

Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

held virtually on Tuesday 16 April 2024 commencing at 7:00pm.

Minutes

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

Friday 19 April 2024

Distribution: Public

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Nillumbik Shire Council

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Nillumbik Shire Council

**Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held
Tuesday 16 April 2024. The meeting commenced at 7:02pm.**

Councillors present:

Cr Ben Ramcharan	Sugarloaf Ward (Mayor)
Cr Richard Stockman	Blue Lake Ward
Cr Karen Egan	Bunjil Ward (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Natalie Duffy	Edendale Ward (Chairperson Consultation Matters)
Cr Peter Perkins	Ellis Ward (Chairperson Planning Matters)
Cr Geoff Paine	Wingrove Ward

Officers in attendance:

Carl Cowie	Chief Executive Officer
Vince Lombardi	Chief Operating Officer
Blaga Naumoski	Director Governance, Communications and Community Safety
Renaë Ahern	Acting Director Planning, Environment and Strategy
Jeremy Livingston	Director Culture and Performance
Leigh Northwood	Manager Strategic Planning and Environment
Tracey Varley	Manager Communications and Engagement
Daniel Tarquinio	Manager Information Technology
Katia Croce	Manager Governance and Property

1. Welcome by the Chair

2. Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was read by the Chairperson Consultation Matters Cr Natalie Duffy.

3. Apologies/Leave of Absence

An apology was received from Cr Frances Eyre.

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Karen Egan

SECONDED: Cr Peter Perkins

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) notes the apology from Cr Frances Eyre.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Declarations of conflict of interest

Nil

5. Confirmation of Minutes

COM.001/24 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 12 March 2024

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2024.

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Karen Egan

SECONDED: Cr Peter Perkins

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) confirms the Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2024 (**Attachment 1**).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Officers' reports

PCC.003/24 Draft Housing Strategy Consideration of Endorsement for Community Engagement

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Renae Ahern, Acting Director Planning, Environment and Strategy

Author: Leigh Northwood, Manager Strategic Planning and Environment

Summary

This report provides a draft of the Nillumbik Housing Strategy (**Attachment 1**) and recommends Council endorse the draft Housing Strategy for community engagement to run for four weeks from late April to late May.

The development of both a new Housing Strategy (HS) and a new Neighbourhood Character Strategy (NCS) are priority actions in the current Council Plan.

When planning to accommodate projected population and housing change, local governments are required by State planning policy to effectively plan for this change by considering relevant environmental, social and economic factors, and where conflict arises, balance competing objectives in favour of net community benefit and sustainable development.

The draft Strategy has been prepared by officers in-house. The draft has been prepared with input from a Community Reference Group, particularly in informing the vision and themes present in the draft Strategy.

The draft Strategy accounts for 15 years (to 2041). Nillumbik Shire's residential areas are forecast to increase from 60,118 persons in 2021 to 66,257 persons by 2041, an increase of 6,139 persons (10.2%) and modest in the context of Metropolitan Melbourne. Our forecasts suggest that we will need an additional 3,233 new dwellings by 2041 to accommodate our forecast growth.

The Housing Strategy must respond to evidenced data and demographic forecasts; be consistent with State planning policy settings (requirements that Council must align to in accordance with the Victorian Planning Provisions); and set objectives and actions within the context or broader 'macro' settings that Council has no control over (e.g. Federal/State level policy settings around taxation and immigration; construction/material and supply chain issues; State/Federal level infrastructure plans/spending).

Nillumbik's Housing Strategy is being drafted at a time of unprecedented planning policy change specific to housing, not only in Victoria but Australia-wide, predominantly driven by the decline of supply and housing affordability. Officers however are relatively confident that any future initiatives by the State government (e.g. Plan Victoria) can be effectively accommodated in our planning for housing, given our analysis shows we can accommodate not only our projected 2041 growth, but have a significant capacity over and above this.

It is particularly emphasised, drafting of the Housing Strategy is also timely in ensuring Nillumbik's unique neighbourhood character settings are retained during this time of unprecedented change in housing policy by the State government.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.003/24 Draft Housing Strategy Consideration of Endorsement for Community Engagement

On this, the draft Housing Strategy is embedding key recommendations of the adopted Neighbourhood Character Strategy 2023 (and uses the Neighbourhood Character Strategy as part of the methodology in applying change areas) which underwent three robust rounds of engagement. Further, the amendment process to implement the Neighbourhood Character Strategy and the Housing Strategy into the planning scheme will have its own extensive round of consultation and right of review, in accordance with the statutory process set down by the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

As per the project program, a report is scheduled to be presented to Council’s Planning and Consultation Committee in July where submitters to the draft Housing Strategy will be invited to speak to their submissions.

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

- 1 David Pincheira - Reflection outreach Director (Virtual)

The Chairperson read following submissions on behalf of:

- 2 Gila Schnapp
- 3 Adjungbilly Pty Ltd

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins
SECONDED: Cr Geoff Paine

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council)

1. Notes the draft Nillumbik Housing Strategy, which is provided as **Attachment 1**;
2. Notes the ‘What We’ve Heard About Housing’ Summary Paper at **Attachment 2**;
3. Endorses the draft Nillumbik Housing Strategy and for public engagement to occur from late April to late May (for 4 weeks);
4. Endorses the ‘What We’ve Heard About Housing’ Summary Paper and requests officers make the paper available on the Participate Nillumbik page in support of community engagement on the draft Nillumbik Housing Strategy; and
5. Notes that a report is scheduled to be presented to Council’s Planning and Consultation Committee in July where submitters to the draft Nillumbik Housing Strategy will be invited to speak to their submissions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Officers' reports

PCC.004/24 Draft Budget 2024-2025 Submissions

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Vince Lombardi, Chief Operating Officer

Author: Melika Sukunda, Manager Finance, Assets and Procurement

Summary

This report considers submissions received from the public regarding the Draft Budget 2024-2025 (**Attachment 1**).

Council adopted the Draft Budget 2024-2025 at the Council Meeting on 27 February 2024 for the purpose of community consultation. The Draft Budget was exhibited for 28 days with 7 submissions being received. These submissions are attached to this report (**Attachment 1**).

It is proposed that the Committee considers the submissions on the Draft Budget 2024-2025 and that the matter then be considered by Council on 28 May 2024.

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

- 1 Neil McCoy - Eltham Men's Shed Incorporated Treasurer (Virtual)
- 2 Anne Bailey - Eltham Junior Football Club – Treasurer (Virtual)

The Chairperson read following submissions on behalf of:

- 3 Dale Anstis
- 4 Mary Salce-Morabito
- 5 John F Smith - The Eltham Club - Facility & Grounds Manager
- 6 Rebekha Naim

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine

SECONDED: Cr Peter Perkins

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Receives and notes the submissions received in respect of the Draft Budget 2024-2025, (**Attachments 1 and 2**) in accordance with the section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
2. Considers the matters contained in the submissions and the Committee's report during finalisation of the Budget.
3. Acknowledges presentations made to the Committee.
4. Resolves that the confidential un-redacted submissions contained in (**Attachment 2**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in Section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.004/24 Draft Budget 2024-2025 Submissions

5. Recommends the adoption of the 2024-2025 Budget at the 28 May 2024 Council Meeting.

CARRIED

For: Crs Natalie Duffy, Karen Egan, Geoff Paine, Peter Perkins and Ben Ramcharan

Against: Cr Richard Stockman

6. Officers' reports

PCC.005/24 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly 2024 - Nillumbik Shire Council Motions

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Director Governance, Communications and Community Safety

Author: Tracey Varley, Manager Communications and Engagement

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 the local government sector.

The 30th NGA will be held in Canberra from 2 - 4 July 2024, featuring the theme 'Building Community Trust'. 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 submit notices of motion to seek support for these matters to be considered by NGA as national policy.

Motions must be submitted no later than 11.59pm on Tuesday, 30 April 2024. Motions that are carried by the NGA become resolutions, which are then considered by the ALGA Board when setting national local government policy, while also feeding into the Australian Council of Local Government processes.

This report seeks endorsement of the Nillumbik Motions (Attachment 2) to be put forward to the ALGA NGA in July 2024. 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.

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Karen Egan

SECONDED: Cr Peter Perkins

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Adopts and lodges the following motions to the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly, to be held in Canberra from 2 - 4 July 2024:
 - i. *The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to provide targeted investment in the development of Australia's electrical grid network infrastructure to equitably distribute large-scale renewable energy generation.*

6. Consultation Matters

**PCC.005/24 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly
2024 - Nillumbik Shire Council Motions**

- ii. *The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to establish a funding stream that supports local councils in managing asset renewal responsibilities.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Officers' reports

PCC.006/24 Review of the Governance Rule - Election Period Policy - Hearing of Submissions

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Director Governance, Communications and Community Safety

Author: Katia Croce, Manager Governance and Property

Summary

This report provides Council with the feedback of the community engagement undertaken in relation to the draft Governance Rule – Election Period Policy (Election Period Policy) (**Attachment 1**).

Following endorsement for public consultation at the 27 February 2024 Council Meeting, the draft Election Period Policy was open for community consultation for the period 1 March 2024 to 24 March 2024. This report provides a summary of the feedback received from the community during the public exhibition period.

One submission was received and is contained in **Attachments 2 and 3**.

Officers will review the draft Election Period Policy taking into account the written submission and any verbal submissions before presenting the Governance Rule - Election Period Policy for endorsement at the Council Meeting on 28 May 2024.

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins

SECONDED: Cr Karen Egan

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Acknowledges and notes the one submission from the community who provided feedback on the draft Governance Rule – Election Period Policy.
2. Considers the feedback contained in the submission and any presentations made to the Committee during the finalisation of the Governance Rule – Election Period Policy.
3. Receives a report at the 28 May 2024 Council Meeting to consider endorsing the Governance Rule – Election Period Policy.
4. Resolves the confidential un-redacted copy of the written submissions to the Draft General Local Law (**Attachment 3**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.006/24 Review of the Governance Rule - Election Period Policy - Hearing of Submissions

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7. Supplementary and urgent business

Nil

8. Confidential reports

Nil

9. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8:27pm.

Confirmed: _____

Cr Natalie Duffy, Chairperson Consultation Matters