

Council Plan 2021-2025 – Year 3 Action Plan (FY 2023-2024); Quarter 2 (October - December 2023) Update

Theme	Action	Responsibility	Progress Commentary - End of December 2023	Status
Community and connection - to encourage inclusion and participation to support health and wellbeing and ensure that all our residents have equitable access to services, programs, events and initiatives				
We actively work towards reconciliation and the process of healing with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people and recognise them as the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways of Nillumbik				
Equity & Inclusion	Develop a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan, and continue to work towards reconciliation with the Wurundjeri and other First Nations communities	Communities	<p>Development of the Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is on track for endorsement before the 2024 Election Caretaker period, and submission to Reconciliation Australia.</p> <p>The RAP will be Council's formal commitment to supporting First Nations peoples' rights, culture, heritage, needs and aspirations. It will outline the approach Council will take to progress reconciliation and work alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in all Council services.</p> <p>The RAP Working Group (RWG) and Terms of Reference have been established and the first meeting took place in December 2023. The RWG includes key internal staff, external stakeholders and community members. The RWG have begun review and refinement of the draft RAP, which is a significant milestone.</p> <p>The Corporate Development Manager from Mob Jobs continues to work as a consultant to support the RAP development and review of the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer role. Based on advice from Mob Jobs, recruitment to the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer role has been postponed until 2024.</p> <p>Aboriginal Cultural Safety training was delivered to the Executive Leadership Team and Managers in November 2023.</p> <p>Monthly cultural consultations continue to occur with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Traditional Owners. These meetings provide an opportunity for teams across Council to present their projects, plans and initiatives to the Traditional Owners for feedback, input and/or approval.</p>	ON TRACK
We address the social, environmental and economic factors of health to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for our communities				
Health & Wellbeing	Implement annual actions in the Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025	Communities	<p>The Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 outlines our commitment to address health and wellbeing priorities and reduce inequalities. It reflects the priorities of our community, and our health and wellbeing partners.</p> <p>Implementation of the Year 3 Action Plan for the Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan is underway and on track. The action plan includes 113 actions.</p> <p>Of these, 5 are complete and 99 are on track. Three actions are experiencing minor issues. These actions are in the initial stages, with the issues being mainly delays caused by taking the time to effectively plan and develop relationships.</p> <p>One action is experiencing major issues; there are delays to the youth-focused climate action project due to resourcing barriers for the partnering schools. There are 5 actions where reporting is yet to commence.</p>	ON TRACK
We work towards creating an age-friendly community where all people regardless of their age or ability can live a good quality of life				
Ages & Stages	Continue to implement the Youth Strategy 2022-2026 in partnership with our Youth Council	Communities	<p>The Youth Strategy 2022-2026 provides young people with a new voice in the decision-making of Council. Key actions delivered as part of the strategy in this quarter included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications opened for the annual Young Women Leaders of Nillumbik Awards. All women aged 12-25 who live, work, study, volunteer or play in Nillumbik and have made an outstanding contribution to our community were invited to self-nominate by the end of December 2023. • Wellbeing Expos: In October, Nillumbik Youth hosted Wellbeing exhibitions at two local high schools for Mental Health Month. The team along with local service providers set up stalls at both Diamond Valley College and Eltham College with a range of activities and resources on the topics of mindfulness, health and wellbeing, social connection and looking out for their peers. • Youth in Action: 7 Youth in Action sessions were delivered to Warrandyte High School, facilitating an opportunity for 45 young people to increase their understanding of homelessness, gambling and gaming and mental health literacy and stress management. • 16 Days Open Mic Night: The Youth team hosted an Open Mic Night in Eltham Town Square in December as a part of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence. <p>A report is being prepared for the Executive Leadership Team and Council in early 2024 to present the final outcomes from the Year 2 Implementation Plan and to present the Year 3 Implementation Plan for endorsement.</p>	ON TRACK
	Complete an audit of facilities to identify opportunities to implement age-friendly improvements for community facilities	Operations	Foundational and planning work to support the delivery of this action has been undertaken. The facilities audit and urgent identified works has been budgeted for the 2023-2024 facilities renewal program and scheduled for completion in Quarter 3, 2023-2024.	ON TRACK

Theme	Action	Responsibility	Progress Commentary - End of December 2023	Status
Place and space - to protect, enhance, maintain, plan and design places and spaces that strengthen identity, reinforce character, improve accessibility, encourage social connection and enjoyment, support biodiversity and respect the environment				
We value, appreciate and enjoy our Green Wedge Shire, including our rural areas and leafy urban areas, which we work hard to protect and enhance				
Identity	Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit an amendment to include the adopted Municipal Planning Strategy into the planning scheme	Planning, Environment & Strategy	Next steps in 2023-2024 include lodgement in the Amendment Tracking System to seek authorisation from the Minister to prepare and exhibit an amendment to implement the Municipal Planning Strategy into the planning scheme. Subject to resource availability and budget allocation, this will be undertaken in Quarter 3, 2023-2024.	YET TO COMMENCE
	We recognise and celebrate our community's significant contributions to art and culture			
Identity	Continue to implement annual actions in the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026	Communities	The Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 provides a clear set of priorities for the enrichment of arts and culture facilities and programs across the Shire. Key activities in this quarter included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement on the Creative Infrastructure Framework concluded and presented to the Executive Leadership Team ahead of a review by Councillors and discussion at the February 2024 Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting; • Successful commission of the annual Creative Minds Exhibition at Eltham Library Community Gallery, showcasing artworks created by Nillumbik VCE Art and Studio Art students; • Quarterly working group meeting with Montsalvat as part an ongoing partnership to collaboration on exhibitions and arts programs; • Hosted the DiversARTy Exhibition at Eltham Library Community Gallery in collaboration with Eltham Living & Learning; • Completed a successful art collection changeover at Eltham Community Reception Centre to showcase Nillumbik's rich visual art collection; • Conducted successful writing workshops as part of an ongoing community program ahead of the Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing; and • Completed a review of shortlisted entries for the Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing Prize in collaboration with Writers Victoria. 	ON TRACK
	We understand and value biodiversity and its importance to human health and wellbeing, and take action to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik			
Natural Environment	Complete and adopt the new Biodiversity Strategy, including investigation into measures to establish and enhance the urban tree canopy and protect wildlife	Planning, Environment & Strategy	The Biodiversity Strategy will identify actions that will prioritise the health of Nillumbik's natural environment and biodiversity and embed these actions into Council's decision making. Key actions completed in this quarter include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a community engagement strategy for Phase 2 engagement (testing the draft); • Workshopping the draft strategy with Councillors and the Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee; • Refinement of the draft strategy; and • Approval sought to engage with the community on the draft Strategy at the December 2023 Council Meeting. Formal public consultation on the draft will take place from 1 February to 3 March 2024. This consultation will be supported by a series of bookable Q&A sessions.	ON TRACK
We facilitate participation in sports, leisure and recreational activities				
Open Space	Continue to implement the Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2022-2030	Operations	The Recreation and Leisure Strategy seeks to support community participation in sport and active recreation, with a focus on well-planned facilities and environments. It also aims to remove barriers for underrepresented groups to take part in sport and recreation, including women and girls, people with disability, and the LGBTQIA+ community. Actions undertaken in this quarter included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Impact Assessments for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eltham Lower Park Pavilion Redevelopment & Dog Park; - Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool; - St John of God Accord Work Experience Program at Eltham Leisure Centre & Edendale Community Environment Farm; - Pantom Hill Tennis Courts redevelopment; - Plenty War Memorial Sportsfield Lighting; and - Women in Sport Breakfast. • The Nillumbik Women in Sport Breakfast was held on 1 December 2023. The event sold out (150 tickets). This year's event had a focus on mental health. • Community consultation on the Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool Upgrade and Eltham Lower Park Upgrade. 	ON TRACK

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Neighbourhood Character	We respect and enhance the unique neighbourhood character in our communities to ensure a considered approach to planning and development			
	Complete and adopt the new Neighbourhood Character Strategy	Planning, Environment & Strategy	<p>The purpose of the Neighbourhood Character Strategy is to adequately protect neighbourhood character as new development occurs. To this end, the strategy places each residential property in a particular neighbourhood character area and provides a vision (called a preferred character statement) with supporting objectives and guidelines to manage future development.</p> <p>Key actions undertaken in this quarter included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Planning and Consultation Committee heard from submitters to Phase 3 community engagement at the October 2023 Meeting; The recommended final changes to the draft strategy were presented at a Councillor briefing in November 2023, and the final changes were made to the strategy in mid-November; and The final version of the strategy was adopted at the December 2023 Council Meeting. 	ON TRACK
Neighbourhood Character	We promote place making and shaping and advocate for the continuation and enhancement of local character			
	Complete and adopt the Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework	Planning, Environment & Strategy	<p>Key activities undertaken in this quarter included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receipt of agreed Movement and Place Assessment (MAPA) outcomes from the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) has been delayed; and DTP advised the original December 2023 deadline was now programmed for early January 2024. <p>Subject to agreement from DTP, further steps include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisions by consultants (drawings) to framework plan based on agreed MAPA outcomes from DTP; and Obtain Authority feedback on revised framework initiatives (diagrammatic level) and in-principle support. <p>Next steps (noting not all next steps are subject to DTP approval timelines):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 2024 - internal Project Working Group review; February/March 2024 (to be confirmed) - preparation of framework report; April/May 2024 (to be confirmed) - Councillor briefing - updated framework plan and proposed community consultation; and June 2024 (to be confirmed) - approval of community consultation framework plan at the Council Meeting. 	MINOR ISSUES
Movement & Place	We champion the notion of living locally; making it easier for people to meet most of their daily needs within the Shire			
	Continue to develop a masterplan (phase B) for community facilities in Diamond Creek, including recreation and community precincts and buildings	Planning, Environment & Strategy	<p>Key actions undertaken in this quarter included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2023 - A Request for Quote (RFQ) was released (closed in first week of November); November 2023 - Procurement finalised and consultants were engaged to prepare needs analysis; and December 2023 - Preparation of needs analysis assessment commenced. <p>Next steps involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2023 / January 2024 - Continue preparation of needs analysis assessment; January 2024 - Project Working Group is to review the Community Needs Assessment Report; and February 2024 - Finalisation of the Community Needs Assessment Report will occur. 	ON TRACK
Sustainable and resilient - to manage and adapt to changing circumstances that affect our community to ensure it remains sustainable and resilient, both now and into the future				
Climate Change	We work proactively to reduce Council's direct contribution to climate change, and support our community to do the same			
	Continue to implement annual actions in the Climate Action Plan 2022-2032	Planning, Environment & Strategy	<p>The Climate Action Plan 2022-2023 outlines Council's response to the challenges posed by climate change and outlines a twofold approach, involving mitigation and adaptation. Some of the works delivered this quarter include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors were briefed on the Net Zero Emissions Roadmap which will guide Council action to achieve the endorsed target of net zero emissions by 2030, and also on the Northern Region Community Electric Vehicle report and associated recommendations; Councillors were briefed on the proposed scope of Nillumbik Urban Tree Canopy Strategy which will support urban cooling; The Executive Leadership Team were briefed on the operational considerations of supporting the installation of high speed Electric Vehicle chargers on Council land (car parking spaces) for community use, and of a current installation offer that has been submitted by Evie Networks; Publicity to support the launch of the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme; Heat health awareness promotions; Bushfire mitigation programs including on Council roadsides and reserves, fire prevention notices issued and community awareness and education; New 3-year Practically Green contract awarded, to deliver climate action/sustainability education to the community; St Andrews natural disaster resilience project supported by installation of an off-grid power system; and Emergency Management simulations aimed at resilience building with Arthurs Creek community (storm event) and St Andrews community (bushfire). 	ON TRACK

Theme	Action	Responsibility	Progress Commentary - End of December 2023	Status
Sustainability	We favour sustainable and innovative investment; focussing on renewable energy initiatives			
	Develop a roadmap regarding ESD principles into the planning scheme, subject to the State Government's impending changes to the Victorian Planning Provisions and subsequent review of such changes	Planning, Environment & Strategy	<p>This action is yet to commence. The focus of the State Government has been on the recently released Housing Statement and affordable housing.</p> <p>However, Victorian Planning Policy amendments have been implemented into all planning schemes in Victoria that have set the foundation for future provisions to support Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) to be embedded into all planning schemes.</p> <p>Council is awaiting State Government updates on the detail of these provisions to enable a gap analysis to determine if further strategic work is required to support ESD outcomes over/above those proposed by the State Government.</p>	YET TO COMMENCE
Business & Tourism	We support businesses, industries and events, and encourage investment within Nillumbik			
	Continue to implement annual actions in the Economic Development Strategy 2020-2030	Planning, Environment & Strategy	<p>The Economic Development Strategy 2020-2023 aims to strengthen the local economy and facilitate job creation in the Shire.</p> <p>Key work undertaken as part of the strategy this quarter included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shop in our Shire Christmas campaign received 800 registrations from customers who shopped and dined within our Shire over a 4 week period; • Working with our regional partners to promote Nillumbik businesses at this year's Northern Business Achievement Awards, Naturally Goat was awarded Business of the Year and the Sustainability & Environment award, and Local Fine Foods was awarded Best Small Business; • The very successful Home Based Business Forum was held jointly with Banyule Council and saw 70 local businesses participate; • The Nillumbik Business Support and Connect Roadshow provided businesses with the opportunity to hear from 8 government service providers, with 50 people attending; • Three Business in Nillumbik e-newsletters were distributed to over 1,600 businesses; and • The Destination Management Plan, 4 Local Area Plans and the Workforce Plan for the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges tourism region have been finalised by Yarra Ranges Tourism. 	ON TRACK
Responsible and accountable - to facilitate the best possible outcomes for our community, by demonstrating strong leadership and working actively to achieve the community's objectives				
Good Governance	We continue to exercise sustainable and responsible financial management			
	Report quarterly on the annual budget	Operations	<p>Council's overall financial position at the end of the second quarter is sound, however active monitoring of operational budgets will continue to be a focus for the financial year ahead.</p> <p>The 31 December 2023 Financial Report will be presented to Council at the February 2024 Council Meeting, and to Council's Audit and Risk Committee on 19 February 2024.</p>	ON TRACK
Risk Management	We seek to enhance community safety, public health, amenity and the environment through improved planning and community engagement, prioritising fair and transparent approaches to managing compliance and enforcement			
	Commit resources in order to implement the new local law with respect to permit assessments for the removal of trees	Planning, Environment & Strategy	<p>An additional funding commitment was provided in the 2022-2023 annual budget to support the implementation of the protection of Amenity Trees Local Law.</p> <p>The Protection of Amenity Trees Local Law provides protection for substantial trees in the urban and townships areas of the Shire. These additional resources have funded referrals to Council's consulting arborist to obtain expert technical advice about the trees proposed to be removed under the Amenity Tree Local Law.</p>	ON TRACK
Services & Programs	We source alternative and innovative funding sources to support and complement Council services and infrastructure			
	Continue to deliver our capital works program	Operations	<p>Progress on the 2023-2024 Capital Works program is slightly behind schedule at the end of Quarter 2.</p> <p>Several large contracts have just been awarded and the expectation is that the delay will be rectified in Quarter 3.</p>	ON TRACK

COMPLETED	Action is completed
ON TRACK	Action is on track for completion within budget and timeframe
MAJOR ISSUES	Action is off track, experiencing major issues which require management attention
MINOR ISSUES	Action is off track, and experiencing minor issues being managed in-house
YET TO COMMENCE	Action works are yet to commence