning Scheme Amendment C138nill - Applying the Heritage Overlay on a Permanent Basis to 14-26 Browns Lane, Plenty

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Richard Stockman

SECONDED: Cr Ben Ramcharan

That Council:

1. Adopts Amendment C138nill to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme subject to changes to the Amendment mapping to be made in accordance with the plan at **Attachment 6** and directs officers under Section 31(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to submit the adopted planning scheme amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval and gazettal.
2. Notifies submitters to the planning scheme amendment of Council's resolution of 22 March 2022 regarding Amendment C138nill and updates Participate Nillumbik accordingly.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Meeting Minutes

22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.018/22 Proposed Planning Scheme Amendments C143 (Eltham Major Activity Centre) and C144 (Diamond Creek Major Activity Centre)

Distribution: Public

Manager: Rosa Zouzoulas, Executive Manager Planning and Community Safety

Author: Leigh Northwood, Strategic Planning Lead

Summary

This report considers the views expressed at the February 2022 meeting of Council's Planning and Consultation Committee (PCC) on proposed planning scheme amendments C143 (Eltham MAC) and C144 (Diamond Creek MAC), which have been drafted to implement and give statutory weight to the structure plans which Council adopted in 2020 for each Major Activity Centre (MAC).

The Council Meeting on 14 December 2021 considered an officer report that introduced the draft amendments and recommended Council take the formal steps to commence and exhibit the amendments. In response, Council deferred the items for consideration by the February 2022 meeting of the PCC.

Certain views expressed by the speakers to the February PCC are considered to present no issue for the amendments for the following reasons:

- It requests an appropriate minor change which can be made without issue.
- It supports an aspect of the amendments, such as increased front setbacks.
- It is already responded to by the amendments or elsewhere in the planning scheme.

There were also views that cannot be reasonably or easily addressed by the draft amendments. For example:

- An incorrect view that a new height limit range of 3-5 storeys is proposed.
- A request for a scale of development that would be too low to satisfy the binding requirements of State Planning Policy.
- A request that would require the structure plans to be reviewed with significant cost and delay and with likely little benefit, or chance of success.

The draft amendment documents have been revised, including to reflect views expressed to the PCC that can be appropriately accommodated without changing the strategic basis of the amendments, or to conflict with State Planning Policy. The revised amendments are attached as **Attachments 1-8** and it is the officers' view that Council proceed to commence the statutory process to consider the planning scheme amendments. This process will include full exhibition pursuant to the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* before Council decides its final position on the amendments.

Council Meeting Minutes

22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.018/22 Proposed Planning Scheme Amendments C143 (Eltham Major Activity Centre) and C144 (Diamond Creek Major Activity Centre)

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Requests the Minister for Planning, under Section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, to authorise the preparation and exhibition of Amendments C143 and C144 to the Nillumbik Shire Planning Scheme, as detailed in **Attachments 1-8**.
2. On receipt of that authorisation, places Amendments C143 and C144 to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme on exhibition.

Motion

MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine
SECONDED: Cr Peter Perkins

That Council:

1. Directs Officers to modify the proposed Amendments C143 (Eltham Major Activity Centre) and C144 (Diamond Creek Major Activity Centre) as follows:
 - a) Modify **Attachment 4** (Revised ACZ1 – Eltham MAC) and **Attachment 7** (Revised ACZ2 – Diamond Creek MAC) to remove any exemption from notice, in accordance with the provision that allows this to occur at Clause 37.08 (Exemption from notice and review) of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.
 - b) Modify **Attachment 5** (Proposed SLO1 Schedule – Eltham) and **Attachment 8** (Proposed SLO6 – Diamond Creek) to require a planning permit to construct a building or carry out works, in accordance with Clause 42.03-2 (SLO Permit Requirements).
 - c) Modify **Attachment 3** (Explanatory Report for Amendment C143 - Eltham) and **Attachment 6** (Explanatory Report for Amendment C144 – Diamond Creek) to incorporate and reflect the modifications required by Points 1 a) and b) above.
2. Requests the Minister for Planning, under Section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, to authorise the preparation and exhibition of Amendments C143 and C144, as modified in accordance with Points 1a) to c) above, to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.
3. On receipt of that authorisation, places Amendments C143 and C144 to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme on exhibition.

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

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12. Officers' reports

CM.018/22 Proposed Planning Scheme Amendments C143 (Eltham Major Activity Centre) and C144 (Diamond Creek Major Activity Centre)

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine

SECONDED: Cr Peter Perkins

That Council:

1. Directs Officers to modify the proposed Amendments C143 (Eltham Major Activity Centre) and C144 (Diamond Creek Major Activity Centre) as follows:
 - a) Modify **Attachment 4** (Revised ACZ1 – Eltham MAC) and **Attachment 7** (Revised ACZ2 – Diamond Creek MAC) to remove any exemption from notice, in accordance with the provision that allows this to occur at Clause 37.08 (Exemption from notice and review) of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.
 - b) Modify **Attachment 5** (Proposed SLO1 Schedule – Eltham) and **Attachment 8** (Proposed SLO6 – Diamond Creek) to require a planning permit to construct a building or carry out works, in accordance with Clause 42.03-2 (SLO Permit Requirements).
 - c) Modify **Attachment 3** (Explanatory Report for Amendment C143 - Eltham) and **Attachment 6** (Explanatory Report for Amendment C144 – Diamond Creek) to incorporate and reflect the modifications required by Points 1 a) and b) above.
2. Requests the Minister for Planning, under Section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, to authorise the preparation and exhibition of Amendments C143 and C144, as modified in accordance with Points 1a) to c) above, to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.
3. On receipt of that authorisation, places Amendments C143 and C144 to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme on exhibition.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COM.001/22 Confirmation of Minutes Council Meeting held Tuesday 22 March 2022
Attachment 1. Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 March 2022

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12. Officers' reports

CM.019/22 Nillumbik Neighbourhood Character Strategy and Guidelines - Project Inception and Programming

Distribution: Public

Manager: Rosa Zouzoulas, Executive Manager Planning and Community Safety

Author: Leigh Northwood, Strategic Planning Lead

Summary

This report introduces a project to implement a priority action in the Council Plan 2021-2025, which is to prepare a Neighbourhood Character Strategy (the Strategy) for the municipality.

Recognising the scale and importance of developing the Strategy, Council has provided a budget of \$220,000 (exclusive of GST) for the project over the 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 financial years.

The project is scheduled to be completed in late 2023 (around October subject to no programme changes) with Council adopting the final Strategy and supporting the commencement of a planning scheme amendment to implement the Strategy.

In accordance with State Planning Policy, the study area for the Neighbourhood Character Strategy will be restricted to land within residential zones only.

It is a requirement of State Planning Policy that each Council develop a Strategy as part of its policy framework to provide appropriate growth in housing supply in residential zones, noting in addition to providing a Neighbourhood Character Strategy, a Council is required to develop a Housing Strategy.

Development of a Housing Strategy is also a priority action in the Council Plan and work on a Housing Strategy is scheduled to commence later this year (subject to budget allocation).

The Neighbourhood Character Strategy and the Housing Strategy work together to set the direction for housing and development within a municipality's residential zones – where the objectives of protecting neighbourhood character, but also providing additional housing have to be suitably blended in accordance with State Government Planning Policy to provide sufficient housing growth within metropolitan Melbourne.

The future planning scheme amendment to implement the Neighbourhood Character Strategy, will also need to be informed by an updated Housing Strategy. This in accordance with the relevant framework required by the State Government, as discussed above, for a Council to articulate its housing policy and objectives.

This officer report explains in detail that:

- Council has engaged consultants to assist in preparing the Strategy.
- Key stages and milestones have been developed to complete the Strategy.
- There will be significant opportunities for community input into development of the Strategy, including three rounds of public engagement.

The first round of engagement is scheduled to occur from late March to early May 2022. The purpose of this first round, named "Championing the Strategy", is to inform the community about the scope of the project and to ascertain from the community what it sees as the key elements that contribute to neighbourhood character in the Shire's residential zones. As part of engagement the program includes engaging with Councillors through various workshops at strategic milestone points with the first such workshop undertaken on 15 March 2022.

Council Meeting Minutes

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12. Officers' reports

CM.019/22 Nillumbik Neighbourhood Character Strategy and Guidelines - Project Inception and Programming

This report recommends Council endorses the first round of public engagement.

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy

SECONDED: Cr Geoff Paine

That Council:

1. Notes the commencement of the project to develop a Nillumbik Neighbourhood Character Strategy.
2. Endorses a first round of engagement for the project, which is scheduled to be conducted from late March to early May 2022.
3. Notes a report will be presented to an upcoming meeting of Council's Planning and Consultation Committee which will consider the response to the first round of engagement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Leigh Northwood left the meeting at the conclusion of the above item at 7:29pm

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22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.020/22 National General Assembly 2022 - Motions

File: DOC/22/8072

Distribution: Public

Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Executive Manager Governance, Communications and Engagement

Author: Emma Christensen, Acting Governance Lead
Licardo Prince, Communications and Advocacy 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 28th NGA is to be held in Canberra from 19-22 June 2022, will be a Hybrid event and this year's theme is 'Partners in Progress'. The ALGA Secretariat has prepared a short discussion paper (**Attachment 1**) to assist councils to identify motions that address the theme of the 2022 NGA. The Assembly 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 notices of motion to seek support at the NGA for these matters to be considered by NGA as national policy.

This report seeks endorsement of the Motion (**Attachment 2**) to be put forward to the ALGA, NGA in June 2022. The 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 25 March 2022. 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.

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Ben Ramcharan

SECONDED: Cr Geoff Paine

That Council resolves to adopt and lodge the following motion to the Australian Local Government Association, National General Assembly to be held in Canberra on 19-22 June 2022:

'This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support the zero-emissions targets of local government Climate Emergency acknowledgements and declarations by:

Council Meeting Minutes

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12. Officers' reports

CM.020/22 National General Assembly 2022 - Motions

- a) *legislating a federal government target of zero emissions by 2035*
- b) *supporting a renewable energy led Covid economic recovery in preference to the nationally proposed gas-led recovery (by providing funding support on a national scale for increased renewable energy infrastructure)*
- c) *preparing the national grid to support electric vehicles and increased battery storage integration.'*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Meeting Minutes

22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.021/22 Draft Budget 2022-2023

Distribution: Public

Manager: Vince Lombardi, Chief Financial Officer

Author: Melika Sukunda, Finance Manager

Summary

This report presents the draft Budget 2022-2023 for Council approval prior to exhibition for public consultation. The Budget provides resources for the ongoing delivery of Council services to the community, delivery of Council Plan actions and for the development and maintenance of infrastructure throughout the Shire.

Rates and charges

- The draft Budget proposes a 1.75 per cent increase to rates levied and an increase of 21.98 per cent to the waste management standard charge.

Capital Works

- A range of major capital works projects have been identified through planning and community consultation. The draft Budget also provides significant resources to maintain and develop existing infrastructure.

Strategic Resource Plan

- In conjunction with the Council Plan, the Strategic Resource Plan has also been prepared for the next ten financial years.

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine

SECONDED: Cr Ben Ramcharan

That Council:

1. Adopts the draft Budget 2022-2023 (**Attachment 1**) for the purposes of section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice in accordance section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020* of Council's intention to adopt, at a Council Meeting proposed to be held at 7:00 pm on 24 May 2022, the Budget 2022-2023 presented to this meeting.
3. Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the draft Budget 2022-2023 and requests to be heard in support of the written submission, be heard at the Planning and Consultation Committee meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, at 7:00 pm on 10 May 2022.
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake any and all administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under sections 94 and 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COM.001/22 Confirmation of Minutes Council Meeting held Tuesday 22 March 2022
Attachment 1. Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 March 2022

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22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.022/22 Quarterly Risk and Safety Report - December 2021

Distribution: Public

Manager: Jeremy Livingston, Executive Manager Business Transformation and Performance

Author: Craig Commene, Risk and Safety Lead

Summary

This report provides a summary of Council's Risk and Safety Report for the quarter ending December 2021.

The report is presented in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF). This reporting framework requires the presentation of a report to Council at least every six months, detailing the strategic risks, operational risks, the consequences and likelihood of occurrence, and risk mitigation strategies.

Risk and Safety reporting to Council is tabled each quarter following consideration by Council's Audit and Risk Committee, which in this quarter occurred on 14 February 2022.

The full confidential Risk and Safety Report for December 2021 is attached to this report (**Attachment 1**) and provides detailed information for Council's consideration.

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins

SECONDED: Cr Natalie Duffy

That Council:

1. Notes the summary of the confidential Risk and Safety Report (**Attachment 1**) for the quarter ending December 2021.
2. Resolves that the attached Risk and Safety Report (**Attachment 1**) remains confidential in accordance with section 3(1)(a) and (f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Attachment 1. Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 March 2022

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22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.023/22 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting February 2022

Distribution: Public

Manager: Vince Lombardi, Chief Financial Officer

Author: Melika Sukunda, Finance Manager

Summary

In accordance with section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and good governance principles, councils must have an Audit and Risk Committee.

As resolved at the 23 June 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting, the minutes of an Audit and Risk Committee meeting are to be reported and presented to a subsequent Council Meeting.

The Audit and Risk Committee met on 14 February 2022. The minutes for the meeting are shown in **Attachment 1**.

Motion

MOVED: Cr Ben Ramcharan

SECONDED: Cr Richard Stockman

That Council notes the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 14 February 2022 (**Attachment 1**).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COM.001/22 Confirmation of Minutes Council Meeting held Tuesday 22 March 2022
Attachment 1. Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 March 2022

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22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.024/22 Draft Access Equity and Inclusion Policy

Distribution: Public

Manager: Nichole Johnson, Acting Executive Manager Communities

Author: Lauren Treby, Coordinator Social Planning and Equity

Yasmin Green, Strategy and Policy Advisor

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the Draft Access Equity and Inclusion Policy (the Policy) (**Attachment 1**) for public consultation from 23 March to 24 April 2022.

The Draft Policy outlines Council's commitment to accessible, equitable and inclusive practice across all Council activities. The Policy is a high level commitment that sets the foundation for culture change within the organisation and builds on work already being undertaken across Council.

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins

SECONDED: Cr Ben Ramcharan

That Council:

1. Endorses the Draft Access Equity and Inclusion Policy (**Attachment 1**) for the purposes of public exhibition.
2. Invites written submissions on the Draft Access Equity and Inclusion Policy to Council by 24 April 2022.
3. Considers public submissions at the Planning and Consultation Committee meeting to be held on 14 June 2022.
4. Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the Draft Access Equity and Inclusion Policy and requests to be heard in support of the written submission, be heard at the June 2022 Planning and Consultation Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COM.001/22 Confirmation of Minutes Council Meeting held Tuesday 22 March 2022
Attachment 1. Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 March 2022

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22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.025/22 Youth Council Advisory Committee Recruitment

Distribution: Public

Manager: Nichole Johnson, Acting Executive Manager Communities

Author: Katie Camilleri, Coordinator Youth, Community and Place

Summary

The endorsed Terms of Reference (**Attachment 1**) for the Youth Council outlines that membership will consist of up to fifteen young people aged 15-25 years of age who are passionate for their community and represent the views, ideas and needs of young people in the municipality. There are currently four vacant positions on the Youth Council to complete their current two year term until March 2023.

Recruitment for the Youth Council opened Thursday 17 February 2022 and closed Sunday 6 March 2022. A total of six applications were received and assessed against the selection criteria by an internal assessment panel.

This report seeks Council endorsement for four elected Youth Councillor members to the Nillumbik Youth Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the four recommended applicants listed onto the Nillumbik Youth Council Advisory Committee (see **Attachment 2**):
 - (a) Applicant 2 _____ for their role as a Youth Council Advisory Committee Member
 - (b) Applicant 3 _____ for their role as a Youth Council Advisory Committee Member
 - (c) Applicant 4 _____ for their role as a Youth Council Advisory Committee Member
 - (d) Applicant 5 _____ for their role as a Youth Council Advisory Committee Member
2. Authorises the Executive Manager Community Services to appoint Applicant 1 (**Attachment 2**) if one of the above applicants decline the position or additional Youth Council members resign before the end of their term.
3. Acknowledges and thanks all community members who submitted applications to the Youth Council Advisory Committee.
4. Resolves that the Applications and Interviews and Panel Assessment (**Attachment 2** and **Attachment 3**) to remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Council Meeting Minutes

22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.025/22 Youth Council Advisory Committee Recruitment

Motion

MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy

SECONDED: Cr Richard Stockman

That Council:

1. Endorses the four recommended applicants listed onto the Nillumbik Youth Council Advisory Committee (see **Attachment 2**):
 - (a) Applicant 2 _____ for their role as a Youth Council Advisory Committee Member
 - (b) Applicant 3 _____ for their role as a Youth Council Advisory Committee Member
 - (c) Applicant 4 _____ for their role as a Youth Council Advisory Committee Member
 - (d) Applicant 5 _____ for their role as a Youth Council Advisory Committee Member
2. Authorises the Executive Manager Community Services to appoint Applicant 1 (**Attachment 2**) if one of the above applicants decline the position or additional Youth Council members resign before the end of their term.
3. Acknowledges and thanks all community members who submitted applications to the Youth Council Advisory Committee.
4. Resolves that the Applications and Interviews and Panel Assessment (**Attachment 2** and **Attachment 3**) to remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
5. **Resolves that the successful applicants be named.**

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

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy

SECONDED: Cr Richard Stockman

That Council:

1. Endorses the four recommended applicants listed onto the Nillumbik Youth Council Advisory Committee (see **Attachment 2**):
 - (a) Applicant 2 Niamh Coffey for their role as a Youth Council Advisory Committee Member
 - (b) Applicant 3 Martina Charalambous for their role as a Youth Council Advisory Committee Member

Council Meeting Minutes

22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.025/22 Youth Council Advisory Committee Recruitment

- (c) Applicant 4 Ava Crzechnik for their role as a Youth Council Advisory Committee Member
- (d) Applicant 5 Rhys Warrillow for their role as a Youth Council Advisory Committee Member
- 2. Authorises the Executive Manager Community Services to appoint Applicant 1 (**Attachment 2**) if one of the above applicants decline the position or additional Youth Council members resign before the end of their term.
- 3. Acknowledges and thanks all community members who submitted applications to the Youth Council Advisory Committee.
- 4. Resolves that the Applications and Interviews and Panel Assessment (**Attachment 2** and **Attachment 3**) to remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- 5. Resolves that the successful applicants be named.

CARRIED

COM.001/22 Confirmation of Minutes Council Meeting held Tuesday 22 March 2022
Attachment 1. Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 March 2022

Council Meeting Minutes

22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.026/22 Tender Report Evaluation - Contract 2122-029 - Provision for Haulage and Processing of Scrap Metal & E-waste

Distribution: Public

Manager: Hjalmar Philipp, Director Operations and Infrastructure

Author: Lisa Pittle, Manager Environment

Lance Clark, Senior Procurement Specialist

Summary

This report recommends the awarding of contract 2122-029 for Provision for Haulage and Processing of Scrap Metal & E-waste.

The contract term is for an initial period of five years, with two x one year options to extend the contract. The total duration of the contract, including the exercise of any options, shall not exceed seven years.

The Tender Evaluation Panel has assessed all submissions and this report provides a summary of their evaluation in recommending the awarding of the contract for 2122-029 for Provision for Haulage and Processing of Scrap Metal & E-waste.

Pursuant to the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, the value of this contract exceeds the specified financial limits and a Council resolution is therefore required to award the contract.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by the **preferred tenderer** for the schedule of rates disclosed in (**Attachment 1**) and enter into the following contract:
Number: 2122-029
Title: Provision for Haulage and Processing of Scrap Metal & E-waste
Term: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2027
Options: 2 x 1 Year extension options
2. Authorises the Director Operations and Infrastructure to finalise and execute the contract documentation.
3. Authorises the Director Operations and Infrastructure to approve contract term extensions.
4. Authorises the Director Operations and Infrastructure to approve changes to operational requirements throughout the term of the contract.
5. Advises all tenderers accordingly.
6. Makes public the decision regarding this contract but the Tender Evaluation Report (**Attachment 1**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(g) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
7. Resolves that the preferred tenderer be named.

Council Meeting Minutes

22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.026/22 Tender Report Evaluation - Contract 2122-029 - Provision for Haulage and Processing of Scrap Metal & E-waste

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Karen Egan
SECONDED: Cr Peter Perkins

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by the **preferred tenderer Ecocycle Pty Ltd** for the schedule of rates disclosed in (**Attachment 1**) and enter into the following contract:
Number: 2122-029
Title: Provision for Haulage and Processing of Scrap Metal & E-waste
Term: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2027
Options: 2 x 1 Year extension options
2. Authorises the Director Operations and Infrastructure to finalise and execute the contract documentation.
3. Authorises the Director Operations and Infrastructure to approve contract term extensions.
4. Authorises the Director Operations and Infrastructure to approve changes to operational requirements throughout the term of the contract.
5. Advises all tenderers accordingly.
6. Makes public the decision regarding this contract but the Tender Evaluation Report (**Attachment 1**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(g) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
7. Resolves that the preferred tenderer be named.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Meeting Minutes

22 March 2022

12. Officers' reports

CM.027/22 Informal Meetings of Councillors Records - 22 March 2022

Distribution: Public

Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Executive Manager Governance, Communications and Engagement

Author: Emma Christensen, Acting Governance Lead

Summary

In accordance with *Item 19 of Council's Governance Rule – Meeting Procedure*, adopted on 25 August 2020, Council is required to report as soon as practicable to a Council Meeting a record of each Informal Meeting of Councillors held.

This report lists Informal Meetings of Councillors Records submitted since the matter was last reported to Council on 22 February 2022.

An Informal Meeting of Councillors Record was kept for the following meetings (**Attachment 1**):

1. Councillor Workshop held 10 & 11 February 2022;
2. Eltham Train Station Carpark Meeting held 14 February 2022;
3. Councillor Briefing held 15 February 2022;
4. Recreation Trails Advisory Committee Meeting held 16 February 2022;
5. Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting held 16 February 2022;
6. Panton Hill Bushland Reserve System User Group Advisory Committee Meeting held 17 February 2022;
7. Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee Meeting held 21 February 2022;
8. Council Meeting Pre-Meeting held 22 February 2022;
9. Melbourne Water Christmas Hills Divestment Community Meeting held 23 February 2022;
10. CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee Meeting held 28 February 2022;
11. Councillor Briefing held 1 March 2022; and
12. Planning and Consultation Committee Pre-Meeting held 8 March 2022.

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Karen Egan

SECONDED: Cr Natalie Duffy

That Council, in accordance with *Item 19 of Council's Governance Rule – Meeting Procedure*, receives the Informal Meetings of Councillors Records (**Attachment 1**) for the meetings held.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Meeting Minutes

22 March 2022

14. Notices of Motion

Nil

15. Delegates' Reports

Nil

16. Supplementary and urgent business

Nil

17. Confidential reports

Carl Cowie declared a material conflict of interest in the following confidential item as it was in relation to his Employment Contract. Carl Cowie left the meeting prior to this item being heard at 8:00pm.

Pursuant to section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), the meeting of the Council be closed to members of the public for the consideration of the following confidential items:

CM.028/22 CEO Employment Committee - 2021/2022 Mid-year Performance Review

This item is confidential because it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs pursuant to paragraph (f) of the definition of confidential information under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. This ground is applied because it is information that, if publicly released at the time, is likely to be inappropriately detrimental to the Council or any person (natural or corporate).

Council Resolution

MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine

SECONDED: Cr Peter Perkins

That in accordance with section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider confidential items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting closed to the members of the public at 8:01pm.

18. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8:06pm.

Confirmed:

Cr Frances Eyre, Mayor

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Youth Council Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes



Date:	Monday 4 April 2022
Time:	4.00pm – 6.00pm
Venue:	Council Chambers
Chair:	Youth Mayor Fieke van der Kamp
Minute Taker:	Molly Jessop, Youth Development Officer
Committee Members:	Bailey Cumming, Brianne Keogh, Fieke Van Der Kamp, Jack Linehan, Joseph Bowman, Lachlan Wadsworth, Maali Kerta-Rice, Maverick Knight, Orianna Edmonds, Indi Sandwell, Kirra Imbriano, Niamh Coffey, Martina Charalambous, Ava Grzechnik
Councillor Representative	Cr Natalie Duffy
Other:	Katie Camilleri, Nicola Clutton, Molly Jessop, Corrienne Nichols
Apologies:	Rhys Warrillow, Maverick Knight

Order of business

1. Welcome

Youth Mayor Fieke van der Kamp welcomed all members to the April Youth Council meeting 2022.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

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.

3. Apologies:

Youth Council member Rhys Warrillow was unable to attend due to a clash with school camp. Maverick Knight was unable to attend.

4. Introductions

Introductions were made by all present to new Youth Council members. Youth Council welcomed new Youth Council members, Ava, Martina, Niamh and Rhys.

5. Conflict of Interest and Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held 7 March 2022 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting except for the following amendment as listed below.

Note in change to minutes, save the date for Youth Summit now moved to 25th May as previous date clashed with National Sorry Day. Previous meeting minutes listed this date as the previous now incorrect date.

No outstanding actions remain from the previous meeting.

Minutes moved by: Bailey Cummings

Minutes seconded by: Lachlan Wadsworth

7. Ice Breaker

Youth Council members participate in a series of icebreakers facilitated by Nillumbik Youth Staff.

8. Item of business 1: Mayor Elections Speeches (30 minutes)

Youth Council nominees for Youth Mayor are each provided with three minutes to speak to the room on why they would like to be Youth Mayor.

A summary of each nominee's speech is below:

Kirra Imbriano

- Within the past year Kirra has learnt a lot about leadership and what it would take to fulfil the role.
- Areas of interest include the environment, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, mental health and reconciliation.
- Kirra is also a volunteer at non-for profit Big Group Hug and has gained experience in talking at board meetings and engaging with community members.
- Personal skills that she could bring to Youth Mayor include being approachable and fighting for her passions are hard as she can.
- Goals for this year's Youth Council include getting Youth Council more involved in social media and the community to engage with young people as well as ensuring Youth Council is a safe space where everyone's opinions can be heard without judgement.

Jack Linehan

- Jack has been connected to Nillumbik his whole life, lives and breathes the community
- Areas of interest include youth violence in the community and shifting the youth culture.
- Goal's for this year's Youth Council include further community engagement with schools and community groups, implementing a leadership program and further progressing Youth Hub and BMX projects.

Brianne Keogh

- Brianne's personal skills she could bring to the Youth Mayor role include a passion for the community, a love for championing other people's ideas and being a voice the Youth Council can rely on.
- Brianne believes leadership is about action and wants to help Youth Council implement what was strategised in 2021.
- Areas of interest include: women in leadership, safer spaces and places for young people and youth financial wellbeing.

Orianna Edmonds

- Orianna would like to be Youth Mayor as she believes she has capability to do more in the community and wants to help young people's hope, dreams and goals come to life

- She has lived in Nillumbik her whole life and was voted Nillumbik Young Women Business Leader of the Year for 2022.
- Her areas of interest include: the environment and building resilience in young people.
- Personal skills she could bring to the Youth Mayor role include: being team focused, inclusive of everyone and having the ability to lead and energise young people.

Lachlan Wadsworth

- Lachlan is heavily involved in the local community playing at active role at the Eltham Junior Football Club and founded the club's All Abilities Football Team.
- His personal skills include being a great and confident communicator and bringing forward other people's ideas.
- Lachlan is a great communicator and loves having conversations with all sorts of people.
- Lachlan also lives with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and has learnt a lot through other young people living with ASD.

Bailey Cummings

- Bailey believes being Youth Mayor is an opportunity to become more involved within the community and further develop his leadership skills.
- He has previous experience in leadership roles including running a national Ventures activity for scouts and being a student representative on Parade College's Safety Committee. He also won his school's Long Tan award last year, which is awarded to a young person demonstrating leadership and teamwork qualities.
- Bailey is actively committed and involved in youth council and champion's young people's aspirations. He is also passionate about social connection opportunities for young people.
- Personal skills he could bring to the role include leadership, communication, teamwork, and an ability to delegate and make decisions.

Fieke van der Kamp

- Fieke believes this is a year of action for Youth Council and wants to focus on implementing the Youth Strategy.
- Fieke's two most important values are empathy and action. She believes that even if an action seems small it can set off a ripple effect of positive change.
- She wants to combat misconceptions that young people aren't able or interested in making change to ensure young people have access to change making before they lose their drive.
- Her areas of interest include the environment and helping young people find their passions.
- This year, she wants Youth Council to focus on breaking down barriers for young people interested in politics and council to encourage more of the youth community to get involved in shaping our future. She also wants to focus on the quiet voices within the youth community to ensure their voices are heard.

Niamh Coffey

- Niamh acknowledges that they are brand new and the youngest member of youth council so not an obvious choice for Youth Mayor but would make a great leader.
- Niamh has developed leadership skills through their schools leadership team and has organised events, surveys and forums to ensure students are being heard throughout school. Additionally, Niamh has strong public speaking skills and stays calm in difficult situations.
- Niamh strives for equality and equity and is passionate about empowering others to do what they love and climate justice.
- Niamh wants to create a community that's safe and enjoyable for everyone. Their goals for Youth Council this year include ensuring everyone is respected and listened to and that the voices of both youth council and other young people in the community

9. Item of business 2: Mayor Elections Voting (10 minutes)

Youth Council members are invited to silent vote for their preferred Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor.

If a candidate received a clear majority of votes – with a clear majority being one more vote than the other Committee members nominated they will be declared that Committee member duly elected as Youth Mayor by majority decision of the Committee. The Committee member with the second most votes will be declared Youth Deputy Mayor.

Based on clear majority votes the following Youth Council members were elected as Youth Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Mayor: Brianne Keogh

Deputy Mayor: Kirra Imbriano

10. Item of business 3: Group Photo (20 Minutes)

Youth Council members were directed outside to take a group photo and profile photos of the newly elected Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor.

The photos will be published on the Nillumbik Youth website and social media.

11. Item of business 4: Guest Speaker - Redevelopment Plan Diamond Creek (Andrew Feeney)

- Nillumbik Council are currently creating a Redevelopment Plan for Diamond Creek.
- This is a long term plan, consisting of an investigation into what community facilities are required for the suburb and where they would be best located as determined by industry benchmarks.
- The plan aims to provide the community facilities that Diamond Creek needs for its population while keeping the culture and community of Diamond Creek intact.
- This benchmarking considers that Diamond Creek has a 15,000 projected population by 2036 and that the suburb services the whole rural community of Nillumbik as well as residents.
- The study has found Diamond Creek needs a multipurpose community centre, library, Youth Hub servicing whole of the shire, more neighbourhood houses and an aquatic leisure centre.

- Some facilities need to be relocated to more appropriate locations including Living & Learning Centre and the Occasional and Long Care Centre.
- Other facilities need upgrading including the Diamond Creek Community Centre, Senior Citizens Centre, Community Bank Stadium and Community Pool

What a Youth Hub would look like:

- Rooms for events, games and meetings
- Rooms for service provision (mental health, counselling, employment services)
- Shared kitchen, lounge and chill zone
- Criteria for location: Accessible via public transport, close to food and shops, close to the bike trails and walking paths.

Options for the Youth Hub:

1. Standalone Youth Hub at the Netball Courts
2. Youth Hub as part of a community facilities hub including the library, neighbourhood house, and multipurpose room at the existing Diamond Creek Community Centre Site
3. Youth Hub as part of a Youth and Leisure Hub being located in or next to a new Aquatic Centre at the current Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool site.

Youth Council were invited to partake in an open discussion:

Should the Youth Hub be a standalone facility or group with other community facilities?

In favour of standalone:

- Standalone youth hub is more appropriate for privacy when young people are accessing services.
- Young people might be turned off by other community members like parents and older people being around, may not feel as youth friendly.

In favour of being grouped with other community facilities:

- If the youth hub is a standalone, young people might not know about it or know how to find it.
- Standalone means you have to have a specific reason to be going there. Whereas being near other facilities creates traction. If you don't want others to know you're accessing services you can say you're accessing one of the other facilities.
- Having everything in the one place gives young people access to everything at once rather than going to the library then the youth hub.

12. Item of business 5: Guest Speaker- Draft Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy (Lauren Treby)

- The Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy aims to inform all of decisions in council to make sure all services, programs and events organised and funded by Nillumbik Shire Council are accessible and inclusive for all community members.
- Whilst inequalities were prevalent throughout Nillumbik, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has increased inequality within the Shire. Specifically,

data has shown an increase residents experiencing in family violence, financial hardship and housing crises.

- Accessibility is not limited to physical access but also considers cultural, financial and lived experiences as factors that contribute to accessibility.
- Key priority groups for the Access, Equity and Inclusion policy include people who identify as: First Nations, LGBTQIA+, Low Socio-Economic, older residents, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, Living with a disability or chronic disease including mental health issues, female, refugees and asylum seekers.

Youth Council was invited to have an open discussion:

What does a fair and inclusive Nillumbik look like to you?

- Same opportunity's and same access for everyone
- Combining rural and urban as sometimes it feels like there's a divide
- Everyone has access and able to go into places as rural places are often neglect to provide disability access.
- Council staff and contractors are provided with inclusion training to support community members with additional access needs.
- A walking path or bike path in St Andrews to bring both parts of Nillumbik together.
- Removing language barriers
- Ensuring everyone's voice is being heard throughout the broader public.
- Financial inequalities are prevalent for young people and limit access to sport and recreational activities. Additionally, this impacted on the skills and job readiness of young people. In an inclusive Nillumbik the cost of upskilling and employment courses should be subsidies to a reasonable price for young people to access without parental contribution.
- Currently, young people are excluded when parents can't drive them places or when parents against them being involved in certain activities.

If you have further ideas or feedback on the Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy you can visit Participate Nillumbik to contribute:

<https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/inclusive-nillumbik>

Submissions are open until Sunday 24 April.

13. Item of business 7: Youth Development Updates

Katie Camilleri and Nicola Clutton

Officers provided updates on the following Youth Development projects:

- **BMX Jump Park Update**
- Promotion of a one hour online session with the Trail Collective to hear what the community would like to see included in the pre-design concept.
- One hour online session is on 6 April from 6.30-7.30pm (link teams.live.com/join/9544996930055)
- 10 May 2022 – community invited to speak to their submissions at a PCC Meeting.

- There are a few locations which have been identified as potential site locations for the BMX facility in Diamond Creek – Melbourne Water have been engaged to assess these sites to inform a detailed feasibility on identified sites. (It is anticipated that there will be restrictions on what can be built on the proposed sites as they are in flood zone areas)
- Detailed feasibility study will be presented to Council in a briefing in June.
- **Advisory Committee Code of Conduct**
Youth Council members have been provided with the Advisory Committee Code of Conduct which they must read and sign prior to the next Youth Council meeting.

14. Other Business

Nicola Clutton notes that she will be on leave and will return on 2 May 2022, Katie Camilleri or Molly Jessop will be the main points of contact for Youth Council for the rest of April.

15. Next meeting date and location

Youth Council Informal Meeting

Monday 2 May 2022

Location: Council Chambers

16. Actions to be completed by next meeting

Action	Responsible	Due Date
Read and sign the Advisory Committee Code of Conduct	All	Monday 2 May
Provide further feedback on the Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy via Participate Nillumbik	All (optional)	Sunday 24 April
Complete Youth Council Profile Survey for Nillumbik Youth Social Media and Website	All	Friday 15 April
Submit Quarter One Payment Invoices to youth@nillumbik.vic.gov.au	All	Monday 2 May
Send through a statement by a supplier form to youth@nillumbik.vic.gov.au	New Youth Council members	Monday 2 May

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Goal		Action	Status	Additional information
Goal 1 - Culture & Leadership	1.1	Customer First training	Implemented	Organisational training conducted between 2019-2021 across all operational and service teams.
	1.2	Business plan review	Implemented	Internal business/work plans framework review implemented with Customer Experience pillar included across all plans.
	1.3	Customer Experience Policy and Standards	Deferred	Review deferred due to COVID-19 impacting service delivery and levels - for development and implementation in subsequent strategy/plan.
	1.4	Rewarding outstanding service	Implemented	The Human Resources team partnered across the organisation in 2020 to implement a recognition and reward program across multiple internal platforms.
	1.5	Staff as organisation ambassadors	Implemented	Organisational training conducted between 2019-2021 across all operational and service teams.
	1.6	One-stop-shop	Implemented	The Better Business Approvals program was established in late 2020 as per Key Strategic Initiative 1 in the Economic Development Strategy.
Goal 2 - Reporting & Measurement	2.1	Establish KPI framework	Implemented	Internal reporting dashboards were developed and operationalised in 2020. These dashboards continue to be circulated and discussed across the organisation.
	2.2	Improve our business processes	Implemented	Promapp - our online process mapping tool - was deployed across the organisation in 2019. A total of 1,100 processes have mapped which has promoted consistency, with the focus now moving towards process review and improvement.
	2.3	Quality benchmarking program	Implemented	Mystery Shopping continues to provide an ongoing quality management and assessment tool across numerous frontline services for our most utilised customer channel (phone).
	2.4	Complaint management framework	Implemented	A Complaint Policy was first adopted by Council in 2020. The policy was updated in line with updated Victorian Ombudsman guidelines and was adopted by Council in December 2021. Ongoing reporting and training in support of the policy continues to be deployed.
Goal 3 - Customer Intelligence	3.1	Regularly measure customer satisfaction	Implemented	Biannual customer satisfaction survey across phone and digital platforms continues to provide feedback and measurement from recent customers. The survey results identify customer painpoints and opportunities for improvement.
	3.2	System management review	Implemented	Systems were reviewed in 2019 (Zeacom, Pathway, Sharepoint) resulting in Sharepoint being replaced with Content Manager as a corporate records management system.
	3.3	Customer journey maps	Implemented	Reviewed as part of process mapping tool Enhancements to come with web transformation deployment and data capture informing improved customer pathways
	3.4	Develop customer personas	Out of scope	Reviewed and removed ('out of scope') due to cost and identified low return on investment.

Goal		Action	Status	Additional information
Goal 4 - Engagement Tools	4.1	CRM platform review	Out of scope	Reviewed and removed ('out of scope') due to cost and identified low return on investment.
	4.2	Single view of the Council to customers	Out of scope	Reviewed and removed ('out of scope') due to cost and identified low return on investment.
	4.3	Enhancement of records management	Implemented	Content Manager has replaced SharePoint as the organisation's corporate records management system. Launched in February 2021, this has resulted in improved staff satisfaction, a regulatory compliant system, better tracking and reporting, and improved response and 'close out' times to the customer.
	4.4	Enhancement of Council's website	Implemented	The upgraded website went 'live' in September 2021 and has updated both our architecture and content to better support customer interactions and information on our services for the community.
	4.5	Effective customer communication	Deferred	Deferred for implementation through the Communications strategy
	4.6	E-services business model	Implemented	Implemented as part of post implementation web project between digital and CX teams
	4.7	Choice of cost effective access channels	Implemented	Implemented as part of website upgrade, new initiatives have included the introduction of WebChat (as a new customer channel) in 2020, and an increasing number of forms being transferred to digital forms throughout 2021.
Goal 5 - Business Improvement	5.1	Organisational continuous improvement approach to process management	Implemented	Ongoing review tied to the new complaint management framework and reporting and high volume touchpoints to help support further improvement.
	5.2	Annual strategy progress report	Implemented	A progress update on the strategy has been reported annually to a Council meeting for noting, along with a detailed Councillor briefing prior.
	5.3	Knowledge Management Review	Implemented	The knowledge management portal was reviewed in 2020, with all information having been reviewed and updated, improving accuracy and reduced request handling times.

Draft Communications Strategy 2022-2025



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.

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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.

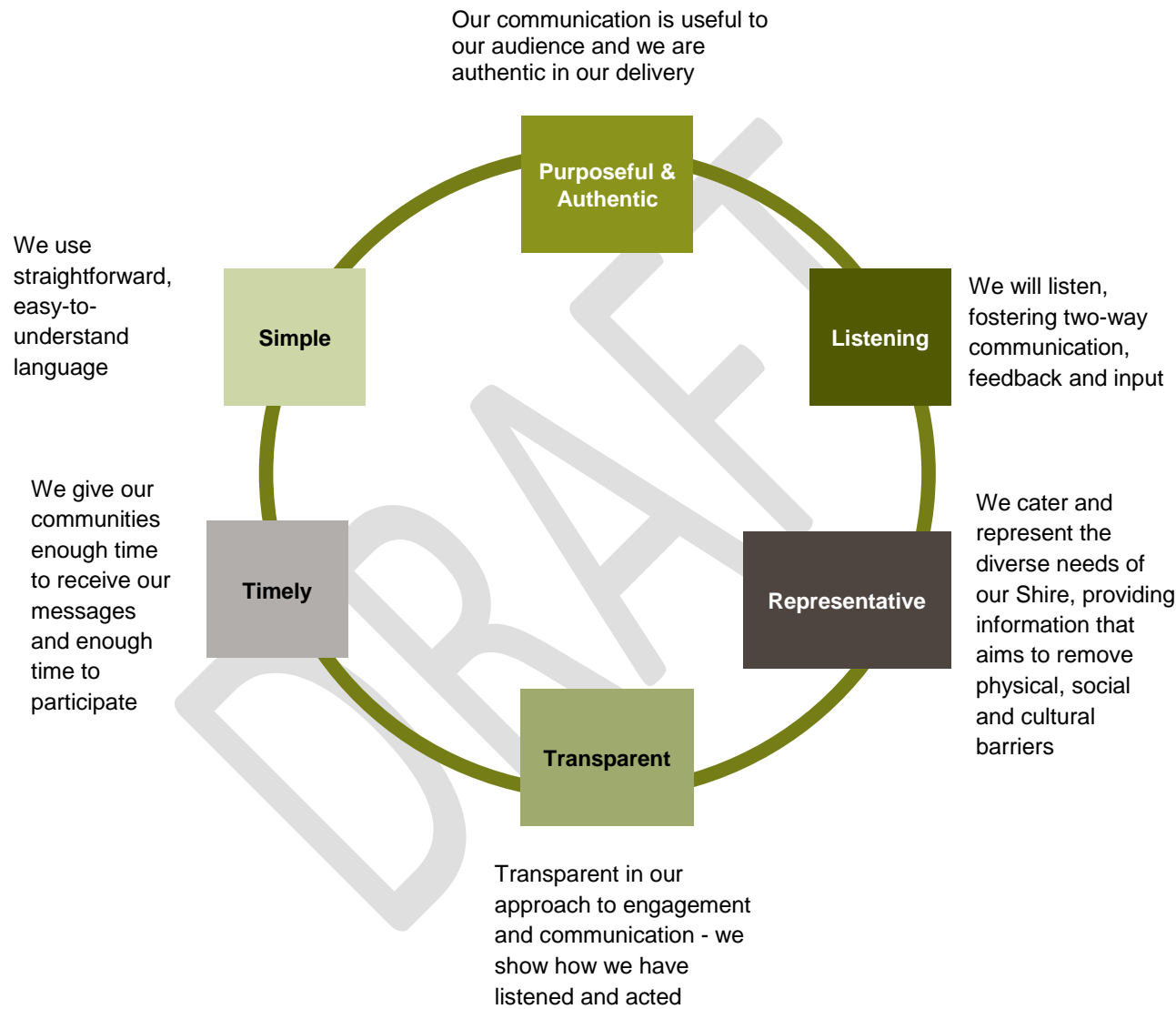
Who is this Strategy for?

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	¼ are Children & Youth (Aged 0-17 years)
1 in 5 people in Nillumbik have a disability <small>This is forecast to increase by 67 per cent by 2026</small>	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 volume.

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 in 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.

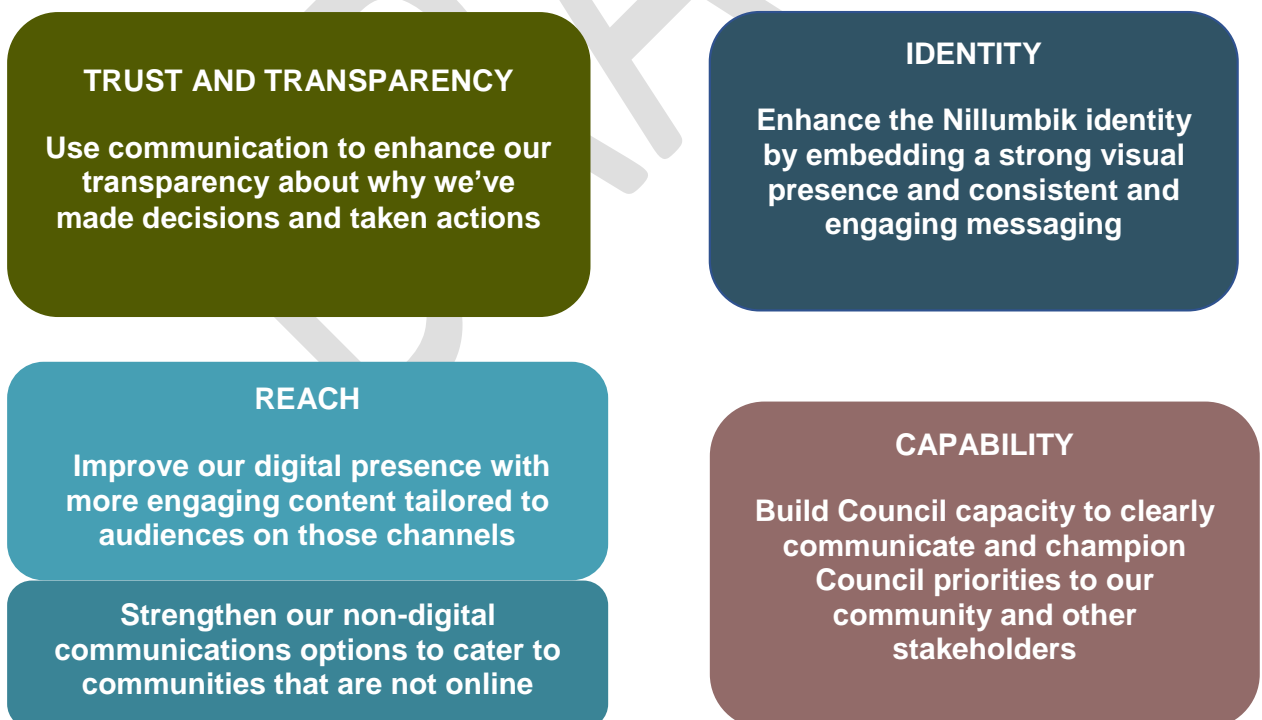
We will do this by expanding the reach of our message and increasing the relevance of and trust in our communication with community.

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

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.

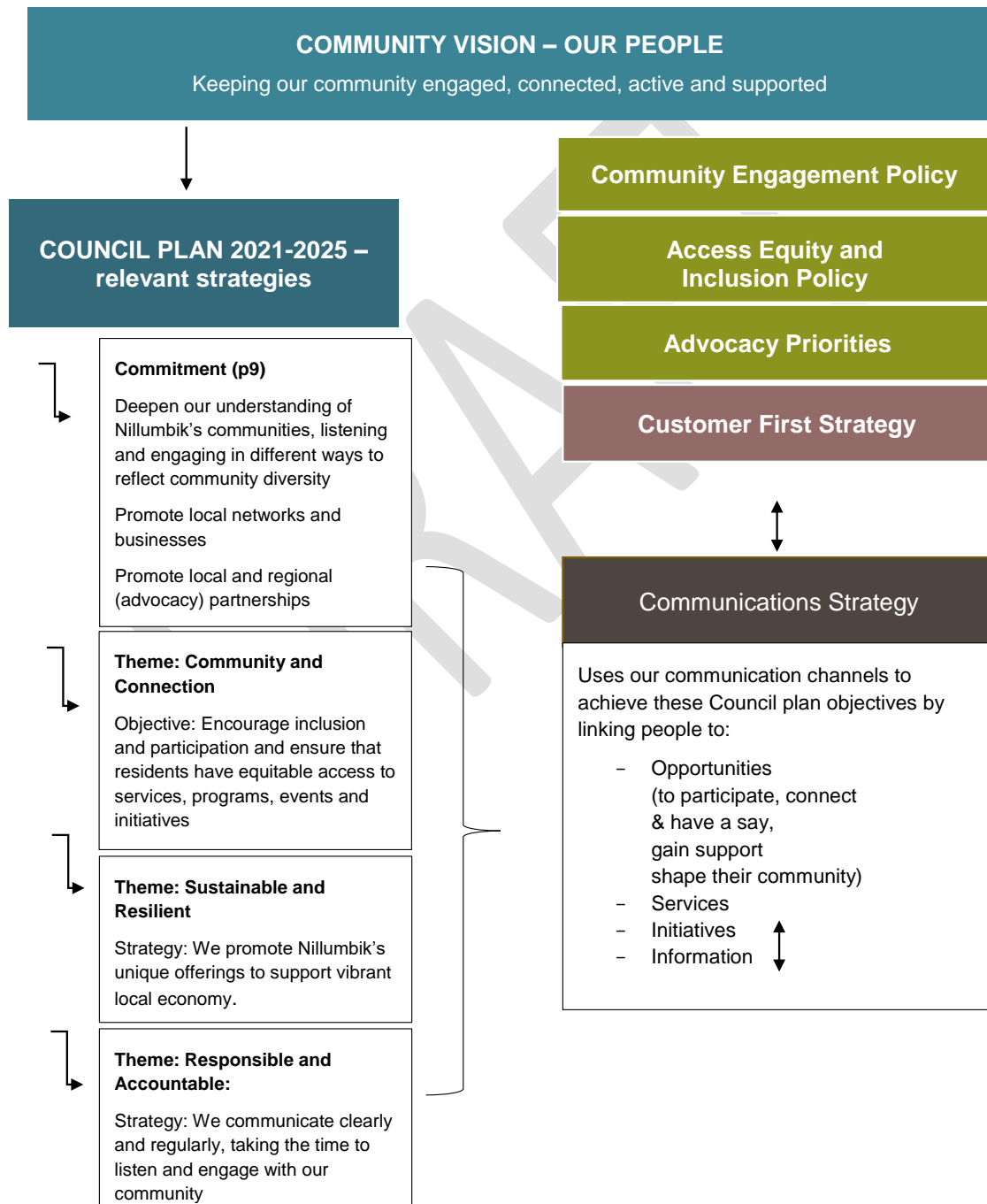
Recognising that a portion of our audiences aren't online, and may be harder to reach, we will focus also on finding new physical spaces and network opportunities to promote key activities and opportunities.

PRIORITY ACTIONS AND MEASURES OF SUCCESS UNDER EACH PILLAR CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIXED ACTION PLAN.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate Nillumbik website, participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au • Nillumbik Shire Council website, nillumbik.vic.gov.au <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nillumbik Youth ○ Living & Learning Nillumbik ○ Edendale Community Environment Farm • Social media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Instagram ○ Facebook (plus Family & Children's Services, Nillumbik Arts, Hurstbridge Hub, Edendale, Visit Nillumbik, Nillumbik Youth, Living & Learning) ○ Twitter ○ YouTube ○ LinkedIn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nillumbik News (our quarterly magazine direct to residents) • E-Newsletters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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* out for community engagement and consultation	8,000* submissions gathered. <small>*approximately</small>
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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
 - 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).

Nillumbik Shire Council

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nillumbik.vic.gov.au

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Draft Climate Action Plan 2022-2032



Acknowledgement of Country

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.

Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people hold a deep and ongoing connection to this place. We value the contribution their Care for Country makes to the lands, waterways, plants, wildlife and people of the Shire of Nillumbik; acknowledge their beliefs, customs and values; and are committed to collaborating around how we think, work and act in relation to climate change and caring for our environment.

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Acknowledgement of Climate Emergency

As a Green Wedge Shire, Nillumbik Council is acutely aware of the multiple threats facing all communities and ecosystems as a result of climate change. This requires urgent action by all levels of government, including local government.

Council therefore **Acknowledges a Climate Emergency**, commits to a climate emergency response, and will proactively integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation into all Council actions.

Message from Councillors

The *Climate Action Plan 2022-2032* provides the roadmap by which Council and our community will work together over the next decade to do our part to address one of the most pressing issues faced by society.

The Plan is the result of working closely with our community, through extensive consultation and engagement, to ensure that it reflects the feedback and views they have expressed.

Unmistakeable throughout this process was the overwhelming community view of the need for meaningful climate action and for such action to be taken as a priority.

This is why, as part of this Plan, Council has acknowledged a climate emergency.

This public acknowledgement is integral as it provides the overarching impetus for the objectives and actions contained in the plan.

The Plan is accompanied by a clear implementation schedule and a commitment to evaluate and report on its progress at regular intervals.

On too many occasions over the years, our community has witnessed first-hand, the devastating impacts of fires, floods and other extreme weather events.

The plan emphasises mitigation and adaptation – in Council's activities and operations, as well as in the broader community. It sets a goal of net zero emissions in Council operations by 2030 and 2035 net zero emissions target for our community. It identifies eight focus areas for proactive climate action.

Importantly this Plan builds on Council's previous climate action plans and on the significant work already undertaken by Council and by our community in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Council and the broader Nillumbik community have a strong record when it comes to matters of sustainability, climate action and building resilience in the face of the challenges presented by climate change.

There is a strong sentiment, both, within Council and in our community, that we all at a local level, have a key role to play in addressing this global issue.

Through this Plan we, together, will build on what has already been achieved and do our part over the critical next decade and beyond.



Image: Youth volunteers learning about climate change impacts on Nillumbik's natural environment

1. Introduction

Why Council has a Climate Action Plan

The science is clear. Climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause.

The Victorian government has identified climate change as one of the biggest threats to the future of the state; with warmer and drier conditions projected to have negative consequences for health, infrastructure, agriculture, water and biodiversity. The impacts of climate change cut across almost all areas of local government responsibility.

In response, legislation is strengthening. This has included the introduction of the *Climate Change Act 2017* and the *Local Government Act 2020* which require decision makers to have regard to climate change.

Through the Climate Change Act, Victoria also recognises and supports the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change in which the international community committed to “holding the increase in average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C”; and responds to Goal 13 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.

Local government has a pivotal role to play in helping to curb emissions to achieve this international commitment; and in acting now to prepare for and respond to those climate impacts that we cannot avoid. We need to think global and act local.

As further mandates, the Nillumbik community has overwhelmingly told us that local climate ‘mitigation’ and ‘adaptation’ action is needed to tackle the climate emergency; and Council’s insurer has provided advice that the risk of matters such as fire and flood need to be addressed.

Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to working actively and collaboratively to help address the climate change emergency.



Image: Emergency services and Council 'Working together' exercise, testing equipment and training

What this Climate Action Plan will focus on achieving

This Plan provides the pathway for Council climate action over the next decade.

Our climate action will be twofold:

- **Mitigation** - We will proactively reduce Council's direct contribution to climate change; and we will support our community to do likewise

We have set targets of achieving net-zero Council emissions by 2030 and net-zero Community emissions by 2035.

- **Adaptation** - We will proactively prepare for, respond and adapt to the risks and impacts of a changing climate on our community, environment, infrastructure and services; and we will support our community to do likewise.

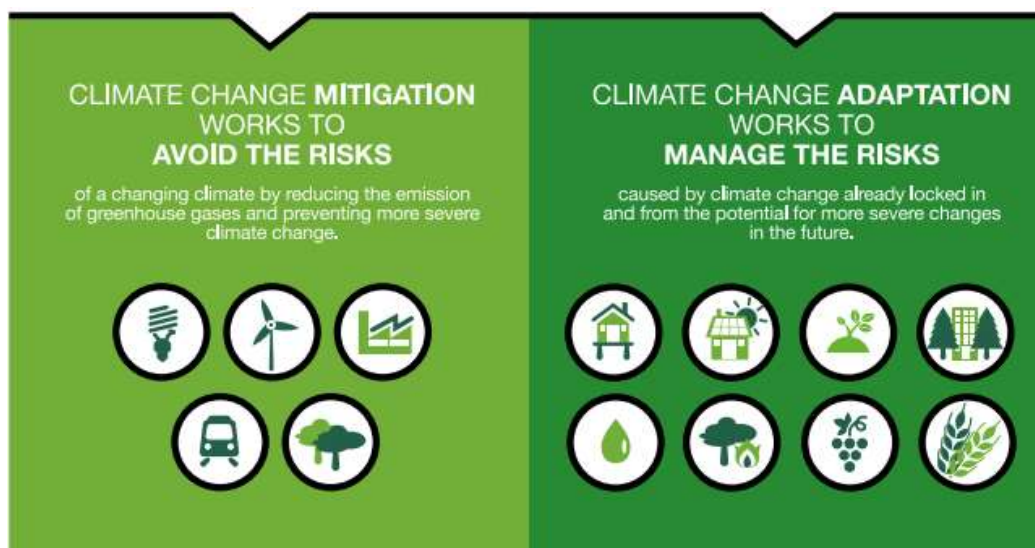
We'll do this through a culture of action, innovation, collaboration and support.

We'll focus on achieving:

1. Strong climate action leadership and culture
2. A climate resilient, adaptive and safe community
3. A climate resilient natural environment
4. Climate responsive Council services, facilities/buildings and infrastructure
5. Council and community zero emissions energy use
6. Sustainable transport
7. A zero waste and circular economy
8. [Integrated water management](#)

This Plan specifies the strategic objectives and associated actions that will help get us there. An accompanying, regularly updated, Implementation Plan will drill down further.

Managing a changing climate requires a dual approach¹



¹ National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy

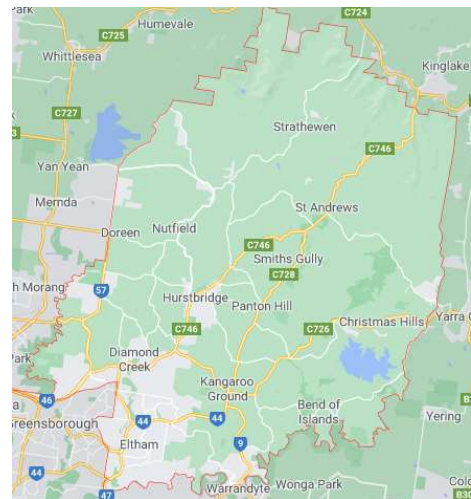


Background to the Shire of Nillumbik

The area that now comprises the Shire of Nillumbik was inhabited for thousands of years by the Wurundjeri-willam clan of the Woi wurrung speaking people.

Known as ‘the Green Wedge Shire’, Nillumbik has a population of around 65,000 people and is 432km² in size; 91% of which is outside the urban growth boundary. As such, this Plan considers climate action in urban and rural contexts.

The Shire is located in Melbourne's outer north-east, approximately 25km from the city, extending out as far as Kinglake National Park. It comprises a collection of suburbs, townships and villages - each with its own unique identity and heritage; limited industry; and a unique rural environment that is highly valued for its biodiversity, bushland, natural beauty, visitor experiences, agriculture, grazing land, rural living and open space.



2. Climate Action in Nillumbik, the story so far

Climate Action by the State Government

The Victorian government is taking the lead role in securing Victoria's (and Nillumbik's) net-zero emissions future and building resilient communities prepared to deal with the impacts of climate change.

The *Victorian Climate Change Strategy 2021* was released on the basis that our climate is changing and we must act now. The State's overarching target of net-zero emissions by 2050 is law. The Strategy sets out the steps to achieve that target, and includes interim-targets to cut Victoria's emissions by 28-33 per cent by 2025 and 45-50 per cent by 2030.

Achieving these interim targets, and – ultimately net-zero emissions – will require action across all sectors of the economy by governments, businesses and the community. To help meet these targets, the Victorian Government has prepared energy, land use, agricultural, waste, industry, transport emissions and corporate (i.e. state government operations) reduction pledges and associated supports.

The Strategy also includes a commitment to enabling 'transformational adaptation'. Adaptation Action Plans have been prepared to build Victoria's climate resilience in primary production, the built environment, education and training, health and human services, the natural environment, transport and the water cycle. They set out priorities to guide government action and help institutions and individuals take informed action, and are reviewed every five years.

Climate Action by Council

This Plan builds upon a platform of action that Council has already undertaken. Our first Climate Plan was endorsed in 2010, and our second in 2015. It also builds upon the work of the Victorian government and the action that the Nillumbik community is taking.

We have invested in supporting Council operations and our community to plan for, respond and adapt to climate impacts. Planning to reduce the risks of bushfire is a priority, along with responding to localised flooding and the impacts of drought and heat.

We have also increased our renewable energy capacity and eco-friendly purchasing focus, and we have implemented a wide variety of actions to help reduce Council's energy and water use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A summary is provided in Appendix A. For example:

- We reduced our total corporate emissions by 12.9% (from 2012 levels) between 2016 and 2020 - even while extending Council buildings which, of course, creates extra energy use; and
- We won a national innovation award for our solar and off-grid battery at Diamond Creek Community Stadium which enables the venue to be self-sufficiently powered if grid-power goes down whilst in use as an emergency relief centre.

Our 2019 corporate emissions profile is also provided in Appendix A. The emissions from Council operations represent around **one per cent** of Nillumbik greenhouse gas emissions. The remaining 99 per cent of emissions are produced within our community.

To help support our community with their climate mitigation, resilience and adaptation, Council has been an active member of organisations such as the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action and the Cities Power Partnership; and we have supported community action, including through the work of Clean Energy Nillumbik.

We have increasingly focused on leading by example; advocacy around climate action; and providing our community with access to energy-efficiency advice, education and programs.

Details of our full range of climate action partnerships, actions and outcomes are provided on Council's [website](#), and are regularly updated.

Whilst much has been done, there is more to focus on over the coming years.

Climate Action in the community

The Nillumbik community, young and old, is skilled and well placed to lead localised action on climate change.

Various climate action and emergency community groups have formed. Through advocacy, lobbying and communication they encourage the community and all levels of government to take urgent climate action and are forums for like-minded individuals to collaborate. For example:

- The Nillumbik Climate Emergency Action Team submitted a petition to the June 2021 Nillumbik Council Meeting, containing 1,846 signatures, requesting that Council declare a state of Climate Emergency, supported by a climate emergency response.
- Clean Energy Nillumbik has a renewable electricity vision and has delivered bulk purchase programs, participatory education campaigns, neighbourhood-scale battery research and more to help achieve that vision.
- Community led initiatives such as Sustainable House Day, opportunities to 'speed-date' sustainability experts, community food gardens, food swaps, carbon-offset Eltham Farmers Market, climate crisis public forums and electric vehicle displays are amplifying climate action reach.

Over recent years, the Nillumbik community has increased its uptake of rooftop solar panels, is consistently minimising waste to landfill by actively separating waste, and is walking, riding or using public transport where possible.

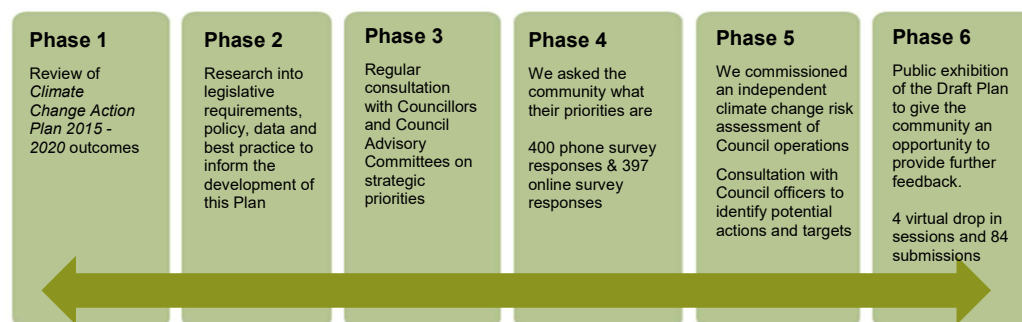
Information is provided in **Appendix A** which depicts a 2020/21 baseline overview of climate actions that the Nillumbik community are undertaking at the household level; and what, as at the launch of this Plan, our Community emissions profile is.

Council is doing what it can to support community action, alongside the work of interest groups, community groups, educators, businesses and individuals who are the community champions for climate action.

Again, while much has already been done, there is more that the community can lead or get involved in, often with government support, to help meet a Nillumbik community net zero emissions target by 2035; and to continuously enhance resilience to climate change impacts.

3. The steps taken to develop this Climate Action Plan

There were six phases to the development of this draft Climate Action Plan.



Considering community views - Hundreds of voices

Obtaining community input was important. Council sought to understand the opinions and priorities of the general community and also of thought-leaders, i.e., those passionate about climate change, as advocates and as sceptics.

This information helped to inform the goals, targets and focus areas of this Plan.

We thank the 797 people who completed a climate action telephone or online survey; the 84 people who made submissions on the draft Plan; and the 15 people who participated in virtual drop in sessions to discuss the draft Plan.

We also thank the people who voiced their climate concerns and aspirations during the development of this Plan through the broader 'Our People, Our Place, Our Future' consultation to inform the development of the *Nillumbik 2040 Community Vision*, the *Council Plan 2021-2025* and the *Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025*; and through the 'Young Minds: Your Voice, Our Future' consultation.

Traditional owners Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung; and Council's formal Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee, Public Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee, Healthy Aging Advisory Committee, Economic Development Advisory Committee and Youth Council were consulted, and conversations held with local climate groups.

The key messages arising from the climate action survey included:

- There is overwhelming support for Council to have mitigation targets, and to align them with Victorian government targets, i.e. net zero emissions for Council operations by (or before) 2030 and net zero community emissions by (or before) 2050.
- 90% expressed some level of concern about climate change.
- 82% think Council should consider climate change in their decisions.
- Council should focus on, and resource, both mitigating the causes of climate change and adapting to the consequences of climate change.
- Fire is the biggest effect of climate change that the community is concerned about.
- The top ten priorities of the community for Council climate action to focus on are listed overleaf (and over 80% of submissions on the draft Plan supported each of the focus areas of this Plan).
- A sample of quotes obtained via the consultation is provided on the back page.

The six effects of climate change that the community are most concerned about are:



Top ten climate change priorities for Council to focus on



Source: Nillumbik Climate Action Plan consultation survey results, sample of 400 statistically representative households, 2020

Considering climate change risks

Understanding the key physical, transition and liability climate risks to Council's operations and services is important.

A physical climate change risk assessment was undertaken for Council by our insurance broker, in consultation with Council officers, to help inform the development of this Plan.

The risk assessment considered climate change scenarios, existing controls, their suitability, gaps, likelihood of impact, consequence and what additional adaptation needs to be prioritised. The 2050 scenarios considered²:

- Increasing number of hot days (above 35°C) – additional 14 to 16 days per year
- Increasing annual maximum average temperature – by 1.6°C to 1.9°C
- Decreasing rainfall – by 6% to 8%
- Increasing frequency and intensity of rainfall events
- Increasing number of fire weather days – additional 7.7 days per year

Ongoing assessments will need to be undertaken of physical risks, and assessments of transition and liability risks will also be required.

Risk assessment findings will be used to help identify and inform Climate Action Plan initiatives and implementation.



Image: Council officers at work

² Victoria's Climate Science Report 2019, Greater Melbourne Projections

4. We're taking the Climate Emergency seriously – What we will do

Nillumbik Shire Council takes the climate emergency seriously, and is committed to working actively and collaboratively to address climate change.




A challenge is to identify priority areas for action that will deliver community benefits that Council is able to resource.

This Plan has been developed under the guidance of the following principles:

- Council accepts climate science and recognises climate change as a threat and foreseeable risk.
- Council has diverse roles in responding to the challenge of climate change so we've created a whole-of-Council proactive climate response.
- Climate action requires collaboration between communities, businesses and all levels of government.
- Climate action decision-making needs to be dynamic and responsive to innovation opportunities.
- Key implementation actions will be reviewed annually, will help inform Council planning and resourcing considerations, and will inform and be subject to annual Council Plan and Budget processes.

Our goals and targets

We have three overarching goals that will guide Council's investment and focus:

	Goal 1 - Council Mitigation: Reduce Council's direct contribution to climate change <i>Target of net zero emissions by 2030</i>
	Goal 2- Council Adaptation: Prepare for, respond and adapt to the risks and impacts of a changing climate on our community, environment, infrastructure and services.
	Goal 3 - Community Mitigation & Adaptation: Support our community to reduce their contributions to climate change and to adapt and be resilient to climate change risks and impacts <i>Target of net zero emissions by 2035</i>

We've set an ambitious community climate mitigation target because we believe our community will be leaders in climate-action, just as they've been leaders in environment-action for a long time.










Each of these goals is considered within our eight focus areas in Table 1, and will be supported by objectives and strategies that will be:

- achieved via the delivery of specific implementation actions
- tracked against targets and indicators
- assessed in terms of outcomes achieved

Our indicators

We've included indicators that we are confident that we can currently collect data on and measure. Some of them have associated targets. They'll help track our progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Climate Action Plan. Over the life of the Plan, as improved and more cost effective data collection options become available, we'll be able to review and update them.

Focus Areas for Climate Action

Focus Area 1: Strong climate action leadership and culture				
Council has Acknowledged a Climate Emergency and commits to lead by example by carrying out our work in the deliberate context of implementing regular and ongoing climate action; and to support our community to prioritise climate action.				
Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Strategies
1.1 To lead by example				a. Publicly Acknowledge a Climate Emergency b. Demonstrate climate action leadership through proactive Council action to achieve net zero emissions and to build climate resilience (i.e. implementation of this Plan)
1.2 To consider climate impact in day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions				a. Embed delivery of the Climate Action Plan within the CEO's contract / performance plan b. Support and encourage all Council staff to be engaged in undertaking or supporting climate action within their roles c. Leverage relationships with agencies, organisations and groups to keep abreast of best practice climate action and opportunities for continuous improvement d. Embed consideration of climate risks, impacts, mitigation and adaptation opportunities into Council's key governance documents and decision-making processes; and into new Council policies, strategies and plans e. Prioritise and plan for climate action that will achieve the greatest emissions reductions.
1.3 To collaborate and advocate for climate action by local, state and federal government that will support the Nillumbik and broader community and environment				a. Collaborate and advocate for broad and urgent climate action by all levels of government to reduce and respond to climate change b. Collaborate and advocate for climate action opportunities that will support the Nillumbik community to participate in, and contribute to, climate action; and respond to climate change
Indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community satisfaction with Council's performance in delivering climate action leadership and initiatives (source – Annual community survey) Annual percentage of department business plans that include climate actions (Target – increasing) 				

Case study:

Council strategies will be climate action responsive

During the life of this Plan Council will prepare and update many strategies and plans, and will incorporate a stronger climate lens into this work than ever before. Examples may include Council's Biodiversity Strategy, Housing Strategy, Integrated Transport Strategy, Heatwave Strategy, Open Space Strategy, reviews of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme, the next Council Plan, the next Health and Wellbeing Plan, and so on.

Focus Area 2. Having a climate resilient, adaptive and safe community






The direct and indirect physical and mental impacts of climate change on health and wellbeing can be considerable. Actions delivered through this Plan and through Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan seek to deliver health co-benefits for our community - including building community resilience, planning for and reducing the impact of extreme weather events, supporting vulnerable community members, strengthening food systems, and reducing carbon emissions and waste.

Climate change impacts can also affect community economic wellbeing and resilience, including for example the costs of mitigation, adaptation and recovery, including insurability.

*"Victoria is already seeing direct and indirect health and wellbeing impacts associate with events such as floods, fires and heatwaves, which are occurring with greater frequency and intensity due to climate change. Without urgent action from all levels of society to mitigate and adapt to climate change it is evident that the health, safety and wellbeing of Victorians, particularly those most vulnerable, is at risk now and into the future"*³.

Council will continuously explore opportunities, including working in partnership with others, to encourage and support the Nillumbik community to be engaged and climate-action active, adaptive and resilient – to help keep our community safe and healthy.

Our partners and community stakeholders will regularly evolve and are likely to include cohorts such as residents/land owners, youth, community groups, businesses, health and wellbeing organisations and emergency services.

Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Strategies
2.1 To have an engaged community that is climate-action active				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support community awareness of the importance of taking climate action and of opportunities for action b. Build the capacity of community stakeholders to lead and deliver climate action initiatives c. Support and participate in collaborative mitigation and adaptation opportunities across the Shire d. Support the community to be prepared for and resilient to climate change impacts - including an increase in the number of extreme heat, fire weather and high rainfall days; and a decrease in overall rainfall e. Celebrate, promote and share community climate-action achievements
2.2 To support the community to be bushfire-prepared				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work in partnership with the CFA and other stakeholders to support the Nillumbik community to prepare their property for a potential bushfire and to have a fire safety survival plan in place
2.3 To plan for the health impacts of extreme weather events				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implement the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan b. Engage with the community to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on health, and actions that can be taken to help stay healthy and well in a changing climate.
Indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of Nillumbik residents that have made changes to their home or lifestyle to help reduce climate change and its impacts (Source – annual community survey). Target – increase. Nillumbik resident rating of their household's ability to cope with climate related risks and impacts (such as fire, drought, extreme heat and heavy rainfall). (Source – annual community survey). Target – increase. 				

³ Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, 2020, Tackling climate change impacts on health, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan guidance

Case study:

Our own Climate Action Hub





Imagine if Edendale Community Environment Farm could evolve to also become a climate action hub for the community. We'll be exploring the possibility and will do what we can. This could include more climate action education opportunities for school groups and others, a new-look nursery which incorporates climate-sensitive planting advice, and - over time - as many other urban and rural climate mitigation and adaptation demonstrations and examples as we can manage.

Focus Area 3: Having a climate-resilient natural environment

Nillumbik is home to a rich and varied natural environment, however the current and projected rate and magnitude of climate change is challenging its natural adaptive capacity. Ongoing work is required to understand thresholds before tipping points are reached, beyond which irreversible changes to ecosystems occur, and what can be done to help prevent or adapt to such changes in Nillumbik.

Climate change also exacerbates other 'threatening processes' such as invasive species numbers and distribution, disease and pathogens, and other agents of change – which can interact with direct climate impacts (such as fire, flood and drought) to undermine the resilience of our natural environment. As such approaches to resilience that incorporate broad thinking about environmental change are most likely to contribute to positive outcomes; and require urgent focused attention.

Nillumbik's green wedge and its vegetated urban environment present opportunities for deliberate action to act as a carbon-sink to help sequester emissions (i.e. absorb and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere) and thus help to limit climate change – whilst at the same time helping to reduce urban heat-island impacts, provide climate resilient habitat, and ~~provide~~ climate resilient food systems.

Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Strategies
3.1 To protect and enhance our natural environment so that it is climate responsive and resilient				<p>a. Investigate and support collaborative climate-action mitigation and adaptation opportunities that help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance urban, peri-urban and rural biodiversity (e.g. protect wildlife corridors, enhance the diversity of native vegetation cover, protect threatened species) Respond to invasive species Reduce the likelihood and impacts of bushfire Sequester carbon Conserve soil moisture and optimise soil functionality Conserve and maximise beneficial use of water <p>b. Plan for the increasing risk of bushfire by managing Council's roadside and bush reserves; and engaging with the community to reduce the risk of bushfire</p> <p>c. Investigate measures to establish and enhance urban tree canopy and help reduce urban heat</p>
3.2 To have climate resilient food systems				<p>a. Encourage sustainable / regenerative agriculture</p> <p>b. Identify opportunities to enhance the local food system</p> <p>c. Promote and support community and home based food growing</p>
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of hectares of vegetation coverage – frequency of survey every four years - 2024, 2028 Number of properties supported through Council delivered programs (rate relief, grants, advice etc) to engage in biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, sustainable agriculture and/or food growing Number of organisations (including Traditional Owners) collaborating with Council to protect and enhance our natural environment 				

Case studies:

Supporting climate resilient land management and gardening




A changing climate can require land management practices to evolve to best protect and enhance our natural environment. We keep abreast of best practice and share what we know with the community, in particular via our free land management and biodiversity advice services, demonstration days, and our gardening for wildlife

Draft Nillumbik Climate Action Plan (V2) 16

community program. We've been helping around 400 properties a year and are ready to help even more households and properties across urban and rural Nillumbik.

Bushfire mitigation

Council's annual bushfire mitigation program is informed by the Municipal Fire Management Plan. Each year fuels, hazards and firefighting assets are assessed and managed. This includes managing tree hazards on roadsides; reducing fuels on roadsides and in reserves; ensuring that fire tracks and water tanks are accessible and operational. In the Eltham Copper Butterfly reserves we manage to protect the endangered butterfly while protecting adjacent properties from the potential bushfire threat.

Focus Area 4: Having climate responsive Council services, facilities, buildings and infrastructure				
<p>Council provides a wide variety of services for the people and environment of the Shire of Nillumbik. We need to be prepared to ensure that we can continue to deliver services such as waste management, animal management, health services, local laws, planning and building services, emergency management, road management, and community services - without being majorly impacted by the changing climate or extreme weather events.</p> <p>We are also responsible for community infrastructure including local roads and roadsides, bridges, drains, council buildings, libraries, recreation and leisure facilities, Council bushland reserves, parks, playgrounds and gardens; and we are responsible for considering climate risks and making sure that this infrastructure is built and maintained in a fashion that will be useable as the climate changes.</p>				
Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Strategies
4.1 To enable continuity of Council service delivery in a changing climate and in the event of a natural disaster/emergency				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reduce the risks from climate change impacts on the delivery of Council services b. Consider whether additional or modified services may be required to support community safety and wellbeing in a changing climate
4.2 To have Council infrastructure and facilities that are appropriate in a changing climate (i.e. roads, footpaths, drainage, buildings, facilities, open space, parks)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reduce the risks from climate change impacts on the ability to use council facilities and infrastructure b. Reduce the risks from climate change impacts on the functionality of council infrastructure c. Enable climate resilient outcomes in the construction, renewal and maintenance of Council assets
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Council facilities where climate efficiency projects/programs have been delivered 				

Case studies:

Off-grid Emergency Relief Centre and Sports Stadium

Council won a national climate innovation award in 2020 for our climate mitigation and adaptation at the Community Bank Stadium in Diamond Creek. The sports stadium doubles as an emergency relief centre and needs a reliable power supply. In a world-first, instead of just installing roof top solar we also installed a battery system designed to enable the building to function off-grid in times of need, for example when a bushfire or storm results in wide-spread power losses or people needing a place to shelter.

Shade, Shade, Shade

Hot weather and extreme heat can limit the communities' ability to use and enjoy outdoor facilities such as playgrounds and sports facilities. We're doing what we can to increase shade through targeted tree planting, shade sails, shelters and innovative designs.

Focus Area 5: Achieving Council and community zero emissions energy use

Council will work with, and alongside, other levels of government, interest groups, residents and businesses to help explore local emissions-reduction and carbon sequestration opportunities that will contribute towards achieving our target of the Nillumbik community being carbon neutral by 2035. This will include consideration of how to:



- encourage the community to maximise energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption
- encourage implementation of Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD)
- encourage and support the community to transition to renewable energy
- encourage carbon sequestration
- advocate for and leverage off government programs and incentives

We will also lead by example by prioritising the reduction of our own emissions. A Zero Emissions roadmap will guide a staged approach to achieving the target of council operations being carbon neutral by 2030.

When selecting energy-efficiency and emissions-reduction Council projects, priority will be given to projects which will deliver substantial emissions reductions - along with consideration of whether they:

- Are under the control of Council
- Focus on reductions from the greatest remaining emissions sources
- Can return benefits to Council or the Nillumbik community
- Deliver a strong return on investment
- Improve comfort and thermal performance of buildings
- Enhance safety
- Reduce reliance on grid supply
- Use proven technologies to deliver outcomes
- Incorporate best available technologies
- Achieve the strategic objectives of Council

Areas of opportunity include renewable energy, batteries, transitioning away from gas, zero-emissions buildings and machinery, energy-efficiency, charging facilities, lighting, micro-grids and other emerging sectors and technologies; all within the context of maintaining delivery of Council services. This will include the construction of a solar farm that will supply 100% renewable electricity for Council operations with scope to explore community access; and will build upon previous renewable energy gains.

Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Strategies
5.1 To reduce / eliminate Nillumbik community carbon emissions from homes, businesses and buildings				<p>a. Participate in collaborative mitigation opportunities across the Shire</p> <p>b. Deliver local initiatives, including education, that will assist the community to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions</p> <p>c. Support the community to incorporate ESD principles in new developments and retrofits</p> <p>d. Support and amplify 'state and federal led' and 'community and business led' zero-emissions initiatives</p>
5.2 To reduce / eliminate carbon emissions from Council assets and operations (i.e. buildings, facilities, street lighting and procurement)				<p>a. Increase the energy efficiency of Council assets and operations</p> <p>b. Maximise efficient use of clean, renewable energy. Plan for this by implementing and regularly reviewing a staged Zero Emissions roadmap for Council operations.</p> <p>c. Conduct annual corporate emissions accounting</p>
Indicators:				

- Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted within the Shire of Nillumbik. Target of net zero emissions by 2035. (Source: Ironbark snapshot)
- Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted by Council facilities and operations. Target of Net-zero emissions by 2030
- Percentage of Council's stationary energy use (i.e. building energy use) that is supplied via a renewable energy source. Target of 100 per cent by 2030

Case study:

Nillumbik's own solar farm

A solar farm is being constructed at our former Plenty landfill site on Yan Yean Road. It will supply enough renewable energy to power all of Council's corporate facilities, including our buildings and street lighting, and to power our electric vehicle charging stations. The 1.5MW first stage consists of more than 3,300 solar panels and should reduce carbon emissions by 2,400 tonnes per year. (It will also save around 4,840,000 litres of water when compared to a traditional coal-fired power station generating the same amount of energy). The site can accommodate an expansion of the solar farm up to 5MW which could include potential future community investment opportunities and future battery storage solutions as demand grows and as technology advances.








Image: Solar panels on the roof of the Nillumbik Civic Centre and its fleet carport

Focus Area 6: Enhancing sustainable transport

Travelling by public transport, driving a low or zero-emissions vehicle, car-pooling, walking and cycling reduces the emission of these greenhouse gases, which contribute to climate change.

When this Plan was released, light vehicles (cars, 4x4s, SUVs and small commercial vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes) accounted for 10 percent of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions⁴; and emissions from transport accounted for 23% of Nillumbik's community emissions⁵.

Council wants to help make it safer and easier for the Nillumbik community to choose to travel sustainably; and will also continue to look at how we can support our own workforce to reduce travel related emissions.

Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Strategies
6.1 To avoid transport emissions				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify opportunities to design Council services so that they can be accessed by the community remotely / from home b. Design Council works and services to optimise efficient fleet use and reduce associated transport emissions c. Identify opportunities to support a reduction of Council workforce travel-related emissions
6.2 To improve public transport, vehicle-share, walking and cycling options				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Design, construct and enhance public spaces/ activity centres that promote walking, cycling and public transport b. Prioritise opportunities, and advocate for funding, to enhance public transport, walking and cycling connections within and to/from the Shire
6.3 To transition to zero-emissions vehicle use within Nillumbik				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Transition Council's light and heavy fleet to be zero-emissions b. Monitor emerging zero-emissions transport technology c. Support the distribution of public electric vehicle charging stations across the Shire
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volume of greenhouse gas emissions emitted by Council fleet vehicles. Target of 100% zero emissions Council light and heavy fleet by 2030 Volume of greenhouse gas emissions emitted by vehicles within Nillumbik. Target of 100% zero-emissions transportation by 2035 (source: Ironbark snapshot) 				

Case studies:

Helping to make it easier to leave the car at home

When Council was awarded \$5 million to help combat Eltham's traffic congestion in 2021/22, we poured that money into helping to get people out of their cars - by investing in measures that promote walking, cycling and public transport usage in the Eltham activity centre. We asked the local community first, and they backed us, and made some great suggestions on how to improve our designs. We want to continue to support people to be able to leave their cars at home.

⁴ Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, December 2021

⁵ Refer to Appendix 1

Transitioning to a clean energy Council fleet

We'll be transitioning Councils light and heavy vehicle fleet to be zero-emissions. This process began in 2021 with the purchase of our first electric vehicle and the installation of fleet EV chargers at our Civic Centre. We'll be installing additional EV chargers across Council locations; and as the vehicles in our fleet become due for replacement they will be replaced with electric or other clean energy technology vehicles.







Focus Area 7: Achieving a zero waste and circular economy

Reducing waste - and recycling more - benefits our community, the economy and the environment.

Inefficient use of materials and natural resources exacerbates climate change. As a society we need to shift the focus from just recycling at the end of a product's lifecycle, to upstream activities that are focused on avoiding, reducing and reusing, thus creating a circular economy.

The circular economy model goes beyond just reducing waste and recycling and looks at ways to design products as well as reuse and repair materials to get the highest value from the resources we use. This also helps to reduce the energy used in the manufacturing process.

Council will provide waste services that promote circular economy principles. We'll support the community to avoid generating waste and to have opportunities for product repair and reuse. For unwanted materials, Council's waste collection and drop-off services will send materials back into industry to make new products or to generate power.

Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Strategies
7.1 To reduce emissions from waste				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill b. Support the community to avoid and reduce waste generation through discouraging single-use and promoting repair, reuse and recycling c. Maximise source separation of waste and minimise contamination to produce clean material streams for remanufacture d. Recover materials from the waste stream for the highest and best use
7.2 To prioritise sustainable purchasing and use of recovered resources				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Transition council operations to using low or zero emissions products b. Embed sustainable purchasing guidelines within Council's purchasing / supply chain systems
Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual percentage of kerbside waste that is diverted from landfill. Target of 80 per cent Reduce waste by 15 per cent per person by 2030 Percentage of recycled content used in new Council capital works projects. Target of 15 per cent recycled content in all new capital works projects by 2026 and 30 per cent by 2030 				

Case studies:

Improving waste services

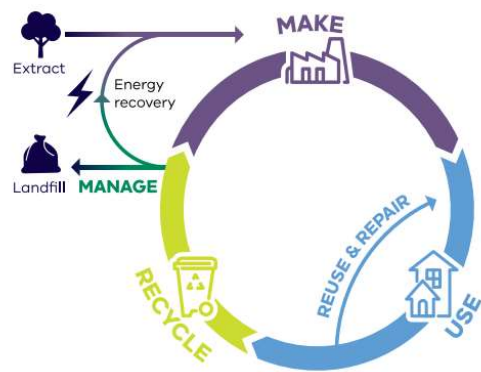
During the life of this Plan some great advancements will be made in the waste services that we can offer our community. We will work with the Victorian government to introduce a container deposit scheme in Nillumbik by 2023 and a kerbside source separated glass collection and we're excited to keep abreast of what might happen next. We'll also continue to divert garden and food waste from landfill to reduce methane emissions and to return carbon to soils; and to pursue local circular economy opportunities.

Get your broken items fixed!

Repair cafes are a place you can bring your broken stuff to receive a new lease on life. Skilled volunteers perform simple repairs on items such as bikes, jewellery, tools, instruments, toys, clothing and furniture – that

would otherwise be thrown out and sent to landfill. Council is interested in supporting these types of community climate action initiatives through leadership programs and seed funding grants.

Resource flows in a circular economy⁶



⁶ DELWP 2020 Recycling Victoria: A new economy

Focus Area 8: Integrated Water Management







Water is a precious and finite resource. Climate change is making rainfall less predictable - with lower rainfall overall, yet more frequent heavy downpours. Looking long-term, surface water availability across the Yarra Catchment is expected to decline by 16 per cent⁷; and water security across the whole of Greater Melbourne will be a challenge - due to the combined driving forces of climate change and population growth, which are predicted to substantially alter water and pollutant balances.

Reduced water availability may impact, for example, drinking water supply, water for irrigation of sports fields, storage dams for stock and firefighting, soil water storage and consequently, the well-being of communities, businesses and the environment.

Some areas of Nillumbik may experience higher incidence of riverine and flash flooding during periods of heavy rain, and consequent polluted runoff into our waterways and on to Port Phillip Bay.

So local action is required to adapt to the changing nature of water in the landscape and our water supply.

Council is committed to integrated water management to address such matters and will work collaboratively with partners to deliver and help achieve the objectives of the *Yarra Catchment Scale Integrated Water Management Plan 2021* which is our local part of Victoria's long term approach to water cycle adaptation.

Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Strategies
8.1 To have safe, secure and affordable water supplies in an uncertain future				a. Reduce Council's potable water use through water efficiency measures and use of alternative water sources b. Support the community to reduce potable water use through promotion of water efficiency measures and use of alternative water sources
8.2 To manage flood risk				a. Adapt the drainage network to respond to current and future flood risk to minimise damage to the community and the environment
8.3 To retain water in the landscape to support urban and rural land uses and the natural environment				a. Incorporate the principles of water sensitive urban design in the development of Council assets b. Promote and support the community to incorporate water sensitive urban design principles in new developments and retrofits c. Promote and support initiatives to retain water in the landscape for rural land uses d. Promote and support initiatives that deliver environmental flows and improved water quality

Indicators:

From *Yarra Catchment Scale Integrated Water Management Plan 2021*

- Reduction in Council's potable water use.
- Percent of the total area of active public open space supported by an alternative water source. Target 18% by 2030 and 50% by 2050.

⁷ DELWP (2020) Long-term Water Resource Assessment

Case study:

Harvesting stormwater for oval irrigation

More than 3 megalitres per year, harvested from road run-off, is used to irrigate ovals in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge. Stormwater from local streets is diverted into underground tanks where sediments and litter can be removed. The water is pumped into wetlands where it is further cleaned by natural processes and then flows into dams. From there it is used to irrigate Coventry and Hurstbridge ovals during the growing season. Multiple benefits include reduced potable water use; removing pollutants from waterways; retaining water in the landscape for wildlife and urban cooling; and provision of minor flood storage.

5. Climate Action Plan Implementation

Implementation of the Plan

The work of the Climate Action Plan will be embedded into Council's business as usual.

An Implementation Plan that specifies key climate action initiatives will be prepared every ~~two~~ years. These key climate initiatives will be considered in Council's annual budget process.

How we'll review and report on progress

Evaluation will enable Council to measure its effectiveness in delivering and supporting ongoing positive climate action.

Outcome evaluation - Are the goals of the Plan being achieved? We'll consider our targets, indicators and specific initiative outcomes.

Progress evaluation - Have we done what we said we would?

Over the life of the Plan indicators and targets will be reviewed and updated where we have improved data collection and/or where we identify that we can achieve more. This may include moving to science derived targets.

We will also engage with the community at least twice to check in on the Plan and whether you think its implementation initiatives and outcomes are heading in the right direction and to consider your suggestions. And we will work closely with our relevant Advisory Committees on an ongoing basis.

An annual update will be provided to Councillors and a summary will be placed on our website and in Council's Annual Report. It will track progress and outcomes within each of our focus areas, and against indicators and targets.

Continuous improvement

This cycle of regular tracking and review will enable us to:

- Reflect on challenges and progress
- Consider emerging climate change factors, innovation, collaboration and opportunities
- Program timely climate action via our biennial Implementation Plans
- Embed continuous improvement climate action within our processes, services, operations, facilities and community interactions.

APPENDIX A – Baseline information on climate action and emissions

When this Plan was released considerable action had already been undertaken to reduce Council and community emissions. This appendix provides high level data on where we were at, at that point in time, for comparison purposes over the life of the Climate Action Plan.

A1 Council emissions profile and climate actions

This is a snapshot profile of emissions associated with Council facilities and operations in 2019⁸. Council accounted for slightly less than 1.5% of overall community emissions.

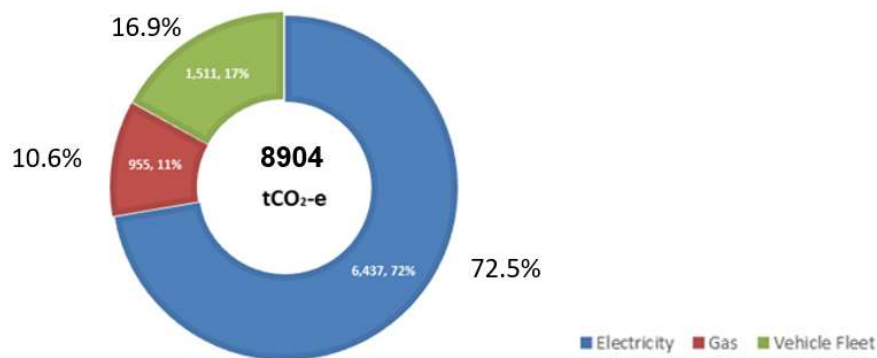


Table 2 below lists some of the climate action achievements reached before the action directed by this Plan commenced. Updates will continue to be provided on our website and will be broadened to include more adaptation updates.

Table 2 – Examples of Council climate action already undertaken prior to 2022

- As a member of the national Cities Power Partnership, Council pledged to:
 - Use council resources to support the uptake of renewable energy
 - Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on council buildings
 - Investigate opening up unused council managed land for renewable energy
 - Roll out energy efficient lighting across the municipality
 - Support local community energy groups with their community energy initiatives
- We were partnering with the Australian Energy Foundation to provide our community with free, on-demand and tailored, energy efficiency and renewable energy advice
- Solar electricity systems at 46 council facilities, totalling 900kW with an estimated annual generation of 680 Megawatt hours
- Tender awarded to progress the solar farm development on the former Plenty landfill site to supply all grid-based electricity needs for council operations and provide a carbon offset opportunity for council's residual carbon emissions
- Solar hot water systems at 16 facilities
- Energy efficient lighting
- Double glazing at seven facilities, including Eltham Library, and enerlogic window film installed at five facilities
- Program of replacing inefficient heating and cooling with more efficient electric options
- Audits of hot water systems across 30 facilities; water conservation and irrigation audits across all facilities; and audits of building energy and water across 50 facilities - including sports pavilions, community centres, Living and Learning venues, leisure centres and early years centres to inform future works

⁸ 2019 data provided in lieu of less typical (because of Covid restrictions) 2020 or 2021 data

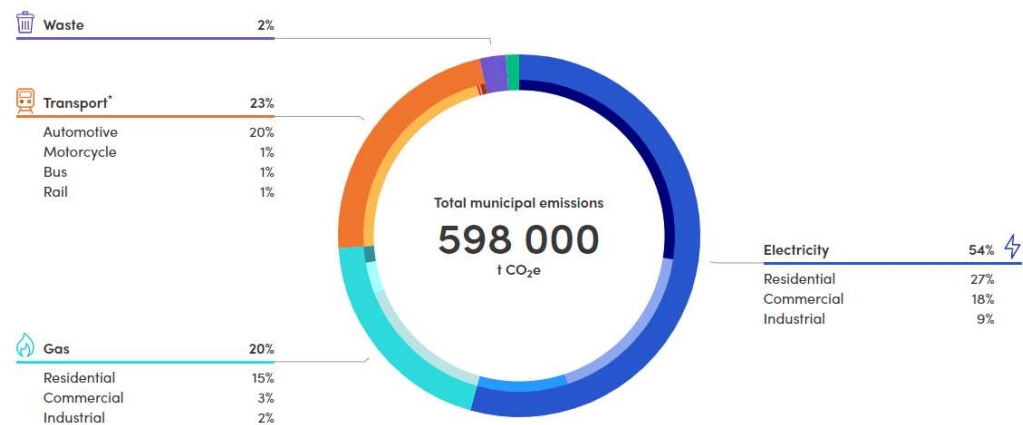
- Electric vehicle chargers at three council facility locations for community use (Community Bank Stadium in Diamond Creek, Eltham Leisure Centre and Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre)
- Electric vehicle chargers at two locations, specifically for council fleet use
- Roll-out of energy efficient laptop computers for staff, energy efficient printers and promotion of a paperless workplace – led to reduction in energy usage by office equipment of 40 per cent and paper consumption by 50 per cent
- Office paper is 100 per cent recycled content
- Policy of phasing out single use plastics ahead of 2023 ban
- Inclusion of sustainability initiatives into new builds
- 101 rain tanks at council facilities with capacity of 923,000 litres
- Water aerators, flow restrictors and dual flush toilet systems at all council owned facilities
- Rain sensors and an electronic irrigation system at Edendale Farm and Civic Drive office
- Use of indigenous plant species and warm season grasses in new park and roadside reserve plantings, including planning of drought tolerant warm season grasses at 15 sports grounds
- Five wetlands, three swales and three rain gardens
- Rainbird IQ sportsground irrigation system which tracks water usage and enables irrigation to be turned off remotely when rain is forecast
- Emergency management preparation, recovery and resilience works



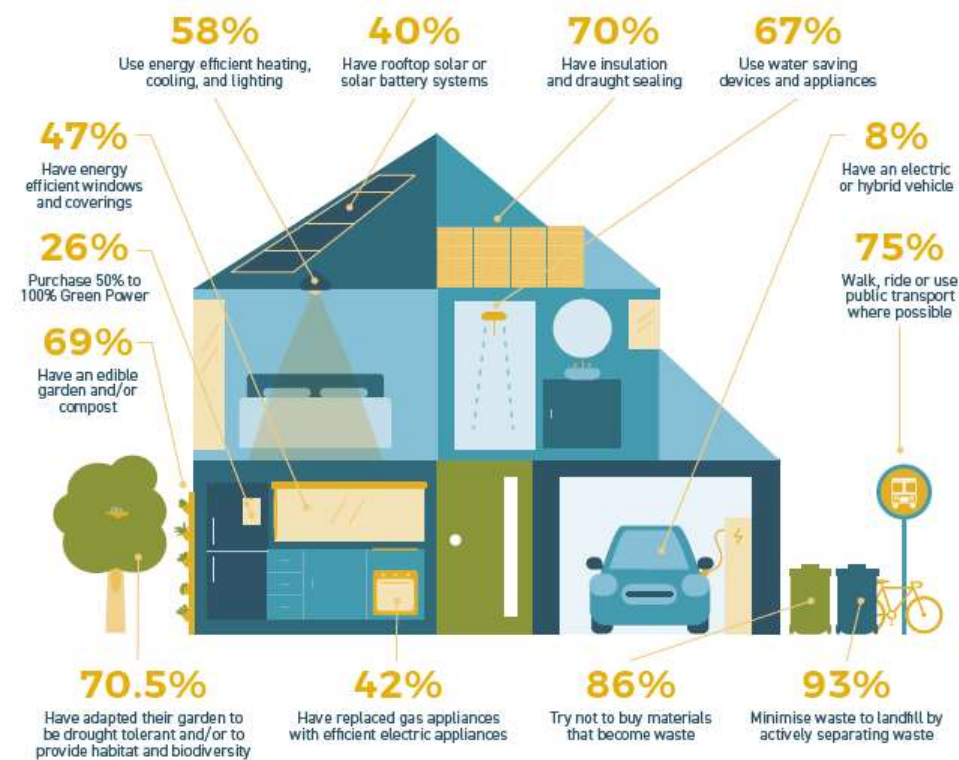
Image: Community climate action: A local community food swap

A2 Community emissions profile and residential climate actions

This is a snapshot profile⁹ of Nillumbik community emissions in 2019, the most relevant dataset available at the time of preparing this document. It indicates that our major emissions source is electricity consumption, with the majority of this coming from residential electricity consumption.



The below image depicts the types of residential climate actions being undertaken in Nillumbik¹⁰.



⁹ Ironbark Sustainability Snapshot – 2019 Nillumbik Community Profile, sourced July 2021
¹⁰ Nillumbik Climate Action Plan community survey, 400 statistically representative random households, December 2020

Glossary

Carbon - (Carbon dioxide CO₂) is a greenhouse gas. It traps heat within the atmosphere, which causes the surface of the earth to heat up and associated climate change.

Carbon emissions:

- You're **carbon neutral** if the amount of carbon emissions your home, business or community puts into the atmosphere (through energy use or agriculture for example) is the same as the amount that you remove from the atmosphere (through trees and soils or producing renewable energy, for example). Your impact is neutral.
- **Net zero emissions** is broadly the same as being carbon neutral. Emissions are still being generated but they're offset by the same amount elsewhere. The 'net total' of emissions is then zero.
- **Carbon negative** is a step up and is the same as being '**climate positive**'. It means that the amount of carbon emissions you remove from the atmosphere is bigger than the amount that you put into the atmosphere. Your impact is positive.

Carbon sequestration - The process of removing carbon from the atmosphere by storing it, for example, in plants, soils and oceans.

Circular economy¹¹ - A process that allows us to avoid waste through good design and effective recovery of materials that can be reused. It seeks to reduce the environmental impacts of production and consumption and encourage intense and efficient product use; transforming our linear economy mindset - take, use and throw away – and fostering innovation and productivity that invigorates existing businesses and creates new ones.

Climate change - A change in the pattern of weather (e.g. temperature, wind and rainfall), and the related changes on land and in oceans, occurring over time. These changes in weather patterns increase the occurrence, severity and distribution of events such as drought, flooding, heatwaves, bushfire and rising sea levels.

Climate change adaptation¹² - Action taken to reduce the adverse consequences of climate change or to harness opportunities. Investing in climate change adaptation:

- Helps us to avoid future costs by building resilience now into our environments, our economy and society.
- Protects plants, animals and communities – particularly those most vulnerable to the consequences of climate extremes.
- Supports job creation in emerging and evolving industries.

Climate change mitigation - Action taken to reduce emissions of carbon / greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

Climate Emergency - There is no single definition of a climate emergency, but the use of the word 'emergency' indicates a clear sense of urgency and a call to action.

Climate resilience - The capacity of individuals, institutions, businesses, communities and systems to adapt, survive and thrive any climate stresses and shocks they may be subjected to.

Greenhouse gases - Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and other gases that build up in our atmosphere as a result of human activity such as burning fossil fuels.

Stakeholders - Community stakeholders are people or groups with an interest or concern in something, which in this context is climate change and taking climate action.

Zero emissions roadmap - A strategically planned process of how to achieve a transition to zero emissions.

¹¹ DELWP 2020 Recycling Victoria: A new economy

¹² Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2020, page 40

What our Community is saying...

"Climate change is causing significant changes to environmental and ecological processes, creating significant changes in weather patterns and related disasters, and creating uncertainty and anxiety for many people about their futures"

"It's impacting our way of life. More extreme weather events, impacts on biodiversity - we need to adapt and change the way we use carbon emitting activities"

"It's the single most defining issue of our generation and will define generations to come"

"It effects every aspect of life, from rainwater, food availability, bushfires and liveability factors"

"It's important but not all consuming. Other aspects of life count as well"

"Rising temperature will make it difficult to grow all varieties of food, to maintain the natural environment and green spaces, and to be able to afford to cool our homes and spend time outdoors"

"I see enormous opportunity for Australia in acting decisively now to address climate change – economically, politically and socially"

"The risk of bushfire is ever present here in Nillumbik. The summers keep getting hotter and as summer approaches we become more aware of the ever-present heat and threat of prolonged drought. This year may be forecast to be different but it is only one year in many"

And that we should:

"Make bushfire mitigation a priority"; "Reduce the risk of bushfires"

"Educate people to make them aware of the dangers of bushfires and the need for measures that ensure our safety"

"Weatherproof parks and playgrounds"

"Provide more bike parking and improve access to amenities by bike and walking"

"Make it easier for us to reduce energy and recycle, reuse and reduce waste"

"Build a solar farm"; "Cover every school, business and Council building with solar panels"

"Facilitate installation of micro-grids to allow neighbours to share electricity and improve grid stability"

"Embrace leadership that puts a greener future at the core"

"Put a stronger focus on community gardens, increasing resilience and educating children on where their food comes from and how it's made"

"Reach beyond those of us who are already engaged in positive change"

"Declare a Climate Emergency"

"Work with Wurundjeri elders in management of the land and fire risk"

"Preserve the natural environment"

"Embrace regenerative farming"

"Plan long term but act now".

Source: Nillumbik Climate Action Plan consultation survey, December 2020 and Nillumbik Our People Our Place Our Future consultation survey, April 2021

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Nillumbik Shire – Climate Action Plan

Consultation Findings Report

Final 17 January 2022





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. Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people hold a deep and ongoing connection to this place. We value the contribution their Care for Country makes to the lands, waterways, plants, wildlife and people of the Shire of Nillumbik; acknowledge their beliefs, customs and values; and are committed to collaborating around how we think, work and act in relation to climate change and caring for our environment.

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Partners:





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1. Executive summary

ChatterBox Projects was engaged by Nillumbik Shire Council to plan and facilitate online community workshops and undertake the data analysis and reporting of feedback received. The purpose of the community engagement was to gather feedback to assist Council to refine the draft Climate Action Plan (also referred to as CAP/Plan). People who live, work or play in Nillumbik were identified as the target population to engage in this public consultation.

Council's 'Participate Nillumbik' online engagement platform was used to support the consultation from 4 October to 7 November 2021. Community members could provide feedback by completing an online survey, attending a virtual drop-in session and making a written submission. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the proposed in-person workshops did not proceed.

1.1 Overview of participation profile

As shown in Table 1, the communications and engagement activities were effective in engaging 106 participants.

Table 1. Outline of engagement activities and level of participation

Engagement activity	Number of participants
Online survey (referenced throughout as "OS")	80
4x virtual drop-in sessions (referenced throughout as "V")	15
Submissions (referenced throughout as "S")	11
TOTAL	106

Demographic details were not submitted by or captured for all participants, so the participation profile has been generated based on the characteristics reported by the 80 survey respondents:

- Gender: The majority of respondents identify as Female (49 or 61.3%).
- Age: Respondents are a variety of ages. All age grouping were represented with the exception of under 15 years and 85 years and over. Persons aged 55 to 64 years were particularly engaged (21 or 26.3%).

Residential suburb: A total of 17 suburbs within the Nillumbik municipality are represented. Many respondents reported living in Eltham (21 or 29.6%). In total, 69 (or 97.2%) of respondents reported suburbs within the Nillumbik municipality.

The relationship that most respondents have is that they live in Nillumbik (from live, work, play or other): The majority report living in Nillumbik (73 or 93.6%) and 3 (or 3.8%) of respondents report working in Nillumbik.





It is noted that:

- Some respondents who indicated they reside within the Nillumbik municipality did not respond to the question enquiring about residential suburb
- 2 online surveys were submitted from the same email account (OS19, OS38)
- 2 online surveys were submitted via the same IP address (OS59, OS70)
- 10 responses providing similar, or the same feedback were submitted (OS3, OS8, OS25, OS37, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S85, S87)

1.2 Key findings from the analysis of the feedback

Overall, the community feedback received regarding the draft CAP was positive and supportive with a small proportion of opposing views. The proposal to Acknowledge a Climate Emergency and all seven proposed Focus Areas were supported by at least 80% of participants. Although survey respondents were not asked whether they would prefer to Acknowledge or Declare a Climate Emergency; 25 of the 50 respondents who provided personalised feedback as well as many participants in the Virtual drop-in sessions and most Submission feedback commented that a Declaration of Climate Emergency would be stronger and preferable (see Section 4.2). This finding is reinforced in the feedback for Council Acknowledging a Climate Emergency, Focus Area 1 and the general feedback.

Suggestions in 10 or more responses (from Online surveys, Virtual drop-in sessions and Submissions) included:

- Declare rather than Acknowledge a Climate Emergency
- Develop detailed implementation plans (incorporate revised and clear targets and strengthened indicators such as bringing zero-emissions target dates forward)
- Establish a Community Reference Committee
- Move to action urgently
- Ensure accountability, commitment to future Council investment, staffing and resources to support climate action and CAP implementation
- Show strong leadership and change management
- Inform, educate and support the Council organisation with climate emergency
- Inform and educate the community
- Provide support to businesses, households and schools to reduce emissions
- Increase understanding and protection of the natural environment
- Reduce the risk of bushfire
- Partner with environmentally and socially ethical financial institutions and organisations
- Advocate and collaborate for improvements to public transport, active transport options and climate change mitigation





Great things happening now in Nillumbik to mitigate or adapt to climate change

Responses referred to the adoption of solar panels and people generally becoming more aware and taking action.

Support for Council acknowledging a Climate Emergency

The majority of survey respondents (64 or 81.0%) indicated *support* for Council acknowledging a Climate Emergency. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (12 or 15.6%). Most Virtual drop-in session participants and Submission participants indicated *support*.

Focus Area 1: Strong climate action leadership and culture

The majority of survey respondents (63 or 82.9%) indicated *support* for Focus Area 1. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (9 or 11.8%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: Develop implementation plans; Ensure accountability and resources for implementation; Declare a Climate Emergency; Establish a Community Reference Committee; Move to action urgently; Show strong leadership and change management; and Inform, educate and support the Council organisation with climate emergency.

Focus Area 2: A climate resilient, adaptive and safe community

The majority of survey respondents (66 or 86.8%) indicated *support* for Focus Area 2. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (7 or 9.2%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: Inform and educate the community; and Support the community with fire preparation and prevention.

Focus Area 3: A climate resilient natural environment

The majority of survey respondents (66 or 84.6%) indicated *support* for Focus Area 3. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (7 or 9.0%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: Incorporate clear targets and strengthen indicators; Increase understanding and protection of the natural environment; and Reduce the risk of bushfire.

Focus Area 4: Climate responsive Council services, facilities/buildings

The majority of survey respondents (65 or 83.3%) indicated *support* for Focus Area 4. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (7 or 9.0%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: Council to provide leadership and support; and Council to lead the way in relation to long term assets.





Focus Area 5: Zero emissions energy use

The majority of survey respondents (64 or 82.1%) indicated *support* for Focus Area 5. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (11 or 14.1%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: Revisions for targets and indicators; Support for businesses, households and schools and Partnering with environmentally and socially ethical financial institutions and organisations.

Focus Area 6: Sustainable transport

The majority of survey respondents (65 or 86.7%) indicated *support* for Focus Area 6. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (4 or 5.3%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: Advocate and collaborate for public transport improvements and climate change mitigation; Revisions to targets and indicators; and Commitment for future Council investment.

Focus Area 7: A zero waste and circular economy

The majority of survey respondents (63 or 81.8%) indicated *support* for Focus Area 7. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (9 or 11.7%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: More focus on recycling; Revisions to targets and indicators; and Establish more outlets to repair, recycle and reuse.

Ideas to engage and activate the community, households and local businesses:

Ideas included considering financial incentives, using a variety of communication channels, careful use of language and messaging and showcasing good examples.





2. Project background and overview of consultation

2.1 Background and purpose

In 2020, Council conducted a 'Climate Action Community Survey' from October to December to inform the development of the draft CAP. The survey was completed by 797 respondents:

- A research company was engaged to conduct 400 statistically representative random telephone surveys.
- The survey was publicly available for the community to self-select participation via the Participate Nillumbik web site, and 397 people completed the online survey.
- Discussions were also held with Council's Advisory Committee, Council's Youth Council, and interest groups.

The draft CAP provides a twofold pathway for Council climate action over the next decade:

- Mitigation - Council will proactively reduce Council's direct contribution to climate change and will support its community to do likewise
- Adaptation - Council will proactively prepare for, respond and adapt to the risks and impacts of a changing climate on its community, environment, infrastructure and services; and will support our community to do likewise.

Within the draft CAP, Council has proposed to do this through a culture of action, innovation, collaboration and support and by attending to seven focus areas:

1. Strong climate action leadership and culture
2. A climate resilient, adaptive and safe community
3. A climate resilient natural environment
4. Climate responsive Council services, facilities/buildings and infrastructure
5. Council and community zero emissions energy use
6. Sustainable transport
7. A zero waste and circular economy

This Plan specifies the strategic objectives and associated actions. An accompanying Implementation Plan will provide more details and be regularly updated. The current consultation program aimed to gather community feedback on the draft CAP.





2.2 Overview of consultation program

The consultation program involved activities led by ChatterBox Projects and Council from 4 October to 7 November 2021 (refer to Table 2). ChatterBox Projects planned and delivered four virtual drop-in sessions. Council's 'Participate Nillumbik' online engagement platform was used to share information about the consultation, engage the community and capture feedback and ideas via an online survey and submission form. The online engagement platform tools permitted people to be informed and get involved in a time of uncertain COVID-19 restrictions.

Table 2. Schedule of engagement activities with timeframes

Engagement activity	Timeframes
Consultation opened	4 October 2021
Online engagement platform (Online survey and submission form)	4 October until 7 November 2021
Virtual drop-in session #1	13 October 2021
Virtual drop-in session #2	17 October 2021
Virtual drop-in session #3 (Council' Youth Council	18 October 2021
Virtual drop-in session #4	26 October 2021
Written/email submissions	4 October until 7 November 2021
Consultation closed	7 November 2021

2.3 Overview of outcomes from the consultation program

As shown in Table 3, the communications and engagement activities were effective in engaging 106 people through Council's 'Participate Nillumbik' online platform. Participation and engagement comprised 445 visitors to Council's 'Participate Nillumbik' project page with 747 visits and 877 views.

Table 3. Engagement activity participation

Engagement activity	Number of participants
Online survey	80
4x virtual drop-in sessions	15
Submission	11
TOTAL	106





3. Description of participation profile

Community members who live, work or play in Nillumbik were identified as the target population to engage in this consultation. The general community could also participate by completing the online survey. The communications and engagement activities were effective in informing the community, and 106 participants were engaged in this consultation. The majority of survey respondents and submission participants reported living within the Nillumbik municipality.

Participant demographic data were captured to varying degrees across the online engagement activities. Therefore, it is not possible to provide a complete participation profile or to determine the extent to which participants reflected a broad cross-section of the Nillumbik community.

Detailed demographic data were captured for the 80 survey respondents, although some survey respondents elected not to respond to some demographic questions. No detailed demographic data are available or reported in relation to the virtual drop-in session participants, other than suburb.

It is noted that:

- Some respondents who indicated they reside within the Nillumbik municipality did not respond to the question enquiring about residential suburb
- 2 online surveys were submitted from the same email account (OS19, OS38)
- 2 online surveys were submitted via the same IP address (OS59, OS70)
- 10 responses providing similar or the same feedback were submitted (OS3, OS8, OS25, OS37, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S85, S87)

The findings presented in Part 4 of this report may be regarded as accurately reflecting the views of the participants. There is some evidence of consistently recurring themes in the responses gathered across engagement activities which encourages confidence in the findings. Overall, the community feedback received regarding the draft CAP was positive and supportive with a small proportion of opposing views.

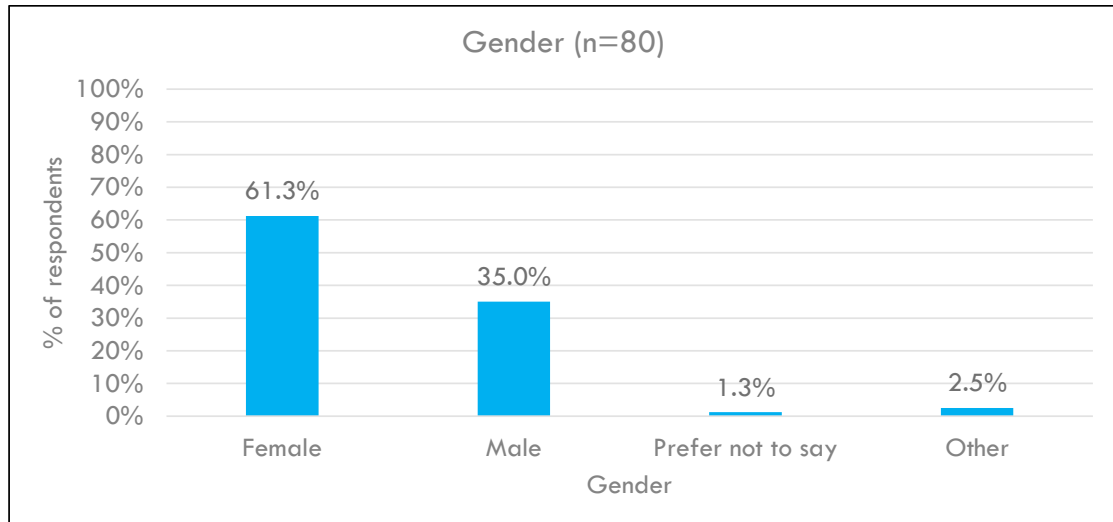
3.1 Gender of participants

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their gender. All survey respondents provided a response and all response options were selected, albeit to varying degrees. As shown in Graph 1, the majority identify as *Female* (49 or 61.3%). The two respondents who reported 'Other' provided the same response: *non-binary*.





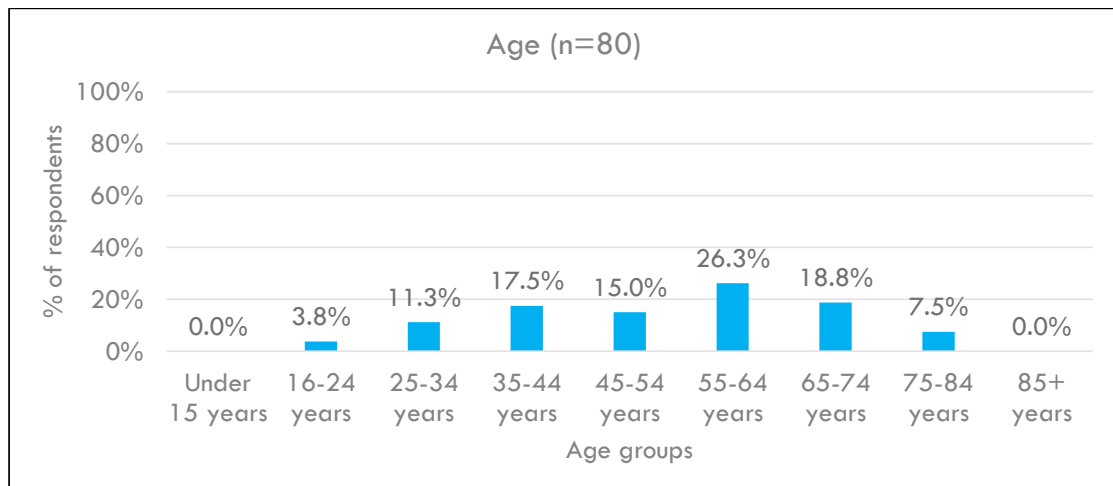
Graph 1: Gender of survey respondents



3.2 Age of participants

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their age grouping. All survey respondents provided a response and all age groupings were represented with the exception of under 15 years and 85 years and over. As shown in Graph 2, persons aged 55 to 64 years were particularly engaged (21 or 26.3%).

Graph 2: Age of survey respondents

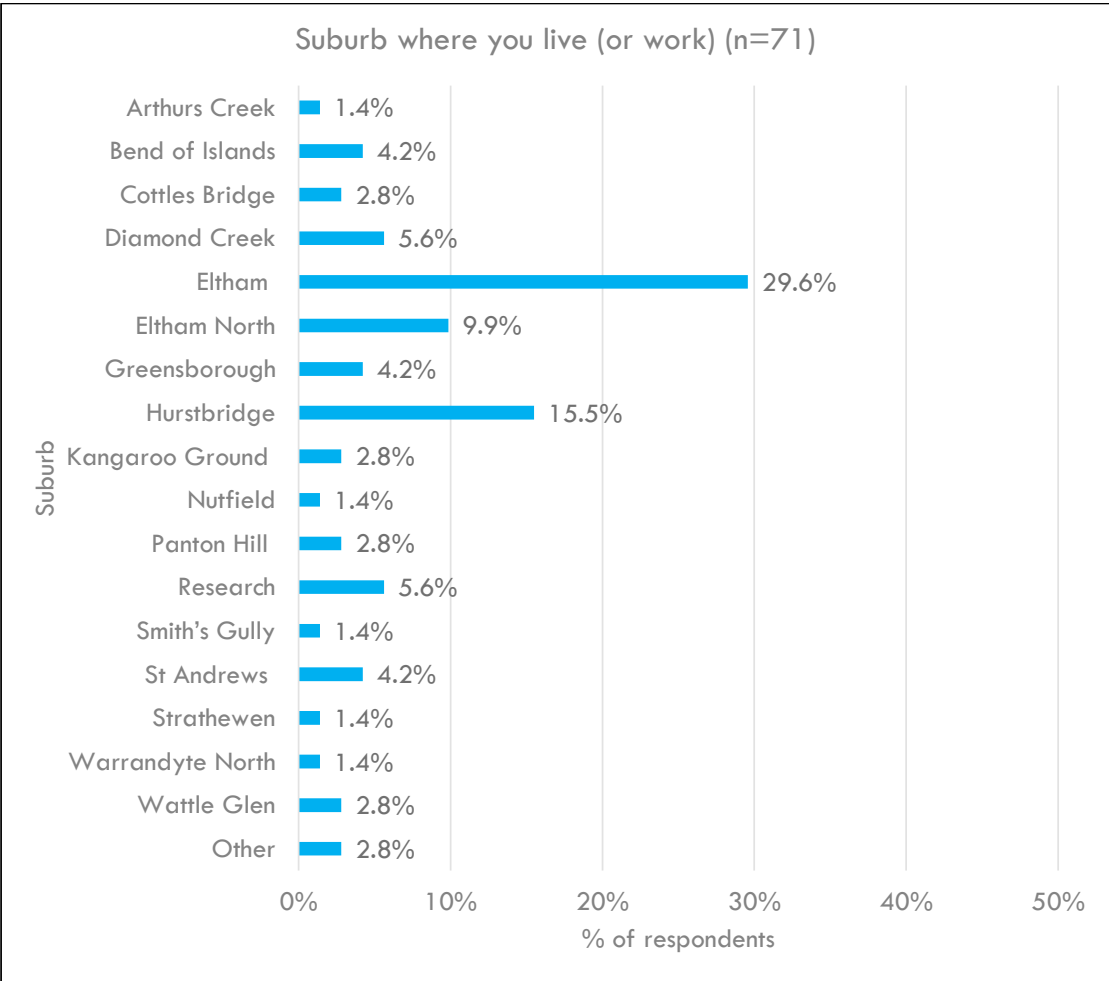




3.3 Residential suburb of participants

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their suburb in Nillumbik where they live and 71 of the 78 respondents provided a response. A total of 17 suburbs within the Nillumbik municipality were indicated as well as “Other”. As shown in Graph 3, many respondents reported living in Eltham (21 or 29.6%). In total, 69 (or 97.2%) of respondents reported living in suburbs within the Nillumbik municipality. The two respondents who reported ‘Other’ provided the following responses: *Yallambie* and *Montmorency*.

Graph 3: Residential suburb of survey respondents

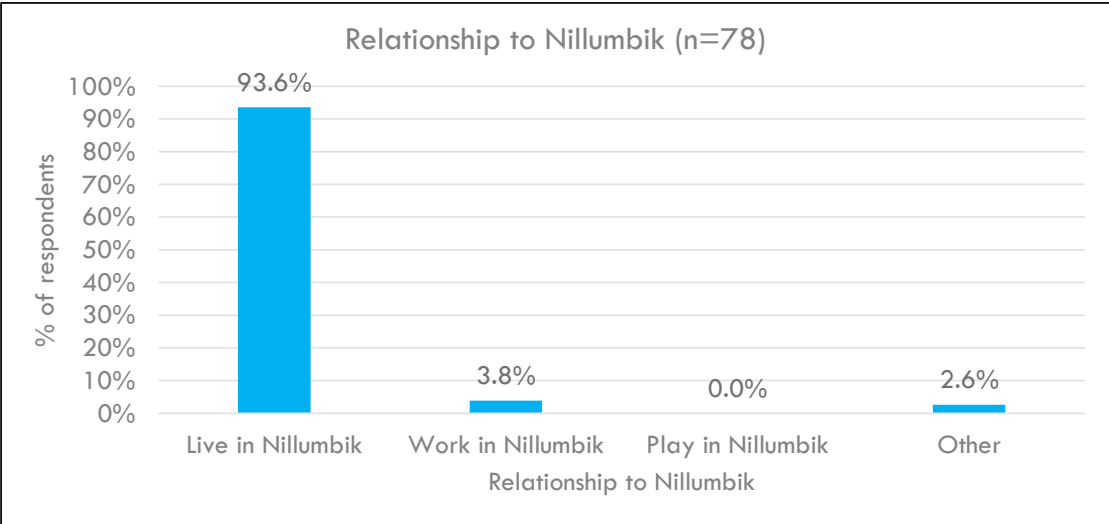




3.4 Participants’ relationship to Nillumbik (live, work or play)

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their relationship to Nillumbik (from live, work, play and other) and 78 of the 80 survey respondents provided a response. As shown in Graph 4, the majority reported living in Nillumbik (73 or 93.6%) and 3 (or 3.8%) of respondents reported working in Nillumbik. *Note: some respondents who indicate living in Nillumbik did not respond to the question enquiring about residential suburb. The two respondent who reported ‘Other’ provided the following responses: Concerned visitor living nearby and Lived in Nillumbik for 29 years.*

Graph 4: Survey respondents’ relationship to Nillumbik





4. Findings from the analysis of the community feedback

This section reports the findings from the analysis of the community feedback gathered via the online survey, virtual drop-in sessions and submissions.

Key highlights

Great things happening now in Nillumbik: A variety of great things are happening now in Nillumbik to mitigate or adapt to climate change including adoption of solar panels and people generally becoming more aware and taking action.

Support for Council acknowledging a Climate Emergency

The majority of survey respondents (64 or 81.0%) indicated *support* for Council acknowledging a Climate Emergency. Most Virtual drop-in session participants and Submission participants indicated *support*. 25 of the 50 respondents providing personalised feedback commented that a Declaration of Climate Emergency would be stronger and preferable which was also supported by many participants in the Virtual drop-in sessions and most Submission feedback.

Focus Area 1: Strong climate action leadership and culture

The majority of survey respondents (63 or 82.9%) indicated *support* for Focus Area 1. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (9 or 11.8%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: Develop implementation plans; Ensure accountability and resources for implementation; Declare a Climate Emergency; Establish a Community Reference Committee; Move to action urgently; Show strong leadership and change management; and Inform, educate and support the Council organisation with climate emergency.

Focus Area 2: A climate resilient, adaptive and safe community

The majority of survey respondents (66 or 86.8%) indicated support for Focus Area 2. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (7 or 9.2%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: Inform and educate the community; and Support the community with fire preparation and prevention.

Focus Area 3: A climate resilient natural environment

The majority of survey respondents (66 or 84.6%) indicated *support* for Focus Area 3. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (7 or 9.0%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: Incorporate clear targets and strengthen indicators; Increase understanding and protection of the natural environment; and Reduce the risk of bushfire.





Key highlights

Focus Area 4: Climate responsive Council services, facilities/ buildings

The majority of survey respondents (65 or 83.3%) indicated *support* for Focus Area 4. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (7 or 9.0%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: Council to provide leadership and support; and Council to lead the way in relation to long term assets.

Focus Area 5: Zero emissions energy use

The majority of survey respondents (64 or 82.1%) indicated *support* for Focus Area 5. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (11 or 14.1%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: Revisions for targets and indicators; Support for businesses, households and schools and Partnering with environmentally and socially ethical financial institutions and organisations.

Focus Area 6: Sustainable transport

The majority of survey respondents (65 or 86.7%) indicated *support* for Focus Area 6. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (4 or 5.3%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: Advocate and collaborate for public transport improvements and climate change mitigation; Revisions to targets and indicators; and Commitment for future Council investment.

Focus Area 7: A zero waste and circular economy

The majority of survey respondents (63 or 81.8%) indicated *support* for Focus Area 7. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (9 or 11.7%). Overall, some participants provided other suggestions including: More focus on recycling; Revisions to targets and indicators; and Establish more outlets to repair, recycle and reuse.

Ideas to engage and activate the community, households and local businesses:

Ideas included considering financial incentives, using a variety of communication channels, careful use of language and messaging and showcasing good examples

4.1 Great things happening now in Nillumbik to mitigate or adapt to climate change

Virtual drop-in session participants were asked “What are some great things happening now in Nillumbik to mitigate or adapt to climate change?” and invited to provide a personalised response. As shown in Table 4, participants referred to a variety of activities. Each topic is accompanied by individual ID codes which indicate the feedback source (V=Virtual drop-in session).





Table 4. Summary table of activities in Nillumbik mitigating or adapting to climate change

Topics in Great things happening now in Nillumbik responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Adoption of solar panels	V79, V80, V81
Buildings that have changes to solar	V82
Bulk buy program through Climate Emergency Nillumbik	V82
Draft CAP	V79
Eco Experts	V82
Environmentally focussed community groups	V79
Keeping the Shire green	V81
Offering energy advice/ assistance through Australian Energy Foundation's service	V82
People are starting to change from gas to electricity	V80
People are becoming more aware of the need to act on climate change	V80
Moving to electric cars and charging stations	V81
Recycling food waste	V79
Solar Farm for Council emissions	V82

4.2 Support for Council acknowledging a Climate Emergency in Nillumbik

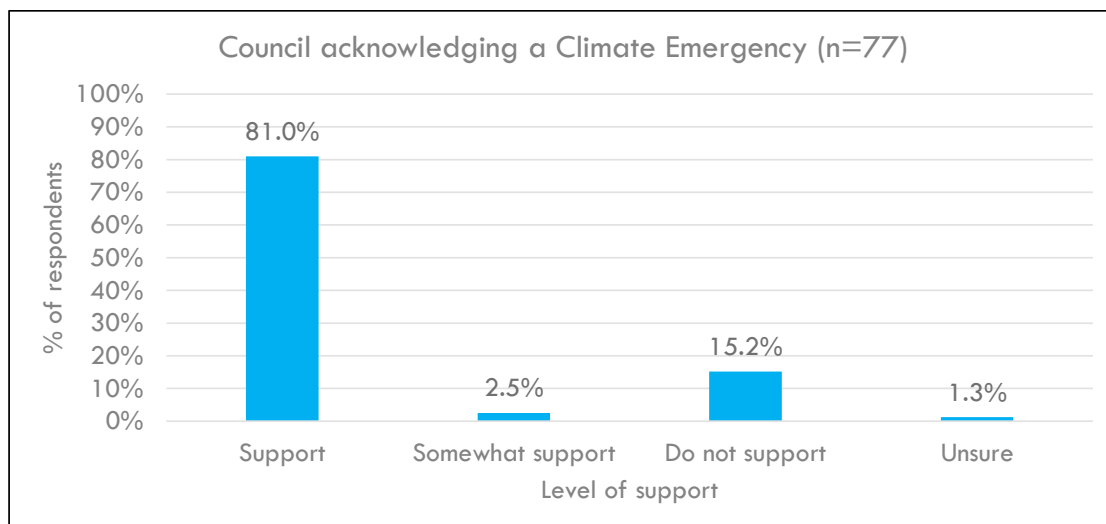
The draft CAP reports as a Green Wedge Shire, Nillumbik Council is acutely aware of the multiple threats facing all communities and ecosystems as a result of climate change. This requires urgent action by all levels of government, including local government. Council therefore Acknowledges a Climate Emergency, commits to a climate emergency response, and will proactively integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation into all Council actions.

Survey respondents were asked "Do you support Council acknowledging a Climate Emergency?" and 79 of the 80 survey respondents answered this question. As shown in Graph 5, the majority of participants (64 or 81.0%) indicated *Support*. A small number of respondents indicated *Do not support* (12 or 15.2%).





Graph 5: Support for Council acknowledging a Climate Emergency



Survey respondents were invited to provide other comments in relation to Council acknowledging a Climate Emergency and 50 provided a personalised response. **Virtual drop-in session participants** were also invited to provide feedback and some comments provided by **Submission participants** were relevant. Table 5 presents descriptive themes, summary statements and extracts from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each theme is accompanied by a tally count of references in the overall responses as well as individual ID codes which indicate the feedback source (OS=Online survey, V=Virtual drop-in session and S=submission).

As shown in Table 5, 25 of the 50 survey respondents as well as many participants in the Virtual drop-in sessions and most Submission feedback requested Council to Declare a Climate Emergency, to convey a stronger sense of commitment and sense of urgency. This finding is reinforced in the feedback for Focus Area 1 and the general feedback.

Table 5: Summary table of comments on Council acknowledging a Climate Emergency

Themes in Council acknowledging a Climate Emergency responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Support	
Declare a climate emergency: Change the wording from acknowledge and declare a climate emergency to convey a stronger sense of commitment and sense of urgency (referenced in 36 responses)	OS3, OS8, OS11, OS14, OS16, OS17, OS21, OS22, OS24, OS25, OS31, OS32, OS37, OS43, OS44,





Themes in Council acknowledging a Climate Emergency responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
	OS45, OS47, OS48, OS49, OS51, OS57, OS58, OS64, V79, V80, V81, V82, S84, S85, S86, S87, S89, S91, S92, S93, OS94
Happy with the draft Plan and Council's acknowledgement: Glad to see Council's leadership, support acknowledging a climate emergency, it is long overdue and aligns with being a 'green wedge' shire, an important step towards building a more resilient and safe community (8 responses)	OS5, OS50, OS53, OS60, OS70, V79, V81, S87
Move to action urgently: Our region and quality of life is at risk including the wildlife, needs to prioritise the environment and have urgent and strong actions such as proactive integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation as Council actions (7 responses)	OS2, OS30, OS42, OS62, OS67, OS70, OS75
Use "climate emergency" language: Refer to climate emergency rather than climate change in the Plan, Council documents and communications (4 responses)	OS3, OS21, S85, S87
Other (7 responses, feedback stated multiple times is listed once with the frequency in brackets): appoint additional staff to assist implementation, include a budget and a timeline (2); include more information in the Introduction, explaining the need for a CAP (2); strengthen the net zero emissions targets and set interim targets (2); the environment is being destroyed by rubbish and development is eroding the natural habitat of our birds and animals (1); establish a Community Advisory Committee (1); provide more detailed planned actions to give confidence that the Plan's vision and targets will be delivered; strengthen indicators to include measurable targets and timeframes (1); more education of the Council and the community on how to support actions on climate change (1); clearly define the strongest possible goals to mitigate climate change and outline ways these will be achieved, with milestones (1)	OS11, OS21, OS27, OS43, OS45, S83, S86
Somewhat support	
Climate emergency is sensationalist, keep some perspective (1 response)	OS55
Majority of the community strongly support the natural environment so immediately declare a Climate Emergency (1 response)	OS63
Do not support	
Beyond Council's jurisdiction: Not Council's remit, don't waste money, focus on core business and infrastructure and stay out of the politics (6 responses)	OS2, OS4, OS10, OS13, OS15, OS72





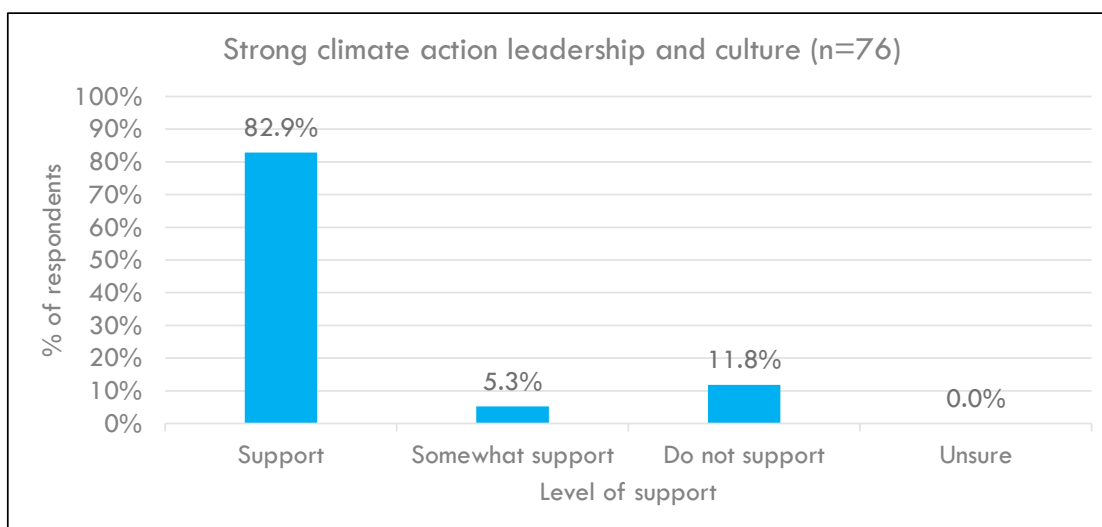
Themes in Council acknowledging a Climate Emergency responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Critical of climate change: Absolutely not, it is nonsense, climate has always changed, there is no climate emergency (6 responses)	OS4, OS9, OS10, OS13, OS52, OS65
Unsure	
Acknowledging a Climate Emergency doesn't sound like strong Leadership language, declaring a 'Climate Emergency Plan' would be the progressive way forward by naming this and taking action now (1 response)	OS69

4.3 Focus Area 1: Strong climate action leadership and culture

The draft CAP reports Council has acknowledged a Climate Emergency and commits to lead by example by carrying out our work in the deliberate context of implementing regular and ongoing climate action; and to support our community to prioritise climate action.

Survey respondents were asked “Do you support Focus Area 1: Strong climate action leadership and culture?” and 76 of the 80 survey respondents answered this question. As shown in Graph 6, the majority of participants (63 or 82.9%) indicated Support. Some respondents indicated Do not support (9 or 11.8%).

Graph 6: Support for Focus Area 1 (Strong climate action leadership and culture)



Survey respondents were invited to provide other comments in relation to Focus Area 1 and 36 provided a personalised response. **Virtual drop-in session participants** were also invited to provide feedback and some comments provided by **Submission participants** were relevant. Table 6 presents descriptive themes, summary statements and extracts from the analysis of the personalised feedback.





Each theme is accompanied by a tally count of references in the overall responses as well as individual ID codes which indicate the feedback source (OS=Online survey, V=Virtual drop-in session and S=submission).

Table 6: Summary table of comments on Focus Area 1 (Strong climate action leadership and culture)

Themes in Focus Area 1 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Support	
Develop implementation plans: Develop policies (based on best practice), plans with timeframes, budgets, ambitious targets and clear, measurable goals with indicators for driving and monitoring implementation across all functions of Council to review progress and success (referenced in 21 responses)	OS3, OS8, OS14, OS16, OS21, OS25, OS37, OS43, OS44, OS47, OS49, OS58, OS64, V82, S83, S85, S86, S87, S88, S91, S93
Ensure accountability and resources for implementation: Create a structure and operating environment as a strategic response to manage climate emergency, CEO and a senior officer to be responsible for the plan, provide a budget and funds to support action and implementation including additional staff. New Council officer role be coordinate collaboration with the community, promoting connections and coordinating communications such as newsletter and website items (19 responses)	OS3, OS8, OS14, OS16, OS17, OS21, OS25, OS37, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S84, S85, S86, S87, S88, S92, S93
Declare a climate emergency: Support changing the wording from acknowledge to declare to convey a stronger sense of commitment and sense of urgency and action (17 responses)	OS3, OS8, OS14, OS21, OS25, OS37, OS44, OS47, OS51, OS64, V79, V80, V82, S83, S85, S92, S93
Establish a Community Reference Committee: Committee or group of community members to provide advice and support (15 responses)	OS3, OS8, OS14, OS21, OS24, OS25, OS37, OS43, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S85, S87, S93
Show strong leadership and change management: An all-of-Council approach is commendable, support for strong and intelligent leadership and consideration of climate impact and environment as a guiding principle in decision-making, planning and advocacy roles. All purchases and contracts to have an environment/sustainability priority and be monitored for environmental outcomes. Change management program to shift underlying	OS5, OS22, OS24, OS57, OS70, OS73, OS75, V82, S83, S84, S88, S92, S93





Themes in Focus Area 1 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
beliefs, values and behaviours and ensure the community participates and supports Council actions (13 responses)	
Move to action urgently: Move to action and reflect a sense of urgency in the wording, use climate emergency language not climate change (11 responses)	OS3, OS8, OS21, OS25, OS37, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S83, V82
Inform, educate and support the Council organisation with climate emergency: Information and education for Executive officers and Councillors, support, encourage and educate all Council Staff (10 responses)	OS8, OS14, OS25, OS37, OS39, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S83
Inform and educate the community: Community education and training is a core component and necessary to raise awareness and understanding of climate change. A genuine approach to involve the community, more community outreach (events, seminars, presentations) and work with local environmental groups. Use social media to keep people informed about climate action and provide incentives for community action and programs. This is crucial to ensure smooth progression of actions for Council (8 responses)	OS1, OS16, OS24, V80, V81, S84, S88, S93
Council to do more advocacy with other levels of Government: Collaborate and advocate for action by all levels of government to reduce and respond to climate change and support Nillumbik. More advocacy to assist with costs of fire mitigation, reduce fire risk and achieve an integrated response to climate adaptation and mitigation. Advocate for structural and procedural change and a reconsideration of powers and resources needed at a local level to mitigate and adapt organizations and communities (5 responses)	OS44, OS70, V80, S84, S93
Actions to be guided by First Nation's culture and practices: Learn from the First Nation's culture and address cultural instincts and beliefs contributing to climate change (2 responses)	OS53, S84
Other (10 responses): Important to connect with other Councils and levels of government to ensure coordinated actions and regulation change to support this goal (1); Only so far as adaption to live with change as it occurs (1); Our environment should be the number one consideration for our council leaders and not money (1); An undertaking to develop a community wide zero emissions transition roadmap in the next 12 months to deliver zero emissions within a decade and a review of the CAP in 5 years; Internal policies and processes that include: Building standards being addressed through planning process and supporting quality trades in the shire, Council policies to support use of Council land for community renewables/ batteries and support establishment of micro grids in smaller communities, the insertion	OS2, OS10, OS45, OS67, S84, S87, S88, S92, S93, OS94





Themes in Focus Area 1 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
of an Environmentally Sustainable Design clause in planning rules, to offer Environmental Upgrade Finance to Nillumbik home-owners and businesses to facilitate improved energy performance of existing buildings, incentives for energy efficient households and businesses (1); Consider Nillumbik's Climate Emergency Action Team recommendations, and involvement of this group in planning and management and community liaison (1); Annual percentage of department business plans that include climate actions. Target – indicate a staged percentage increase e.g. 80% by 2024, 100% by 2030 (2); and Full credit to Council for taking this initiative (1); The CEO will require professional support and the permanent appointment of an appropriately qualified and credible person (eg with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science and expert knowledge in biodiversity, or similar) is recommended (1); and Transformational responses capture the complexity of climate emergency. They are characterised by: "Yes, this is an emergency – we need to take fundamental action to address the underlying structural and strategic basis for climate change and implement far-reaching actions and responses". Transformational responses are prepared to examine the systems and processes across the entire organisation and beyond, to include stakeholders, supply chain, ratepayers, residents and businesses. They are not as business as usual or incremental responses (1)	
Somewhat support	
Support Council fuel reduction to stop bushfire (1 response)	OS12
Councillors and the organisation to demonstrate 'strong climate action leadership' in practice (1 response)	OS63
Yes but keep it practical not political (1 response)	OS55
Do not support	
Outside local council's jurisdiction, support initiatives only if they deliver a saving to ratepayers otherwise focus on core business (2 responses)	OS9, OS13
Absolutely not (1 response)	OS65

4.4 Focus Area 2: A climate resilient, adaptive and safe community

The draft CAP reports the direct and indirect physical and mental impacts of climate change on health and wellbeing can be considerable. Actions delivered through this Plan and through Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan seek to deliver health co-benefits for our community - including building community resilience, planning for and reducing the impact of extreme weather events, supporting vulnerable community members, strengthening food systems, and reducing carbon emissions and waste. Climate change impacts can also affect community economic wellbeing and resilience, including for example the

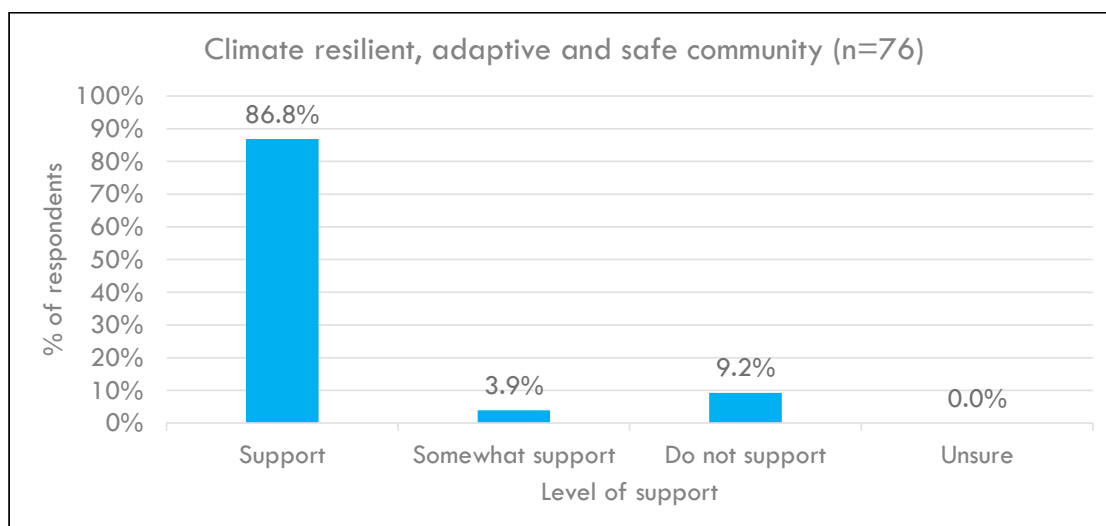




costs of mitigation, adaptation and recovery, including insurability. Council will continuously explore opportunities, including working in partnership with others, to encourage and support the Nillumbik community to be engaged and climate-action active, adaptive and resilient – to help keep our community safe and healthy. Our partners and community stakeholders will regularly evolve and are likely to include cohorts such as residents/landowners, youth, community groups, businesses, health and wellbeing organisations and emergency services.

Survey respondents were asked “Do you support Focus Area 2: A climate resilient, adaptive and safe community?” and 76 of the 80 survey respondents answered this question. As shown in Graph 7, the majority of participants (66 or 86.8%) indicated Support. Some respondents indicated Do not support (7 or 9.2%).

Graph 7: Support for Focus Area 2 (A climate resilient, adaptive and safe community)



Survey respondents were invited to provide other comments in relation to Focus Area 2 and 28 provided a personalised response. **Virtual drop-in session participants** were also invited to provide feedback and some comments provided by **Submission participants** were relevant. Table 7 presents descriptive themes, summary statements and extracts from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each theme is accompanied by a tally count of references in the overall responses as well as individual ID codes which indicate the feedback source (OS=Online survey, V=Virtual drop-in session and S=submission).





Table 7: Summary table of comments on Focus Area 2 (A climate resilient, adaptive and safe community)

Themes in Focus Area 2 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Support	
Inform and educate the community: Expand community education and information programs, establish an outreach program to activate community members and consider communicating the need to protect, retain and reinvigorate indigenous biodiversity (referenced in 20 responses)	OS3, OS8, OS14, OS16, OS21, OS25, OS37, OS43, OS44, OS45, OS47, OS49, OS58, OS64, OS70, V81, S83, S85, S87, S93
Support the community with fire preparation and prevention: Support fire prevention and preparing the community for bushfires and droughts, working alongside the CFA and stakeholders such as FRV, CSIRO outreach personnel, the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people and all land-managers/stewards. Use traditional fire management systems where and when appropriate (8 responses)	OS14, OS43, OS44, OS55, OS67, S83, S84, S93
Support this Focus Area: Total support for this focus area, this is the only way forward (2 responses)	OS50, OS53
Review land use strategies and support landowners to maintain large areas of land: Review land use strategies and policies as part of the CAP because increased development in Diamond Creek and Whittlesea is taking water away from fire prone areas. Land use planning needs a fire risk lens and landowners need support to maintain large areas of land. Need to plan fire risk mitigation differently for each area, from a town-by-town perspective. Council to support land managers to manage their land to improve the sequestration of soil carbon and the health and productivity of our soil (2 responses)	V80, S88
Other (9 responses): Support and participate in collaborative mitigation and adaptation opportunities across the Shire. Celebrate, promote and share community climate-action achievements. Plan for the health impacts of extreme weather (1); A community advisory group could be useful here too (1); Adapt is key (1); Measures to ensure food security in the community and climate anxiety resources and programs (1); A specific focus on the upskilling and capacity building of youth in particular mental health impacts associated with being left with the consequences of climate change and feelings of helplessness (1); Make informed, long term decisions to preserve and protect where we live to enable safe, healthy lives for all now and in the future (1); This should be a substitute for mitigating action (1); More information about dangerous areas where young people hang out that are	OS5, OS14, OS22, OS24, OS39, OS44, OS70, V81, S84





Themes in Focus Area 2 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
prone to flooding (eg Blue Lake and bushwalkers). Need to address there is only one way out of Eltham if there is a bushfire. Signage/ information/ QR codes for bushfire related information or direct people where to go if there is a bushfire (1); Council strategies to deliver advice and support that is integrated and compatible with other levels of government and scientifically valid. Indicators to include educational and training outcomes such as rates of retrofitting of emissions reduction equipment and percentage of participants with written bushfire emergency plans. Health and wellbeing strategies to be developed in conjunction with government executive and local health authorities (1)	
Somewhat support	Nil
Do not support	
Absolutely not, critical of climate change (2 responses)	OS9, OS65
No role for Council in this area (1 response)	OS13
Safe community starts with Council reduction of fire fuel on Council land and roadside (1 response)	OS12

4.5 Focus Area 3: A climate resilient natural environment

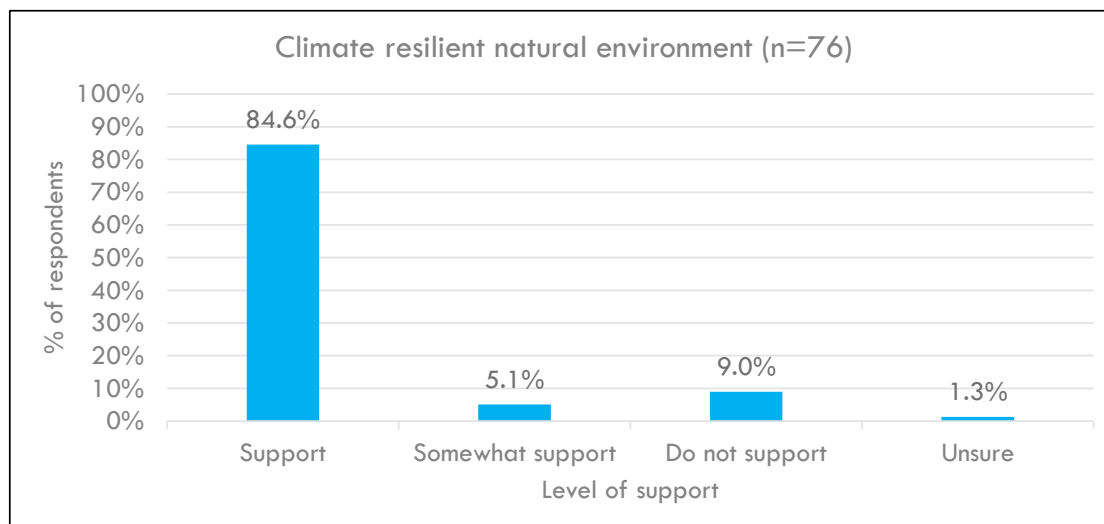
The draft CAP reports Nillumbik is home to a rich and varied natural environment, however the current and projected rate and magnitude of climate change is challenging its natural adaptive capacity. Ongoing work is required to understand thresholds before tipping points are reached, beyond which irreversible changes to ecosystems occur, and what can be done to help prevent or adapt to such changes in Nillumbik. Climate change also exacerbates other 'threatening processes' such as invasive species numbers and distribution, disease and pathogens, and other agents of change – which can interact with direct climate impacts to undermine the resilience of our natural environment. As such approaches to resilience that incorporate broad thinking about environmental change are most likely to contribute to positive outcomes; and require urgent focused attention. Nillumbik's green wedge and its vegetated urban environment both present opportunities for deliberate action to act as a carbon-sink to help sequester emissions (i.e. absorb and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere) and thus help to limit climate change – whilst at the same time helping to reduce urban heat-island impacts, provide habitat, and provide climate resilient food systems.

Survey respondents were asked "Do you support Focus Area 3: A climate resilient natural environment?" and 76 of the 80 survey respondents answered this question. As shown in Graph 8, the majority of participants (66 or 84.6%) indicated Support. Some respondents indicated Do not support (7 or 9.0%).





Graph 8: Support for Focus Area 3 (A climate resilient natural environment)



Survey respondents were invited to provide other comments in relation to Focus Area 3 and 27 provided a personalised response. **Virtual drop-in session participants** were also invited to provide feedback and some comments provided by **Submission participants** were relevant. Table 8 presents descriptive themes, summary statements and extracts from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each theme is accompanied by a tally count of references in the overall responses as well as individual ID codes which indicate the feedback source (OS=Online survey, V=Virtual drop-in session and S=submission).

Table 8: Summary table of comments on Focus Area 3 (A climate resilient natural environment)

Themes in Focus Area 3 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Support	
Incorporate clear targets and strengthen indicators: Include specific targets such as percentage increase in flora and fauna, tree canopy cover, biodiversity, tree canopy, vegetation coverage in rural areas, biodiversity, health of soils and waterways and reductions in chemical inputs, erosion and reliance on polluting fuels by 2030. Targets with stated percentage increase for tree canopy cover and vegetation coverage in rural areas. Clear statements regarding responsibility for risk and vehicle for emissions reduction and indicators to be clear and examined from a climate science and agricultural sociology viewpoint (referenced in 18 responses)	OS3, OS8, OS14, OS16, OS21, OS25, OS37, OS44, OS47, OS49, OS58, OS64, V82, S83, S84, S85, S87, S93
Increase understanding and protection of the natural environment: Focus on understanding and preserving biodiversity values, commission studies to	OS3, OS8, OS14, OS21, OS25, OS37,





Themes in Focus Area 3 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
obtain robust baseline evidence for biodiversity, native vegetation cover, tree canopy cover in urban areas to inform goal. Waterways, catchment areas and reservoirs must be protected, monitored and actions taken to reduce consumption, waste and pollution. Need rules/regulations to retain and increase vegetation (native and non-native). Knowledge of ecosystem health and best management as held by Australia's Indigenous people be appropriately respected (15 responses)	OS43, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, V80, S83, S85, S87
Reduce the risk of bushfire: Manage Council's roadside and bush reserves, and engage with the community without compromising biodiversity values. Acknowledge that roadsides often contain indigenous vegetation and are often refuges for flora and fauna no longer found on surrounding properties, providing important food sources and a seedbank (9 responses)	OS8, OS24, OS25, OS37, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S83
Expand climate resilient food systems: Commend Council on this inclusion, encourage sustainable agriculture, identify opportunities to enhance the local food system, promote and support public and home based food growing, encourage the eating of locally produced food and support local food businesses, start more local food farms/businesses, eat more plants and less meat, and support for providing incentives for local businesses who can demonstrate sustainable food systems. Nillumbik has opportunities for micro agriculture to support near-by urban populations. (5 responses)	OS39, OS44, OS70, V79, V81
Diverse views on trees (4 responses) keep the flammable trees under control (1) stronger stance on native logging, Council needs to call for an immediate end to logging of native forests which increases bushfire risks (1) Council to provide trees for residents to plant. Nillumbik planning scheme permits too many trees to be cut down for development (1) No further removal of any trees or clearing of green areas and maintain tree canopy in urban areas (2)	OS43, OS70, OS75, OS76, V80
Other (15 responses): A slow burn planned next to our property (in bushland reserve) has not happened for 3 years? (1); Need to cultivate indigenous land management methods more effectively (1); Investigate and support collaborative mitigation and adaptation opportunities that help to: Protect and enhance biodiversity (e.g. protect wildlife corridors, enhance the diversity of native vegetation cover, protect threatened species); Respond to invasive species; Reduce the likelihood and impacts of bushfire; Sequester carbon; Conserve soil moisture and optimise soil functionality; Conserve and maximise beneficial use of water (1); Keep a focus on local indigenous planting and protection of the natural environment (1); Native animals and birds and their right to a habitat should be considered as a priority when deciding on how to develop Nillumbik (1); This goes without saying (1); and	OS16, OS22, OS43, OS44, OS45, OS55, OS62, OS73, OS75, V80, S84, S86, S90, S91, S93





Themes in Focus Area 3 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
<p>Private landowners should be encouraged through education and incentives to contribute to increasing indigenous vegetation cover goals; (1) Nillumbik needs to be more focused on protecting and expanding the Green Wedge (1); regenerative local landscapes and promote localised plants for gardens and regenerative agriculture to any local farm (1); Collaborate with interface Councils and the State Government and advocate for greater local authority over rural land use especially agricultural land use in the green wedge; Regenerative agriculture and carbon farming have the potential to reverse climate change by drawing carbon from the atmosphere while enriching our soils. An urban community farm could make an important contribution to making our shire climate resilient (1); No one has talked about use of non-indigenous vegetation. Need to give choice to people about what they can plant. Should not just be Indigenous vegetation (1); The greatest danger of climate change is the threat of fires, with loss of life, native fauna, homes and livelihood. Urgent action is needed to mitigate this risk especially in bushy areas close to population growth and major roads like Ironbark Road, Yan Yean Road and the new m80 city link. Request: 1/ urgent removal of land (including our land) in this area mistakenly placed in the green wedge, and inclusion back in Melbourne urban growth boundary. This will ensure protection of their high water flows and pressure, critical for fire protection to the community. 2/ Soft urban edge with in a 5 kilometres distance to Melbourne designated major activity centres, such as diamond creek. 3/ This will enable lots sizes small enough to manage for fire safety. 4/implementation of land use-changes with relocation of fauna, trapped, confused, and endangered by leaping development to adjoining northern suburbs of neighbouring shires such as Doreen and Mernda (1); Monitor and regularly publish changes in biodiversity, specifically to the quality and quantity of locally indigenous plants and wildlife, the regeneration of degraded land and the quality of our rivers and waterways which help sustain them. Include the first two years' Implementation Plan as part of the document open for comment, as without this, the community consultation is incomplete (1); Add a reference to "regenerative agriculture / farming" to 3.1 and 3.2 and to the Indicators: its drawdown effects could be an important contribution. Add percentage increase indicators for Vegetation cover and Tree cover (1)</p>	
Somewhat support	
When it comes to cleaning up and getting fire prepared (1 response)	OS72
Do not support	
Our rates are already amongst the most expensive (1 responses)	OS9





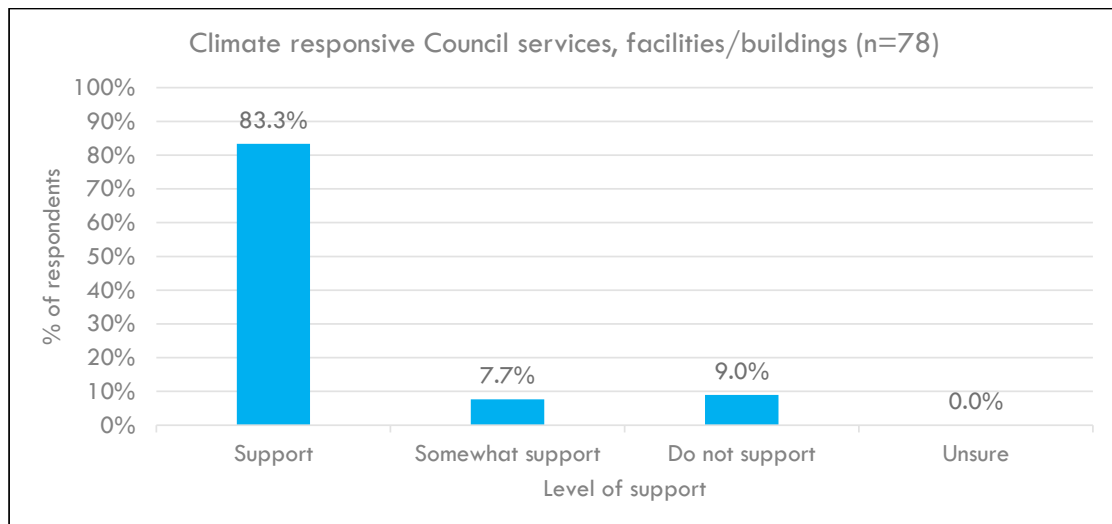
Themes in Focus Area 3 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Unsure	
Sounds unrealistic	OS94

4.6 Focus Area 4: Climate responsive Council services, facilities/ buildings

The draft CAP reports Council provides a wide variety of services for the people and environment of the Shire of Nillumbik. We need to be prepared to ensure that we can continue to deliver services such as waste management, animal management, health services, local laws, planning and building services, emergency management, road management, and community services - without being majorly impacted by the changing climate or extreme weather events. We are responsible for community infrastructure including local roads and roadsides, bridges, drains, council buildings, libraries, recreation and leisure facilities, Council bushland reserves, parks, playgrounds and gardens; and we are responsible for considering climate risks and making sure that this infrastructure is built and maintained in a fashion that will be useable as the climate changes.

Survey respondents were asked “Do you support Focus Area 4: Climate responsive Council services, facilities/ buildings?” and 78 of the 80 survey respondents answered this question. As shown in Graph 9, the majority of participants (65 or 83.3%) indicated *Support*. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (7 or 9.0%).

Graph 9: Support for Focus Area 4 (Climate responsive Council services, facilities/buildings)



Survey respondents were invited to provide other comments in relation to Focus Area 4 and 23 provided a personalised response. **Virtual drop-in session participants** were also invited to provide feedback and some comments provided by **Submission participants** were relevant. Table 9 presents

29





descriptive themes, summary statements and extracts from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each theme is accompanied by a tally count of references in the overall responses as well as individual ID codes which indicate the feedback source (OS=Online survey, V=Virtual drop-in session and S=submission).

Table 9: Summary table of comments on Focus Area 4 (Climate responsive Council services, facilities/buildings)

Themes in Focus Area 4 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Support	
Council to provide leadership and support: Provide an advisory program, leadership, support or financial assistance to encourage climate related improvements and retro-fits, especially for low income households (referenced in 7 responses)	OS2, OS24, OS37, OS42, OS43, OS44, OS49
Council to lead the way in relation to long term assets: Council standards in place for the construction and renewal of new assets (i.e. solar power, recycled materials, green space, rainwater tanks, eliminating gas, retrofitting to be more energy efficient), considering climate change risks and impacts in services, infrastructure planning, development, and management decisions (6 responses)	OS2, OS39, OS53, OS67, OS73, S83
Balance focus with investment: Council to balance focus on this Focus area with investment in mitigating actions (3 responses)	OS22, OS39, OS53
Focus on stronger resilient housing development: Incorporate ESD in new developments, restrict over development and protect the natural landscape from new high-density dwellings (3 responses)	OS35, OS44, OS75
Strategy, target and indicator suggestions: Deliver local initiatives, including education, to assist the community to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. Provide free comprehensive household energy audits with the aim of increasing energy efficiency. Environmental Upgrade Finance scheme for residential and commercial properties. Support and amplify 'State and Federal led' and 'community and business led' zero-emissions initiatives. Commission studies to obtain robust baseline data for community emissions. Conduct community emissions accounting and obtain independent certification of community emissions reporting. Establish a program to encourage households and businesses to transition from gas. Prohibit the installation of gas appliances in all new corporate, commercial and residential building projects. Develop policy for Council to divest from institutions that operate or invest in fossil fuel companies and projects and invest in and bank with environmentally and socially ethical financial institutions. Obtain independent certification of Council emissions reporting (1); Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted within the Shire of Nillumbik. Target of net zero emissions by 2035. Change to Target of net	OS37, OS44, S93





Themes in Focus Area 4 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
zero emissions by 2030, with interim target of percentage reduction from 2005 levels by 2027, volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted by Council facilities and operations. Target of Net-zero emissions by 2030 - - Change to Target of net zero emissions by 2025, percentage of Council's stationary energy use (i.e. building energy use) that is supplied via a renewable energy source. Target of 100 per cent by 2030- Change to Target of 100 per cent by 2025 (3 responses)	
Agree with strategies: Agree, within sensible budget constraints (2 responses)	OS43, OS55
Other (5 responses): Only deal with environmentally ethical companies and banks (1); and Reducing carbon emissions should be of the utmost importance and a priority of the Council (1); Assess the bridge in Eltham as it always gets flooded; Double-glazed windows on all Council buildings and new homes; More shade in parks, skate parks, playgrounds, consider water parks and waterslides; Keep greening the area so water is soaked up by the ground; Put power underground; Solar panels on all government buildings (1); Clarify Focus Area 4 by separating the services and built environment systems when dealing with adaptation policies. Consider the best response for resident and business assets including Nillumbik's industrial sector which is not investing in rooftop solar, light industry and retail sectors. State and local governments to collaborate and intervene to ensure that land users invest in emissions reduction infrastructure perhaps via an increased rate burden (1); Refer to the drains issue specifically. With increases in wild weather events, they need to be bigger to be able to cope – add modify drainage as a specific example as it is a known risk (1)	OS24, OS45, V81, S84, S93
Somewhat support	
Provided actions are cost effective and all costs are included, unclear of costings (2 responses)	OS10, OS72
Other (1 response): Move to action and prevent a catastrophe	OS12
Do not support	
Absolutely not, waste of money (2 responses)	OS9, OS65
Other (1 response): What does this actually mean? What is a climate responsive council service? Are council going to provide free sunscreen, or umbrellas to the population? If council is trying to say that their buildings and facilities should be powered by solar, just say so. Be specific. If council can provide genuine and real savings to its ratepayers by installing solar, or any other "renewable" solutions that's perfectly fine provided the full real cost is weighed against the real benefits for the community.	OS13



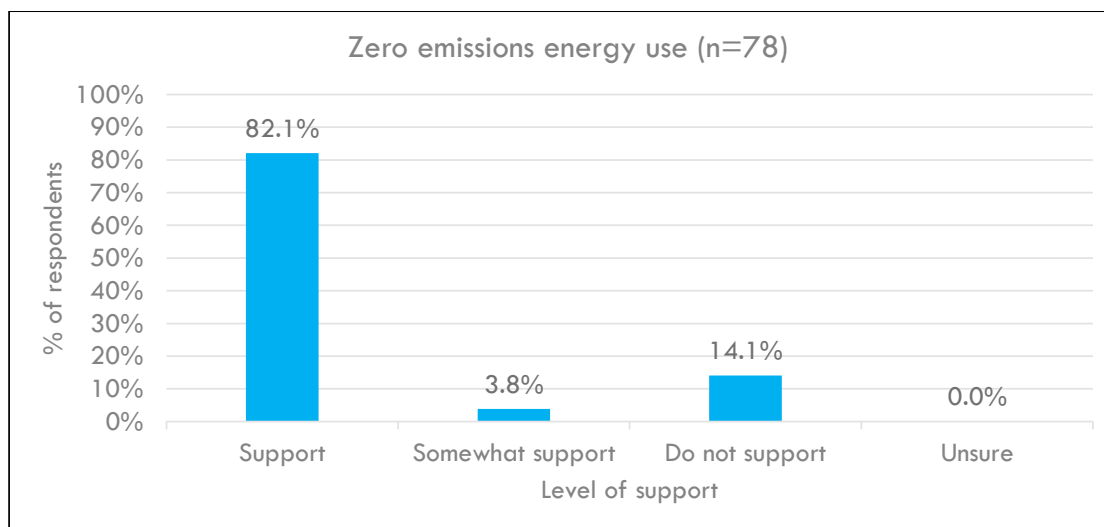


4.7 Focus Area 5: Zero emissions energy use

The draft CAP reports Council will work with, and alongside, other levels of government, interest groups, residents and businesses to help explore local emissions-reduction and carbon sequestration opportunities that will contribute towards achieving our target of the Nillumbik community being carbon neutral by 2035. We will also lead by example by prioritising the reduction of our own emissions. A Zero Emissions roadmap will guide a staged approach to achieving the target of council operations being carbon neutral by 2030. Areas of opportunity include renewable energy, batteries, transitioning away from gas, zero-emissions buildings and machinery, energy-efficiency, charging facilities, lighting, micro-grids and other emerging sectors and technologies; all within the context of maintaining delivery of Council services. This will include the construction of a solar farm that will supply 100% renewable electricity for Council operations with scope to explore community access; and will build upon previous renewable energy gains.

Survey respondents were asked “Do you support Focus Area 5: Zero emissions energy use?” and 78 of the 80 survey respondents answered this question. As shown in Graph 10, the majority of participants (64 or 82.1%) indicated *Support*. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (11 or 14.1%).

Graph 10: Support for Focus Area 5 (Zero emissions energy use)



Survey respondents were invited to provide other comments in relation to Focus Area 5 and 30 provided a personalised response. **Virtual drop-in session participants** were also invited to provide feedback and some comments provided by **Submission participants** were relevant. Table 10 presents descriptive themes, summary statements and extracts from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each theme is accompanied by a tally count of references in the overall responses as well as individual ID codes which indicate the feedback source (OS=Online survey, V=Virtual drop-in session and S=submission).





Table 10: Summary table of comments on Focus Area 5 (Zero emissions energy use)

Themes in Focus Area 5 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Support	
<p>Revisions to targets and indicators: Insert ambitious strategies and indicator targets and consider: Commission studies to obtain robust baseline data for community emissions; Conduct community emissions accounting and obtain independent certification of community emissions reporting; Prohibit the installation of gas appliances in all new corporate, commercial and residential building projects; Obtain independent certification of Council emissions reporting; Conduct annual corporate emissions accounting; and Maximise efficient use of clean, renewable energy. Plan for this by implementing and regularly reviewing a staged Zero Emissions roadmap for Council operations. Consider revising indicator targets: Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted within the Shire of Nillumbik - change to Target of net zero emissions by 2030, with interim target of percentage reduction from 2005 levels by 2027; Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted by Council facilities and operations. Target of Net zero emissions by 2030 - change to Target of net zero emissions by 2025; Percentage of Council's stationary energy use (i.e. building energy use) that is supplied via a renewable energy source and Target of 100 per cent by 2030 - change to Target of 100 per cent by 2025; achieve zero net emissions earlier than 2030; Include emissions targets in investment processes; Strengthen the net zero emissions targets and set 3-5 year interim targets to reach these goals, with minimal and decreasing reliance on offsets, as recommended by Zero Carbon Communities Guide; Set community emissions targets - carbon neutral by 2030, with clearly defined interim targets. There is strong scientific evidence for this (see Ironbark Sustainability); Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted within Shire - change to target of net zero emissions by 2030, with a clear interim target of a percentage reduction from 2005 levels by 2027. Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted by Council facilities and operations - change to target of net zero emissions by 2025, with target of zero emissions by 2040. Percentage of Council's stationary renewable energy use - change to target of 100 per cent by 2025 (referenced in 20 responses)</p>	<p>OS3, OS8, OS11, OS14, OS16, OS17, OS21, OS25, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, V80, V82, S83, S84, S85, S87, S91, OS94</p>
<p>Support for businesses, households and schools: Provide information on reducing emissions, free comprehensive household energy audits, assistance to access finance for households and businesses making climate related improvements (i.e. Environmental Upgrade Finance scheme for residential and commercial properties), establish a program to encourage solar panels</p>	<p>OS8, OS11, OS16, OS17, OS21, OS24, OS25, OS47, OS58, OS64, OS70, OS75, V81, S85</p>





Themes in Focus Area 5 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
and transition from gas, encourage use of sustainable supply chains (14 responses)	
Partnering with environmentally and socially ethical financial institutions and organisations: Council to divest from institutions that operate or invest in fossil fuel companies and projects, and invest in and bank with environmentally and socially ethical financial institutions. Also establish partnerships with organisations such as Global Covenant of Mayors, Climate Emergency Australia, Beyond Zero Emissions to exchange ideas and resources and strengthen advocacy at higher levels of government (13 responses)	OS3, OS8, OS14, OS16, OS21, OS25, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S83, S85, S93
Establish supporting Council infrastructure, policy and advocacy: Council to provide sufficient supporting infrastructure (i.e. for electronic cars), develop a Walking Strategy to promote walking as an alternative to car use, clear pathway of how Council plans to get there and encourage / mandate citizens and advocate for a transition to electric buses (5 responses)	OS11, OS39, OS45, OS49, OS67
Cutting emissions is essential: Cut emissions as fast as possible with independent audits of Council's emission reports being standard business practice (3 responses)	OS22, OS57, S83
Community education and engagement: Community education must be prioritised, a major challenge is engaging the disinterested segments of the community (3 responses)	V82, S83, S93
Other (7 responses): Yes, local power like the Hepburn wind project which is owned by locals (1); Need electric car charging stations locally and for more people to have electric cars (1); Environmentally Sustainable Design in planning policies minimizes emissions (i.e. prevent loss of vegetation; reduce construction footprint; non-toxic materials; reduce transport, minimize waste via re-using and recycling) and planning policies have stringent guidelines and enable renewable energy developments without compromising biodiversity and conservation values (1); Facilitate the creation of a Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct and attract innovative manufacturers of low-carbon or renewable energy enterprises to be powered by 100% renewable energy possibly via a connected grid of solar panels with battery storage (1); The mix of private and public energy management raises the question of cost benefit analyses (in its preliminary discussion). It is unclear why this fundamental question is raised in Focus Area 5 but not in the others. The resourcing of any project designed to mitigate climate change should be required to prove that it will generate immediate and lasting beneficial results. While permit applicants may be convinced that cost savings make solar energy installation a 'no brainer', Council statistics	OS7, V81, S83, S84, S85, S87, S93





Themes in Focus Area 5 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
show that retro fitting these and related systems is not a priority across the Shire. Some areas, such as North Warrandyte, lags behind the others. Federal and State governments in particular find taxation and/or subsidies are effective strategies. In case of emergency, local governments need to seek greater authority to impose sanctions and provide incentives (1), Suggested strategies/actions include Provide a free advisory service to help businesses and households reduce emissions. Provide free comprehensive household energy audits with the aim of increasing energy efficiency. Provide households and businesses with access to finance for all climate related improvements (e.g. Environmental Upgrade Finance scheme for residential and commercial properties). Establish a program to encourage households and businesses to transition from gas. Prohibit the installation of gas appliances in all new corporate, commercial and residential building projects. Provide financial assistance to low income households for all climate-related improvements. Develop a policy for Council to divest from institutions that operate or invest in fossil fuel companies and projects, and to invest in and bank with environmentally and socially ethical financial institutions. Obtain independent certification of Council emissions reporting (1); Could Council run a free advisory service on reducing emissions or provide financial assistance to those who need it? Insert examples of "how" in the Strategies column (1)	
Somewhat support	
Other (1 response): Only if it is truly zero emissions, Nillumbik has opportunities to properly offset within the shire and lead by example (1 response)	OS5
Do not support	
Other (6 responses): Nillumbik reducing emissions would effectively make no impact, yet the real cost would be substantial (1), Minimum energy use and zero use is okay if you start by walking everywhere and live without the modern lifestyle. Bush blocks support the suburbs with trees converting CO2 to oxygen (1), Need proper base load, coal is cheapest and most efficient (1), Only if it was nuclear power, do not support wind or solar (1), Concerned about gaps in the data shown for current usage (1), We are made of carbon (1)	OS9, OS12, OS65, OS10, OS13, OS52

4.8 Focus Area 6: Sustainable transport

The draft CAP reports travelling by public transport, driving a zero-emissions vehicle, car-pooling, walking and cycling reduces the emission of greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change. Council wants to

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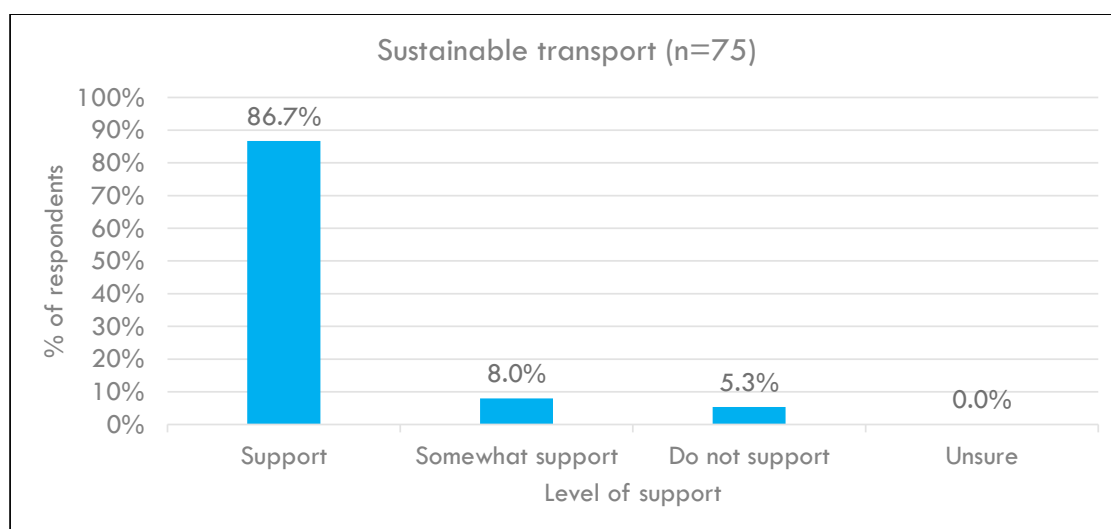




help make it safer and easier for the Nillumbik community to choose to travel sustainably; and will continue to look at how we can support our own workforce to reduce travel related emissions.

Survey respondents were asked “Do you support Focus Area 6: Sustainable transport?” and 75 of the 80 survey respondents answered this question. As shown in Graph 11, the majority of participants (65 or 86.7%) indicated *Support*. A small number of respondents indicated *Do not support* (4 or 5.3%).

Graph 11: Support for Focus Area 6 (Sustainable transport)



Survey respondents were invited to provide other comments in relation to Focus Area 6 and 35 provided a personalised response. **Virtual drop-in session participants** were also invited to provide feedback and some comments provided by **Submission participants** were relevant. Table 11 presents descriptive themes, summary statements and extracts from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each theme is accompanied by a tally count of references in the overall responses as well as individual ID codes which indicate the feedback source (OS=Online survey, V=Virtual drop-in session and S=submission).

Table 11: Summary table of comments on Focus Area 6 (Sustainable transport)

Themes in Focus Area 6 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Support (29 responses)	
Advocate and collaborate for public transport improvements and climate change mitigation: Prioritise opportunities and advocate for funding, to enhance public transport (particularly for the aged and those with a	OS2, OS3, OS8, OS14, OS16, OS17, OS21, OS24, OS25,

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Themes in Focus Area 6 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
disability), walking and cycling connections within and to/from the Shire, advocate for improved and expanded public transport options (buses and trains) to service all of Nillumbik, a transition to electric buses and minimal registration charges for electric vehicles. More transport options needed on main roads and busy rural roads. Strengthen connections with other Councils to have a stronger voice in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and environmental protection (referenced in 21 responses)	OS37, OS39, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS62, OS64, OS70, V80, S83, S85, S87
Revisions to targets and indicators: Insert ambitious strategies and indicator targets and consider: Develop a Walking Strategy to promote walking as an alternative to car use; Provide secure bike facilities near some of our busy local bus stops would also promote a greater use of bikes/public transport and reduce the reliance on cars; Develop a program to facilitate improved public transport options for residents who are disabled, aged or living in rural areas of the Shire; Install rapid EV chargers and encourage local business use at shopping precinct carparks and high use vehicle areas within the Shire (i.e. Eltham and Diamond Creek). Consider revising indicator targets: Aim for 100% zero emissions transport by 2030; Volume of greenhouse gas emissions emitted by Council fleet vehicles - Target of 100% zero emissions Council light and heavy fleet by 2030 - Change to Target of 100% zero emissions Council light and heavy fleet by 2025; Volume of greenhouse gas emissions emitted by vehicles within Nillumbik. Target of 100% zero-emissions transportation by 2035 (source: Ironbark snapshot). Change to Target of 100% zero-emissions transportation by 2030, with interim target of percentage reduction from 2005 levels by 2027; Attempt to address a situation common in rural and lower density areas where residents cannot use passive or public transport due to topography, risks due to narrow roads or a lack of public transport (16 responses)	OS2, OS3, OS8, OS14, OS21, OS24, OS25, OS37, OS43, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S84, S85, S87
Commitment for future Council investment: Improve bike paths and walking connections to promote and enable walking and cycling, install rapid electric vehicle charging stations, provide electric vehicle transport, incentives or parking concessions for electric vehicles, provide appropriate infrastructure alternatives that can be relied upon, more investment in sustainable transport options and incentives for people to opt for non-car transport and creating a bulk buy scheme to offset cost barriers to investing in electric vehicles. Minibus system could also work well in Nillumbik (11 responses)	OS16, OS24, OS38, OS45, OS46, OS53, OS70, V80, V81, S85, S93
This Focus Area is important: This is also essential, fully support, lead by example as air pollution and contamination from vehicles leads to poor health, objectives and strategies look great (7 responses)	OS11, OS22, OS26, OS30, OS67, V82, S84





Themes in Focus Area 6 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Other (7 responses): Decentralised shared economy transport (see www.bhive.coop) (1); Discourage or ban cars from the centre of townships and encourage electric vehicles (1); Issue with COVID and people not wanting to catch public transport anymore; Nillumbik has high car use and is hilly, making the area walk and bike friendly is a challenge (1); Council to invest in the community to develop greater connectivity, cooperation, and imaginative solutions to decrease reliance on vehicles as this has many positive flow on effects (1); Encourage patronizing of local business by installing rapid EV chargers at shopping precinct car parks in Eltham and Diamond Creek (1); Focus Area 6 shows existing urban design principles are built on assumptions that have unintended consequences and Councils have limited ability to rearrange the built environment to reduce these consequences. In the context of the 20 minute neighbourhood, Council has been successful promoting passive transport, and the reinforcement of similar transport solutions will benefit the Shire. Recent events around state freeway and rail projects prove Council is effectively powerless with major arterial transport projects, and under-resourced in local community public transport (1); Add an Indicator re EV charge points (1)	OS73, OS75, V81, V82, S83, S84, S93
Somewhat support (2 responses)	
Other (2 responses): Walk everywhere (1); Where it is consistent within the context of wider Melbourne transportation (1)	OS5, OS12
Do not support (3 responses)	
Other (3 responses): No role for council in this area, if this refers to "council" transport what is the real costs associated with the change? (1); Waste of our rates (1); No, I want reliable transport (1)	OS9, OS13, OS65

4.9 Focus Area 7: A zero waste and circular economy

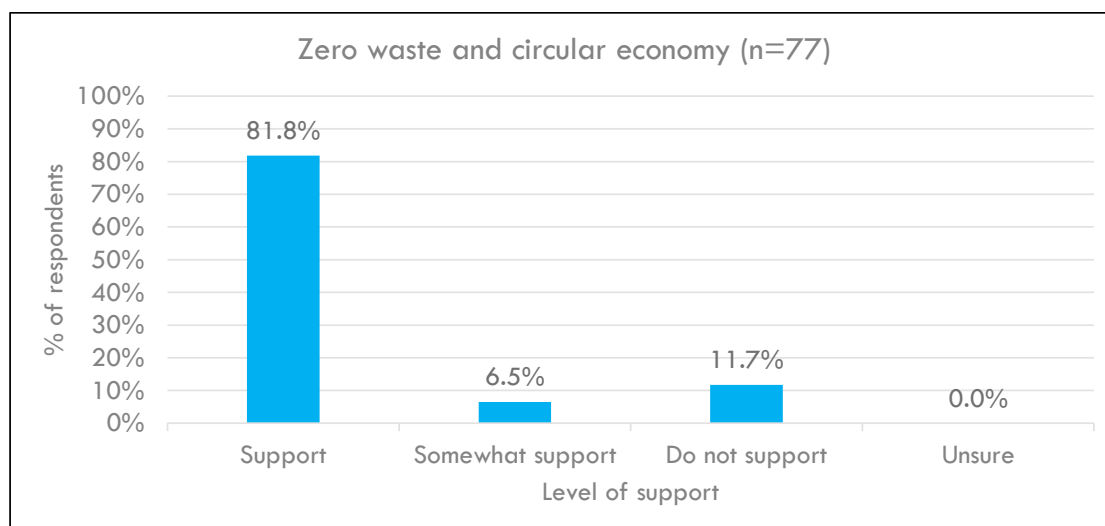
The draft CAP reports reducing waste and recycling more benefits our community, the economy and the environment. The circular economy model goes beyond just reducing waste and recycling and looks at ways to design products as well as reuse and repair materials to get the highest value from the resources we use. This helps to reduce the energy used in the manufacturing process. Council will provide waste services that promote circular economy principles. We'll support the community to avoid generating waste and to have opportunities for product repair and reuse. For unwanted materials, Council's waste collection and drop-off services will send materials back into industry to make new products or to generate power.

Survey respondents were asked "Do you support Focus Area 7: A zero waste and circular economy?" and 77 of the 80 survey respondents answered this question. As shown in Graph 12, the majority of participants (63 or 81.8%) indicated *Support*. Some respondents indicated *Do not support* (9 or 11.7%).





Graph 12: Support for Focus Area 7 (A zero waste and circular economy)



Survey respondents were invited to provide other comments in relation to Focus Area 7 and 24 provided a personalised response. **Virtual drop-in session participants** were also invited to provide feedback and some comments provided by **Submission participants** were relevant. Table 12 presents descriptive themes, summary statements and extracts from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each theme is accompanied by a tally count of references in the overall responses as well as individual ID codes which indicate the feedback source (OS=Online survey, V=Virtual drop-in session and S=submission).

Table 12: Summary table of comments on Focus Area 7 (A zero waste and circular economy)

Themes in Focus Area 7 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Support (20 responses)	
Supportive of this Focus Area: Commend Council on this, it is aspirational and achievable if made a priority, very important and absolutely within the remit of Nillumbik Council (referenced in 8 responses)	OS22, OS44, OS45, OS54, OS55, OS75, V80, S83
More focus on recycling: Focus on recycling, encourage ingenuity of design in the areas of recycling and product development, consider recycling waxed cardboard into fire starters, establish facilities or work with existing organisations to ensure all waste that can be recycled or reused isn't ending up in landfill, encourage community to see recycling as a last resort, rather refusing, reducing and reusing, and reducing waste sent to landfill, and	OS21, OS24, OS44, OS70, OS75, OS76, S93





Themes in Focus Area 7 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
encourage the checking of items to see whether they could be reused, repaired and giving to those in need (7 responses)	
Revisions to targets and indicators: Pay per kilogram of landfill waste - phase in the weighing of landfill bins so that households pay per kilogram of landfill (information/education, small charge, increasing over time); Inform residents how much landfill waste they produce and introduce a household target (similar to the 'Target 155' challenge for reducing water consumption) and advise how they compare to the average in Nillumbik; Promote down-sizing to the 80-litre landfill bin such as a sticker on the side of the bin; Increase the rates discount given to households who down-size to the 80-litre landfill bin; Pay per collection for landfill bin to reward households who use the service less frequently; Maximise source separation of waste and minimise contamination by more education and enforcement; Work with the local community to implement steps towards a circular economy on a large scale. Build on circular economy ideas already operating within the community; Work with local businesses to reduce plastic use and transition to sustainable long term practices; and Ensure toxic sprays used to kill weeds do not end up in green waste and composts; Described indicators are not bold enough. Ensure there are relevant indicators to show progress with timeframes (unless already complete) eg: - solar farm at former Plenty landfill site (tender awarded ... progress since then?) - EV chargers at multiple locations (target – increasing) - Phasing out of single use plastics (target – 2023) - heating, cooling – new more efficient systems installed yet? - installation of solar PV on all Council buildings - installation of battery storage in Council buildings - investigation of unused Council land for renewable energy purposes - results of partnering with the AEF - double glazing in Council buildings. Please amend Green Power arrow to show the percentage of households purchasing 100% Green Power (6 responses)	OS14, OS21, OS31, OS64, S83, S93
Establish more outlets to repair, recycle and reuse: Set up repair shops or businesses, more tip shops or second-hand shops to encourage people to recycle and reuse, collect goods for a community emergency relief centre like in Mitcham, need more bins and recycling bins in parks, public spaces and around Diamond Creek. Add an Indicator with repair café sessions to be run by the community with Council support (6 responses)	OS24, OS38, OS70, V81, V82, S93
Work towards eliminating single-use plastic and packaging: Concerns about single use plastic and packaging, need to encourage suppliers, supermarkets, businesses and markets to purchase low impact products and be as single-use plastic free as possible, implement reusable coffee cups	OS70, V79, V80, V82





Themes in Focus Area 7 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
and container schemes, have cup libraries available across the municipality, ban plastic bags, provide reusable library bags (4 responses)	
Invest in an education program: Educate the community on changes that can benefit everyone; commit to an education campaign (households, community groups, businesses, schools and within Council) as recycling bins are still being contaminated and red landfill bins are overflowing due to excessive consumption (3 responses)	OS21, OS39, S83
Incentives to reduce household landfill waste: Introduce incentives for households such as a rates discount for downsizing to the 80 litre landfill bin or a landfill target challenge (similar to the reducing water consumption challenge) (1 response)	S85
Other (8 responses): More focus composting, container deposit schemes, banning of takeaway cups and containers, banning of plastic bags. These should all fall into the remit of Nillumbik Council. Residents should have their bins checked regularly and anyone failing to use their bins appropriately (e.g. contaminating Green Waste or putting recycling into the Red Bin) should have their bins left behind and be charged to have their waste removed. Behaviour needs to be changed (1); And re-localisation (1); One to build upon when ideas present themselves (1); Support and advice for septic systems being environmentally friendly, for example worm farms could help the community understand the benefit of these systems and what/how to implement (1); The circular economy provides an opportunity to redefine "waste" as a resource. We must invest in the technology and innovations to deal with all types of waste - including textile waste which is becoming a huge issue (1); Management of waste collection and processing is the area that Councils have the most authority over. However, the privatization of this function, and commercial-in-confidence agreements mean it is not possible to respond in detail other than showing support for greater resourcing of the circular economy at all levels and stages (1); We can establish local renewable energy systems; improve agricultural practices that protect soil, vegetation, and waterways, draw down carbon and minimise chemical inputs and pollutants; prevent further loss of vegetation and regeneration of biodiverse ecosystems; reduce and eliminate waste in businesses and school; reduce reliance on vehicles and increased community cooperation; have more effective recycling systems; and use broad community education and support to adopt mitigating practices (1); This also requires a shift in community behaviours and practices and there needs to be a strong community engagement/ outreach program. Nillumbik has a long history of environmental activism, and there are opportunities for collaboration between Council and community to	OS53, OS56, OS67, OS73, OS75, S83, S84, S85





Themes in Focus Area 7 responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
establish communal renewable energy initiatives, such as virtual power plants or micro grids, or a community solar power plant with battery storage (1)	
Do not support (3 responses)	
Absolutely not, unachievable: Absolutely not, totally unachievable. Waste minimisation is a worthy goal, but this is unachievable, households generate waste, minimise it as best you can and offer efficient waste disposal services (3 responses)	OS9, OS13, OS65
Other (1 response): Council could achieve a zero waste economy by dropping council rubbish collections and closing their waste disposal facility. Prosecute offenders who then dispose of their waste on council land. What is a 'circular economy'?	OS13

4.10 Ideas to engage and activate the community, households and businesses

Virtual drop-in session participants were asked for ideas to engage and activate the community, households and local businesses. Table 13 presents descriptive themes, summary statements and extracts from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each theme is accompanied by a tally count of references in the overall responses as well as individual ID codes which indicate the feedback source (V=Virtual drop-in session).

Table 13: Summary table of ideas to engage and activate the Nillumbik community

Themes in responses	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Financial incentives: Financial assistance Incentives for businesses to take climate action (reduction in rates, grants, incentives) Incentives for community members – reduction in rates, schemes to give people incentives to make change Incentives for people to green their properties. Would like to see more solar panels on roofs and more incentives for solar panels.	V80, V81
Communication channels: Communications via local radio stations, use social media and posters	V81
Language and messaging: People believe that they can't really have a big impact and that doing small things may not be worth it. We need to convince them otherwise	V81
Showcasing good examples: Celebrate businesses and organisations who are doing a good job	V79





4.11 Final comments and suggestions

Survey respondents were invited to provide final general comments and 24 provided a personalised response. **Virtual drop-in session participants** were also invited to provide general feedback and some comments provided by **Submission participants** were not directly relevant to the Focus Areas and are presented here. Table 14 presents descriptive themes, summary statements and extracts from the analysis of the personalised feedback. Each theme is accompanied by a tally count of references in the overall responses as well as individual ID codes which indicate the feedback source (OS=Online survey, V=Virtual drop-in session and S=submission).

Table 14: Summary table of themes in other comments

Themes in other comments feedback	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
Commend Council and support the Plan: Commend and appreciate Council taking this important matter seriously, the plan covers a lot and is a good start and could be more ambitious, now we need committed leadership, budget and no action with delays (referenced in 15 responses)	OS16, OS21, OS22, OS29, OS37, OS44, OS45, OS55, OS58, OS64, OS70, OS74, OS75, V79, V80, S91
Other – comments (8 responses): It is the Council's responsibility to enforce decisions made in the community's best interests. Please look after where we live (1); Stop trashing the residents of the rural part of Nillumbik we are more environmentally conscious than most employees of council (1); There are a number of statements made in the draft plan which are not attributed to anyone and are not facts that all would agree with (1); There is so much work the council needs to do in the Kinglake foothills with the removal of fallen trees and branches on road sides, tons of debris, dangerous dead trees over hanging roads need to go, pot holes and curb drainage all has to be fixed, council hasn't the time or money to get involved in climate (1); and I would love to help support these initiatives, so encourage Council to reach out to residents to play an active part in communicating, advocating, leading by example. For example, petition all Eltham coffee shops to ban take away coffee cups and Woolies and Coles to do away with all single use plastic bags in store. As a Shire we can send a very strong message to big business (1) the Green Wedge has the potential to be renowned for regenerative agriculture, sustainable produce, environmental builds etc (1); and Preserving and rebuilding natural environment as safe haven for wildlife is my personal priority (1); A further barrier is available Council financial resources. While Nillumbik's residents rank higher than the Melbourne average in socio-economic status, the shire's lack of industry and low level of population contribute to a low rate base and reduced funding available at the council level for major emissions reduction projects. So	OS4, OS10, OS12, OS24, OS53, OS62, OS75, V81, S82, S85, S92, S93, OS94





Themes in other comments feedback	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
<p>renewable energy initiatives need to be able to pay their way, or be able to access funding from higher levels of government(1); Include more information in the Introduction about the need for a CAP. This needs to make reference to the 6th IPCC Report which points to a narrowing window in which to limit dangerous global temperature increases to as close to 1.5 degrees as possible. It should also contain mention of projections that indicate that Nillumbik's carbon budget (click on the preceding link for an explainer of carbon budgets) will be exhausted in 8.5 years, based on current trends (refer to Ironbark Sustainability's report on Science-Derived Targets for Nillumbik Shire). The climatic, environmental, financial, social, psychological and health consequences of failing to rapidly decarbonise should be spelt out in more detail to support the imperative to reduce emissions as rapidly as possible. Provide more detail about the planned actions. There is insufficient detail in the Plan to give confidence that the Plan's vision and targets will be delivered. While the Council has avoided mentioning specific initiatives in the Plan as these can change with time, we feel that the inclusion of some more detail can lend strength and weight to the document as a whole (1); How will this be reviewed on a Council basis? Is there going to be a matrix to help Council departments make decisions about what should go ahead depending on its impacts to climate? Are there plans for Council to buy a Bio-Char machine to get carbon back into the soil? (1); There will need to be a focus on disposable face masks and the litter they create. Need to cut the elastic sides to protect birds (1); and Would like to see practical proposals for encouraging the conversion to electric vehicles and renewable energy. As the Green Wedge Shire, Nillumbik can lead in these areas (1); and Devastating bushfires are the most outwardly noticeable consequence of climate change in Nillumbik. The record number of hot, windy days and extreme temperatures are also affecting our health and safety. The more intense weather storms are causing the electrical grid to crash more often, and air conditioning to be lost. Hailstorms and windstorms have become more frequent and intense. This is not a one-off event (1); Why are the rubbish bins coloured as they are? Was the graphic borrowed from somewhere that has different coloured bins from ours? And surely there should be 3 bins, red, green and yellow, with the "try not to buy materials that become waste" caption pointing to a SMALL red bin, and the "actively separating waste" caption pointing to the yellow one? The green one could be used for a caption yet to be invented (1)</p>	
<p>CAP content, goals, targets and indicators (6 responses): Expansion of tree canopy in urban areas to counteract the decline of tree canopy and</p>	<p>OS1, OS8, OS13, OS18, OS19, S86,</p>





Themes in other comments feedback	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
development of housing density. Provide incentives for tree planting on private land and introduce new strategies for tree plantings. Increasing overall tree canopy cover should be a focus of council. Develop a policy for council to divest from institutions that operate in or invest in fossil fuel companies and projects. The CAP should seek to address both investments and banking with authorised deposit banking institutions (1); Put pressure on the Federal Government to take meaningful action. At the very least, Nillumbik should be making a clear statement upwards first, as well as putting concrete actions into place. Goals - 1. All VicRoads barriers in Nillumbik Shire to be evaluated for suitability for pedestrian pathways by 202x. 2. All suitable VicRoads barriers to have environmentally sensitive pathways created behind them by 202y. 3. Establish Volunteer Group ('Friends of Nillumbik Road Reserves') to implement staged pathway creation, in consultation with local environmental and walking groups by 202x. Greater focus on supporting residents (home owners and renters) to retrofit energy efficient options and appliances in homes (1); Maintain green corridors and productive farmland. Invasive flora and fauna mitigation strategy (1); Genuinely work towards creating a landscape that is safer from major bushfires and doing something towards creating safer, well maintained roadsides. Genuine effort to reduce red and green tape and understand the differences between a suburban outlook and the requirements and needs of the rural community. Represent all ratepayers (1); Council has a responsibility to lead by example yet is only responsible for 1% of local emissions. It seems that Council's best return on investment, if reduced emissions is the goal, is to concentrate on maximising what can be achieved by increasing collaboration with the community. If the community are keen to lead it makes sense to empower and inform them to better mitigate their own emissions. Understanding of the fiduciary risk to councils if they do not take action. This is important to the Council and to the residents so they can understand the risk of no or slow action (1)	
Unsupportive of the Plan: This is not important, it is beyond Council's role, focus on roads and rubbish (5 responses)	OS9, OS13, OS15, OS52, OS65
CAP format and presentation (4 responses): Add examples or case studies to help explain the strategies and make the document easier to read and understand (1); Calculate and clearly present information, outline examples in the CAP, and enable rigorous and respectful conversation among the community. The CAP must also describe significant commitment to resourcing proposed actions; Describe likely scenarios and consequences if action is not taken to signal context and urgency. Outline how the economy, environment, human health and more is likely to be impacted with and without	V79, S82, S83, S84





Themes in other comments feedback	Feedback ID codes referencing theme
appropriate action (1); Differentiate between people living in more urban areas compared to more rural areas and outline what people living in urban areas can do (1); Set out targets as headline items during the introductory section; Either explain how Council will measure emissions reductions OR how Council will develop a system of measurement; Explain why data is contradictory as it occurs in a sequence of leading documents such as Climate Change Plans; Consider incorporating a biennial State of the Environment Report as part of the reporting process; Restructure and rename the Focus Areas to match those in Section 34 of the Climate Change Act (Vic 2017) and populate them with appropriate adaptation objectives and strategies. This includes separating built environment and service delivery groupings. Create a separate list of mitigation categories such as 'Corporate' and 'LGA', extend with subcategories and populate with mitigation objectives and strategies; Design and implement a campaign aimed at amending the Climate Change, Planning Environment and Local Government Acts to allow Victorian Councils to more effectively mitigate and adapt to predicted consequences of Global Heating (1)	
CAP reporting and governance (4 responses): Climate Action by Council section could be extended and describe where we are on the journey based on actions listed in Nillumbik's 2010 climate plan. Discuss strengths and weaknesses of Council's implementation of that plan and its successor. Inform ratepayers where significant expenditure has been allocated, outcomes and whether past plans were implemented (1); It is important that our achievements are measured. We suggest reporting annually on changed community behaviour across a variety of metrics via the annual resident survey such as owning electric cars, buying locally grown food, or growing their own, composting, using solar panels (1) Strengthen the Plan's governance framework (Section 5: CAP Implementation) by providing quarterly progress updates on implementation to the community (1): provide an annual update summary on the website and in Council's Annual Report (1)	S84, S85, S86, S97
Declares a climate emergency action plan: Change the term 'acknowledges climate emergency action plan' to 'declares emergency action plan' (2 responses)	OS37, OS69

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Attachment 3: Draft Climate Action Plan community feedback - officer responses

Responses have been colour coded to indicate where community feedback

- Requires a final Council decision on wording relating to either acknowledge or declare a climate emergency and whether targets should be more ambitious
- The draft Climate Action Plan has been changed to better reflect feedback received
- No colour indicates no change to the draft Climate Action Plan as feedback is outside the scope or already covered by objectives and strategies

Theme: Acknowledging a Climate Emergency

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Theme responses Acknowledging a Climate Emergency	Officer response
	Support	
OS3, OS8, OS11, OS14, OS16, OS17, OS21, OS22, OS24, OS25, OS31, OS32, OS37, OS43, OS44, OS45, OS47, OS48, OS49, OS51, OS57, OS58, OS64, V79, V80, V81, V82, S84, S85, S86, S87, S89, S91, S92, S93, OS94	Declare a climate emergency: Change the wording from acknowledge and declare a climate emergency to convey a stronger sense of commitment and sense of urgency (referenced in 36 responses)	<i>Noted</i> Councillor decision as to whether to change wording from acknowledge to declare
OS5, OS50, OS53, OS60, OS70, V79, V81, S87	Happy with the draft Plan and Council's acknowledgement: Glad to see Council's leadership, support acknowledging a climate emergency, it is long overdue and aligns with being a 'green wedge' shire, an important step towards building a more resilient and safe community (8 responses)	<i>Noted</i>
OS2, OS30, OS42, OS62, OS67, OS70, OS75	Move to action urgently: Our region and quality of life is at risk including the wildlife, needs to prioritise the environment and have urgent and strong actions such as proactive integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation as Council actions (7 responses)	<i>Noted - text updated</i> To provide a framework that enables Council to be proactive, the CAP Implementation Plans will be reviewed annually rather than bi-annually as originally specified in the draft. (Updated in Section 4 and 5). All actions will continue to inform and be subject to annual Council Plan and Budget processes.
OS3, OS21, S85, S87	Use "climate emergency" language: Refer to climate emergency rather than climate change in the Plan, Council documents and communications (4 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> The CAP uses climate emergency and climate action language as well as the term climate change. It also specifically commits to a 'climate emergency response' within its Acknowledgement of Climate Emergency.
OS11, OS21, OS27, OS43, OS45, S83, S86	Other (7 responses, feedback stated multiple times is listed once with the frequency in brackets): Appoint additional staff to assist implementation, include a budget and a timeline (2);	<i>Noted - no change</i> The need for additional staff to assist in implementation will be considered on an ongoing basis. In the first instance, priority will be given to supporting existing staff across Council to identify and embed climate action within their business as usual.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Theme responses	Officer response
	Acknowledging a Climate Emergency	
	Include more information in the Introduction, explaining the need for a CAP (2);	<i>Noted - no change</i> The Introduction includes information on why Council has a CAP. It minimises references to specific scientific reports as they are quickly replaced by updates, and instead includes a strong overarching statement in the first paragraph that the science is clear, climate change is occurring.
	Strengthen the net zero emissions targets and set interim targets (2);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Wherever possible Council will strive to exceed the zero emissions targets that are proposed, but the targets themselves remain unchanged at this point in time. Over the life of the CAP indicators and targets will be reviewed and updated where we have improved data collection and where we identify that we can achieve more.
	The environment is being destroyed by rubbish and development is eroding the natural habitat of our birds and animals (1);	<i>Noted</i> These comments are not directly climate related. Council has other instruments by which to manage dumped rubbish and control where development is permitted.
	Establish a Community Advisory Committee (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Council has a formal Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee. One of the focus areas of that committee is climate action.
	Provide more detailed planned actions to give confidence that the Plan's vision and targets will be delivered; strengthen indicators to include measurable targets and timeframes (1);	<i>Noted - text updated</i> The work of the CAP will be embedded into Council's business as usual. An Implementation Plan will be prepared annually and, as necessary, will be considered as part of Council's annual budget process. Key climate initiatives that will be focused on during that period to meet the goals and targets of the CAP will be specified. This is specified in the wording of the CAP. To be measurable, indicators require that relevant data can be feasibly collected (in terms of technical, time and cost feasibility). Two additional indicators have been added to the CAP in Focus Area 1. Over the life of the CAP indicators and targets will be reviewed and updated where we have improved data collection and where we identify that we can achieve more.
	More education of the Council and the community on how to support actions on climate change (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> This is included within Focus Areas 1 (O1.2) and 2 (O2.1).
	Clearly define the strongest possible goals to mitigate climate change and outline ways these will be achieved, with milestones (1)	<i>Noted - minor updates</i> The work of the CAP will be embedded into Council's business as usual. An Implementation Plan will be prepared annually and, as necessary, will be considered as part of Council's annual budget process. Key climate initiatives that will be focused on during that period, to meet the goals and targets of the CAP, will be specified.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Theme responses	Officer response
	Acknowledging a Climate Emergency	
	Somewhat support	
OS55	Climate emergency is sensationalist, keep some perspective (1 response)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
OS63	Majority of the community strongly support the natural environment so immediately declare a Climate Emergency (1 response)	<i>Noted</i> Councillor decision as to whether to change wording from acknowledge to declare.
	Do not support	
OS2, OS4, OS10, OS13, OS15, OS72	Beyond Council's jurisdiction: Not Council's remit, don't waste money, focus on core business and infrastructure and stay out of the politics (6 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Many of the objectives of the CAP focus on enhancing the performance of Council's core business and infrastructure.
OS4, OS9, OS10, OS13, OS52, OS65	Critical of climate change: Absolutely not, it is nonsense, climate has always changed, there is no climate emergency (6 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	Unsure	
OS69	Acknowledging a Climate Emergency doesn't sound like strong Leadership language, declaring a 'Climate Emergency Plan' would be the progressive way forward by naming this and taking action now (1 response)	<i>Noted</i> Councillor decision as to whether to change wording from acknowledge to declare.

Theme: Focus Area 1 Strong climate action leadership and culture

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses Focus Area 1 Strong climate action leadership and culture	Officer response
	Support	
OS3, OS8, OS14, OS16, OS21, OS25, OS37, OS43, OS44, OS47, OS49, OS58, OS64, V82, S83, S85, S86, S87, S88, S91, S93	Develop implementation plans: Develop policies (based on best practice), plans with timeframes, budgets, ambitious targets and clear, measurable goals with indicators for driving and monitoring implementation across all functions of Council to review progress and success (referenced in 21 responses)	<i>Noted - minor amendments</i> The work of the CAP will be embedded into Council's business as usual. An Implementation Plan will be prepared annually and will be considered as part of Council's annual budget process. Key climate initiatives for that period will be specified. Wherever possible Council will strive to exceed the zero emissions targets that are proposed, but the targets themselves remain unchanged. To be measurable, indicators require that relevant data can be feasibly collected (in terms of technical, time and cost feasibility). Two additional indicators have been added to the CAP in Focus Area 1. Over the life of the CAP, indicators and targets will be reviewed and updated where we have improved data collection and where we identify that we can achieve more.
OS3, OS8, OS14, OS16, OS17, OS21, OS25, OS37, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S84, S85, S86, S87, S88, S92, S93	Ensure accountability and resources for implementation: Create a structure and operating environment as a strategic response to manage climate emergency, CEO and a senior officer to be responsible for the plan, provide a budget and funds to support action and implementation including additional staff. New Council officer role to coordinate collaboration with the community, promoting connections and coordinating communications such as newsletter and website items (19 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Climate action KPIs will be embedded within the CEO's performance plan, as specified in Objective 1.2. The work of the CAP will be embedded into Council's business as usual. An Implementation Plan will be prepared annually and, as necessary, will be considered as part of Council's annual budget process. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg senior officer appointment, communications, newsletter, website) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans. The need for additional staff to assist in implementation will be considered on an ongoing basis. In the first instance, priority will be given to supporting existing staff across Council to identify and embed climate action within their business as usual.
OS3, OS8, OS14, OS21, OS25, OS37, OS44, OS47, OS51, OS64, V79, V80, V82, S83, S85, S92, S93	Declare a climate emergency: Support changing the wording from acknowledge to declare to convey a stronger sense of commitment and sense of urgency and action (17 responses)	<i>Noted</i> Councillor decision as to whether to change wording from acknowledge to declare.
OS3, OS8, OS14, OS21, SO24, OS25, OS37, OS43, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S85, S87, S93	Establish a Community Reference Committee: Committee or group of community members to provide advice and support (15 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Council has a formal Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee. One of the focus areas of that committee is climate action.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses Focus Area 1 Strong climate action leadership and culture	Officer response
OS5, OS22, OS24, OS57, OS70, OS73, OS75, V82, S83, S84, S88, S92, S93	Show strong leadership and change management: An all-of-Council approach is commendable, support for strong and intelligent leadership and consideration of climate impact and environment as a guiding principle in decision-making, planning and advocacy roles. All purchases and contracts to have an environment/sustainability priority and be monitored for environmental outcomes. Change management program to shift underlying beliefs, values and behaviours and ensure the community participates and supports Council actions (13 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
OS3, OS8, OS21, OS25, OS37, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S83, V82	Move to action urgently: Move to action and reflect a sense of urgency in the wording, use climate emergency language not climate change (11 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> The CAP uses climate emergency and climate action language as well as the term climate change. It also specifically commits to a 'climate emergency response' within its Acknowledgement of Climate Emergency.
OS8, OS14, OS25, OS37, OS39, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S83	Inform, educate and support the Council organisation with climate emergency: Information and education for Executive officers and Councillors, support, encourage and educate all Council Staff (10 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> This is included within Focus Area 1 (O1.2). Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg staff education) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
OS1, OS16, OS24, V80, V81, S84, S88, S93	Inform and educate the community: Community education and training is a core component and necessary to raise awareness and understanding of climate change. A genuine approach to involve the community, more community outreach (events, seminars, presentations) and work with local environmental groups. Use social media to keep people informed about climate action and provide incentives for community action and programs. This is crucial to ensure smooth progression of actions for Council (8 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> This is included within Focus Area 2 (O2.1). Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg events, working with local groups, communications) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
OS44, OS70, V80, S84, S93	Council to do more advocacy with other levels of Government: Collaborate and advocate for action by all levels of government to reduce and respond to climate change and support Nillumbik. More advocacy to assist with costs of fire mitigation, reduce fire risk and achieve an integrated response to climate adaptation and mitigation. Advocate for structural and procedural change and a reconsideration of powers and resources needed at a local level to mitigate and adapt organizations and communities (5 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Advocacy for climate action by other levels of government is included within Focus Area 1 (O1.3).
OS53, S84	Actions to be guided by First Nation's culture and practices: Learn from the First Nation's culture and address cultural instincts and beliefs contributing to climate change (2 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> As stated in the Acknowledgement of Country, Council is committed to collaborating with Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung around how we think, work and act in relation to climate change and caring for our environment. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (learning from First Nations) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses Focus Area 1 Strong climate action leadership and culture	Officer response
OS2, OS10, OS45, OS67, S84, S87, S88, S92, S93, OS94	Other (10 responses):	
	*Important to connect with other Councils and levels of government to ensure coordinated actions and regulation change to support this goal (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> This is included within Focus Area 1 (O1.2 & O1.3)
	*Only so far as adaption to live with change as it occurs (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	*Our environment should be the number one consideration for our council leaders and not money (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Section 9 of The Local Government Act specifies the overarching governance principles that Council must give effect to.
	*An undertaking to develop a community wide zero emissions transition roadmap in the next 12 months to deliver zero emissions within a decade and a review of the CAP in 5 years; Internal policies and processes that include: Building standards being addressed through planning process and supporting quality trades in the shire, Council policies to support use of Council land for community renewables/ batteries and support establishment of micro grids in smaller communities, the insertion of an Environmentally Sustainable Design clause in planning rules, to offer Environmental Upgrade Finance to Nillumbik home-owners and businesses to facilitate improved energy performance of existing buildings, incentives for energy efficient households and businesses (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg community zero emissions roadmap, building standards, Council support for community renewables, ESD in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme, microgrids etc) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans. Wherever possible Council will strive to exceed the zero emissions targets that are proposed, but the targets themselves remain unchanged at this point in time. Over the life of the CAP indicators and targets will be reviewed and updated where we have improved data collection and where we identify that we can achieve more. The year 1 Implementation Plan is likely to include actions to prepare a zero emissions transition roadmap for Council operations; commence an update of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme to incorporate new ESD Victorian Planning Provisions for buildings and subdivisions; and investigate the feasibility of providing Environmental Upgrade Finance. As per Focus Area 1, Council will 'collaborate and advocate for climate action opportunities that support the Nillumbik community to participate in, and contribute to, climate action' and respond to climate change'; and review internal policies and processes.
	*Consider Nillumbik's Climate Emergency Action Team recommendations, and involvement of this group in planning and management and community liaison (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Council has a formal Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee which members of Nillumbik's Climate Emergency Action Team may apply to join. One of the focus areas of that committee is climate action. In addition, ongoing conversations with community climate groups will be encouraged and sought to help meet objectives 1.2 and 2.1 of the CAP.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 1 Strong climate action leadership and culture	
	*Annual percentage of department business plans that include climate actions. Target – indicate a staged percentage increase e.g. 80% by 2024, 100% by 2030 (2);	<i>Noted - no change</i> All Council staff will be supported and encouraged to be engaged in undertaking or supporting climate action within their roles. Training modules are being developed collaboratively within the sector and will be rolled out as available, with an initial focus on those business units where the biggest gains can be achieved. Council will strive to continuously increase the number/percentage of business plans that include climate actions - with the focus being on enabling meaningful actions rather than number of actions.
	*Full credit to Council for taking this initiative (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	*The CEO will require professional support and the permanent appointment of an appropriately qualified and credible person (eg with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science and expert knowledge in biodiversity, or similar) is recommended (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Council employs staff with qualifications and experience in environmental science and biodiversity who will support the implementation of the CAP.
	*Transformational responses capture the complexity of climate emergency. They are characterised by: “Yes, this is an emergency – we need to take fundamental action to address the underlying structural and strategic basis for climate change and implement far-reaching actions and responses”. Transformational responses are prepared to examine the systems and processes across the entire organisation and beyond, to include stakeholders, supply chain, ratepayers, residents and businesses. They are not as business as usual or incremental responses (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i> As specified within Focus Area 1, the CAP seeks to embed climate action thinking within day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions. Business as usual across Council will transform over the life of the CAP as we focus on achieving its goals.
	Somewhat support	
OS12	Support Council fuel reduction to stop bushfire (1 response)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Council will continue to implement the Municipal Fire Management Plan, Nillumbik Bushfire Mitigation Strategy, Council bushland reserve bushfire management plans, and annual Bushfire Mitigation Works Program.
OS63	Councillors and the organisation to demonstrate 'strong climate action leadership' in practice (1 response)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
OS55	Yes but keep it practical not political (1 response)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	Do not support	
OS9, OS13	Outside local council's jurisdiction, support initiatives only if they deliver a saving to ratepayers otherwise focus on core business (2 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
OS65	Absolutely not (1 response)	<i>Noted - no change</i>

Theme: Focus Area 2 Having a climate resilient, adaptive and safe community

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Theme responses Focus Area 2 Having a climate resilient, adaptive and safe community	Officer response
	Support	
OS3, OS8, OS14, OS16, OS21, OS25, OS37, OS43, OS44, OS45, OS47, OS49, OS58, OS64, OS70, V81, S83, S85, S87, S93	Inform and educate the community: Expand community education and information programs, establish an outreach program to activate community members and consider communicating the need to protect, retain and reinvigorate indigenous biodiversity (referenced in 20 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Supporting the community to be climate-action active is included within Focus Area 2 (O2.1); and protecting and enhancing our natural environment is included within Focus Area 3 (O3.1). Specific initiatives to help achieve this will be explored / developed and included within annual Implementation Plans.
OS14, OS43, OS44, OS55, OS67, S83, S84, S93	Support the community with fire preparation and prevention: Support fire prevention and preparing the community for bushfires and droughts, working alongside the CFA and stakeholders such as FRV, CSIRO outreach personnel, the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people and all land-managers/ stewards. Use traditional fire management systems where and when appropriate (8 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 2 includes an objective to support the community to be bushfire-prepared (O2.2), which includes 'working in partnership with the CFA and other stakeholders to support the community to prepare their property for a potential bushfire and to have a fire safety survival plan in place'. Council will also continue to implement the Municipal Fire Management Plan, Nillumbik Bushfire Mitigation Strategy, Council bushland reserve bushfire management plans, and annual Bushfire Mitigation Works Program.
OS50, OS53	Support this Focus Area: Total support for this focus area, this is the only way forward (2 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
V80, S88	Review land use strategies and support landowners to maintain large areas of land: Review land use strategies and policies as part of the CAP because increased development in Diamond Creek and Whittlesea is taking water away from fire prone areas. Land use planning needs a fire risk lens and landowners need support to maintain large areas of land. Need to plan fire risk mitigation differently for each area, from a town-by-town perspective. Council to support land managers to manage their land to improve the sequestration of soil carbon and the health and productivity of our soil (2 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Under Focus Areas 2 and 3, Council will implement the Municipal Fire Management Plan, Nillumbik Bushfire Mitigation Strategy, Council bushland reserve bushfire management plans, and annual Bushfire Mitigation Works Program. These plans allow for fire risk mitigation to be planned in a manner that suits the locality. Also within Focus Area 3, there is a strategy that covers sequestering carbon, conserving soil moisture & optimising soil functionality, and conserving and maximising beneficial use of water (O3.1). A new Focus Area 8 has been developed that provides more focus on integrated water management and retaining water in the landscape.
OS5, OS14, OS22, OS24, OS39, OS44, OS70, V81, S84	Other (9 responses): *Support and participate in collaborative mitigation and adaptation opportunities across the Shire. Celebrate, promote and share community climate-action achievements. Plan for the health impacts of extreme weather (1);	<i>Noted - no change.</i> These matters are included within Focus Area 2 and Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan also addresses the health impacts of climate change. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg collaborative opportunities, communicating achievements) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Theme responses Focus Area 2 Having a climate resilient, adaptive and safe community	Officer response
	*A community advisory group could be useful here too (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Council has a formal Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee. One of the focus areas of that committee is climate action.
	*Adapt is key (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	*Measures to ensure food security in the community and climate anxiety resources and programs (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> O3.2 in Focus Area 3 is to have climate resilient food systems. This topic is also a focus area of Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, as is mental health and wellbeing. O2.1 in Focus Area 2 includes a strategy to support the community to be prepared for and resilient to climate change impacts. The need for Council to provide climate anxiety resources/programs can be considered as part of the annual CAP and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan implementation planning.
	*A specific focus on the upskilling and capacity building of youth in particular mental health impacts associated with being left with the consequences of climate change and feelings of helplessness (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 2 includes a strategy to support the community to be prepared for and resilient to climate change impacts. The need for Council to provide climate anxiety resources/programs for youth can be considered as part of the annual CAP, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, and Youth Strategy implementation planning.
	*Make informed, long term decisions to preserve and protect where we live to enable safe, healthy lives for all now and in the future (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	*This should be a substitute for mitigating action (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	*More information about dangerous areas where young people hang out that are prone to flooding (eg Blue Lake and bushwalkers). Need to address there is only one way out of Eltham if there is a bushfire. Signage/ information/ QR codes for bushfire related information or direct people where to go if there is a bushfire (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Council's advocacy to the state government includes that there is a need for enhanced vehicle access to exit Nillumbik. Upgrades to the Warrandyte Bridge and Fitzsimons Lane Roundabout seek to increase the capacity of these pinch points. The advocacy objective (O1.3) within Focus Area 1 includes the opportunity for Council to further advocate in this area. In terms of providing bushfire information, Focus Area 2 includes an objective (O2.2) to support the community to be bushfire prepared. Initiatives to enhance this are an ongoing priority of Council's Emergency Management Team, in conjunction with the CFA and other stakeholders. Blue Lake is located on Parks Victoria land and this suggestion will be passed on to Plenty Gorge management.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Theme responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 2 Having a climate resilient, adaptive and safe community	
	<p>* Council strategies to deliver advice and support that is integrated and compatible with other levels of government and scientifically valid. Indicators to include educational and training outcomes such as rates of retrofitting of emissions reduction equipment and percentage of participants with written bushfire emergency plans. Health and wellbeing strategies to be developed in conjunction with government executive and local health authorities (1)</p>	<p><i>Noted - text updated (indicators)</i></p> <p>The work of Council should be integrated and compatible with other levels of government and scientifically valid. Focus Area 5 includes a strategy to 'support and amplify state and federal led' ... zero-emissions initiatives'</p> <p>To be measureable, indicators require that relevant data can be feasibly collected (in terms of technical, time and cost feasibility). Over the life of the CAP indicators and targets will be reviewed and updated where we have improved data collection. In the meantime, two new relevant indicators have been added within Focus Area 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of Nillumbik residents that have made changes to their home or lifestyle to help reduce climate change and its impacts • Nillumbik resident rating of their household's ability to cope with climate related risks and impacts (such as fire, drought, extreme heat and heavy rainfall). Source for both - annual community survey. <p>The Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 was developed with guidance from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. It recognises climate resilience as a priority area for work and shares the following strategies with the CAP in Focus Area 2:</p> <p>'build the capacity of community stakeholders to lead and deliver climate action initiatives' and 'engage with the community to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on health, and actions that can be taken to help stay healthy and well in a changing climate.'</p>
Nil response	Somewhat support	
	Do not support	
OS9, OS65	Absolutely not, critical of climate change (2 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
OS13	No role for Council in this area (1 response)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
OS12	Safe community starts with Council reduction of fire fuel on Council land and roadside (1 response)	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>There is already a strategy within Focus Area 3 (O3.1) to 'plan for the increasing risk of bushfire by managing Council's roadside and bush reserves..'. Council will continue to implement the Municipal Fire Management Plan, Nillumbik Bushfire Mitigation Strategy, Council bushland reserve bushfire management plans, and annual Bushfire Mitigation Works Program.</p>

Theme: Focus Area 3 Having a climate resilient natural environment

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses Focus Area 3 Having a climate resilient natural environment	Officer response
	Support	
OS3, OS8, OS14, OS16, OS21, OS25, OS37, OS44, OS47, OS49, OS58, OS64, V82, S83, S84, S85, S87, S93	Incorporate clear targets and strengthen indicators: Include specific targets such as percentage increase in flora and fauna, tree canopy cover, biodiversity, tree canopy, vegetation coverage in rural areas, biodiversity, health of soils and waterways and reductions in chemical inputs, erosion and reliance on polluting fuels by 2030. Targets with stated percentage increase for tree canopy cover and vegetation coverage in rural areas. Clear statements regarding responsibility for risk and vehicle for emissions reduction and indicators to be clear and examined from a climate science and agricultural sociology viewpoint (referenced in 18 responses)	<i>Noted - text updated</i> Three additional indicators have been added to the CAP. To be measurable, targets and indicators require that relevant data can be feasibly collected (in terms of technical, time and cost feasibility). Three additional indicators have been added to the CAP. Over the life of the CAP indicators and targets will be reviewed and updated where we have improved data collection and where we identify that we can achieve more.
OS3, OS8, OS14, OS21, OS25, OS37, OS43, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, V80, S83, S85, S87	Increase understanding and protection of the natural environment: Focus on understanding and preserving biodiversity values, commission studies to obtain robust baseline evidence for biodiversity, native vegetation cover, tree canopy cover in urban areas to inform goal. Waterways, catchment areas and reservoirs must be protected, monitored and actions taken to reduce consumption, waste and pollution. Need rules/regulations to retain and increase vegetation (native and non-native). Knowledge of ecosystem health and best management as held by Australia's Indigenous people be appropriately respected (15 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 3 has a key objective of protecting and enhancing our natural environment (O3.1). It includes a strategy to 'investigate and support collaborative mitigation and adaptation opportunities that help to protect and enhance biodiversity..' This work is also prioritised within Council's Green Wedge Management Plan; and Biodiversity Strategy (which will be reviewed in 2022/23 with a climate lens). Council will continue to pursue opportunities to obtain external funding support to help increase its understanding of and preservation of local biodiversity.
OS8, OS24, OS25, OS37, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S83	Reduce the risk of bushfire: Manage Council's roadside and bush reserves, and engage with the community without compromising biodiversity values. Acknowledge that roadsides often contain indigenous vegetation and are often refuges for flora and fauna no longer found on surrounding properties, providing important food sources and a seedbank (9 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 3 (O3.1) includes strategies to protect and enhance our natural environment by 'planning for the increasing risk of bushfire by managing Council's roadside and bush reserves..' and 'investigating and supporting collaborative mitigation and adaptation opportunities that help to protect and enhance biodiversity..' Both are required and together require fine tuning and balance.
OS39, OS44, OS70, V79, V81	Expand climate resilient food systems: Commend Council on this inclusion, encourage sustainable agriculture, identify opportunities to enhance the local food system, promote and support public and home based food growing, encourage the eating of locally produced food and support local food businesses, start more local food farms/businesses, eat more plants and less meat, and support for providing incentives for local businesses who can demonstrate sustainable food systems. Nillumbik has opportunities for micro agriculture to support near-by urban populations. (5 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> An annual CAP implementation plan will be prepared which will contain initiatives to help Council achieve its objective of having climate resilient food systems. Other Council plans exist which also support this work, including the Health and Wellbeing Plan and Economic Development Strategy; and studies such as the Future of Agriculture study.
OS43, OS70, OS75, OS76, V80	Diverse views on trees (4 responses)	
	*Keep the flammable trees under control (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i>

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 3 Having a climate resilient natural environment	
	*Stronger stance on native logging, Council needs to call for an immediate end to logging of native forests which increases bushfire risks (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Advocacy matters are considered by Council annually.
	*Council to provide trees for residents to plant. Nillumbik planning scheme permits too many trees to be cut down for development (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 1 includes an objective that climate impact be considered in day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions (O1.2). This includes when reviewing the planning scheme or local laws, which is undertaken on a periodic basis. The Nillumbik Gardens for Wildlife program has been operating for the past 18 months and participating residents and community groups receive vouchers for free plants.
	*No further removal of any trees or clearing of green areas and maintain tree canopy in urban areas (2)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 3 has a key objective of protecting and enhancing our natural environment (O3.1). It includes a strategy to 'investigate and support collaborative mitigation and adaptation opportunities that help to protect and enhance biodiversity..' This work is also prioritised within Council's Green Wedge Management Plan; and Biodiversity Strategy (which will be reviewed in 2022/23 with a climate lens). Focus Area 1 includes an objective that climate impact be considered in day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions (O1.2). This includes when reviewing the planning scheme or local laws, which is undertaken on a periodic basis, including in 2022. The Council Plan 2021-2025 includes priority actions to 'investigate measures to establish and enhance the urban tree canopy'; and 'review Council's tree management policy and supporting guidelines'.
OS16, OS22, OS43, OS44, OS45, OS55, OS62, OS73, OS75, V80, S84, S86, S90, S91, S93	Other (15 responses): *A slow burn planned next to our property (in bushland reserve) has not happened for 3 years? (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Within the CAP, cool burn initiatives will be considered as annual implementation initiatives that would align with the Focus Area 3 objective of protecting and enhancing our natural environment (O3.1) - 'investigate and support collaborative mitigation and adaptation opportunities that help to protect and enhance biodiversity, reduce the likelihood and impacts of bushfire..'. Council has liaised with Wurundjeri about cool burns and the potential for them to take place at appropriate bushland reserve(s), subject to considerations that include, seasonal factors, Wurundjeri and CFA volunteer availability.
	*Need to cultivate indigenous land management methods more effectively (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> An indicator for Focus Area 3 is the number of organisations (including Traditional Owners) collaborating with Council to protect and enhance our natural environment.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 3 Having a climate resilient natural environment	
	*Investigate and support collaborative mitigation and adaptation opportunities that help to: Protect and enhance biodiversity (e.g. protect wildlife corridors, enhance the diversity of native vegetation cover, protect threatened species); Respond to invasive species; Reduce the likelihood and impacts of bushfire; Sequester carbon; Conserve soil moisture and optimise soil functionality; Conserve and maximise beneficial use of water (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Each of these suggestions are already included within Focus Area 3.
	*Keep a focus on local indigenous planting and protection of the natural environment (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	*Native animals and birds and their right to a habitat should be considered as a priority when deciding on how to develop Nillumbik (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	*This goes without saying (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	*Private landowners should be encouraged through education and incentives to contribute to increasing indigenous vegetation cover goals; (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Protecting and enhancing biodiversity is included in O3.1. The year 1 implementation initiatives will include provision of land management education and incentives and the Gardens for Wildlife program.
	*Nillumbik needs to be more focused on protecting and expanding the Green Wedge (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	*Regenerative local landscapes and promote localised plants for gardens and regenerative agriculture to any local farm (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Encouraging sustainable/regenerative agriculture is included within Focus Area 3 (O3.2). Protecting and enhancing biodiversity is included in O3.1.
	*Collaborate with interface Councils and the State Government and advocate for greater local authority over rural land use especially agricultural land use in the green wedge; Regenerative agriculture and carbon farming have the potential to reverse climate change by drawing carbon from the atmosphere while enriching our soils. An urban community farm could make an important contribution to making our shire climate resilient (1);	<i>Noted - text updated</i> Collaboration and advocacy for climate action is included in Objective1.3. The text has been broadened to also specify reference to local government. 'Having climate resilient food systems' is Objective 3.2 in Focus Area 3. The strategy to encourage sustainable agriculture has been updated to refer to regenerative agriculture also. This objective also includes strategies to 'identify opportunities to enhance the local food system' and 'promote and support public/community and home based food growing'. Relevant implementation initiatives/opportunities such as a new urban community farm can be considered throughout the life of the CAP.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 3 Having a climate resilient natural environment	
	*No one has talked about use of non-indigenous vegetation. Need to give choice to people about what they can plant. Should not just be Indigenous vegetation (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> In order to support a climate-resilient natural environment, non-indigenous vegetation may be a good option in some situations. As stated in Focus Area 3, approaches to resilience that incorporate broad thinking about environmental change are most likely to contribute to positive outcomes.
	*The greatest danger of climate change is the threat of fires, with loss of life, native fauna, homes and livelihood. Urgent action is needed to mitigate this risk especially in bushy areas close to population growth and major roads like Ironbark Road, Yan Yean Road and the new m80 city link. Request: 1/ urgent removal of land (including our land) in this area mistakenly placed in the green wedge, and inclusion back in Melbourne urban growth boundary. This will ensure protection of their high water flows and pressure, critical for fire protection to the community. 2/ Soft urban edge with in a 5 kilometres distance to Melbourne designated major activity centres, such as diamond creek. 3/ This will enable lots sizes small enough to manage for fire safety. 4/implementation of land use-changes with relocation of fauna, trapped, confused, and endangered by leaping development to adjoining northern suburbs of neighbouring shires such as Doreen and Mernda (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> To help address the threat of fires, Council will continue to implement the Municipal Fire Management Plan, Nillumbik Bushfire Mitigation Strategy, Council bushland reserve bushfire management plans, and annual Bushfire Mitigation Works Program. Matters relating to the location of the Urban Growth Boundary are not included within the scope of the CAP.
	*Monitor and regularly publish changes in biodiversity, specifically to the quality and quantity of locally indigenous plants and wildlife, the regeneration of degraded land and the quality of our rivers and waterways which help sustain them. Include the first two years' Implementation Plan as part of the document open for comment, as without this, the community consultation is incomplete (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Currently there is limited long term biodiversity data being collected within Nillumbik. Monitoring requires that relevant data can be feasibly collected (in terms of technical, time and cost feasibility). Council will continue to seek external funding to support such initiatives, and will continue to explore collaborative opportunities with neighbouring councils, community groups and research institutions. Where such data can be collected by Council it will be uploaded to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. This issue will be explored in more detail as part of the upcoming review of Council's Biodiversity Strategy.As is specified in Section 5 of the Draft CAP "Over the life of the CAP indicators and targets will be reviewed and updated where we have improved data collection. We will also engage with the community at least twice to check in on the CAP and whether you think its implementation initiatives and outcomes are heading in the right direction and to consider your suggestions...An annual update will be placed on Council's website ...".

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 3 Having a climate resilient natural environment	
	*Add a reference to “regenerative agriculture / farming” to 3.1 and 3.2 and to the Indicators: its drawdown effects could be an important contribution. Add percentage increase indicators for Vegetation cover and Tree cover (1)	<i>Noted - text updated</i> The draft CAP refers to sustainable agriculture. The text will be updated to also include the term regenerative agriculture. <i>Noted - no change</i> Regarding vegetation and tree cover indicators, the Council Plan 2021-2025 includes priority actions to 'investigate measures to establish and enhance the urban tree canopy'; and 'review Council's tree management policy and supporting guidelines'. This work is required to be completed to inform consideration of whether to develop percentage increase indicators (which could subsequently be included within the CAP).
	Somewhat support	
OS72	When it comes to cleaning up and getting fire prepared (1 response)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	Do not support	
OS9	Our rates are already amongst the most expensive (1 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	Unsure	
OS94	Sounds unrealistic	<i>Noted - no change</i>

Theme: Focus Area 4 Having climate responsive Council services, facilities, buildings and infrastructure

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses Focus Area 4 Having climate responsive Council services, facilities, buildings and infrastructure	Officer response
	Support	
OS2, OS24, OS37, OS42, OS43, OS44, OS49	Council to provide leadership and support: Provide an advisory program, leadership, support or financial assistance to encourage climate related improvements and retro-fits, especially for low income households (referenced in 7 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> These matters are covered within Focus Areas 2 and 5. O2.1 includes strategies to 'support community awareness of the importance of taking climate action and opportunities for action'. O5.1 includes a strategy to 'deliver local initiatives that will assist the community to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions'. Annual implementation plans will specify associated initiatives, including investigating the feasibility of providing Environmental Upgrade Finance; and providing a service for residents that offers tailored advice in reducing household energy consumption and emissions.
OS2, OS39, OS53, OS67, OS73, S83	Council to lead the way in relation to long term assets: Council standards in place for the construction and renewal of new assets (i.e. solar power, recycled materials, green space, rainwater tanks, eliminating gas, retrofitting to be more energy efficient), considering climate change risks and impacts in services, infrastructure planning, development, and management decisions (6 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> These matters are addressed within the CAP. Focus Area 4 states that Council is "responsible for considering climate risks and making sure that infrastructure is built and maintained in a fashion that will be useable as the climate changes". Focus Area 5, says that Council 'will lead by example by prioritising the reduction of our own emissions' and provides an extensive listing of areas of opportunity. Focus Area 7 includes an objective (O7.2) on prioritising sustainable purchasing and using recovered resources.
OS22, OS39, OS53	Balance focus with investment: Council to balance focus on this Focus area with investment in mitigating actions (3 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> The CAP states that 'our climate action will be twofold, focussing on mitigation and adaptation'.
OS35, OS44, OS75	Focus on stronger resilient housing development: Incorporate ESD in new developments, restrict over development and protect the natural landscape from new high-density dwellings (3 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> The review of internal policies and processes is covered within Focus Area 1 (O1.2). Specific implementation actions will be considered annually. The Year 1 Implementation Plan is likely to include an initiative to commence an update of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme to incorporate new ESD Victorian Planning Provisions for buildings and subdivisions
OS37, OS44, S93	Strategy, target and indicator suggestions: (3 responses) *Deliver local initiatives, including education, to assist the community to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.	<i>Noted - no change</i> This is an existing strategy within objective 5.1 of the CAP.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses Focus Area 4 Having climate responsive Council services, facilities, buildings and infrastructure	Officer response
	*Provide free comprehensive household energy audits with the aim of increasing energy efficiency.	<i>Noted - no change</i> Over the life of the CAP different initiatives to help increase household energy efficiency can be explored and potentially actioned within Focus Area 5, via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	*Environmental Upgrade Finance scheme for residential and commercial properties.	<i>Noted - no change</i> O5.1 includes a strategy to 'deliver local initiatives that will assist the community to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions'. Annual implementation plans will specify associated initiatives, including investigating the feasibility of providing Environmental Upgrade Finance.
	*Support and amplify 'State and Federal led' and 'community and business led' zero-emissions initiatives.	<i>Noted - no change</i> This is an existing strategy within objective 5.1 of the CAP.
	*Commission studies to obtain robust baseline data for community emissions. Conduct community emissions accounting and obtain independent certification of community emissions reporting.	<i>Noted - no change</i> Ironbark snapshot provides a high level overview of GHC community emissions which will be used as an indicator. If more accurate, readily available and reliable data becomes available then Council will utilise it. This matter is being considered across the sector.
	*Establish a program to encourage households and businesses to transition from gas.	<i>Noted - no change</i> This initiative falls under the existing O5.1 strategies. From an implementation perspective, Council would support and amplify a state or federal led initiative in this space.
	*Prohibit the installation of gas appliances in all new corporate, commercial and residential building projects.	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 5 addresses 'achieving Council and community zero emissions energy use.' Over the life of the Climate Action Plan, Council will advocate for and use available means to transition its own energy use and support the community to transition away from gas.
	*Develop policy for Council to divest from institutions that operate or invest in fossil fuel companies and projects and invest in and bank with environmentally and socially ethical financial institutions.	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area one includes an objective (O1.2) 'to consider climate impact in day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions'. An implementation initiative will be to review Council's investment policy to explore opportunities to divest from fossil fuels.
	*Obtain independent certification of Council emissions reporting (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Council will explore the costs and benefits of obtaining independent certification as an implementation initiative that aligns with the O5.2 strategy to conduct annual corporate emissions accounting.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses Focus Area 4 Having climate responsive Council services, facilities, buildings and infrastructure	Officer response
	*Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted within the Shire of Nillumbik. Target of net zero emissions by 2035. Change to Target of net zero emissions by 2030, with interim target of percentage reduction from 2005 levels by 2027	<i>Noted</i> Councillor decision
	*Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted by Council facilities and operations. Target of Net-zero emissions by 2030 -- Change to Target of net zero emissions by 2025, percentage of Council's stationary energy use (i.e. building energy use) that is supplied via a renewable energy source. Target of 100 per cent by 2030- Change to Target of 100 per cent by 2025	<i>Noted</i> Councillor decision
OS43, OS55	Agree with strategies: Agree, within sensible budget constraints (2 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Any initiatives that require additional budget will be subject to annual budget review processes.
OS24, OS45, V81, S84, S93	Other (5 responses): *Reducing carbon emissions should be of the utmost importance and a priority of the Council (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> The adoption of the CAP confirms the reduction of carbon emissions as being a priority of Council
	*Assess the bridge in Eltham as it always gets flooded (1);	<i>Noted - text updated</i> A new focus area will be added to the CAP that focuses on integrated water management
	*Double-glazed windows on all Council buildings and new homes (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Initiatives to achieve zero emissions through energy efficiency fall under Focus Area 5
	*More shade in parks, skate parks, playgrounds, consider water parks and waterslides (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> 'Reducing the risks from climate change impacts on the ability to use council facilities and infrastructure' is an existing strategy of objective 4.2. The availability of shade is an important factor in this, and an implementation initiative will be to monitor and respond to this. Specific initiatives will be considered when preparing annual implementation plans.
	*Keep greening the area so water is soaked up by the ground (1);	<i>Noted - Focus Area added</i> A new Focus Area 8 on Integrated Water Management has been included within the CAP.
	*Put power underground (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Power is placed underground in new developments. For existing power systems, this is the remit of the power company, not Council. Council can consider advocacy on placing powerlines underground as an initiative under O1.3.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses Focus Area 4 Having climate responsive Council services, facilities, buildings and infrastructure	Officer response
	*Solar panels on all government buildings (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Initiatives to achieve zero emissions fall under Focus Area 5, and a strategy of O5.2, is that Council will maximise the efficient use of clean, renewable energy, and will plan for this by implementing and regularly reviewing a staged Zero Emissions roadmap for Council operations. From an implementation perspective this includes continuing to install solar panels on Council buildings where feasible, and builds upon many Council buildings that have already received solar panels. Other levels of government also have programs to install solar panels on their buildings.
	*Only deal with environmentally ethical companies and banks (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area one includes an objective (O1.2) 'to consider climate impact in day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions'. An implementation initiative will be to review Council's investment policy to explore opportunities to divest from fossil fuels.
	*Clarify Focus Area 4 by separating the services and built environment systems when dealing with adaptation policies. Consider the best response for resident and business assets including Nillumbik's industrial sector which is not investing in rooftop solar, light industry and retail sectors. State and local governments to collaborate and intervene to ensure that land users invest in emissions reduction infrastructure perhaps via an increased rate burden (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Service delivery is covered in O4.1 and the built environment (infrastructure and facilities) are covered in O4.2. Implementation initiatives to encourage different sectors to invest in solar are initiatives of Focus Areas 2 and 5. Local government as a sector will continue to leverage off, partner with and advocate to state government for initiatives that encourage land users to invest in emissions reduction infrastructure. This aligns with O1.3 in Focus Area 1.
	*Refer to the drains issue specifically. With increases in wild weather events, they need to be bigger to be able to cope – add modify drainage as a specific example as it is a known risk (1)	<i>Noted - text updated</i> O4.2 'Have Council infrastructure and facilities that are appropriate in a changing climate' already covers this (with drainage as a specified example), and includes a strategy to 'reduce the risks from climate change impacts on the functionality of council infrastructure'. In addition, a Focus Area 8 on Integrated Water Management has been added to the CAP with O8.2 referring to flood risk and the drainage network.
	Somewhat support	
OS10, OS72	Provided actions are cost effective and all costs are included, unclear of costings (2 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Annual implementation plans will be prepared and will be subject to Council budget processes. Initiatives will be considered from cost-effective and benefit perspectives.
OS12	Other (1 response): Move to action and prevent a catastrophe	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	Do not support	

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses Focus Area 4 Having climate responsive Council services, facilities, buildings and infrastructure	Officer response
OS9, OS65	Absolutely not, waste of money (2 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
OS13	Other (1 response): What does this actually mean? What is a climate responsive council service? Are council going to provide free sunscreen, or umbrellas to the population? If council is trying to say that their buildings and facilities should be powered by solar, just say so. Be specific. If council can provide genuine and real savings to its ratepayers by installing solar, or any other "renewable" solutions that's perfectly fine provided the full real cost is weighed against the real benefits for the community.	<i>Noted - no change</i> Climate responsiveness will differ according to each scenario. Energy/solar use is covered in Focus Area 5.

Theme: Focus Area 5 Achieving Council and community zero emissions energy use

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses Focus Area 5 Achieving Council and community zero emissions energy use	Officer response
	Support	
OS3, OS8, OS11, OS14, OS16, OS17, OS21, OS25, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, V80, V82, S83, S84, S85, S87, S91, OS94	<u>Revisions to targets and indicators:</u> Insert ambitious strategies and indicator targets and consider (referenced in 20 responses):	
	*Commission studies to obtain robust baseline data for community emissions;*Conduct community emissions accounting and obtain independent certification of community emissions reporting;	<i>Noted - no change</i> Ironbark snapshot provides a high level overview of GHC community emissions which will be used as an indicator. If more accurate, readily available and reliable data becomes available then Council will utilise it. This matter is being considered across the sector.
	*Prohibit the installation of gas appliances in all new corporate, commercial and residential building projects;	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 5 addresses 'achieving Council and community zero emissions energy use.' Over the life of the Climate Action Plan, Council will advocate for and use the means available to transition its own energy use and support the community to transition away from gas.
	*Conduct annual corporate emissions accounting; Obtain independent certification of Council emissions reporting;	<i>Noted - no change</i> Council will explore the costs and benefits of obtaining independent certification as an implementation initiative that aligns with the O5.2 strategy to conduct annual corporate emissions accounting.
	Maximise efficient use of clean, renewable energy. Plan for this by implementing and regularly reviewing a staged Zero Emissions roadmap for Council operations.	<i>Noted - no change</i> This is an existing strategy of objective 5.2.
	* <u>Consider revising community indicator targets:</u> Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted within the Shire of Nillumbik - change to Target of net zero emissions by 2030, with interim target of percentage reduction from 2005 levels by 2027 Set community emissions targets - carbon neutral by 2030, with clearly defined interim targets. There is strong scientific evidence for this (see Ironbark Sustainability); Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted within Shire - change to target of net zero emissions by 2030, with a clear interim target of a percentage reduction from 2005 levels by 2027.	<i>Noted</i> Councillor decision

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses	Officer response
	<p>Focus Area 5 Achieving Council and community zero emissions energy use</p> <p><u>*Consider revising Council indicator targets:</u></p> <p>Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted by Council facilities and operations. Target of Net zero emissions by 2030 - change to Target of net zero emissions by 2025; Percentage of Council's stationary energy use (i.e. building energy use) that is supplied via a renewable energy source and Target of 100 per cent by 2030 - change to Target of 100 per cent by 2025; achieve zero net emissions earlier than 2030; Include emissions targets in investment processes; Strengthen the net zero emissions targets and set 3-5 year interim targets to reach these goals, with minimal and decreasing reliance on offsets, as recommended by Zero Carbon Communities Guide; Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted by Council facilities and operations - change to target of net zero emissions by 2025, with target of zero emissions by 2040. Percentage of Council's stationary renewable energy use - change to target of 100 per cent by 2025.</p>	<p><i>Noted</i></p> <p>Councillor decision</p>
OS8, OS11, OS16, OS17, OS21, OS24, OS25, OS47, OS58, OS64, OS70, OS75, V81, S85	<p>Support for businesses, households and schools: Provide information on reducing emissions, free comprehensive household energy audits, assistance to access finance for households and businesses making climate related improvements (i.e. Environmental Upgrade Finance scheme for residential and commercial properties), establish a program to encourage solar panels and transition from gas, encourage use of sustainable supply chains (14 responses)</p>	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>O5.1 includes strategies to 'deliver local initiatives that will assist the community to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions' and 'support and amplify state & federal led and community & business led zero-emissions initiatives'.</p> <p>Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg ways to provide information on reducing emissions, investigating the feasibility of providing Environmental Upgrade Finance, and solar panel / transition from gas promotions) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans. .</p>
OS3, OS8, OS14, OS16, OS21, OS25, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S83, S85, S93	<p>Partnering with environmentally and socially ethical financial institutions and organisations: Council to divest from institutions that operate or invest in fossil fuel companies and projects, and invest in and bank with environmentally and socially ethical financial institutions.</p> <p>Also establish partnerships with organisations such as Global Covenant of Mayors, Climate Emergency Australia, Beyond Zero Emissions to exchange ideas and resources and strengthen advocacy at higher levels of government (13 responses)</p>	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>Focus Area 1 includes an objective (O1.2) 'to consider climate impact in day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions'. An implementation initiative will be to review Council's investment policy to explore opportunities to divest from fossil fuels.</p> <p>Focus Area 1 includes an objective (O1.3) to collaborate and advocate for climate action.</p> <p>Council currently works in partnership with various climate change/emergency organisations including NAGA, ICLEI, Take2, Cities Power Partnership, CEN, Solar Savers, Climate Emergency Network and Australian Energy Foundation. Over time Council may join additional groups and remain in or exit existing groups.</p>

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 5 Achieving Council and community zero emissions energy use	
OS11, OS39, OS45, OS49, OS67	Establish supporting Council infrastructure, policy and advocacy: Council to provide sufficient supporting infrastructure (i.e. for electronic cars), develop a Walking Strategy to promote walking as an alternative to car use, clear pathway of how Council plans to get there and encourage / mandate citizens and advocate for a transition to electric buses (5 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 6 focuses on enhancing sustainable transport. It includes a strategy within O6.3 to 'support the distribution of public electric vehicle charging stations across the Shire'; and an objective (O6.2) to 'improve public transport, vehicle-share, walking and cycling options'.
OS22, OS57, S83	Cutting emissions is essential: Cut emissions as fast as possible with independent audits of Council's emission reports being standard business practice (3 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Council will explore the costs and benefits of obtaining independent certification as an implementation initiative that aligns with the O5.2 strategy to conduct annual corporate emissions accounting.
V82, S83, S93	Community education and engagement: Community education must be prioritised, a major challenge is engaging the disinterested segments of the community (3 responses)	<i>Noted - no change.</i> Engaging the disinterested segments of the community is a challenge. Focus Area 2 seeks to help address this by 'supporting community awareness of the importance of taking climate action and of opportunities for action'. As also stated in this focus area, 'Council will continuously explore opportunities, including working in partnership with others, to encourage and support the Nillumbik community to be engaged and climate-action active..'
OS7, V81, S83, S84, S85, S87, S93	Other (7 responses): Yes, local power like the Hepburn wind project which is owned by locals (1);	<i>Noted - case study text added</i> An implementation initiative of the CAP will be the development of a Solar Farm which will power Council's energy needs and which includes potential to be expanded to have a community focus. This example will be included in the CAP as a new case study example.
	Need electric car charging stations locally and for more people to have electric cars (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> A strategy within O6.3 is to 'support the distribution of public electric vehicle charging stations across the Shire'
	Environmentally Sustainable Design in planning policies minimizes emissions (i.e. prevent loss of vegetation; reduce construction footprint; non-toxic materials; reduce transport, minimize waste via re-using and recycling) and planning policies have stringent guidelines and enable renewable energy developments without compromising biodiversity and conservation values (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> The review of internal policies and processes is covered within Focus Area 1 (O1.2). Specific implementation actions will be considered annually. The Year 1 Implementation Plan is likely to include: commencing an update of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme to incorporate new ESD Victorian Planning Provisions for buildings and subdivisions

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 5 Achieving Council and community zero emissions energy use	
	Facilitate the creation of a Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct and attract innovative manufacturers of low-carbon or renewable energy enterprises to be powered by 100% renewable energy possibly via a connected grid of solar panels with battery storage (1);	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>Achieving community / business zero emissions energy use is covered in Focus Area 5, O5.1 'To reduce/eliminate Nillumbik community carbon emissions from homes, businesses and buildings'.</p> <p>Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as a Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.</p>
	The mix of private and public energy management raises the question of cost benefit analyses (in its preliminary discussion). It is unclear why this fundamental question is raised in Focus Area 5 but not in the others. The resourcing of any project designed to mitigate climate change should be required to prove that it will generate immediate and lasting beneficial results. While permit applicants may be convinced that cost savings make solar energy installation a 'no brainer', Council statistics show that retro fitting these and related systems is not a priority across the Shire. Some areas, such as North Warrandyte, lags behind the others. Federal and State governments in particular find taxation and/or subsidies are effective strategies. In case of emergency, local governments need to seek greater authority to impose sanctions and provide incentives (1),	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>There is cost/benefit analysis in relation to Council construction, upgrade, renewal and maintenance of assets.</p> <p>Council makes use of subsidies and incentives from other levels of government. Council also offers subsidies and incentives and amplifies those offered by other levels of government to support the community in taking action on sustainability.</p> <p>Over the life of the CAP the cost/benefit of specific actions will change in response to changes in policy and markets. For this reason the CAP is designed to respond to opportunities rather than prescribe solutions. This is also being considered across the sector.</p>
	<u>Suggested strategies/actions include:</u>	
	*Provide a free advisory service to help businesses and households reduce emissions.	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>O5.1 includes a strategy to 'deliver local initiatives that will assist the community to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions'. Annual implementation plans will specify associated initiatives, including providing an energy advice service. This initiative is already being offered by Council - the Australian Energy Foundation is currently engaged to provide this service for Nillumbik residents and businesses.</p>
	*Provide free comprehensive household energy audits with the aim of increasing energy efficiency.	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>O5.1 includes a strategy to 'deliver local initiatives that will assist the community to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions'. Annual implementation plans will specify associated initiatives.</p>
	*Provide households and businesses with access to finance for all climate related improvements (e.g. Environmental Upgrade Finance scheme for residential and commercial properties). Provide financial assistance to low income households for all climate-related improvements.	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>O5.1 includes a strategy to 'deliver local initiatives that will assist the community to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions'. Annual implementation plans will specify associated initiatives, including investigating the feasibility of providing Environmental Upgrade Finance</p>

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses Focus Area 5 Achieving Council and community zero emissions energy use	Officer response
	*Establish a program to encourage households and businesses to transition from gas.	<i>Noted - no change</i> This initiative falls under the existing O5.1 strategies. From an implementation perspective, Council would support and amplify a state or federal led initiative in this space.
	*Prohibit the installation of gas appliances in all new corporate, commercial and residential building projects.	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 5 addresses 'achieving Council and community zero emissions energy use.' Over the life of the Climate Action Plan, Council will advocate for and use the means available to transition its own energy use and support the community to transition away from gas.
	*Develop a policy for Council to divest from institutions that operate or invest in fossil fuel companies and projects, and to invest in and bank with environmentally and socially ethical financial institutions.	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area one includes an objective (O1.2) 'to consider climate impact in day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions'. An implementation initiative will be to review Council's investment policy to explore opportunities to divest from fossil fuels.
	*Obtain independent certification of Council emissions reporting (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Council will explore the costs and benefits of obtaining independent certification as an implementation initiative that aligns with the O5.2 strategy to conduct annual corporate emissions accounting.
	*Could Council run a free advisory service on reducing emissions or provide financial assistance to those who need it? Insert examples of "how" in the Strategies column (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i> O5.1 includes a strategy to 'deliver local initiatives that will assist the community to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions'. Annual implementation plans will specify associated initiatives, including providing an energy advice service. This initiative is already being offered by Council - the Australian Energy Foundation is currently engaged to provide this free service for Nillumbik residents and businesses. The feasibility of providing Environmental Upgrade Finance will be investigated, and other initiatives such as bulk buy programs and supporting community groups who provide outreach assistance to locals will be considered through the implementation plans.
	Somewhat support	
OS5	Other (1 response): Only if it is truly zero emissions, Nillumbik has opportunities to properly offset within the shire and lead by example (1 response)	<i>Noted - no change</i>

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses Focus Area 5 Achieving Council and community zero emissions energy use	Officer response
	Do not support	
OS9, OS12, OS65, OS10, OS13, OS52	Other (6 responses): Nillumbik reducing emissions would effectively make no impact, yet the real cost would be substantial (1), Minimum energy use and zero use is okay if you start by walking everywhere and live without the modern lifestyle. Bush blocks support the suburbs with trees converting CO2 to oxygen (1), Need proper base load, coal is cheapest and most efficient (1), Only if it was nuclear power, do not support wind or solar (1), Concerned about gaps in the data shown for current usage (1), We are made of carbon (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i>

Theme: Focus Area 6 Enhancing sustainable transport

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses Focus Area 6 Enhancing sustainable transport	Officer response
	Support (29 responses)	
OS2, OS3, OS8, OS14, OS16, OS17, OS21, OS24, OS25, OS37, OS39, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS62, OS64, OS70, V80, S83, S85, S87	Advocate and collaborate for public transport improvements and climate change mitigation: Prioritise opportunities and advocate for funding, to enhance public transport (particularly for the aged and those with a disability), walking and cycling connections within and to/from the Shire, advocate for improved and expanded public transport options (buses and trains) to service all of Nillumbik, a transition to electric buses and minimal registration charges for electric vehicles. More transport options needed on main roads and busy rural roads. Strengthen connections with other Councils to have a stronger voice in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and environmental protection (referenced in 21 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> O6.2 includes a strategy to 'prioritise opportunities, and advocate for funding, to enhance public transport, walking and cycling connections within and to/from the Shire'. Transition to electric buses is a state government program which is underway. Council's advocacy to the state government includes a focus on projects that enhance sustainable transport and that reduce congestion. Projects are scoped with consideration of Council's Disability Action Plan. Recent/current projects have included the upgrade of the Hurstbridge rail line, extension of the Diamond Creek trail, and Eltham bike infrastructure and congestion busting. The collaboration and advocacy objective (O1.3) within Focus Area 1 includes the opportunity for Council to further advocate in this area, and to also collaborate to achieve action. From an implementation perspective this will include partnering with other Councils, including via organisations such as the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action and the Cities Power Partnership to have a stronger voice in climate change mitigation and adaptation; and via organisations such as the Eastern Region Pest Animal group, the Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management Forum and others to have a stronger voice in environmental protection.
OS2, OS3, OS8, OS14, OS21, OS24, OS25, OS37, OS43, OS44, OS47, OS58, OS64, S84, S85, S87	Revisions to targets and indicators: Insert ambitious strategies and indicator targets and consider: (16 responses)	
	*Develop a Walking Strategy to promote walking as an alternative to car use;	<i>Noted - no change</i> O6.2 seeks to 'improve public transport, vehicle-share, walking and cycling options'. A planned implementation initiative to guide this process is the development of an Integrated Transport Strategy.
	*Provide secure bike facilities near some of our busy local bus stops would also promote a greater use of bikes/public transport and reduce the reliance on cars;	<i>Noted - no change</i> O6.2 seeks to 'improve public transport, vehicle-share, walking and cycling options'. A planned implementation initiative to guide this process is the development of an Integrated Transport Strategy. Connectivity between bike users and public transport will be considered.
	*Develop a program to facilitate improved public transport options for residents who are disabled, aged or living in rural areas of the Shire;	<i>Noted - no change</i> O6.2 includes a strategy to 'prioritise opportunities, and advocate for funding, to enhance public transport...'. The needs of residents who are disabled, aged or living in rural areas will be considered during the development of the planned Integrated Transport Strategy.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 6 Enhancing sustainable transport	
	*Install rapid EV chargers and encourage local business use at shopping precinct carpark and high use vehicle areas within the Shire (i.e. Eltham and Diamond Creek).	<i>Noted - no change</i> O6.3 includes a strategy to 'support the distribution of public electric vehicle charging stations across the Shire'. This will include seeking opportunities for them to be installed at shopping precincts and other high patronage areas within the Shire, as well as other strategic locations.
	*Consider revising indicator targets: Aim for 100% zero emissions transport by 2030; Volume of greenhouse gas emissions emitted by Council fleet vehicles - Target of 100% zero emissions Council light and heavy fleet by 2030 - Change to Target of 100% zero emissions Council light and heavy fleet by 2025;	<i>Noted - no change</i> Council's light and heavy fleet will be changed over to zero-emissions vehicles as they become due for replacement over the coming 10-years. This also allows for emerging zero-emissions options to be incorporated into the fleet, and for a spread of the associated costs.
	*Volume of greenhouse gas emissions emitted by vehicles within Nillumbik. Target of 100% zero-emissions transportation by 2035 (source: Ironbark snapshot). Change to Target of 100% zero-emissions transportation by 2030, with interim target of percentage reduction from 2005 levels by 2027;	<i>Noted - no change</i> This target aligns with the proposed community zero-emissions 2035 target. If the state or federal government introduce measures to fast track zero-emissions transportation this target will be reviewed.
	*Attempt to address a situation common in rural and lower density areas where residents cannot use passive or public transport due to topography, risks due to narrow roads or a lack of public transport	<i>Noted - no change</i> The topography and low density of Nillumbik presents challenges. These will be considered during the development of the planned Integrated Transport Strategy.
OS16, OS24, OS38, OS45, OS46, OS53, OS70, V80, V81, S85, S93	Commitments for future Council investment: (11 responses)	
	*Improve bike paths and walking connections to promote and enable walking and cycling,	<i>Noted - no change</i> O6.2 includes strategies to help achieve the objective of 'improving public transport, vehicle-share, walking and cycling options'.
	*Install rapid electric vehicle charging stations,	<i>Noted - no change</i> O6.3 includes a strategy to 'support the distribution of public electric vehicle charging stations across the Shire'.
	*Incentives or parking concessions for electric vehicles,	<i>Noted - no change</i> Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg EV incentives) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	*Provide electric vehicle transport,	<i>Noted - no change</i> A strategy of O6.3 is to transition Council's light and heavy fleet to be zero-emissions.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 6 Enhancing sustainable transport	
	*Provide appropriate infrastructure alternatives that can be relied upon,	<i>Noted - no change</i> A strategy of O6.2 is to prioritise opportunities, and advocate for funding, to enhance public transport, walking and cycling connections within and to/from the Shire'.
	*More investment in sustainable transport options	<i>Noted - no change</i> A strategy of O6.2 is to prioritise opportunities, and advocate for funding, to enhance public transport, walking and cycling connections within and to/from the Shire'.
	*Incentives for people to opt for non-car transport	<i>Noted - no change</i> Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg non-car transport incentives) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	*Creating a bulk buy scheme to offset cost barriers to investing in electric vehicles.	<i>Noted - no change</i> Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg EV bulk buy scheme) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	*Minibus system could also work well in Nillumbik	<i>Noted - no change</i> A strategy of O6.2 is to prioritise opportunities, and advocate for funding, to enhance public transport, walking and cycling connections within and to/from the Shire'. A planned implementation initiative to guide this process is the development of an Integrated Transport Strategy.
OS11, OS22, OS26, OS30, OS67, V82, S84	This Focus Area is important: This is also essential, fully support, lead by example as air pollution and contamination from vehicles leads to poor health, objectives and strategies look great (7 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
OS73, OS75, V81, V82, S83, S84, S93	Other (7 responses):	
	*Decentralised shared economy transport (see www.bhive.coop) (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg shared transport) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans..
	*Discourage or ban cars from the centre of townships and encourage electric vehicles (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> A strategy of O6.2 is to 'design, construct and enhance public spaces/activity centres that promote walking, cycling and public transport'.
	*Issue with COVID and people not wanting to catch public transport anymore; Nillumbik has high car use and is hilly, making the area walk and bike friendly is a challenge (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 6 Enhancing sustainable transport	
	*Council to invest in the community to develop greater connectivity, cooperation, and imaginative solutions to decrease reliance on vehicles as this has many positive flow on effects (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Over the life of the CAP initiatives to support this suggestion can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans (Focus Area 6) and via other Council community support initiatives led by Council's community development and economic development teams.
	*Encourage patronizing of local business by installing rapid EV chargers at shopping precinct carparks in Eltham and Diamond Creek (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> O6.3 includes a strategy to 'support the distribution of public electric vehicle charging stations across the Shire'.
	*Focus Area 6 shows existing urban design principles are built on assumptions that have unintended consequences and Councils have limited ability to rearrange the built environment to reduce these consequences. In the context of the 20 minute neighbourhood, Council has been successful promoting passive transport, and the reinforcement of similar transport solutions will benefit the Shire. Recent events around state freeway and rail projects prove Council is effectively powerless with major arterial transport projects, and under-resourced in local community public transport (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	*Add an Indicator re EV charge points (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i> O6.3 includes a strategy to 'support the distribution of public electric vehicle charging stations across the shire' and one to 'monitor emerging zero-emissions transport technology'. The mix of public and private charge points would be difficult information for Council to collect. To be measurable, indicators require that relevant data can be feasibly collected (in terms of technical, time and cost feasibility). Over the life of the CAP indicators and targets will be reviewed and updated where we have improved data collection and where we identify that we can achieve more.
	Somewhat support (2 responses)	
OS5, OS12	Other (2 responses): Walk everywhere (1); Where it is consistent within the context of wider Melbourne transportation (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	Do not support (3 responses)	
OS9, OS13, OS65	Other (3 responses): No role for council in this area, if this refers to "council" transport what is the real costs associated with the change? (1); Waste of our rates (1); No, I want reliable transport (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i>

Theme: Focus Area 7 Achieving a zero waste and circular economy

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Theme responses Focus Area 7 Achieving a zero waste and circular economy	Officer response
	Support (20 responses)	
OS22, OS44, OS45, OS54, OS55, OS75, V80, S83	Supportive of this Focus Area: Commend Council on this, it is aspirational and achievable if made a priority, very important and absolutely within the remit of Nillumbik Council (referenced in 8 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
OS21, OS24, OS44, OS70, OS75, OS76, S93	More focus on recycling: (7 responses)	
	*Focus on recycling,	<i>Noted - no change</i> This is covered in O7.1
	*Encourage ingenuity of design in the areas of recycling and product development, consider recycling waxed cardboard into fire starters, establish facilities	<i>Noted - no change</i> There are strategies under O7.1 that focus on reducing waste generation, maximising source separation, producing clean material streams for re-manufacture, and recovering materials for the highest and best use. This is within the remit of local government and Council will provide waste services that promote circular economy principles. Industry and higher levels of government then have carriage of re-using these materials.
	*Work with existing organisations to ensure all waste that can be recycled or reused isn't ending up in landfill, Encourage community to see recycling as a last resort, rather refusing, reducing and reusing, and reducing waste sent to landfill, and encourage the checking of items to see whether they could be reused, repaired and giving to those in need	<i>Noted - no change</i> O7.1 includes a strategy to '...promote repair, reuse and recycling'. Initiatives to support this will be considered annually as part of the CAP implementation plan.
OS14, OS21, OS31, OS64, S83, S93	Revisions to targets and indicators: (6 responses)	
	*Pay per kilogram of landfill waste - phase in the weighing of landfill bins so that households pay per kilogram of landfill (information/education, small charge, increasing over time);	<i>Noted - no change</i> O7.1 includes a strategy to 'reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill'. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg pay per kg landfill waste) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	*Inform residents how much landfill waste they produce and introduce a household target (similar to the 'Target 155' challenge for reducing water consumption) and advise how they compare to the average in Nillumbik;	<i>Noted - no change</i> O7.1 includes a strategy to 'reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill'. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg household landfill target) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Theme responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 7 Achieving a zero waste and circular economy	
	*Promote down-sizing to the 80-litre landfill bin such as a sticker on the side of the bin;	<i>Noted - no change</i> O7.1 includes a strategy to 'reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill'. Downsizing to an 80 litre bin is regularly promoted. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg promoting downsizing to an 80L landfill bin) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	*Increase the rates discount given to households who down-size to the 80-litre landfill bin;	<i>Noted - no change</i> O7.1 includes a strategy to 'reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill'. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg higher discount for 80L landfill bin) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	*Pay per collection for landfill bin to reward households who use the service less frequently;	<i>Noted - no change</i> Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg pay per landfill bin collection) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	*Maximise source separation of waste and minimise contamination by more education and enforcement;	<i>Noted - no change</i> O7.1 includes a strategy to 'maximise source separation of waste and minimise contamination...'. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg contamination education and enforcement) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	*Work with the local community to implement steps towards a circular economy on a large scale. Build on circular economy ideas already operating within the community; Work with local businesses to reduce plastic use and transition to sustainable long term practices;	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 7 has a strategy to 'maximise source separation of waste and minimise contamination to produce clean material streams for remanufacture'. Council currently works with and on behalf of the community to implement a circular economy on a large scale through procurement of waste services that meet circular economy objectives. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg working with local businesses) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	*Ensure toxic sprays used to kill weeds do not end up in green waste and composts;	<i>Noted - no change</i>

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Theme responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 7 Achieving a zero waste and circular economy	
	*Described indicators are not bold enough. Ensure there are relevant indicators to show progress with timeframes (unless already complete) eg: solar farm at former Plenty landfill site (tender awarded ... progress since then?) - EV chargers at multiple locations (target – increasing) - Phasing out of single use plastics (target – 2023) - heating, cooling – new more efficient systems installed yet? - installation of solar PV on all Council buildings - installation of battery storage in Council buildings - investigation of unused Council land for renewable energy purposes - results of partnering with the AEF - double glazing in Council buildings. Please amend Green Power arrow to show the percentage of households purchasing 100% Green Power	<i>Noted - no change</i> These initiatives are summarised in the preamble to Focus Area 5 and covered by objectives 5.1 and 5.2. To be measurable, indicators require that relevant data can be feasibly collected (in terms of technical, time and cost feasibility). Most of the suggested indicators are captured by the higher order indicators of Focus Area 5 – ie calculating and tracking Council's GHG emissions is an indicator of the outcomes of specific renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives that are implemented over the life of the CAP.
OS24, OS38, OS70, V81, V82, S93	Establish more outlets to repair, recycle and reuse: Set up repair shops or businesses, more tip shops or second-hand shops to encourage people to recycle and reuse, collect goods for a community emergency relief centre like in Mitcham, need more bins and recycling bins in parks, public spaces and around Diamond Creek. Add an Indicator with repair café sessions to be run by the community with Council support (6 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> O7.1 includes a strategy to 'support the community to avoid and reduce waste generation through discouraging single-use and promoting repair, reuse and recycling'. The current indicators measure the overarching outcomes of this strategy in terms of the reduction of waste generated. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg repair shops/businesses) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
OS70, V79, V80, V82	Work towards eliminating single-use plastic and packaging: Concerns about single use plastic and packaging, need to encourage suppliers, supermarkets, businesses and markets to purchase low impact products and be as single-use plastic free as possible, implement reusable coffee cups and container schemes, have cup libraries available across the municipality, ban plastic bags, provide reusable library bags (4 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> O7.1 includes a strategy to 'support the community to avoid and reduce waste generation through discouraging single-use and promoting repair, reuse and recycling'. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg encourage reduction of single-use plastics) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
OS21, OS39, S83	Invest in an education program: Educate the community on changes that can benefit everyone; commit to an education campaign (households, community groups, businesses, schools and within Council) as recycling bins are still being contaminated and red landfill bins are overflowing due to excessive consumption (3 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i> O7.1 includes a strategy to 'support the community to avoid and reduce waste generation through discouraging single-use and promoting repair, reuse and recycling'; and a strategy to 'maximise source separation of waste...' Council currently has various education and behaviour change projects and programs and provides support for community initiatives in relation to waste. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg community education on waste avoidance and contamination) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Theme responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 7 Achieving a zero waste and circular economy	
S85	Incentives to reduce household landfill waste: Introduce incentives for households such as a rates discount for downsizing to the 80 litre landfill bin or a landfill target challenge (similar to the reducing water consumption challenge) (1 response)	<i>Noted - no change</i> O7.1 includes a strategy to 'support the community to avoid and reduce waste generation through discouraging single-use and promoting repair, reuse and recycling'. Council currently has a rates discount for downsizing to an 80 litre landfill bin. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg incentives for 80L landfill bin, household landfill target) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
OS53, OS56, OS67, OS73, OS75, S83, S84, S85	Other (8 responses):	
	More focus composting, container deposit schemes, banning of takeaway cups and containers, banning of plastic bags. These should all fall into the remit of Nillumbik Council. Residents should have their bins checked regularly and anyone failing to use their bins appropriately (e.g. contaminating Green Waste or putting recycling into the Red Bin) should have their bins left behind and be charged to have their waste removed. Behaviour needs to be changed (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> O7.1 includes a strategy to 'support the community to avoid and reduce waste generation through discouraging single-use and promoting repair, reuse and recycling'; and a strategy to 'maximise source separation of waste...' Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg waste reduction and avoidance education, contamination management) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	And re-localisation (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	One to build upon when ideas present themselves (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	Support and advice for septic systems being environmentally friendly, for example worm farms could help the community understand the benefit of these systems and what/how to implement (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Environmental and public health risks posed by wastewater, including septic systems, are covered by Council's Domestic Wastewater Management Plan 2019-2023.
	The circular economy provides an opportunity to redefine "waste" as a resource. We must invest in the technology and innovations to deal with all types of waste - including textile waste which is becoming a huge issue (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> O7.1 includes a range of strategies that support the circular economy within the remit of local government. Council currently invests in a circular economy through procurement of waste disposal services that meet circular economy objectives.
	Management of waste collection and processing is the area that Councils have the most authority over. However, the privatization of this function, and commercial-in-confidence agreements mean it is not possible to respond in detail other than showing support for greater resourcing of the circular economy at all levels and stages (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Theme responses	Officer response
	Focus Area 7 Achieving a zero waste and circular economy	
	We can establish local renewable energy systems; improve agricultural practices that protect soil, vegetation, and waterways, draw down carbon and minimise chemical inputs and pollutants; prevent further loss of vegetation and regeneration of biodiverse ecosystems; reduce and eliminate waste in businesses and school; reduce reliance on vehicles and increased community cooperation; have more effective recycling systems; and use broad community education and support to adopt mitigating practices (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Various focus areas within the draft CAP cover these issues as they relate to climate action. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	This also requires a shift in community behaviours and practices and there needs to be a strong community engagement/ outreach program. Nillumbik has a long history of environmental activism, and there are opportunities for collaboration between Council and community to establish communal renewable energy initiatives, such as virtual power plants or micro grids, or a community solar power plant with battery storage (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i> O5.1 includes strategies to 'participate in collaborative mitigation opportunities across the Shire' and 'deliver local initiatives, including education that will assist the community to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions'. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	Do not support (3 responses)	
OS9, OS13, OS65	Absolutely not, unachievable: Absolutely not, totally unachievable. Waste minimisation is a worthy goal, but this is unachievable, households generate waste, minimise it as best you can and offer efficient waste disposal services (3 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
OS13	Other (1 response): Council could achieve a zero waste economy by dropping council rubbish collections and closing their waste disposal facility. Prosecute offenders who then dispose of their waste on council land. What is a 'circular economy'?	<i>Noted - text updated</i> The term circular economy was defined in the glossary but an additional descriptor will be included within Focus Area 7.

Theme: Other comments

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes in 'other comments' feedback	Officer response
OS16, OS21, OS22, OS29, OS37, OS44, OS45, OS55, OS58, OS64, OS70, OS74, OS75, V79, V80, S91	Commend Council and support the Plan: Commend and appreciate Council taking this important matter seriously, the plan covers a lot and is a good start and could be more ambitious, now we need committed leadership, budget and no action with delays (referenced in 15 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
OS4, OS10, OS12, OS24, OS53, OS62, OS75, V81, S82, S85, S92, S93, OS94	Other – comments (8 responses):	
	How will this be reviewed on a Council basis? Is there going to be a matrix to help Council departments make decisions about what should go ahead depending on its impacts to climate? Are there plans for Council to buy a Bio-Char machine to get carbon back into the soil? (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Information is provided on page 20 of the draft CAP on how it will be reviewed and progress reported on. Focus area 3 includes a strategy to 'investigate and support mitigation and adaptation opportunities that help to ... sequester carbon and optimise soil functionality ...'. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg biochar production) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.
	It is the Council's responsibility to enforce decisions made in the community's best interests. Please look after where we live (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	Stop trashing the residents of the rural part of Nillumbik we are more environmentally conscious than most employees of council (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	There are a number of statements made in the draft plan which are not attributed to anyone and are not facts that all would agree with (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Council accepts climate science.
	There is so much work the council needs to do in the Kinglake foothills with the removal of fallen trees and branches on road sides, tons of debris, dangerous dead trees over hanging roads need to go, pot holes and curb drainage all has to be fixed, council hasn't the time or money to get involved in climate (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	I would love to help support these initiatives, so encourage Council to reach out to residents to play an active part in communicating, advocating, leading by example. For example, petition all Eltham coffee shops to ban take away coffee cups and Woolies and Coles to do away with all single use plastic bags in store. As a Shire we can send a very strong message to big business (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i> O7.1 includes a strategy to 'support the community to avoid and reduce waste generation through discouraging single-use and promoting repair, reuse and recycling'; and a strategy to 'maximise source separation of waste...'. Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (reducing single use containers) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes in 'other comments' feedback	Officer response
	The Green Wedge has the potential to be renowned for regenerative agriculture, sustainable produce, environmental builds etc (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	Preserving and rebuilding natural environment as safe haven for wildlife is my personal priority (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	A further barrier is available Council financial resources. While Nillumbik's residents rank higher than the Melbourne average in socio-economic status, the shire's lack of industry and low level of population contribute to a low rate base and reduced funding available at the council level for major emissions reduction projects. So renewable energy initiatives need to be able to pay their way, or be able to access funding from higher levels of government(1);	<i>Noted - no change</i>
	Include more information in the Introduction about the need for a CAP. This needs to make reference to the 6th IPCC Report which points to a narrowing window in which to limit dangerous global temperature increases to as close to 1.5 degrees as possible. It should also contain mention of projections that indicate that Nillumbik's carbon budget (click on the preceding link for an explainer of carbon budgets) will be exhausted in 8.5 years, based on current trends (refer to Ironbark Sustainability's report on Science-Derived Targets for Nillumbik Shire). The climatic, environmental, financial, social, psychological and health consequences of failing to rapidly decarbonise should be spelt out in more detail to support the imperative to reduce emissions as rapidly as possible. Provide more detail about the planned actions. There is insufficient detail in the Plan to give confidence that the Plan's vision and targets will be delivered. While the Council has avoided mentioning specific initiatives in the Plan as these can change with time, we feel that the inclusion of some more detail can lend strength and weight to the document as a whole (1);	<p><i>Noted - case study text added</i></p> <p>The introduction includes information on why Council has a CAP. It minimises references to specific scientific reports as they are quickly replaced by updates, and instead includes a strong overarching statement in the first paragraph that the science is clear, climate change is occurring. Wording in the Focus Areas also provides some descriptions about climate change consequences.</p> <p>An annual implementation plan will be prepared and made publically available each year that will provide detail about actions.</p> <p>Case studies will be added within each of the eight focus areas of the CAP to provide some examples of implementation initiatives.</p>
	There will need to be a focus on disposable face masks and the litter they create. Need to cut the elastic sides to protect birds (1);	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>O7.1 includes a strategy to 'support the community to avoid and reduce waste generation through discouraging single-use and promoting repair, reuse and recycling'; and a strategy to 'maximise source separation of waste...'</p> <p>Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.</p>
	Would like to see practical proposals for encouraging the conversion to electric vehicles and renewable energy. As the Green Wedge Shire, Nillumbik can lead in these areas (1);	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>Focus Area 6 has a number of strategies focussed on reducing transport emissions and transitioning to a zero emissions fleet.</p> <p>Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.</p>

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes in 'other comments' feedback	Officer response
	Devastating bushfires are the most outwardly noticeable consequence of climate change in Nillumbik. The record number of hot, windy days and extreme temperatures are also affecting our health and safety. The more intense weather storms are causing the electrical grid to crash more often, and air conditioning to be lost. Hailstorms and windstorms have become more frequent and intense. This is not a one-off event (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Goal 2 of the CAP is to 'prepare for, respond and adapt to the risks and impacts of a changing climate on our community, environment, infrastructure and services' Goal 3 is to 'support our community to reduce their contributions to climate change and to adapt and be resilient to climate change risks and impacts'.
	Why are the rubbish bins coloured as they are? Was the graphic borrowed from somewhere that has different coloured bins from ours? And surely there should be 3 bins, red, green and yellow, with the "try not to buy materials that become waste" caption pointing to a SMALL red bin, and the "actively separating waste" caption pointing to the yellow one? The green one could be used for a caption yet to be invented (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i> The images used in the graphic are indicative
OS1, OS8, OS13, OS18, OS19, S86,	CAP content, goals, targets and indicators (6 responses):	
	Expansion of tree canopy in urban areas to counteract the decline of tree canopy and development of housing density. Provide incentives for tree planting on private land and introduce new strategies for tree plantings. Increasing overall tree canopy cover should be a focus of council (1);	<i>Noted - text amended</i> A new strategy has been added within objective 3.1 as follows "Investigate measures to establish and enhance urban tree canopy and help reduce urban heat".
	Develop a policy for council to divest from institutions that operate in or invest in fossil fuel companies and projects. The CAP should seek to address both investments and banking with authorised deposit banking institutions (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 1 includes an objective (O1.2) 'to consider climate impact in day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions'. An implementation initiative will be to review Council's investment policy to explore opportunities to divest from fossil fuels.
	Put pressure on the Federal Government to take meaningful action. At the very least, Nillumbik should be making a clear statement upwards first, as well as putting concrete actions into place. Goals - 1. All VicRoads barriers in Nillumbik Shire to be evaluated for suitability for pedestrian pathways by 202x. 2. All suitable VicRoads barriers to have environmentally sensitive pathways created behind them by 202y. 3. Establish Volunteer Group ('Friends of Nillumbik Road Reserves') to implement staged pathway creation, in consultation with local environmental and walking groups by 202x. Greater focus on supporting residents (home owners and renters) to retrofit energy efficient options and appliances in homes (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Advocacy for climate action by other levels of government is included within Focus Area 1 (O1.3). Focus Area 5 contains an objective 5.1 'To reduce / eliminate Nillumbik community carbon emissions from homes, businesses and buildings.' Focus Area 6 contains objective O6.2 is 'To improve public transport, vehicle-share, walking and cycling options'. Over the life of the CAP different initiatives to help achieve this will be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans and/or via the implementation of the proposed new Integrated Transport Strategy.
	Maintain green corridors and productive farmland. Invasive flora and fauna mitigation strategy (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 3 covers objectives and strategies to have a climate-resilient natural environment. Council also has a Green Wedge Management Plan, Invasive Species Management Plan and Biodiversity Strategy.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes in 'other comments' feedback	Officer response
	Genuinely work towards creating a landscape that is safer from major bushfires and doing something towards creating safer, well maintained roadsides. Genuine effort to reduce red and green tape and understand the differences between a suburban outlook and the requirements and needs of the rural community. Represent all ratepayers (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 2 contains an objective and strategy 'To support the community to be bushfire-prepared' and 'Work in partnership with the CFA and other stakeholders to support the Nillumbik community to prepare their property for a potential bushfire and to have a fire safety survival plan in place.' Council will continue to implement the Municipal Fire Management Plan, Nillumbik Bushfire Mitigation Strategy, Council bushland reserve bushfire management plans, and annual Bushfire Mitigation Works Program. Over the life of the CAP various initiatives will be developed and implemented which may respond to different community sectors depending on need.
	Council has a responsibility to lead by example yet is only responsible for 1% of local emissions. It seems that Council's best return on investment, if reduced emissions is the goal, is to concentrate on maximising what can be achieved by increasing collaboration with the community. If the community are keen to lead it makes sense to empower and inform them to better mitigate their own emissions. Understanding of the fiduciary risk to councils if they do not take action. This is important to the Council and to the residents so they can understand the risk of no or slow action (1)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Focus Area 2 recognises the importance of collaboration with the community, particularly objective 2.1 'To have an engaged community that is climate-action active.' with its associated strategies. The development of the Climate Action plan has been informed by an assessment of the physical risks which may result from a changing environment.
OS9, OS13, OS15, OS52, OS65	Unsupportive of the Plan: This is not important, it is beyond Council's role, focus on roads and rubbish (5 responses)	<i>Noted - no change</i>
V79, S82, S83, S84	CAP format and presentation (4 responses):	
	Add examples or case studies to help explain the strategies and make the document easier to read and understand (1);	<i>Noted - text updated</i> Case studies / implementation examples added
	Calculate and clearly present information, outline examples in the CAP, and enable rigorous and respectful conversation among the community (1);	<i>Noted - text updated</i> Case studies / implementation actions added
	The CAP must also describe significant commitment to resourcing proposed actions (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> The work of the CAP will be embedded into Council's business as usual. An implementation plan will be prepared annually and considered as part of Council's annual budget process. Key climate initiatives that will be focused on during that period to meet the goals and targets of the CAP will be specified. This is specified in the wording of the CAP.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes in 'other comments' feedback	Officer response
	Describe likely scenarios and consequences if action is not taken to signal context and urgency. Outline how the economy, environment, human health and more is likely to be impacted with and without appropriate action (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> The Introduction includes information on why Council has a CAP. It minimises references to specific scientific reports as they are quickly replaced by updates, and instead includes a strong overarching statement in the first paragraph that the science is clear, climate change is occurring. Wording in the Focus Areas also provides some description about climate change consequences.
	Differentiate between people living in more urban areas compared to more rural areas and outline what people living in urban areas can do (1);	<i>Noted - text updated</i> Text added within Focus Area 3 to make this clearer
	Set out targets as headline items during the introductory section; Either explain how Council will measure emissions reductions OR how Council will develop a system of measurement; Explain why data is contradictory as it occurs in a sequence of leading documents such as Climate Change Plans; Consider incorporating a biennial State of the Environment Report as part of the reporting process; Restructure and rename the Focus Areas to match those in Section 34 of the Climate Change Act (Vic 2017) and populate them with appropriate adaptation objectives and strategies. This includes separating built environment and service delivery groupings. Create a separate list of mitigation categories such as 'Corporate' and 'LGA', extend with subcategories and populate with mitigation objectives and strategies; Design and implement a campaign aimed at amending the Climate Change, Planning Environment and Local Government Acts to allow Victorian Councils to more effectively mitigate and adapt to predicted consequences of Global Heating (1)	<i>Noted - some text updates</i> Text has been amended. Targets are now specified in the Introduction. An existing strategy of objective 5.2 is to conduct annual corporate emissions accounting. Another is to implement and regularly review a staged Zero Emissions roadmap for Council operations. An annual update on the implementation of the CAP will be provided to Councillors and a summary will be placed on Council's website and in Council's Annual Report. It will track progress and outcomes within each of the focus areas and against indicators and targets. The structure of the CAP specifies which goal each objective will help to achieve and in so doing identifies which objectives relate to corporate mitigation, to corporate adaptation and to community mitigation/adaptation. Objective 1.3 includes a strategy to collaborate and advocate for broad and urgent climate action by all levels of government to reduce and respond to climate change.
S84, S85, S86, S97	CAP reporting and governance (4 responses): Climate Action by Council section could be extended and describe where we are on the journey based on actions listed in Nillumbik's 2010 climate plan. Discuss strengths and weaknesses of Council's implementation of that plan and its successor. Inform ratepayers where significant expenditure has been allocated, outcomes and whether past plans were implemented (1);	<i>Noted - no change</i> Examples of Council climate action already undertaken are provided in Appendix A. Electricity consumption measured against the targets of the previous Climate Change Action Plan has been reported on in Council's 2020-21 Annual Report along with examples of energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainability initiatives.

Feedback ID codes referencing theme	Themes in 'other comments' feedback	Officer response
	It is important that our achievements are measured. We suggest reporting annually on changed community behaviour across a variety of metrics via the annual resident survey such as owning electric cars, buying locally grown food, or growing their own, composting, using solar panels (1)	<p><i>Noted - text updated</i></p> <p>Data needs to be able to be feasibly collected. The suggested metrics were collected as a CAP 2020 baseline in a climate action specific survey (provided in Appendix A). This can be considered for repeating at a point during the life of the CAP.</p> <p>Council's annual resident/community survey has been able to accommodate three new broader climate action questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community satisfaction with Council's performance in delivering climate action leadership and initiatives. 2. Percentage of Nillumbik residents that have made changes to their home or lifestyle to help reduce climate change and its impacts. 3. Nillumbik resident rating of their household's ability to cope with climate related risks and impacts (such as fire, drought, extreme heat and heavy rainfall).
	Strengthen the Plan's governance framework (Section 5: CAP Implementation) by providing quarterly progress updates on implementation to the community (1):	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>Annual progress updates will be provided formally via the Council Annual Report. Updates on implementation initiatives will also be provided on Council's website as relevant.</p>
	Provide an annual update summary on the website and in Council's Annual Report (1)	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>This is already specified within Section 5.</p>
OS37, OS69	Declares a climate emergency action plan: Change the term 'acknowledges climate emergency action plan' to 'declares emergency action plan' (2 responses)	<p><i>Noted</i></p> <p>Councillor decision as to whether to change wording from acknowledge to declare.</p>

Themes from five verbal submissions at the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting 8 March 2022

Themes from Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting submissions 8 March 2022	Officer Response
Happy with climate emergency response (1)	<i>Noted</i>
Seeks the word Declaration (4)	Councillor decision as to whether to change wording from acknowledge to declare.
Seeking net zero emissions targets to be brought forward to 2030 for the community and 2025 for Council (2)	Councillor decision as to whether to change the net zero emissions targets. The work of the CAP will seek to reach net zero as quickly as possible and ahead of target.
Seeking more officer resources and budget to help implement the CAP (3)	<i>Noted - no change</i> Such matters will be considered by Council annually when assessing implementation priorities.
The CAP is the most important set of instructions that Council will ever give to Council officers (1)	<i>Noted</i>
Request for stronger climate emergency, threat and urgency language to be used in the CAP (1)	<i>Noted – no change</i> The CAP uses climate emergency and climate action language as well as the term climate change. It specifically commits to a 'climate emergency response' within its Acknowledgement of Climate Emergency. The term 'threat' is used in the introduction and has been added within Section 4 (We're taking the Climate Emergency seriously); and the term 'urgency' is used multiple times.
CAP needs more details (1)	<i>Noted – no change</i> Annual Implementation Plans will be prepared that detail the initiatives that will be implemented to help achieve the goals and targets of the CAP.
Green Wedge land use planning regulations should be reviewed within 3-5km of activity centres, to allow for smaller acreage to help manage fire (1)	<i>Noted – no change</i> Outside the scope of the CAP
More urban trees should be planted on private land (1)	<i>Noted - added strategy</i> A strategy has been added in O3.1 'to investigate measures to establish and enhance urban tree canopy and help reduce urban heat'. Over the life of the CAP different initiatives can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans to help enhance the urban tree canopy.
Need for improved footpaths and cycle paths (1)	<i>Noted – no change</i> O6.2 of the CAP is 'to improve public transport, vehicle-share, walking and cycling options'. Over the life of the CAP different initiatives such as these can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans and via the implementation of Council's new Integrated Transport Strategy once it has been completed.

Themes from Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting submissions 8 March 2022	Officer Response
Need for improved building thermal envelopes (1)	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>O5.1 includes a strategy to ' support the community to incorporate ESD principles in new developments and retrofits'.</p> <p>Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg thermal envelopes) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.</p>
Need to help educate the community (1)	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>O2.1 is 'to have an engaged community that is climate-action active'. A number of strategies support this objective, all aiming to help inform, inspire and support the community.</p> <p>Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg community education) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.</p>
Need for microgrids (1)	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p> <p>Focus area 5 seeks to achieve zero emissions energy use and microgrids are specified as an example of an area of opportunity.</p> <p>Over the life of the CAP, specific initiatives such as these (eg microgrids) can be explored and actioned via the annual CAP implementation plans.</p>
Need for regenerative farming (1)	<p><i>Noted - updated text</i></p> <p>O3.2 includes a strategy to encourage sustainable agriculture. This has been updated to also reference regenerative agriculture.</p>
On track for biological crisis / climate catastrophe (2)	<p><i>Noted - no change</i></p>

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Nillumbik Shire Council

Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Name

Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee

Introduction

The *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* recognises the significant role of councils in improving the health and wellbeing of people in their municipality and requires Council to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan within 12 months of a Council election on a four yearly cycle.

The *Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025* (the Plan) outlines Council's health and wellbeing priorities over the next four years as well as the strategies we will use to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the Nillumbik community.

The Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee provides a formal mechanism for Council to fulfill the requirements of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (the Act). The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (s26.2) specifies that a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan must:

- (a) include an examination of data about health status and health determinants in the municipal district;
- (b) identify goals and strategies based on available evidence for creating a local community in which people can achieve maximum health and wellbeing;
- (c) provide for the involvement of people in the local community in the development, implementation and evaluation of the public health and wellbeing plan;
- (d) specify how the Council will work in partnership with the Department and other agencies undertaking public health initiatives, projects and programs to accomplish the goals and strategies identified in the public health and wellbeing plan;
- (e) be consistent with—
 - (i) the Council Plan prepared under section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989; and



(ii) the municipal strategic statement prepared under section 12A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

The Advisory Committee is a forum for governance for the Plan and will allow council consultation with stakeholders via information sharing, partnership building and alignment with regional priorities in the development, implementation and evaluation of the Plan.

Aim

To be a collaborative governing body for the *Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025*, in which members provide knowledge, information and advice, whilst overseeing, planning and implementation to promote positive health and wellbeing outcomes for all Nillumbik Shire.

Objectives

- Contribute to the development of priorities, strategic goals and objectives throughout the development of the Plan to deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Provide feedback and advice to Council on the Plan development, implementation, evaluation and governance.
- Consider and provide advice to Council on its policies and plans that impact health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Consider and provide advice on Government initiatives, programs and reviews.
- Represent the views and needs of all diverse communities within Nillumbik.
- Assist Council to communicate, consult and engage effectively with the Nillumbik community.
- Strengthen partnerships with residents, community groups and services in Nillumbik.
- Ensure alignment with broader public health agendas in the region.
- Contribute to a cycle of continually evaluating and improving Nillumbik's Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.

Membership

The Advisory Committee membership will consist of up to Twenty members and will include representation from:

- Up to two representatives of the Nillumbik Shire Council (Councillors);
- Up to six individual community members;
- Up to twelve representatives of community groups or local agencies; State and/or Federal government departments or independent organisations as appointed by Nillumbik Shire Council.

All Advisory Committee positions are unpaid positions unless otherwise specified in the Terms of Reference.

Council Directorate

The Advisory Committee falls within Council's Community Services directorate and will be managed by Council's Community Partnerships department.

Meeting Frequency

The Advisory Committee will be held quarterly during the planning phase, then bi-annually during the implementation phase. Exceptional meetings can be called if necessary. One meeting per year may take the format of a health and wellbeing partnership forum to support the implementation and evaluation.

Endorsed by Council

These Terms of Reference were endorsed by Council on *[date to be confirmed]*.

Next Review Due

October 2025

Informal Meetings of Councillors and Conflicts of Interest

The Advisory Committee is considered an Informal Meeting of Councillors as defined in Clause 19 of Council's Governance Rule - Meeting Procedure.

An Informal Meeting of Councillors Record must be completed and sent to Council's Governance team as soon as possible at the completion of the meeting for inclusion in the Agenda for the next Council Meeting.

The Informal Meeting of Councillors Record must outline:

- the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending;
- the matters considered;
- any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor, Committee member or Council staff member; and
- whether an individual who has disclosed a conflict of interest leaves the meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting, including the matters discussed at the meeting must be tabled at the next convenient Council Meeting and recorded in the minutes of that Council Meeting.

Conflicts of Interest as defined by sections 126-131 of the *Local Government Act 2020*

Councillors, Committee members and Council staff are expected to understand the concept of conflicts of interest in the *Local Government Act 2020* and follow Council's procedure for disclosure in the Governance Rule – Decision-making.

Working groups

Working groups will be established as required to provide an opportunity for members to work collaboratively on specific issues and projects. Membership of the working groups will be open to Advisory Committee members and non-members. A working group member will be nominated to provide feedback at the Advisory Committee meetings.

Recruitment Process

Nominations for appointment of individual members shall be invited through local media and Council publications. Invitations will also be circulated through relevant Council Committees and networks. Representatives of key organisations will be recruited directly by Council staff members.

Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusiveness

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* commenced on 31 March 2021 and seeks to improve workplace gender equality in the Victorian public sector, universities and local councils.

Local councils are required to promote gender equality in policies, programs and services that impact the public. The committee will actively consider how community members of various ages, abilities, cultural and gender identities, sexual orientation, religions, locations and social economic backgrounds might access policies, programs or services differently and if there are any barriers which may hinder these groups from accessing these policies, programs or services.

Selection Criteria for Membership of Advisory Committees

Nominees for membership must be able to demonstrate:

- Qualification skills and expertise in a specific area – where necessary depending on the issue/project/topic.
- A strong understanding of the local community and its social, environmental and economic influences.
- Good knowledge and understanding of the local issues that are relevant to the subject matter.
- Endorsement by their own organisation. Individuals should provide two character referees as part of their application, unless they are a returning member.
- An ability to represent a broad range of views that reflect the diversity of the community.
- Current involvement in the community in the interest area that relates to the purpose of the Advisory Committee.
- Strong community networks and linkages.
- An ability to constructively participate in an advisory capacity.
- A willingness to contribute positively to meetings in a fair and unbiased manner.
- An ability to look beyond personal interests for the benefit of the community and residents in the Shire.
- An ability and willingness to encourage participation from and provide feedback to the community regarding an issue.
- A capacity to commit to the Advisory Committee for the required duration.
- A willingness to celebrate the success and achievements of the issue/s.

All Advisory Committee applications will be considered based on the Key Selection Criteria and Application.

Selection Panel to make recommendation of members on Advisory Committees

- Senior member of Council (CEO or Director/Executive Manager – or delegated Manager)
- Nominated Council staff member from the specific service area related to the issue

The following are examples of selection criteria relevant to the Committee's purpose that might be used in an expression of interest document.

An individual applicant may be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- Qualifications, skills and experience the person can bring to the Committee.
- Current knowledge of issues relevant to the aims and objectives listed in the Terms of Reference.

- Living, working or engaging in activities in Nillumbik Shire.
- Willingness to commit to a two-year term.
- Ability to represent a diversity of views and interests of the community.

Representatives of organisations may be selected on the basis of that organisation:

- Having involvement and providing services to Nillumbik residents who work within the service industry covered by the Advisory Committee.
- The nature of the service the organisation provides to Nillumbik residents.
- Having capacity to provide a consistent representative for a two-year term.
- The resources and expertise that the organisation can offer the Committee.

Terms of Appointment

- Appointments will be for a two year term.
- Council will appoint a Councillor to chair the meetings.
- Members completing a two year term may re-apply for a further two year term.
- The operations of the Committee will be reviewed annually by Council.
- Members are free to resign in writing from an Advisory Committee at any time. At which time, Council may initially approach one of the unsuccessful applicants or undertake a new expression of interest.

Meeting Frequency

- The Advisory Committee will meet for the frequency listed above.
- It is expected that each member attend a minimum of 60 per cent of all meetings unless reasons are provided to the Chairperson. No reasonable explanation will be denied.
- A member's term of appointment may cease if the member fails to attend three consecutive meetings without prior apology.
- A quorum at a meeting of the Advisory Committee will consist of at least half of the appointed members (excluding Council staff).

Role of Councillor

The role of the Councillor is:

- To act as Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.
- To be the link between Council and the Advisory Committee.
- To table issues and concerns to Council on behalf of the Advisory Committee.

Should the Chairperson be absent from the meeting, the Advisory Committee is to appoint a temporary Chairperson by a majority vote of those members present.

Observers

When observers are invited to attend Advisory Committee meetings, their role is to observe only unless called upon by the Chairperson to participate.

Executive Support

Council's nominated Department or team managing the Advisory Committee will provide executive support to the Advisory Committee.

Role of Committee members

- Commit to serving for two (2) years.
- Prepare for, attend and actively participate in meetings.
- Take an active role in communicating the views of residents and organisations to Council.
- Provide feedback to Council via the Council staff member assigned to convene the Committee.
- Keep the Committee informed of current and emerging developments, and issues and activities relevant to the Committee.
- Respond to requests for input into and/or feedback on Council activities, policies and reports.
- Seek approval from Council prior to making public statements, submissions or announcements or issuing correspondence (including emails) to external stakeholders on behalf of the Committee or Council.

Accountability and Extent of Authority

- All Advisory Committee members have an active role to provide feedback and advice to Council on issues relating to the aims and objectives of the Advisory Committee within the municipality.
- All Advisory Committee members participate in discussions at Advisory Committee meetings.

- All Advisory Committee members have an advisory role and do not hold any authority to make decisions or commitments on behalf of Council.

Monitoring and reporting

- The minutes of Advisory Committee meetings will be circulated to members via email for confirmation, and then placed on Council's Advisory Committee website for viewing.
- All Committee minutes will be presented to Council at the next available Council Meeting for noting.
- Recommendations and requests arising from Advisory Committee meetings will be presented to Councillors for consideration. Where this occurs, the request will require the majority support of the Advisory Committee members present. Responses to recommendations will be determined based on Council's legislative role, stated commitments in Council's policies and plans and budgetary processes.
- Unless the Council staff member managing the Advisory Committee holds the appropriate delegation from Council to act on formal advice provided by the Committee, that advice must be referred to Council for formal resolution to act. Where formal advice provided by the Advisory Committee cannot be acted on with the delegated power of Council staff, it must be referred to Council for formal resolution before being acted on.

Evaluation and Review

The Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and membership will be reviewed and evaluated every four years to align with the planning cycle or as required for any significant changes.

Support to participate in meetings

Council will provide reasonable support for members to participate in the meetings. This will be negotiated with the members as needed.

Induction and Orientation

An induction and orientation process will occur for all members at the beginning of the term of the Advisory Committee. This process will include:

- Briefing members on the expectations and requirements of membership of the Advisory Committee.
- Providing members with an overview of the advisory structures (including working groups and sub-committees) and decision making processes of Council.
- Introduction to the Council Plan and other relevant Council policies, strategies and plans.
- An overview of key issues relating to the aims and objectives of the Advisory Committee.

- Establishing clear objectives and priorities for the two-year term of the Committee.
- Reviewing Advisory Committee Policy and expectations of members at Advisory Committee meetings and each member signing a declaration to abide by the conduct obligations.
- Providing information to members to ensure their understanding of obligations relating to:
 - Conflicts of interest
 - Confidentiality
 - Privacy
 - Health and safety, equal opportunity, bullying and harassment
 - Child Safe Standards
 - Social Media Protocol

Confidentiality

Councillors and other members of Advisory Committees established by Council must not disclose information defined in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as “confidential information”.

Privacy

Councillors and committee members on advisory committees established by Council are subject to the requirements of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and Council’s Information Privacy Policy.

Breaches

Breaches of the Advisory Committee Policy or Terms of Reference will be dealt with under the Policy.

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Nillumbik Arts and Culture Strategy

2022 – 2026

DRAFT

Draft Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026

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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.

Statement from Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Corporation.

This is an ancient land with a rich and deep human history stretching back thousands of years. If you are not of Indigenous heritage, it is important to remember that you are here as guests on this land where the first people of Nillumbik, the *Wurundjeri Woi wurrung*, lived, loved, played, fished and farmed. Our knowledge of this place is as complete as anything that has been seen. It is important to us that our history and culture are preserved and presented properly in all parts of our Country. Arts and culture are one and the same for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.

Some of our Elders and representatives were asked about Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung arts and culture in Nillumbik and this is what they said:

Art is intrinsic to Wurundjeri culture and heritage and cannot be separated into different art forms. It is embedded in all parts of the Wurundjeri culture.

Every artwork tells its own story and is as important as culture or language.

Paintings are like a corroboree; connecting, bringing families together and they are intimately connected to the land.

Ceremony and ritual are very important – storytelling.

Art is all part of family and connection to country – this *is* Wurundjeri culture. Wurundjeri connect through artwork.

The story of Wurundjeri can be told through art.

Talk to people - explain what the land is about and how to look after it properly.

We have heard that the people of Nillumbik would like Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung arts and culture to be more visible and present in the area. We agree, Wurundjeri arts and culture should be part of everyday life and accessible to all. For us, retaining cultural heritage and sharing this knowledge with the communities living on, and visiting, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country is important.

Some of the places in the Nillumbik area we have been involved in are the Moor-rul viewing platform that looks over our ancestral lands and the Gawa Trail and Panton Hill Bushland Reserves trails, where people can learn about Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture. Some of our artists have also performed and presented their works in Nillumbik.

In the coming years, as well as helping to maintain these places, we are looking forward to being involved in the development of a number of projects. These projects will help us realise our aspirations for Country. These might include: telling our story through the panels at the Moor-rul Viewing Platform, extending the native grasslands at the Moor-rul Viewing Platform site (with our Narrap Unit), and creating more trails with signage and/or other interactive mediums to tell our stories. We would welcome spaces that invite people to stop and experience Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country. These could include artwork and sitting rocks that encourage connection to the land. They could also attract people to the area so they could learn more about Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country, culture and history in Nillumbik.

Authors: Aunty Gail Smith, Aunty Georgina Nicholson, Aunty Julianne Axford, Uncle Tony Garvey, Tarlina Gardiner, Ash Firebrace, Klara Hansen, Delta Freedman.

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Proposed Access, Equity and Inclusion

Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to creating a fair, equitable and inclusive community, where human rights are respected, participation is facilitated, barriers are reduced, and diversity is celebrated. We support the rights of all people regardless of age, gender, ability or background. We value the diverse and changing nature of our community and understand that some people and individuals experience more barriers than others.

We walk alongside our First Nations Elders, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, and broader communities of artists, partners and collaborators in our interconnected community.

Over the next four years, we will continue to engage with ideas and creativity, and champion diverse cultural practices for people living with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, LGBTQIA+ communities, and support local artists to develop and showcase their work.

Council statement

[Text to be added]

Introduction

[Short statement to be added]

[Communications: Infographic page – where venues are, where creative work happens. Supporting creative communities, arts and cultural facilities, heritage, creative places and spaces.]

Culture, arts, and heritage are integral to the health, prosperity and the vitality of our communities. They bring us together, help us enjoy our environment and to flourish personally. They foster creativity and innovation, provide employment and celebrate our unique heritage.

“The arts have the potential to bridge our worlds, harness the wisdom of our different views, engage our imagination to explore new ways of thinking and create experiences that can be shared by all people in our community”.
Creative Victoria.¹

Our Artistic and Cultural Heritage.

Council understands the importance of acknowledging and celebrating the Shire’s artistic and cultural heritage whilst embracing the next wave of contemporary arts and culture. Arts and culture is constantly evolving; a fluid and reflective means to explore and capture societal influences through time.

Nillumbik has long been renowned for, and continues to foster, its deep connections to the arts. Our cultural heritage begins with the first people of Nillumbik, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. This rich and enduring culture continues to inspire and educate us today.

Our artistic roots stem from the early 1900s, with the Heidelberg School artists who lived and painted locally; with Australia’s oldest artist commune, Montsalvat, founded in the 1930s; and with the unique ‘Eltham Style’ properties that showcase the earth building movement of the 1940s and continue today with award-winning contemporary mud-brick architecture.

¹ The Arts Ripple Effect: Valuing the Arts in Communities, Creative Victoria.

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The collaborative efforts of artists in and around Nillumbik has been significant with the establishment of artistic cooperatives, collaborative studios and public programs such as The Potters Cottage Co-operative, the Dunmoochin Artists Co-operative, the Baldessin Press & Studio and the Nillumbik Artists Open Studios program. The Shire also has a vibrant community-led festival scene.

Nillumbik has a strong history in literary arts that is supported today through the Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing. The Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Art similarly supports visual arts of all mediums and acquires new artworks that build on the legacy of the Nillumbik Shire Art Collection. In October of 2019, Council adopted a percent for art on major infrastructure development paving the way for a contemporary public art program that will continue to build on the impressive Public Art Collection across the Shire.

Nillumbik is committed to creativity. Activities offered by Council through its arts and culture programming add to the rich tapestry of opportunities for our community to engage with Nillumbik's arts and culture, past, present and future.

Building on this rich tradition, the depth and breadth of our programs and venues reflect our commitment to creativity in Nillumbik:

- The Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing is awarded every two years and builds on the Shire's strong tradition of supporting contemporary Australian writing.
- The Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Art is awarded every two years and is open to emerging and established artists working in any medium across Australia. The winning artworks become part of the Nillumbik Shire Art Collection.
- The Nillumbik Shire Art Collection includes works by historically significant local artists such as Walter Withers, Clifton Pugh and George Baldessin, as well as works by contemporary artists such as Peter Wegner, Dale Cox, Deborah Halpern and Jessie Imam.
- The Eltham Library Community Gallery is an important platform for emerging artists that provides entry into professional practice. The gallery space offers a diverse exhibition program that showcases both traditional forms of art-making and new methods of art production, along with themes and ideas that are relevant to our times.
- The Nillumbik Public Art Collection has major artworks integrated into public spaces, parks and public facilities around the Shire. It enables the community to engage with art as an everyday experience and creates a sense of place.
- Nillumbik Artist in Residence Program offers opportunities for local artists to explore their professional practice and engage with local community.
- Nillumbik Community Fund provides grants to support a range of initiatives to strengthen, enhance and benefit Nillumbik communities.
- The Nillumbik Heritage Guide has been created in collaboration with historic societies, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Nillumbik Reconciliation Group, Yarra Plenty Regional Library and dozens of other contributors. The guide showcases the rich history of Nillumbik.
- History and Heritage annual grants fund community programs and projects connected to our history and/or heritage.
- The Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee provides a formal mechanism for Council to consult with key stakeholders, seek specialist advice and enable community participation in the development, implementation and evaluation of Arts and Culture.

The arts and culture team at Nillumbik also connect with and refer to a range of external stakeholders who are important for the national and state development of arts, culture and creative industries, such as the Australia Council for the Arts; Creative Victoria and its major cultural policy Creative State; the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Victoria); the Public Records Office Victoria; Public Galleries Association of Victoria; the National Association of Visual Artists, and the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance.

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Development of the Strategy

Our Arts and Culture Strategy is a living document, a planning tool providing Council with a clear set of priorities for the enrichment of arts and culture facilities and programs across the Shire over the next four years.

Arts and Culture links directly to Council's four key themes, as follows:

Community and Connection

How arts and culture encourage inclusion and participation to support health and well-being and equitable access to services, programs events and initiatives.

Place and Space

How arts and culture can strengthen identity, reinforce local character, improve accessibility, encourage social connections and enjoyment, and respect for the environment.

Sustainable and Resilient

How arts and culture can contribute now and into the future to community adaptation to changing circumstances that affect our community: climate change; environmental sustainability; resilience and recovery; and supporting a vibrant economy.

Responsible and Accountable

How arts and culture can demonstrate strong leadership and strategic work for the community through the development, implementation and ongoing evaluation of this strategy.

Our strategy

- Acknowledges the centrality of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people to Nillumbik's arts and culture.
- Illustrates how arts and culture can sit alongside and impact on other public policy domains.
- Is based on community values and a diverse spread of community needs and aspirations.
- Is evidence based.
- Highlights the value of arts and cultural activities and the role they play in the Shire's rich culture.
- Tells the story of the potential and contribution of our creative community.
- Supports and empowers our creative community.
- Enriches the development and growth of our region through cultural and financial investment.
- Activates mechanisms for evaluation and measurement.
- Contributes to good governance and strong leadership in the Arts and Culture sector.

Methodology

In addition to Council's indicators for measuring success in quantitative terms, we work with the planning framework and measurable cultural outcomes developed by the Cultural Development Network (CDN).

This Framework was conceptualised in response to the needs identified through a 2013 Local Government survey that highlighted the lack of an agreed framework and informing principles in the development of Council Cultural Plans/Strategies. This research also demonstrated the need for a more systematic use of data and evidence with a greater focus on outcomes rather than inputs and activities.

It has been constructed in the context of key national and international policy agendas with particular reference to the United Cities and Local Government Policy Statement on Culture.

The framework recommends a planning process that is integrated with the rest of Council's planning activity. It is underpinned by six key principles: based on values, directed towards goals, focused on outcomes, informed by evidence, underpinned by a 'theory of change' and respondent to evaluation.

We will focus on measurable outcomes for each of our goals, always in the cultural domain, and include others in the social, economic, environmental and governance domains where relevant, to clearly identify how arts and culture impacts upon and integrates with other public policy domains.

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Using these outcomes helps us to assess what difference our work makes to those who receive it. We allow outcomes and evidence to guide our future activities, and activate mechanisms for evaluation and measurements.

Consultation

To discover what is most important to the community for arts and culture now and in the future, we conducted the most extensive consultation ever undertaken in Nillumbik for arts and cultural planning from December 2020 through to 31 July 2021. The consultation program included a comprehensive range of digital and in-person engagements. Digital engagements involved online surveys, online focus groups including targeted consultation with cultural and special interest groups, and individual feedback through emails and online meetings. In-person engagements comprised 23 pop-up roving performance engagements in public spaces, a 6 day interactive exhibition at the Eltham Community Library Gallery and in-person focus group discussions with performances.

2216 residents from all corners of Nillumbik participated in the engagement, and their histories, cultural journeys, personal experiences, hopes, dreams and visions for the future have been collated into a significant research and consultation document, the *What We Know: Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–26 Community Consultation Report*. It provides the strongest possible evidence base for the development of our Strategy.

The common key values that emerged from the community consultations form the basis of our strategy's goals and express the desired long term future for arts and culture in Nillumbik.

What we heard:

Collaborative, creative, forward thinking is how the Nillumbik community want to define our identity. We want to focus on telling our stories both old and new in daring and contemporary ways. We want to be more progressive and inclusive and less conventional.

We value our environment, our artistic heritage and our ability to work with community. New important things have emerged from our consultations: our interconnectedness, our desire to produce contemporary and challenging work, the value of our artists in a broader community context, and Nillumbik as a distinct and desirable cultural destination that celebrates diversity of cultural expression and artistic practice.

Three distinct themes emerged from analysis of the consultation documents, expressing the values and aspirations of the Nillumbik community. These, in alignment with the four themes of the Council plan, underpin the strategic plan and will inform all decisions regarding arts and culture:

Interconnectedness

Our distinctive feature and the foundation of our identity, intrinsic to the practice and sharing of the arts in Nillumbik. We use creative expression to foster connection and partnerships, build social capital and create a sense of belonging.

Creative Capital

We desire to establish Nillumbik as a creative destination one that nurtures the production of art and the wellbeing of creative practitioners and creative industries, where art is produced and people are inspired. We develop and grow our creative industries.

Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice

We ensure respectful representation of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture, cultures from other lands and LGBTQIA+ expression. We support the production of and engagement with contemporary work as well as unusual and non-mainstream art forms.

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Arts and Culture Goals

We have developed four goals underpinned by our planning framework and informed by the extensive consultation process for the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 and the strong themes that emerged from it, as outlined above.

Our Arts and Culture goals are clearly aligned to Council's themes, articulated in detail in each goal below, and aim for measurable outcomes across several policy domains that will be evaluated during the life of the strategy.

For all our goals, we are looking for cultural activities that:

- spark imagination and creativity encouraging creative expression;
- stimulate sensory experiences that are outside the everyday – joy, beauty, wonder;
- encourage creative thinking and deeper understanding;
- promote the value of diverse cultural life experiences in our community; and
- deepen the sense of belonging to shared histories and heritages.

Goal 1: An Interconnected and Creative Community

Aligns with Council Theme: Community and Connection

Community and Connection encourages inclusion and participation to support health and well-being and equitable access to services, programs events and initiatives. Arts and Culture can contribute to this theme in many ways.

We know that interconnectedness is a distinctive feature of our creative identity in Nillumbik; a bond between the creative community, our artistic heritage and natural environment. We use creative expression to foster connection and partnerships, to build creative and social capital and create a sense of belonging. We know that cultural activity plays a pivotal role in connecting communities and encourages inclusion to support health and wellbeing and can be a vehicle for recovery.

We will therefore:

- build an interconnected creative ecology through physical spaces for connection and creation;
- demonstrate the value of arts and culture in the community; and
- enhance connections with our heritage, and champion socially engaged practice.

We will look for cultural activities in the social domain that:

- empower our community, form bonds between people who share common interests;
- strengthen understanding between people of different social identities; and
- encourage a sense of self-worth when an individual's achievements are recognised by family, friends and people who are important to them.

What our community told us in relation to this goal:

- Create and co-locating infrastructure to enable creative practice.
- Stronger connection with Wurundjeri heritage and culture.
- More information about what's on.
- More support for under-represented art forms – writing, theatre, dance,
- Smaller townships feel under-served.
- More heritage information and support for historical societies.

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What we already know about an interconnected creative community:

- Connectedness to each other and community was classed as important or very important by 92% of respondents from the community online survey. ²
- 4 in 5 Australians agree that indigenous arts are an important part of Australia's culture. ³
- Interconnectedness is fostered by having physical spaces for creative people to meet and be inspired by new ideas and practices. ⁴
- Welcoming physical spaces with inclusive programs can increase participation from emerging creators. ⁵
- Involvement in arts can increase social connections, promote a sense of well-being and help to deal with anxiety and stress. ⁶
- Arts and cultural activity and engagement bring many direct and sometimes immediate benefits to society, also value to individuals and society by creating conditions for change, spaces for experimentation, risk-taking, reflection about personal community and societal challenges. ⁷
- Socially engaged practice describes art that is collaborative, often participatory and involves people as the medium or material of the work. ⁸
- Supporting people to come together and find a shared interest and purpose are key drivers of enhancing wellbeing. ⁹
- Arts provide opportunities for individuals and groups to generate civic pride and support communities to form a strong and distinct shared identity.
- Hubs can increase useful connections between local arts practitioners / organisations and local businesses. ¹⁰
- Libraries are places of cultural meaning and significance, gathering places, important for social outcomes, as incubators of creativity, as cultural connectors, as supporters of multiculturalism, and as nurturers of the spoken and written word.¹¹

² Participate Nillumbik Arts & Culture Online Survey. Nillumbik Shire Council, 2021.

³ Arts in Daily Life: Australian participation in the Arts, Australia Council for the Arts, 2014.

⁴ What We Know Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–26 Community Consultation Summary Report, Nillumbik Shire Council, 2021.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ The arts and creative industries in health promotion: An Evidence Check rapid review by the Sax Institute for The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, March 2020.

⁷ Understanding the value of arts and culture – The AHRC Cultural Value Project 2016 – Geoffrey Crossick and Patrycja Kazynska

⁸ <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/s/sociallyengaged-practice>.

⁹ Creative and Cultural Activities and Wellbeing in Later Life Age UK 2018
https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/reports-and-publications/reports-and-briefings/health--wellbeing/rb_apr18_creative_and_cultural_activities_wellbeing.pdf

¹⁰ Workspaces: Why People Thrive in Co-Working Spaces. Harvard Business Review, Gretchen Spreitzer, Peter Bacivice, Lyndon Garrett, September 2015.

¹¹ CREATIVE COMMUNITIES The cultural benefits of Victoria's public libraries Summary Report, State Library of Victoria.

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We currently support our community's interconnectedness through:

- Safe, best practice art spaces in venues for performance, exhibition and creation.
- Attracting local community and visitors to our creative spaces with contemporary programming, exhibitions and activities.
- Provision of post-COVID recovery programs.
- Provision of exhibition space.
- Commissions, engagements and employment of artists into programs.
- Arts and culture grant programs, events and festivals.

Considerations towards supporting an interconnected creative community:

- Creative space/s that includes studio and rehearsal space, exhibition and performance space.
- Inclusive creative participation across all townships.
- Prioritise support for under-represented art forms – live music, literature, and dance.
- Involve next generation of artists in repositioning artistic heritage for the future.
- Engage a wider audience with a shared experience of Country in partnership with local First Nations artists.
- Encourage collaboration with the library service as exhibition and events space.
- Art that addresses social issues.

[These quotes are intended to be slotted in to this goal in relevant spaces depending on the layout:]

“Nillumbik arts is a collective thing, it’s an atmosphere that runs through the whole place, and you can hook into that interconnectedness of it. That’s quite a powerful thing.” Grant, A. (2021). Arts & Culture Focus Group Consultation Report.

“Art connects us. It gives us a sense of shared identity. It helps us belong.” Bromley, E. and Mooney, L. (2021). Artbeat of Nillumbik at Eltham Library Community Gallery 19–24, January Artist Report.

“Creative networks date back through our artistic heritage and are embedded in the way creative practitioners live and work together in Nillumbik today.” Grant, A. (2021). Arts & Culture Focus Group Consultation Report.

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Goal 2: A Visible and Supported Creative Community

Aligns with Council Theme: Sustainable and Resilient

We know that if we nurture the support of our creative businesses and individual practitioners, we seed fertile soil for our creative community to grow and flourish. Our creative industries can make positive contributions to a vibrant local economy and cultural tourism.

We will therefore:

- encourage strong collaborative relationships between creators, Council, businesses and community organisations to build trust and elevate the reputation of the creative community in the non-cultural arena,
- support our creative practitioners with programs to enhance skills for growth
- celebrate Nillumbik as a creative centre through proactive promotion and marketing of our cultural programs and activities.

We will look for social outcomes that:

- empower our community, form bonds between people who share common interests;
- strengthen understanding between people of different social identities; and
- encourage a sense of self-worth when an individual's achievements are recognised by family, friends and people who are important to them.

We will look for economic outcomes that:

- increase knowledge and experience to inform creative practice leading to increased productivity and efficiency;
- develop skills to gain employment;
- increase economic wellbeing and resources to meet living costs; and
- support our local economy to gain direct and indirect benefit from cultural activities.

We will look for environmental outcomes that:

- enhance our value of the natural world,
- illuminate the meaning of our natural and built environments and how we interact with and value them; and
- increase a sense of responsibility to care for our environment.

What our community told us in relation to this theme:

- Better promoted and advertised activities, opportunities and events
- More Council visibility in the arts community.
- More live music and outdoor events.
- Help with business and marketing skills.
- More artist residency opportunities.
- Council facilities can be difficult to access and expensive to hire for creative outcomes.

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What we know about a visible and supported creative community:

- Talent and creativity are essential for a culturally ambitious vision of our future, so it is important to address how we value our creative community through support structures, protections and remunerations.¹²
- Creative industries make up an important economic sector.¹³
- Arts and culture activity can strengthen local businesses and attract visitors and new residents.¹⁴
- Artists can be supported through collaborations with non-cultural sectors.¹⁵
- Artist residencies inspire creativity and connection, nurture experimentation and new ideas and support research and development¹⁶
- The world of work in the future will require skills inherent in the creative community; empathy, creativity, collaboration and leadership.¹⁷

We currently support our creative community through:

- Arts and culture grant programs, events and festivals.
- Nationally recognised Art Prizes that offer local representation.
- Art, civic and public art collections of significance.
- Exhibition programs.
- A community representative committee.
- Commissions, engagements and employment of artists into programs.
- Dedicated public art and visual art commissions and acquisitions programs.
- COVID-19 recovery programs for the creative community.

Considerations towards a visible and supported creative community:

- A centralised digital online hub covering a calendar of cultural events in the Shire, a list of venues available for events, and a directory of creative practitioners and industries.
- Greater visibility of Council Arts and Cultural Development officers in the community.
- Prioritise cultural value over tourism and economic value in Council arts and culture language and communication.
- Artist residency programs in inspiring places
- Professional development programs for artists.
- Street fairs, festivals and events that showcase local artists, particularly musicians.

¹² Making Art Work: An Economic Study of Professional Artists in Australia, David Throsby and Katya Petetskaya, Australia Council for the Arts, 2017.

¹³ Creative State 2025. Creative Victoria 2021.

¹⁴ Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 Yarra City Council. Also see City of Melbourne Creative Strategy 2018-28 for discussion on arts and culture activates economy.

¹⁵ What We Know Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–26 Community Consultation SUMMARY REPORT, Nillumbik Shire Council 2021.

¹⁶ Conceptualising the value of artist residencies: A research agenda, Kim Lehman, John Moores University, Liverpool.

¹⁷ Making Art Work: An Economic Study of Professional Artists in Australia, David Throsby and Katya Petetskaya, Australia Council for the Arts, 2017.

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- A program designed for business owners on the benefits of working with creative practitioners.
- Encourage affordable pop-up spaces in vacant tenancies.
- Streamline Council venue hire processes.

Quotes:

“Artists’ skills and capabilities are considered to be among those least likely to be automated and increasingly sought in the workforces of the future. It is predicted that time spent engaging with people, solving strategic problems and thinking creatively will increase for all jobs. Accelerated change is likely to prioritise transferable skills, diverse perspectives, and lifelong learning for adapting skills and building new capabilities - all embodied in artists’ working lives and professional practice.” Making Art Work, Australia Council for the Arts 2017.

“We need to place front and centre our local talented professionals. We need to support this fragile industry with resources, information, facilitation, spaces and training.” Nillumbik Shire Council, Evaluation of Arts Recovery Industry Event (2021)

“It is becoming increasingly clear that creativity itself is an essential ingredient in a community’s prosperity.” Benefactor Group 2021, Building Creative Capital, Benefactor Group—Giving Institute, viewed 24 September 2021
<https://benefactorgroup.com/building-creative-capital/>.

Arts Recovery in response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the lives of our whole community, our nation and our world. Participating in and viewing art of all kinds during the pandemic has provided comfort and inspiration, connection and engagement in challenging and uncertain times. For many people, gaining access to art has never been easier, and has inspired many to explore their own creativity.

However, the creative industries are facing significant ongoing challenges as the impacts of the pandemic become clearer; the difficulties of sustaining practice has become apparent, particularly for disciplines that rely on live audiences, and under-employment is an issue for many creative practitioners. As Creative Victoria has said in their current strategy *Creative State 2025*: “New approaches and investments are required to ensure a timely recovery, to retain and develop our creative talent, to reactivate and reinforce our creative industries, and to reconnect and re-energise our communities”¹⁸

Arts recovery is front of mind in our strategy, The Nillumbik Community Pandemic Recovery Plan 2021-22 recognised that arts and culture will require a longer term recovery plan, and has made provision for opportunities to sustain/support local businesses, which will benefit our creative practitioners in the future.

Council led the way early in the pandemic by providing an immediate commission based employment program for artists, Art in the Time of COVID-19, which employed 163 creative professionals. This was followed by further support programs including the Nillumbik Artist in Own Residence Program, Arts and Culture Grants and the Local Arts Recovery Industry Report.

Council will make every effort to ensure that the findings of the *What We Know Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 Community Consultation Report* are supported so that local artists and creative businesses can return to pre-pandemic levels of activity, and beyond.

¹⁸ Creative State 2025. Placing creativity at the heart of Victoria’s recovery and prosperity. Creative Victoria, 2021.

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Goal 3: A Diverse and Resilient Creative Community

Aligns with Council Theme: Sustainable and Resilient.

Arts and culture can assist in ensuring our community remains sustainable and resilient, by supporting our First Nations people, encouraging diversity of people and practice, developing and supporting our creative industries to be adaptive and flexible.

We know that the community wants to learn from Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.

We need to ensure that our arts and culture spaces are welcoming for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people living with a disability, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and LGBTQIA+ communities.

We will therefore:

- collaborate with our Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Aboriginal Corporation and local First Nations people to share truth-telling stories with the wider community.
- recognise and support diversity,
- support emerging artists, and
- ensure that Nillumbik develops cultural longevity for the future.

We are looking for social outcomes that:

- empower our community, form bonds between people who share common interests;
- contribute to a sense of safety in the community;
- strengthen understanding between people of different social identities;
- enhance bonds between people who share common characteristics and interests; and
- encourage a sense of self-worth when an individual's achievements are recognised by family, friends and people who are important to them.

We are looking for environmental outcomes that:

- enhance our value of the natural world;
- illuminate the meaning of our natural and built environments and how we interact with and value them;
- increase our understanding of sustainability and the impact of environmental issues; and
- increase a sense of responsibility to care for our environment.

What the community told us in relation to this theme:

- Better visibility of Wurundjeri people, culture and truth-telling stories.
- More representation for multi-cultural communities.
- Inclusion and equality for LGBTQIA+
- A call for under-represented art forms such as theatre, dance, fashion, music and literature.
- Support the development of artists from under-represented art forms.
- Support needed for creative events in more intimate venues.
- Better support for writers.
- Children's art classes.
- Linkages between seniors and young people.

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What we know about a diverse and resilient community:

- Supporting new and emerging creators will ensure that Nillumbik has a succession plan and remains a cultural centre well into the future.¹⁹
- Introducing audiences to non-visual arts will create a more holistic experience of arts and culture in Nillumbik, elevating the presence and reputation of artists that lack a public platform and encouraging connection and greater cohesion.²⁰
- When indigenous and non-indigenous communities are brought together, it provides opportunities for people to reflect on their individual and shared experiences. This can reduce isolation and strengthen ties between the Aboriginal community and other cultural and social groups.
- Participation in the arts benefits indigenous communities, including improved physical and mental health and well-being; increased social inclusion and cohesion; some improvements in school retention and attitudes towards learning, increased connection to culture, improved social and cognitive skills.²¹
- Creating a safe place through arts activities, and building trust, enables participants to work through challenges and potential community and personal change without fear of retribution or stigma.²²
- Supporting and creating opportunities for young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds to meaningfully participate in community can build a strong sense of agency and belonging.²³

We currently support a diverse and resilient community through:

- Festivals and events, arts and culture grants.
- Recovery programs.
- Exhibition programs.
- A Community representative committee.
- Commissions, engagements and employment of artists into programs.
- Art, civic and public art collections of significance.

¹⁹ What We Know Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–26 Community Consultation SUMMARY REPORT, Nillumbik Shire Council 2021.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Supporting healthy communities through arts programs, Vicki-Anne Ware, Closing the Gap Clearinghouse 2014

²² Ibid

²³ Active Citizenship, Participation and Belonging, Centre for Multicultural Youth

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Considerations towards a diverse and resilient community:

- Partnerships with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung for outdoor cultural programs.
- Ensure major cultural art events have a traditional ceremony by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
- Greater diversity in commissioned and acquired work.
- Ensure diversity on our advisory panels.
- Specific arts and culture celebrations during NAIDOC Week.
- Acknowledge the importance of Kangaroo Ground to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung
- Celebrate literature.
- Safe and supportive space for LGBTQIA+ arts and cultural expression.
- Activate non-traditional spaces across the Shire.
- Support an open studio model for under-represented art forms.
- More art programs for young people.
- Mentorships for new generation artists.

Commitment from Nillumbik Shire Council to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Arts and Culture

Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to:

- Retaining and protecting Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural heritage and sharing this knowledge with the communities living on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung land.
- Recognising, supporting and acknowledging, that land and waterways are intrinsic to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture and that art is the expression of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture and identity.
- Creating opportunities for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people to tell their own stories.
- Having Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people supply any Woi-wurrung language that is to be used.
- Considering Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung artists when art is produced for places on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung land such as: permanent paintings and other imagery on site, sculpture, design and other permanent public artworks.

Quotes:

“Creative projects aimed at enriching a sense of community identity. can not only affirm the value of social and cultural diversity, but also allow for an assertion of the importance of community in an uncertain world.” Martin M & Smith P.(2009). “Governance and the Turn into Community: Putting Art at the Heart of Local Government.” ReGenerating Community Conference Papers. Melbourne

“Connectedness to others makes you feel like you belong. Promoting tolerance, accepting of difference, and a sense of belonging is important in our towns.” Nillumbik Shire Council: Our People Our Places Our Future Engagement Summary (2021)

“A desire to have more opportunities to learn about and/or celebrate indigenous history in the area, or to cultivate the kind of values that indigenous culture embraces.” Bromley, E. and Mooney, L. (2021). Artbeat of Nillumbik at Eltham Library Community Gallery 19–24 January Artist Report

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“I like that the strong presence of the arts, including diversity and originality in some of our public and private buildings, contributes to a sense of outside the mainstream.” Nillumbik Shire Council: Participate Nillumbik (2021)

Goal 4: A Distinctively Nillumbik Creative Community

Aligns with Council Themes: Place and Space

Place and Space is about strengthening identity, reinforcing character, improving accessibility, encouraging social connections and enjoyment, and respecting the environment.

In Arts and Culture, we want to establish Nillumbik as a creative destination with its own unique flavour, where inspiring art is produced and consumed, which sparks civic pride in our community. A place where we create a mutually supportive ecology between artists, Council and community.

We will therefore:

- celebrate and enhance local character,
- champion art in everyday life,
- encourage closer connections between Council and the creative community.

We are looking for social outcomes that:

- empower our community, form bonds between people who share common interests;
- strengthen understanding between people of different social identities; and
- encourage a sense of self-worth when an individual's achievements are recognised by family, friends and people who are important to them.

We are looking for environmental outcomes that:

- enhance our value of our natural world,
- illuminate the meaning of our natural and built environments and how we interact with and value them;
- increase our understanding of sustainability and the impact of environmental issues; and
- increase a sense of responsibility to care for our environment.

What the community told us in relation to this theme:

- Nillumbik to be recognised as a quintessential arts destination.
- Stronger connections between creative community and Council.
- Inclusion of artists in Council projects; integrate art into processes from the beginning.
- Increased visibility of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung.
- Make Nillumbik art, civic and public art collections more visible to everyone
- Better support for local art and history knowledge in Council.
- More inclusion of Council-run art and cultural activities and creative infrastructure development.
- Distinguish Nillumbik Shire as a cultural destination through more public art commissions.
- Create 'vibrant villages' theme.
- Support a sharing resource scheme, e.g., artists given felled trees to use in practice.
- More collaboration with local produce producers at art events.
- A Maker Space for art, craft and produce.
- Better quality events Shire wide.

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- Evaluation through community, social and cultural lens instead of purely economic.
- Connect new residents with the creative community via Welcome Packs.

What we know about a Distinctively Nillumbik Creative Community:

- Nillumbik is well placed to capitalise on its strong cultural heritage, local character and broad range of artistic practice to create a unique environment for cultural excellence.²⁴
- 'If creative capital is not a luxury but rather is vital to personal and community well-being, then the traditional method of consumption...needs to give way, to many more opportunities to produce and participate actively ... a will to take part, engage and leave a legacy'²⁵
- Creative place making and public art can encompass not only traditional methods of artmaking such as murals, music, sculpture, lighting, but also more general creative work, such as creatively engaging stakeholders and residents by using space in novel ways. It can also improve community safety by promoting empathy and understanding, influencing policy, providing employment, supporting well-being and advancing the quality of built environments.²⁶
- There is great value in incorporating local artists, their work and ideas into early stages of projects and developments, so that creativity is manifest throughout the life of a project from design and community engagement to activation and promotion²⁷.

We currently support a distinctively Nillumbik creative community through:

- Dedicated public art and visual art commission and acquisition programs.
- Art, civic and public art collections of significance.
- Commissions, engagements and employment of artists into programs.
- Attracting local community and visitors to our creative spaces with diverse programming, exhibitions and activities.
- Art and culture grants programs, events and festivals.
- Nationally recognised Art Prizes that offer local representation.
- Percent for Art scheme.

²⁴ What We Know Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–26 Community Consultation SUMMARY REPORT, Nillumbik Shire Council 2021.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Creative Placemaking, Ann Markusen, Anne Gadwa

²⁷ What We Know Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–26 Community Consultation SUMMARY REPORT, Nillumbik Shire Council 2021.

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Considerations towards a distinctly Nillumbik creative community:

- Embed this Strategy as a whole-of-Council document, so that the cultural domain is equally recognised with social, economic, environment and governance domains within all Council plans.
- Inclusion of artists in Council projects, Council meetings and events.
- Evaluate major Council projects through Cultural Impact Statements
- Placemaking that celebrates and enhances local character.
- Continue to work to the adopted public art policy and percent for art.
- Inclusion of First Nations artists in public art and as a defining character of Nillumbik.
- Resource sharing.
- Nillumbik Art Collection online.
- Quality events showcasing unique Nillumbik identity.
- Inclusion of produce growers and producers to events.
- Welcome new residents to creative Nillumbik.

Quotes:

“A desire for Nillumbik to be seen as a vibrant centre for the arts was very clear – as was ensuring that art and culture is visible to the community and visitors.” Bromley, E. and Mooney, L. (2021). Artbeat of Nillumbik at Eltham Library Community Gallery 19–24 January Artist Report

“A place that encourages the arts to flourish” Nillumbik Shire Council: Our People, Our Places, Our Future Survey Responses (2021, Share your big ideas)

“Recognition that Nillumbik is different to other areas and as such be protected ...” Nillumbik Shire Council: Our People, Our Places, Our Future Survey Responses (2021 Top 3 Things)

“A shire of vibrant villages” Nillumbik Shire Council: Our People, Our Places, Our Future Survey Responses (2021, Share your big ideas)

“Nillumbik is unique: our places have cultural, environmental and community importance”. Nillumbik Shire Council: Our People, Our Places, Our Future Survey Responses (2021, Our People Ideas)

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Implementation and Evaluation.

An Annual Implementation Plan will outline how Council will deliver activities that contribute to outcomes, with timeframes, areas of responsibility and any partners. An annual review and summary report will be shared with Councillors and key stakeholders.

The Arts and Culture Strategy includes evaluation consistently as part of the normal work process. Evaluation findings are used to inform future decision-making ongoing during the strategy.

The strategy will be evaluated for its efficacy and contribution to the operations of the Council. Assessing the success of the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 and improving its next iteration is essential to building the capability, increased productivity and value of cultural development activities to the Council.

In addition to Council's indicators for measuring success in quantitative terms, the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 will work with the planning framework and measurable cultural outcomes developed by the Cultural Development Network (CDN).

Draft Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026

Appendix 1: Cultural Development Network (CDN)

The Cultural Development Network has developed six essential steps that enable us to undertake outcome focussed planning and evaluation.

These essential steps are:

- Based on values
- Directed towards goals
- Focused on outcomes
- Informed by evidence
- Underpinned by a theory of change
- Respondent to evaluation

Based on values

The plan responds to the collective values of the community that underpin the strategy. Gained from existing documents and supplementary consultations to complete information or test assumptions. Values will be evident in the council's stated goals (vision, purpose, mission etc.).

Directed towards goals

The plan is directed towards goals, the desired long-term futures determined by the council and articulated in the Council's strategic plan. The existing six guiding principles of Councils are set to enable specific measurable achievement towards the goals.

Focussed on outcomes

The plan is focussed on outcomes, that is, the difference our work will make to those we are responsible to serve, rather than the activity undertaken to get there. Measurable outcomes help us determine whether objectives were met, and therefore addressing the goals.

Informed by evidence

The plan will articulate decisions informed by evidence. This includes practice knowledge, published research or data that provides information about the local context, the issues being identified that will help or hinder the way forward, and approaches to reaching the intended outcomes.

Underpinned by a theory of change

The plan uses a theory of change to assist and explain choices of activities. Theory of change is the reason why we do what we do. It can be represented by this short summary:

We are looking for . . . (this strategic objective), and we know . . . (this evidence), therefore, we will do . . . (these activities)

This section is where the previous four sections come together to form the 'plan' into strategic objectives which are unique to the organisation, given the context above.

Measurable Outcomes

The schema of measurable outcomes of cultural engagement is based on the premise that cultural products and activities do not hold intrinsic value in and of themselves. Value is generated or experienced as humans engage with the artwork or experience, with different individuals perceiving or receiving this value in different ways. Therefore, the outcomes are not assessing 'quality' or 'excellence' of the cultural experience, but the impact on the person who engages with it.

Evaluation

Evaluation will determine the effectiveness of this Arts and Culture Strategy. The evaluation process should occur at different times throughout the life of the strategy: from when it is just written; as it is being used; and as it reaches key thresholds.

Takso Outcomes Planning Platform is an option for planning, recording and evaluating the activities identified in the plan.

Takso is a new platform developed for the arts sector that until now has not had a consistent method for measuring the impact of its activities. The framework that underpins this strategy is also used at the activity level and every activity of Council can be recorded in a consistent method, contributing to a larger community of interest including other councils large and small, artists and producers, arts and cultural organisations

Draft Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026

Appendix 2: Document Review:

An analysis of relevant, pre-existing data and feedback from the following documents was undertaken in the development of this strategy:

Nillumbik Shire Council Plan 2021-2025

Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040.

What We Know: Arts and Culture Strategy Report 2022-26

Youth Strategy 2022-2026

Nillumbik Economic Development Strategy 2020-2030

Nillumbik Community Pandemic Recovery Plan

Nillumbik Shire Art Collection Policy

Nillumbik Shire Art Collection Curatorial Guidelines.

Nillumbik Shire Public Art Policy

Nillumbik Shire Public Art Implementation Guidelines.

Nillumbik Health and Well Being Plan 2021-2025.

Digital Nillumbik Heritage Guide.

What We Know

Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–26
Community Consultation

SUMMARY REPORT



ARTS AND
CULTURE


Nillumbik
The Green Wedge Shire



This is an ancient land with a rich and deep human history stretching back thousands of years. If you are not of Indigenous heritage, it is important to remember that you are here as guests on this land where the first people of Nillumbik, the *Wurundjeri Woiwurrung*, lived, loved, played, fished and farmed.

Our knowledge of this place is as complete as anything that has been seen. It is important to us that our history and culture are preserved and presented properly in all parts of our Country. Arts and culture are one and the same for Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people.

Axford, J. (Aunty) and Firebrace, A. and Freedman, D. and Gardiner, T. and Garvey, T. (Uncle) and Hansen, K. and Nicholson, G. (Aunty) and Smith, G. (Aunty), (2021). *Wurundjeri Text for Nillumbik Shire Arts & Cultural Strategy 2022-2026*. (RU071)



Image: Zebras by Born in a Taxi at St Andrews Market Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

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Cover image: Angelic—Living Statue by Kinetic Theatre, at Hurstbridge Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson



Image: Fantastic Flamingo by New Heights Circus at Eltham Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

Executive Summary

What We Know: Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–26 Community Consultation Summary Report presents key findings from the most extensive community engagement process ever undertaken by Council specifically for arts and culture planning; *Artbeat—a pulse check for Arts and Culture in Nillumbik Shire*. The Summary Report provides an evidence base for the development of an Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–2026.

Sixteen consultation documents, comprising raw data, imagery, summaries and reports were produced as a result of the consultation process. This Summary Report outlines the consultation documents and identifies and explores key themes present across them.

Three key themes emerged strongly that reflect the Nillumbik community's cultural values and expectations. In addition, six actionable sub-themes are identified that relate directly to the key themes. Evidence from the consultation documents is presented for each of the three identified themes and six sub-themes and demonstrate a connection to established community needs.

The community consultation program included a comprehensive range of digital and in-person engagements. Digital engagements involved online surveys, online community focus groups including targeted consultations with cultural and special interest groups, and individual feedback through emails and online meetings. In-person engagements comprised 23 pop-up roving performance engagements in public spaces, a six-day interactive exhibition at the Eltham Community Library Gallery and in-person focus group discussions with performances.

The Summary Report sits within the Cultural Development Network's Planning Framework, in particular the 'theory of change' which informs decisions about activities to undertake. The Summary Report provides evidence (what we know) that sits between the intended outcome (what we are looking for) and activity planning.

The data was analysed by extracting all views and insights concerning arts and culture from the documents and sorting into themes. Common elements across the themes were used to establish three overarching themes representative of predominant wants, aspirations and values expressed through the consultations. Evidence was collected across the consultation documents that support these themes and used to identify supporting sub-themes.

Art and culture is intrinsic to the identity of Nillumbik. The key themes identified in the consultation data are *Interconnectedness*, *Creative Capital*, and *Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice*. These themes are central to who we are as a community and serve as the foundation to inform all strategic decisions.

The most referenced theme in the consultation documents is *Interconnectedness*. The community of Nillumbik sees itself predominantly as a creative ecosystem. It is this unique creative ecosystem that not only exists currently, but has spanned decades and is the heart of Nillumbik's magic, drawing artists here continuously over the years.

Evidence in the consultation document illustrates the profound value the community places on our interconnectedness and how it is imperative we work to ensure that our creative networks grow and flourish. Everything we have and value about our culture hinges on this interconnectedness.

The theme of *Creative Capital* speaks to our desire to establish Nillumbik as a known cultural centre that nurtures artists and creative work that is daring and original.

Our desire to facilitate greater *Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice* expresses our aspiration to have our culture embedded in a contemporary, progressive and inclusive space.

Six sub-themes are drawn from evidence that support the key themes.

The complete summary of key themes and sub-themes are listed on page 9.

The consultation data detailed in this Report will be used in support of the development of an Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–2026. The evidence in this Report will also be used to ensure future arts and cultural activities are connected to an established community need.

Cultural Identity

Collaborative, Creative, Forward thinking is how the Nillumbik community want to define our identity. We want to focus on telling our stories both old and new in daring and contemporary ways. We want to be more progressive and inclusive and less conventional.

We value our environment, our artistic heritage and our ability to work with community, but new things have emerged as more important: our interconnectedness, our desire to produce contemporary and challenging work, and the development of Nillumbik into a desirable cultural destination.

All goals and activities outlined in the Strategy must be **meaningful, bring enjoyment or celebrate our identity** in some way in order to ensure alignment with the culture of Nillumbik.

Themes

1. Interconnectedness

Our interconnectedness is our distinctive feature and the foundation of our identity. It is intrinsic to the practice and sharing of the arts in Nillumbik. We use creative expression to foster connection and partnerships, build social capital and create a sense of belonging.

- 1.1 Physical spaces for connection and creation
- 1.2 Demonstrating the value of Arts and Culture in the community
- 1.3 Connecting to our heritage in engaging and contemporary ways

2. Creative capital

We desire to establish Nillumbik as a creative destination; one that nurtures the production of art and the wellbeing of creative practitioners and creative industries. We are not just a place where art is consumed, but where art is produced and people are inspired. We develop and grow our creative industries.

- 2.1 Celebration of the unique identity of Nillumbik
- 2.2 Promoting and supporting our artists and creative industries

3. Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice

We ensure respectful representation of Wurundjeri culture, cultures from other lands and LGBTQIA+ expression. We support the production of and engagement with contemporary work as well as unusual and non-mainstream art forms.

- 3.1 Share creative skills, understanding and a sense of delight



Image: Naughty Artist and Policeperson by Stiltwalkers Australia at Diamond Creek Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

Background

ARTBEAT

A pulse check for Arts & Culture in Nillumbik Shire

From 1 December 2020 through to 31 July 2021, Council undertook extensive community consultation to inform the development of the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–2026.

This report details what Council has learned through this process about what community want from its Arts and Culture service.

Residents from all corners of Nillumbik contributed to the creation of the *What We Know: Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–26 Community Consultation Summary Report*: numbering 2216 in total. Council developed a Community Engagement Plan that focused on putting community first in the development of its next Arts and Culture Strategy. This is the largest engagement process ever undertaken by Council specifically for its arts and culture planning.

Council understands that behind the themes that have emerged in this report are the Nillumbik people—their histories, cultural journeys, personal experiences, hopes, dreams, and visions of the future.

Following the community consultation, Council collated sixteen consultation data documents and reports into this *What We Know—Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–26 Community Consultation Summary Report*.

How to read this Summary Report

Three definitive themes emerged from analysis of the sixteen consultation documents. These three themes and six sub-themes are explored in depth in this Summary Report, with excerpts from the consultation documents serving as evidence for each of the themes.

The three themes and six sub-themes are summarised on page 9 of this Summary Report.

The Methodology explains the process and framework used to establish the themes from the consultations.

The themes and sub-themes are organised with explanations and evidence in the Results and Findings section pp. 24–29. This gives the most complete overview of the findings.

Extensive evidence and expanded notes on the sub-themes are explored in the Appendix section. This section can be used to guide planning and delivery of Art and Culture activities.

The six sub-themes are used to understand the desired long term future for arts and culture in Nillumbik; all activities and resource allocation should align to these. The three overarching themes express the values and aspirations of the Nillumbik community and can be used to underpin the strategic plan and inform all strategic decisions regarding arts and culture.

Image: *Angelic—Living Statue* by Kinetic Theatre, at Hurstbridge Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson





Image: Perky And Fiddle by Kinetic Theatre at Edendale Community Environment Farm Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

Methodology

Methodology

What We Know: Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–26 Community Consultation Summary Report reviews and evaluates sixteen consultation documents. These documents make up a collection of reports and raw data produced from the extensive community consultation program; *Artbeat—a pulse check for Arts and Culture in Nillumbik Shire*.

The consultation program heard 2216 distinct voices across a wide and diversified field, including Wurundjeri voices, the voices of different cultures, from people of various ages and various interests. Two of the consultations were general in nature and engaged the general public, four focused on people with an interest in the arts, some on special interest groups such as Historical Societies, and three consultations specifically engaged creative practitioners working and living in Nillumbik.

The Summary Report identifies emerging themes from reports and raw data produced from the consultation program, and explores the evidence across the consultation documents that support these themes.

Framework for Cultural Development Planning

The analysis was undertaken with regular referral to the Cultural Development Network’s *Framework for Cultural Development Planning*.

This Framework was conceptualised in response to the needs identified through a 2013 Local Government survey that highlighted the lack of an agreed framework and informing principles in the development of Council Cultural Plans/Strategies. This research also demonstrated the need for a more systematic use of data and evidence with a greater focus on outcomes rather than inputs and activities.

The Framework has been constructed in the context of key national and international policy agendas with particular reference to the United Nations United Cities and Local Government Committee’s Policy Statement on Culture.

The Framework recommends a planning process that is integrated with the rest of Council’s planning activity. It is underpinned by six key principles: based on values, directed towards goals, focused on outcomes, informed by evidence, underpinned by a ‘theory of change’ and respondent to evaluation.

The Framework contends the ‘theory of change’ concept is a requirement in effective planning to assist and explain choices of activities, informed by evidence. A theory of change can be summarised as a three-step logical argument for making decisions about activities to undertake:

- We are looking for (intended outcome)...
- And we know (evidence)...
- Therefore, we will do (this activity)...

The consultation data detailed in this Report will be used in support of the development of an Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 in line with the Cultural Development Network’s Planning Framework, including utilisation of the ‘theory of change’. This Report data will also be used in informing the development and delivery of local Arts and Culture activity at a program level to ensure connection to an established community need and alignment to existing Council strategic direction.

Consultation Program

The extensive community consultation encompassed both digital and in-person engagements that included:

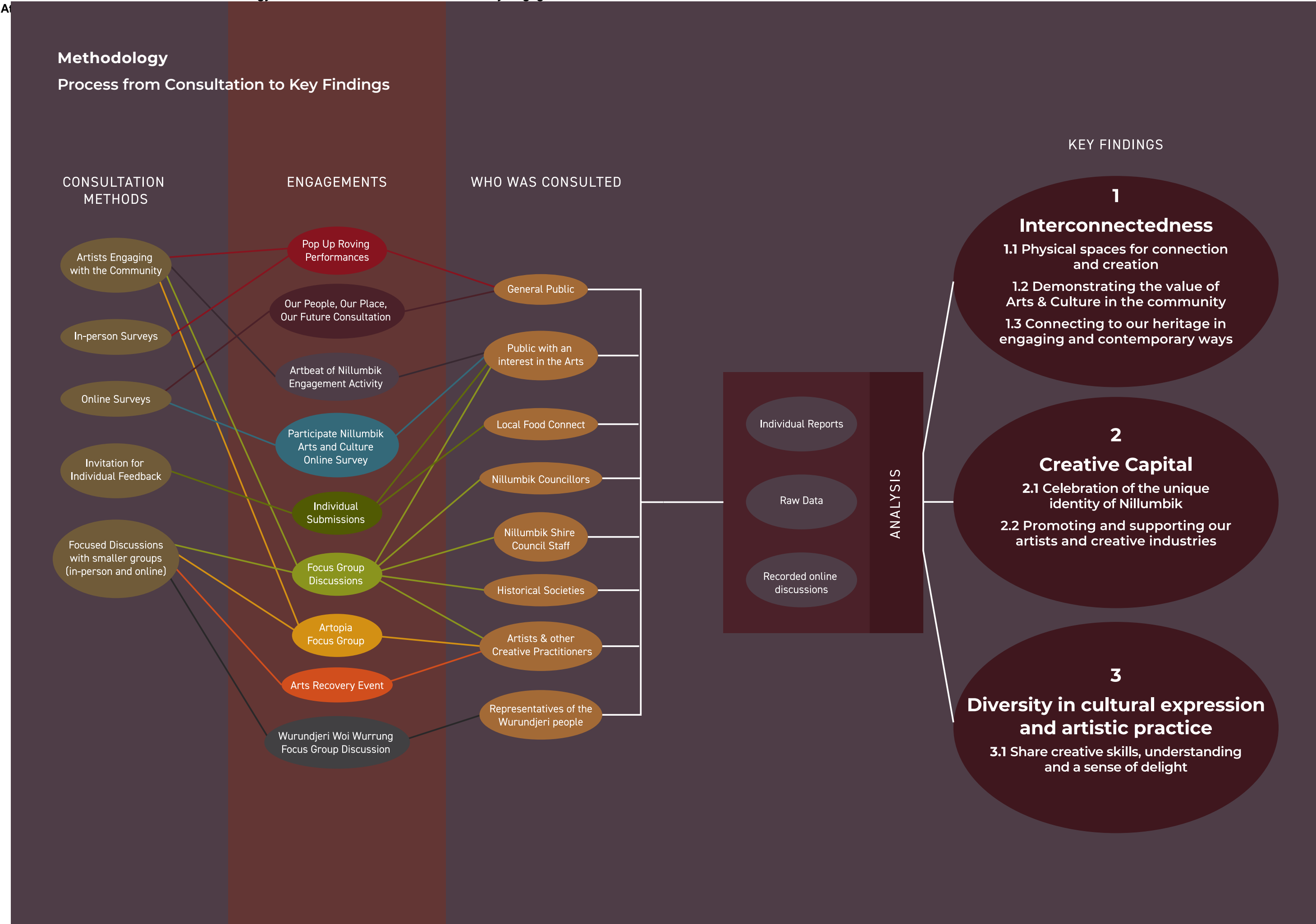
- A 6-day interactive exhibition at the Eltham Library Community Gallery. *Artbeat of Nillumbik* was an artist-led community engagement activity ahead of the formal community consultation process. The exhibition featured installations which enabled the artists to creatively engage community members. Ideas were also recorded via a canvas collage, a large map, conversations, collection boxes, and a project-specific email.
- 23 pop-up roving performance engagements across the municipality. Delivered by specialist performance artists, these acts featured a range of wacky characters including Marquisa D’or and Angelic Living Statues, naughty gnomes Perky & Fiddle, Stiltwalkers, Zebras, and the Fantastic Flamingo. The locations for these performances were in everyday places such as markets, walking trails, parks, leisure centres, shopping precincts, sporting ovals, township streets, and local schools. Conversations centred on different questions about what people *enjoy and/or value about arts and culture in Nillumbik and what may be missing*.
- An online survey exploring all things arts and culture ran on *Participate Nillumbik*. A successful campaign to complete the survey was run and also incorporated QR code technology.
- Individual feedback was invited and received via email, zoom, or telephone.

- Community focus groups facilitated by an independent local creative consultant. Each session was opened by a live performance or art activity by a local musician or artist. A mix of community members, local artists and community group members were represented in each of these sessions. Separate specialist focus groups were held with Nillumbik Councilors, local history groups, the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group, and Council staff. In addition, a separate Ask the Artist focus group was held specifically for local artists.
- A targeted consultation with Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation was held to ensure that our First Nations voice is clearly represented.

Themes

Based on an in-depth analysis of the consultation documents, three themes were identified that accurately reflect the Nillumbik community’s values and expectations for arts and culture, and can potentially underpin all future cultural activities in Nillumbik. In addition, the Report lists six actionable sub-themes that relate directly to the overarching themes.

Each theme and sub-theme reflects the aspirations of the Nillumbik community and are supported by direct evidence from the consultation documents.



Consultation Data Documents

What We Know: Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–26 Community Consultation Summary Report is an analysis of the findings and raw data from 16 consultation documents from 9 engagements.

Consultations have been undertaken across the whole community. The majority of the consultation documents encompass the voices of the general Nillumbik community; most of whom are the audience and enthusiasts of the arts. Care has been taken to ensure that the voices of our artists are well represented, particularly through the focus group discussions, Artopia and in the Arts Recovery Report.

The following is a summary of the consultation engagements and of the resulting consultation documents referenced in this report:

1. Pop Up Outcomes – Arts and Culture Strategy Consultation

1353 voices

The consultation process involved pop up events with roving artists and performers at local markets to gather thoughts and ideas from the public. Questions the performers posed to the public covered what people saw as important in arts and culture, what they enjoy and value in Nillumbik, and what they think is missing. The data is in the form of short pieces of text, phrases or one or two sentences that sketch out ideas and opinions. The document's value is in capturing emerging themes across a large number of responses.

1. Nillumbik Shire Council. (2021). *Pop Up Outcomes—Arts and Culture Strategy Consultation—2021*. [Excel] Nillumbik Shire Council.

2. Participate Nillumbik Arts and Culture Online Survey

270 voices, 4 documents

Participate Nillumbik is Council's online community engagement site and serves to complement face-to-face engagement activities. The 'Artbeat' survey presented on this platform captured the voices of people with an interest in the arts, not just artists, but arts audience members, hobby artists and art enthusiasts, all of whom wanted to share their voice.

34.93% (80 respondents) identified as an artist or an arts organisation.

70.4% identified as established, mid-tier, emerging (36.4%) or hobby artists (34%).

The survey collected demographics and the public's opinions on what they like about arts and culture in Nillumbik and what could be done better. Answers ranged from single sentences to lengthy well-considered paragraphs.

2a. Nillumbik Shire Council. (2021). *Participate Nillumbik—Form Results Summary*. (ID-254). [pdf] Nillumbik Shire Council.

2b. Nillumbik Shire Council. (2021). *Participate Nillumbik—Overview Report*. (ID-254). [pdf] Nillumbik Shire Council.

2c. Nillumbik Shire Council. (2021). *Participate Nillumbik—Pre Survey Raw Data Visioner Exercise*. (ID-235). [Excel] Nillumbik Shire Council.

2d. Nillumbik Shire Council. (2021). *Participate Nillumbik—Survey Raw Data*. (ID-254). [Excel] Nillumbik Shire Council.

3. Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Data

6 voices, 3 documents

Consultation with Wurundjeri took the form of an online focus group discussion between Wurundjeri Elders, researchers and other representatives, and a Council Arts Officer and a creative facilitator. The discussion centered around Wurundjeri culture in Nillumbik and how this culture could be best represented and shared. The meeting resulted in a text piece, to be included in the new Arts and Culture Strategy introducing Wurundjeri culture and outlining what is important to Wurundjeri people, a statement of Commitment from Council to Wurundjeri, and a summary of the focus group meeting outlining what Wurundjeri see as priorities for Council.

3a. Axford, J. (Aunty) and Firebrace, A. and Freedman, D. and Gardiner, T. and Garvey, T. (Uncle) and Hansen, K. and Nicholson, G. (Aunty) and Smith, G. (Aunty). (2021). *Wurundjeri Text for Nillumbik Shire Arts & Cultural Strategy 2022–2026*. (RU071). [doc]

3b. Firebrace, A. and Gardiner, T. and Garvey, T. (Uncle) and Hansen, K. and Nicholson, G. (Aunty). (2021). *Commitment from Nillumbik Shire Council to Wurundjeri Woiwurrung*. [doc]

3c. Nillumbik Shire Council. (2021). *Reference Notes from the Arts and Culture Strategy Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Consultation—26 July 2021*. [pdf] Nillumbik Shire Council.

4. Our People, Our Place, Our Future Wider Council Consultation Data

295 voices included from larger document, 2 documents

The *Our People, Our Place, Our Future* engagement program captured views and priorities of the Nillumbik community in order to inform the development of key strategic planning documents across Council, not just Arts and Culture.

The online survey asked the community to identify what is important to them in relation to their wellbeing and their neighbourhood both now and into the future, as well as what areas Council should focus on in order to support the delivery of these priorities and aspirations.

Over 3400 people engaged with the consultation. Responses ranged from single sentences to long detailed paragraphs. As the questions were general in nature, only the responses that concerned arts and culture in Nillumbik were extracted to inform this report. A total of 295 were included in this report.

4a. Nillumbik Shire Council. (2021). *Our People, Our Place, Our Future—Survey Responses—Free Text Comments—April 2021*. [Excel] Nillumbik Shire Council.

4b. Nillumbik Shire Council. (2021). *Summary Report—Our People, Our Place, Our Future: Integrated Community Engagement*. [pdf] Nillumbik Shire Council.

5. Artbeat of Nillumbik ELCG Report

164 voices

Artbeat of Nillumbik was a six day artist-led community engagement activity held at Eltham Library Community Gallery. Through interactive installations and conversations, people were asked to examine the idea of an 'artbeat' of Nillumbik and what they most enjoy and value in arts and culture in Nillumbik. The responses were collated into a report and key themes were outlined.

5. Bromley, E. and Mooney, L. (2021). *Artbeat of Nillumbik at Eltham Library Community Gallery 19–24 January Artist Report*. [pdf]

6. Arts Recovery Report

34 voices

This consultation was an arts industry-only event which included filmmakers, art tutors, writers, event managers, theatre makers, ceramicists and other visual artists. The discussion covered the impact and challenges faced by the creative industries during the pandemic and what their support priorities are.

6. Nillumbik Shire Council. (2021). *Arts Recovery and the Pandemic; Evaluation of Arts Recovery Industry Event—11 March 2021*. [pdf] Nillumbik Shire Council.

7. Focus Group Discussions

72 voices

These ten facilitated focus group discussions were a deep dive into what community wants from its Arts and Cultural Strategy. The discussions explored the cultural identity of Nillumbik, what cultural elements are intrinsic to the production and the enjoyment of the arts, and what is needed to ensure the arts are sustained and thrive in Nillumbik.

The groups attending the discussions included local creative practitioners, creative and community leaders, members of the general public with an interest in the arts, Council staff both within and out of the Arts and Culture Department, Councillors, past Council staff and past Councillors.

The report document includes verbatim excerpts from the discussions and identifies emerging goals and areas of opportunity.

7. Grant, A. (2021). *Arts & Culture Focus Group Consultation Report*. [pdf]

8. Artopia Focus Group

20 voices

Artopia was a special online event/focus group exclusively for artists, arts workers and arts organisations of Nillumbik, run by independent local creative facilitators. Twenty attendees representing a diverse creative community discussed topics such as game-changing plans for the arts in Nillumbik, what success looks like as an artist, what is needed for an artistic practice to thrive, and how to create cultural value.

8. Maziarz, D. and Johnson, N. (2021). *Artopia Report*. [pdf] Ask the Artist.

9. Separate individual submissions

2 voices, 2 documents

- Written submission from *Local Food Connect* illustrating the importance of food and local producers to the culture of Nillumbik.
- Notes from discussion with Nillumbik resident with an interest in the arts.

9a. Chapple, C. (2021). *Local Food Connect Submission to Nillumbik Shire Council Arts & Culture Strategy 2022–26*. [pdf] Local Food Connect.

9b. Stock, A. (2021). *Notes from discussion RE Arts & Culture Strategy Community Consultation: with Robyn Burke*. [doc] Nillumbik Shire Council.

The consultation documents are cited extensively throughout the Summary Report and are individually referenced from page 100.



Image: Zebras by Born in a Taxi at St Andrews Market Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

Results & Findings

THEMES

1. Interconnectedness

Our interconnectedness is our distinctive feature and the foundation of our identity. Interconnectedness is intrinsic to the practice and sharing of the arts in Nillumbik. We use creative expression to foster connection and partnerships, build social capital and create a sense of belonging.

Interconnectedness particularly refers to connections of reciprocity; being part of a network or ecosystem; the idea that there is an underlying oneness, or shared identity in the exchange of knowledge, inspiration and empathy.

Nillumbik artists are particularly attuned to this intangible bond between each other, our artistic heritage and our natural environment. It is a source of reassurance and support as well as tremendous creativity. Connection to each other and community was classed it as important or very important by 92.6 % (238) of respondents from the *Participate Nillumbik Arts & Culture Online Survey*.

Interconnectedness is fostered by having physical spaces for creative people to encounter each other and to be inspired by new ideas and practices. Non-cultural players can tap into this interconnectedness by being invited into the spaces where creatives collaborate.

Interconnectedness can also be cultivated through communication; though embedding our creative practitioners in the life and activities of Council, and through Council having a visible physical presence in the creative community.

The theme of Interconnectedness is expressed through strategies and activities that foster connection and partnerships, build social capital and create a sense of belonging.

“Artists don’t just need spaces and training—we need a creative ecology—a system of interconnected social relationships present in community and beyond.” ¹

“Build a public museum or creative space that could showcase all types of art but also be a space that people can make art in and brings creative people together. Make the creativity more visible and accessible to all.” ²

“I would love to see more art and arts events dotted around the shire as I feel that they have been more focused around Eltham.” ³

“Interconnectedness is not only fundamental to our local identity, it is the vehicle by which artistic collaborations, new contemporary ideas, skill sharing, mentorships and creative inspiration are fostered. Our interconnectedness is the engine that fires our creative production.” ⁴

“Nillumbik arts is a collective thing, it’s an atmosphere that runs through the whole place, and you can hook into that interconnectedness of it. That’s quite a powerful thing.” ⁵

“I think the ‘artbeat’ of an area is really visible where the community comes into contact with the artists in places like gallery openings, local markets, workshops and classes. But it has to be open for everyone. Entry fees and high price tags prevent a number of people enjoying the scene.” ⁶

For additional supporting data please see *Appendix 1: Interconnectedness pp.34–59*

Interconnectedness: Sub-Themes

1.1 Physical spaces for connection and creation

Physical space in which to practice and share our art and culture is the most prominent and recurrent request from creative practitioners in Nillumbik. As well as functioning as places for the production of artwork, exhibitions and performance, dedicated creative spaces foster the valuable social, creative and business connections that artists and creative industries need to thrive.

Considerations

- Enhance creative output and a sense of connection through establishing a central creative hub/ precinct that includes studio and rehearsal spaces, performance and exhibition spaces and spaces to eat and socialise.
- Increase cultural activity and exposure to the arts through establishing physical spaces for performance and exhibitions in smaller townships.
- Expand the number of performance events, art workshops and studio spaces by making venues affordable for artists and cultural organisations.

1.2 Demonstrating the value of Arts & Culture in the community

Raising the profile of the arts in Nillumbik and strengthening relationships between Council and the creative community is a high priority. It is of particular importance that communication and promotion of the arts, including clear messaging around arts funding, is improved.

Considerations

- Strengthen trust and connection between the creative community and Council by ensuring Council Arts & Culture Officers are regularly visible and active in the community.
- Increase the perceived value of art and culture in the community by ensuring the language used, when talking about arts and culture, prioritises cultural value over tourism and economic value.
- Strengthen trust and connection between the creative community and Council by having transparent information concerning the Council arts budget readily available.
- Enhance awareness and value of culture throughout Council departments by evaluating major Council projects through Cultural Impact Statements.
- Increase respect for the arts as a vehicle for recovery and social cohesion throughout Council and the community through commissioning art that addresses social issues.
- Connect new residents to local art and culture by including the work of artists and information on arts heritage in welcome packs to new residents.

1.3 Connecting to our heritage in engaging and contemporary ways

Nillumbik’s rich heritage, from Wurundjeri culture to our more recent arts heritage and the rustic charm of our mudbrick architecture is beautifully celebrated through the arts. Contemporary re-imaginings of this heritage has the potential to engage a wider and younger audience.

Considerations

- Connect a wider audience to our artistic heritage by expressing it in a more engaging and contemporary way. This may include a re-imagining of the Heidelberg Artists Trail as one activity.
- Engage a wider audience with an understanding of Wurundjeri culture and develop a connection to Country by creating points of interest, and respite on established walking trails in consultation with Wurundjeri people.
- Connect a wider audience to the history of Nillumbik by connecting Historical Societies to volunteers and affordable spaces for research, archiving and digitising collections.

THEMES

2. Creative Capital

We desire to establish Nillumbik as a creative destination; one that nurtures the production of art and the wellbeing of creative practitioners and creative industries. We are not just a place where art is consumed, but where art is produced and people are inspired. We develop and grow our creative industries.

Becoming a destination that prizes creative capital is not just about being a preferred place to visit; it is also about creating a known and desirable centre for creative people to gather, socialise, work and live. Pride in a place that openly values creative capital on an equal footing as social equity, environmental responsibility and economic viability attracts artists and creative industries to the area and nurtures the artists that live and produce work here.

*“Creative Capital measures the assets that are readily available to advance the missions of artistic and cultural organisations: to create new works of enduring significance, present extraordinary exhibitions, produce grand performances, and inspire an ever-growing audience... It is becoming increasingly clear that creativity itself is an essential ingredient in a community’s prosperity.” **

*“If creative capital is not a luxury but rather is vital to personal and community well-being, then the traditional emphasis on consumption (e.g., attending, viewing, appreciating, and listening to what docents say) needs to give way to many more opportunities to produce and participate actively... a will to take part, engage, and leave a legacy.” ***

The theme of Creative Capital is expressed through strategies and activities that establish Nillumbik as a creative destination, facilitate the production of art, and nurture the social, mental, spiritual and financial wellbeing of creative practitioners and creative industries in Nillumbik.

“Nillumbik the Arts capital of Victoria.” 7

“Gallery spaces are seen as important, and a need was expressed for more gallery spaces or an arts centre: *Open Studios is a great opportunity for some artists but there are a lot of artists that live and work in Nillumbik and there is no space to show their work.*” 8

“Offer artist placements in community building and town planning projects in the design, roll out and evaluation stages.” 9

“Music festivals and live performance, buskers and musicians bringing public spaces alive.” 10

“A place that encourages the arts to flourish.” 11

“A desire for Nillumbik to be seen as a vibrant centre for the arts was very clear—as was ensuring that art and culture is visible to the community and visitors.” 12

“Within the whole Shire we lack a playhouse/arts area that will attract traveling artistic and performance artists... This could be combined with a regional gallery and museum concept.” 13

For additional supporting data please see Appendix 2: Creative Capital pp.60–87

* Benefactor Group 2021, *Building Creative Capital*, Benefactor Group—Giving Institute, viewed 24 September 2021 <<https://benefactorgroup.com/building-creative-capital/>>

** Brown, A. (2006). “An Architecture of Value.” *Grantmakers in the Arts Reader, Vol. 17, No. 1*; Tepper, S. J. and Ivey, W. (Eds.) (2007). *Engaging Art: The Next Great Revolution in America’s Cultural Life*. New York: Routledge

Creative Capital: Sub-Themes

2.1 Celebration of the unique identity of Nillumbik

The Nillumbik community would like to see Nillumbik’s reputation cultivated as a quintessential arts destination; a place that is inherently thought of when seeking creative stimulus and when designing a cultural itinerary for guests to Victoria.

Considerations

- Establish Nillumbik as a cultural destination by building a dedicated exhibition space to display significant works of mid-career and established artists.
- Increase the number and quality of theatrical performances held in Nillumbik by building a dedicated performance and rehearsal space, ideally with tiered seating for 70–100 audience members.
- Enhance creative stimulation and social interaction thorough running an arthouse cinema.
- Strengthen a sense of local connection and identity through creative placemaking projects that celebrate and enhance local character.
- Increase the frequency of engagement with the visual arts in everyday life and enrich the aesthetic environment through creating more public art projects.
- Enhance a sense of communal ownership of the Nillumbik Art Collection by sharing it online in an interesting and easily navigable form.
- Introduce a wider audience to arts and culture by including local produce and local producers at cultural events.
- Expand knowledge and appreciation of arts and culture in Nillumbik though local artists designing a cultural tour itinerary for Council members.

2.2 Promoting and supporting our artists and creative industries

There is a desire to develop Nillumbik as an incubator where influential artists work productively, emerging artists advance their practice, and creative industries naturally establish and proliferate.

Considerations

- Extend engagement with the arts thorough an online calendar of cultural events and a directory of local artists and creative industries.
- Increase arts and cultural events throughout the Shire by creating a comprehensive and clear online list of venues for hire.
- Strengthen cultural awareness and expression though regular inclusion of artists in Council projects, both in consulting and commissioning.
- Expand support of local artists by employing them to perform or speak regularly at Council events and meetings.
- Create a greater sense of joy and connection through unique festivals, street fairs and events that showcase the work of local artists, particularly musicians.
- Connect a wider audience to the work of local musicians and non-mainstream music by sponsoring them to play in large festivals, such as the Eltham Town Fair.
- Inspire creativity and build stronger connections to Nillumbik for artists though establishing artist residency programs in inspiring places.
- Increase the financial success and longevity of creative industries by expanding a professional development program for creatives to learn business and marketing skills.
- Strengthen connection within the creative community by establishing a mentoring program for emerging artists.
- Improve support of art production by sharing resources/byproducts across departments for artists to use in artwork, such as timber from felled trees.

THEMES

3. Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice

We ensure respectful representation of Wurundjeri culture, cultures from other lands and LGBTQIA+ expression. We support the production of and engagement with contemporary work and unusual and non-mainstream art forms.

There is a broad perception that we are not seeing Indigenous culture and we are not hearing multicultural voices expressed through the arts. People are curious about Wurundjeri culture and cultures from other lands and are frustrated by a lack of knowledge and representation in Nillumbik. In addition LGBTQIA+ spaces and creative expression is absent.

Further to this, there is a heavy focus on the visual arts; many art forms such as music, the performing arts, dance and literature, are under-represented and under supported in Nillumbik.

Respect and curiosity for non-mainstream or under-represented art forms, First Nations voices, multicultural voices and LGBTQIA+ voices gifts us all with a richer more connected cultural life.

The theme of Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice is expressed through strategies and activities that enable engagement with different cultures including Wurundjeri culture, engagement with contemporary work and with unusual and non-mainstream art forms and expressions.

“I think we need to be listening more to the diverse voices of the area as sometimes it feels like we are listening to the same voices over and over again.” ¹⁴

“There’s no places to go for other forms of art and culture. We have been very strongly focused in the visual arts and it is definitely one of our strengths, but I think it might be time to think of contemporary and different sorts of arts and culture as well.” ¹⁵

“Maintain our reputation as an inclusive, artistic and creative community.” ¹⁶

“Connectedness to others makes you feel like you belong. Promoting tolerance, acceptance of difference, and a sense of belonging is important in our towns.” ¹⁷

Art forms needing more support and visibility in Nillumbik: ¹⁸

dance

literature

theatre

socially engaged art

live music

public art

“Aboriginal education and acknowledgment. We have a very rich Aboriginal history and it is disappointing that we do not have more acknowledgment of the traditional owners of our land within Nillumbik. Having Elders available to educate the community and local schools is needed!” ¹⁹

“More indigenous and multicultural opportunities would enrich Nillumbik’s arts and culture.” ²⁰

“We need more multi-cultural activities—Persian, Somalian, and cultural classes: sewing, cooking, and talks.” ²¹

“More art activities for children. There was also a request for more art and culture activities for teenagers and for film, animation, gaming and sketching opportunities with youth tutors.” ²²

For additional supporting data please see **Appendix 3: Diversity in Cultural Expression and Artistic Practice** pp.88–99

Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice: Sub-themes

3.1 Share creative skills, understanding and a sense of delight

A diverse and accessible cultural education is vital to the creative life of Nillumbik, we value deeply the sharing of cultural and artistic heritage, knowledge, skills and inspiration.

Considerations

- Increase engagement with under-represented art forms, particularly music and performance art through supporting people to host creative events in intimate venues.
- Increase awareness of Nillumbik writers through literary festivals and events.
- Create more opportunities to engage with diverse art forms through a program based on Open Studios, but for non-visual art practitioners such as musicians, performers, writers and new media artists.
- Increase access to art from other cultures by including Wurundjeri art/artifacts and art from different cultures in the Nillumbik Art Collection.
- Establish multicultural representation and perspectives in Council projects by establishing a Multicultural Advisory Panel to inform all Council departments.
- Increase appreciation of Wurundjeri culture though an organised celebration of NAIDOC Week
- Greater creative stimulation through art programs for children and teenagers.
- Engage a wider audience with an understanding of Wurundjeri culture and facilitate the passing on of cultural knowledge by contracting Wurundjeri Elders to run bushwalks and storytelling sessions for the general public and young Wurundjeri people.
- Engage a wider audience with an understanding of Wurundjeri culture by establishing Kangaroo Ground Memorial Park as an information/storytelling space.

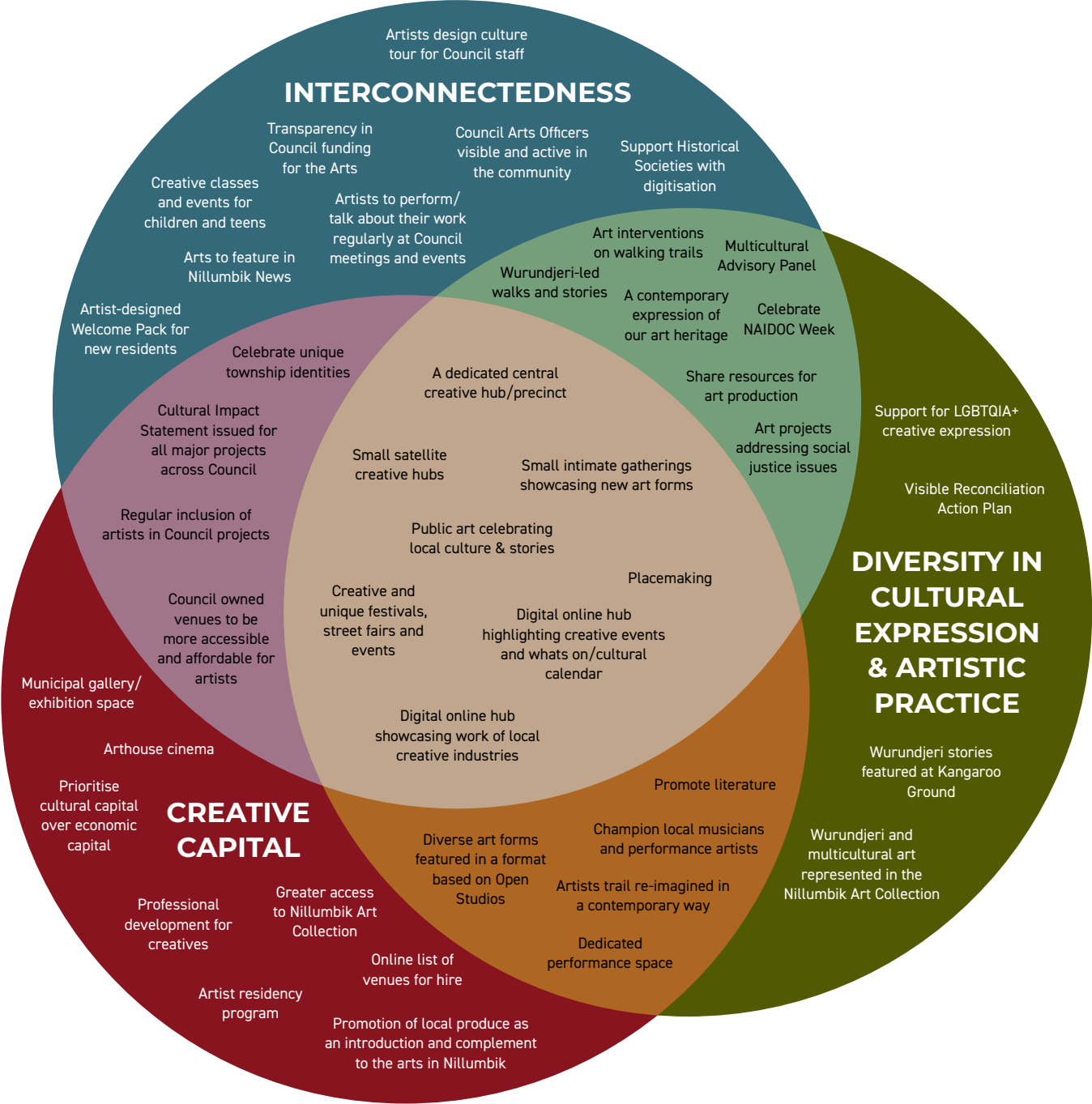
“We have heard that the people of Nillumbik would like Wurundjeri Woiwurrung arts and culture to be more visible and present in the area. We agree, Wurundjeri arts and culture should be part of everyday life and accessible to all.

For us, retaining cultural heritage and sharing this knowledge with the communities living on, and visiting, Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Country is important.” ²³

Voices of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people

“Involve Wurundjeri elders and younger members of Wurundjeri in projects/ programs involved in educating the community so that future elders can be mentored.” ²⁴

Voices of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people



Interconnectedness

Fostering connection and partnerships, building social capital and creating a sense of belonging.

Creative Capital

Establishing Nillumbik as a creative destination, facilitating the production of art and nurturing the wellbeing of creative practitioners and creative industries.

Diversity in Cultural Expression & Artistic Practice

Enabling engagement with different cultures including Wurundjeri culture, raising the profile of contemporary work and unusual and non-mainstream art forms.

Next Steps

What We Know: Arts and Culture Strategy 2022–26 Community Consultation Summary Report will be used to inform the development of the *Arts and Culture 2022-2026 Strategy* and will provide a local evidence reference guide for the development and delivery of arts and cultural activity within the Shire for the next five years.

The Summary Report identifies emerging themes with supporting evidence from documents produced from Council's extensive and comprehensive consultation program. Analysis of the consultation documents was undertaken with regular referral to the Cultural Development Network's Framework for Cultural Development Planning. The analysis identified three key themes as: *Interconnectedness, Creative Capital, and Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice.*

These themes are evidenced throughout the consultation documents as being central to the Nillumbik identity and as representative of community cultural aspirations. They are based on data drawn from extensive community consultation activities across a broad spectrum of the Nillumbik community.

These themes with supporting actionable sub-themes are:

- 1. Interconnectedness**
 - 1.1 Physical spaces for connection and creation
 - 1.2 Demonstrating the value of Arts and Culture in the community
 - 1.3 Connecting to our heritage in engaging and contemporary ways
- 2. Creative capital**
 - 2.1 Celebration of the unique identity of Nillumbik
 - 2.2 Promoting and supporting our artists and creative industries
- 3. Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice**
 - 3.1 Share creative skills, understanding and a sense of delight

To ensure alignment with the culture and aspirations of the Nillumbik community all strategy, goals and planned activities should embody the key findings of this Summary Report.

In addition to the key findings, a number of considerations appear throughout the consultations as a priority. These are considerations previously listed separately under sub-themes, but which are supported by a greater amount of evidence and have a more apparent sense of urgency in comparison to other requests from the community. These priority considerations are:

- A physical creative hub/precinct that includes studio and rehearsal space, exhibition space and performance space.
- A professional-level gallery space.
- Greater support for live music, theatre, dance, literature; particularly addressing the lack of performance venues and affordable rehearsal space.
- Addressing the inaccessibility of the Eltham Community and Reception Centre.
- Greater engagement with Council, particularly in commissioning artists in design and planning, performing at Council events, socially engaged art projects, public art projects and placemaking projects.
- Establishing a centralised online cultural information hub that includes a cultural calendar and details of local artists and creative industries.
- Greater visibility and connection to Wurundjeri culture.

The key findings from the consultation engagements and connecting evidence outlined in this Report will be used in support of the development of an Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 in line with the Cultural Development Network's Planning Framework and to ensure the connection of future arts and cultural activity to an established community need.



Image: *Fantastic Flamingo* by New Heights Circus at Eltham Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

Appendix

1. Interconnectedness

Nillumbik’s unique connectedness and networks are our fundamental cultural attribute. Strategies and activities that foster connection and partnerships, build social capital and create a sense of belonging support the theme of interconnectedness.

SUB-THEMES

- 1.1 Physical spaces for connection and creation
- 1.2 Demonstrating the value of Arts & Culture in the community
- 1.3 Connecting to our heritage in engaging and contemporary ways

Interconnectedness is a fundamental aspect of being an artist in Nillumbik.

“Creative networks date back throughout our artistic heritage and are embedded in the way creative practitioners live and work together in Nillumbik today.” ²⁵

“Although the environment and our artistic heritage are seen as significant aspects of our culture, they are not viewed in such a fundamental way as our interconnectedness. The Nillumbik magic is in our connected social fabric.” ²⁶

Interconnectedness fosters creative social capital, nurturing our artists and the quality of their work

“It’s those organic connections that really make a lot of the most interesting artistic intervention.” ²⁷

Interconnected artists create a sense of belonging for everyone

“Visual arts, music and culture are the heart of any community and as I said, has a unifying effect on the society.” ²⁸

“I love our huge range of local artists and writers, thinkers and makers. The sense of community support is wonderful.” ²⁹

“Art connects us. It gives us a sense of shared identity. It helps us belong.” ³⁰

“There is art throughout Nillumbik in the libraries, along the roadsides, in galleries, on fences and footpaths, virtually anywhere and everywhere. People embrace the opportunities to express themselves in many different ways and venues. It might be a special art installation or a piece of work created by a family at their front gate. Nillumbik art can take any form. Nillumbik art isn’t exclusive. It’s available for everyone through community hubs and classes. It’s a feeling that this is part of our culture and our way of celebrating and expressing ourselves and our precious place.” ³¹

Connection is important across the community spectrum, not just in the arts

Throughout all the consultations, the following terms were consistently used to describe what people value in Nillumbik, in both a cultural and non-cultural context:

- Community connectedness
- Connected community
- Social connection
- Sense of community

“The health and connectedness of communities can be measured by the presence of social capital. Social capital is the benefit obtained by having links that bind and connect people within and between groups. It can provide sources of resilience against poor health, and can help people find work or cope with hardship.” ³²

“Promoting social connections to prevent social isolation and improved mental health for our community” ³³

“Connectedness to others makes you feel like you belong. Promoting tolerance, acceptance of difference, and a sense of belonging is important in our towns.” ³⁴

“Nillumbik needs to look to its heart, its soul. Let’s restore and encourage the neighbourly connections, the welcoming attitude, the creative, constructive mindset of which we are so proud... If ‘*Womenjika*’ does mean something like ‘gathering for a united purpose’, let’s set that as our foundation and build upon it.” ³⁵

“More broadly, our residents consider community connectedness and social inclusion as very important as they are viewed as a way to build resilience, foster a sense of belonging, improve mental health and is key in preventing and reducing social isolation.” ³⁶

THEME: 1. Interconnectedness
SUB-THEME: 1.1 Physical Spaces for Connection and Creation

1.1 Physical Spaces for Connection and Creation

“Creative practitioners thrive when they can connect with and inspire each other. These relationships form organically, in spaces where people can linger. There is great value in creating physical environments that naturally facilitate these interactions.” ³⁷

The sheer number of requests for physical space in which to practice and share art reflects a great need, not only for cultivating the production of artwork, but to serve as an incubator for the valuable social, creative and business connections that can only be made in these spaces.

The consultation process made it clear that these spaces need to serve a number of roles:

- They must be informal; a place where people feel at home dropping in and spending long amounts of time; it is likely older buildings would work better than newly built structures.
- They must have areas that are adequate to produce work and show work: private studio spaces for visual artists, walls to hang work (not necessarily a formal gallery), rehearsal spaces for performing artists, space to perform music.

- People must feel comfortable socialising; this is where social connections are made, creative practitioners are inspired by one another, and the public learn about local artists and their projects.
- It is preferable to have food, comfortable seating and climate control available to foster a congenial social environment and a regular place to gather.

These spaces take the form of a central creative hub with a variety of offerings; which could include an exhibition space, a dedicated performance space and/or an arthouse cinema, private studios and rehearsal spaces and a cafe or restaurant. Smaller satellite creative hubs, that could be set up in cafes, wineries or halls, that reflect local town character and cultivate intimate settings for performance, artist talks or exhibitions. The use of existing venues can create affordable space for artists to produce and show their work.

Central Creative Hub/Precinct

Enhance creative output and a sense of connection through establishing a central creative hub/precinct that includes studio and rehearsal spaces, performance and exhibition spaces and spaces to eat and socialise.

Consistently, artists request a central creative hub or creative precinct where their work can be seen, they have space to produce work and they can connect with each other. This has also been repeatedly asked for by the general community who wish to see more art and performance in an accessible centralised location.

Although not everyone specifies a place, when an option is suggested it is invariably Eltham.

Such a centre serves to increase creative output and a sense of connection between the creative community and the wider community. In addition, a creative centre establishes Nillumbik as a place that nurtures the arts and encourages interactions with art and artists. Food, comfortable seating and a congenial atmosphere helps build social capital by providing space where people linger and creative networks are built.

27.4% (74 respondents) in the *Participate Nillumbik Arts & Culture Online Survey* specifically ask for more physical spaces for artists to make and show their work. 15.9% (43 respondents) specifically ask for exhibition space, 7.4% (20 respondents) ask for a dedicated performance space and 8.1% (22 respondents) ask for more live music and alternate music venues.

Central Creative Hub/Precinct

“We don't have an arts precinct. We don't have studio spaces and rehearsal spaces that people can readily access. I think that's a huge barrier and our artists are having to go outside the Shire to access those.” ³⁸

“We don't have an art centre anywhere near Nillumbik given we have so many artists here. That's a real shame.”³⁹

“I think there a whole lot of issues that are an anomaly to the reputation of Eltham as a strong artistic community. A space is just one of them.” ⁴⁰

“Establish a main physical creative hub to create community—pairing good food, good wine, comfortable seating with spaces for artists to make/rehearse and exhibit/perform work.” ⁴¹

“A main physical hub with:

- rehearsal space
- studio space
- good food, open late, cafe open for breakfast & lunch
- dedicated performance space, it does not have to be huge: optimally no more than 100 seats.
(see Theme 2 Creative Capital; 2.1 Celebration of the unique identity of Nillumbik p.65 for more on a dedicated performance space.)
- small gallery space
- comfortable chairs; a good place to read and meet friends
- preferably close to train line and walking distance from town centre.” ⁴²

“I would build an arts centre... a meeting place for artists with maybe a coffee bar and a bar that could host events. A place you can turn up to and have interesting artsy conversations.” ⁴³

“A main physical creative hub to build a creative community is highly desirable. It would need dedicated rehearsal spaces, studio space, cafe, bar, art on the walls, performances, good food & wine.” ⁴⁴

“Creating/fostering spaces for artistic expression, promoting connectedness for participants, ‘audience’ & community more generally” ⁴⁵

“There is a desire for an arts and cultural centre that includes an art gallery, cinema and art spaces for workshops for children, adults and young emerging artists.” ⁴⁶

“I would like to work in a studio and have community space to share work, ideas and cups of tea and chats.” ⁴⁷

“The Eltham Library Community Gallery exhibitions are well loved, as is the Artists Open Studios program, though some feel there is a need for opportunities for artists that don't fit into that program.” ⁴⁸

“Also a ‘arts hub’... that had excellent new artist studios that were for local artists and an artist in residence program to invite interstate, or international artists would be so good. Having dedicated ceramic, glass, printmaking hubs that delivered workshops, master classes and residency opportunities would be a great way to generate money back into the precinct. Please look at the success of Baldessin press and the excellent SOCA (School of Ceramic Arts) in Brunswick to see how successful a proper set up could reward the Council. This is needed to grow the community, to develop a more serious outlook, to be a dedicated art precinct to bring specialists together...” ⁴⁹

“Value and need more Public Art, Literature, Festivals, Theatre, Street Art. We need an Arts Centre.” ⁵⁰

“We have amazing spaces and talent but [need a] HUB to showcase art and performance.” ⁵¹

THEME: 1. Interconnectedness
SUB-THEME: 1.1 Physical Spaces for Connection and Creation

Responses from *Our People, Our Place, Our Future* wider Council consultation data that concern a desire for creative centre and places for greater social connection:

Top 3 Things

- Arts and Culture Hub

Short Term Focus Areas

- Provide more social connection opportunities
- Provide opportunities for social connection in rural areas
- Unify the community and create a “hub...

Long Term Focus Areas

- Encouragement of enterprises and organisations which support cultural activity and communal participation.
- Arts here feel like a private affair. I want a space to connect regularly with fellow artists in, perhaps a group studio space.
- Arts precinct development
- Establishing ourselves as a contemporary cultural centre
- Building our profile as an arts area.
- Arts and cultural heritage
- Complete the regional art gallery and performance space/town hall.
- Promotion of Nillumbik as a shire for the arts, heritage...
- Promotion and maintenance of the artistic community

What to do Long Term

- Create business opportunities, hubs and enterprises with local people.
- Build arts infrastructure.

Working with Council Long Term

- Contact current art groups and negotiate needs. But there needs to be a physical space for individuals to go

What 3 things need to change

- Gathering spaces for art/play/exercise
- Working towards establishing a community centre/ art gallery/cinema.
- Investing in social connectedness where communities can thrive and support each other
- Continue lobbying for arts/performance spaces.

Asset Plan Redirections

- Art should be a significant expenditure in the interests of supporting local practitioners and the reputation of the area as an arts precinct. This has in the past contributed to Eltham's appeal to cultural tourists.
- Eltham is supposed to be an artists' hub. There was a proposal for a new art gallery. What happened?
- The shire needs a community art gallery to showcase the wealth of local talent!

“Community art precinct, gallery spaces and artists studio spaces.” ⁵²

“Art space, play space, gathering space, incredible food and drinks...” ⁵³

“A creative hub that exists physically as well as digitally. A place that creatives can meet and share and is accessible to the public too. Encourage the whole community to take more ownership of the artists in the area.” ⁵⁴

“We moved to the area thinking it would be more actively arty but find there is no centre or place for people to meet and interact... A central place would help for the community to feel more united.” ⁵⁵

“As a new artist in the area, I’ve been trying to find other artists to socialise with.

I used to be part of a community group studio in the West which allowed me to get out of the house, encourage and inspire me to create because of the interactions with other artists. This was embellished with a monthly group exhibition which enriched our social lives and gave us an achievable deadline and an affordable entry fee since we had studios and it was free. Outside artists were also encouraged to show.

I would love to be part of an organisation like this again. Artist run with the help of the council, with subsidised rent and other programs. It wasn't elitist and it was very inclusive of different cultures and abilities.

Very grass roots, but I feel that’s where the real art is made.” ⁵⁶

“Somewhere for a young women of 20 to connect with other artists and a place to show their work.” ⁵⁷

“We need an Arts Centre, a gallery, theatre.” ⁵⁸

“I would open up an art space that was artist-run, funded by Council and businesses, open to everyone, inclusive of everyone. You could run workshops. An art space devoted to the arts in all its breadth and complexity.” ⁵⁹

“Central points to gather and create.” ⁶⁰

“A flexible arts hub venue that accommodates theatre, music, photograph, visual arts.” ⁶¹

“Develop arts facilities, venues, spaces, infrastructure.” ⁶²

“Community centre with better arts support.” ⁶³

“Community arts hub for live performances and other art forms.” ⁶⁴

“Not enough support for the arts community. My dream is to build a big community arts center on the site next to the library. With theaters, galleries, studios, restaurants... to provide an art home for U3A, all artists, and youth.” ⁶⁵

“Also school age kids could learn drama and art.” ⁶⁶

“Rent out studios and theatre space. Restaurants and coffee shops and galleries to sell our art and craft.. This would be a huge tourist attraction. Bringing money to Eltham. Education children and youth in art, and (u3a) aging population. Give Eltham back the “art voice” it used to have.” ⁶⁷

“Anywhere there is hot coffee, ordinary people will be empowered to do extraordinary things— everywhere!” ⁶⁸

“A lot of the art beat has disappeared even before Covid—Courthouse Poets, Volumes live readings and music, Ridge Cafe art exhibition space, The Lane art exhibition space, local book launches, local art exhibitions etc. We have no community art space and we should have one.” ⁶⁹

“I feel we need to preserve our galleries, theaters etc... and creative spaces for artists to come together to work, learn and share with the wider community.” ⁷⁰

“The use of more outdoor and indoor community spaces/ places, provide artist/creatives with a free platform to exhibit and collaborate, encouraging local residents to support, engage and build interest in local emerging and established creators.” ⁷¹

“It’s vital that we keep the spirit of the arts alive in Nillumbik with lots of artistic community spaces, exhibitions, grants, special showcases and teaching for beginners.” ⁷²

“The Rolling Stones jammed around the Montsalvat Pool. Do we have the environment for that to happen anymore?” ⁷³

“A place to feel safe and connected to other creative people. A place to display creative works.” ⁷⁴

“ARTS HUB! Food and alcohol and art.” ⁷⁵

“Venue for all to come together and enjoy the arts” ⁷⁶

“Community Art Centre to do classes and display.” ⁷⁷

THEME: 1. Interconnectedness
SUB-THEME: 1.1 Physical Spaces for Connection and Creation

There is particular interest in gallery space being part of the creative hub/precinct. Note, this gallery space differs in focus to a dedicated municipal gallery which will be discussed later.

“A purpose built art gallery for local artists to run and inhabit—with multi functional areas for learnings and exhibitions—a place where the art vitality of local painters (in particular) is revered respected utilised enjoyed and shared with others. It can either be built or re-purposed but needs to be a sacred space for artists.” 78

Eltham central needs a quirky art & pottery gallery to ‘meet the potters’ with cheese, wine, sell ceramics, pottery, paintings, sculptures. 79

“More display space for local artists” 80

“...gallery and performance space” 81

Although the following excerpts all offer the old Shire offices site as a solution, the important commonality is a desire for a centralised arts hub. The old Shire offices may not necessarily be the best site for this. It is important however to mention that any future use of this site has relevance to Nillumbik’s culture. Thought should be given to:

- the aesthetics: to match/complement the existing Burgess-designed Eltham Library
- that the site is in some way inclusive or representative of local creativity; For example if it becomes a hospital or medical centre, a gallery space and/or site specific public artworks could be commissioned.

“Build something attractive on the Old Shire Offices Site, preferably designed by the same architect that designed our award winning beautiful library. The site is too small and Main Rd is too crowded for a hospital. An art gallery, information Centre, maybe health centre.” 82

“Ensure Eltham’s Old Shire Office site is transformed into an Arts Hub (Gallery/Open Space/ Performance Areas) with a design to complement the library buildings.” 83

“We need to increase our focus on the culture of Eltham as a community of Art and Leisure activities. Using the vacant land of the old Eltham Shire offices as a Gallery/ Arts precinct should be a long term goal.” 84

“Ensure Eltham’s Old Shire Office Site responds to community requests. Preferably an arts centre to complement the library complex- great architecture!” 85

Something needs to be done with the old Eltham shire site. It is currently a waste. My suggestion would be in line of extending a structure in line with the library design to encompass and Arts/ Gallery precinct and perhaps an outdoor theater.” 86

- “An Art Gallery on the old shire office site. This would:
- provide local employment
 - provide a destination for out of area visitors
 - allow the community to view the art they own
 - provide flow on revenue to local traders
 - provide a stop off destination for visitors on the way to the Yarra Valley
 - support local artists
 - support local schools and their students” 87

- “Explore possibilities of:
- expanding the Eltham library gallery
 - including a gallery space and public art in the new hospital planned for the area. 88

“Performing arts and exhibitions are my favourite and we should definitely have more of that.” 89

THEME: 1. Interconnectedness
SUB-THEME: 1.1 Physical Spaces for Connection and Creation

Satellite Creative Hubs

Satellite Creative Hubs

Increase cultural activity and exposure to the arts through establishing physical spaces for performance and exhibitions in smaller townships.

Performing a similar function to a main central creative hub, satellite hubs create smaller places of creative and social connection across the Shire, and specifically celebrate the character of individual townships.

Such places can use non-traditional venues and will flourish as part of, or in close proximity to, existing cafés, halls, wineries; anywhere people can comfortably spend time. They may take the form of an outbuilding converted to an art workshop, studio or gallery space, or a café hosting small performances, music or special creative events.

The concept of satellite creative hubs is also explored in *Art programs in small intimate spaces* on page 91, looking at diverse art forms in underutilised spaces.

An increase in live music venues, particularly alternatives from pubs is a common request from the general public and satellite hubs could provide these alternative venues for local musicians.

Satellite hubs would require partnerships between existing businesses or hall committees and artists and would need assistance with management, legal/safety requirements and promotion.

The advantages of satellite creative hubs is that they engage people who might not travel to Eltham for an exhibition or performance. They can be activated within existing businesses and venues without building infrastructure and they strengthen social networks and connection to local places and character.

“The idea of a centralised space—it doesn’t have to be a giant big performing arts space—even a café or small venue—somewhere were people gather and somewhere that’s essentially the creative hub that the creative community knows, that’s the place where there’s live music on the weekend, there’s good wine and good coffee and there’s always local art on the walls and people come together to share and talk and get to know each other and there’s good food and a good vibe.” 90

“Social space makes for better connected and resilient communities. Spaces where people want to be are important; cafes or coffee carts in parks, walking trails that lead to a cultural centre and a place to eat, laneways with festoon lights and a bar, outdoor theatre, outdoor dining...” 91

“...places where people will feel comfortable. Host regular talks / exhibitions / performances: People find dedicated art spaces exclusive; ‘Do I belong, do I fit in? I don’t know what to wear. Can I be myself when I’m there?’” 92

“Create physical creative hubs from existing spaces or businesses to build community connections; use cafés, wine bars, wineries and support regular cultural events and exhibitions.” 93

“More opportunities for performance are needed in more casual environments. Bars, restaurants, pubs, we have so many in Eltham so there is obviously something blocking the encouragement of live music and performance.” 94

“Use underutilised spaces: “Old buildings for new ideas, new buildings for old ideas.” 95

“Residents enjoy a wide variety of recreational and cultural pursuits and have a strong sense of feeling part of their local community and townships.” 96

“Nillumbik townships to all share in having cultural and arts space so everyone has access and develops a sense of connection and young people are enabled to develop a love for the arts, both visual, creative art, music and theatre.” 97

“Small local events that were happening lots 5 years ago or so that don’t happen any more due to new owners in venues and little support or funding being available.” 98

A local creative centre is desired in many smaller communities in the Shire; in particular Arthurs Creek, Kangaroo Ground, Strathewen Yarrambat and Plenty residents feel left out of cultural life in Nillumbik.

Hurstbridge, Panton Hill and Diamond Creek residents also feel a lack of accessible creative spaces.

Arthurs Creek
“Arthurs Creek would really benefit from something to draw the community together. At the moment the only options are joining the hall committee or CFA.” 99

Kangaroo Ground
“...specifically in Kangaroo Ground there is no community hub where art/music groups can meet and connect (I believe years ago there was near the primary school?) and just drop by—I think this would help a positive sense of community in this specific area.” 100

“Use underutilised spaces such as Evelyn County and the Incident Control Centre both in Kangaroo Ground as rehearsal space, studio space or gallery space. Council is positioned to handle issues artists find difficult: access, parking, power, water, toilets. Council can assist in making spaces accessible and useful.” 101

Panton Hill
“Better use of the living and learning space at Panton Hill. Hardly anyone knows it’s even there let alone what’s on offer.” 102

Strathewen
“More community events for Strathewen at the local community hall. It’s never used and we’ve talked about cooking classes, gatherings, events for the kids, music” 103

Diamond Creek
“D/C [Diamond Creek] has expanded over past 40 years but the town hasn’t kept up artistically.” 104

Hurstbridge
“Revitalise Allwood House (it’s languishing in an under-utilised state).” 105

Yarrambat
“The community houses [Living & Learning centres] in Eltham, Diamond Creek and Panton Hills are a great meeting place and I wish we had something similar in Yarrambat.” 106



Image: Zebras by Born in a Taxi at St Andrews Market Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

THEME: 1. Interconnectedness
SUB-THEME: 1.1 Physical Spaces for Connection and Creation

Affordable Venues

Affordable Venues

Expand the number of performance events, art workshops and studio spaces by making venues affordable for artists and cultural organisations.

Many artists felt that a major barrier to performing and exhibiting, and connecting with each other and the wider community is lack of affordable spaces.

Underutilised spaces, particularly Council-owned space is a great frustration.

67.74% (21 respondents) in the Participate Nillumbik Arts & Culture Online Survey see in-kind support (subsidised facility hire etc) as significantly needed by the performing arts sector in Nillumbik.

“Access to spaces for art creation.”¹⁰⁷

“Council has venues and they’re not utilised by the community for a variety of reasons. Often they are multi-purpose rooms, so they’re not actually useful for different kinds of things. They’re also prohibitively expensive.”¹⁰⁸

“Already we have so many venues that are viable, good spaces to be utilised, but they’re largely inaccessible... finding ways to make them vibrant and available and running all sorts of interesting things for people as a consistent everyday process and how to bring that also to the awareness of the broader community.”¹⁰⁹

“It’s ridiculous that we can’t put on a concert because we can’t afford to and can’t even pay ourselves and have to charge too much just for the hire of the hall.”¹¹⁰

“There’s nowhere to rehearse, there’s nowhere to perform that’s not prohibitively expensive.”¹¹¹

“Dedicated comm arts space in every suburb. Affordable rates.”¹¹²

“Under-utilised spaces concern me and lack of opportunities for local arts professionals.”¹¹³

“Scouts halls, football clubs should be available to other groups to support community connectiveness.”¹¹⁴

“Needs:

- Affordable/low cost spaces for emerging artists to display artworks.
- A visible retail/exhibition/maker/workshop space and a living wage/funding.
- Exhibition space without severing an arm and leg to pay.
- Space to have workshops.
- Inspiration, networking, opportunities.”¹¹⁵

“Bring costs down for venue hire. E.g. Halls are too expensive for small performances. Performers need to charge \$60 a ticket to cover costs, whereas a reasonable price for a ticket should be \$15.”¹¹⁶

“Create more opportunities and support for struggling Artists and Musicians. Allow for free spaces that can be used for community based classes, given by members of the community as supportive interaction to those who need it.”¹¹⁷

“More support for artists, perhaps a studio space that could be rented cheaply...”¹¹⁸

Many people expressed a general desire for affordable community spaces, not specifically art spaces, but spaces for community groups to meet and people to connect socially.

“Community hubs more accessible for community activities. Currently, the local facilities are more costly than those in Melbourne CBD.”¹¹⁹

“Provide cheap meeting spaces both inside and outside for groups of varying sizes.”¹²⁰

Supporting community volunteers (like providing free venues) to have free cultural, leisure, sport, and other activity events.”¹²¹

“Free to low cost opportunities for people to socially connect, to be creative, physically active and social. Connecting people with their local community.”¹²²

“Support the idea that local clubs could share their facilities during any downtimes. This could be for meetings and social get-togethers or presentations.”¹²³

“Accessible venues. Hiring costs subsidising”¹²⁴

“Need for small spaces for people to meet e.g. community group committees.”¹²⁵

“Community halls provided free or cheap for community gatherings and activities.”¹²⁶

“More community spaces to hold meetings that are affordable (or not charged at all.)”¹²⁷

“Affordable and available community spaces.”¹²⁸

“Create more inclusive spaces for community groups to meet at no cost. Build community spaces and a library, spaces accessible for groups to meet at low cost or no cost. There isn’t community rooms for groups to meet at low cost. Not even Living and Learning centres. Look at other community venues and what are the barriers for community use, i.e. Eltham Community reception centre. How often are rooms hired, is cost a barrier for community groups? These venues are built for community use, yet cost may be prohibitive.”¹²⁹

Allow a community group to rent a building at subsidised rate so artists can access studio spaces at low costs.”¹³⁰

Strong opinions were expressed concerning the Eltham Community and Reception Centre

Attracting particular ire is the Eltham Community and Reception Centre which is seen as inaccessible and unaffordable. This venue is a potential solution to the lack of physical space in which to practice and share art and could serve as the creative hub the community is asking for. At the very least, the community asks for this venue to be significantly more affordable so if can be utilised by the creative community and community groups.

“Making the Eltham Community Centre into a centralised creative hub with café, bar, performance space, rehearsal space; areas for quiet focused work.”¹³¹

“The Eltham Community Centre is misnamed because it’s expensive to hire so therefore not accessible to the community and there aren’t many community events there.”¹³²

“The Eltham Community Centre sits vacant most of the time, why can’t community groups use this and host events without paying \$700! It is out of reach”¹³³

“Community centre—more community use.”¹³⁴

“It isn’t a community centre, it’s actually a commercial centre, isn’t it?”—about the Eltham Community & Reception Centre.¹³⁵

“I don’t understand why places like the Reception Centre charge so much. If it’s not going to be used, its not going to bring any money in.”¹³⁶

THEME: 1. Interconnectedness
SUB-THEME: 1.1 Physical Spaces for Connection and Creation

“Eltham Community Centre is far too expensive for community groups to consider using for events, much less a rehearsal space.” ¹³⁷

“The community centre, it’s a bit of an anomaly because not many people get to go inside it unless you pay for it. It can’t be a community centre if it’s a business model. We had our son’s 21st in the foyer, it cost a fortune for just the foyer. Why can’t we reassign something for that community centre and make it more available to artists?” ¹³⁸

“Eltham, where I live, doesn’t really have a social centre and needs one. Its ‘community centres’ don’t really act as such.” ¹³⁹

“Allow the Eltham Community centre to be cost free for community groups to use.” ¹⁴⁰

“[Eltham Community Centre, arthouse cinema and gallery space] could be combined but it needs to be in an accessible place, not Montsalvat or where the Shire Offices are.” ¹⁴¹

“...lack of an affordable venue for events, the complete absence of community assets like the Eltham Community Reception in the scheme of things—a white elephant so hugely expensive to hire...” ¹⁴²

Booking spaces is hard to navigate, and expensive. A space can cost \$60 an hour for a meeting room for a wildlife meeting. The Amateur Winemaker’s Guild found ECC too expensive and have moved to Manningham. ¹⁴³

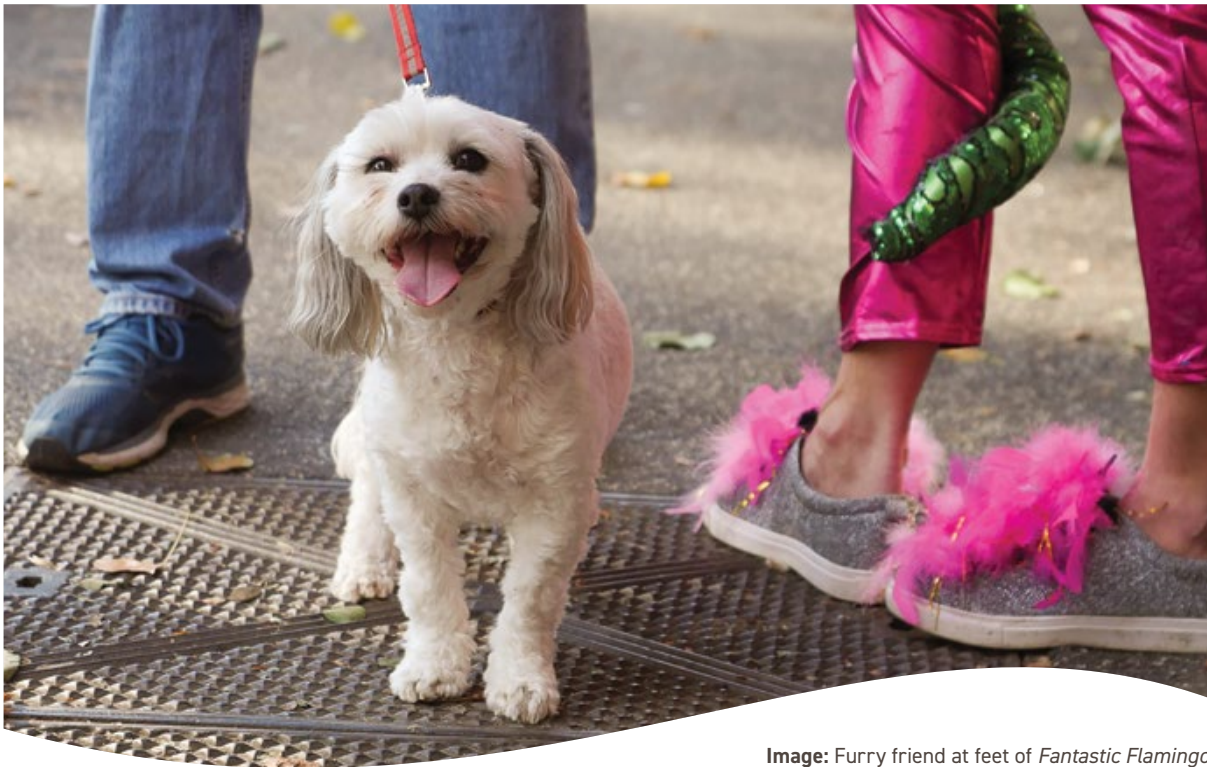


Image: Furry friend at feet of *Fantastic Flamingo* by New Heights Circus at Eltham Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

Managing Creative Hubs

Creative hubs need to be sustainable. Cultural spaces can be combined with commercial enterprises for financial support:

“Create physical spaces that combine commercial with non-commercial activities, balance financial returns with social and cultural returns.” ¹⁴⁴

“Look to sports groups as an example of sustainability; the individual players are not expected to finance the club and make it sustainable, but the group are successful lobbyists for funding, and they usually have an area serving food and drinks connected to the club that generates the regular revenue they need for running costs.” ¹⁴⁵

Principles for Successful Creative Hubs

- Curated mix of functions, balancing the commercial with the non-commercial; not open to just anyone (such as parties motivated by low rent.) All activities fit the cultural vision of the space and add what is lacking in the community.
- Brand positioning: being clear and bold about what the space stands for. Having a clear cultural identity for the space directs the type of activities that are chosen to be there.
- A shared common goal and ownership of the space among all stakeholders ensures everyone takes responsibility for ensuring the space is a success. There are clear agreements on programs and management.
- Ties to the local environment and community are essential; the space must match the DNA of the local area and address local community needs.
- It must have a sustainable long term business model with multiple income streams: rent, ticket sales, catering etc.
- It must be run by an independent community manager who connects with the local community and cultivates an active vibrant space.
- A discretionary budget (not a grant) for ideas/ innovation in the space; and/or loans to fund initiatives.

Best Practice Examples

Broedplaats literally translates into *incubator* and is a collectively shared building for artists and entrepreneurs in the cultural and creative sector of Amsterdam. There is a balance between commercial and non-commercial activities; art studios with affordable rents sit alongside cafes and bars. The businesses bring in higher monetary returns for the centre and the artists bring in higher social, cultural and environmental returns.

<https://whatsupwithamsterdam.com/broedplaats-amsterdam/>

The Settlement House model has thrived worldwide for nearly a century and half. Artists live and work on site and engage the arts as a means for strengthening community life, re-spiriting the aspirations of individuals of all ages, and building relationships between people from diverse backgrounds and classes.

<https://pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org/the-citizen-artist-the-settlement-house/>

Bærums Verk is a village in Norway founded 400 years ago to boost the Dano-Norwegian iron production. Recent restorations have turned old buildings and iron production facilities into a unique shopping commons with a supermarket, post office, bakery, restaurants and various retail outlets. The village is known as a hub for traditional crafts, containing the workshops and galleries of blacksmiths, glass blowers, painters and woodworkers along the main street.

Some of the artists live on site and supply the galleries and homewares store with their work. The rent they pay for their living quarters and workshops are subsidised by the retail tenants. A sculpture garden connects the workshops with the retail section.

<https://www.visitoslo.com/en/activities-and-attractions/attractions/?tlp=2984273&name=Barums-Verk>

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g2418282-d656593-Reviews-Baerums_Verk-Baerum_Municipality_Akershus_Eastern_Norway.html

THEME: 1. Interconnectedness
SUB-THEME: 1.2 Demonstrating the value of Arts & Culture in the community

1.2 Demonstrating the value of Arts & Culture in the community

Raising the profile of the arts in Nillumbik and strengthening relationships between Council and the creative community is a high priority. The way arts and culture is communicated needs to be improved: both in the way Council communicates the value of the arts to Nillumbik’s creative practitioners, and the way arts and culture is promoted to the wider community.

“There is a lot of affection for the Shire as a place that cares for the Arts and the environment. However, for some there is a desire for a renewed commitment to the arts or a sense of disconnect between the perceived value of the arts and the reality.” ¹⁴⁶

In addition, the creative community wants to see evidence of Council valuing the arts; through careful use of language focusing on the inherent value of culture over tourism and economics; through having Arts Officers physically in the community, and through clear and honest discussions about arts funding; where and how much is being spent, and where we need to direct more funding.

Another way the value of arts and culture can be represented in the community is by addressing social issues through Council working with socially engaged artists

The current perception that Council does not value the arts needs to be addressed

Currently there is a perception that Council do not value the arts as much as they should. Better communication and promotion of the arts from Council would be welcomed, as well as improved understanding around arts funding.

“The people of Nillumbik like the arts and are open to the arts, however the Council does not support the arts much at all.” ¹⁴⁷

“Nillumbik has a thriving arts scene I and I value being connected with that community, but at times I feel Council approaches art in a way that is exclusive rather than inclusive of the wider community.” ¹⁴⁸

“For somebody who works in the Shire, art is not at the centre or on the front of the Council.” ¹⁴⁹

“More relevance given to the arts, everybody’s poor cousin.” ¹⁵⁰

“More creativity and celebration of the arts (local).” ¹⁵¹

“More promotion and support of the local artist community.” ¹⁵²

Council visible and active in the Creative Community

“For an industry that has been integral to building the culture of the area (which brought the people, the development and created the covetable nature of the region), the arts deserves a much more sophisticated and financed position in Nillumbik.” ¹⁵³

“The second most selected priority involves Council’s role as an advocate for the sector...”

- Participants asks Council to champion the unique value of arts and culture as a force for change.
- We need to support this fragile industry with resources, information, facilitation, spaces and training” ¹⁵⁴

Council to be visible and active in the Creative Community

Strengthen trust and connection between the creative community and Council by ensuring Council Arts & Culture Officers are regularly visible and active in the community.

Having Council Arts Officers visible in the community has been highly regarded and appreciated in the past and the creative community would like to see this continue.

“The most important thing to artists regarding connection with Council is that Council people must be visible in the community and connect with key people in the community. There must be a clear way for artists to connect with Council without having to travel to Council offices.” ¹⁵⁵

“[There is] an absence of Council arts personnel from the township.” ¹⁵⁷

What Should Council do? ¹⁵⁸

- Engage with community more to promote a sense of community and connectedness
- A more welcoming atmosphere in council offices. We feel as though we are intruders.
- Can you have regional offices? Drop into different towns for a day each month etc?
- Communicate with local people directly
- In outer areas utilise notice boards on P.O.s and general stores—these were installed by Council to improve communication but rarely contain Council info.



Image: Perky And Fiddle by Kinetic Theatre at Edendale Community Environment Farm Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

THEME: 1. Interconnectedness
SUB-THEME: 1.2 Demonstrating the value of Arts & Culture in the community

Funding and Transparency in Communication around Funding

Language focus

Increase the perceived value of art and culture in the community by ensuring the language used, when talking about arts and culture, prioritises cultural value over tourism and economic value.

It is important to centre artists and their work at the centre of arts and culture. When speaking about arts and culture, cultural value should be prioritised over tourism and economic value, as a way to establish our arts and culture as being of value.

This also communicates to the creative community that their work is worthy in and of itself, and not primarily as a vehicle for other businesses to profit.

“This may seem like a semantic exercise, but it takes emphasis off the arts as needing to have an economic value and positions the arts as having a cultural value. Much of the language around the financial benefits that the arts bring in for others is detrimental to the way artists think of themselves and how they value their work. If we truly want to see thriving creative industries, we need to establish Nillumbik as a centre of culture and celebrate our artists as the engine that raises our cultural value.” 159

Funding and Transparency in Communication around Funding

Strengthen trust and connection between the creative community and Council by having transparent information concerning the Council arts budget readily available.

The amount of funding available should also be a point of transparency and discussion between Council and the creative community.

“What’s been lacking in the cultural plans is showing what percent of Nillumbik’s budget is given to the arts. We were (running on) a \$80M budget and my memory was 1% (allocated to the arts.) That should be in the cultural plan; doing a breakdown of what Nillumbik actually gives to the arts; the cultural plan needs to spell it out.” 160

“Increased communication around funding streams available to artists/organisations.” 161

Discussions around grant programs and how they are run is needed. As previously discussed, there are problems with festival and event grants that funnel grant money back into Council and put an unnecessary administrative load on artists and volunteers.

Provide a structure for funding rather than random grants that require massive extra work by volunteers in their attempt to get funding. 162

Artists are grateful for arts funding provided by Council, particularly since the pandemic. Greater financial support for artists’ work is still needed, in the form of more grant money, commissions by Council and employment of artists.

“When asked what support for the industry should Council prioritise, over 41% said income-based assistance.

- Measures addressing the financial vulnerability of artists/organisations are more important than ever with artists amongst those most financially impacted by the shutdowns.
- Suggestions ranged from Council employing local professionals to prioritising local arts businesses within non-grant schemes.” 163

“Gratitude for the NSC grants & having the time to learn to write one!” 164

“Economic stimulus initiatives benefiting the creative community.” 165

“...support desired from Council. Number one priority was providing a financial means for artists to continue their work. This role is more important than ever and ideas ranged from NSC employing local professionals to prioritising local arts businesses within non-grant schemes. These initiatives directly address the financial vulnerability of artists/arts organisations.” 166

“Income related support was first priority for over 40% of group whilst 35% believed “Recognition of the value of arts & culture to recovery” should be the top priority for Council.” 167

“The importance of the Arts and funding for the Arts: This was a repeated theme... Arts matter, arts are important to Nillumbik, funding is crucial, and, ‘when Federal funding for Arts is cut and arts degrees are twice the price, (we see) how much it matters for Arts to be funded in local Shires.” 168

“Recognise that living in and practicing art in Nillumbik is costly and difficult for many artists.” 169

“The Shire’s commitment to the Arts is seen as particularly vital in the context of current events. It was identified that the lack of Federal Government support for arts makes local support even more valuable. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a sense of displacement and trauma and the Arts are seen as a proven way to help to heal this.” 170

“...would like an increased advocacy role from Council ranking “Increased recognition of the vital role Arts & Culture will play in recovery” as first priority but on almost equal ranking with second priority “grants/employment/commissions.” 171

“I got more grant based work (but less commercial work)” 172

Comparisons with other areas

“Sporting facilities have had a huge amount spent on them. Arts could do with more.” 173

“Could you levy an art tax on any multi unit/apartment/commercial development.” 174

Good communication and transparency from Council is also valued by the general community

“Transparency in communications, inclusive/imaginative/well-informed conversations for the whole community and within Council.” 175

“All themes referenced throughout the engagement and evaluation were dependent on the Council taking a lead role in keeping the community informed and connected. Community engagement was viewed as fundamental to all Council business regardless of its theme.

Participants also referenced ‘informed and consulted communities’ as being something that was of significance.” 176

THEME: 1. Interconnectedness
SUB-THEME: 1.2 Demonstrating the value of Arts & Culture in the community

Cultural Impact Statement

Enhance awareness and value of culture throughout Council departments by evaluating major Council projects through Cultural Impact Statements.

Awareness and the value of culture can be increased throughout Council departments by evaluating major Council projects through Cultural Impact Statements.

“It creates something that guides people through that thinking. It’s a useful thing to do and it can change mindsets within an organisation.”¹⁷⁷

“We want evaluation based on social, community and culture instead of pure economic benefit.”¹⁷⁸

“It’s the secret to the success of integrating arts and culture into everything that everyone does. If everyone’s across it, then it doesn’t become just an afterthought: ‘Oh yeah, we need to throw that in the mix.’ It actually becomes something that starts at the very beginning and continues on through a project and is integrated into the way of thinking and builds the organisation as a whole; embraces the fact that its not just one team’s responsibility, it’s an organisational approach.”¹⁷⁹

Welcome Pack for new residents

Connect new residents to local art and culture by including the work of artists and information on arts heritage in welcome packs to new residents.

A welcome pack for new Nillumbik residents that is designed by local artists and highlights local history and identity is a small suggestion, but one that fits with the Nillumbik values; creating a sense of belonging (interconnectedness), establishing arts and culture as important, and celebrating local identity (creative capital).

There is potential here for a collaboration between visual artists and Historical Societies. A different welcome pack for each township would recognise local character and help connect new residents to their local community.

“We need to ensue that all who come are welcomed and made aware to the particular values and heritage... People do not understand what is unique to Nillumbik until they have lived here. Maybe a Welcome Stranger’ bag should be available from Council for people to pick up from a library/church to hand to new neighbours with information about the area that the Real Estate agents did not tell them—the bags could be open to amendment for each area/street etc”¹⁸⁰

“Create history packs for Real Estate Agents, so people understand the history of the area they are buying into.”¹⁸¹

Art that addresses Social Issues

Art that addresses Social Issues

Increase respect for the arts as a vehicle for recovery and social cohesion throughout Council and the community through commissioning art that addresses social issues.

There is a call for more understanding of socially engaged art practice, that promotes interaction and change and for using artists to address social justice issues. Commissioning artists with a socially-engaged practice is a creative a way to connect across Council departments and engage artists in addressing a broad range of issues that affect the community.

This can also include creative recovery work; using creative practice to assist in developing resilience and addressing healing and recovery after disasters, including recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

Championing socially engaged practice builds empathy and respect and aims to reduce divisions in the community.

“Socially engaged practice describes art that is collaborative, often participatory and involves people as the medium or material of the work

Socially engaged practice, also referred to as social practice or socially engaged art, can include any art form which involves people and communities in debate, collaboration or social interaction...

The participatory element of socially engaged practice, is key, with the artworks created often holding equal or less importance to the collaborative act of creating them...

Socially engaged practice can be associated with activism because it often deals with political issues. Artists who work within this field will often spend much time integrating into the specific community which they wish to help, educate or simply share with...

The artists’ aim could be to help this community work towards a common goal, raise awareness and encourage conversation around issues, or perhaps to improve their physical or psychological conditions.”

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/s/socially-engaged-practice>

“Championing the idea that socially-engaged art practice is crucial to creating healthy/creative/connected communities”¹⁸²

“As an artist who wants to facilitate the process of using the arts (all art forms) as modality to address social issues, I am yearning for opportunities for non-arts/arts partnerships and community-led arts projects. I would like socially engaged arts practice to be what makes the blood flow in our region. I would like the arts to be at the centre of early prevention and intervention, economic stimulus, community building and recovery efforts. When I tell people I live in Eltham, they say to me ‘Wow, so you must go to Montsalvat all the time?’ and ‘Do you live in a mudbrick?’ I wish they would say something like ‘Wow, I was so impressed with how artists led the campaign to welcome the refugees.’”¹⁸³

“Opportunities to use Arts to address social issues.”¹⁸⁴

“The second most selected priority involves Council’s role as an advocate for the sector. We have learnt from previous crises such as the bushfires that the arts play a crucial role in healing and making sense of difficult times. This focus group asks Council to champion the unique value of arts and culture as a force for change.”¹⁸⁵

“If Council learned anything from the bushfire recovery process, it was that you can’t expect the people to come to you, you have to go to them and the programs need to go out in the community, whatever they are; they need to land at people’s feet.”¹⁸⁶

“Work to obviate, by supporting local activities of all types which can help overcome, the divisions many Nillumbik residents feel between town and rural concerns and aspirations.”¹⁸⁷

“Value and build more respectful relationships, particularly in the context of people holding different views.”¹⁸⁸

“Art and culture creatives have been at the forefront of the climate change movement.”¹⁸⁹

THEME: 1. Interconnectedness
SUB-THEME: 1.3 Connecting to our heritage in engaging and contemporary ways

1.3 Connecting to our heritage in engaging and contemporary ways

Nillumbik has an extraordinary rich cultural heritage, beginning with our First Nations people, the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung who see arts and culture as inseparable from their living ecosystem. In addition, the legacy of our more recent artistic heritage that burgeoned around 50–70 years ago influences our identity as an artistic centre. New connections to both these histories are important as they enrich the understanding and experience we have of our lives and allow us to create and experience artwork within a larger historical context

We have a better sense of belonging and become better caretakers of our communities when we are connected to our cultural heritage.

Reposition our artistic heritage for a contemporary audience

Connect a wider audience to our artistic heritage by expressing it in a more engaging and contemporary way. This may include a re-imagining of the Heidelberg Artists Trail.

A frustration expressed throughout the consultations is that Nillumbik doesn't have the creative energy and clout it once had in the previous decades; something intangible has been lost. There is a nostalgia for that time and a drive to reinstate Nillumbik as the arts centre it was. In particular, people want to see our artistic heritage expressed in a more engaging and contemporary way that will appeal to a younger and wider audience.

“Nillumbik in some instances is a testament to an arts time that's gone. That story is finished and there's a new story in Nillumbik.”¹⁹⁰

“Our arts heritage needs to be looked at in a new light. Currently it does not appeal to young people and is not readily accessible, it needs to be treated as a living tradition, rather than a piece of history.”¹⁹¹

“We have a bohemian history that is unexplored. We can also have fun with our artistic legacy; the serious and sometimes ponderous way it's presented is not engaging.”¹⁹²

“Our arts heritage... needs to be expressed in a contemporary way that will appeal to the next generation of artists. It is a direct link from the past to the artists currently working in Nillumbik.”¹⁹³

Reposition our artistic heritage for a contemporary audience

“My main concern is it [Nillumbik] is not using its heritage to build a future, it is rather letting its past fade and not creating a vibrant forward looking arts scene.”¹⁹⁴

“All I think of when it comes to arts in Nillumbik is the gallery at Eltham Library, and Montsalvat (which seems very stuffy and for rich retirees—every time we've been there we felt looked down on).”¹⁹⁵

“I think the Nillumbik Community and Council need to move past the 'glory days' of the '70s and '80s and move into the 21st century.”¹⁹⁶

“The heritage of 'blokey modernism' is problematic. The alternative needs to become more viable and more exciting.”¹⁹⁷

“I have to say I'm a bit embarrassed about the state of our arts. Its living a bit in the 70s... I think there are some highly talented and professional artists in the shire but I don't think the shire offers them much and they have to seek other councils to gain opportunities.”¹⁹⁸

“I'm concerned by the tendency to lean on the past and not create new cultural spaces/narratives.”¹⁹⁹

“I can see an advertising campaign where we get all the old artwork from the collection and we call it “*The Artists are Dead*”, but we really celebrate them and then they're done, they're over and done with and we can move on...ok now, who's next!?”²⁰⁰

“They've still got a loud voice even though they're dead. We need to give them a different story.”²⁰¹
[about our past artists]

“Regain our Artistic Culture.”²⁰²

“Trades on a historical stance that no longer is present. The old come across as purists elitist snobby and exclude the general community... There is not enough support for growing supporting promoting community artists... Just look at Warrandyte's pottery festival in February. We have nothing that turns the community out like that.”²⁰³

Revitalise the Heidelberg Artists Trail

The Heidelberg Artists Trail is a source of disappointment; not only because of the faded and dilapidated condition of the signs, but also that they represent an old way of telling a story. There is great potential here to redevelop the concept of the trail, perhaps through contemporary sculptural pieces that celebrate the paintings and the artists.

“The Heidelberg Artists Trail is not a contemporary story any more. We don't have to lose that story, we could just present it in a different way.”²⁰⁴

“Our place is rich in art history...an amazing resource which is under-used...”²⁰⁵

“Redo the artist trail pictures. Celebrating the historical character.”²⁰⁶

Use public art to connect across generations e.g.. think about reviving the Heidelberg Trial in a contemporary way. Seen as dated (amongst the Historical Societies!)²⁰⁷

“The Heidelberg Arts trails are all faded and could benefit from a total revamp. Honouring this past is good to keep but needs fresh eyes.”²⁰⁸

“Repair artist trail signs.”²⁰⁹

THEME: 1. Interconnectedness
SUB-THEME: 1.3 Connecting to our heritage in engaging and contemporary ways

A Shared Experience of Country

A Shared Experience of Country

Engage a wider audience with an understanding of Wurundjeri culture and develop a connection to Country—by creating points of interest and respite on established walking trails in consultation with Wurundjeri people.

The natural environment and our walking trails are highly valued in Nillumbik. Art pieces including sculpture, seating and creative signage have been suggested as desirable additions to these trails.

The Wurundjeri perspective is particularly interesting; Wurundjeri feel that people come to know and understand the land by spending reflective time in the natural environment. Having rest/contemplation spaces or points of interest along the trails encourage people to see the environment from their perspective. Potentially these sites could be examples of Wurundjeri art and culture, or could present information on Wurundjeri culture or on local flora and fauna in a contemporary creative way. Our desire to show respect and connect to Wurundjeri culture in our everyday lives is mirrored in the desire of the Wurundjeri people to share their cultural knowledge.

“It is important to share knowledge of Wurundjeri culture and get it out into the communities—to be visible. Through apps, signage, trails, artwork.” 210

“It would be good to create more Wurundjeri trails with art and signage included. The aim would be to connect people to Country.” 211

“Create more trails in Nillumbik with signage or other interactive mediums to tell the stories of Wurundjeri history and life. E.g. like the Gawa trail and Panton Hill Bushland Reserves.” 212

“Connection: use stories, art and heritage to create a shared connection.” 213

“Physical Space: encourage storytelling and reflection in the natural environment.” 214

Voices of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people

“Attract people into the natural environment where they can learn about Wurundjeri culture. Target walkers and cyclists; people who naturally gravitate to the bushlands of Nillumbik. Use existing and possibly new walking trails to establish signs and/or an app that connects Wurundjeri heritage and stories to specific sites.” 215

“Facilitate rest and reflection in the natural environment, not just for exercise; make places for sitting, places for yarning. Places for people to stop and ‘get the vibe’ of the place. Rock is an appropriate material for seating as it comes from the land.” 216

“Art is all part of family and connection to country—this is Wurundjeri culture. Wurundjeri connect through artwork” 217

Voices of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people

“We would welcome spaces that invite people to stop and experience Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Country. These could include artwork and sitting rocks that encourage connection to the land. They could also attract people to the area so they could learn more about Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Country, culture and history in Nillumbik.” 218

Voices of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people

Support for a Wurundjeri presence along walking trails also has support from the general community.

“More physical recognition i.e. signs, plaques, etc. acknowledging the traditional Indigenous peoples from our area.” 219

“Create a wayfinding strategy in partnership with First Nations peoples.” 220

“The Wurundjeri culture and arts is slowly becoming more visible in the community. It would be fantastic to provide more learning through the arts, an opportunity to educate our community about rich indigenous history in our local area. The Diamond Creek trail would be an amazing place to have information and artwork, as would along the Yarra in Warrandyte, as these waterways were an important part of Indigenous life.” 221

“Acknowledge Aboriginal heritage with art work.” 222

There is also support for artwork along walking trails, not necessarily connected to Indigenous culture, but serving a similar purpose; to have people pause in the landscape.

“Connecting walking trails and paths with clear signage and /or maps and apps for self-guided walks in the Nillumbik Shire area.” 223

“There is beauty between one’s life/existence and the land, which feeds us, teaches us and inspires us to grow as it does. Language, culture and human growth is linked to land AND must be both respected and appreciated. One very beautiful part of Eltham/Nillumbik is this connection to land, culture and life. Let it not be forsaken.” 224

“It matters to me that the Arts connect us to Community, Land and Custodianship” 225

“Spend more money on our walking paths and creating points of interest on the way to encourage more passive exercise.” 226

“More art/sculptures along the walking tracks” 227

“More seating on trails & in parks.” 228

“Place public art along our walking trails, they’re a major asset.” 229

THEME: 1. Interconnectedness
SUB-THEME: 1.3 Connecting to our heritage in engaging and contemporary ways

In addition to new work along trails, there are undiscovered/forgotten Wurundjeri sites throughout Nillumbik that potentially could be signposted or highlighted in some way to celebrate their history and stories.

“Indigenous local history as part of places of significance.” ²³⁰

“Identify and build local knowledge to share local knowledge of significant sites and practices of Indigenous [people.]” ²³¹

Other suggestions to having Wurundjeri culture represented in the physical environment

“More acknowledgment of our First Nations past in the form of memorials, perhaps a permanent exhibition somewhere, Indigenous place names where possible and Wurundjeri territory added to addresses as appropriate.” ²³²

“Tapping into our local Indigenous Culture would be amazing. This is an under-utilised amazing resource that could make Nillumbik stand out among other councils as truly appreciating our Indigenous heritage.” ²³³

“An Indigenous foods and medicine garden. A First Nations history with public signage in significant areas.” ²³⁴

“Form a partnership with the Local Wurundjeri tribe and work with them formulating a plan for Cultural education.” ²³⁵

Working with local Aboriginal Elders.” ²³⁶

“Knowledge of Nillumbik arts and culture mostly held around cultural heritage, travel and trading routes through Nillumbik, the significance of the ridge tops and Wurundjeri boundaries (which have changed over time).” ²³⁷

“The group (Wurundjeri Corp and Council) are unsure if there is a comprehensive list of significant Wurundjeri sites in Nillumbik. This should be investigated.” ²³⁸

“Council could compile/research a list of significant Aboriginal sites in the Shire. Include the shack 1-2km from the Gawa Trail towards Yarra Glen (on the left.). Contacts: Parks Vic and Barry Coombs. Heritage Units can assist.” ²³⁹

Voices of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people

“Connection to country by bringing in Aboriginal education and working with Elders to achieve this.” ²⁴⁰

“First Nations storytelling” ²⁴¹

“Education of indigenous flora and fauna species. basically the eucalyptus trees. make people aware of the trees they live among. most live in ‘leafy’ suburbs for the trees. bring the people closer with information plaques in public spaces giving examples and help people more closely relate to the bush.” ²⁴²

“Dedicate and maintain Lower Eltham Park (wetlands section and along the creek and riverbanks) as an educational place in nature to showcase Indigenous knowledge.” ²⁴³

Support for Historical Societies

Connect a wider audience to the history of Nillumbik by connecting Historical Societies to volunteers and affordable spaces for research, archiving and digitising collections.

Collectively, our History Societies are the custodians of a vast collection of photographs, diaries, newspaper articles and other documents.

Digitising these collections is important in the long term to preserve the information and make it more available to the public. One suggestion made during the focus group with the Historical Societies was for assistance in advertising and managing volunteers, and to have access to a venue where a computer and scanner could be set up for the purpose of digitisation.

“History Groups need digitisation & collection management/support. Suggestion for there to be a volunteers page on Council website; where, for example, the Historical Societies detail what is needed and time commitment They also need help with a facility to house the volunteer e.g.. Library.” ²⁴⁴

“I believe Council should support art which tells compelling, well-crafted stories, that help us to understand each other and our world better.” ²⁴⁵

2. Creative Capital

There are two elements essential for Nillumbik to evolve as a significant creative and cultural centre; the first is to cultivate a reputation as a quintessential destination for visitors seeking creative stimulus; a place that is inherently thought of when designing a cultural itinerary for guests to Victoria.

The second, and more importantly for longevity and authenticity, is to develop Nillumbik as an incubator where influential artists work productively, emerging artists advance their practice, and creative industries naturally establish and proliferate.

SUB-THEMES

- 2.1 Celebration of the unique identity of Nillumbik
- 2.2 Promoting and supporting our artists and creative industries

“We need to place front and centre our local talented professionals. We need to support this fragile industry with resources, information, facilitation, spaces and training. This indirect assistance will result in more artists and organisations surviving the fallout [of the COVID-19 pandemic].” ²⁴⁶

“I don’t feel like the area has established itself as a destination which prioritises creative capital, so lacks an artistic allure.” ²⁴⁷

“We need to find ways to retain our artists; facilitate the production of art, better manage our cultural assets, and better promote artists and Nillumbik as a creative destination.

- “Become an attractive creative destination: cultivate unique things to do and places to be
- Become a known creative destination: improve our promotions and marketing
- Become a place filled with useful and accessible creative assets: improve management of cultural resources
- Become a place where artists continue to live and practice: work to retain our creative practitioners and creative industries” ²⁴⁸



Image: Zebras by Born in a Taxi at St Andrews Market Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

2.1 Celebration of the unique identity of Nillumbik

*“Creative projects aimed at enriching a sense of community identity...can not only affirm the value of social and cultural diversity but also allow for an assertion of the importance of community in an uncertain world.” **

*“There is great value in acknowledging different ‘community identities’. Communities that are able to embrace diversity, creative expression and cultural activity are richer, stronger and more able to deal with social challenges.” ***

Evident throughout the consultations is a communal pride in Nillumbik as a known creative area, although some believe that our reputation rests on a time that has passed, and we need to re-imagine ourselves in a contemporary way.

There is also a view that not enough professional-level work is being supported and this hinders the image of the cultural destination that we want Nillumbik to embody.

On a more local level, we understand ourselves to be a chain of villages, each with a distinctive identity, and we are open to unique events that suit our micro-environments.

The community's need to engage at this local level serves not just to attract visitors, but to strengthen our social fabric. We take pride in our creative interconnectedness. Our desire to connect is illustrated though an appetite for more community festivals, live music events and placemaking projects that serve to bring people together and celebrate our cherished local character.

“Become a destination for a day out of the city” ²⁴⁹

“More money needs to be directed towards the arts and culture and can be used as a drawcard to bring visitors into the Shire.” ²⁵⁰

* Martin M & Smith P.(2009). “Governance and the Turn into Community: Putting Art at the Heart of Local Government.” ReGenerating Community Conference Papers. Melbourne

** Castanet. The Arts Ripple Effect; Valuing the Arts in Community. Melbourne

Exhibition Space/Municipal Gallery

Establish Nillumbik as a cultural destination by building a dedicated exhibition space to display significant works of mid-career and established artists.

The purpose of an exhibition space or municipal gallery differs from a central creative hub: while a creative hub exists to build connections and facilitate the production and enjoyment of art, a dedicated exhibition space, or municipal gallery focuses on showcasing the best visual art the municipality has to offer, including older works as well as works from living artists. The space also serves to bring in work from outside the Shire to inspire and educate.

An exhibition space showcasing professional-standard artwork from mid career and established artists would establish Nillumbik as a serious cultural destination.

“Several participants discussed the lack of a major gallery or art centre in Nillumbik and a desire to have this in the community... Nillumbik needs to broaden the scope of the way the community engages in Art.” ²⁵¹

“...the need for a gallery...’other than Eltham Library & Montsalvat’.” ²⁵²

“The most important goal for artists is to have a dedicated Art Gallery and Performance Space... There is no real space in Nillumbik and we have to exhibit own work in other Shires. At last we had an opportunity to say this and I hope the Council will tackle this more urgently.” ²⁵³

“Contemporary art practice that is exhibited and presented in a highly professional manner (a more appropriate space than Montsalvat or the library is needed - these are dowdy and saggy and don’t show art work in the best light /context—I appreciate the cultural and historical value of these spaces but the shire is lagging behind in appropriate spaces for contemporary art.)” ²⁵⁴

“Professionally curated art exhibitions, (pay contemporary art curators).” ²⁵⁵

“Nillumbik needs a better gallery space that treats art with respect.” ²⁵⁶

“That professional level gallery that attracts not just artists from our own Shire, but international shows—that level is really missing here.” ²⁵⁷

“Contemporary professional artists are the most disgruntled; (for them) the Eltham Library Community Gallery and Artists Open Studios is not interesting. The high level professional contemporary artists are invisible, except for the Nillumbik Prize.” ²⁵⁸

“Currently the ‘artbeat’ is heavily focused on the craft and hobby artist which is very good for that sector (artist markets and grass root community support), however I think there is great potential for Nillumbik to be a strong arts precinct and destination however it needs to take itself more seriously and encourage more professional artists... there are many professional artists that live in this area that do not have a serious platform in the community... a new contemporary art centre and gallery is desperately needed to display the council collection and to develop its collection and interest in contemporary art further.” ²⁵⁹

“Our contemporary professional-level artists are largely unknown and invisible in Nillumbik. There needs to be something for them.” ²⁶⁰

“World class influential artists are not recognised here, e.g. Olsen, Tucker, Amor, Pugh.” ²⁶¹

THEME: 2. Creative Capital

SUB-THEME: 2.1 Celebration of the unique identity of Nillumbik

“It would be amazing if we could have a decent, dedicated arts space that’s open to the public (not a private enterprise). The Eltham Library is too small. Montsalvat and other galleries are private and paid entry (that’s not to say I wouldn’t want to pay an entry fee if it was affordable). If we had a dedicated Gallery or even a Gallery and Performing Arts Centre it could really cement Nillumbik as an Arts destination. It could be a real attraction for visitors, especially if it was easy to access (i.e. near a train station). A place people can come to embrace the arts any time, not just seasonally or for a timed event.” 262

“We need a space where we can see new things that we haven’t seen before and that come from outside Nillumbik. To broaden our minds and educate us, this is what’s lacking.” 263

“We have the Open Studios for people to come and view painting and pottery in people’s homes, etc. But if you come into town, there’s no gallery or space that presents people’s works, and it would be wonderful just to have a space where local artists could exhibit their work” 264

“The artistic community in Nillumbik is recognised Victoria wide. Building on this would bring tourism to the area i.e. art conferences (international?), potter festivals, an art gallery—apart from Montsalvat—that houses paintings and other works of art that have a history in Nillumbik.” 265

“I have been impressed with the Community library art space for exhibitions but feel that a Regional Gallery in Eltham would really boost the arts sector and bring more people here to enjoy art.” 266

“Art gallery.” 267

“History & Culture of the area and for residents to know the input that these have had in the wider culture of Victoria, Australia & the world.” 268

“Rebuilding and further funding commitment to our local artists and creative industries including further planning for a contemporary art Gallery space in Nillumbik.” 269

“...of course it would be great if Eltham had its own art gallery.” 270

“Build an Art Gallery.” 271

“Develop an art gallery.” 272

“There are so many amazing artists in Nillumbik with so little space to display their work.” 273

“The lack of cultural institutions art galleries, heritage places buildings etc.” 274

In addition artists during the consultations have expressed frustration at having asked for this exhibition space over a number of years and through numerous consultations with no resulting communication or action.

“The artists don’t know why the regional gallery hasn’t been actioned. There needs to be better communication from Council on this issue.” 275

“They [the artists] think we’re [Council] not listening to them, we’re not taking what they say seriously and I feel (frustrated) asking them again what they want, when we already know what they want; we know they want a space and we’ve known that for years and yet there’s still no space.” 276

Dedicated Performance Space

Dedicated Performance Space

Increase the number and quality of theatrical performances held in Nillumbik by building a dedicated performance and rehearsal space.

A significant number of voices articulated disappointment at the lack of performing arts in Nillumbik. They expressed a desire to see more theatre, comedy, music and dance productions, particularly professional productions without having to travel into the CBD.

Local performing artists noted that they have no professional space to rehearse or perform in Nillumbik. Multi-purpose buildings and places without tiered seating such as the Eltham Little Theatre, are unsuitable for professional contemporary performance.

Interestingly the space required is not large, the optimal space according to local performance artists would be 70–100 seats

“More theatre productions” 277

“Performing arts centre” 278

“A proper theatre that will attract professional productions—located near a train station.” 279

“There is still a serious lack of theatre infrastructure for use by the community and touring companies. We need a theatre for the performing arts!” 280

“More centres—spots that you know you can regularly go to for live performance art.” 281

“A purpose built venue specifically for arts—music, theatre, etc. —platforms to see live acts.” 282

“More regular drama, opera, comedy, alternative music.” 283

“A designated performance arts venue—music, theatre, other, inside and outside capacity.” 284

“One of the main things I have loved in terms of cultural Nillumbik unfortunately we no longer have. I thought it was unbelievably fantastic to have a local theatre company of incredible quality in Nillumbik doing innovative new performances in St Andrews, in Eltham and in Hurstbridge, bringing *La Mama* out to Nillumbik, it was just so fantastic. I saw so many unbelievable fantastic live performances. It was such a treat to not have to go into Brunswick or the city for really top rate live performance. I still feel really sad we don’t have that in Nillumbik any more.” 285

“What are the barriers to success for performers in Nillumbik?” 286

- Affordable venue hire. Venue hire costs and insurance eats into the profits making the performances not profitable.
- There is no affordable theatre in Nillumbik that we have access to. ELT is tied up, Planetshakers is too expensive as is the Eltham Community Centre.
- Lack of places to perform and the expense of performing (for example a buskers permit is so pricey it would be difficult to make that money back from the busking)
- Opportunity to perform, lack of facilities and venues.
- I very rarely go to live gigs due to the distance I have to travel (into the city)... I would love to see a wider range of live music, both on public stages and in venues.
- Lack of availability of easily accessible and affordable performance space for rehearsals and performances that cater for those with special needs.
- Currently there are not enough venues offering live music which are paying musicians appropriately.
- Lack of variety of venues, both in size and purpose.
- Opportunities for performances. Access to performance spaces for hire at the moment.
- I have heard many artists say that Nillumbik Council also highly regulates the ways potentially great spaces could be used.
- There a limited spaces that support local music, especially different types of music.
- Lack of funding opportunities to develop and perform works. Lack of places to perform.”

“The major barrier in performing in Nillumbik is the lack of a proper theater with full stage, fly towers, orchestra pit and tiered seating. Currently the orchestra uses the Eltham Community and Reception Centre, but having level floor seating it makes it difficult for the audience to see the whole orchestra playing.” 287

THEME: 2. Creative Capital

SUB-THEME: 2.1 Celebration of the unique identity of Nillumbik

"Eltham Little Theatre is a not a viable space for contemporary theatre. *La Mama* would not go to Eltham Little Theatre, it's not the right space. A theatre company needs a space where it can actually do rehearsal. Multi purpose spaces don't work for theatre companies; because they need to have equipment there that doesn't need to be packed up and taken away.

...You do not need a space where the audience sits down below, that is not contemporary live performance these days. Usually it's tiered seating and the audience looks down. It doesn't have to be a big space, but it needs to be set up for a performance in a contemporary way." ²⁸⁸

"Dance performances" ²⁸⁹

"Theatre space" ²⁹⁰

"Dance venue" ²⁹¹

"Community run performance spaces" ²⁹²

"More theatre spaces locally so don't have to travel outside Nillumbik" ²⁹³

"More theatre shows, more variety" ²⁹⁴

"Regular dedicated music space and dance" ²⁹⁵

"Really awesome live music venue, dedicated to music i.e. good acoustics, where it is focused, not just background." ²⁹⁶



Image: Eltham Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

Arthouse Cinema

Enhance creative stimulation and social interaction thorough running an arthouse cinema.

There is some interest in a local arthouse cinema, which would be well placed as part of a creative hub.

"I would also love to have a cinema in Eltham—one that shows arthouse films like the Nova, Westgarth, Classic etc. I feel this is something the community would support." ²⁹⁷

"A small cinema (like The Lido in Hawthorn) would be excellent and suit the area." ²⁹⁸

"I wish we could have an arthouse cinema." ²⁹⁹

Opportunities for Placemaking

Strengthen a sense of local connection and identity through creative placemaking projects that celebrate and enhance local character.

Placemaking is a way to engage local artists in celebrating each of our unique township identities. The local character of our townships is highly valued. People would like to see their resident artists interpret this character and establish vibrant spaces that enhance the social and cultural value of the area.

"Throughout the consultations, it was established that "we are a chain of villages, unlike a city or densely populated area. Individual township cultures should be recognised and celebrated... Create opportunities for public art and public performance to reflect the character of individual places." ³⁰⁰

"Local creatives for both design and construction of local spaces i.e. building, painting, murals, public space revitalisation." ³⁰¹

"Creative use of public spaces—art, literature, performance, gatherings, festivals, etc" ³⁰²

"Activate public spaces, ensure good quality lighting, accessibility." ³⁰³

"Artwork and local artists to assist in activating our places." ³⁰⁴

"We should showcase places like Plenty as the gateway to the ranges. Think outdoor cinemas, vintage car clubs, art installations, art shows etc." ³⁰⁵

"Nillumbik's creative and quirky character." ³⁰⁶

"It was suggested that pop-up studios could happen using empty shops in town centres. The possibility of installing sculpture walks and creating opportunities for artists to install in shop windows was raised as a fun way to get people engaging in their community and able to see art in surprising places." ³⁰⁷

"Make this a beautiful town that people will want to visit." ³⁰⁸

"Allow them to be creative and not impose blandness on us." ³⁰⁹

"Amplify the advantages of neighbourhood character." ³¹⁰

"Look at improving the face of our villages so that each area has its own look and vibe." ³¹¹

Shopping precincts and town centres where people naturally go are popular suggestions for the location of placemaking projects.

"A town centre for people to hang out, relax, socialise, eat lunch out side at. wooden benches, trees, seats." ³¹²

"Community events and opportunities to gather" ³¹³

"Eltham town centre is ugly... give artists a challenge to do" ³¹⁴

"A visual look for Eltham that brings some harmony to the town centre... you have to think big and bold and unique." ³¹⁵

THEME: 2. Creative Capital

SUB-THEME: 2.1 Celebration of the unique identity of Nillumbik

Placemaking

“Better maintenance and aesthetic standards of shopping areas.”³¹⁶

“Invest in town centres and streetscaping/assets/infrastructure so they can attract tourism.”³¹⁷

“Harmonising Eltham town centre, building an art gallery.”³¹⁸

“Recognition that Nillumbik is different to other areas and as such be protected. Overall vision for a well designed attractive shopping precinct without the visual pollution that currently exists.”³¹⁹

“More sympathetic commercial signage laws; less about size and number, more about addressing the proliferation of ugly signage and encouraging imaginative signage in sympathy with local township character.”³²⁰

“Eltham Research shops and precinct revamped and energised.”³²¹

“Focus on unique environment which makes Eltham stand out amongst the outer suburbs of Melbourne...”³²²

for Diamond Creek: “A town square, like in Eltham, where artists can play and the community come together.”³²³

“Have more community-based events to connect more.”³²⁴

Local township character is highly valued. People often feel anxious when contemplating changes that they think might strip their area of it’s unique identity.

“...respondents reported having important connections with their local townships and valued the neighbourhood character.”³²⁵

Participants also identified a sense of neighbourhood character and identity as being something that they valued.”³²⁶

“The character of our townships... protection of that character.”³²⁷

“Preservation of local character—don’t turn it into just another suburb.”³²⁸

“The region and town should as much as possible retain their natural and built environment and focus on the special character and charm to grown sustainable, small scale through events, projects and businesses.”³²⁹

“A shire of vibrant villages.”³³⁰

“Maintain neighborhood character.”³³¹

“The loss of character of our larger towns... The uglification of our larger towns of Eltham, Greensborough and Diamond Creek must stop and we must ensure that the smaller townships have their characters better protected.”³³²

“Preserve our built heritage...Acknowledge neighbourhood character... Preserve the uniqueness of our rural townships.”³³³

“Nillumbik is unique: our places have cultural, environmental and community importance.”³³⁴

“Maintain village characteristics preserving our unique local character.”³³⁵

Some Nillumbik residents feel their township is neglected, in particular Yarrambat, Plenty and Kangaroo Ground and to a lesser extent Diamond Creek. There is a feeling their local spaces would benefit from beautification and the establishment of gathering places; as seen in 1.1 Physical Spaces for Connection and Creation, p. 36.

“Suburb of Plenty needs more recognition (wasn’t even drawn into recent artwork in Nillumbik community update report).”³³⁶

“Yarrambat and Plenty need a plan or there will be no identity to salvage.”³³⁷

“Neighbourhood Character township makeover! Make Eltham more inviting!”³³⁸

“Expenditure across wards (Blue Ward seems to be rather neglected.)”³³⁹

“For the smaller villages of Plenty and Yarrambat there has been no community planning. As a result there are no gathering places, no local businesses, no identity.”³⁴⁰

“Creating a better small community for the Yarrambat area.”³⁴¹

“Share funds with areas like Plenty that is the forgotten suburb in Nillumbik!”³⁴²

“Maintain the history of Yarrambat and Plenty area. Develop this area but maintain the cultural link.”³⁴³

“Protect our unique charm with a vibrant but ‘on brand’ town centre”³⁴⁴

“Investment in a redevelopment of DC [Diamond Creek] centre—it’s got no focus at present—just a scruffy wee place with very little community pride.”³⁴⁵

Continue to work on ‘beautifying’ the smaller townships e.g. Yarrambat, Kangaroo Ground.”³⁴⁶

“The Village like feel of Eltham Centre.”³⁴⁷



Image: Angelic—Living Statue by Kinetic Theatre, at Hurstbridge Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

THEME: 2. Creative Capital
SUB-THEME: 2.1 Celebration of the unique identity of Nillumbik

Nillumbik Art Collection Online

Public Art

Increase the frequency of engagement with the visual arts in everyday life and enrich the aesthetic environment through creating more public art projects.

Public art is seen by the community as a prominent vehicle to distinguish Nillumbik as a cultural destination. People want to see more public art that proudly proclaims Nillumbik as having a distinctive and contemporary character. A strong public art presence shows that we place a high value on the arts in Nillumbik.

“As an ‘arts’ shire, there is very little public art. It needs to be front and foremost.” 348

“Large sculptures to reflect our passion for the arts...” 349

“More public sculpture, we’re meant to be an arts area, where is the art?” 350

“Something that thousands can connect with everyday, art that you can see whilst walking, driving.” 351

“More visible public art.” 352

“Want big striking permanent art like decorated benches that fits in with the area.” 353

“Sculpture—want more in D/C, [Diamond Creek] especially local artists” 354

“Would like to see more Public Art around the communities/street.” 355

“Improving the built environment with public art and celebrating artistic heritage.” 356

“Public art is seen as important and there is a clear desire to see more public art, both 2-D and 3-D in Nillumbik. There is a particular inclination to see public art that reflects and celebrates individual township character.” 357

The traditional tender process for public art has been identified as problematic, both for the artist and for the quality and relevance of the final piece.” 358

“More public art.” 359

More outdoor public art—visually welcome markers.” 360

“There were requests for more Public Art...” 361

“More public art.” 362

“Art in parks, gardens, and homes and in the streets to happen upon.” 363

“Great public art projects.” 364

“A commissioned public sculpture.” 365

“Outdoor sculptures and installations... murals and art in public spaces.” 366

“I like the murals in Diamond Creek. I think beautifying the streetscape would add to more vibrant culture enabling artists to earn a living!” 367

“Hold an Annual 4 week outdoor sculpture walk of a selection of Nillumbik’s sculpture collection in the Eltham Town Square & surrounds.” 368

“Sculpture trail” 369

Nillumbik Art Collection online

Enhance a sense of communal ownership of the Nillumbik Art Collection by sharing it online in an interesting and easily navigable form.

The main issue people have with the Nillumbik Art Collection is that it's not seen. Although it is partly on the Victorian Collections platform, it's not promoted. In addition, the Victorian Collections platform is not easily navigated, and is not a beautiful format that would engage the casual viewer.

If the collection were on a well designed, attractive and accessible platform that is well promoted, it may be that calls to get rid of the collection cease. The problem seems to be the lack of public visibility.

“Sell the art collection - it is mostly for the benefit of Councillors—public don’t get to see it, but we paid for it!” 370

“You spend more on bridges than you do on our Art Collection that you have locked away + we never get to see!” 371

“I think Council needs to build up its art collection and display it in public places.” 372

“I think this is too static a collection for the general public to enjoy. What is its purpose? The money for this would be better spent in public art displays.” 373

Artist-designed cultural tour for Council

Expand knowledge and appreciation of arts and culture in Nillumbik though local artists designing a cultural tour itinerary for Council members.

No-one understands the creative soul of Nillumbik better than its resident artists. A cultural tour designed by local artists for Council is a great opportunity to build relationships between Council and the creative community and for new staff to experience the magic of Nillumbik.

“For Councillors and Council staff to better understand the arts and culture of Nillumbik: have local artists devise the itinerary for a cultural tour and performances. e.g.. Breakfast/coffee at St Andrews Bakery with music recital in the church, Dunmoochin exhibition/ performance, Strathewen bushfire memorial and Blacksmiths' Tree, Gawa Trail, exhibition at Eltham Library.” 374

THEME: 2. Creative Capital
SUB-THEME: 2.1 Celebration of the unique identity of Nillumbik

Link locally grown produce and the arts

Introduce a wider audience to arts and culture by including local produce and local producers at cultural events.

Nillumbik traditionally has been a supplier of produce for Melbourne, from timber for the ovens in city bakeries in the 1800s and early 1900s to orchards and vegetable gardens throughout the 1900s and today's beef farms, fruit, olive oil and wine production. With the current obsession over food and farm-to-plate eating, it would be advantageous to leverage our food heritage and current food production as an introduction to our wider artistic culture. Art and food naturally go together both as attractions in their own right, and as reasons to connect socially. A combination of art and food is a celebration of the Nillumbik identity and a draw-card for visitors.

“Set up artistic space in Nillumbik where we showcase local artists including glass, pottery, chocolatiers, food, clothing,—all artists in one space—supporting local producers.” ³⁷⁵

“Regular community festivals! ...celebrate the cultural events of all members of the ethnically diverse community,...through food and music. Nillumbik is starting to become more ethnically diverse, and a celebration of food is a great way to welcome newcomers to the community.” ³⁷⁶

“Run small food and cultural events weekly during the warmer months: supply outdoor chairs and tables and a performance group for each township, partnering with Traders Associations.” ³⁷⁷

“We need more festivals and community get togethers that celebrate and promote local producers of food, wine, self sufficiency growing food etc. I stayed at Willunga in SA recently, and the community spirit and appreciation of local growers, artisan bakers, honey producers, organic produce etc was amazing. You could just feel the connection they all had for small local industry and being able to buy produce made and grown in that region. I really felt back home in Diamond Creek that we are missing out of the connection and togetherness that they have in Willunga. Local Festivals bring communities together to celebrate and reflect on how we are all connected.” ³⁷⁸

“Food also engages our senses in a complex kaleidoscope of the sensations of smell, taste, texture, colour, touch, temperature and sound.” ³⁷⁹

“Food isn't just something we eat, it is something we feel. To feel is to be connected. Food culture is the connection we have with food and our food system... Food culture is also about the way food is respected & celebrated as an essential part of what makes us human.” ³⁸⁰

“Community street feasts made available for people to connect” ³⁸¹

“Community events to bring locals together around food and arts.” ³⁸²

“Encourage celebration of local growers by holding more festivals.” ³⁸³

“Events and festivals celebrating arts, music and local food, wine, beer.” ³⁸⁴

“Food brings people together” ³⁸⁵

“Embracing our art, food and drink production more.” ³⁸⁶

“The horticultural and farming history...continue to influence the emotional, social, economic and political realities that are embodied as the lived and living history of Nillumbik. Tragically, food production is a rather tattered remnant of Nillumbik's cultural memory.” ³⁸⁷

“The Markets are very important for social connectedness, inclusion and even food security.” ³⁸⁸

“Eltham is the door to wine—wineries of Yarra Valley.” ³⁸⁹

“There absolutely needs to be a performance and arts centre in Nillumbik. It’s so frustrating that we have the artists and no place to shine a spotlight on them and allow community access to them.” ³⁹⁰

2.2 Promoting and supporting our artists and creative industries

Promoting the arts effectively, developing collaborative relationships between Council, local businesses, emerging and established artists, and sharing physical and intellectual resources all contribute to building the creative capital of Nillumbik.

The celebration of Nillumbik as a creative centre is facilitated through good promotion and marketing of our cultural offerings, involving creative practitioners in broad planning and development processes, and instituting unique events and a healthy live music and event scene.

The community has expressed a desire to increase their engagement with arts and culture in Nillumbik and frustration at not knowing how to access cultural activities and events. In particular, there is a marked absence of an online digital presence for artists and cultural events that is comprehensive and accessible for the general community.

Artists have a talent for adding value and a sense of occasion to various projects; through such things as art installations, performances at openings and clever community engagement, as well as developing creative processes.

As a Shire that aims to be a centre for culture and the arts, it would merit the inclusion of creative practitioners at the planning and design stages of Council projects across departments; to ensure our creative culture is embedded in the work Council does.

In addition having artists perform or give a talk about their practice at Council meetings and events builds trust and a stronger connection with Council. The consultations identified opportunities to strengthen relationships between Council and community groups and with the general public through management and administrative assistance. Collaboration between the creative community and Council, businesses and community organisations is a way to support the arts and also elevate its reputation among non-cultural players.

Digital Online Hub

Extend engagement with the arts through an online calendar of cultural events and a directory of local artists and creative industries. Increase arts and cultural events throughout the Shire by creating a comprehensive and clear online list of venues for hire.

People want to engage with the arts more, but find it difficult to know what is happening in the Shire. Searching for event and artist information through the number of portals that are available is confusing and prohibitive. What is lacking is a centralised information hub; an online calendar of cultural events, a directory of local artists and creative industries, and a clear online list of venues to hire for rehearsals, workshops, performances and exhibitions.

To engage people in our local creative ecosystem, it needs to be represented online in attractive and functional forms.

According to the needs of the community, a centralised information hub should serve three main purposes:

1. Happenings

A comprehensive cultural events calendar highlighting all creative events happening in the Shire: exhibitions, theatre performances, live music performances, workshops, artist talks, poetry readings, short story competitions, art festivals etc. It may also include markets such as the Eltham Farmers Market and St Andrews Market where musicians regularly perform.

The Participate Nillumbik survey indicates that people were least aware of and least engaged with the Eltham Library Community Gallery program and Arts & Culture focused events including festivals.

2. Spaces

There have been repeated requests for a list of what venues are available for creative events; for studios, rehearsals, performance, exhibition etc.

The list needs to be easy to see at a glance:

- Which venues are suitable for particular art forms,
- The cost to hire,
- Who to contact to book the space.

“Activities and opportunities are not promoted and/or advertised enough. I am interested in supporting the arts and artists, but never really know how.” ³⁹¹

“Better process for finding information. Hard to scroll through council website to find stuff. One social online presence for all arts in Nillumbik to facilitate access and show calendar of events. Someone to maintain all info including dates, venues etc” ³⁹²

The issues the creative community has is that the process is murky and unclear. It is hard to contact people. There are different points of contact and information for each venue, so it is onerous to chase up numerous venues in order to compare them. Most significantly, prices often are hidden until the applicant writes up a submission or a business plan. This includes for Council-run spaces. The process can result in much work for the applicant, just to find out the venue might be beyond their budget. **Securing a venue in Nillumbik is so difficult that many artists and community groups look outside the Shire.**

3. People

A list of a creative practitioners and industries in Nillumbik: showcasing their work and giving some information on their history and practice and how to contact them for commissions.

Note: Visit Nillumbik is not a cultural hub; its focus is on tourism and people coming from outside the Shire. It does not serve to fostering our creative ecosystem like a cultural digital hub described here would.

“Significantly increase Council's digital presence to engage and tap into the increasingly interconnected online spaces used by community.” ³⁹³

“Sometimes it feel like the arts/artist/creative culture is the spare wheel. It's integral to how the community functions, and most people like it, but only the niche/few people who know how to access it and where to find it within a community platform. Some may not know it exists within the community.” ³⁹⁴

“A desire for more information on what is available in regards to arts and culture in Nillumbik was also expressed.” ³⁹⁵



Image: Naughty Artist and Policeperson by Stiltwalkers Australia at Diamond Creek Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

THEME: 2. Creative Capital
SUB-THEME: 2.2 Promoting and supporting our artists and creative industries

Digital Online Hub

Digital Online Hub: Happenings

An online cultural calendar that includes exhibitions, performances, creative workshops, markets, festivals; any event where people can experience arts and culture in Nillumbik.

“A cultural event calendar with an up-to -date list of all exhibitions, activities, cultural meetings and events. Anyone can post, but the entries are curated. Needs to be beautiful with strong branding. A ‘known and respected repository of information.’” 396

“...it’s hard for people to know what is going on in their local community. An independent source of news is needed, and a place where locals can promote their events/ideas etc.” 397

“Improve communication on Council’s services and what is available... there are so many available active, arts, cultural etc. services, groups etc. and many people are unaware of this information.” 398

“There is also a desire for better ways of informing residents about local arts and culture opportunities.” 399

“I would like to know what’s happening in the Arts in Nillumbik and to have more information about Art activities in Nillumbik.” 400

“Tell the community whats on for them, advertise more get to the people that don’t bother to know what their council do for them encourage participation” 401

“I’m largely unaware of projects in the area. As such, tend to go to galleries, theatre, gigs etc. in the city or Inner North, rather than locally.” 402

“Council and Community also need to get better at promoting and advertising opportunities for non-artists to attend and participate in activities/shows/etc.” 403

“There were conversations around the need for more information about what Art/Culture events are available for Adults after work...” 404

Digital Online Hub: People

An ‘Arts Atlas’ for artists, performers and creative organisations would be helpful not only to promote their work, but would also identify Nillumbik as a place that values its artists and fosters creative industries.

“A list of all the creative industries and individual artists and designers in the Shire with contact details for people looking to engage with an artist. A possible partnership with Economic Development.” 405

“More promotion of local art organisations through local channels” 406

“NEW IDEAS FOR RESOURCE SHARING

- Digital noticeboard where people can ask questions, ask for help, find the people they need,
- Artist Directory with list of haves and needs.
- Gumtree for artists in Nillumbik.
- Artist Helpdesk.” 407

“We have world class writers and artists in Nillumbik that are not celebrated.” 408

“The artbeat of Nillumbik is almost a subculture. There are so many extraordinary artists that live in the shire, yet hardly any public representation...We have a thriving artistic community and if you’re in the know, easy to find, but if you don’t, then not.” 409

“Support marketing though social media, e-newsletters, a virtual hub listing so artists are not having to do all their own marketing.” 410

Digital Online Hub: Spaces

A common frustration is in finding a venue to hire. Venues for workshops and creative events are managed by many different entities. Information on who to contact to request information on a particular venue is missing. Also missing is an indication of costs.

“A list of performance/rehearsal/studio/meeting spaces available across the Shire with clear and transparent costs and an up-to-date contact or online booking process. This includes non-Council run spaces. Easy accessibility to whoever has the key. Also a list of cafes that are willing to display artwork, perhaps a contact from a Traders Association or Chamber of Commerce to curate and organise.” 411

“Sometimes I’d be pushed to Council, sometimes I’d be pushed to the Traders Association. Being able to book and use space to do things is really difficult.” 412

“[An] audit and promotion of the Shire’s artistic spaces/galleries for hire/studios etc and/or a centralised industry database ensuring communications with the diverse creative sector of Nillumbik.” 413

THEME: 2. Creative Capital
SUB-THEME: 2.2 Promoting and supporting our artists and creative industries

Artists at Council Meetings and Events

Inclusion of Artists in Council Projects

Strengthen cultural awareness and expression though regular inclusion of artists in Council projects, both in consulting and commissioning.

Nillumbik artists are uniquely placed to contribute ideas on how art and creativity can be embedded in Council projects. Often art and artists are added to various projects and developments as an afterthought, but there is greater value in incorporating their work and their ideas at the early stages of planning so that creativity is manifest throughout the life of a project from design and community engagement to activation and promotion.

"I think it is the opportunity for local artists like myself to have a say in where we could contribute our art skill and suggestions for how art can be incorporated more into Nillumbik and how it can contribute to enhancing people's lives overall."⁴¹⁴

"Make it a policy that there's a role for an artist included in multiple sectors of Council business. So, just as a matter of course, an artist's perspective and presence are included in planning or implementing, or challenging a problem."⁴¹⁵

"Keep it local when sourcing artists for projects in Nillumbik, where so many artists live and understand the area."⁴¹⁶

"Art work included in all Council new buildings."⁴¹⁷

"Wherever an artists' work or a creative organisation's work is used by Council, their name is acknowledged."⁴¹⁸

"Creative practitioners are recognised as professionals and paid appropriately. Refer to NAVA rates as a benchmark."⁴¹⁹

"We also look forward to our artists and performers being included in projects throughout Nillumbik."⁴²⁰

Voices of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people



Image: Fantastic Flamingo by New Heights Circus at Eltham Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

Artists at Council Meetings & Events

Expand support of local artists by employing them to perform or speak regularly at Council events and meetings.

As part of the consultation process, a focus group for Councillors was held at the Council Chambers commencing with an acoustic recital by local artist Hana Zreikat. This performance changed the feeling in the room and set up the space for a more relaxed and focused engagement. Councillors showed great interest in Hana and in having more artists perform regularly at Council events.

Such a commitment would benefit both Council and the creative community; by providing a platform for paid performance and an opportunity for artists to get to know Council staff. It also lends a meeting or event a sense of occasion, and raises awareness within Council of the breadth of the arts offering in Nillumbik that might not be encountered otherwise.

Overall this initiative has great potential to initiate and strengthen positive relationships between Council and the creative community.

"There is a perceived loss of local art & history knowledge in Council. Create opportunities for creatives to present/perform to Councillors and Council staff, perhaps as a regular event at meetings; open meetings with live music or an artist speaking about an art piece or reading literature or poetry."⁴²¹

"Participant Suggestions for Council Support: Council contracting performing artists for NSC events"⁴²²

Artist Residencies

Inspire creativity and build stronger connections to Nillumbik for artists though establishing artist residency programs in inspiring places.

Local artists feel the loss of the Laughing Waters residency program keenly and would like to see the heritage buildings preserved and the residency program reinstated, along with the Red Chair talks.

New residency programs, particularly live-in programs similar to Laughing Waters and Dunmoochin would be well received.

"Bring back the Laughing Waters Road artists in residency program asap."⁴²³

"The loss of the Red Chair Artist Talks and the artist residency program..."⁴²⁴

"I really miss the Studio Residencies and the Red Chair —they were a great opportunity to be inspired by other artists—and local artists need to be nurtured."⁴²⁵

"A multi-disciplinary residency or program to encourage collaborative projects or cross-pollination of ideas between different artistic disciplines (e.g. visual arts, literature, film making, performing arts)."⁴²⁶

"Create long residencies: 1–3 years at Dunmoochin has been successful."⁴²⁷

"Save Laughing Waters residency program."⁴²⁸

THEME: 2. Creative Capital
SUB-THEME: 2.2 Promoting and supporting our artists and creative industries

Festivals, Street Fairs & Events

Create a greater sense of joy and connection through unique festivals, street fairs and events that showcase the work of local artists, particularly musicians.

More events where people can come together are a recurrent request across the consultations: specifically for festivals based around the unique character of Nillumbik, street feasts featuring local produce and any events that celebrate our identity and cannot be replicated outside the Shire.

Live music and outdoor theatre are mentioned numerous times and are highly desired.

“Music and Festivals: At least 8 of the responses either celebrated the power of music and festivals to connect community, or spoke of a desire for more or better quality festivals, especially outdoors (6.5%). This also reflected a desire for the arts to be a visible and vibrant part of our community. Local festivals with a community feel to them were applauded. *‘Festivals connect the community together and music allows everyone to speak and understand each other on a different level to normal conversations.’*”⁴²⁹

From Participate Nillumbik data:
When asked ‘What supports would you most like to see provided for the performing arts sector in Nillumbik?’

80.65% (25 respondents) chose **Opportunities to perform** (public events etc)

70.97% (22 respondents) chose **Financial support (performing arts grants etc)**

“I’d like to see a unique event in the area. I find most events in Australia are 99% the same as every other event. Places that have a real cultural personality or identity; they have some sort of unique event that people think of when they think of that area.”⁴³⁰

“Festivals connect the community together and music allows everyone to speak and understand each other on a different level to normal conversations”⁴³¹

“Festivals and outdoor theatre.”⁴³²

“Music in the Park is a great opportunity to meet locals”⁴³³

“Encourage more music and arts events as Covid restrictions ease.”⁴³⁴

“Restart local festivals. Develop local craft and farmers markets as social hubs as well as places of business”⁴³⁵

“Support for outdoor events involving collaboration between art forms—such as literature and jazz; more studio spaces and; more live performance opportunities.”⁴³⁶

“Event/Venue Assistance:

- Free/low cost venues and events
- Facilitation of concerts/events that involve local community”⁴³⁷

“More outdoor theatre and music in Nillumbik.”⁴³⁸

“White Night Nillumbik.”⁴³⁹

“Add eating destinations and music to Nillumbik [Open] Cellars.”⁴⁴⁰

“More festivals, great bars.”⁴⁴¹

- “- Music live gigs
- Food trucks
- Festivals”⁴⁴²

“More music for young people.”⁴⁴³

“Have different types of culture, art, flower, and other festivals to support local businesses.”⁴⁴⁴

“Put on beer festival, plant shows, animal shows, music shows, outdoor cinema, so visitors come here to support local business.”⁴⁴⁵

“A street performers buskers festival”⁴⁴⁶

Festivals, Street Fairs & Events

Requests for a higher quality of events and festivals that showcase our unique creative identity

Not enough...events (i.e. festivals that are specific to Nillumbik or with enough clout to attract people...) ⁴⁵⁹

“Art festivals. On the Hill and Warrandyte festivals include arts and crafts but others are funfair, imported cheap market goods etc. are not reflective of our arts history and culture.”⁴⁶⁰

“Relying on volunteers to direct the local festival content is also troublesome. I mean, yarn bombing is fine and all but I’d love to see some better quality, funded production. There is so much history and talent that better representation should just be a given.”⁴⁶¹

There is frustration with the current festival/grant model. The model needs to change in order to reduce the administration load on event organisers.

“Managers of festivals and events are frustrated with the lack of support from Council departments outside Arts and Culture. In some cases, they have to apply for a grant though Council, only to pay another department of Council with a significant part of the funds in order to run their event.”⁴⁶²

“50% of a \$5000 Council grant goes back to Council for venue hire and rubbish bins.”⁴⁶³

“Courthouse poetry is over. All the admin and reapplying and acquitting the grant was too onerous, and the grant money mainly went back to Council for the venue hire.”⁴⁶⁴

“Establish a partnership model for festivals and events where Council supplies infrastructure support (such as rubbish bins). There is frustration around applying for grants from Council that go to pay Council for venue hire, rubbish bins etc. The extra administration to apply and acquit grants falls on artists and community volunteers and is seen as unnecessary.”⁴⁶⁵

“More local music festivals and more community gallery spaces for new and emerging artists.”⁴⁴⁷

“Events, festivals and celebrations to bring community together.”⁴⁴⁸

“Arts and cultural festivals.”⁴⁴⁹

“Events, festivals, things that bring people together in an accessible way for all.”⁴⁵⁰

“More festivals/markets.”⁴⁵¹

“Boring night-life.”⁴⁵²

- “Cafés with music and entertainment
- Shows
- Night time entertainment
- Theatre
- More live music
- Local cinema
- More live stuff in townships
- Performing arts”⁴⁵³

“...requests for more theatre, public theatre outside, music in the parks and on the streets.”⁴⁵⁴

“Provide outdoor cinema, festivals, funfairs, carousels, orchestra, music etc similar to events in Macleod.”⁴⁵⁵

“More community engagement activities such as markets and festivals.”⁴⁵⁶

“Events and festivals supporting creatives, musicians, artists and so on, engaging the youth in these events.”⁴⁵⁷

“Festivals!!!! Food trucks!!! Markets!!”⁴⁵⁸

THEME: 2. Creative Capital
SUB-THEME: 2.2 Promoting and supporting our artists and creative industries

Professional Development program for artists

Live Music

Connect a wider audience to the work of local musicians and non-mainstream music by sponsoring them to play in large festivals, such as the Eltham Town Fair.

Opportunities to hear live music are seen to be lacking. Events and festivals with a focus on music are consistently requested; particularly music unique to Nillumbik; local performers and performers creating non-mainstream music.

Live music is a desired addition in activating local venues, as a part of placemaking projects and as a vital element of a cultural centre. There needs to be more live music across the Shire that is easily accessible for residents of each of our townships.

“I don’t see anything out there for professional musicians who aren’t doing the mainstream stuff.” ⁴⁶⁶

“People are not dumb. They have the capacity and ability to enjoy all sorts of music if we give it to them.” ⁴⁶⁷

“Music in Hurstbridge was a great idea to get people out and together supporting local businesses.” ⁴⁶⁸

“More local music at local venues or public spaces would be awesome.” ⁴⁶⁹

“Music performance area in Hurstbridge.” ⁴⁷⁰

“Gigs in every bar/restaurant” ⁴⁷¹

“More live music everywhere” ⁴⁷²

“Variety of art forms” ⁴⁷³

“Where’s the live music? We moved to Nillumbik from the inner north where we could see diverse musical acts—out here it seems mainly to be cover bands or acoustic artists” ⁴⁷⁴

In regards to music, there is a strong indication that the Eltham Town Fair could be used to highlight local musicians (beyond young musicians who will play for free); as it has done in the past.

Professional musicians and the general public have expressed disappointment with the commercial nature of the Eltham Town Fair and its current lack of diverse and interesting musical offerings.

“Since Rotary have taken over the Eltham Town Fair and Diamond Creek Town Fair—all those sort of festivals, now they just get people to play for free, so all of a sudden its gone from such a varied musical offering... then the festivals become about the ice cream, the food and the rides.” ⁴⁷⁵

“The Eltham Rotary festival is so boring and predictable. When we first moved here the local artists got to perform at the Eltham Festival (19 years ago).” ⁴⁷⁶

“Our Eltham festival is now so commercial and not like what it used to be. Junk being sold nothing much else.” ⁴⁷⁷

Professional Development program for artists

Increase the financial success and longevity of creative industries by expanding a professional development program for creatives to learn business and marketing skills.

Professional development in business, grant writing and marketing assists artists and creative industries to thrive financially. Many artists have called for more support in this area.

“Needs:

- Help with marketing as well as funding for art projects within the community.
- Website development skills.
- Help building a website on a platform that is unfamiliar to me...
- Work opportunities that are closer to home.
- Social media support—marketing myself.
- To learn more about how local government works—to reveal ways of engaging, participating, influencing my community.” ⁴⁷⁸

“I believe Nillumbik can make a big difference by finding ways to support artists write grants and get the funding to be able to be heard.” ⁴⁷⁹

“The importance placed by the Council on supporting, marketing and networking with artists.” ⁴⁸⁰

“Lead the community in understanding/knowledge, grant opportunities, community activations and spaces.” ⁴⁸¹

“Promotion of Nillumbik as a place to start a business especially in the arts.” ⁴⁸²

“Training/Mentoring Ideas:

- Sales & business skills incl. digitising, marketing, social media
- Writing grants/other funding options
- Workshop facilitation
- Mentoring of emerging artists by established artists” ⁴⁸³



Image: Perky And Fiddle by Kinetic Theatre at Edendale Community Environment Farm Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

THEME: 2. Creative Capital

SUB-THEME: 2.2 Promoting and supporting our artists and creative industries

Professional Development program for businesses to work with artists

There is a lack of knowledge outside the creative industries of the merits of working with creative practitioners who are able to generate innovative solutions, create more positive and collaborative work environments or engage imaginatively with the community.

Similar to using socially engaged art practice to address social issues, there are a number of creative practitioners who can work creatively in a commercial environment; addressing business issues and improving client and community relationships. Education for business owners on how to work with these creative practitioners and incentives to do so could be a program designed by the creative community and facilitated by Council.

“Incentives to businesses, property developers and landlords to engage artists (E.g. Renew Australia).” ⁴⁸⁴

“Fact Sheets & Guides: for businesses on how to engage an artist, includes a directory of local artists, fee schedule, sample contracts and IP clauses, best practice principles in working with artists.” ⁴⁸⁵

- “Cross Sector Facilitation:
- Grants/subsidies to encourage businesses to employ artists (e.g. signage) [to] increase the presence of art in retail/industrial precincts
 - Support landlords to consider pop-up events in vacant tenancies” ⁴⁸⁶

“Council could look to increase the facilitation of cross-sector partnerships with the wider business network e.g. with pop-up creative initiatives in vacant tenancies.” ⁴⁸⁷

Mentoring for emerging artists

Mentoring for emerging artists

Strengthen connection within the creative community by establishing a mentoring program for emerging artists.

Connections between emerging and established artists are needed in order for our emerging artists to feel welcome and supported. There is scope to facilitate master classes and spaces where established and emerging artists can interact.

This is something to consider when looking at other initiatives set out in this Summary Report, such as establishing a creative precinct, having artists perform at Council events, artists involved in planning Council projects etc. All of these are openings for emerging and established artists to be brought together so the experience and knowledge of accomplished artists can be shared.

“It was suggested that young emerging artists would like to meet with mentors or peers and learn about the art business and be supported in a collective studio.” ⁴⁸⁹

“Master art workshops” ⁴⁹⁰

“Objectively and through personal experience I have most felt the Eltham art community as a bit elite and not helpful for making inexperienced and emerging artists feel supported, welcome or included.” ⁴⁹¹

“Set up a mentoring/guidance program connecting artists with other artists to support each other in their practice.” ⁴⁹²

In the *Participate Nillumbik* survey, the following question was asked: “What supports would you most like to see provided for the performing arts sector in Nillumbik?”

- 51.61% (16 respondents) asked for performance industry development opportunities (workshops etc)
- 79.31% (23 respondents) are interested in being contacted about forming a Nillumbik Performing Arts Forum to allow people in the performing arts sector to share knowledge, experience and support

“...a reaching out to arts and future-oriented business to form partnerships.” ⁴⁸⁸

“The provision of what I call ecologies of arts and creative business practice doesn’t seem to be there in a structured way—there’s no clear pathways, we don’t have the assets and the capabilities to take someone from the beginning and allow them to go on a bit of a journey from emerging through to mid-career or established artist. This is something we should be looking to offer as best we can.” ⁴⁹³

Shared Resources

Shared Resources

Improve support of art production by sharing resources/byproducts across departments for artists to use in artwork, such as timber from felled trees.

Promoting sustainability and the sharing of resources is important to artists and the general community. Two suggestions came to light during the consultations; to re-purpose felled trees for use by artists who use wood in their practice, specifically wood carvers, drum makers and guitar makers; and also to support young bands by having a Council-owned mixing desk to loan out. There may be other similar initiatives to link up Council resources from various departments with local artists.

- Council to have a mixing desk to loan to young bands so they have a chance to perform without the need to hire equipment
- Have a wood register for artists that use wood in their work and a process through a local mill (there is one in Cottles Bridge) so that when trees are taken down by Council, they can be milled and sent to artists. Such artists include furniture makers, a drum and box maker and a chainsaw carver (who is interested in cypress.)

Compare to a recycle program. Are there any other assets artists can use? ⁴⁹⁴

“...developing mechanisms for maximizing local assets, reuse, repair, share and trade systems to meet local needs, support sustainability and wellbeing..” ⁴⁹⁵

“I’m a guitar builder (and teach people how to build their own guitars using Australian tonewoods)... I would like access to trees that have fallen either through a storm or removal to be used for arts rather than disappearing into wood-chips. Even if this means going through a 3rd party who can do transport and milling. This way you support another business, remove Council liability, reduce cost and support local arts.” ⁴⁹⁶

“I would like to see Nillumbik explore opportunities to develop new ways of doing business underpinned by principles of sustainability and equality...” ⁴⁹⁷



Image: Angelic—Living Statue by Kinetic Theatre, at Hurstbridge Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

3. Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice

There are a number of voices missing from our cultural life, and the community has expressed a longing for space in Nillumbik where those voices can be heard. Most absent are the voices of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung. Also lacking are voices from other cultures. We have no safe space for LGBTQIA+ creative expression. In addition, our focus on heritage and visual arts has left our more contemporary creative voices and our sound, movement, and language-based artforms without a strong and accessible platform.

SUB-THEME

3.1 Share creative skills, understanding and a sense of delight

“Nillumbik isn't very culturally diverse really so it would be great to see more local/ indigenous history or events recognised” ⁴⁹⁸

“I am saddened by the complete lack of acknowledgment of first peoples and multiculturalism that thrives in this area.” ⁴⁹⁹

“Nillumbik’s heartbeat is a community of multiculturalism and Indigenous history and yet none of it is promoted.” ⁵⁰⁰

“...sense of community including recognition of indigenous and multicultural society.” ⁵⁰¹

“Diversity of cultures, welcoming community.” ⁵⁰²

“Cultural diversity” ⁵⁰³

“There is no variety in the types of art available or that is being funded. It would be wonderful to see more dance and sound-based practices, as opposed to only visual art, being funded.” ⁵⁰⁴

“Aboriginal heritage education” ⁵⁰⁵

“I believe we need to support emerging and the less popular arts more. A bit more variety.” ⁵⁰⁶

“Art is limited and mundane in Nillumbik.” ⁵⁰⁷

“Aboriginal, Rainbow & Trans flags at Council buildings—be on the right side of history, don't be afraid to make a stand for inclusion.” ⁵⁰⁸

“Cultural diversity” +

“More cultural diversity and a welcome to new residents.” ⁵¹⁰

“Specifically, more support for LGBTI youth” ⁵¹¹

“A more diverse, inclusive and better informed community” ⁵¹²

“Being a positive and inclusive community” ⁵¹³

THEME: 3. Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice

Responses from Our People, Our Place, Our Future wider Council consultation data that show a strong desire for more recognition and accessibility to other cultures and Indigenous culture.

What 3 things need to change

- To be more multicultural
- Acknowledgment of traditional owners
- Recognition of local Aboriginal heritage
- Improve cultural awareness
- Acknowledgment of Aboriginal culture
- Openness to culturally diverse communities
- Accessibility and creating a shire that holds space for disabled people, people of varying cultures and identifies
- Acknowledgment of First Nations
- Support LGBTI citizens
- Finding out more about the Wurundjeri Peoples and how we can utilise their knowledge for the better of the people of Nillumbik.
- Supporting all people so that it creates cohesiveness within the community.

Short Term Focus Areas

- Provide First Nations people with more of a voice and stop Australia Day celebrations
- Cultural diversity
- Invite cultural leaders to teach and influence all of us non-Indigenous
- Boldly create environments where the benefits of a diverse community are highlighted, especially by actively pursuing positive discrimination in employment,
- Work towards an eighth Councillor representing the traditional owners' voice.
- Empower First Nations voices
- Engage community leaders and local First Nations peoples.

What Should Council do?

- Have a First Nations advisory committee
- Stop Australia Day celebrations and take a stand with First Nation peoples
- Allocate resources to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan including active recruitment of Aboriginal staff members
- Form working groups with the Wurundjeri People.
- Work with Indigenous consultants

Long Term Focus Areas

- Develop a real recognition and knowledge of Aboriginal culture
- Indigenous culture
- Promote and foster a culture of inclusiveness for all.

What to do Long Term

- Recognise and support cultural diversity
- Continuing to include, consult, stay up to date with, and connect to our ever-evolving community to create space for equal opportunities across cultural, ability, and identity differences.
- Giving grants to local schools and preschools to do Indigenous Cultural education.
- Engage with the Indigenous community to give them a genuine voice (the first people's assembly is a good place to start)

Participate Nillumbik

91.47 % (234 respondents) classed **access to a diverse range of arts and culture** as important or very important.

16 respondents specifically mentioned wanting **greater visibility and understanding of Indigenous culture**, and 24 respondents specifically mentioned the **lack of diversity in culture and art forms**.

Art forms/culture seen as least accessible (includes ranking from the report):

Dance 1.67
Indigenous history & culture 1.67
Development & growth of creative industries 1.79
Socially engaged art 1.81
Creative economy & cultural tourism 1.82
Grants to enable artist-run initiatives 1.87
Advocacy for arts & culture 1.87
Live music venues 1.85
Theatre 1.9
Live music 1.91
Artist residencies 1.91
Literary arts 1.92
Performance venues 1.92

3.1 Share creative skills, understanding and a sense of delight

It is important to the Nillumbik community to build and maintain cultural longevity through the education and sharing of our cultural and artistic heritage, creative skills and inspiration.

We also need to ensure we have a succession plan, supporting and educating our emerging artists, including emerging Indigenous Elders so Nillumbik remains a cultural centre well into the future.

There are a number of ways to foster cultural longevity in Nillumbik:

- Assist the creative community in becoming business and financially savvy. Ensure the creative community has access to business support, seed funding and opportunities for cross sector partnerships with businesses and Council.
- Upskill our artists, improving the standard and breadth of their creative output.
- Increase access to our history, particularly the deep history of the First People. This is important for Indigenous people as well as non-Indigenous people; Wurundjeri Elders must have a platform to pass on knowledge to their young people and emerging Elders.

Sharing cultural knowledge outside the creative community is also important, including introducing new Council staff members to significant cultural experiences in Nillumbik, introducing the general public to the Wurundjeri perspective on the natural environment, and sharing art practice with young people.

Access to contemporary artistic expression and a wide range of artistic practice is vital for our cultural life to flourish in Nillumbik. Theatre, dance, literature, fashion and music are some of the art forms that are currently seen as being under-supported in Nillumbik, despite the existence of a predisposed and expectant audience.

“More should be spent on education because young roots grow a strong tree and old roots tend to remain comfortably unaware of the crises we face today.” ⁵¹⁴



Image: Fantastic Flamingo by New Heights Circus at Eltham Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

Art programs in small intimate spaces

Art programs in small intimate spaces

Increase engagement with under-represented art forms, particularly music and performance art through supporting people to host creative events in intimate venues.

Small and intimate gatherings have been suggested as a new way of exploring new art forms, experimental work and challenging ideas: A 'soirée' program; unique, intimate with a high level of engagement, could potentially be held in private houses and underutilised spaces; particularly for under-represented art forms such as music, literature and the performing arts.

There is potential for Council to play a role by assisting in the setup of such a program, helping people understand any permits and obligations needed in hosting such an event and helping with promotion.

“These priceless little gems that are hiding everywhere around the Shire—maybe they could be linked up and become somewhere for house concerts.” ⁵¹⁵

“A network of these hidden gems could really be a thing. Give it a name, give it a program, a bit like Open Studios... visiting these very interesting and idiosyncratic places...” ⁵¹⁶

“Activate unique venues such as St Andrews Church, halls etc. to cultivate a feeling of special magic unavailable anywhere else. Use unusual and underrepresented art forms to create interest.” ⁵¹⁷

“What’s appealing when we have our social and communal lives returned to us? Perhaps we are about smaller more intimate performances with a high level of engagement and uniqueness.” ⁵¹⁸

“Close proximity to galleries and availability of shows, often in non-traditional venues. Festivals & music events. Public art (not necessarily shown in traditional spaces or sanctioned officially.)” ⁵¹⁹

“Productions that move you, words or art that makes you think or motivate you to be different in some way (to create, to do better, to invite someone else along). Something unusual, and a bit off beat is what my brain particularly likes. Intimate music events, tick. Amazing art in any medium, tick. Poetry in barns, tick. Set design that makes you want to remodel your house, tick.” ⁵²⁰

“If the pandemic has taught us anything, it’s that the way we have constructed the world hasn’t worked and now there’s a fabulous opportunity to divine a different way of being together. All of the attributes, all of the resources, all of the skills are here, we just need to find a way to trust each other and create something remarkable and beautiful.” ⁵²¹

“I like that the strong presence of the arts, including diversity and originality in some of our public and private buildings, contributes to a sense of outside the mainstream.” ⁵²²

“Stop trying only to create mainstream events, instead try niche events.” ⁵²³

THEME: 3. Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice
SUB-THEME: 3.1 Share creative skills, understanding and a sense of delight

Showcase diverse art forms

Celebrate Literature

Increase awareness of Nillumbik writers through literary festivals and events.

We have many acclaimed and award winning authors in Nillumbik that are not known outside the events run by the Eltham Bookshop. Our literary culture need to be given more prominence. Literature is seen as one of the art forms that is under represented in Nillumbik.

“For writers, there is little support, and particularly by local libraries, which do not hold works by local writers in their collections. Nor are regular readings held and/or financed, nor do discussions of the work of local writers feature in the activities of local book clubs.” ⁵²⁴

“More is needed in recognising local writers in Nillumbik. The Eltham bookshop seems [to be] the only people who really promote the local writers.” ⁵²⁵

“No opportunity or support for local authors. Could the Open Studios include visits to author or illustrators houses too? Could jazz or other festivals and gallery in eltham library include literature aspect?” ⁵²⁶

“Very little support for local writers, particularly by local libraries and book clubs.” ⁵²⁷

“The production of new, innovative and unique works that are well regarded both nationally and internationally. And connection to a larger cultural, and specifically literary, community.” ⁵²⁸

“...a woeful lack of support of ongoing vibrant literary activities.” ⁵²⁹

“Bring on a literary fest—books last the test of times.” ⁵³⁰

“Monthly writing festivals and workshops and invite well-known authors.” ⁵³¹

“A literature festival would be fantastic! Perhaps focusing on children's and youth literature.” ⁵³²

“Courthouse poetry has left a big hole.” ⁵³³



Image: *Angelic—Living Statue* by Kinetic Theatre, at Hurstbridge Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

Showcase diverse art forms through a similar model to Open Studios

Create more opportunities to engage with diverse art forms through a program based on Open Studios, but for non-visual art practitioners such as musicians, performers, writers and new media artists.

Open Studios is a widely recognised and appreciated event. There is a call to have a similar program that extends this experience beyond the visual arts to create a more holistic experience of Arts and Culture in Nillumbik; including artforms such as music, dance, theatre, fashion, textiles, literature and film among others.

Not only would this be seen as a way for people to experience other art forms, but it is a way to elevate the presence and reputation of artists that lack a public platform. It is also a way to connect these artists together and foster a sense of belonging to a wider artistic community.

“I want to know how we can build a community of artists outside of Visual Arts.” ⁵³⁴

“Being open to all kinds of the arts but for me with too much a focus on Visual arts.” ⁵³⁵

“I believe that the artbeat has been more about the visual arts in the past.” ⁵³⁶

“I feel like a lot of the art that I've seen in Nillumbik is very similar, from similar types of artists working with similar mediums. So, if I was trying to make the place a little bit more vibrant, I would probably fund artists or devote some portion of that funding to different artistic mediums.” ⁵³⁷

“Multi art forms, multi generation art events.” ⁵³⁸

“The diverse opportunities and events in Nillumbik. There are so many different ways to enjoy arts in the area, we're not known for just one thing.” ⁵³⁹

“As a visual artist I enjoy that there are many visual artists in the area, that there is a strong history of arts in the area and it's in general appreciated by the public. More widely I also appreciate that there are many other creatives in the area too, writers, film makers etc. The presence of these makers makes me feel part of a creative community.” ⁵⁴⁰

“Different visual arts, different theatre, different music for all ages.” ⁵⁴¹

“I love the Cube Z in Diamond Creek, this showcases less known art forms, currently it is showing some of our local blacksmiths excellent work.” ⁵⁴²

“Involve musicians in Open Studios and galleries.” ⁵⁴³

“There is definitely a need for more fashion based art, as a fashion design student I find Nillumbik is lacking in the fashion culture area.” ⁵⁴⁴

“Support for digital mediums, including filmmaking and video production.” ⁵⁴⁵

“I'm a fine art photographer and this art form seems to be underrepresented in Nillumbik.” ⁵⁴⁶

THEME: 3. Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice
SUB-THEME: 3.1 Share creative skills, understanding and a sense of delight

Multicultural Advisory Panel

Nillumbik Art Collection to include multicultural and Wurundjeri artworks

Increase access to art from other cultures by including Wurundjeri art/artifacts and art from different cultures in the Nillumbik Art Collection.

Acquiring Wurundjeri and multicultural art pieces for the Nillumbik Art Collection contributes to addressing the lack of diverse cultural visibility the community has identified.

“Visibility of Indigenous culture needs to be increased.
Visibility of multicultural groups needs to be increased.

— Have a directive to acquire multicultural art in the Nillumbik Arts Collection”⁵⁴⁷

“Participant Suggestions for Council Support:

Council purchasing artwork is the ‘best support ever.’”⁵⁴⁸

Organised celebration of NAIDOC Week

Increase appreciation of Wurundjeri culture though an organised celebration of NAIDOC Week.

One way to bring more understanding and increased visibility of Wurundjeri culture to the community is for Council to have a formal acknowledgment of NAIDOC week. Working with Wurundjeri to use this annual event to promote their culture would be well received in the community.

“NAIDOC week should be openly celebrated;
currently unplanned, unstructured and chaotic.”⁵⁴⁹

“Emerging themes: Connection: use stories, art
and heritage to create a shared connection.”⁵⁵⁰

Voices of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people



Image: Gathering Space, with mural by Tom Civil, at Eltham North Adventure Playground, photographer Amanda Grant

Multicultural Advisory Panel

Establish multicultural representation and perspectives in Council projects by establishing a Multicultural Advisory Panel to inform all Council departments.

Great interest in seeing multicultural arts and festivals prompted a suggestion that Council forms a Multicultural Advisory Panel to ensure the various cultures in Nillumbik have representation.

“I would like to see our emerging multi-culturalism being celebrated with opportunities for new residents to tell their stories about how they came to be here and to share their stories in the form of exhibitions, concerts, feasts etc. and maybe even a booklet. I think this could be best facilitated by having a multicultural advisory committee.”⁵⁵¹

“A wish to cultivate a multi-cultural community. The possibilities of conversation classes, or a bi-lingual book club were put forward.”⁵⁵²

“I would like to see more multicultural events.”⁵⁵³

“There was an identified need for more multi-cultural arts and cultural activities that bring communities together, and reflect the growing diversity of the area. Suggestions related to this included art activities, food, and talks about different cultures including Aboriginal culture. *Boîte World Music* in the Pitt St Hall, Eltham was mentioned and applauded as a great cultural community event.”⁵⁵⁴

“Perception that Nillumbik is not multi-cultural... many cultures represented during consultation/engagement with resident artists—Italian, South African communities, Japanese, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese.”⁵⁵⁵

“Culturally diverse art exhibitions, need more Asian art and Asian artists working and demonstrating their art techniques and talking about Asian art”⁵⁵⁶

“Something (an event?) that can help make visible the cultural diversity in our community and enable people from diverse backgrounds to share the gifts, knowledge and history with the community.”⁵⁵⁷

“More reggae—African music: More multi-cultural... two local reggae DJs [are] based in Nillumbik.”⁵⁵⁸

“A community that, although is less diverse than other LGAs, shows more awareness and respect for underrepresented groups—especially people with a disability and the LGBTQIA+ community”⁵⁵⁹

“Being a positive and inclusive community.”⁵⁶⁰

“I would also like to see more cultural diversity celebrations.”⁵⁶¹

“Being a socially and culturally inclusive place to live.”⁵⁶²

“Valuing people from other cultures; promoting inclusion and equality for LGBTQIA.”⁵⁶³

“Having events and festivals which provide opportunities to share different cultural backgrounds i.e. Chinese New Year, Greek festivals etc.”⁵⁶⁴

THEME: 3. Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice
SUB-THEME: 3.1 Share creative skills, understanding and a sense of delight

Wurundjeri-led bushwalks

Art programs for children and teenagers

Greater creative stimulation through art programs for children and teenagers.

Creative opportunities and art education for children and teenagers is important to the community as well as programs that encourage intergenerational experiences of the arts.

“Accessibility to the Arts/art classes for all ages: Art classes and opportunities for children and young people were strong themes, as was the availability of art classes for adults and making opportunities (and information about arts) accessible to many including seniors for whom transportation is an issue.” 565

“There is a desire for children’s art classes and opportunities including mentorship for young people and support for emerging artists. Parents want accessible, affordable art opportunities for children and workshops for teenagers with diverse art options such as cartoons, animation, sketching. A passionate parent spoke of the importance of mentorship and support for young artists to help build their careers.” 566

“Welcoming an inclusive space that encourages interaction amongst all generations.” 567

“Inter-generational events” 568

“Musical education classes for toddlers would be great.” 569

“More community events that bring together people of all ages.” 570

“Getting the elderly and youth together to experience each other.” 571

“I would like to see cultural orchestras and choirs world music options and opportunities to encourage youth and mature musicians to work together locally without immense cost.” 572

“Accessibility to the Arts is important—whether it is affordable art classes for children, opportunities and mentorships for young people, transport for seniors (i.e. to visit Open Studios) or simply a more effective way to inform residents about all the opportunities that are available.” 573

“A program that connects school age children with senior members of the community. Valuing the wisdom and life experience of the elderly and providing ways for that to be shared with all people.” 574

“Community activities in the public domain: Artistic and other public participatory opportunities for all ages.” 575

“Programs to connect retirees and the elderly with younger members of the community.” 576

Wurundjeri-led bushwalks

Engage a wider audience with an understanding of Wurundjeri culture and facilitate the passing on of cultural knowledge by contracting Wurundjeri Elders to run bushwalks and storytelling sessions for the general public and young Wurundjeri people.

There are established Aboriginal-led bushwalks in other Shires and there is an indication from both Wurundjeri and the broad community that such a program in Nillumbik would be very well received. Shared stories on Country, between cultures and generations would create the much-desired connections the Nillumbik community want with Wurundjeri people and their culture, as well as providing a platform for knowledge sharing within the Wurundjeri community.

“Awareness and respect of our First Nations people.” 577

“Greater interaction with first nations people to enhance and increase awareness of the local flora and fauna and sites of cultural significance” 578

“Local Elders to further educate the community. Programs run by Elders” 579

“A signed indigenous walk in Eltham Lower Park near wetlands.” 580

Stronger Wurundjeri engagement in the way our region is developed, with significant long-term financial support for Wurundjeri creative work and input into the way we plan and design our local areas.” 581

“A desire to have more opportunities to learn about and/or celebrate Indigenous history in the area, or to cultivate the kind of values that Indigenous culture embraces.” 582

“Elevate Indigenous voices in the community significantly more than is currently present. How do they see our local environment and the heritage of our region? How would they wish to see our region develop and look to the future?” 583

“Some of these projects could involve Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Elders and younger members of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung community so that future Elders can be mentored on Country.” 584

“Creating opportunities for Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people to tell their own stories.” 585

“Initiate guided tours of trails with a Wurundjeri Elder, such as the tour that takes place at Pound Bend and Warrandyte.” 586

“Facilitate a mentorship between Elders and juniors members of Wurundjeri Corp on these tours to help preserve and spread knowledge.” 587

“Talk to people—explain what the land is about and how to look after it properly.” 588

“It is important to us that our history and culture are preserved and presented properly in all parts of our Country.” 589

Voices of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people

THEME: 3. Diversity in cultural expression and artistic practice
SUB-THEME: 3.1 Share creative skills, understanding and a sense of delight

Kangaroo Ground is important to Wurundjeri

Engage a wider audience with an understanding of Wurundjeri culture by establishing Kangaroo Ground Memorial Park as an information/storytelling space.

One opportunity identified in consultation with Wurundjeri was to present Wurundjeri cultural heritage through story (text), artwork and photographs on the history panels within the Moor-rul Viewing Platform which are currently vacant. The eight panels could tell the story of the land, of Wurundjeri and the history of the Memorial Tower.

The Moor-rul viewing platform could be established as a place of connection; where Wurundjeri and non-indigenous heritage and culture connect.

Another opportunity identified is to extend the native grasslands project at the Moor-rul Viewing Platform site, establishing the entire Kangaroo Ground Memorial Hill as a native garden/grasslands, a walk-around area with the theme of connection.

“Some of the places in the Nillumbik area we have been involved in are the Moor-rul viewing platform that looks over our ancestral lands and the Gawa Trail and Panton Hill Bushland Reserves trails, where people can learn about Wurundjeri Woiwurrung culture. Some of our artists have also performed and presented their works in Nillumbik.

In the coming years, as well as helping to maintain these places, we are looking forward to being involved in the development of a number of projects. These projects will help us realise our aspirations for Country. These might include: telling our story through the panels at the Moor-rul Viewing Platform, extending the native grasslands at the Moor-rul Viewing Platform site (with our Narrap Unit), and creating more trails with signage and/or other interactive mediums to tell our stories. We would welcome spaces that invite people to stop and experience Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Country.”⁵⁹⁰

Voices of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people



Image: Gathering Space, with mural by Tom Civil, at Eltham North Adventure Playground, photographer Amanda Grant

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Image: Zebras by Born in a Taxi at St Andrews Market Pop Up Consultation, photographer Jamie Robertson

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Planning and Environment Act 1987

NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME

AMENDMENT C142

INSTRUCTION SHEET

The planning authority for this amendment is Nillumbik Shire Council.

The Nillumbik Shire Council Planning Scheme is amended as follows:

Planning Scheme Maps

The Planning Scheme Maps are amended by a total of one (1) attached map sheet.

Overlay Maps

1. Amend Planning Scheme Map No 08 in the manner shown on the attached map marked Nillumbik C142nill 001ho Map 08 Exhibition.

Planning Scheme Ordinance

The Planning Scheme Ordinance is amended as follows:

2. In **Overlays** – Clause 43.01, replace Schedule 1 with a new Schedule 1 in the form of the attached document.
3. In Incorporated Documents – Clause 72.04, replace Schedule 1 with a new Schedule 1 in the form of the attached document.
4. In Background Documents – Clause 72.08, replace Schedule 1 with a new Schedule 1 in the form of the attached document.

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Planning and Environment Act 1987

NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME

AMENDMENT C142

EXPLANATORY REPORT

Who is the planning authority?

This amendment has been prepared by the Nillumbik Shire Council, which is the planning authority for this amendment.

The amendment has been made at the request of Nillumbik Shire Council.

Land affected by the amendment

The amendment applies to part of 50 Oatland Road, Plenty 3090.

A mapping reference table is attached at Attachment 1 to this Explanatory Report.

What the amendment does

Specifically the amendment:

- Amends the Schedule to Clause 43.01 (Heritage Overlay) to apply the heritage overlay (HO271) to part of 50 Oatland Road, Plenty.
- Amends Planning Scheme Map No 008 to apply the new Heritage Overlay.
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 72.04 (Schedule to the Documents Incorporated in this Planning Scheme) to include a Statement of Significance for 50 Oatland Road, Plenty
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 72.08 (Backgrounds Documents) to include the citation for 50 Oatland Road, Plenty.

Why is the amendment required?

50 Oatland Road, Plenty, is historically significant for its association with the development of Plenty in the interwar years. As an intact timber bungalow built for William Charles and Priscilla Mary Lierse in c1928, originally on a 30 acre lot, it provides tangible evidence of the interwar subdivision pattern in which large rural landholdings in the Plenty area were divided for sale in allotments of 10 of 30 acres. These allotments were advertised as being equally suited to farming and fruit-growing as they were to residential purposes. In response to an increasing population in the area, this development coincided with and supported a growing Plenty town centre. Established in the 1920s, the town centre included a Primary School (HO213), Methodist Church (HO250), Store and Hall (HO248). The Lierse family were early residents in the Diamond Creek and Plenty area involved in a variety of agricultural and other pursuits. They were heavily involved in the development of community life in Plenty from the mid-1920s.

Arthurs Creek, Doreen, Hurstbridge, Strathewen, Plenty, Diamond Creek, Yarrambat and Research became important centres for a fruit-growing industry that was based at Diamond Creek. Smaller orchardists, however, often struggled to make a living from their trees and often turned to other activities such as raising chickens, selling firewood or even working for other landowners or in goldmines, as well as tending their fruit trees. This was the case for William Charles Lierse, who was an orchardist and sanitary contractor prior to establishing a poultry farm on the property by 1943. 50 Oatland Road provides important tangible evidence of these early agricultural activities in the area. The significance of the place is enhanced by its rural setting, which maintains its street frontage and setback to Oatland Road.

The house at 50 Oatland Road, Plenty, is a largely intact representative example of a timber interwar bungalow. It has had very few changes made to the original or early built fabric across its principal elevations. Key characteristics include its asymmetric built form with projecting front room below a dominant Dutch gable roof, and an extensive wrap-around verandah under the sweep of the main roof

line. The extant c1920s garage, poultry shed, and open setting evidence the use of the site as a poultry farm complex.

The significance of the property was assessed against the standard criteria contained in Practice Note 01 Applying the Heritage Overlay (August 2018) and is considered to meet the requirements and threshold for local protection through application of the Heritage Overlay. Consequently, Amendment C142nill is required to implement these findings by including the property in the Heritage Overlay.

The Heritage Overlay is the appropriate planning mechanism to protect the heritage values of the property as the Heritage Overlay requires a permit to be granted for building and works, including demolition that could affect the significance of the property.

How does the amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?

The amendment implements the objectives of planning in Victoria as set out in Section 4 (1) and 12 (1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act). The following objectives in Section 4 (1) are particularly relevant to the amendment:

- 4(1d) - to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value
- 4(1g) - to balance the present and future interests of all Victorians

The following objectives in Section 12 (1) are relevant to the amendment:

- 12(1) A planning authority must—
 - (a) implement the objectives of planning in Victoria

How does the amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?

The amendment will provide assured protection for a significant heritage site within the Shire of Nillumbik.

The amendment is not expected to have any adverse environmental or economic effects.

Does the amendment address relevant bushfire risk?

The Amendment will not increase the risk of life, property, community infrastructure and the natural environment from bushfire.

Does the amendment comply with the requirements of any Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?

The amendment is consistent with the *Ministerial Direction 1 on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes* under section 7(5) of the Act and *Ministerial Direction 11: Strategic Assessment Guidelines* under Section 12(2) of the Act.

The amendment has been prepared with regard to *Ministerial Direction 9: Metropolitan Planning Strategy*, which refers to Plan Melbourne 2017-2050. The amendment is particularly consistent with the following direction in *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*, as outlined below:

Direction 4.4 Respect Melbourne's heritage as we build for the future

- Policy 4.4.1 Recognise the value of heritage when managing growth and change

The amendment recognises the need for careful management of the ongoing processes of change to the urban environment and that decisions must be based on an appreciation of Melbourne's past as well as an understanding of its future needs.

How does the amendment support or implement the Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?

The amendment supports or implements the following clauses of the Planning Policy Framework:

Clause 15 Built Environment and Heritage

Clause 15.03-1S Heritage conservation

- Objective: To ensure the conservation of places of heritage significance.
- Strategies:
 - Provide for the conservation and enhancement of those places that are of aesthetic, archaeological, architectural, cultural, scientific or social significance.
 - Identify, assess and document places of natural and cultural heritage significance as a basis for their inclusion in the planning scheme.
 - Ensure an appropriate setting and context for heritage places is maintained or enhanced.
 - Retain those elements that contribute to the importance of the heritage place.
 - Encourage the conservation and restoration of contributory elements of a heritage place.

How does the amendment support the Municipal Planning Strategy?

The amendment supports the Municipal Planning Strategy of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme:

*Clause 02.03-5 Built environment
Heritage*

Council seeks to:

- Protect and enhance places of heritage significance, including sites of Aboriginal heritage significance.
- Ensure new use and development do not impede on or detract from sites and features of Aboriginal cultural heritage and archaeological significance.

Does the amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?

The amendment seeks to ensure that the Victorian Planning Provisions are correctly applied through the application of Heritage Overlay to reflect the current and future intended use of the land.

The Heritage Overlay is the most appropriate mechanism for recognising and protecting the cultural heritage significance of the identified place.

The Amendment is consistent with Planning Practice Note 01 in regard to the amendment mapping. The mapping identifies the dwelling and the remaining outbuilding and extends the overlay to the significant area.

The Amendment is consistent with Planning Practice Note 01 in regard to applying the Heritage Overlay. The schedule to the overlay will be updated and annotated with regard to the extent of the curtilage.

How does the amendment address the views of any relevant agency?

The views of relevant agencies will be sought during the public exhibition process of this amendment C142.

Does the amendment address relevant requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010?

The Transport Integration Act 2010 requires that a planning authority have regard to transport system objectives and decision-making principles where a planning scheme amendment is likely to have a 'significant impact on the transport system'. There are no statements of policy principles relevant to the amendment.

Resource and administrative costs

The amendment will have minimal impact on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority.

Where you may inspect this amendment

The amendment can be inspected free of charge at the Nillumbik Council website at www.participate.vic.gov.au/amendment-c142

The amendment is also available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following places:

Nillumbik Shire Council Offices

Civic Drive

Greensborough 3088

The amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at www.planning.vic.gov.au/public-inspection.

Submissions

Any person who may be affected by the amendment may make a submission to the planning authority about the amendment. Submissions must be made in writing giving the submitter's name and contact address, clearly stating the grounds on which the amendment is supported or opposed and indicating what changes (if any) the submitter wishes to make.

Name and contact details of submitters are required for council to consider submissions and to notify such persons of the opportunity to attend council meetings and any public hearing held to consider submissions. The closing date for submissions is TBC. A submission must be sent to:

Amendment C142nill
Rosa Zouzoulas
Executive Manager Planning and Community Safety
Nillumbik Shire Council
Civic Drive (PO Box 476)
Greensborough VIC 3088

Alternatively, a submission can be sent electronically via email to:
strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

A copy of every submission, redacted to remove each submitter's personal information, will be available at Council's Participate Nillumbik website (<https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/>) for any person to inspect free of charge for two months after the amendment comes into operation or lapses.

The full content of a personal submission including any name/s is a public record and may be made available for public inspection and included in Council business papers. Contact information will be redacted. Names will not be redacted unless anonymity is expressly requested and confidentiality granted to a submission.

The full content of a submission made on behalf of an organisation in relation the amendment, including the name of the organisation is a public record and may be made available for public inspection and included in Council business papers.

Not providing the mandatory information will mean that your submission 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.

Panel hearing dates

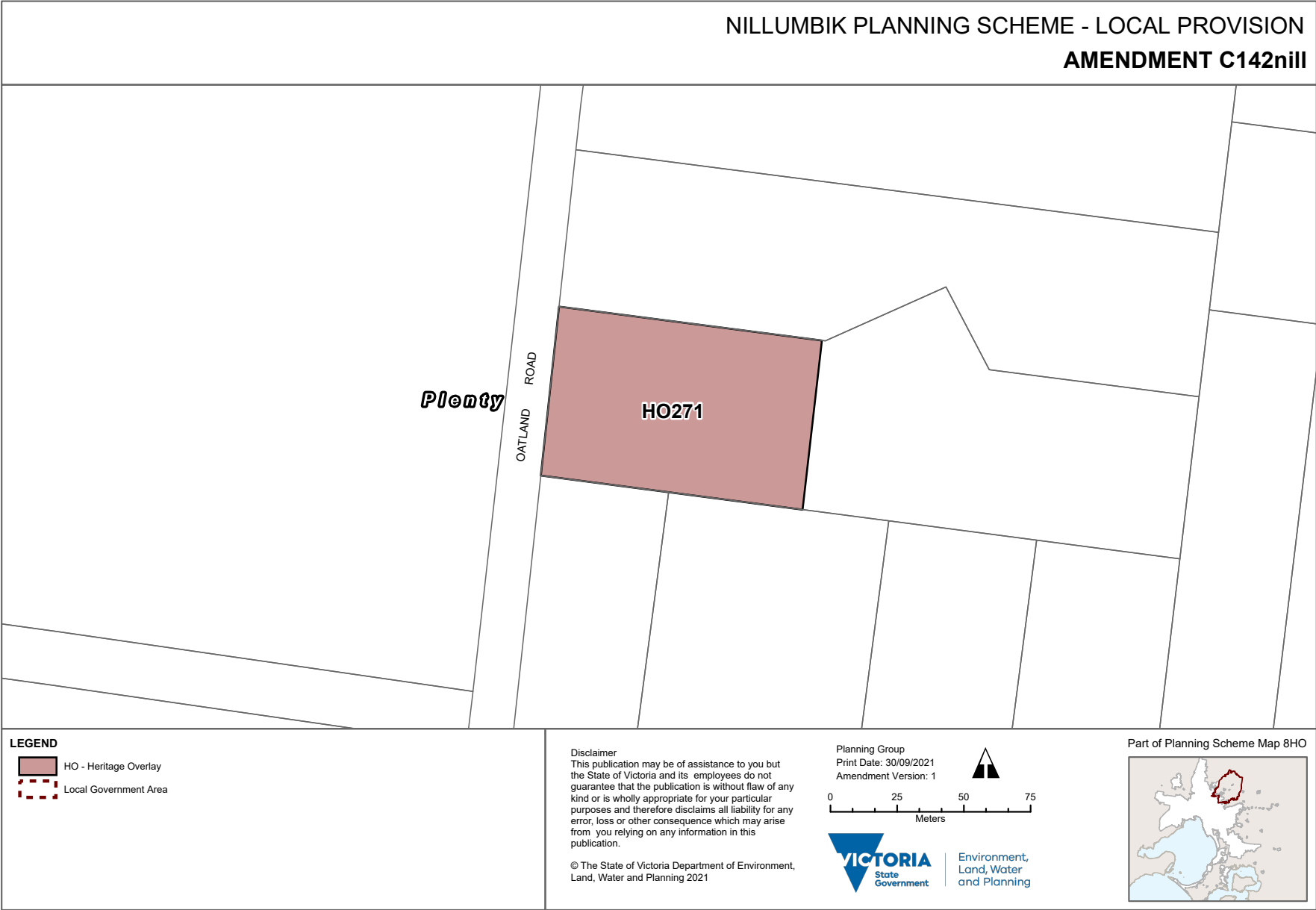
CM.034/22 Planning Scheme Amendment C142nill - Applying the Heritage Overlay on a permanent basis to 50 Oatland Road, Plenty
Attachment 2. C142nill Explanatory Report (exhibition)

In accordance with clause 4(2) of Ministerial Direction No.15 the following panel hearing dates have been set for this amendment:

- directions hearing: TBC
- panel hearing: TBC

ATTACHMENT 1 - Mapping reference table

Location	Land /Area Affected	Mapping Reference
Plenty	50 Oatland Road	Nillumbik C142 001hoMap8 Exhibition



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NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME

50 Oatland Road, Plenty Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	50 Oatland Road, Plenty	PS ref no:	HO 271
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What is significant?

50 Oatland Road, Plenty, built c1928, is significant.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include:

- setback from Oatland Road;
- asymmetric built form with a projecting front room and return verandah;
- weatherboard-clad walls;
- corrugated iron Dutch gable roof that extends down at a lower pitch over the return verandah;
- exposed rafter ends;
- red brick chimney;
- projecting front gable;
- decorative gable end detail, including timber lattice work and small timber brackets;
- corrugated iron clad timber window hood with scalloped trim supported by brackets;
- original pattern of fenestrations on the west, south and north elevations;
- timber double-hung sash windows;
- glazed door under the verandah on the west elevation;
- half-glazed front door set in a moulded timber door frame with sidelights;
- original or early timber flywire screen doors;
- timber garage with pitched roof south of the house;
- extant corrugated iron clad agricultural shed to the rear.

The mature tree in front of the house is not significant in its own right but contributes to the setting of the place.

Other more recent outbuildings are not significant.

How is it significant?

50 Oatland Road, Plenty, is of local historical and representative significance to the Shire of Nillumbik.

Why is it significant?

50 Oatland Road, Plenty, is historically significant for its association with the development of Plenty in the interwar years. As an intact timber bungalow built for William Charles and Priscilla Mary Lierse in c1928, originally on a 30 acre lot, it provides tangible evidence of the interwar subdivision pattern in which large rural landholdings in the Plenty area were divided for sale in allotments of 10 of 30

acres. These allotments were advertised as being equally suited to farming and fruit-growing as they were to residential purposes. In response to an increasing population in the area, this development coincided with and supported a growing Plenty town centre. Established in the 1920s, the town centre included a Primary School (HO213), Methodist Church (HO250), Store and Hall (HO248). The Lierse family were early residents in the Diamond Creek and Plenty area involved in a variety of agricultural and other pursuits. They were heavily involved in the development of community life in Plenty from the mid-1920s (Criterion A).

Arthurs Creek, Doreen, Hurstbridge, Strathewen, Plenty, Diamond Creek, Yarrambat and Research became important centres for a fruit-growing industry that was based at Diamond Creek. Smaller orchardists, however, often struggled to make a living from their trees and often turned to other activities such as raising chickens, selling firewood or even working for other landowners or in goldmines, as well as tending their fruit trees. This was the case for William Charles Lierse, who was an orchardist and sanitary contractor prior to establishing a poultry farm on the property by 1943. 50 Oatland Road provides important tangible evidence of these early agricultural activities in the area. The significance of the place is enhanced by its rural setting, which maintains its street frontage and setback to Oatland Road (Criterion A).

The house at 50 Oatland Road, Plenty, is a largely intact representative example of a timber interwar bungalow. It has had very few changes made to the original or early built fabric across its principal elevations. Key characteristics include its asymmetric built form with projecting front room below a dominant Dutch gable roof, and an extensive wrap-around verandah under the sweep of the main roof line. The extant c1920s garage, poultry shed, and open setting evidence the use of the site as a poultry farm complex (Criterion D).

Primary source

Nillumbik Shire Stage B Heritage Review/ Citation for 50 Oatland Road, Plenty.

This document is an incorporated document in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

Summary and Analysis of Submissions to 50 Oatland Road - Potential Heritage Overlay

Submitter Number	Submitter Name	Format	Support or Object	Key Points
1		Written submission	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer a functional dwelling. Restoration would be prohibitively expensive and the current owners bought intending to demolish. First became aware of Council's interest when demolition order suspended. The property is of limited heritage value and changes to the site mean that there is very little of the early farming settlement story visible on this site, other than the existence of the old house. The proposal for heritage protection of a disused, unlivable dwelling shell is not warranted and is not an appropriately balanced outcome. The building report attached confirms the current uninhabitable state of the building as an empty shell. It also highlights major structural deficiencies requiring significant maintenance or replacement work, if the building were to be brought back to habitable condition. It is simply a prohibitive cost proposition that will not deliver the type of functional wheelchair accessible dwelling they require for their son. The heritage overlay should be removed completely but if it must be applied the area of coverage is considered excessive and reduced extent is proposed.
2		Written submission	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous owner not made aware of potential heritage overlay. Contacted Council prior to purchase not informed about potential heritage overlay. As a potential purchaser no information was given regarding this issue.

Submitter Number	Submitter Name	Format	Support or Object	Key Points
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vendor Statement and Heritage Register were checked and neither made mention of any potential heritage overlay. • Current house not suitable for the specific needs of the family. It is derelict and completely useless. • Independent building adviser recommended demolition. • In 2016 the investigation referenced a 'farm complex' with the associated outbuildings. Most of these have now been removed and it is the house itself that is the subject of the 2020 report. • House is hard to see from the road. • If the heritage overlay does have to be applied, does it have to be so large? Currently suggested to go boundary to boundary. • Don't have to keep the house to still have the history. • Will suffer significant financial loss if the heritage overlay is applied.
3		Written Submission	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers the process to have been an injustice and that Council should address. • No information on the Vendor Statement to suggest that Council had an interest in the property. • States that the owners contacted Council and were informed that there was no interest in the property and that no decision to pursue a planning scheme amendment had been made. • The current owners also checked with Heritage Victoria – not realising that this would not include any information of potential overlays. • Council should have been aware that the property was for sale and notified prospective owners of the potential heritage overlay. • Suggests notion that individual loss does not outweigh collective gain in heritage matters is wrong.

Submitter Number	Submitter Name	Format	Support or Object	Key Points
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council should retract heritage overlay on natural justice grounds. • The property is on private land, with a very limited view from the public realm. • The house has been stripped and is structurally compromised. • The house is of no use to the owners who cannot afford to rebuild it or to anyone else. • The initial citation references a 'farm complex' however a number of the outbuildings have been removed. • Considers other options: transfer of house to another location or historical plaque which the owners would maintain through s173 agreement.
4		Written submission Petition	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not believe that there was any intention to place a heritage overlay on the property when the current owners purchased the property. • Notes the very poor condition of the property. • Should have kept Plenty School- much better example of heritage • Devaluation of other properties by claiming derelict buildings have heritage value.
5		Written submission Petition	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property is uninhabitable and has no original features. • Currents owners checked Vendor Statement and S32 – neither mentioned the heritage overlay. • Notes the assessment was based on a drive by.
6		Written submission	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The house is in very poor condition and cannot be renovated to the requirements needed for a disabled person. • Council should allow the property to be demolished and a suitable dwelling built.

Submitter Number	Submitter Name	Format	Support or Object	Key Points
7		Written submission	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The house is in very poor condition and cannot be renovated to the requirements needed for a disabled person. Council should allow the property to be demolished and a suitable dwelling built
8		Email Petition	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions who is expected to pay for the preservation and restoration of the property. She believes that if Council wants to preserve it then Council should pay for it and that Council should compensate the current owners for any expenses related to the heritage overlay being applied. The house is in very poor condition and will require many man hours to restore.
9		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
10		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
11		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
12		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
13		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
14		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
15		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
16		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
17		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
18		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
19		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
20		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
21		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
22		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
23		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
24		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8

Submitter Number	Submitter Name	Format	Support or Object	Key Points
25		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
26		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
27		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8
28		Petition	Object	Pro forma as per submitter 8

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COUNCIL	:	NILLUMBIK SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL REF	:	PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C142 PROPOSED HERITAGE OVERLAY – 50 OATLANDS ROAD PLENTY
OBJECTION	:	ON BEHALF OF [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

1. OVERVIEW

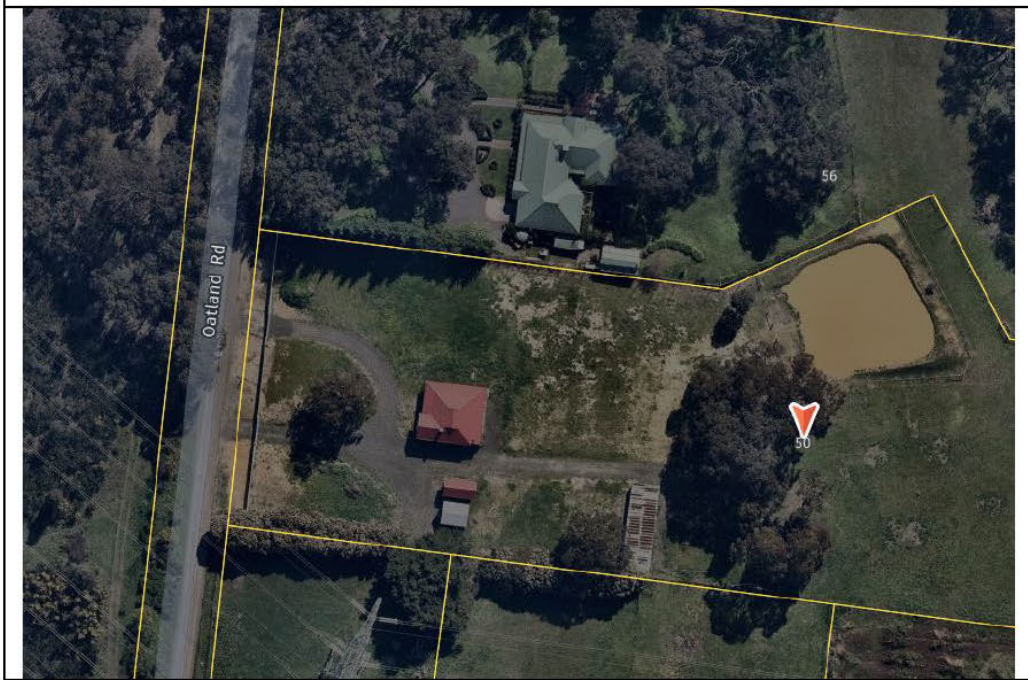
- 1.1. This objection is prepared and submitted on behalf of [REDACTED].
- 1.2. My clients oppose the proposed heritage overlay HO271 for this site.

2. PURCHASE OF 50 OATLAND ROAD

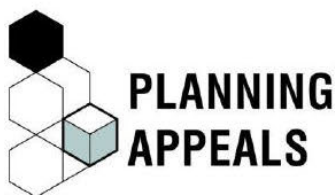
- 2.1. My clients have owned and lived at [REDACTED] Plenty for many years.
- 2.2. In April 2021, they purchased the [REDACTED] property at 50 Oatland Road, Plenty for the specific purpose of constructing a new purpose-built wheelchair accessible dwelling for [REDACTED] who requires on ongoing assistance.
- 2.3. The proposal is to construct this new dwelling [REDACTED] to facilitate easy access and support.
- 2.4. At the time of purchasing 50 Oatland Road, my clients were aware that the previous owner had demolished most of the former farm buildings onsite in about August 2018 and had also stripped the interior of the old house so that it is no longer represents a functional livable dwelling.
- 2.5. They had a general understanding that any possible restoration would be a very expensive exercise. The near-derelict condition of the old house was accepted, as my client's intention was to demolish the old house and construct the new purpose-built dwelling.
- 2.6. Council's response opposing my client's demolition permit request in August / September 2021 was the first time they became aware of Council's views in relation to the property.



August 2018 / Previous context



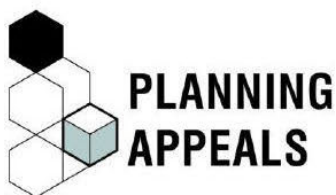
September 2021 / Current Context



3. LIMITED HERITAGE VALUE

3.1. My clients do not agree that the heritage assessment of the property warrants the proposed heritage overlay HO271.

- Much of the heritage assessment focusses on early settlement patterns and 10-30 acre farming subdivisions for orchards in the 1920-1930s and later poultry farms. That information is documented local history that exists without the need for C142.
- Much of the site-specific information is a compilation of general historical references to the former owners. This now provides a snapshot of the family history for the previous owners that now exists without the need for C142. However, the process of compiling that family history information associated with the previous owners, does not mean that history is inherently significant in a broader sense and does not elevate the property to a status warranting heritage protection.
- The current lot is the result of the 1996 subdivision which left the old house on an irregular shaped 1.6ha lot [4 acres] with 2 new dwellings now built on the remainder of the original lot at 56 and 62 Oatlands Road.
- The current site at 50 Oatlands Road has no remnant orchards and the demolition of the poultry sheds in 2018 by the former owner removed more of the previous site context and history.
- The replacement of the original front fence in 2019 also by the former owner now creates a street presentation quite different to its previous appearance.
- It now means there is very little of the early farming settlement story visible on this site, other than the existence of the old house.
- The statement of significance for C142 notes the house designer and house builder are not known. The house should not be considered as a notable example of its type.
- As detailed below, the actual house is now an unlivable remnant shell. It essentially exists as a façade. It is not a well preserved, intact early farmhouse. It cannot fairly be equated to the examples of properly maintained and occupied dwellings as in the Context assessment.
- The proposal for heritage protection of a disused, unlivable dwelling shell is not warranted and is not an appropriately balanced outcome.



4. CONDITION REPORT

- 4.1. My clients have sought an independent assessment of the condition of the old house, which is submitted with this objection.
- 4.2. The report confirms the current uninhabitable state of the building as an empty shell. It also highlights major structural deficiencies requiring significant maintenance or replacement work, if the building were to be brought back to habitable condition.
- The floor is poorly supported by stacked bricks and props and requires restumping.
 - Both the brick elements and timber wall frame elements having inadequate structural support
 - Water damage to framing.
 - Even the replaced [2015] colorbond roof has inadequate internal structural support.
- 4.3. Any restoration proposal would need to first address these structural issues, then move on to the replacement and repair of damaged framing, flooring and weatherboards, before then installing new wiring, new plumbing, new internal walls and ceilings linings and any internal fitout for kitchen and bathrooms.
- 4.4. The work required would amount to an almost total rebuild. It is exceedingly unlikely that my clients will undertake that exercise, even if a heritage overlay were to be applied. It is simply a prohibitive cost proposition that will not deliver the type of functional wheelchair accessible dwelling they require for [REDACTED]
- 4.5. As such, the proposal for heritage protection needs to be considered in this actual context, that the dwelling is an uninhabitable shell.
- 4.6. It is a false notion to assume the intent or effect of C142 / HO271 would be to secure the restoration of the dwelling to some former state, whether that be the original 1928 condition, the 1940s condition associated with a poultry farm or even 2018 before the original family sold the property and the new owner demolished the poultry sheds.

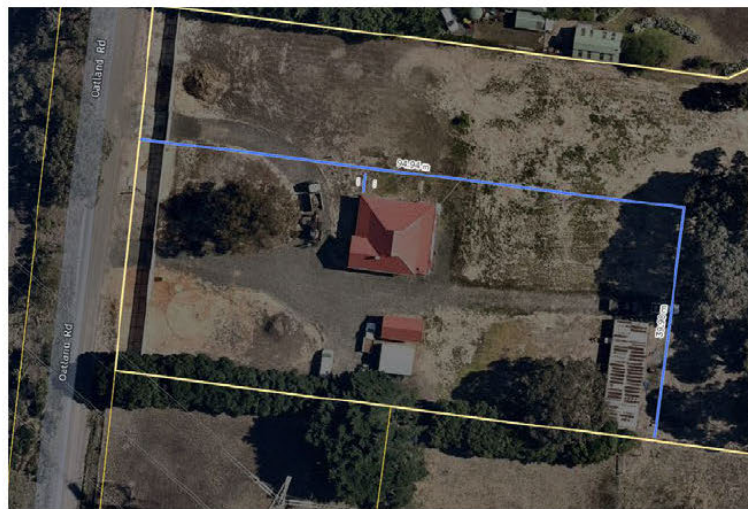
5. EXTENT OF PROPOSED HERITAGE AREA

- 5.1. Council's proposed Heritage Area only covers part of the site.
- Desktop assessment indicates the HO271 area would extend approximately 100m into the site to the point where the title boundary deflects around the dam.
 - The site is 63.65m wide and as such the HO271 area would cover about 6365m².
 - It appears to have been drawn with some reference to the previous location of the now demolished poultry sheds.



5.2. The primary position opposes HO271 in its entirety. However- if HO271 were to proceed - it would be far more appropriate for the HO271 Area to be further refined and limited to cover a smaller area with a more direct focus on the old house and the actual remaining farm buildings:

- The area does not need to cover the full site frontage [63.65m]. It could properly be limited to extend from the south boundary for approximately 40m to provide approximately 3m curtilage to the north of the old house and to extend approximately 95m into the site to include the remnant farm shed.
- Such an approach would still cover and identify the old house with its street setback position and the remaining farm buildings as a suitable recognition of its context, without unnecessarily including what is now vacant land providing little visible contribution to any understanding of the former site history.



6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1. My clients oppose C142 and proposed Heritage Overlay 271 for 50 Oatlands Road Plenty.
- 6.2. Heritage protection is not warranted and not properly justified for what is now a remnant shell of a former farm dwelling.

NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C142

SUBMISSION OPPOSING PROPOSED HERITAGE OVERLAY AT 50 OATLAND ROAD, PLENTY

APPENDIX



CERTIFICATE

Pursuant to Section 58 of the *Heritage Act 2017*

Linda De Villiers

CERTIFICATE NO:
51008153

PROPERTY ADDRESS:
50 OATLAND ROAD PLENTY

PARCEL DESCRIPTION:
Lot 3 PS400664S

1. The place or object is not included in the Heritage Register.
2. The place is not in a World Heritage Environs Area.
3. The place or object is not subject to an interim protection order.
4. A nomination has not been made for inclusion of the place or object in the Heritage Register.
5. The place or object is not being considered for inclusion in the Heritage Register.
6. The site is not included in the Heritage Inventory.
7. A repair order is not in force in respect of the place or object.
8. There is not an order of the Supreme Court under Division 3 of Part 10 in force in respect of the place or object.
9. There is not a Governor in Council declaration made under section 227 in force against the owner of the place or object.
10. There is not a court order made under section 229 in force against a person in respect of the place or object.
11. There are no current proceedings for a contravention of this Act in respect of the place or object.
12. There has not been a rectification order issued in respect of the place or object.

Fiona McMahon
Heritage Officer (Registry)
(as delegate for Steven Avery, Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, pursuant to the instrument of delegation)

DATED: 13 July 2021
Note: This Certificate is valid at the date of issue.



MELBOURNE HOUSE PLANS
House plans Engineering Permit Applications
www.MelbourneHousePlans.com

21st December 2021

REF: OATLAND

EXISTING DWELLING AT 50 OATLAND ROAD, PLENTY STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT

A site visit and inspection was carried out on 21st December 2021.

The existing dwelling is a single storey clad frame structure with Colorbond roof. The internal walls and ceiling have been stripped and the timber stud frame and roof framing are exposed.

The roofing was replaced around six years ago. Much of the rest of the structure is in an aged state and needs significant maintenance or replacing.

It was observed that the floor level is fairly uneven in areas, indicating that re-stumping is required.

A number of significant framing issues were noted that do not comply with current regulations and/or building standards. These include: -

- Few or no noggins in between wall studs
- Undersized lintels over a number of window openings
- Roof struts not adequately supported
- Insufficient wall bracing
- Undersized framing members to front verandah
- Undersized framing members to rear roof
- Single skin brick wall to rear fireplace not adequately braced
- Water-stained framing members indicating water ingress
- Water-damaged verandah beams
- Floor bearers supported by stacked bricks or timber props

There is also no sisalation or waterproof barrier between the weatherboards and the wall studs. It was not clear whether water ingress has affected the external wall studs.

Rectification works to bring the building up to standard are considered far too costly and impractical. Given the number of structural issues, areas of non-compliance and general aged condition of the building it is recommended that the building be demolished.

Regards

Manninder Sekhon

Manninder Sekhon BEng, RBP
Reg No DP-AD15609 PE0003036
T/A Melbourne House Plans
A.B.N. 36 908 702 915

P: 0430 218 006
E: manninder@MelbourneHousePlans.com
W: www.MelbourneHousePlans.com
A: P.O. Box 210, St Andrews, Vic 3761



MELBOURNE HOUSE PLANS
House plans Engineering Permit Applications
www.MelbourneHousePlans.com

STRUCTURAL INSPECTION OF DWELLING

at

50 Oatland Road, Plenty

Prepared by

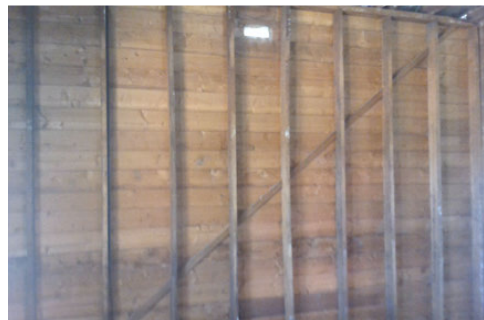
Manninder Sekhon

February 2022

for [REDACTED]



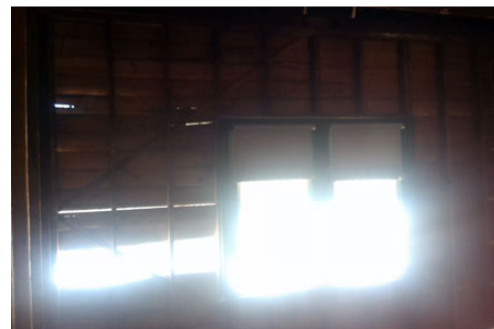
1. No noggins



2. No noggins



3. No lintel over window



4. No lintel over window

Manninder Sekhon BEng, RBP
Reg No DP-AD15609 PE0003036
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5. Roof strut not adequately supported



6. Roof strut not adequately supported



7. Undersize verandah framing



8. Single skin brick wall not braced



9. Water-stained framing



10. Water-damaged verandah beams

Manninder Sekhon BEng, RBP
Reg No DP-AD15609 PE0003036
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A.B.N. 36 908 702 915

2

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11. Floor bearers supported on bricks



12. Floor bearers supported on props

NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C142

SUBMISSION OPPOSING PROPOSED HERITAGE OVERLAY AT 50 OATLAND ROAD, PLENTY

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

Email : strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

My name is

[REDACTED]

My address is

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 50 Oatland Road, Plenty [REDACTED] and strenuously oppose the proposed Heritage Overlay. We live [REDACTED], Plenty with our son [REDACTED] whom we care for. He is severely disabled following a car accident and needs constant personal, and nursing care. The care needs are heavy, and as we are getting older, we have to consider for his ongoing welfare and need help from the family to continue giving him what he needs.

We have had an interest in securing this property for some time. [REDACTED], for whom we provided neighbourly care over a long period of time, was emphatic that he wanted us to have it to help in our circumstances. We were finally successful in securing it in May 2021.

Through our close association with [REDACTED], we knew he had never been told about a possible heritage classification for the property. When Council first appraised it for heritage value in 2016, we were not contacted nor was he. Just to be sure, I did contact the Council directly and was assured that there was no overlay and no action had been commenced in relation to the old house. We have been accused of not doing our due diligence, but that is quite unfair. At no time were we contacted by Council about this before we bought the property.

In the contract when we purchased the property, the Vendor Statement said nothing about any proposed heritage overlay. The Contract was checked by the solicitor, so we believed we were safe to rely on that. More than that, the Heritage Certificate issued before settlement showed that the property was not on the Heritage Register and there were no plans for it to be listed. A copy of the certificate is attached to this submission.

Our plan was for [REDACTED] to build a house [REDACTED] so that they could provide the necessary assistance with [REDACTED] care. The old house is not at all suitable for this and is in the way because we need to have the entries [REDACTED] to facilitate

NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C142

SUBMISSION OPPOSING PROPOSED HERITAGE OVERLAY AT 50 OATLAND ROAD, PLENTY

transferring [REDACTED] between houses. Our intentions for the care of [REDACTED] requires the old house to go and we went ahead with the purchase on that basis.

We have borrowed heavily to finance this purchase and will suffer heavy financial loss if the overlay is applied. We plead with Council to compassionately consider for us. We do thank some of the Councillors who have shown great interest in this case, it is much appreciated. Their care and concern has been in marked contrast to some of the totally untrue accusations levelled at us by others.

This has been a very difficult time for us, because at no time before we settled on the property did Council contact us or give any hint as to what was proposed. In fact, the first we knew was when the demolition contractor applied for a Demolition Permit on 25/8/2021. On 13/9/2021 we received a letter from Shire of Nillumbik advising that the property was considered historically significant, and consideration of the demolition application was being 'suspended' to allow time for the Minister for Planning to impose an interim Heritage Overlay to the property. By then it was too late as we had already paid for the property.

We really urge Council to reconsider this Heritage Overlay because imposing it is quite unfair and costly.

I want to point out that the house is derelict and completely useless. The previous owner has stripped it out, and it is quite uninhabitable. It doesn't comply with any current bushfire requirements or building standards, and we have had it assessed by an independent building advisor who has recommended it be demolished. His report is attached to this submission. Suggestions have been made that the façade could be retained and a custom-built extension added, or that the building could become a 'studio' or similar. These suggestions have been considered but are not practical: the building is in the wrong location, and they are simply not financially possible.

It needs to be understood that what Council is trying to call 'heritage' just doesn't exist anymore. The heritage value identified originally in 2016 was referred to as a 'farm complex'. Many of the farm buildings, particularly the chook sheds, the front fence and farm machinery that were there in 2016 have all been removed and it is now only the derelict house, shed and garage remaining. The house when taken by itself without the usual farm buildings, has nowhere near the same heritage significance. We would ask Council to recognise that what is there now doesn't justify being kept.

We noted that the proposed area on the Overlay Plan still goes from boundary to boundary even though a number of the buildings near our house are no longer there. If an overlay was to be imposed, can we please ask Council to limit its size to the area of the remaining buildings rather than covering large areas to which no heritage value attaches.

This building is on our private property and is not available to be enjoyed by the general public. Even the view from the road is very limited, with the building set back from the road and obscured by the

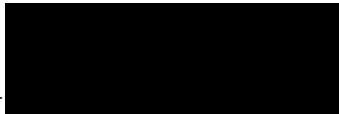
NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C142

SUBMISSION OPPOSING PROPOSED HERITAGE OVERLAY AT 50 OATLAND ROAD, PLENTY

front fence. It doesn't make sense to say the building needs to be kept for the benefit of the community when in fact, the community cannot, and never will, benefit from it.

The citation includes a lot of history about the property and the people connected with it. While this may be important to some in the local area, it doesn't depend on the house being there to retain that history on record and available for all to enjoy. The fact that the house is not listed on the Historical Register shows that it is not sufficiently special to justify keeping given its derelict state and the unfair burden it places on us as the owners.

We respectfully ask Council to consider this again and not proceed with the Overlay on this property.



Signature

2/3/2022

Date

NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C142

SUBMISSION OPPOSING PROPOSED HERITAGE OVERLAY AT 50 OATLAND ROAD, PLENTY

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

Email : strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

My name is

[REDACTED]

My address is

[REDACTED]

This submission reflects my concerns about to the proposed Heritage Overlay that Council is seeking to apply to the property at 50 Oatland Road, Plenty. While not an immediate neighbour to this address, I am a resident of Nillumbik and am personally acquainted with the owners of the affected property and believe it is necessary, and entirely appropriate, to voice the concerns that are deeply held within the community. They come under two main headings:

1. The manner in which Council has managed this matter; and
2. The insufficient heritage value to support the proposal.

Council Actions

As interested in the welfare of the owners, I have followed this matter from the beginning including attending Council meetings as relevant. While I acknowledge the genuine compassion that has been shown on the part of some Councillors and indeed Council officers, the process has resulted in an unacceptable injustice which I respectfully submit Council needs to acknowledge and address.

[REDACTED], owners of the affected property, also [REDACTED] Oatland Road, Plenty [REDACTED], and reside there with their son [REDACTED] who is profoundly disabled following a car accident as a child. The property at 50 Oatland Road, Plenty was purchased by them on 3 May 2021 with settlement occurring on 6 August 2021. The intention was for their [REDACTED] to build a 'disabled friendly' house [REDACTED] so that they can provide necessary assistance with [REDACTED] care. The old house in the site is quite unsuited to this purpose and needs to be demolished to allow this to proceed and the property was purchased on that basis.

A number of issues have arisen with the process and therefore the outcome in this matter:

1. There was no hint of a possible heritage issue disclosed on the Vendor Statement when the property was purchased in May 2021. The owners had no cause to suspect that Council action

NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C142

SUBMISSION OPPOSING PROPOSED HERITAGE OVERLAY AT 50 OATLAND ROAD, PLENTY

was imminent. As neighbours, they knew the owner of the property in 2016, and believe that he was never contacted by Council to advise that it had been appraised for heritage value. Furthermore, because it was an old house, they made their own enquiries directly with Council and were assured there was no overlay on the property and no decision to pursue a PS Amendment had been made. The owners have been incorrectly accused of 'not doing due diligence' but this is not true and such an accusation is reprehensible. The owners are not property experts and were entitled to rely on the Vendor Statement as checked by their solicitor, and I submit that that is the legislative purpose of a Vendor Statement. It is disingenuous to try and reflect blame back onto the owners when clearly both the statutory document and the system have failed them.

2. Furthermore, the property is not listed in the Heritage Register and a Certificate pursuant to Section 58 of the *Heritage Act 2017* dated 13 July 2021 (prior to settlement) confirmed that fact. (See Appendix.) Amongst other things, the Certificate confirms at point 3.: ***"The place or object is not subject to an interim protection order."*** And at point 4.: ***"A nomination has not been made for inclusion of the place or object in the Heritage Register."*** And again, at point 5.: ***"The place or object is not being considered for inclusion in the Heritage Register."*** While the Heritage Register is now understood to relate to a different Government jurisdiction, it is only fair to recognise that an ordinary citizen is likely to take this as the ultimate source of truth.
3. Council was aware, or ought to have been aware, that the property was for sale. They made no attempt to contact the then owner, the neighbours or any prospective purchaser to advise that they were contemplating actions that would seriously affect the value and usability of the property. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary it would seem in fact that there was no imminent proposal to proceed with an Heritage Overlay at the time of purchase.
4. The first the owners knew that action was being taken was when the demolition contractor applied for a Demolition Permit on 25 August 2021. This was long after the contract was signed and subsequent to settlement. No attempt was made by Council to contact them during that period. It was not until it was too late on 13 September 2021 that they received a letter from Shire of Nillumbik advising that the property was considered historically significant, and consideration of the demolition application was being 'suspended' to allow time for the Minister for Planning to impose an interim Heritage Overlay to the property. Clearly this is a systemic failure that has seriously disadvantaged the owners.
5. An overarching view reportedly promulgated by at least one Councillor is to the effect that individual loss does not outweigh collective gain in heritage matters. This is completely refuted as being socialist in flavour and not representative of the democratic and caring society we expect in Nillumbik. I submit that individual cost needs to be weighed and balanced against community net benefit, and that when the balance of community benefit is compelling, that the community needs to share that cost fairly. The community benefit in this case is obviously negligible, there is certainly no compelling case here. But even if there was, Council has given no consideration to the cost involved, and the fairness of who should bear

NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C142

SUBMISSION OPPOSING PROPOSED HERITAGE OVERLAY AT 50 OATLAND ROAD, PLENTY

it. This is privately owned land purchased by persons for normal, legitimate purposes and who deserve to have the same rights to use their property in accordance with the law as any other citizen has.

6. While a number of Councillors recognised the compassionate aspects of this matter (they are respected and thanked for it,) the owners were also subjected to completely false and scurrilous allegations against them and their support community. It is especially shameful when a person in public office acts in this manner without one shred of fact supporting the abuse. The owners were completely blindsided on the purchase, have heavy financial commitments and now face significant loss of value. They merit special compassionate consideration, and the abusive conduct should be denounced.

Taking all these matters into account, Council should withdraw the proposed amendments on natural justice grounds. Furthermore, it is submitted that Council has not sufficiently made out an heritage case that would outweigh the potential injustice in this matter.

Heritage Merits

This submission is not based on unilateral opposition to heritage classification in principle. It is understood and accepted that there are sections of the community who value the maintenance of old structures and are deeply interested in retaining all types of artifacts of an historical nature. That is not denied or disrespected. However, it is also true to say that there are sections of the community who do not support the retention of *everything* old, just because it is old. There are many people who are also entitled to be listened to and respected who are pro-development and somewhat frustrated where their free choice and the enjoyment of personal rights are infringed by the views of a small minority.

It is submitted therefore that a clear assessment of a property needs to be made *on its merits*, and in this matter, the case has not been made out.

To illustrate the central tenet of this submission, Council's attention is drawn to the contrasts of this case with that of Ellis Cottage in Nillumbik Square in Diamond Creek. (I am familiar with this property as it is immediately adjacent to my house.) Ellis Cottage has clear heritage value and most of the community would agree it represents an appropriate use of an Heritage Overlay. It has the following features:

1. It is situated on public land and can be enjoyed by any member of the community.
2. It is in good order and is actively maintained.
3. It has a credible current use that is compatible with its heritage status.
4. It has a uniqueness that is of historical interest.

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It is submitted that an Heritage Overlay should not be applied unless at least three of the above criteria apply.

In contrast to the example cited above, 50 Oatland Road, Plenty has the following features:

1. This building is on private land and is not available to be enjoyed by the general public. Even visually, the view from the public domain is very limited, with the building set back from the road and obscured by the front fence. It is nonsensical to maintain something notionally for the benefit of the community when in fact, the community cannot, and never will, benefit from it.
2. The existing house has been completely stripped internally by the previous owner and is uninhabitable. The house is structurally compromised and would need to be rebuilt to comply with current structural and bush fire requirements. The owners have provided Council with an independent expert's assessment confirming this. A requirement to bring the building up to safe standards cannot be imposed on the owners and is beyond their financial resources to do so anyway. In any event rebuilding destroys the originality of the structure, and it merely becomes a replica. It is to be noted the roof is not original so the originality of the structure is already significantly compromised.
3. In its current state, the building has no useful function. It is of no use to the present owners who cannot afford to rebuild it and is of no use to any member of the community. Suggestions have been made that the façade could be retained and custom-built additions made, or that the building could be styled a 'studio' or similar. The owners have no need for such a use. These suggestions have been considered but are not practical: the building is in the wrong location, and they are simply not financially viable.
4. The heritage value identified originally in 2016 included the character of the site as a 'farm complex'. That character no longer exists in the form identified in 2016. Quite a few of the farm buildings, particularly the chook sheds, the front fence and farm machinery of the era have all been removed since the original citation, and it is now only the house, shed and garage remaining. Since a 'relatively intact farm complex' is clearly no longer true, the focus of the citation now concentrates on the house as a reason for continuing to claim heritage value. It is submitted that the house when viewed in isolation, has nowhere near the significance attributed to the site in the original assessment. It seems that given the loss of much of the deemed heritage value that this is a desperate attempt to continue to justify something that no longer exists.
5. The research into the property has documented some of the history of the area and original occupiers connected to the site. This is not lost and is not dependant on the retention of the house. There is no reason why the history of the area cannot be retained to perpetuity without requiring the retention of the house, which is neither unique nor rare. While an artifact without a story has limited merit, it is quite illogical to think conversely that a story is lost without an artifact.

NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C142

SUBMISSION OPPOSING PROPOSED HERITAGE OVERLAY AT 50 OATLAND ROAD, PLENTY

6. This property has not been included on the Heritage Register, nor are there any proposals to do so. A Certificate pursuant to Section 58 of the *Heritage Act 2017* dated 13 July 2021 is shown as an appendix as confirmation. While it is understood that the framework of Council process does not fall under the *Heritage Act 2017*, it is submitted that whether or not a building is included on the register *must* be given significant weight when evaluating the heritage merits of a proposal. Council's determination in this case to proceed with the Amendment derives no credibility from the Heritage Register.

Summary

The process in this matter has been quite unfair and the imposition of an Heritage Overlay will result in hardship and injustice. When the doubtful current historical value of the site and its inability to benefit the community in its present location is weighed against this, Council is urged to withdraw PS Amendment C142nill.

It is submitted that if Council is indeed serious about the heritage value of this building, and the story of the area, that the following alternative actions could be considered:

1. The building could be transported to a site of Council's choice so as to be available and of interest to the public. The owners could well consider donating the full value of the demolition cost to this purpose. Recent precedent for this is the heritage building relocation required by the Yan Yean Road widening.
2. An historical plaque, accessible and visible to the public, could be erected at the front of the property incorporating a QR link to historical photographs and the history of the property. The owners could well be prepared to enter into an s173 Agreement making them responsible for the installation and maintenance of the plaque.



Signature

1 March 2022

Date

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Strategic Planning](#)
Cc: richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au
Subject: Amendment C142
Date: Wednesday, 23 February 2022 1:05:01 PM

Attention Leigh Northwood.

In accordance to the information received regarding the preparation of Amendment C142 for 50 Oatland Road Plenty.

My views and objection regarding a Heritage overlay on the said property
Are as follows

1. There was no such law or intention regarding the implementation of a Heritage overlay on the said property at the time the land was purchased by the current owners. The ad-hoc decision by the Council to do so, begs the question about the how can a law, caveat, envelope etc., etc can be applied at a whim. The 'Heritage' building you refer to, is far from an 'Intact' example of a timber Bangalore. In fact the building is derelict shed. The entire building is an eyesore and will lower the value of the properties in Plenty if it remains standing in the state it is.
2. I believe the current owners paid a hefty sum for said land as there was no information regarding FUTURE plans for Heritage overlays. Does this mean, the Council can, at will, create ad-hoc decisions on any existing property in Plenty.
I believe the Council approved the Plenty School to be demolished, to make way for a brand new estate. The School building, in particular, should have remained as a Heritage site, as this was more applicable for your "Heritage" history.
3. I urge you to listen to the people of Plentys' concerns regarding the devaluation of their properties by claiming derelict buildings are of some value in the history of Plenty. In this instance, it is not a building worth preserving.

Regards
[REDACTED]

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

Email : strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

My name is

[REDACTED]

My address is

[REDACTED]

I oppose Nillumbik Planning Scheme Amendment C142 that proposes to put a heritage overlay on 50 Oatland Road, Plenty.

The property at 50 Plenty Road was recently sold to the [REDACTED] family. Before it was sold, the old house was already in very poor condition and essentially unliveable. Most of the old farm sheds had also already been demolished.

It does not make sense to choose this property for a heritage overlay. It also seems very unfair for the [REDACTED] family to bear the impact of Council's decision.

[REDACTED]

Signature

26th Feb 2022.

Date

15th November 2021

Nillumbik Shire
Civic Drive
GREENSBOROUGH 3088

Governance@nillumbik.vic.gov.au; blaga.naumoski@nillumbik.vic.gov.au;

**Written Submission to Planning Matter PCC029/21
Amendment C142 The Application for Heritage Overlay Pending at
50 OATLAND ROAD, PLENTY 3090**

Good Afternoon Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is [REDACTED] and I have lived in Plenty for nearly 30 years where I continued my real estate career in Plenty and the surrounding areas. I am now semi-retired but continue to take a keen interest in real estate in Plenty and the community of which I helped build all those years ago.

I first met [REDACTED] 12 years ago when they were looking for an appropriate home in Plenty to meet the requirements for their son [REDACTED] who has very special needs. He is 97% incapacitated and can only move his head and eyes on command due to a devastating car accident 40 years ago, and they have looked after [REDACTED] all that time. They purchased the property at [REDACTED], Plenty 12 years ago.

6 months ago they purchased the land [REDACTED] at 50 Oatland Road so their other son [REDACTED] could build a house in order to help with the care of [REDACTED]. They paid a premium price for the land which had an old dilapidated house and shed. The house is totally uninhabitable and has no authentic features whatsoever. The house has no walls and a fibro filled in back verandah enclosing the kitchen, bathroom and toilet. It is my understanding that the [REDACTED] enquired with Metricon Homes with a view of discussing a plan for a house. The [REDACTED] engaged a demolition company to demolish the house but when that company applied to Council for a permit, Council refused as they said there was a Heritage overlay pending on the house which was the first time the [REDACTED] had heard such a thing.

After doing their due diligence, thoroughly checking the Vendor Statement and Section 32, there was absolutely no mention of a Heritage Overlay pending in this document when there legally should have been, especially in the Planning Certificate which Council would have prepared for the solicitor who prepares the Vendor Statement.

If the [REDACTED] had known about this Overlay, they would never have bought this property in the first place. Apparently the pending Overlay was established merely by a **DRIVE BY** assessment from the road in 2016 and the people or person noted the address as well as other properties on their **DRIVE BY** adventures. No one from

Council has ever inspected the property at 50 Oatland Road.

██████████ lived at 50 Oatland Road and had lived there for a very long time and he became a very good friend of mine when I first moved to Plenty. He enjoyed the company of ██████████ ██████████ and I know first-hand that they were exceptional neighbours to him. Frequently supplying an evening meal and looking out for his welfare for many years until his passing 2 years ago. Neighbourly attributes rarely seen today unfortunately.

Thanking you

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

Email : strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

My name is

[REDACTED]

My address is

[REDACTED]

I oppose Nillumbik Planning Scheme Amendment C142 that proposes to put a heritage overlay on 50 Oatland Road, Plenty.

The property at 50 Plenty Road was recently sold to the [REDACTED] family. Before it was sold, the old house was already in very poor condition and essentially unliveable. Most of the old farm sheds had also already been demolished.

It does not make sense to choose this property for a heritage overlay. It also seems very unfair for the [REDACTED] family to bear the impact of Council's decision.

[REDACTED]

Signature

27-2-2022

Date

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Strategic Planning](#)
Subject: 50 Oatlands Road, Plenty
Date: Tuesday, 1 March 2022 8:34:57 AM
Attachments: [oatlands.rtf](#)

Att: Leigh Northwood

Please find attached our objection to the overlay at 50 Oatlands,
Road, Plenty.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Attachment to Nillumbik Council's decision to

oppose the [REDACTED] Family's application to build a house [REDACTED] at No. 50

Oatlands Road, Plenty for their disabled son to reside with his brother and

be cared for by all of the family.

As stated on the objection form , this house is in very poor condition and

cannot be renovated to accommodate a disabled person.

I would therefore sincerely request that council give the go ahead for

a suitable dwelling to be constructed to suit all parties concerned.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Strategic Planning](#)
Subject: Amendment C142
Date: Thursday, 3 February 2022 10:33:27 AM

[REDACTED]
3 Feb 2022

Nillumbik Shire Council planning authority
Re: Nillumbik Planning Scheme
Amendment No 142
Notice of preparation of an Amendment

Thank you for notifying us that the Nillumbik Shire Council is preparing Amendment C142 to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme which will apply a heritage overlay to part of the site at 50 Oatland Road, Plenty. We share a fence with this property. I have read your letter and I have inspected the amendment and supporting documents on your website. I oppose the amendment.

I appreciate your intention to preserve the history of the Plenty region. I found reading this history interesting. I have several comments:

1. If a Heritage Overlay is required for the house at 50 Oatland Road, as you say, then who is expected to pay for preserving and restoring it? Who is expected to maintain the house and surroundings? You mentioned in the Explanatory Report for exhibition: **"The amendment is not expected to have any adverse environmental or economic effects."** How can that be? It costs heavily and someone will be adversely affected economically. I think it is unfair for the cost to be shouldered by one family. Would that be equivalent to the Council stealing from the present Owners? **If it is a Council decision to preserve the house, then it ought to be the Council responsibility to pay for it.** The Council needs to compensate the present Owners for any expense they incur due to the Heritage Overlay. We are looking at over 1.5 million dollars just for 50 Oatland Road. (plus more for the other houses you wish to put such an Overlay on). I know that will mean either our rates will have to increase or interested people will have to do a lot of fundraising.
2. I invite you to inspect the house at **50 Oatland Road**. I think the **house is in very poor condition**. It will take many man hours to restore it to its former glory. The outside weatherboard cladding of the house is rotting. The weatherboards will need replacing then painting. The window frames will need replacing. The plaster on the inside walls and ceilings have all been removed due to asbestos. The house is virtually gutted inside. There is virtually nothing left of the original house except the framework. If, once you have inspected it, you continue to decide to preserve the house then if is only fair that you take the responsibility for any cost involved in renovating and maintaining it.

Thank you for considering my comments. My recommendation is that the Council not proceed with preparing Amendment C142. I oppose the amendment. I value your reply.

[REDACTED]

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

Email : strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Our My name is

Our My address is

I oppose Nillumbik Planning Scheme Amendment C142 that proposes to put a heritage overlay on 50 Oatland Road, Plenty.

The property at 50 Plenty Road was recently sold to the [REDACTED] family. Before it was sold, the old house was already in very poor condition and essentially unliveable. Most of the old farm sheds had also already been demolished.

It does not make sense to choose this property for a heritage overlay. It also seems very unfair for the [REDACTED] family to bear the impact of Council's decision.

Name:

Signature :

26. 2. 2022

Date

Name:

Signature:

Name:

Signature

Name:

Signature:

Name:

Signature:

Name:

Signature:

Addit: When the [REDACTED] family bought¹ the above mentioned property, they were under the understanding that they could do what they needed to make it a suitable dwelling, including to demolish the existing house & rebuild. My personal opinion is that if council sees the house as a valuable enough "asset" to preserve the area's heritage, then they should also be willing to purchase the property from the Mead family - for the full amount they paid for it - to make it public land. [REDACTED]

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

Email : strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

My name is

My address is

I oppose Nillumbik Planning Scheme Amendment C142 that proposes to put a heritage overlay on 50 Oatland Road, Plenty.

The property at 50 Plenty Road was recently sold to the [REDACTED] family. Before it was sold, the old house was already in very poor condition and essentially unliveable. Most of the old farm sheds had also already been demolished.

It does not make sense to choose this property for a heritage overlay. It also seems very unfair for the [REDACTED] family to bear the impact of Council's decision.

[REDACTED] Signature

26-2-2022 Date

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

Email : strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

My name is

[REDACTED]

My address is

[REDACTED]

I oppose Nillumbik Planning Scheme Amendment C142 that proposes to put a heritage overlay on 50 Oatland Road, Plenty.

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It does not make sense to choose this property for a heritage overlay. It also seems very unfair for the [REDACTED] family to bear the impact of Council's decision.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Signature
26/02/2022

Date

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

Email : strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

My name is

[REDACTED]

My address is

[REDACTED]

I oppose Nillumbik Planning Scheme Amendment C142 that proposes to put a heritage overlay on 50 Oatland Road, Plenty.

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[REDACTED]

Signature

26.2.2022

Date

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

Email : strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

My name is

[REDACTED]

My address is

[REDACTED]

I oppose Nillumbik Planning Scheme Amendment C142 that proposes to put a heritage overlay on 50 Oatland Road, Plenty.

The property at 50 Plenty Road was recently sold to the [REDACTED] family. Before it was sold, the old house was already in very poor condition and essentially unliveable. Most of the old farm sheds had also already been demolished.

It does not make sense to choose this property for a heritage overlay. It also seems very unfair for the [REDACTED] family to bear the impact of Council's decision.

[REDACTED] Signature

26/2/2020. Date

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

Email : strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

My name is

[REDACTED]

My address is

[REDACTED]

I oppose Nillumbik Planning Scheme Amendment C142 that proposes to put a heritage overlay on 50 Oatland Road, Plenty.

The property at 50 Plenty Road was recently sold to the [REDACTED] family. Before it was sold, the old house was already in very poor condition and essentially unliveable. Most of the old farm sheds had also already been demolished.

It does not make sense to choose this property for a heritage overlay. It also seems very unfair for the [REDACTED] family to bear the impact of Council's decision.

[REDACTED]

Signature

27.2.2022

Date

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

Email : strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

My name is

My address is

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Signature

Date

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

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My name is

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The property at 50 Plenty Road was recently sold to the [REDACTED] family. Before it was sold, the old house was already in very poor condition and essentially unliveable. Most of the old farm sheds had also already been demolished.

It does not make sense to choose this property for a heritage overlay. It also seems very unfair for the [REDACTED] family to bear the impact of Council's decision.

[REDACTED] Signature

25. feb 2022 Date

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

Email : strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

My name is

[REDACTED]

My address is

[REDACTED]

I oppose Nillumbik Planning Scheme Amendment C142 that proposes to put a heritage overlay on 50 Oatland Road, Plenty.

The property at 50 Plenty Road was recently sold to the [REDACTED] family. Before it was sold, the old house was already in very poor condition and essentially unliveable. Most of the old farm sheds had also already been demolished.

It does not make sense to choose this property for a heritage overlay. It also seems very unfair for the [REDACTED] mily to bear the impact of Council's decision.

[REDACTED]

Signature

26/2/22

Date

Attn : Leigh Northwood

Strategic Planning Lead

Nillumbik Shire Council

Email : strategic.planning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

My name is

[REDACTED]

My address is

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2/2 2-2h

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Date

Financial Report

31 March 2022

Financial Report - 31 March 2022

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Financial Report - 31 March 2022

Income Statement

For the financial year to date 31 March 2022

	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals & Comm	YTD Variance Fav / (Unfav)		Annual Budget	YTD Actuals & Comm
	\$	\$	\$	%	\$	\$
Income						
Rates	58,877,833	59,337,916	460,083	0.78	59,233,714	59,337,916
Waste management charge	10,719,059	10,791,165	72,106	0.67	10,719,059	10,791,165
Government grants-recurrent	3,548,665	3,746,241	197,576	5.57	5,708,605	3,746,241
Government grants-non-recurrent	14,676,269	16,815,251	2,138,982	14.57	20,624,043	16,815,251
User charges	10,977,261	6,240,422	(4,736,839)	(43.15)	16,504,466	6,240,422
Statutory fees and fines	1,419,436	1,315,941	(103,495)	(7.29)	1,916,240	1,315,941
Reimbursements	62,771	85,950	23,179	36.93	182,771	85,950
Interest income	203,247	62,675	(140,572)	(69.16)	271,000	62,675
Capital contributions	51,649	163,768	112,119	217.08	934,777	163,768
Other revenue-recurrent	501,141	671,519	170,378	34.00	682,425	671,519
Other revenue-non-recurrent	-	29,520	29,520	100.00	-	29,520
Contributions	110,997	1,494,297	1,383,300	1,246.25	118,500	1,494,297
Total income	101,148,328	100,754,665	(393,663)	(0.39)	116,895,600	100,754,665
Expenses						
Employee benefits	28,566,339	27,561,306	1,005,033	3.52	37,377,455	27,561,306
External contracts	17,041,849	13,484,943	3,556,906	20.87	21,706,142	13,484,943
Materials and related costs	12,252,521	13,390,193	(1,137,672)	(9.29)	16,170,415	13,390,193
Other expenditure	5,250,187	5,343,504	(93,317)	(1.78)	7,220,777	5,343,504
Interest expenditure	396,355	397,026	(671)	(0.17)	582,828	397,026
Financial year projects allocation	1,630,982	2,331,108	(700,126)	(42.93)	2,259,352	2,331,108
Total expenses	65,138,233	62,508,080	2,630,153	4.04	85,316,969	62,508,080
Earnings before Depreciation	36,010,095	38,246,585	2,236,490	6.21	31,578,631	38,246,585
Depreciation	9,373,500	9,373,500	-	-	12,498,000	9,373,500
Net Surplus	26,636,595	28,873,085	2,236,490	8.40	19,080,631	28,873,085

Financial Report - 31 March 2022

Balance Sheet

For the financial year to date 31 March 2022

	31-Mar-22	30-Jun-21
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash assets	36,942,985	22,153,000
Other Financial Assets	-	26,325,000
Receivables	28,050,940	11,704,000
Accrued income	282,515	530,000
Prepayments	303,967	1,338,000
Land held for resale	3,080,000	3,080,000
Inventories	8,984	18,000
Total current assets	68,669,391	65,148,000
Non-current assets		
Investments in associates	1,671,148	1,671,000
Other Financial Assets	5,000	5,000
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment		
At cost	1,179,013,688	1,183,713,000
Accumulated depreciation	(253,312,443)	(243,939,000)
Work in progress	46,455,229	24,432,000
Right of use assets	879,958	881,000
Total non-current assets	974,712,580	966,763,000
TOTAL ASSETS	1,043,381,971	1,031,911,000
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Creditors	2,740,824	4,644,000
Trust funds	1,703,955	1,994,000
Prepaid income	-	45,000
Unearned Income	-	14,775,000
Accrued expenses	1,001,165	4,220,000
Commitments	6,446,486	-
Provisions	7,293,815	13,493,000
Borrowings	1,751,590	4,942,000
Lease liabilities	416,676	417,000
Total current liabilities	21,354,511	44,530,000
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	24,077,724	18,305,000
Borrowings	8,444,711	8,445,000
Lease liabilities	424,457	424,000
Total non-current liabilities	32,946,892	27,174,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	54,301,403	71,704,000
NET ASSETS	989,080,568	960,207,000
Presented by:		
Accumulated surplus	404,442,582	385,669,000
YTD surplus/(deficit)	28,873,085	18,773,000
Asset revaluation reserve	525,784,735	525,785,000
Other reserves	29,980,166	29,980,000
TOTAL EQUITY	989,080,568	960,207,000

Financial Report - 31 March 2022

Statement of Cash Flows

For the financial year to date 31 March 2022

	31-Mar-22 YTD \$	30-Jun-21 * \$
Inflows from operating activities		
Rates	54,029,627	68,473,000
Statutory fees & fines	1,315,941	1,843,000
User charges	6,195,422	10,942,000
Grants	5,786,492	29,113,000
Contributions	1,658,065	2,187,000
Interest	62,675	256,000
Other receipts	786,989	7,368,000
Total inflows from operating activities	69,835,211	120,182,000
Outflows from operating activities		
Payments to suppliers	(28,876,804)	(46,414,000)
Payments to employees	(27,561,306)	(36,290,000)
Trust	(290,045)	(171,000)
Other payments	(3,732,030)	(7,808,000)
Total outflows from operating activities	(60,460,185)	(90,683,000)
Movement in operating activities	9,375,026	29,499,000
Inflows from investing activities		
Proceeds from sale of assets	4,699,886	121,000
Proceeds from investments	26,325,000	-
Outflows from investing activities		
Payments for property, infrastructure, P&E	(22,022,334)	(34,984,000)
Payments for investments	-	(17,325,000)
Movement in investing activities	9,002,552	(52,188,000)
Inflows from financing activities		
Proceeds from borrowings	-	3,303,000
Outflows from financing activities		
Repayment of borrowings	(3,190,700)	(692,000)
Borrowing costs	(397,026)	(601,000)
Interest paid - lease liabilities	-	(21,000)
Repayment of lease liabilities	132	(492,000)
Movement in financing activities	(3,587,594)	1,497,000
TOTAL CASH MOVEMENT FOR PERIOD	14,789,985	(21,192,000)
Opening bank balance	22,153,000	43,345,000
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	14,789,985	(21,192,000)
CLOSING BANK BALANCE	36,942,985	22,153,000

*Comparative reflective of annual report which has been rounded to the nearest thousand

Financial Report - 31 March 2022

1. Income Statement Variance Analysis

a. Operating Income year to date

	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals & Comm	YTD Variance Fav / (Unfav)		Annual Budget	YTD Actuals & Comm
	\$	\$	\$	%	\$	\$
Income						
Rates	58,877,833	59,337,916	460,083	0.78	59,233,714	59,337,916
Waste management charge	10,719,059	10,791,165	72,106	0.67	10,719,059	10,791,165
Government grants-recurrent	3,548,665	3,746,241	197,576	5.57	5,708,605	3,746,241
Government grants-non-recurrent	14,676,269	16,815,251	2,138,982	14.57	20,624,043	16,815,251
User charges	10,977,261	6,240,422	(4,736,839)	(43.15)	16,504,466	6,240,422
Statutory fees and fines	1,419,436	1,315,941	(103,495)	(7.29)	1,916,240	1,315,941
Reimbursements	62,771	85,950	23,179	36.93	182,771	85,950
Interest income	203,247	62,675	(140,572)	(69.16)	271,000	62,675
Capital contributions	51,649	163,768	112,119	217.08	934,777	163,768
Other revenue-recurrent	501,141	671,519	170,378	34.00	682,425	671,519
Other revenue-non-recurrent	-	29,520	29,520	100.00	-	29,520
Contributions	110,997	1,494,297	1,383,300	1,246.25	118,500	1,494,297
Total Operating Income	101,148,328	100,754,665	(393,663)	(0.39)	116,895,600	100,754,665

Significant variance commentary:

Rates and Waste Management Charge \$532,189.

- Additional rateable properties processed throughout the financial year.

Recurrent Government Grants \$197,576.

- Additional funding received from:
 - Department of Education and Training \$44,037
 - Department of Health (Cwth) \$20,984
 - Department of Health (Vic) \$59,798
 - Department of Transport \$22,773.
- New funding received from
 - National Australia Day \$16,000
 - Youth Affairs Council Victoria \$13,000.

Non-Recurrent Government Grants \$2,138,982.

- Additional funding received from:
 - Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning \$30,000
 - Department of Health (Vic) \$40,000
 - Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications \$264,000
 - Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions \$270,000
 - Department of Premier and Cabinet \$29,500
 - Department of Transport \$104,484
 - Manningham City Council \$80,000.
- New funding received from
 - Department of Education and Training \$27,560
 - Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning \$157,970
 - Department of Families, Fairness and Housing \$115,500
 - Department of Health (Vic) \$34,320
 - Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions \$648,710
 - Department of Premier and Cabinet \$25,000
 - Department of Transport \$87,010
 - Department of Treasury and Finance \$115,200
 - Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal \$20,000.

User Charges (\$4,736,839).

- Loss of income for facilities is being driven by closure of all facilities during lockdown periods
 - Leisure facilities (\$4,310,730). This is offset by a \$4,329,250 reduction in contract expenditure.
 - Recycling and Recovery Centre gate fees (\$126,916)
 - Edendale Farm - school program, venue hire, plant and environmental product sales (\$132,343)
 - Eltham Community Reception Centre (\$57,003)
 - Cancellation of Living and Learning face-to-face programs (\$53,550)
 - Hurstbridge Community Hub (\$21,248)
 - Eltham Performance Arts Centre (\$20,250).
- Reduced number of impoundments at the animal pound (\$35,585).
- Increased asset protection fee income \$30,564.
- Increase in planning permit information fee income \$22,686.

Financial Report - 31 March 2022

Significant variance commentary (continued):

Statutory Fees and Fines (\$103,495).

- No enforcement of time-based parking infringements during lockdown periods (\$147,784).
- Building permit applications have decreased significantly (\$107,118).
- Planning and subdivision applications have been much higher than anticipated \$138,317.

Interest Income (\$140,572).

- Interest on investments reduced due to interest rates remaining at very low levels (\$140,572).

Capital Contributions \$112,119.

- Diamond Valley Library upgrade contribution received \$95,000.
- Eltham Men's Shed decking contribution received \$10,981.

Other Revenue - Recurrent \$170,378

- Refund of bank lockbox facility fees \$83,955.
- Workcover refunds for claims made \$104,993.

Contributions \$1,383,300.

- Developer contributions received for open space and DPO4 area open space \$1,386,973.

Financial Report - 31 March 2022

b. Operating Expenditure year to date

	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals & Comm	YTD Variance Fav / (Unfav)		Annual Budget	YTD Actuals & Comm
	\$	\$	\$	%	\$	\$
Expenditure						
Employee benefits	28,566,339	27,561,306	1,005,033	3.52	37,377,455	27,561,306
External contracts	17,041,849	13,484,943	3,556,906	20.87	21,706,142	13,484,943
Materials and related costs	12,252,521	13,390,193	(1,137,672)	(9.29)	16,170,415	13,390,193
Bad and doubtful debts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other expenditure	5,250,187	5,343,504	(93,317)	(1.78)	7,220,777	5,343,504
Interest expenditure	396,355	397,026	(671)	(0.17)	582,828	397,026
Financial year projects allocation	1,630,982	2,331,108	(700,126)	(42.93)	2,259,352	2,331,108
Total operating expenditure	65,138,233	62,508,080	2,630,153	4.04	85,316,969	62,508,080

Significant variance commentary:

Employee Benefits \$1,005,033.

- Year to date variances mainly resulting from position vacancies, partly offset by agency staff backfilling periods of vacancy.

External Contracts \$3,556,906.

- Closure of all leisure facilities due to COVID-19 has significantly lowered operational expenditure \$4,329,250.
- Agency and temporary staff have been engaged to backfill vacant roles (\$422,890).
- External consultants engaged to provide specialised services (\$127,539).
- Plenty Tip maintenance and leachate disposal required following heavy spring rainfall (\$77,912).
- Fire mitigation works including tree assessments, hazardous tree pruning and removal and reserves maintenance (\$68,232).
- External storage of art collection pieces (\$15,558).

Materials & Related Costs (\$1,137,672).

- Contractors engaged for:
 - Provision of reach arm and amenity mowing services (\$273,639)
 - Maintenance and beautification of high use sites throughout the Shire (\$172,595)
 - Cleaning and maintenance of synthetic and turf wickets in preparation for seasonal use (\$53,507)
 - Drain cleaning services (\$46,010)
 - Integration of new asset management system (\$30,000)
- Increased demand for consulting arborists at higher service cost (\$65,750).
- COVID-19 protocols and delayed delivery of new grader has necessitated the external hiring of plant (\$59,485).
- Fleet running cost increase as a result of higher fuel and oil prices (\$48,667).
- Landfill and recycling transportation costs have increased (\$44,550).
- Fire hydrant inspection and maintenance costs (\$40,386).
- Materials required to maintain sportsgrounds within the Shire (\$35,075).
- Insurance policy premiums higher than budgeted due to insurance market conditions (\$32,689).
- Vandalism in parks and open spaces and demand for graffiti removal services has been greater than anticipated (\$86,949).
- Internet data usage has increased as a result of office based staff working remotely (\$29,411).
- Road safety works required to maintain safety standards (\$27,968).
- Works required on the retaining wall at the Recycling and Recovery Centre (\$24,630).
- Water savings due to newly installed irrigation system and additional rainfall \$42,835.

Other Expenditure (\$93,317).

- Unbudgeted expenses incurred during the pandemic to ensure the organisation is operating in a COVID safe manner (\$84,019).
- Professional services engaged for statutory planning VCAT hearing representation (\$45,628).
- Walking School Bus program did not proceed due to COVID-19 \$20,000.

Financial Year Projects (\$700,126).

- Clean up costs associated with storm events in June and October 2021 (\$319,685).
- Unexpected grant funding received is driving the below expenditure:
 - North East Link tree planting (\$86,933)
 - L2P learner driver program (\$61,030)
 - Outdoor activation program (\$54,168)
 - Landcare network facilitator (\$42,586)
 - Emergency Management Officer (\$34,307)
 - COVID vaccine community engagement (\$27,121)
 - Carers support hub program (\$23,112)
 - Business food waste project (\$20,000).

Financial Report - 31 March 2022

2. Statement of Capital Works

For the financial year to date 31 March 2022

Asset Class	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals & Comm	YTD Variance Fav / (Unfav)		Annual Budget	YTD Actuals & Comm
	\$	\$	\$	%	\$	\$
Bridges	367,144	355,404	11,740	3.20	379,486	355,404
Children's playground equipment	67,816	69,876	(2,060)	(3.04)	131,722	69,876
Commercial centres/major streetscapes	346,647	560,051	(213,404)	(61.56)	396,647	560,051
Digital transformation projects	804,297	1,032,568	(228,271)	(28.38)	893,044	1,032,568
Disability access works	-	-	-	-	163,549	-
Drainage	554,109	557,142	(3,033)	(0.55)	723,002	557,142
Footpaths	1,007,475	1,024,121	(16,646)	(1.65)	2,135,260	1,024,121
Landfill closure/regional park	274,136	696,544	(422,408)	(154.09)	6,310,000	696,544
Major leisure centres & community halls	6,485,417	6,992,388	(506,971)	(7.82)	6,565,417	6,992,388
Other council buildings	2,289,268	2,466,314	(177,046)	(7.73)	3,277,015	2,466,314
Plant & vehicle replacement	195,213	195,213	-	-	1,004,656	195,213
Public open space	1,301,430	1,396,848	(95,418)	(7.33)	2,037,123	1,396,848
Recreation trails	4,908,754	4,912,293	(3,539)	(0.07)	8,638,589	4,912,293
Roads	2,578,223	2,655,262	(77,039)	(2.99)	7,960,201	2,655,262
Special charge schemes	-	328,981	(328,981)	(100.00)	25,170	328,981
Sportsfields & pavilions	5,710,646	6,162,974	(452,328)	(7.92)	11,452,737	6,162,974
Traffic works	127,220	127,220	-	-	483,583	127,220
Various/miscellaneous capital	17,120	107,399	(90,279)	(527.33)	56,320	107,399
Total	27,034,915	29,640,596	(2,605,681)	(9.64)	52,633,521	29,640,596
Renewal	4,635,502	4,651,599	(16,097)	(0.35)	7,479,069	4,651,599
New	8,407,665	8,557,362	(149,697)	(1.78)	15,314,864	8,557,362
Upgrade	13,937,374	16,241,659	(2,304,285)	(16.53)	27,757,050	16,241,659
Expansion	54,374	189,976	(135,602)	(249.39)	2,082,538	189,976
Total	27,034,915	29,640,597	(2,605,682)	(9.64)	52,633,521	29,640,597

Commentary:

The 2021-22 annual capital works program is underway and is tracking well, with a total spend variance of 9.64% percent ahead of budget. This remains within annual budget projections. The variance is predominately attributable to:

- Additional works required for:
 - Plenty Landfill commitments for compliance works to meet final sign off requirements
 - Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre to comply with building surveyance and fire protection regulations
 - Diamond Valley Library upgrade to include upgrade of heating and cooling systems
 - Townships and streetscapes due to additional design costs and permit fees from regulatory agencies
 - Greensborough Hockey Pavilion to include shelter and terraced seating
 - Hurstbridge multi use facility
 - Research carpark upgrade.
- De Fredericks Road Special Charge Scheme was declared by Council and works have commenced.

The overall financial position of the capital works portfolio spend continues to be closely monitored.

Financial Report - 31 March 2022

3. Treasury

a. Loans

Financial Institution	Start date	Term (years)	End date	Principal \$	Interest Rate %	Current Balance \$
ANZ	29/06/2012	10	29/06/2022	1,000,000	5.52%	32,256
CBA	30/06/2015	6	30/06/2022	1,480,000	0.84%	1,480,000
CBA	28/06/2013	10	28/06/2023	400,000	5.86%	63,614
NAB	28/06/2007	20	28/06/2027	2,200,000	6.96%	868,433
NAB	27/06/2008	20	27/06/2028	3,647,000	7.87%	1,764,465
NAB	10/06/2011	20	10/06/2031	2,120,000	7.91%	1,381,207
NAB	21/06/2021	10	21/06/2031	3,303,000	2.03%	3,055,275
ANZ	29/06/2012	20	29/06/2032	2,373,000	5.88%	1,551,051
Total						10,196,301

b. Investment activities

Council carries out investment activities according to Section 143 of the Victorian Local Government Act 1989. All Council funds are invested with Authorised Deposit Taking Institutions (ADI's), in either cash, at call or term deposits. The following tables provide our investment portfolio by maturity and rating type.

Financial Institution	Green Investment	S & P Rating	Investment Type	Principal \$	Maturity Date	Term (days)	Interest Rate %
Macquarie		A1	11:00am	9,121,502			0.55%
NAB		A1+	Term Deposit	1,500,000	30/05/2022	91	0.40%
Macquarie		A1	Term Deposit	1,000,000	3/06/2022	91	0.45%
NAB		A1+	Term Deposit	7,000,000	7/06/2022	92	0.43%
Bendigo	Yes	A2	Term Deposit	1,000,000	15/06/2022	180	0.40%
AMP		A2	Term Deposit	3,000,000	29/06/2022	210	0.85%
ME Bank		A2	Term Deposit	4,000,000	1/07/2022	119	0.40%
AMP		A2	Term Deposit	5,000,000	6/07/2022	273	0.75%
AMP		A2	Term Deposit	800,000	11/07/2022	154	0.95%
BOQ		A2	Term Deposit	2,500,000	2/08/2022	182	0.55%
Total				34,921,502	Weighted average		0.56%

Financial Institution Rating	Investment	Portfolio
A1+	8,500,000	24.34%
A1	10,121,502	28.98%
A2	16,300,000	46.68%
Total	34,921,502	100%

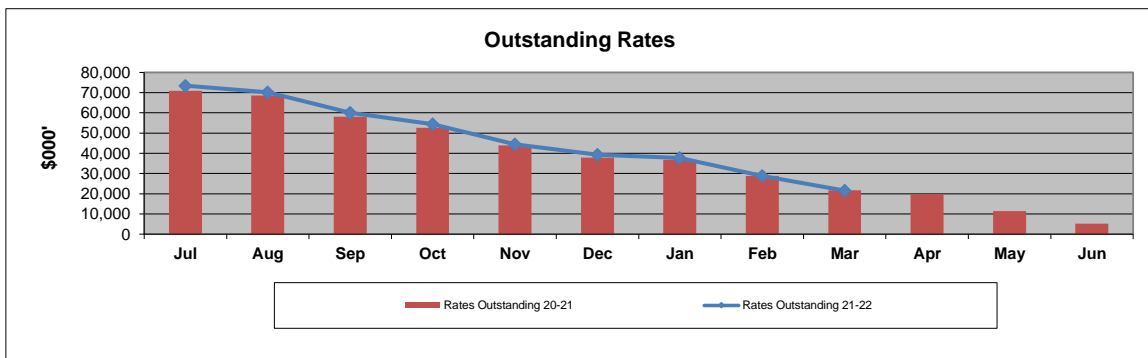
Council's current average rate of return on investments for the 2021-22 financial year is 0.56 percent and is compliant with Council's investment policy.

The portion of investment portfolio currently invested with green institutions is 2.86 percent.

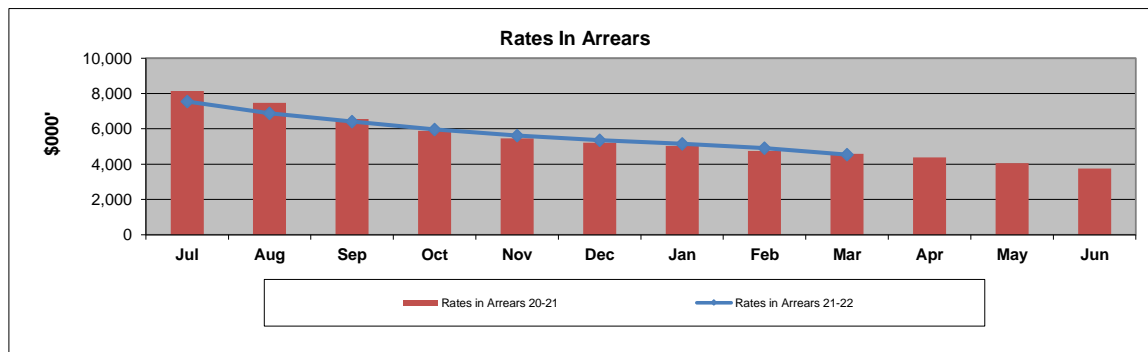
Financial Report - 31 March 2022

4. Rates Analysis

	YTD Actual 31-Mar-21 \$000'	YTD Actual 31-Mar-22 \$000'	Variance \$000'	Variance %
Rates Outstanding	21,667	21,543	124	0.57
Rates in Arrears (prior years)	4,582	4,541	41	0.89



When Council adopts the budget, rates are levied on properties and the full amount due is treated as income at that point.



Supplementary Valuations

Between the annual revaluation cycle, supplementary valuations are conducted to:

- record changes made to properties that affect property value,
- record changes to the rateability status, and
- consider any planning amendments made within the cycle.

Growth in the number of rateable assessments predominantly occurs as a result of developments within the Shire, creating assessments through subdivision of land and/or buildings.

Rateable properties at 1 July 2021	23,972
2021-22 growth	115
Rateable properties at 31 March 2022	<u>24,087</u>

Financial Report - 31 March 2022

5. Grant Activity

The following table provides a summary of grant funding, greater than \$50,000, received for Council activities during the period 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Project Description	2021-22 Actuals YTD \$	Funding Body
Recurrent		
Maternal & Child Health universal funding	250,152	Department of Education and Training (Vic)
Living & Learning Vocational Education & Training	139,945	Department of Education and Training (Vic)
Best Start	93,458	Department of Education and Training (Vic)
Eltham Childcare rebates	87,143	Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Cwth)
Panton Hill Childcare rebates	77,242	Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Cwth)
Grants Commission - general purpose	809,613	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Grants Commission - roads	488,256	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Diamond Creek Neighbourhood House	67,197	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
Aged Care Regional Assessment Service funding	137,108	Department of Health (Vic)
Grow Communities Thriving Children	133,474	Department of Health (Vic)
Home & Community Care - transport	102,060	Department of Health (Vic)
School Crossing Supervision	294,618	Department of Transport
Total Recurrent	2,680,266	
Non-Recurrent		
Council Plan / Grant Funded Initiatives		
Household recycling plan	69,985	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Landcare facilitator 2021-24	57,985	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Carers support hub	115,500	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
Outdoor activation	300,000	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
Outdoor precincts	275,000	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
Women Building Surveyors program	75,000	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
COVIDSafe Business Support	60,000	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
Learner Driver Mentor Program	104,484	Department of Transport
North East Link tree planting	87,010	Department of Transport
Better business approvals	115,200	Department of Treasury and Finance
Emergency Management Officer	80,000	Manningham City Council
Capital Works		
Roads to recovery	484,000	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Yarrambat streetscape upgrades	200,000	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Eltham Skate Park upgrade	75,000	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Coventry Oval lighting upgrade	135,000	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
Research Park Oval Irrigation	73,710	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
Total Non-Recurrent	2,307,874	

Financial Report - 31 March 2022

6. Defined Benefit Superannuation Update

Council has an obligation to contribute to any funding shortfalls within the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (LASF) Defined Benefit Plan.

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) standard SPS160 uses the Vested Benefits Index (VBI) as its primary measure of fund solvency. The VBI measures the market value of assets in a defined benefit portfolio against the benefits that members would have been entitled to if they had all resigned on the same day.

The independent Actuary to the fund calculates the VBI at 30 June each year. It is necessary for the VBI to be 100% or greater at 30 June each year.

Vision Super produces interim quarterly VBI estimates based on actual quarterly assets and membership.

The recent history of the LASF VBI is shown below:

Estimated Vested Benefit Index

Year	30 Sept (estimated) %	31 Dec (actual) %	31 Mar (actual) %	30 Jun (actual) %
2021/22	109.90	111.20	**	
2020/21	104.50	109.60	111.50	109.70
2019/20	107.30	107.70	102.10	104.60
2018/19	106.90	101.90	105.40	107.10

** The 31 March 2022 estimated figure is not yet available from Vision Super.

To enable Council to monitor this risk, reliance is placed on the actuarial reviews conducted on the fund on a periodic basis. The most recent actuarial review was completed at 30 June 2021 and the fund actuary found that the LASF Defined Benefit Plan was in a satisfactory financial position.

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Department of Environment,
Land, Water & Planning

Port Phillip Region
609 Burwood Highway,
Knoxfield
DX212005
Private Bag 15, Ferntree Gully
Delivery Centre, VIC 3156
property.portphillip@delwp.vic.gov.au
www.delwp.vic.gov.au

File Reference: 12L12/1314

CEO
Nillumbik Shire Council
PO BOX 476
GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088
nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Dear CEO – Nillumbik Shire Council,

**COUNCIL CONSENT TO CLOSING OF ROAD
UNDER SECTION 349 OF THE LAND ACT 1958**

A road laid out on land of the Crown which is unused or of low public value, as to the whole or any portion of the length or width may be closed by the Governor in Council as to the whole or part as the case may be by order published in the Government Gazette but only with the concurrence in writing of the Council of the Municipality in whose district the road is situated and of the owners of any land adjoining the said road.

If the Council favours the closing of the road referred to hereunder, its concurrence should be given in writing to satisfy the requirements of the Act. It may be given under the seal of the Council or under the hand of the Chief Executive Officer.

Description of Road which
is the subject of this consent;

The road section shown marked B on the plan attached, being Government Road Section, Brisbane Street, Eltham, Victoria, adjoining Lot 1 TP80155 2/1 BRISBANE STREET ELTHAM 3095 (Certificate of Title Volume 09418, Folio 329) and Lot 1 TP117317 1/7 BRISBANE STREET ELTHAM 3095 (Certificate of Title Volume 09785, Folio 771)

Name and address of applicant
for the road to be closed and
the unused Government Road
to be sold to;

Privacy Obligations

OFFICIAL

CONSENT

At the meeting of the Nillumbik Shire Council held on _____ it was resolved that the Council give its concurrence to the closing of a section of the subject road pursuant to Section 349 of the *Land Act 1958*, as per the map area highlighted.

In giving this consent Council is aware that should the road be closed the effect will be as follows:-

- (i) The closing of this section of road, will be absolute;
- (ii) The road section, will be shown as closed on all Departmental record plans and Title Office charts and on the Titles of the abutting lands;
- (iii) All rights of carriageway enjoyed by the public will cease;
- (iv) The land in the closed road will become unalienated land of the Crown and can be dealt with under the provisions of the Land Act which includes the sale of the freehold.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2015

(Council seal or signature of the Chief Executive Officer)

OFFICIAL

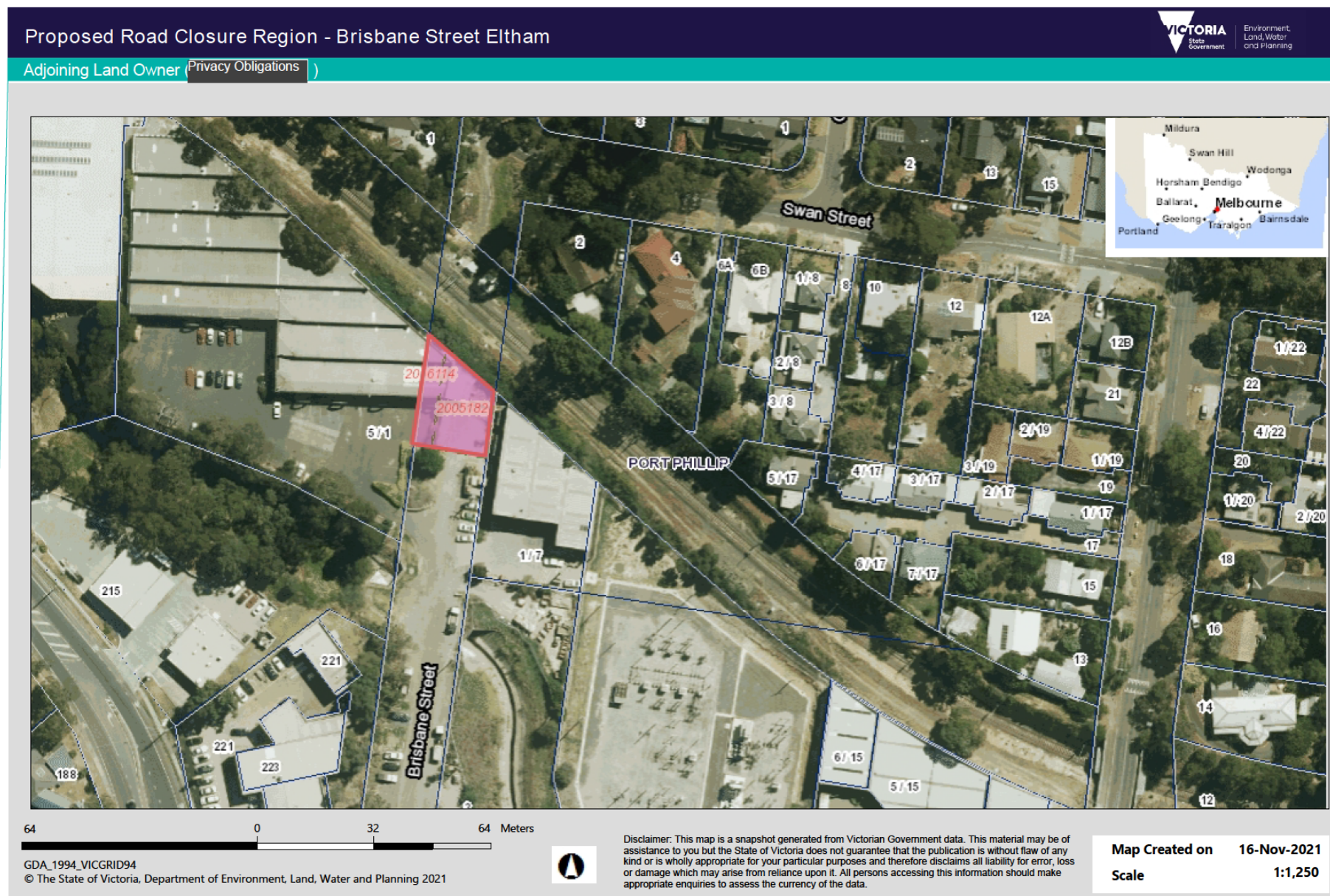


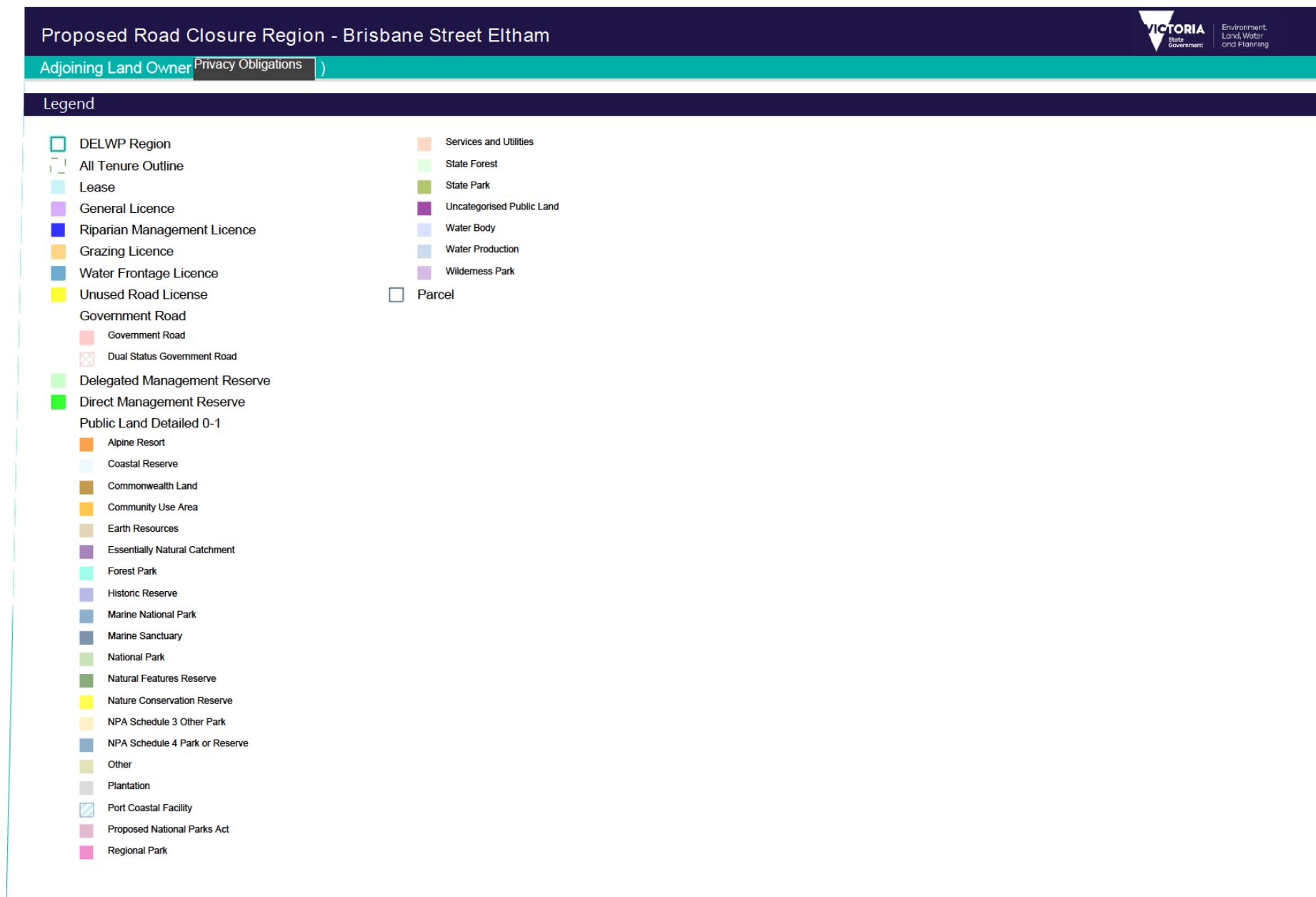


Disclaimer: This map is a snapshot generated from Victorian Government data. This material may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for error, loss or damage which may arise from reliance upon it. All persons accessing this information should make appropriate enquiries to assess the currency of the data.

Map Created on 23-Nov-2021
Scale 1:800

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Attachment 3 - Excerpt from Eltham Major Activity Centre Structure Plan 2020

ELTHAM MAJOR ACTIVITY CENTRE / STRUCTURE PLAN / JULY 2020

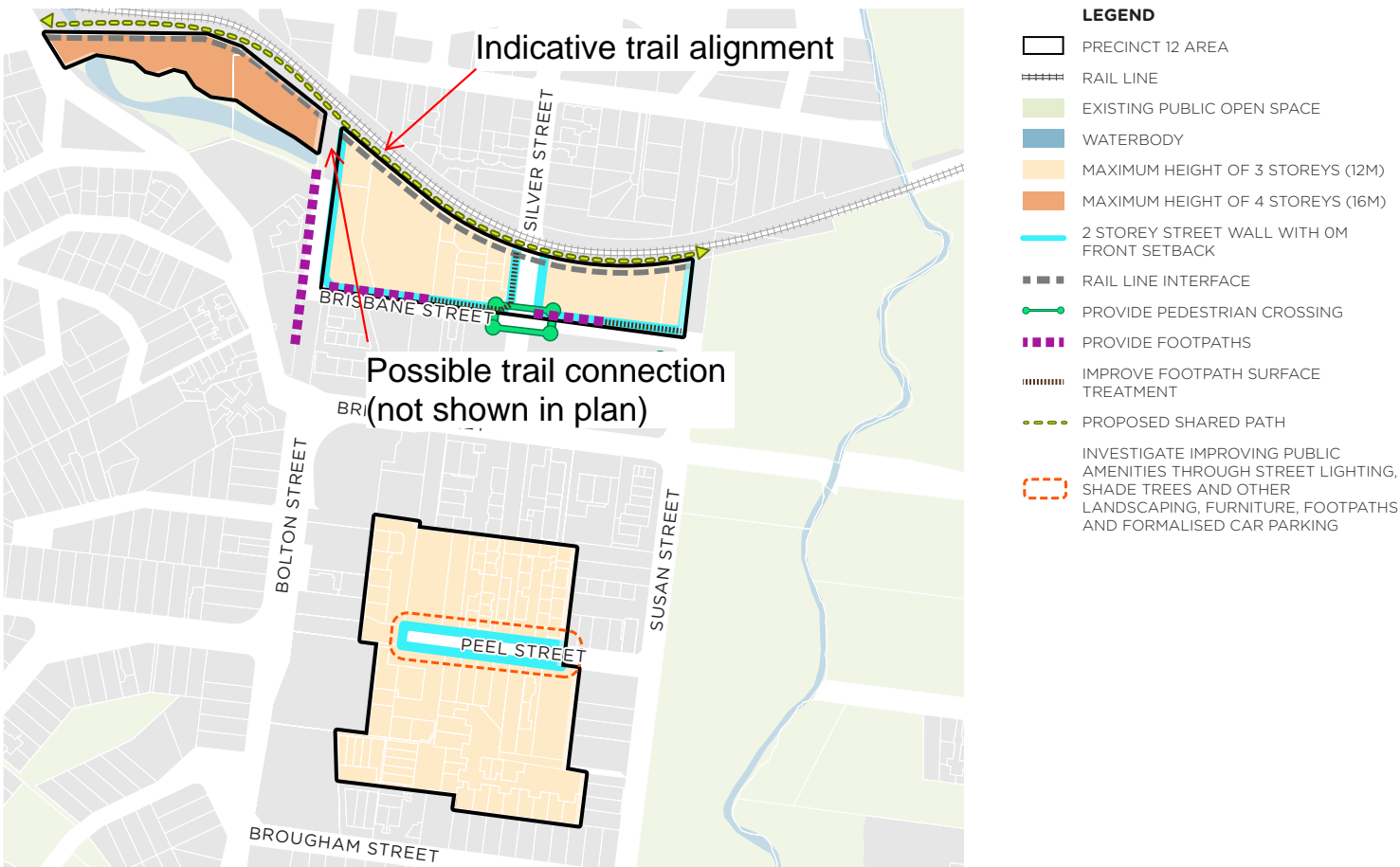


Figure 29. Precinct 12 plan

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Governance Communication and Engagement

Councillor Media and Civic Representation Protocol

Description of policy	The Councillor Media and Civic Representation Protocol provides a set of understandings on the individual and collective roles and responsibilities of Councillors. The Protocol guides Councillors in the conduct of their role, and covers processes supporting Shire representation roles of Councillors.
Policy applies to	<input type="checkbox"/> Councillors, CEO, EMT and Communications and Engagement Team
Policy category	<input type="checkbox"/> Revised Policy
Description of revision and Version Number	Version Number: 01 DOC/22/16358

Approved by	Council
Approval date	26 April 2022
Effective date	26 April 2022
Date of last revision	
Date of next review*	29 April 2025

*Unless replaced, this policy will still apply beyond the review date.

Related legislation, standards and guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> • Councillor Code of Conduct 2020
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1. Policy Statement

Nillumbik Shire Council recognises the important role of both traditional media, social media and civil representation in shaping the community's perception and understanding of Council's decisions, services, events and activities.

2. Purpose / Objectives

Opportunities for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors to represent the Shire will arise through a range of mechanisms including media activity, event attendance and contribution to internal and external publications.

The Councillor Media and Civic Representation Protocol (the Protocol) provides a set of understandings on the individual and collective roles and responsibilities of Councillors. The Protocol guides Councillors in the conduct of their role, interaction with each other and covers processes supporting representation roles of Councillors.

The objectives of the Protocol are to:

- To ensure clear and consistent messages are communicated from Council.
- To establish a positive profile for Council as an authoritative and responsible governing body.
- To ensure the appropriate delegation for Council's media and official social media comment.
- To establish the processes by which opportunities regarding media commentary and event attendance will be progressed and allocated.
- To ensure a centralised system of issues management.

3. Scope

The Protocol:

- seeks to complement the function and conduct expectations of Councillors as described in the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- recognises the role of Mayor as principal spokesperson for Council as described in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The commitment by Councillors to the expectations in the Protocol is embedded in the Councillor Code of Conduct 2020.

4. Media and Social Media

The Mayor is the principal spokesperson for the Council in accordance with Section 18 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Mayor is the most appropriate person to provide official comment to the media and on Council's social media accounts on behalf of Council on matters of public interest, particularly those which are political, controversial or sensitive in nature.

The Mayor may delegate authority to an appropriate Councillor, or the CEO, to make an official comment on behalf of the Council, on a Ward or Advisory Committee.

The Mayor is the official spokesperson for all policy matters that broadly affect the Nillumbik community including:

- State-wide political issues affecting local government
- Contentious local issues that impact the community that do not relate directly to the business of Council but to the representation of the community
- Issues pertaining to policy and Council decisions
- Issues relating to the strategic direction of Council

While it is recognised that some Councillors may not have supported the decision, it is highly desirable that Councillors do not seek to undermine or publicly denigrate the decision. Once Council has made a decision, it becomes the collective decision of Council.

If the Mayor does not wish to publicly support the adopted/agreed position of the Council he/she should delegate the media spokesperson role to the Deputy Mayor, another Councillor or to the CEO in that instance.

The Protocol acknowledges that the resources of the Communications and Engagement Team will be made available to assist the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors and Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) in any liaison with, or commentary to, media outlets on matters of Council policy, decisions or operations.

Personal social media accounts need a clear statement that all views expressed on that account are that of the individual Councillor and not that of the Council. For example:

'These are my individual views and opinions and do not represent the view of the elected Council or the organisation'.

If a Councillor believes that their accountability to constituents requires an expression of dissent this should be done thoughtfully, with respect and in accordance with the Councillor Code of Conduct. While differences of opinion will occur, Councillors must bear in mind that post-decision dissent has the potential to compromise Council's ability as a collective, to deliver on its main aims to the community.

The CEO and the Executive Manager Governance, Communications and Engagement are the appropriate people to comment on all other operational matters pertaining to Nillumbik Shire Council as an organisation, including:

- Staffing and structure of the organisation
- Corporate issues relating to service provision or the day-to-day business of Council

The CEO may delegate authority to a Council officer, if appropriate.

5. Media Releases

All media releases will quote the Mayor or, in the case of Ward or Advisory Committee, another Councillor where appropriate. The Mayor may choose to delegate comment to another Councillor or the CEO.

Drafts of media releases will be forwarded to Managers for first round approval or amendments. The Mayor/Councillors will only approve all comments attributed to them. The CEO/Executives will approve the factual content of the release.

All media releases will receive final approval for distribution by the CEO and/or Executives.

Where a specific comment is required from a Council officer, the Mayor or relevant Councillor will also have an opportunity to provide a comment. Media releases will be issued to the media in line with deadline.

All media releases are available on Council's website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

6. Media Enquiries

The Communications and Advocacy Lead has regular contact with the local media and needs to be familiar with any issues or stories that are running or likely to run.

In all circumstances, media enquiries should be directed to the Communications and Advocacy Lead.

If a media representative contacts a Councillor, the Councillor should take details and inform the caller that all enquiries must be handled by the Communications and Advocacy Lead. Details about the issues are then to be provided to the Communications and Advocacy Lead.

The Communications and Advocacy Lead will provide appropriate advice on a media enquiry and will draft official responses and comment. If these responses are attributed to the Mayor or any Councillor, they will have final approval of those words.

Media enquiries from the Communications and Engagement Unit must be dealt with as a priority, relative to the deadline provided.

The Communications and Advocacy Lead is the 24 hour media contact. All media inquiries should be directed to the Lead on 0439 682 753.

7. Social Media Procedures

Social media is defined in the Protocol as digital spaces where people may comment, contribute, create, forward, post, upload and share content, including, but not limited to:

- Social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn)
- Blogs, including personal and corporate blogs, and media blogs
- Bulletin boards
- Citizen journalism and news sites
- Forums and discussion boards
- Instant messaging facilities
- Microblogging sites (e.g. Twitter)
- Wikis and online collaborations (e.g. Wikipedia)
- Podcasts
- Video and photo sharing sites (e.g. Flickr, YouTube)
- Video podcasts
- Any other websites (including social bookmarking sites) that allows individuals to use simple publishing tools or new technologies emerging from the digital environment.

It is not possible to include an exhaustive list of the specific sites or kinds of online and social media outlets, however, the absence of a reference to a particular site or kind of online media activity does not limit the application of these guidelines.

Individual Councillors' can have online and social media channels included in their Councillor contact details (on Council's corporate website, in Nillumbik News, e-News and individual Councillor business cards) if these channels are used only in their role as a Councillor and not for private or business purposes.

If a Councillor is contacted by the media on social network sites on matters that relate to Nillumbik Shire Council, Councillors are able to seek advice from the Communications and Advocacy Lead.

The administration can provide training opportunities, general guidance and advice around appropriate use but will not draft or edit Councillors' social media posts. Councillors are free to seek clarification on specific matters via the CEO or EMT.

8. External Publications

Opportunities to contribute to publications produced by external sources shall be referred to the Mayor or Councillors as appropriate to Ward or that of the Mayor as principal spokesperson. Appropriate support will be provided where the subject matter has a strong alignment with Council goals, policies and objectives.

9. Representing the Shire at events, functions and delegations (official and unofficial)

The Mayor is the principal representative of Council and all Councillors support the Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor will deputise for the Mayor at a function or event where the Mayor is unable to attend. Where the Deputy Mayor cannot attend, the Mayor will nominate another Councillor taking into consideration whether the function is associated with a Councillor's ward and whether the function is associated with a group or committee to which a Councillor has been appointed as Council's representative.

In the event of the Mayor delegating attendance of a function to a Councillor, the CEO's office will communicate with the nominated Councillor to ensure that the Councillor is aware of the relevant issues and is prepared for the function.

Where a Councillor has played a key role in development of a Council organised or supported event and would like the opportunity to represent the Shire at that event, the Councillor should advise the Councillor/s otherwise entitled to be the representative, and either request that the speaking opportunity be passed on, or that arrangements otherwise be made to include the Councillor in the formal proceedings of the event.

Should a Councillor be directly approached by a party external to Council to participate in events, functions and activities important or relevant to Nillumbik (this includes photo opportunities), the request must be referred to the Mayor, who in turn will notify the CEO and Executive Manager Governance Communications and Engagement.

If the Mayor is unavailable and the opportunity is transferable, the opportunity will be referred to the Deputy Mayor. If unavailable, the Mayor will refer to another Councillor and may take into account Wards, positions on advisory committees and external organisations, areas of expertise and interest expressed by Councillors.

To ensure that all Councillors are kept informed, opportunities for representation by Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and Executives will be communicated through a Corporate Calendar system which provides full details of opportunities and background information to maximize benefits from Council involvement.

10. Use of Digital Imagery

All official Nillumbik Shire Council images and footage remains the copyright of the Administration, are maintained by the Administration for official use and meets Privacy and Data Protection Act requirements.

Official council images can be made available to Councillors upon request for Council business-related matters. Images can be used on social media channels that are specifically established for Councillors in their capacity as an elected representative. Care must be taken during Caretaker period in relation to Council images that have been provided to Councillors.

Images shared online by Councillors in a private capacity must in no way bring Nillumbik Shire Council, its employees, volunteers, contractors or visitors into disrepute.

11. Communications and Engagement Team Support

The Communications and Engagement Team will support the spokesperson in undertaking their role and in generating and responding to media.

A member of the Communications and Engagement Team will generally accompany the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors, if required, to media opportunities or events where a media spokesperson role is likely.

The Communications and Engagement Team will also provide briefing notes and other preparatory material should a Council spokesperson (Mayor, Councillor or designated Officer) be required to conduct a media interview on a Council-related matter.

While Councillors are entitled to speak to the media on any topic, if they are not acting as the authorised spokesperson on Council matters or positions as described in this protocol, the Communications and Engagement Team's resources and assistance are not available to them.

Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 11:30 AM

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Capital Works Forum
	Date:	Friday 11 March 2022
	Location:	Virtual meeting
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Frances Eyre, Cr Geoff Paine, Cr Ben Ramcharan and Cr Richard Stockman
	Council Staff:	Carl Cowie, Hjalmar Philipp, Enrique Gutierrez, Sherry Wu, Alex Stewart, Lawrence Seyers
	Other:	
APOLOGIES:		Cr Karen Egan, Cr Natalie Duffy. Cr Peter Perkins

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Andrew Park Pocket Park	No disclosure was made.
2	Hurstbridge Men's Shed	No disclosure was made.
3	Graysharps Road Open Space Plan	No disclosure was made.
4	Diamond Hills Preschool project	No disclosure was made.
5	Congestion Busting Delivery	No disclosure was made.

The Meeting concluded at 12:34 pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name: Officer Title:	Enrique Gutierrez Manager Assets and Capital Works
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Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 2:00pm

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Neighbourhood Character Strategy Project Councillor Workshop 1
	Date:	Tuesday 15 March 2022
	Location:	Council Chamber, Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Frances Eyre Cr Karen Egan Cr Geoff Payne Cr Ben Ramcharan Cr Richard Stockman Cr Natalie Duffy
	Council Staff:	Rosa Zouzoulas, Leigh Northwood, Paul Fyffe, Sean Diffey
	Other:	Tim Peggie, Hayden Noble both from Ethos Urban (consultants on Neighbourhood Character Strategy)
APOLOGIES:		Cr Peter Perkins

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Neighbourhood Character Strategy Project, background report and proposed engagement	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 2:50pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Leigh Northwood
	Officer Title:	Lead Strategic Planning

Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 3.32pm

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Communications Strategy Workshop
	Date:	Tuesday 5 April 2022
	Location:	Virtual
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Frances Eyre, Cr Natalie Duffy, Cr Geoff Paine, Cr Ben Ramcharan and Cr Richard Stockman
	Council Staff:	Blaga Naumoski, Licardo Prince
	Other:	Shannon Bakker - Consultant
APOLOGIES:		Cr Peter Perkins, Cr Karen Egan

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Discussion and feedback on draft Communications Strategy	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 4.46pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name: Officer Title:	Blaga Naumoski Executive Manager Governance, Communications and Engagement
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Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 5:04pm

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Council Meeting Pre-Meet
	Date:	Tuesday 22 March 2022
	Location:	Council Chamber
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Peter Perkins, Cr Frances Eyre, Cr Natalie Duffy, Cr Karen Egan, Cr Geoff Paine, Cr Ben Ramcharan and Cr Richard Stockman
	Council Staff:	Carl Cowie, Vince Lombardi, Hjalmar Philipp, Blaga Naumoski, Corrienne Nichols, Rosa Zouzoulas, Jeremy Livingston, Emma Christensen, Leigh Northwood, Nichole Johnson, Lauren Treby, Melika Sukunda (left 5:33pm), Lisa Pittle (left 5:47pm), Lance Clark (left 5:47pm), Craig Commene (left 5:47pm)
	Other:	
APOLOGIES:		

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Council Meeting Pre-meet	No other disclosures were made.

The Meeting concluded at 6:01pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name: Officer Title:	Emma Christensen Governance Lead
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Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 5.02pm

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing
	Date:	Tuesday 5 April 2022
	Location:	Held Virtually
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Peter Perkins, Cr Frances Eyre, Cr Natalie Duffy, Cr Karen Egan, Cr Geoff Paine, Cr Ben Ramcharan and Cr Richard Stockman
	Council Staff:	Carl Cowie, Vince Lombardi, Hjalmar Philipp, Blaga Naumoski, Corrienne Nichols, Jeremy Livingston, Rosa Zouzoulas, Leigh Northwood, Craig King, Patrick Wood, Lisa Pittle, Jon Miller, Natalie Campion, Lauren Treby
	Other:	Michael Stefanovic AM – Chief Municipal Inspector, Laura Majewski Senior Investigator MRVP – Dipal Sorathia, Project Director, Emily Alvis Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Jay Caliskan Project Manager
APOLOGIES:		

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Presentation from Local Government Inspectorate	No disclosures were made
2	MRPV – Eltham Gateway Project proposal	No disclosures were made
3	Nillumbik Customer First Strategy 2019-2022 – Final Year Update	No disclosures were made
4	Planning Scheme Amendment C142nill 50 Oatland Road, Plenty – Outcomes of public exhibition	No disclosures were made
5	Request for road closure for section of Brisbane Street, Eltham	No disclosures were made
6	Drafts Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026	No disclosures were made
7	Draft Climate Action Plan 2022-2032	No disclosures were made
8	Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Nominees	No disclosures were made
9	Yan Yean Road Upgrade (stage 1) – Land Acquisition and Compensation Status Update	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 9.12pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name: Officer Title:	Blaga Naumoski Executive Manager Governance, Communications and Engagement
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Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 5.10pm

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing
	Date:	Tuesday 15 March 2022
	Location:	Council Chamber
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Peter Perkins, Cr Frances Eyre, Cr Natalie Duffy, Cr Karen Egan, Cr Geoff Paine, Cr Ben Ramcharan and Cr Richard Stockman
	Council Staff:	Carl Cowie, Vince Lombardi, Hjalmar Philipp, Blaga Naumoski, Corrienne Nichols, Jeremy Livingston, Rosa Zouzoulas, Danielle Phyland, Heath Gillett and Licardo Prince, Tara Jolfaei, April Wilson and Brooke Ross
	Other:	Whittlesea Council Administrators – Lydia Wilson, Chris Eddy, Peita Duncan Whittlesea Council CEO – Craig Llyod
APOLOGIES:		

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Meeting with Whittlesea Administrators	No disclosures were made
2	CEO Update	No disclosures were made
3	Economic Development and Tourism Update	No disclosures were made
4	Draft Councillor Media and Representation Protocol	No disclosures were made
5	Recreation and Leisure Quarterly Update	No disclosures were made
6	BMX Update	No disclosures were made
7	Draft Bend of Islands Local Law	No disclosures were made
8	Draft General Local Law	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 9.20pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name: Officer Title:	Blaga Naumoski Executive Manager Governance, Communications and Engagement
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Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 5:05pm

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting Pre-Meeting
	Date:	Tuesday 12 April 2022
	Location:	Council Chamber
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Natalie Duffy, Cr Karen Egan, Cr Geoff Paine, Cr Ben Ramcharan, Cr Richard Stockman, and Cr Peter Perkins
	Council Staff:	Vince Lombardi, Blaga Naumoski, Corrienne Nichols, Jeremy Livingston, Rosa Zouzoulas, Leigh Northwood, Heath Gillett, Renae Ahern, Elishia Jansz, Jaimee Corcoran, Rebecca Burton, April Wilson, Katia Croce
	Other:	
APOLOGIES:		Cr Frances Eyre (LOA), Carl Cowie

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting Pre-meeting	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 5:58 pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name: Officer Title:	Katia Croce Governance Lead
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