

# Council Meeting

to be held at the Council Chamber, 32 Civic Drive, Greensborough  
on Tuesday 30 July 2024 commencing at 7:00pm.

## Attachments

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

Thursday 25 July 2024

Distribution: Public

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## Nillumbik Shire Council

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 Attachments
 

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# Council Meeting

held at the Council Chamber, 32 Civic Drive, Greensborough  
on Tuesday 25 June 2024 commencing at 7:01pm.

## Minutes

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

Friday 28 June 2024

Distribution: Public

Civic Drive, Greensborough  
PO Box 476, Greensborough 3088  
Telephone 9433 3111  
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**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**Nillumbik Shire Council**

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Council Meeting Minutes

25 June 2024

**Nillumbik Shire Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Nillumbik Shire Council held Tuesday 25 June 2024.**

**The meeting commenced at 7.01pm.**

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**Councillors present:**

Cr Ben Ramcharan	Sugarloaf Ward ( <b>Mayor</b> )
Cr Richard Stockman	Blue Lake Ward
Cr Karen Egan	Bunjil Ward ( <b>Deputy Mayor</b> )
Cr Natalie Duffy	Edendale Ward
Cr Peter Perkins	Ellis Ward
Cr Frances Eyre	Swipers Gully Ward (Virtually)
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
Nichole Johnson	Acting Director Communities
Jeremy Livingston	Director Culture and Performance
Tracey Varley	Manager Communications and Engagement
Katia Croce	Manager Governance and Property

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**1. Welcome**

**2. Acknowledgement**

Acknowledgement of Country was read by the Mayor, Cr Ben Ramcharan.

**3. Good Governance Pledge**

The Good Governance Pledge was read by Cr Geoff Paine.

**4. Prayer**

A prayer was read by Pastor Mel Abrasaldo, Senior Pastor of Joy of Life Christian Ministries, Inc.

**5. Apologies\Leave of Absence**

Nil.

**6. Declarations of conflict of interest**

Cr Karen Egan declared a material conflict of interest in Item CM.059/24 - Bouchiers Road Special Charge Scheme, Kangaroo Ground - Intention to Declare.

Cr Natalie Duffy declared a material conflict interest in Item 16. NOM.003/24 Notice of Motion - Councillor Expenses - Legal Advice/Support in the confidential section of this meeting.

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**25 June 2024**

**7. Presentations**

**CONDOLENCE – Sueann Penrose**

We are deeply saddened to hear of the recent passing of long time Nillumbik resident, Sueann Penrose.

Sue was a leader in paediatric nursing and paediatric pain management, an educator and a mentor to many. She retired from the Royal Children's Hospital after more than three decades last August. She was also a very skilled artist.

Sue was a member of the Green Wedge Protection Group and was passionate about preservation of the Green Wedge and all things environmental.

She was a long-standing member of the original Friends of Panton Hill Bushland Reserves, who were fundamental in advocating to Council to purchase the Reserves from Melbourne Water for conservation of their significant biodiversity values. Council took ownership of the Reserves in 1998.

Sue has been a member of Council's Panton Hill Bushland Reserve System User Group Advisory Committee since it was established in 2011.

Sue was also a strong advocate for reconciliation. In 2016, on behalf of the Friends of Panton Hill Bushland Reserves, Sue was successful in obtaining a Catchment Management Authority grant to develop an Indigenous Food, Fibre and Medicine Garden at the entrance to Bunjil Reserve. This project was a partnership between the Friends group, the Wurundjeri Council and Nillumbik Shire Council to rehabilitate 1.8 hectares of land at the entrance to Bunjil Reserve.

The area was reinstated with traditional indigenous food, fibre and medicine plants, and developed for part of an interpretation trail. This project has been ongoing and in 2023 Sue was involved in a Working Group to develop interpretive signage and educational material for the site.

In 2017, the Friends of the Panton Hill Bushland Reserves System, in partnership with Smiths Gully Landcare and Nillumbik Shire Council, received a Biodiversity On-ground Action grant from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning funding biodiversity protection actions over two years. Sue was instrumental in the success of that funding application, which was used to run the 'Cultivating Community Stewardship' project – an initiative that engaged the community in activities to help protect threatened plant and animal species in the Panton Hill Bushland Reserve System and surrounding private land.

Sue also recently began volunteering at Edendale Community Environment Farm in the nursery, following her retirement.

On behalf of Nillumbik Shire Council, we pass on our condolences to Sue's husband Bill, a former Eltham Shire Councillor, former Nillumbik Shire Councillor and Mayor, and also to Sue's family and friends.

**King's Birthday 2024 Honours List – 25 June 2024**

It was great, yet again, to see a member of our community being recognised for their achievements in the recent King's Birthday Honours List and tonight I would like to acknowledge them and their achievements.

The following Nillumbik resident was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division:

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

- Tuanh NGUYEN, for service to the community through governance and advocacy roles.

I would like to commend Tuanh for their dedication, service and achievement of excellence in their field. They embody the Nillumbik ethos of service, diligence, commitment and, above all, serving the broader community.

Council Meeting Minutes 25 June 2024

8.    Confirmation of Minutes

COM.001/24    Confirmation of Minutes Council Meeting held Tuesday 28 May 2024

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Summary

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28 May 2024.

**Council Resolution**

**MOVED:**        Cr Karen Egan  
**SECONDED:**   Cr Natalie Duffy

**That** Council confirms the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28 May 2024  
(Attachment 1).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**9. Petitions**

**PT.002/24      Nillumbik Shire - Call for Solidarity with Palestine**

A petition containing 430 signatures (as of 13 June 2024) calls for solidarity with Palestine relating to the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine.

The petition is both electronic (<https://change.org/Nillumbik4Palestine>) containing 367 electronic signatures and hardcopy containing 63 hand written signatures.

The hardcopy petition contained the following statement;

"We, the residents of Nillumbik Shire want our Council to reflect our collective voices for humanity and put forward a motion of solidarity with Palestine. This includes:

- An acknowledgement of the horrific loss of Palestinian and Israeli lives, and a condemnation of all attacks targeting civilians.
- An acknowledgement that the conflict did not begin on October 7th, but with the violent Israeli occupation of Palestine in 1948 and prior;
- A minute of silence to acknowledge the grief of Palestinians everywhere, including here in Melbourne's north-east.
- A minute of silence to mourn the untold number of lives lost in this genocide.
- An acknowledgement of the mental and physical trauma that will be passed on to future generations of Palestinians who survive this genocide.
- An acknowledgement that the International Court of Justice has found that there is a plausible case of genocide against Israel and that we support this court ruling as a community.
- Receiving a report to explore options for council to cancel contracts with companies that support Israel illegal occupation of Palestine or profit from it, especially companies which supply equipment to the Israeli Defence Force.
- A commitment to fly the Palestinian flag outside Nillumbik Shire Council for 6 months, in recognition of the ongoing genocide of Palestinians, without removing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags.

Specifically we request that you write to the Australian Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister with requests to the Government as per the electronic petition."

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MOVED:            Cr Natalie Duffy**

**SECONDED:    Cr Geoff Paine**

**That Council:**

1.    Receives and notes the "Nillumbik Shire - Call for Solidarity with Palestine" petition relating to the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine, in accordance with the Governance Rule - Meeting Procedure.
2.    Refers this petition to the Director Governance, Communications and Community Safety for response.
3.    Notes that officers will advise the petition organiser of the outcome.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**10. Questions from the gallery**

**Mel Leahey has submitted the following questions:**

**Question 1**

We are concerned that Nillumbik Council have wasted rate payers funds to cover the cost of hiring security guards to police the Nillumbik4Palestine rally on the 28th of May. Yet the cost of siding with humanity is free. Can Council please explain if the budget utilised for the expense of hiring security guards was directly funded by Nillumbik rate payers?

**Response 1**

Yes, it was funded by Council. It is Council's responsibility to ensure a safe environment for staff and community. Given that this was the first rally by the group Council was unsure on what to expect and took a precautionary approach to ensure the conduct of our Council meeting was maintained.

**Question 2**

When will the Nillumbik rate payers will be notified of this expense?

**Response 2**

The total cost to hire security including GST was \$1,047.00.

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**11. Reports of Advisory Committees**

**AC.005/24      Advisory Committee Report - 25 June 2024**

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**Distribution:**    Public

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

**Author:**          Katia Croce, Manager Governance and Property

**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.    Environment & Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held 17 April 2024; and
2.    Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held 16 May 2024.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MOVED:**          Cr Geoff Paine

**SECONDED:**    Cr Karen Egan

**That** Council notes the Minutes of the Advisory Committee meetings reported (**Attachment 1**).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**11. Reports of Advisory Committees**

**AC.005/24      Advisory Committee Report - 25 June 2024**

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Council Meeting Minutes

25 June 2024

12. Officers' reports

CM.056/24 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting May 2024 and Audit and Risk Committee Charter

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Distribution: Public

Manager: Vince Lombardi, Chief Operating Officer

Author: Melika Sukunda, Manager Finance, Assets and Procurement

**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 6 May 2024. The minutes for the meeting are shown in **Attachment 1**.

**Charter review**

The Audit and Risk Committee (**the Committee**) Charter was last reviewed in its entirety in June 2020 and is due for renewal. The membership, quorum, purpose and duties of the committee remain unchanged. Changes to the Charter include clearer provisions for online and hybrid meetings.

**Independent Member Remuneration**

The independent member remuneration is set by Council. The fees set should reflect the time, commitment and responsibility involved by independent member. In addition, fees should also reflect their respective experience and knowledge required to be a member. It is recommended to increase the remuneration by the Victorian Government rate cap set by the Minister for Local Government, annually effective from 1 September 2024.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
---------------------------

**MOVED:** Cr Karen Egan

**SECONDED:** Cr Peter Perkins

**That Council:**

1. Notes the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 6 May 2024 (**Attachment 1**).
2. Endorses the Audit and Risk Committee Charter (**Attachment 2**).
3. Resolves to increase the independent member's remuneration by the Victorian Government rate cap set by the Minister for Local Government, annually effective from 1 September 2024.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.056/24      Audit and Risk Committee Meeting May 2024 and Audit and Risk  
Committee Charter**

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25 June 2024

12. Officers' reports

CM.057/24 Quarterly Risk and Safety Report - March 2024

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**Distribution:** Public

**Manager:** Jeremy Livingston, Director Culture 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 March 2024.

The report is presented in accordance with the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, which 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 6 May 2024.

The full confidential Risk and Safety Report for March 2024 is attached to this report (**Attachment 1**) and provides detailed information for Council's consideration.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr Peter Perkins

**SECONDED:** Cr Karen Egan

**That Council:**

1. Notes the summary of the confidential Risk and Safety Report (**Attachment 1**) for the quarter ending March 2024.
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**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.057/24 Quarterly Risk and Safety Report - March 2024**

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**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.058/24 Birrarung Valley Walk Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

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**Distribution:** Public

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

**Author:** Leigh Northwood, Manager Strategic Planning and Environment

**Summary**

Nillumbik Shire Council, as one of 15 Responsible Public Entities (RPE's), endorsed the Yarra Strategic Plan (Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo) at its ordinary Council meeting in May 2021.

In a significant development for the Yarra Strategic Plan, the Birrarung Valley Walk Inc., an Incorporated Association, is seeking to link existing walking tracks and paths from the mouth of the Birrarung (Yarra River) to the Upper Yarra Reservoir for the purpose of protecting, enhancing and promoting the natural environment and First Nations culture of the Birrarung Valley. This is the first "whole of river" project to be endorsed by the Yarra Collaboration Committee.

Birrarung Valley Walk Inc. seeks to connect existing trails into a continuous path that allows walkers to tread lightly on the land, adopting the below key principles:

- The Birrarung Valley Walk is to be on public land.
- Each section of the trail is to be agreed with the relevant landowners.

The bulk of the proposed trail in proximity to Nillumbik is located on the southern side of the Yarra River (not in Nillumbik's urban areas), however there are some reaches of trail identified/planned for areas along and north of Sugarloaf Reservoir.

Birrarung Valley Walk Inc. is asking each of the Responsible Public Entities to enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly progress and support the Project. No financial commitment is sought or required by entering into the MoU. Birrarung Valley Walk Inc. will be using the signed MoU's to seek philanthropic support for the project.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
---------------------------

**MOVED:** Cr Geoff Paine

**SECONDED:** Cr Natalie Duffy

**That Council:**

1. Notes the Guiding Principles for the Birrarung Valley Walk Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which includes formation of a steering committee comprising all signatories to the MoU and that all aspects of the project would be subject to steering committee approval in consultation with Traditional Custodians at **Attachment 1**; and
2. Approves the CEO to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at **Attachment 2**.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.058/24 Birrarung Valley Walk Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

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**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**12. Officers' reports**

*Cr Karen Egan declared a material conflict of interest in the following item and temporarily left the meeting prior to the item being heard at 7:32pm.*

**CM.059/24 Bouchiers Road Special Charge Scheme, Kangaroo Ground - Intention to Declare**

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**Distribution: Public**

**Manager: Vince Lombardi, Chief Operating Officer**

**Author: Steven Blight, Manager Capital and Infrastructure**

**Summary**

Council received a petition on 25 October 2019 from property owners in Bouchiers Road requesting the road to be sealed.

After conducting a survey and determining that 6 of 10 (60 per cent) property owners support road sealing, Council resolved on 26 October 2021 to proceed with the development process for the Bouchiers Road Special Charge Scheme, Kangaroo Ground (Item CM.157/21). This process has now been completed.

This report commences the statutory process to declare the scheme and levy the special charge. Council must first give notice of its intention to declare a special charge, and subsequently hear any submissions and/or objections to the scheme. Following this, Council may resolve to declare, vary or abandon the scheme.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
---------------------------

**MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins**

**SECONDED: Cr Richard Stockman**

**That Council:**

1. Gives public notice of its intention to declare a Special Charge Scheme in accordance with Section 163(1A) of the *Local Government Act 1989* for the purposes of defraying the expenses to be incurred by Council for the sealing of Bouchiers Road subject to the following conditions:
  - a) The Special Charge Scheme shall apply to the twelve (12) properties at 15, 20, 35, 40, 60, 80, 85, 95, 100, 105, 110 (Crown Land) and 120 (Council's Reserve) Bouchiers Road, Kangaroo Ground (refer Attachment 1).
  - b) The total estimated cost to each property may be paid as a lump sum within 30 days of invoice or by quarterly instalments over a ten (10) year period with interest as provided by section 163(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
  - c) The Special Charge Scheme for Bouchiers Road, Kangaroo Ground shall remain in force for ten (10) years.
  - d) The estimated total project cost is \$430,000 and the amount levied between the ten (10) private properties is \$372,747.85. The estimated Council contribution for the remaining two (2) properties is \$57,252.15 (refer Attachment 2).

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**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.059/24 Bourchiers Road Special Charge Scheme, Kangaroo Ground -  
Intention to Declare**

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2. Sends a copy of the public notice to each person who will be liable to pay the special charge.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Cr Karen Egan returned to the meeting at the conclusion of the above item at 7:45pm.*

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.060/24 Eltham Bowling Club - Bank Loan Guarantor**

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**Distribution: Public**

**Manager: Vince Lombardi, Chief Operating Officer**

**Author: Rebecca Burton, Manager Recreation and Leisure**

**Summary**

This report considers a request from the Eltham Bowling Club (EBC), operating from a Council-owned facility at 20-50 Susan Street, Eltham.

The Club has approached Council requesting that Council act as bank loan guarantor for a \$100,000 loan. The loan in addition to EBC's savings will cover the costs to replace the grass green surface with a synthetic playing surface.

Council have estimated the total costs for replacing the grass green with a synthetic playing surface will be \$190,000 exc GST. EBC currently have \$254,469 in savings as of 31 March 2024.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
---------------------------

**MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine**

**SECONDED: Cr Frances Eyre**

**That Council:**

1. Act as bank loan guarantor for the Eltham Bowling Club (EBC) to enable the club to replace the grass green surface with a synthetic playing surface.
2. Provide a letter confirming Council's intention to guarantee a loan to EBC for \$100,000 over a five year term.
3. Affixes the common seal of Nillumbik Shire Council to the necessary loan guarantee documentation.
4. Notes that any potential future redraw request must be endorsed through a Council resolution.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.060/24 Eltham Bowling Club - Bank Loan Guarantor**

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**Council Meeting Minutes**

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**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.061/24 Unsealed Roads Improvement Prioritisation Policy**

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**Distribution: Public**

**Manager: Vince Lombardi, Chief Operating Officer**

**Author: Steven Blight, Manager Capital and Infrastructure**

**Summary**

This report presents the new Unsealed Roads Improvement Prioritisation Policy for consideration and adoption by Council. This is a new internal policy that outlines the process as to how an unsealed road will be assessed and prioritised for consideration to be sealed as part of Council's road sealing program. There is currently no policy covering this process.

The policy details set criteria under which each unsealed road will be assessed to develop a priority listing to be used to determine which unsealed roads may be the next sealed.

The policy aims to provide a fair, reasonable and consistent methodology in developing the priority list.

**Recommendation**

**That Council:**

1. Adopts the Unsealed Roads Improvement Prioritisation Policy (**Attachment 1**).
2. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to make any minor changes to the Unsealed Roads Improvement Prioritisation Policy that may be necessary and are inconsequential in nature.
3. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to review and approve any changes required to Appendix 1 – Road Prioritisation Criteria as may be required.
4. Maintains a Unsealed Road Improvement Priority List, in line with the policy and that the full list is made available and published on the Council website by 1 January 2025.

**Motion**

**MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy**

**SECONDED: Cr Karen Egan**

**That Council:**

1. Adopts the Unsealed Roads Improvement Prioritisation Policy (**Attachment 1**).
2. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to make any minor changes to the Unsealed Roads Improvement Prioritisation Policy that may be necessary and are inconsequential in nature.
3. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to review and approve any changes required to Appendix 1 – Road Prioritisation Criteria as may be required.
4. Maintains a Unsealed Road Improvement Priority List, in line with the policy and that the full list is made available and published on the Council website by 1 January 2025.

**Council Meeting Minutes**

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**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.061/24 Unsealed Roads Improvement Prioritisation Policy**

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- 5. Includes a reference in the policy to consideration of Neighbourhood Character when sealing roads.**

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

<b>Council Resolution</b>
---------------------------

**MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy**

**SECONDED: Cr Karen Egan**

**That Council:**

1. Adopts the Unsealed Roads Improvement Prioritisation Policy (**Attachment 1**).
2. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to make any minor changes to the Unsealed Roads Improvement Prioritisation Policy that may be necessary and are inconsequential in nature.
3. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to review and approve any changes required to Appendix 1 – Road Prioritisation Criteria as may be required.
4. Maintains a Unsealed Road Improvement Priority List, in line with the policy and that the full list is made available and published on the Council website by 1 January 2025.
5. Includes a reference in the policy to consideration of Neighbourhood Character when sealing roads.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.062/24 Special Rate and Special Charge Policy and Guidelines**

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**Distribution: Public**

**Manager: Vince Lombardi, Chief Operating Officer**

**Author: Steven Blight, Manager Capital and Infrastructure**

**Summary**

This report presents the revised Special Rate and Special Charge Policy and Guidelines. The existing policy has been reviewed, with the assistance of experienced Local Government consultants and in line with the relevant sections of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

This policy sets the process and guidelines applied when Council is considering and implementing a Special Charge Scheme.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine**

**SECONDED: Cr Karen Egan**

**That Council:**

1. Adopts the revised Special Rate and Special Charge Policy and Guidelines **(Attachment 1)**.
2. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to make any minor changes to the Special Rate and Special Charge Policy and Guidelines that may be necessary and are inconsequential in nature.
3. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to review and approve any changes required to Appendix 3 – Infrastructure Design Standards and Appendix 4 – Scheme Task Group Terms of Reference as may be required.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.062/24 Special Rate and Special Charge Policy and Guidelines**

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**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.063/24 Endorsement of Motions for Municipal Association Victoria State Council 23 August 2024.**

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**Distribution: Public**

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

**Author: Tracey Varley, Manager Communications and Engagement**

**Summary**

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meets bi-annually to consider matters of state-wide significance. The next State Council meeting has been brought forward from its original date of 13 September to Friday, 23 August 2024, in response to changes to the Victorian Electoral Commission's candidate nomination dates for the upcoming Victorian Council elections.

As a result, the deadline for submission of motions to MAV was brought forward to 24 June, the day before Council was due to consider proposed motions. Given the change in deadlines and tight timeframes, MAV has advised Council that proposed motions can be submitted through the MAV portal in draft form as an interim measure prior to being considered for endorsement at a Council meeting. If endorsed, the draft motions can be confirmed with MAV by 1 July.

In order to meet tight timelines for the amended MAV State Council dates, motions contained in this report have been submitted to MAV in draft form. Should Council decide to endorse these motions, the motions will then be confirmed with MAV by no later than 1 July. This process will ensure Nillumbik Shire Council's motions can be considered with the MAV State Council papers, and will also allow for any changes that Council may decide to make when considering this item at its 25 June Council meeting.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
---------------------------

**MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins**

**SECONDED: Cr Karen Egan**

**That** Council resolves to adopt the following three (3) motions for formal submission to the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Council Meeting to be held on 23 August 2024:

1. That the State Government provides a dedicated and ongoing funding commitment to better support Green Wedge councils in their management and enforcement responsibilities.
2. That the State Government implements measures that will enhance road safety on rural road networks by empowering local governments with the ability to reduce the default speed limit on rural roads.
3. That the State Government provides funding to increase bus infrastructure and provide better connectivity to townships and existing rail infrastructure.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.063/24 Endorsement of Motions for Municipal Association Victoria State Council 23 August 2024.**

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**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**12. Officers' reports**

**CM.064/24 Informal Meetings of Councillors Records - 25 June 2024**

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**Distribution:** Public

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

**Author:** Katia Croce, Manager Governance and Property

**Summary**

In accordance with *Item 20 of Council's Governance Rule – Meeting Procedures*, adopted on 25 July 2023, 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 28 May 2024.

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

1. Councillor Briefing held 21 May 2024;
2. Council Meeting Pre-Meet held 28 May 2024;
3. Health and Wellbeing Partnership Forum held 28 May 2024;
4. Councillor Briefing held 4 June 2024;
5. Positive Ageing Advisory Committee held 7 June 2024;and
6. Planning and Consultation Committee Pre-Meet held 11 June 2024.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
---------------------------

**MOVED:** Cr Frances Eyre

**SECONDED:** Cr Natalie Duffy

**That** Council, in accordance with *Item 20 of Council's Governance Rule – Meeting Procedures*, receives the Informal Meetings of Councillors Records (**Attachment 1**) for the meetings held.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council Meeting Minutes 25 June 2024  
12. Officers' reports  
CM.064/24      Informal Meetings of Councillors Records - 25 June 2024

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**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**13. Notices of Motion**

*Cr Natalie Duffy declared a material conflict of interest in the following item and left the meeting prior to the item being heard at 8:15pm.*

**Motion**

**MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine**

**SECONDED: Cr Richard Stockman**

**That** Council resolves to move the Notice of Motion - Councillor Expenses – Legal Advice/Support listed in item 16. Confidential reports to item 13. Notices of Motion to be discussed and dealt with in the open meeting.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND TIED AND THE MAYOR USED HIS CASTING VOTE AGAINST THE MOTION

For: Crs Geoff Paine, Ben Ramcharan and Richard Stockman

Against: Crs Karen Egan, Frances Eyre and Peter Perkins

The Mayor, Cr Ben Ramcharan declared the Motion Lost

**14. Delegates' Reports**

Nil

**15. Supplementary and urgent business**

Nil

**16. Confidential reports**

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:

**NOM.003/24 Notice of Motion - Councillor Expenses - Legal Advice/Support**

This item is confidential because it is internal arbitration information, being information specified in section 145 pursuant to paragraph (i) 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).

**Motion**

**MOVED: Cr Karen Egan**

**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.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND TIED AND THE MAYOR USED HIS CASTING VOTE FOR THE MOTION

**Council Resolution**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**25 June 2024**

**MOVED:** Cr Karen Egan  
**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**

For: Crs Karen Egan, Frances Eyre and Peter Perkins

Against: Crs Geoff Paine, Ben Ramcharan and Richard Stockman

The Mayor, Cr Ben Ramcharan declared the Motion Carried

The meeting closed to the public at 8:25pm.

**17. Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 8:49pm.

Confirmed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cr Ben Ramcharan, Mayor

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## Arts & Cultural Advisory Committee

### Minutes



**Date:** Monday, 19 February 2024  
**Time:** 7 – 9 pm  
**Venue:** Council Chambers and Via Zoom. The meeting was recorded  
**Chair:** Cr. Geoff Paine  
**Minute taker:** Sarah Hammond, Arts Program Officer  
**Attendees:** **Councillors:** Cr Geoff Paine (Chair)  
  
**Committee Members:** Leanne Ipsen, Rebecca Davies\*, Alli Spoor \*, Chris Cook\*, Elsa Ch'ng\*, Terrie Waddell, Jean Verso\*, Chloe Mann\*, Cassie May \*, Sandra Miller, Yu Fang Chi \*, Sammaneh Pourshafighi\*.  
  
**Officers:** Nichole Johnson (Manager Community Partnerships), Saleh Hadi (Coordinator Arts & Cultural Development), Sarah Hammond (Arts Program Officer), Jacqueline Felstead (Exhibitions Support Officer), Ignacio Zamora (Arts Development Officer).  
  
Zoom attendee \*  
  
**Apologies:** Cr Peter Perkins, Corrienne Nichols (Executive Manager Community Services), Simone Thomson, Mel Paine, Emily Wubben (Curator & Collections Management Officer).

#### Order of business

##### 1. Attendees

Attendance and apologies were confirmed.

##### 2. Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was conducted by the Chair.

##### 3. Welcome and Introduction

Chair welcomed all in attendance.

##### 4. Conflict of interest and Informal Meeting of Councillors

No conflicts of interest were recorded.

**ACTION:** To submit Informal Meeting of Councillors Record to Governance.

**5. Minutes from previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2023 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Leanne Ipsen. Seconded: Terrie Waddell. Carried

**6. Matters Arising**

- No matters arising.

**7. Updates**

**Creative Infrastructure Framework Update**

The community engagement feedback was reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team in late 2023.

Next steps:

Engagement Findings Councillor Briefing: 6 February 2024

Planning & Consultation Committee: 12 March 2024

Councillor Briefing: 9 April 2024

Council Meeting: 30 April 2024

Members were reminded that there is opportunity to speak to the Framework at the Planning & Consultation Meeting on 12 March 2024 via formal registration.

[Speak at a Planning and Consultation Committee meeting - Nillumbik Shire Council](#)

It was noted that advocacy for a regional gallery remains an opportunity in the Creative Infrastructure Framework.

**Art Policies and Guidelines Review**

The Visual and Civic Collection Policy and Guidelines and the Public Art Collection Policy and Guidelines are due for renewal.

Major Changes: alignment with Council's adopted Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026, Equity and Inclusion Policy 2022-2025, Customer First Strategy 2023-2026, Gender Equity Action Plan 2022-2025, Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, Procurement Policy 2021-2025.

The revised Policies and Guidelines also take into consideration the recent emergence of broader governmental and institutional policies that impact the creative practice as whole, including:

- The National Cultural Policy – Revive 2023
- National Association of Visual Arts Code of Practice 2023
- National Standards Australian Museums & Galleries 2<sup>nd</sup> ed 2023

- Gender Equity Act 2020.

Next steps:

Executive Leadership Team: 13 March 2024

Council Briefing: 9 April 2024

Council Meeting: 28 May 2024

## **8. Officer Updates – Arts & Cultural Development**

### **Eltham Library Community Gallery + Socials**

- **2024 Program:** Redesigned program for 2024.  
Applications for 2025 ELCG exhibitions open 22 April 2024.  
Applications for 2025 Rainbow exhibition open 22 April 2024.
- **Exhibitions:** [Eltham Library Community Gallery - Nillumbik Shire Council](#)

*DiversARTy* (Thursday 14 December 2023 to Sunday 21 January 2024) showed 96 works from Nillumbik's Living and Learning Centres

*Ayman Kaake – In their Minds* showing now. 2024 Midsumma exhibition. Very successful opening.

*Creative Minds* opens 8 March 2024, featuring works from Eltham High, Eltham College, St Helena Secondary College and Plenty Valley Christian College. All ACAC members will be invited.

- **Midsumma Program:** Four programs ran as part of the Midsumma Program at Eltham Library Community Gallery. The programs were well attended with valuable engagements. Council welcomed a diverse and hard-to-reach audience through collaborations with Many Coloured Sky, Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service, the Youth team and the Rainbow Working Group.

Applications for our 2025 Midsumma Exhibition open on 22 April 2024.

### **Arts Programs**

- **Artist Presentation: Peter Wegner – The Centenarian Series**  
Sunday, 17 March at 2pm, Montsalvat Great Hall Gallery.  
This event is presented in partnership with Montsalvat. It is free but bookings are essential.

Peter Wegner is an award-winning figurative artist. He is a painter, printmaker and sculptor, living and working in Nillumbik. Peter will talk about the Centenarian Series; a project that began in 2013 with a drawing of his 104-year-old Aunty Rita and continues today with over 100 drawings of Centenarians completed. His painting of centenarian artist, Guy Warren, was awarded the Archibald Prize in 2021. Peter will present the project, the process, the works, and the inspiration he receives from the people he draws.

<https://events.humanitix.com/artist-talk-peter-wegner-the-centenarian-series>

- **Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing 2024:** The award event and anthology launch will be held on **Saturday, 4 May 2024 (2-4.30 pm)** at Diamond Valley Library. All ACAC members are invited. The event will include a Welcome to Country, all the award announcements (winners and highly commended writers), live acoustic music by Performing Artist in Residence, Hana Zreikat, readings accompanied by Hana, the anthology launch, and high tea.

The NPCW24 is delivered in partnership with Writers Victoria and Yarra Plenty Regional Library.

- **Nillumbik Community Fund (NCF):** The NCF is Council's major annual grants program supporting a huge range of local projects, activities and events. Community groups, not-for-profit organisations, and clubs are invited to apply for grants of up to \$5000 for projects that will benefit the Nillumbik community. Artists must partner with an eligible organisation to apply.

Volunteers for ACAC representation on community assessment panel has already been sought. Only 1 representative is required.

Timeline:

Applications close: Monday, 25 March 2024.

Applications assessed individually: 8-28 April 2024.

Panel assessment: 30 April 2024 from 2-5 pm.

#### **Arts Development – Public Art**

- **Diamond Hills Pre-School Public Artwork:** Tim Reid, artwork title to be confirmed. The artist works with reclaimed steel, which is a sustainable method of reusing industrial materials for artworks. This working philosophy is in line with Council's Climate Action Plan. The artwork is currently under fabrication.

Timeline: due for completion 24 March 2024.

- **Heidelberg Heritage Signs:** signage renovation project. Reproduction / redesign six signs (double-sided) within the Eltham District. Consultations conducted with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and the Eltham District Historical Society.

Timeline: Due for completion March 2024.

- **Audit & Maintenance Plan:** a professional public art audit is currently underway to assess all Nillumbik's public art and to develop a plan for its maintenance and conservation. High priority maintenance work recommended by the audit will be carried out.

Timeline: Audit - Feb 21 2024 to mid-March 2024.

- **Alan Marshall Sculpture, Eltham Library:** The artwork was vandalised with spray paint and a cleaning operation took place three days after the incident was reported (1 February 2024).

Security camera (CCTV) options were briefly discussed for the sculpture. Chair advised that public areas have complex laws associated with the use of security cameras. The arts team advised it was not possible to apply an anti-graffiti coating

to the sculpture as this would compromise the patina of the work. It was also advised that there is a limit to the number of times the sculpture can be cleaned before the patina has to be replaced.

- **Public Art Collection Interactive Map:** A new interactive map will provide extensive information about each public artwork, promoting general knowledge about the public art collection, encouraging tourism, and facilitating accessibility to the collection. The map could become an essential component of a future public art trail.

Further development will include the map being embedded into the upcoming new public art page on Council's website.

- **Eltham Gateway:** The Gateway sculpture (Maureen Faye Chauhan - *Gunga Winhanga Warr Bundha Ba Winhanga Warr Djurring* (take what you need and not what you greed) will change colour to bright purple for one night on the evening of 8 March to celebrate International Women's Day.

Eltham Gateway has 25,000 commuters per day.

### **Curator & Collections Management**

- **Artwork Conservation:** Conservation has been completed on six Alan Martin paintings recently donated to the Collection.
- **Artwork Acquisition Recommendations:** Ayman Kaake, *The weight of your silence* 90 x 60 cm. Framed edition of 3 \$3100. Ayman Kaake, *The Prayer Rug* 2022. Print on fabric 140 x 210cm. Edition of 2 plus 1 AP \$5100. Nicholas Currie, artwork on canvas (donation).

The recommendations were discussed more in Other Business

- **Collection Exhibition: Local Remix: Still Life**

Barn Gallery, Montsalvat. Friday, 03 May 2024 to Sunday, 23 June 2024.  
Opening: Thursday, 2 May 2024.

[Local Remix: Still Life - Nillumbik Shire Council](#)

Animate/Inanimate: Ordinary objects are reimaged into works of art in our new Collections exhibition.

The exhibition features significant still life works from the Nillumbik Art Collection alongside new commissioned installations by Kenny Pittock, First Nations artist Tricia 'Vandal' Van Der-Kuyp and Nillumbik artist Nusra Latif Qureshi. These artists will also present [free workshops](#) where children and adults can create their own still life works in the gallery space.

## **9. Member Updates**

### **Sammaneh Pourshafighi**

- **Create Your Own Alter Ego Exhibition, 27 Jan –24 March 2024 at Newport Community Hub – Paine Reserve. Midsumma Festival and Photo Australia**  
Sammaneh was commissioned to deliver this project which involved the creation of an outdoor installation of alter-ego portraits created by students from Green Tree Acting Studio under Sammaneh's guidance. Through a guided workshop, students experimented with crafting alternate personas using props,

Page 5 of 7

clowning, and character development techniques. This playful series of large-scale photos celebrates the power of imagination and world building available to us all.

13 large scale portraits two metres tall (blades) were created and installed outside Newport Library in a pedestrian/playground space. They are accessible 24/7. Young people connected with their queerness, each other and community through the arts. The images were printed on a vandal proof satin finish and placed on weighted silver plinths with concrete bases. They remain un-vandalised.

Great feedback has been received from community.

Sample images of portraits were shared, depicting an array of different characters, some more colourful and inviting, others surreal and futuristic.

- **Midsumma Australia Post Art Prize:** Sammaneh was the curator for the prize this year. [Midsumma Festival - 2024 Finalists - Midsumma and Australia Post Art Award](#)
- Sammaneh extended thanks to a member of the arts team who attended the opening of the art prize and *Create Your Own Alter Ego*.

#### **Chris Cook**

- **Antarctica Trip**

Chris is a Wildlife Image Maker who works for Lindblad and National Geographic Expeditions for a total of six months of the year. He has just returned from Antarctica and shared images of some of his photographs from this trip.

The journey to Antarctica is gruelling, involving flights from Australia to Chile and then to Argentina, followed by a 2-day journey by ship down through the Drake, making it a minimum 4-day journey to get there.

Shared photographs included images of penguins, seals, whales and icebergs.

Chris advised that in theory no one owns Antarctica and no indigenous people have ever lived there before the current researchers. It is now governed by the Antarctic Treaty which stops anyone from placing a claim on the continent. Antarctica is a place for wildlife and has many complex rules around wildlife protection which he was very impressed by.

Chris now plans to work towards an exhibition and/or photobook.

In response to questions about his work, Chris recommended that ACAC members check out photographer, Jole Satore. Joel runs PhotoArk. [Home Page - Joel Sartore](#)

- Thanks were extended to Sammaneh and Chris for their presentations.

#### **10. Other Business**

- **ACAC Community Assessment Panel**

The Chair thanked ACAC members who accepted the invitation to join the Community Assessment Panel for the Nillumbik Community Fund. Council's grants team will be in touch with further details.

**Members were invited to raise any other items for discussion or for future agenda scheduling.**

- **Nillumbik Community Awards**

Award nominations are open until 10 May 2024. The Nillumbik Community Awards recognise the outstanding service and achievements of individuals and community groups in Nillumbik. ACAC members were encouraged to nominate someone or themselves under the Contribution to arts, culture and heritage category and also help promote the awards. [Nillumbik Community Awards - Nillumbik Shire Council](#)

- **Acquisitions**

The recommended acquisition of two works by Ayman Kaake was discussed. Advice was given in regard to their differences, what they represent in terms of theme, culture, gender, and religion and the rationale for investment. The artist's work in the last four years has gained quite a high profile and will be significantly more collectible in future

It was noted that the acquisition budget must be spent on acquisitions and cannot be allocated elsewhere and that recommendations are the responsibility of the Curator and Collections Officers. There is also the opportunity for these artworks to be loaned to other councils or art organisations in the future.

**ACTION:** Formal acquisition recommendation forms to be circulated to ACAC members for approval.

- **Nillumbik and Manningham Bulletin:** the next edition is out tomorrow. Members can pick up a copy locally or view it online. [Manningham & Nillumbik Bulletin \(mnbulletin.org.au\)](#)

## 11. 2024 Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, 20 May 2024**.

### **Future meetings:**

Monday, 19 August 2024 (*last meeting for outgoing 2022-24 members*)

4<sup>th</sup> Meeting TBC (Nov-Dec) (*first meeting for new 2024-26 members*)

## 12. Close

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

**Positive Ageing Advisory Committee**

**Minutes**



**Date:** Friday 7 June 2024  
**Time:** 10.30am – 1.30pm  
**Venue:** Nillumbik Shire Council; Chamber and via Zoom  
**Chair:** Cr Frances Eyre  
**Committee members:** Tanya Cottrell, Sandra Verdam, Ann Hutchinson, Kate Puls, Tom Fisher, Deanna Finn, Chantal Blitenthall, Annie Lee, Richard Kottek, and Mahshid Ghorbani  
**Present:** **Council:** Narelle Hart (Manager Community Programs), Leanne Horvath (Coordinator Community Support Services), Heather Macmillan (Positive Ageing Officer), Julie-Anne Grech (Business and Program Support Officer)  
**Guest Speakers:** Craig King (Manager Customer Experience and Business Performance) and Paige Redman (Liaison Coordinator, HealthAbility)  
**Apologies:** Yuqi Yan, Joy Ferguson, Sheila Cheary and Janice Crosswhite

**Order of business**

**1. Welcome**

Cr. Eyre welcomed all to PAAC. Apologies were noted.

**2. Acknowledgement of Country**

Acknowledgement of Country was read by Cr Eyre.

**3. Conflict of Interest and Informal Meeting of Councillors Record**

Nil

**4. Minutes of previous meeting & Outstanding Action Items**

That the minutes of the meeting 5 April 2024 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Deanna Finn

Seconded: Kate Puls

Carried

**5. Business Arising**

Nil

**6. HealthAbility Service Connection Program & After-Hours Mental Health Nursing Service update, Paige Redman Liaison Coordinator**

Paige Redman presented an outline of the **Service Connection Care Finder Program** currently run by healthAbility. The program supports and assists those who are 65 and over (50 years or older for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people), and people 50 years or older on a low



income and homeless or at risk of being homeless, to navigate and access the services they need. The team can:

- Provide Assertive Outreach – Connect with local communities to identify potential clients and/or intermediaries (GPs, sector professionals, voluntary organisations, concerned community members)
- Engage and build rapport with potential clients
- Support people to understand and interact with My Aged Care so they can be screened for eligibility
- Support and guide people through the assessment process
- Support people to find relevant aged care services and connect with other relevant community supports

For more information or for referrals please contact: [Service.Connection@healthability.org.au](mailto:Service.Connection@healthability.org.au) or phone on 0414 272 411. Alternately, contact Jade Kruger (Manager) at [Jade.Kruger@healthability.org.au](mailto:Jade.Kruger@healthability.org.au) or call 0414 272 411

The Committee questioned:

- Whether a healthAbility representative could be present to assist with the My Aged Care assessment? Not at this point although Service Connectors can assist with options for those not happy with the service they are receiving
- How long do people have to wait for a meeting with Service Connect? Approximately 2 weeks at this point however, wait time is expected to increase in the near future due to changes in the aged care sector
- Can Service Connect help navigate the NDIS system? No, the Service Connect program is generally for older people to help navigate the Aged Care system. For NDIS support in Nillumbik, people should engage with the Brotherhood of St Lawrence who are the Local Area Coordinator partner for the NDIS - [info@bsl.org.au](mailto:info@bsl.org.au) or phone 9438 1183
- healthAbility was given a shout out as a great service by a member of the Committee who has been using the service for 17 years
- The Committee recognised that the whole system is very confusing and complex, many often confusing a My Aged Care assessment with a healthAbility assessment. Choosing a provider can also be a daunting process for many and that is where healthAbility can assist with provider options. Self-management rather than provider management was suggested as an option however, there are many that are incapable of self-management and thus need greater guidance in navigating services

#### **After Hours Mental Health Nursing Service**

The After Hours Mental Health Nursing Service covers 12 local government areas and has been set up as an alternative to Emergency Department visits for non-crisis calls. This free service provides callers of all ages access to a credentialed mental health nurse; a safe and anonymous avenue to reach out for help. Those needing assistance can call, leave a message or request a call back. The service is available from Monday to Friday 6:00pm to 11:00pm and Saturdays/Sundays and public holidays 2:00pm to 7:00pm. Phone 1300 003 509 or email [ahmhns@healthability.org.au](mailto:ahmhns@healthability.org.au) for referrals.

Chantal advised that the libraries have many year 12 students that pop in to use the library services and suggested that it would be beneficial for healthAbility to connect with some of these students. Potentially an hour each week over a couple of months. Paige Redman happy to attend

and speak to any group with the potential to lead to referrals to the service. Chantal and Paige to organise these sessions

## **7. Community Support Services - Update**

The Positive Ageing Officer provided the Committee with an update on upcoming events organised by Nillumbik Shire Council's Community Support Services. A flyer was circulated that included events from June through to November. PAAC members were asked to consider attending some of these upcoming events.

Celebrating Over 55s – Seniors Festival Grant (grants up to \$500.00) and Connecting Over 55s Grants (grants up to \$1,500.00) are now open. Information can be found on the Nillumbik Shire Council website at the following address:

<https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Community/Grants/Council-grants>

Committee members to share with groups and connections

The Manager of Community Programs advised the Committee that the Tovertafel has now been installed at the Hurstbridge Hub. Work is currently being undertaken to finalise a booking system for groups and individual usage. Forthcoming social media releases will be advertising the Tovertafel to the Nillumbik Community in the near future.

The Committee congratulated the team for all the hard work advocating for, developing and installing the Tovertafel.

## **8. Council service sites, Craig King - Manager Customer Experience and Business Performance**

The Nillumbik Shire Council Customer Experience Team have been conducting a comprehensive review investigating the viability of an alternative site within the Shire for resident payments. It has taken 4 to 5 months to work through the idea using a structured approach to look at what needs to be considered and what needs to happen.

The multi-faceted alternate site considerations included:

- Strategic objectives
- Cash/payment processing challenges
- Volume of visitations
- Resourcing (duplication of effort/duties/service available)
- Staffing challenges (supervision)
- Cost
- OHS/Security

One of the most import considerations was payments of rates and fees; there are only a select group of people who can take these payments due to strictly legislated guidelines and procedures. Only Customer Experience team members in reception at Civic Drive can take these payments. In addition, 2 people have to be working on site to action payments with 1 being a supervisor due to the type of payments being taken and the security associated with those processes.

With a secondary payment site being unfeasible at this point in time, what are some of the options going forward?

- Advising those in the community having difficulties with payment to talk to the Customer Experience Team (phone 9433 3111) who can discuss online payment options
- Education about processes and payment of rates can be helpful and beneficial. Workshop sessions could potentially be run at the libraries or the Hurstbridge Hub. Sessions would be a collaborative effort between Positive Ageing, Customer Experience Team and the Yarra Plenty Libraries Team.

- The mobile library can assist those in the more outlying areas of the Shire as they have free wifi and computer on-board.

A member of the Committee questioned whether payments could be made at some of the local Post Offices/local stores? Since COVID the trend is to pay online however, rates can still be paid at post offices.

## 9. Roundtable

**Tom** – Estia Wattle Glen is offering a Certificate 4 in dementia practice and have nominated 7 of staff to complete. This has been organised online through Dementia Australia. Tom suggested the Committee support the program and suggest to residential facilities that they should be aware of this worthwhile program. More information can be found online at the following website: <https://www.dementia.org.au/professionals/professional-development-and-training/10993nat-certificate-iv-dementia-practice>

Estia have a very energetic lifestyle coordinator and with the help of residents has put together a story about a white kangaroo. They have made a booklet story that is being launched 10.30am to 11.00am on Thursday 20 June 2024 at Estia Health Wattle Glen (45 Silvan Road, Wattle Glen). If you would like to attend the launch please RSVP to [WattleGlen@estiahealth.com.au](mailto:WattleGlen@estiahealth.com.au)

**Sandra** also mentioned the MOOC online free courses through the University of Tasmania – Understanding Dementia and preventing Dementia. Further information can be found at the following website: <https://mooc.utas.edu.au/>

**Richard** has recently contacted his local State and Federal Member regarding the status of the community hospital projected to be built between Eltham and Diamond Creek. He received a return call from Vicki Ward's office to confirm that the project is currently being shelved.

**Deanna** recently participated in a bus tour of Neighbourhood Houses with the Living & Learning Nillumbik Advisory Committee. She was very impressed with the range of venues and programs offered by neighbouring Councils. Deanna also suggested collecting cans and bottles as fundraising.

**Kate** has recently been on the selection panel for Nillumbik Community grants. The process was eye opening with regards to the range of activities happening and planned within the Nillumbik community. Timeline for successful grant applications are; approval by 18 June 2024 and announced 24 June 2024.

**Ann** – LINC has come on board to help with the food-pantry and this partnership is going quite well. Care Connect gives them a crate of fresh fruit and vegetables every week which is beneficial. Ann has been participating in the discussions about food parcels with healthAbility and is currently completing 18 food parcels a month

**Annie** (Banksia Palliative Care) is currently working with the Aged Care Navigation and Advocacy Officer to organise the Nillumbik Dying to Know Day on Thursday 8 August at the Eltham Library and the Death Café on Wednesday 13 November at Rivers of Yarrambat. Annie would love some feedback from the Committee about what subjects the community would be interested in or would be helpful to know.

**Sandra** advised that the President of Rotary is interested in a meeting of community groups to see if any are interested in a combined fundraising effort for a Tovertafel. Sandra has suggested the groups go to the Hurstbridge Hub to view a working Tovertafel and experience the benefits to the Community. Sandra stressed the importance of residents in care facilities still being able to feel part of the Community ... a Tovertafel may be a means to achieve this. Discussions are still in the early stages and are ongoing.

**Heather** – Cassie Zurek the Social Wellbeing and Planning Officer will be looking to join the Committee for the August meeting to discuss the Health and Wellbeing Plan. The Committee

was urged to start thinking about the next version of the Plan as the new plan will have visible positive ageing priorities.

**Upcoming events:**

- Wednesday 28 August 8:45am to 4.00pm **Seniors Housing Forum** at the Eltham Community and Reception Centre – a free event this forum provides information about ageing in place, housing choices or support available to you now and in the future. Keynote speaker will be Bec Wilson from Epic Retirement; a regular columnist in the ‘money’ section of the Age and Sydney Morning Herald as well as an author and podcaster. Bookings can be made on the website using the following Link: [Seniors Housing Forum](#)
- Friday 25 October **Ageing Well Expo** at NETS Stadium in Macleod – a partnership event with Nillumbik and Banyule Councils. This free event will feature community groups offering services to seniors, stalls from health services, service providers and aged care facilities, guest speakers, fun interactive activities and entertainment such as music and Tai Chi demonstrations. This event is in the planning stages however any PAAC volunteers to assist with a range of roles on the day would be extremely helpful.

Cr Eyre complimented Council on the recent Volunteer Recognition Evening – ‘what an amazing event. Fabulous food, speakers and an overall wonderful evening for volunteers’.

**10. Other Business**

Nil

**11. Next Meeting**

**When: Friday 2 August 2024**

**Time: 10.30am – 1.30pm**

**Where: Council Chambers and Hybrid on Zoom**

**Meeting closed 1.38pm**

Action Summary Table			
Action	Who	Due	Completed?
Information/teaching sessions at the various Shire libraries to advise Nillumbik Shire Residents process of paying bills online	Community Support Services, Customer Experience Team and Yarra Plenty Libraries	Planning phase – timeline to be advised	

**Current and upcoming Council engagements:**

Engagement	Details
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## Living & Learning Nillumbik Advisory Committee Minutes



**Date:** Monday, 17 June 2024

**Time:** 2:00pm – 4:00pm

**Venue:** Eltham Living & Learning Nillumbik Hub – 739 Main Road Eltham

**Chair:** Lynne Ellis

**Minute taker:** Erin Elderhurst

**Committee Members:** Cr Geoff Paine; Sarah Doherty; Bambi McLean; Sabi Bueler; Lynne Ellis

**Other:** Vanessa Veldman; Natalie Bucknell; Erin Elderhurst; Hilary Duns-McKay; Ni Li; Fancy Chen; Holly Visaggio

**Apologies:** Deborah Donehue; Kellie Grocock; Deanna Finn; Corrienne Nicholls

### Order of business

#### 1. Welcome

Observers - Ni Li, Holly Visaggio

#### 2. Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was read by Lynne Ellis

#### 3. Conflict of Interest and Informal Meeting of Councilors Record

None

LIVING & LEARNING  
NILLUMBIK



## Living & Learning Nillumbik Advisory Committee

### Minutes



#### 4. Snap shot of 2023/2024

Descriptor	Numbers
Enrolments into L&LN programs and activities	3372
Participants	1559
Carers registered on our data base	240
Programs offered	369
Contract tutors recruited and supported	69
Tutor agreements signed	168
Volunteers engaged and supported	60
Venue hirers supported	174

#### 5. Neighbourhood House Update

##### Diamond Creek Neighbourhood House

- 9 different activities held over Neighbourhood House Week including fence decorating that involved many groups, free trial classes, a storytime with the preschool next door, free iPhone photography class which has led to a series of programs and will be a part of seniors festival
- 64 participants in NH week events – 35 that were completely new to the center – 12 follow on enrolments
- New storytelling and acting class was launched in NH week with positive community feedback
- Glee club was also relaunched in NH week
- Lots of inspiration provided by NENHN bus tour
- CPR course was offered to volunteers as part of National Volunteers Week

##### Eltham Neighbourhood House

- NH week events were well attended with new and familiar faces attending the free sessions that were offered
- Volunteers from all three hubs enjoyed the lunch at Eltham Hub to celebrate National Volunteers Week
- School holidays programs are already fully booked
- New class Wu Tao starting in Term 3 as well as 2 new pottery for beginners classes

## Living & Learning Nillumbik Advisory Committee

### Minutes



#### Panton Hill Neighbourhood House

- Lots of free try sessions during Neighbourhood House week – watercolour was the most popular. A market stall hosted by crafty cats group was successful.
- Mosaics makerspace sign was put up and an afternoon tea held to celebrate
- Knitting and crochet makerspace has started on a Friday morning
- A new fitness class is starting with a focus on strength and conditioning
- The garden expansion has been complete with lots of new plans to develop programs. Community seems interested and engaged

#### 6. Skills Hub update

- Diversifying course offerings
- Digital literacy does not seem to be getting the number
- Doing another 2 floristry courses, intro to cake decorating is booked out with a waitlist

#### 7. Communications and Engagement update

- New course guide has been launched and distributed
- Moving forward there will be a focus on the website aligning with the course guide and website beautification.
- EOFY filming of the PH garden – content pillar 'Living & Learning in the garden' key goal of engaging more volunteers
- Carer's hub filming happening tomorrow
- More maps developed
- Social media promotion – managed to secure place on the screens at DC IGA. Options to change that content every month. 10 second every 1.5 minutes
- Creative industries coming up, Carer's week and diversARTy
- Youth hub launching so looking for ways to partner
- Formal changing to centers/ houses to 'hubs' eg. Eltham Living & Learning Hub
- Bambi suggested looking at promoting on screens at doctors /dentists/ local sports centers
- Course guide format is under review, the next edition will look different. It may look like more of an 'overview' of the course offered and direct people to the website for more information. Focus going forward will be more about sharing specific stories – somewhat in line with NN.



## Living & Learning Nillumbik Advisory Committee

### Minutes

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#### 8. Carers Hub update

- Rice paper roll workshop in collaboration with Mind Australia was successful. Lots of knowledge shared and a request for more 'food' related workshops
- Disability support pension information session was moved to online last minute. Linked with centre for ongoing support
- 6 carers attended the mindfulness session during NH week
- Yoga workshop happening monthly. 8 registered but only 3 participants attended
- Gardening workshop cancelled – Fancy will review day/ time offerings
- Planning for National Carers Week in mid-October. There will be a one big event day with additional events help throughout the week.
- Applying for Carers Support Grant – awaiting feedback
- Partnering with Merri health legal information session in August will be targeted to Carers
- Launched survey to carers in e-news and on the website. Fancy to review data to try to meet the needs of carers.
- Holly from Melbourne Uni will be doing a 2 month placement with L&LN and working primarily working with Fancy
- Continue to educate the community on the role of carers and the work of unpaid care.

#### 9. Upcoming Events

- September – Adult's Learner Week – beginning September 1
- Creative Industries Exhibition – September
- Carer's week – 13 - 19 October 2024
- Seniors month - October
- Children's week – Saturday 19 October to Sunday 27 October 2024.
- diversARTy opening Wednesday 13 November 2024

#### 10. Advisory Committee considerations

##### a. Recruitment of additional members

- Call out will take place in the second half of November for new members and will then go to council for endorsement

##### b. Meeting dates for remainder of 2024

- No advisory committee meetings during council caretaker period.

##### c. Permission to share email address

- If anyone does not wish for their email address to be shared please let Cobie know.

## Living & Learning Nillumbik Advisory Committee

### Minutes

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#### 11. 'Eyes and ears of the community'

- diversARTy discussion – change name of 'Encouragement Award' to 'Emerging Artist Award' with set criteria for participants who have been practising their medium for 1-2 years
- Participants to elect which prize category they would like to enter into
- It would be nice to hear stories about the artwork – EE will consider getting an artist to share

#### 12. Nillumbik Literary Festival

- Renamed to *Nillumbik Festival of Stories* – it will be promoted during the Wattle Festival
- Three categories of child, teen and adult
- Have a taster during seniors week – kids might interview their grandparents for stories
- Aiming for local content, sharing stories about Nillumbik

#### 13. Social Planet Client Management System

- The transition over to Social Planet for Term 3 enrolments opened with positive user experience for participants. There was a short line of three people at Eltham wanting to enroll in person.
- Careful development of clear messaging has helped with the transition. Credit to Customer Support Officers who showed resources to groups and helped them feel prepared and confident
- 171 bookings in the first 24 hours of social planet – Approx 450 bookings in the first week
- A long standing participant provided direct feedback that the process was very easy, user friendly and clear.
- No delays to bookings
- Has opened opportunity to review many processes and policies e.g. costing courses, special consideration applications.

**Meeting concluded at 3:30 pm**

## Environment & Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) Minutes



**Date:** Wednesday 19 June 2024 (*first meeting of current term of ESAC*)  
**Time:** 6.00pm – 8.00pm  
**Venue:** Council Chambers  
**Chair:** Cr Ben Ramcharan  
**Minute taker:** Laura Nix

### Order of Business

1	<p><b>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</b></p> <p>Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges 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.</p> <p>Present: Malcolm Cock, Orianna Edmonds, Lily van Eeden, Katrina Naish, Graeme Lang, Elnaz Ettehad, Lynlee Tozer, Sue Rosenhain; Cr Geoff Paine, Cr Ben Ramcharan; Laura Nix, Kirsten Reedy</p> <p>Apologies: Lucinda Flynn, Andrew McMahon, Leigh Northwood Absent: Anne-Marie King, Vasundhara Kandpal</p> <p>Individual introduction provided by each committee member, Councillor and council officer.</p>	Chair
2	<p><b>Conflict of interest</b></p> <p>Conflict of interest provisions are contained in section 80C of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, the Councillor's Governance Code, the Employee Code of Conduct and the Volunteer Handbook</p>	Chair
3	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b></p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting have been confirmed by previous committee as a true and accurate record of the meeting</p> <p>Moved: Malcolm Cock      Seconded: Lynlee Tozer</p>	Chair
4	<p><b>Outstanding Action Items</b> – none to discuss</p>	Chair
5	<p><b>First meeting administration matters</b></p> <p>Signing of Advisory Committee Policy by committee members; optional member profiles for Council website; Google drive access and purpose.</p> <p><b>Action 1:</b> New ESAC members to email Laura their bios for the website. Existing members can provide an update to their 22-24 bio or keep as is.</p>	Kirsten
6	<p><b>Introduction to being a member of ESAC</b></p> <p>Induction presentation and discussion that provided an overview of the ESAC terms of reference, Council's advisory committee policy, and the organisational structure of Council.</p>	Kirsten and Laura

	Group agreement brainstorm session held to agree ways of working respectfully and productively together.  <b>Action 2:</b> Officer to register all ESAC members for Council's environment and sustainability e-news. Members can unsubscribe at any time.	
7	<b>Introduction to key guiding Council strategies</b>  Brief introduction to Council Plan and Climate Action Plan provided  Update on Draft Biodiversity Strategy and Draft Urban Tree Canopy Strategy finalisation process provided. ESAC can access a copy of the drafts that were consulted on via Participate Nillumbik – they are currently being updated and are scheduled to go before Council for consideration to endorse in July and August respectively.  <b>Action 3:</b> Discuss the Climate Action Plan, Biodiversity Strategy and waste/circular economy at upcoming meeting. <b>Action 4:</b> Hard copies of the Nillumbik Climate Action Plan to be made available to ESAC members who would like one, at next meeting.	Kirsten
8	<b>Key matters that members would like ESAC to work on</b>  Brainstorm session held. Matters raised included: Waste and circular economy, sustainable agriculture strategy, illegal vegetation removal compliance, deer control, integrated water management, climate change, health and wellbeing aspects of climate and biodiversity action, community engagement.	Laura
9	<b>Other business:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future meeting dates – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every second month – note caretaker period exception</li> </ul> <b>Action 5:</b> Officers to ascertain whether a meeting in first week of December is possible.	All
	<b>Next meeting:</b> Wednesday 21 August, 6pm	
	<b>Attachments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copy of induction presentation and brainstorm sessions. Provided in Google Drive.</li> </ul>	

Meeting closed 8.05pm

**Table of Open Actions**

Meeting date	Action	Owner/s	Status	Comment
19/06/24	New ESAC members to email Laura their bios for the website (for examples refer to <a href="#">Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee - Nillumbik Shire Council</a> ). Existing members can provide an update to their 22-24 bio - or keep as is.	ESAC		
19/06/24	Officer to register all ESAC members for Council's environment and sustainability e-news. Members can unsubscribe at any time.	Officers		
19/06/24	Discuss the Climate Action Plan, Biodiversity Strategy and waste/circular economy at upcoming meeting.	Officers		

**AC.006/24      Advisory Committee Report - 30 July 2024**  
**Attachment 1.    Advisory Committee meeting Minutes reported 30 July 2024**

Meeting date	Action	Owner/s	Status	Comment
19/06/24	Hard copies of the Nillumbik Climate Action Plan to be made available to ESAC members who would like one, at next meeting.	Officers		
19/06/24	Officers to ascertain whether a meeting in first week of December is possible.	Officers		

## Panton Hill Bushland Reserve System User Group - Advisory Committee



### Agenda

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**Date:** Thursday 20 June 2024  
**Time:** 7.06 – 8.43pm  
**Venue:** Panton Hill Living and Learning Centre  
**Chair:** Cr Karen Egan  
**Minute Taker:** Lydia Heap  
**Committee Members:** Janice Crosswhite, Bob West, Cathy Giles, Mark Hood, Lydia Heap  
**Other:** Brad Tadday, Bridget Russell  
**Apologies:** Lee Hartman

### Order of business

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Observers are reminded their role is to observe only, unless called upon by the Chairperson to participate.

#### 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

Lee Hartman

Condolence re: Susy Penrose, former member of the PHBRS UG Advisory Committee since it was established in 2011 and advocate for many other aspects of the Panton Hill Bushland Reserves. Janice offered to send a sympathy card on behalf of the Advisory Committee members.

#### 4. Conflict of Interest and Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

Conflict of interest provisions are contained in sections 126-131 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Councillor Code of Conduct, the Employee Code of Conduct and the Advisory Committee Members Code of Conduct.

An Informal Meeting of Councillors Record must be completed at the meeting in accordance with Item 19 of Council's Governance Rule - Meeting Procedure.

#### 5. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 15 February 2024 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting moved by Mark Hood and seconded by Bob West. Carried.

## **6. Outstanding Action Items**

Item 9: Get mock-up of signs and circulate before next meeting. – Circulated by email

## **7. Works update and planned works**

- a. Threatened fauna monitoring and management – Orchids, Southern Toadlet, Brush-tailed Phascogale
  - i. Orchids – reintroduction of threatened orchids. New fence in Bulwidj along Clintons Road. Planted out 250 Charming Spider Orchids, in protected area.
  - ii. Southern Toadlet – commissioned a management plan. Got final draft, was recommended that some of the ponds be fenced in Bunjil to protect from deer. Have put in a couple of fenced areas last year but found that the only pond with tadpoles hadn't been fenced. Fencing has started today, Chinaman's Gully. There is also an erosion problem down stream which is working its way back to the toadlet habitat. Have received information regarding remediating the problem. Can't get in with any heavy equipment, will need to be done by hand. Melbourne water have some funding and are interesting in funding another report by the engineers on the waterway erosion and recommendations.
  - iii. Phascogale. Continuing with nest box monitoring, done by volunteers, don't yet have the results of it.
- b. Rabbit Control – Bunjil, Yirrip, Bulwidj
  - i. Commenced across all bushland reserves. Will be happening in the next month. Ferretting of the warrens then block the warrens. Feralex does this.
- c. Capital Works program – Interpretive signage, Orchid fence, Southern Toadlet fence
  - i. Interpretive signage. See point 8. Takes longer than intend just because it is complex and overlaps with other projects. Was not going to be completed by the end of the financial year.
  - ii. Funding diverted to planting the threatened orchid fence and southern toadlets. Next years budget will then be freed up for the interpretive signage.

## **8. Interpretation Design Plan Implementation Working Group Update**

- a. Interpretive signage for Wurundjeri Food, Fibre and Medicine Garden at Bunjil Reserve

Few working group meetings, different options. Brad circulated the project brief for Edendale. 30 species selected and being documented. Identifying the Woi-wurrung name, or if not known, using the closest language to it. The language used would be recorded on the sign. Would need to be approved by Wurundjeri. Licensing costs are not yet known.

**Action.** To find out what the licencing fee would be per name/sign and if it is a one off, or an annual etc. Clarification if it is actual licencing or if it is payment for someone to do the research. Karren.

b. Listening posts

Three scripts have been circulated. This is for the wind up device with the push buttons. 8 channels on the device. One would be a welcome to country, then three scripts as circulated. Other 4 channels are vacant at the moment. May utilize some of the paradoxa work. Such as the Panton Hill School performance. Southern toadlet music making workshop. Could have the toadlet noises as well. 2 minute items. Don't think we can track which items are listened to the most.

The biodiversity scripts doesn't mention about wombats and kangaroos which have lots of signs in the reserves. Need to mention more about larger marsupials. Need to remove the last line of the biodiversity script. Picks some recreational uses and leaves other out – should be all in or all out. Don't like comparing phascogales to possum, squirrel, rat. Other suggestions for including other changes – Brad and Bridget making notes on this.

Someone from people and place are organizing the person to do the recording, Don't know if will be a male or female voice. Would be good to have both. May have an indigenous voice for the seasons.

## 9. Community Engagement

- a. Friends of Bunjil Reserve – Wurundjeri Food, Fibre and Medicine Garden. Have been doing workshops first Friday of the month.
- b. Panton Hill Primary School – engagement in activities in the reserves. Putting in for a junior land care grant for phascogale boxes and cameras. Planting for Wimbi and toadlets. Teacher Zoe is major facilitator.
- c. PH Living and Learning Centre – walking group. Second walking group may be starting up
- d. Council biodiversity events – Fungi Walk. Last weekend gave a presentation. Was in council newsletter and events page. Was not advertised on social media. About 20 participants.
- e. Gawa Wurundjeri Resource Trail. 30<sup>th</sup> June, 10:30. planting and launch of facebook page. Learning about the plants as well as planting 200 of them.



- f. Fauna monitoring – Nest box monitoring program and fauna camera monitoring. Haven't had results for latest. Previous had phascogales in Wimbi and Bulwidj (1 each). Mostly sugar gliders.
- g. Other – Clintons Rd Reserve working bee. Discuss planting projects. Trail maintenance. Woody weeds at the Pony Club. Broom is bad along road side. Cut and paint needs to be flush with the ground – not sticking up, Council can provide tools and herbicide.

**Action** Kath/Karren to chase up committee about getting a date for this.

- h. Panton Hill Playhouse takes the kids into Bunjil reserve most days. Have given things new names like troll bridge (near food fibre medicine). Did the children's week treasure hunt.
- i. Planting project for Wimbi reserve, hopefully with Primary School if they get the junior Landcare grant. No dates yet.
- j. Trail maintenance – need pruning on Bulwidj. Horse riders have made a new trail because they can't get through the kunzia. Brad to get contractors on to that.
- k. Waters bars have been removed in Bulwidj in first gully from Clintons Road. Needs to be redesigned. Needs to not run down the fall line, probably needs to have switchbacks as it is a steep blind corner. May need to remove the Tea Tree to realign. Have an onsite meeting.

**Action** – Brad to organize an onsite meeting re track

#### **10. Other Business**

End of current Committee term December 2024

#### **11. Next meeting date and location**

TBC – re caretaker period September. Probably set next date before the care taker period starts.

#### **12. Attachments**

- Minutes – PHBRS User Group Advisory Committee – February 2023
- Script - Bunjil Listening Post - Biodiversity
- Script - Bunjil Listening Post - Work and Endeavour
- Script - Bunjil Listening Post - The Seasons
- Project Brief - Food Fibre Medicine Signage Project - Update PHBRS AC

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#	Climate Action Plan Indicators	Emissions baseline (2019)	Year 1 results 2022/23	Year 2 results 2023/2024	Target
	<b>Focus Area 1 - Strong climate action leadership and culture</b>				
1a	Community satisfaction with Council's performance in delivering climate action leadership and initiatives <i>Source: Annual Community Survey - Scale from 0 (very dissatisfied) to 10 (very satisfied)</i>	-	6.92 out of 10 'good'	6.90 (rated as 'good')	Increase
1b	Annual percentage of department business plans that include climate actions <i>Source: Council records</i>	-	69%	77%	Increase
	<b>Focus Area 2 - Having a climate resilient, adaptive and safe community</b>				
2a	Percentage of Nillumbik residents that have made changes to their home or lifestyle to help reduce climate change and its impacts <i>Source: Annual Community Survey</i>	-	57.6%	58%	Increase
2b	Nillumbik resident rating of their household's ability to cope with climate related risks and impacts (such as fire, drought, extreme heat & heavy rainfall) – Percentage that rated it as high <i>Source: Annual Community Survey</i>	-	51.2%	39%	Increase
	<b>Focus Area 3 – Having a climate resilient natural environment</b>				
3a	Number of hectares of vegetation canopy coverage <i>(Frequency of survey every four years in 2024 and 2028)</i>	-	-	-	Increase
3b	Number of properties supported through Council delivered programs (rate rebate, LMIP grants, advice) to engage in biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, sustainable agriculture and/or food growing <i>Source: Council records on # properties receiving Sustainable Agriculture rate rebate, Trust for Nature rate rebate, LMIP grant, and/or tailored advice. Excludes support provided via training, workshops, demonstrations and events</i>	-	349	320	N/A
3c	Number of organisations (including Traditional Owners) collaborating with Council to protect and enhance our natural environment <i>Source: Council records</i>	-	53	48	N/A
	<b>Focus Area 4 – Having climate responsive Council services, facilities, buildings and infrastructure</b>				
4a	Number of Council facilities where climate efficiency projects/ programs have been delivered <i>Source: Council records</i>	-	14	15	N/A

#	Climate Action Plan Indicators	Emissions baseline (2019)	Year 1 results 2022/23	Year 2 results 2023/2024	Target
	<b>Focus Area 5 – Achieving Council and community net-zero emissions energy use</b>				
5a	Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted within the Shire of Nillumbik. Target of net zero community emissions by 2035 <i>Source: Sustainability Victoria / Ironbark – Annual municipal emissions snapshot (two-year lag in data availability)</i>	536,000 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e (2019)	<i>Not yet available (Was 358,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in 21/22)</i>	<i>Not yet available</i>	Reduce emissions
5b	Volume of annual greenhouse gas emissions emitted by Council facilities and operations: (Scope 1 & 2 emissions) <i>Source: Council records, based on operational boundary i.e. facilities &amp; infrastructure owned and managed by Council; or managed on Council's behalf (6 month lag in data availability). Consists of electricity, natural gas and transport fuel.</i>	8,596 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e (2019) <sup>1</sup>	5,911 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	<i>Not yet available</i>	Reduce emissions
	(Scope 3 emissions) <i>Source: Council records – note, Council's methodology and ability to collect scope 3 emissions will continue to improve</i>	<i>Insufficient data</i>	<i>Insufficient data</i>	<i>Not yet available</i>	Reduce emissions
5c (a)	Percentage of Council's stationary energy use (gas & electricity) that is supplied via a renewable energy source. Target of 100% by 2030. <i>Source: Council records (4 month lag in data availability) and Victorian government renewable energy grid data (VRET progress reports)</i>	-	23.35% <sup>2</sup>	<i>Not yet available</i>	Increase
5c (b)	Percentage of Council's electricity use that is supplied via a renewable energy source. Target of 100% by 2030. <i>Source: Council records (4 month lag in data availability)</i>	-	43.66% <sup>3</sup>	<i>Not yet available</i>	Increase
	<b>Focus Area 6 – Enhancing sustainable transport</b>				
6a	Volume of greenhouse gas emissions emitted by Council fleet vehicles (Target of 100%, zero emissions Council light and heavy fleet and plant by 2030) <i>Sources: Council records (1 month lag in data availability)</i>	1,520 tonnes <sup>4</sup> CO <sub>2</sub> e (2019)	848 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	<i>Not yet available</i>	Reduce emissions

<sup>1</sup> 5b - 2019 selected as baseline year as 2020 and 2021 figures were skewed due to Covid19 restrictions. Records collected did not include scope 3 data.

<sup>2</sup> 5c (a) – Gas, grid sourced electricity and roof top solar used. Calculation: Total stationary energy use: 37,789 GJ. Percentage of this that is from a renewable source comprises: renewable energy from rooftop solar 1,906 GJ (5.04% of total); and renewable energy from the Victorian electricity grid 6,922 GJ (18.31% of total, based on the Victorian grid comprising 37.8% renewables). All natural gas used is non-renewable (0% of total).

<sup>3</sup> 5c (b) – Grid sourced electricity and rooftop solar used (a sub-set of indicator 5c(a)). Calculation: Total electricity use: 20,218 GJ. Percentage of this that is from a renewable source comprises: renewable energy from rooftop solar 1,906 GJ (9.43% of total); and renewable energy from the Victorian electricity grid 6,922 GL (34.24% of total, based on the Victorian grid comprising 37.8% renewables).

<sup>4</sup> 6a – Baseline calculation: 1,520 tonnes in total – comprises 742 tonnes (waste fleet), 266 tonnes (light & heavy vehicle fleet), 512 tonnes (plant). 2019 selected as baseline year as 2020 and 2021 figures were skewed due to Covid19 restrictions. 2022/23 calculation onwards exclude waste fleet emissions as this service was outsourced and associated emissions will instead be captured in 5b scope 3 emissions.

#	Climate Action Plan Indicators	Emissions baseline (2019)	Year 1 results 2022/23	Year 2 results 2023/2024	Target
6b	Volume of greenhouse gas emissions emitted by vehicles within Nillumbik (Target 100% zero emissions transportation by 2035) <i>Source: Sustainability Victoria / Ironbark – Annual municipal emissions snapshot (two-year lag in data availability)</i>	136,000 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e (2019)	<i>Not yet available (Was 120,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in 21/22)</i>	<i>Not yet available</i>	Reduce emissions
	<b>Focus Area 7 – Achieving a zero waste and circular economy</b>				
7a	Annual percentage of kerbside waste that is diverted from landfill (Target of 80%) <i>Source: Council records</i>	-	72.24%	70.6%	Increase
7b	Average amount of landfill waste generated per household. (Target to reduce by 15% by 2030) <i>Source: Council records</i>	-	298kg	304kg <sup>5</sup>	Reduce
7c	Percentage of recycled content used in new Council capital works projects (Target of 15% by 2026 and 30% by 2030) <i>Source: Council &amp; contractor records – Note, this data is not yet available to be reported on.</i>	-	-	-	Increase
	<b>Focus Area 8 – Integrated water management</b>				
8a	Reduction in Council's potable water use <i>Source: Council records (4 month lag in data availability)</i>	-	52,848kL <sup>6</sup>	<i>Not yet available</i>	Reduce
8b	Percent of the total area of active public open space supported by an alternative water source (Target 18% by 2030 and 50% by 2050) <i>Source: Council records</i>	-	18.10% <sup>7</sup>	21.54%	Increase

<sup>5</sup> 7b – Calculation based on total landfill tonnes divided by no. households with Council waste service – 6,685 tonnes / 22,163 households then converted to kg.

<sup>6</sup> Calculation based on water consumed as per water utility bills within Council's operational boundary i.e. facilities & infrastructure owned and managed by Council; or managed on Council's behalf.

<sup>7</sup> Calculation based on sportsgrounds as this is the main source of irrigation use: Total of 23.2ha of ovals have an irrigation system, of which 4.2ha supported by an alternative water source = 18.1%

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**CM.065/24 Nillumbik Climate Action Plan - Year 2 (23/24) Annual Performance Report and Year 3 (24/25) Implementation Plan**

**Attachment 2 Year 2 (23/24) CAP Implementation Report**

#	Action	Annual Commentary	Status Column (as at 30 June 2024)
<b>Focus Area 1: Strong climate action leadership and culture</b>			
1	Annually report on climate-action initiatives delivered and progress to date against indicators and targets; and prepare the next year's annual implementation plan.	23/24 reporting complete and Year 3 implementation plan prepared.	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE
2	Finalise and commence implementation of a Climate Action Communications Plan. Will include calls to action and promotion of proactive Council and community initiatives.	A communications plan has been prepared. It makes recommendations on how to structure and time campaigns and calls to action. As an outcome, a 'Climate Action Every Day' icon has been designed and has begun to be rolled out on Council's website, Nillumbik News, e-newsletters as well as other community facing publications for initiatives that have a link to an action under the Climate Action Plan.	COMPLETE
3	Build upon the climate action training that was undertaken by 60% of Council staff in Year 1 by providing a) climate action training to new and existing Council staff and b) ongoing climate action support/advice to Council teams.	100% of new Council staff have undertaken the Climate Action induction training module that highlights the issues of climate change and local government opportunities to mitigate and adapt. Ongoing climate action support is being provided to Council teams, including via meetings with over 28 teams to support business planning that considers climate action.	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE
4	Consider climate risks and impacts (and adaptation and mitigation solutions) in the development of new Council policies, strategies and plans. In 2023/24 these will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Council's tree management policy and supporting guidelines</li> <li>Completion of the new Neighbourhood Character Strategy</li> <li>Develop a new Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>Investigation into measures to enhance the urban tree canopy</li> <li>Master planning (phase B) for community facilities in Diamond Creek, including recreation and community precincts and buildings</li> <li>Completion of new Integrated Transport Strategy</li> <li>Commencement of a review of the Integrated Water Management Plan</li> <li>Completion of the new Domestic Wastewater Management Plan</li> </ul> Consider ESD principles in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme	Each of these strategic documents has or is considering climate risks and impacts in their development.	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE
5	Annually identify Council priorities for climate action advocacy and embed within Council's advocacy process	2023/24 advocacy, in particular via Council's membership of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action and the Victorian Greenhouse Alliance, has included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>submission to the Federal Government's Inquiry into the transition to electric vehicles</li> <li>submission on the proposed Federal Government First Nations Clean Energy Strategy</li> <li>advocacy to the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Climate Action, Energy and Resources, and the State Electricity Commission seeking ongoing Victorian government commitment to working effectively with local government to achieve emission reduction targets and help communities meet the challenges of climate change.</li> <li>contribution towards the development of the State Governments proposed EV Charging Strategy</li> <li>advocacy to State MPs the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio and the Hon. Sonya Kikenny calling for harmonising changes to the National Construction Code and reforms to the Victorian planning system</li> <li>advocacy to Federal ministers Hon. Chris Bowen and Senator Jenny McAllister regarding implementation of the Energy Savings Package and the Draft Energy Performance Strategy.</li> </ul>	COMPLETE
<b>Focus Area 2: Having a climate resilient, adaptive and safe community</b>			
6	Develop a 5-year plan to evolve Edendale Community Environment Farm into a community Climate Action Hub. This will include investigating ways that Edendale can demonstrate climate action (mitigation and adaptation) and ways Edendale can support community climate education and action.	Work is progressing to scope this 5-year plan. A draft is due to be presented to Council in the second half of 2024 or early 2025.	ON TRACK
7	Continue to identify existing climate action focused groups and initiatives in Nillumbik, and explore whether there are ways that Council might be able to help support or promote them	Council continues to support groups such as the Nillumbik Climate Action Group, Nillumbio and Clean Energy Nillumbik, including through support to promote their events and grant funding. Our community grant funding, leadership programs and awards programs have also supported positive sustainability outcomes including two participants in the community leadership program with a sustainability focus.	COMPLETE

#	Action	Annual Commentary	Status Column (as at 30 June 2024)
8	Continue Council's support for sustainability education initiatives delivered by the community, including tendering out a new multi-year 'Practically Green' tender/grant.	This year, Council funded Clean Energy Nillumbik to deliver community sustainability education events including Expert Eco Chats, Sustainable House Day and the Electric Vehicle Expo.  Council awarded a new three-year contract to a local business 'Going Green Solutions' to deliver a comprehensive program of sustainability education for our community, commencing in July 2024.	COMPLETE
9	Continue to offer Council-delivered sustainability courses and explore opportunities for our Living & Learning Centre's and Edendale to collaborate to deliver a broader course offering.	Edendale delivered or hosted over 50 sustainability oriented courses and workshops, reaching over 600 people.	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE
10	Help raise community awareness of climate-action initiatives that people can participate in/avail of, to support them to mitigate or adapt to climate change	Council promoted and helped to facilitate initiatives such as free CFA bushfire preparation advice and SES advice, and free eco-building advice to our community to help increase local awareness of help that they can receive to mitigate or adapt to climate change, including via regular <i>Climate Action Coffee and Chat</i> sessions and via our fortnightly <i>Energy Advisory Service</i> both of which have been held at multiple locations across the shire, and via our monthly environment and sustainability e-newsletter.	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE
11	Investigate trialling the delivery of a climate change educational program to local secondary schools as an incursion program (Also a Youth Strategy action)	An initial trial incursion has been delivered by Edendale with Eltham High School's environment team that focused on food growing and climate. Edendale and Council's Youth Team will jointly promote the program again in 2024 and investigate the feasibility of continuing this project.	COMPLETE
12	Collaborate to deliver sustainable living and environment workshops, events and initiatives to local schools and other young people (Youth Strategy initiative)	Nillumbik Youth promoted the sustainability programs offered through Edendale to young people via their 'school menu'. This included Edendale's school offerings, and a program for disengaged young people run in partnership with Open House.	COMPLETE
13	Deliver a 'mental health for climate anxiety' workshop for young people and the general community	A climate anxiety workshop was delivered in November 2023. Attendance was very low however a recording of this excellent workshop has been provided as a permanent resource. It is available via YouTube and has been shared via Council's parenting hub and youth networks.	COMPLETE
14	Update Council's lease agreement template to incorporate reference to the Climate Action Plan and information to community tenants on accessing climate action support from Council.	When Tenants are provided with a community tenancy agreement or lease renewal to sign, the covering letter now states that Council has declared a Climate Emergency and has a target of net-zero community emissions by 2035.  Clauses within the agreements have been updated to incorporate reference to Council's Climate Action Plan, and associated obligations regarding utility data, energy and water efficiency, waste management etc.  Tenants are asked to provide community services in an efficient and sustainable manner and are notified that they can contact Council for climate action support including further information on installing energy and water efficiency measures to the premises.	COMPLETE
15	Deliver the 'Disaster Resilient Nillumbik' project that aims to help lessen the effect of potential catastrophic natural events by enhancing community disaster preparedness and resilience.	In November 2023 an 'Intro to Emergency Planning' workshop was hosted at Eltham Library, with presentations from the CFA, SES and Australian Red Cross outlining local hazards and assisting people to prepare a household emergency plan. A further session was run at Eltham Library in May 2024 which was attended by 40 people.  A monthly drop in session has been held at a local café around the Shire, with local CFA and SES teams invited to join council officers and jointly chat to residents and distribute resources in how people can prepare for and stay safe in emergencies.	COMPLETE
16	Continue to participate in Regional emergency management forums with partner agencies	Officers continue to participate in various forums and regional working groups including a new Fuel Management Working Group, with intent to review priority roads in Nillumbik; and the Regional Emergency Management network to prepare for fire season readiness.	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE



#	Action	Annual Commentary	Status Column (as at 30 June 2024)
17	Continue to deliver bushfire preparedness information for the community in conjunction with the CFA and other partners.	Various bushfire / emergency preparation outreach has been delivered, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Community Bushfire Safety Expo, held on 8 October 2023, in St Andrews. The event brought together a range of agencies, experts, service providers and related businesses - with the aim of making action and knowledge on bushfire preparedness as accessible as possible.</li> <li>Council hosted discussion sessions at four rural locations across Arthurs Creek, Strathewen and St Andrews and simulated emergency exercises with community - to explore ways neighbours, friends and family can organise themselves to keep safe and informed in an emergency.</li> <li>Other outreach included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drop in session on bushfire planning held at Allwood House in November</li> <li>CFA Fire Safety Planning Session at the Kangaroo Ground Brigade in December</li> <li>Climate Action, Coffee and Chat drop in session in Hurstbridge in December</li> <li>Delivery of annual fire hazard inspection program</li> <li>Articles on bushfire preparation and heat health in Nillumbik News and via Council webpages.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE
18	Continue to convene an internal 'climate change impacts on health' working group to identify priorities and opportunities for collaborative action using evidence from climate behaviour related data and community feedback, with a focus on priority groups.	A Climate Change & Health internal working group meets bi-monthly. It consists of officer representatives from our Environment & Sustainability, Emergency Management, Youth Development, Community Development, Community Programs and Parks Teams. The meetings provide an opportunity to identify emerging needs, cross-promote programs and initiatives and collaborate across departments.	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE
19	Share agency heat health and other climate-related health messages and warnings to the community via Council media channels.	Heat health and storm awareness messaging has been shared via Council's social media channels as needed. A new static heat health webpage has been established which promotes strategies on how to prepare for a heatwave and how to keep cool during extreme heat, and a video series on heat health is being developed.	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE
<b>Focus Area 3: Having a climate resilient natural environment</b>			
20	Continue the review of Council's Biodiversity Strategy and Invasive Species Action Plan with a climate resilience lens (Council Plan initiative)	Council has progressed the development of a new Biodiversity Strategy 2024-2034. It includes discussion of climate change as being a threat to biodiversity health and has an objective to 'minimise risk to biodiversity from climate change'. The community was consulted on the draft and it is scheduled to be considered for endorsement by Council at the July 2024 Council Meeting.	COMPLETE
21	Continue to provide the community with biodiversity and land management guidance that is climate responsive, including via the Gardens for Wildlife program and Land Management Incentive Program.	Ongoing delivery of sustainable land management advice including via phone calls, emails, property visits, grants and events. The Land Management Incentive Program and Gardens for Wildlife programs continue to run.	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE
22	Continue to investigate measures to enhance the urban tree canopy (Council Plan initiative)	Council has progressed the development of an inaugural Urban Tree Canopy Strategy 2024-2040 which focuses on maintaining and growing canopy on Council land and private land. The Council meeting to consider endorsing the strategy is scheduled for August 2024.	ON TRACK
23	Implement Council bushland reserve Bushfire Management Plans, and annual Bushfire Mitigation Works Program	Bushfire mitigation works undertaken by Council in 2023/24 included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fuel reduction including brush cutting, removal of debris, thinning vegetation and mowing</li> <li>box clearance to keep roads clear and accessible in an emergency</li> <li>tree hazard assessments</li> <li>inspection and maintenance of fire access tracks</li> <li>audit of water tanks</li> <li>bushland reserve bushfire mitigation works - fuel reduction through brush cutting, slashing and elevated fuel removal. 90% of works were complete by the Fire Danger Period and 100% were complete by 22 December 2023.</li> </ul>	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE
24	Deliver, promote and support initiatives such as Council and community delivered food growing demonstrations and workshops, community food gardens and provision of sustainable agriculture advice	Council has run six successful six-week horticultural and permaculture courses and delivered 20 workshops focused on food growing across Edendale Farm and Living and Learning venues. The community garden at Pantton Hill continues to expand. There are 40 properties receiving the sustainable agriculture rebate.	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE

#	Action	Annual Commentary	Status Column (as at 30 June 2024)
25	Development and delivery of a Regenerative Agriculture Program specifically for Ag based businesses in the Shire.	In May 2024, as part of Nillumbik Small Business Week, a Regenerative Agriculture forum was held at Edendale Farm. The forum was open to landholders (with a focus on Agribusinesses) across the Shire to discuss the benefits of regenerative farming and how the practices can improve land capabilities, including in a changing climate. Led by Council's Economic Development and Tourism Team and Soils Australia, the forum included special guests such as Colin Seis, a pioneer in the regenerative agriculture sector and Dr Mary Cole a well-known academic, plant pathologist and soil microbiologist.	COMPLETE
26	Create a new food growing garden at Edendale that demonstrates growing techniques that are adaptable in a changing climate	A new food growing garden has been created at Edendale in conjunction with three local secondary schools. Council was successful in obtaining grant funding from VicHealth to run a program with Open House for local schools (Eltham High, Diamond Valley College and St Helena High). Each school built and planted out two wicking beds as part of the program.	COMPLETE
<b>Focus Area 4: Having climate responsive Council services, facilities/buildings and infrastructure</b>			
27	Have service continuity plans in place for extreme heat, rainfall, flood and fire danger days which take into account predicted climate conditions	Council's continues to have business continuity plans for critical service delivery during extreme weather events. These include: (1) an employee Heat and UV procedure that applies to all of Council operations. (2) an employee fire danger period procedure that applies to all Council operations (3) There are broad business continuity plans in place, but do they do not currently target rainfall or flood.	COMPLETE & ONGOING
28	Continue to train staff to prepare for emergency events to support agencies and the community	Additional staff have been recruited to the Emergency Management Workforce to actively participate in the event of an emergency. A workforce review is currently underway with training to be completed in 24/25.	ON TRACK
29	Implement Council's mowing program via a process that is timely and that can be adaptive in preparation for, and in response to, weather and climate (including heavy rains, drought and bushfire season).	A new mowing contract was adopted in March 2024 to allow for improvement of management of open space mowing and to enable more efficient and responsive programming.	COMPLETE
30	Complete Council's new 'sectorisation project' which seeks to further enhance how Council allocates resources and prepares for storm events, in order to minimise the time that roads, footpaths, trails and drainage systems are out of action and to help them to remain safe and fit for purpose, therefore minimising inconvenience and safety issues for the public.	Project is ongoing and measures are being put in place that should enable response times to storm events to be halved, providing an improved service and enhanced safety for the community, time savings for staff, less vehicle wear and fewer vehicle emissions. The implementation will continue into 24/25	ON TRACK
31	Complete an audit of Council's static fire tanks	An audit of 55 static fire tanks was undertaken. The findings indicate that they range in condition from excellent, good, fair to poor. A five year recommended rectification program has been developed and rectifications works have begun.	COMPLETE
32	Commence the design and installation of a roof over the Diamond Creek netball courts to provide enhanced rain and sun protection.	Construction commenced in March 2024 and is scheduled to be completed in July 2024.	COMPLETE
33	Install a Shade Sail over the amphitheatre at Edendale to support sunsmart outdoor learning and school education programs	Quotes were sought for the installation of this shade sail. They were more costly than anticipated so the design is being re-scoped. It is now intended that additional shade will be provided at this location next year, subject to an affordable suitable shade solution being identified.	MINOR ISSUES
34	Commence a review of Council's 'Ecologically Sustainable Development (Building, design and works) (ESD) Policy 2011'.	Council's ESD Policy has been reviewed. Associated standards are being developed to guide its implementation. It is anticipated that the updated policy and standards will be finalised in Year 3 (24/25).	ON TRACK
<b>Focus Area 5: Achieving zero emissions energy use</b>			
35	Consider and trial option(s) to provide a new local energy advice service for the Nillumbik community	A new <i>Community Energy and Sustainable Living Advisory Service</i> was launched in 2023. To date, there have been 21 sessions delivered at 10 locations across the Shire. This year the advisory service has been attended by 62 people, seeking advice about solar power, going electric, electric vehicles, heat pump hot water systems, split system air-conditioning, rebates, building and renovation designs and growing food.	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE

#	Action	Annual Commentary	Status Column (as at 30 June 2024)
36	Review the Council funded 'Practically Green' program of events that help promote sustainable living and zero emissions options for the community and determine future delivery model.	A 3 year contract has been awarded to Going Green Solutions who will be implementing a new, comprehensive program of 'Nillumbik Community Sustainability Events and Programs' (formerly Practically Green), commencing in 2024/2025.	COMPLETE
37	Help raise community awareness of the energy/energy efficiency bulk buy initiatives that they can participate in (e.g. Solar Homes, Victorian Efficiency Upgrades, CEN bulk buy program)	The sustainable living page on Council's website has been updated to reflect currently available initiatives. Clean Energy Nillumbik's bulk buy program continues to be promoted. Attendees of Council's <i>Energy and Sustainable Living Advisory Service</i> are provided with information on relevant bulk buys and rebates and how to access them.	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE
38	Continue to help identify and support feasible opportunities for local community renewable energy / battery / micro grids / virtual power plants, via collaboration with community partners and the network provider as opportunities arise.	Council officers continue to keep abreast of opportunities and in 23/24 received government funding to design and implement a Community Energy Hub at St Andrews Community Centre, Wadambuk. The scope included installation of 8kW additional rooftop solar PV, 72kWh of battery storage and a 22kVA back-up generator that enables the community facility to operate independently of the grid for up to 5 days in normal conditions - providing a valuable new energy resource for the local community in the event of wide spread power loss. In addition officers have also worked with the Yarra Energy Foundation through the Greenhouse Alliance Neighbourhood Battery Investigation (Metro) to progress the development of a business case for a neighbourhood battery that could be linked with the large rooftop solar PV system located at Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre.	COMPLETED
39	Obtain energy efficiency audits for Council's largest leisure facilities to identify future emission reduction opportunities at these venues.	Electricity, Gas and Water consumption are provided by Aligned Leisure on a quarterly basis to Council and emission reduction opportunities for 2023-24 include updating the current lighting within the main entrance at Eltham Leisure Centre and incorporating pool blankets at Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool.	ON TRACK
40	Investigate opportunities to support the tenants of Council facilities with installing solar generation and storage systems.	Officers are developing a process to support tenants of Council facilities through solar feasibility investigations, and subsequent tenant funded solar installations. A trial project is underway to test and refine the process. Testing has been conducted at Eltham Bowling Club, Eltham Central Pavilion and Yarrambat Pavilion	COMPLETE
41	Implement Council's 2023-2030 Zero Emissions roadmap that guides Councils transition to net-zero emissions by 2030, with a focus in Year 2 on:	Officers have continued to deliver zero emissions roadmap recommendations as based on actions 41a – 41g below.	ON TRACK
41a	Continue to deliver the Solar Farm project in Plenty (Council Plan initiative)	This major Solar Farm project has been cancelled due to an unexpected update to the business case cost proposal from the developer, for the supply of the electricity to council, being excessively high and untenable. In seeking alternatives for the supply of renewable energy to council, officers have negotiated to participate in the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) with approximately 60 other local government authorities. Supply of renewably sourced electricity to council is due to begin 1 July 2024. An alternative solar farm initiative at the site may be revisited in the future.	COMPLETE
41b	Investigate the feasibility of upgrading electricity supply infrastructure at Councils Operations Centre and at Edendale, to support electric vehicle transition	Officers commissioned feasibility studies for upgrading electricity supply infrastructure at both Edendale Farm and the Operations Centre: - Edendale's infrastructure upgrade proposal is in development. - The Operations Centre has received a full feasibility assessment report from technical experts for the upgrade of electrical infrastructure required to transition to all electric vehicles. The feasibility study outlined severe constraints in the existing infrastructure and proposed the solutions for a staged approach to developing the necessary infrastructure. The solution has led to development of a detailed design proposal with schedules of costings that form the basis of a Federal 'Community Energy Upgrades' grant that has been applied for - to co-fund the implementation of the proposed upgrades, along with maximising rooftop solar and installing the first stage of EV chargers in readiness for fleet and plant transition to electric.	ON TRACK
41c	Commence a phased implementation of the Edendale Energy Master Plan 2023, which is seeking to lead Edendale to net zero emissions before 2030	A feasibility assessment has identified electrical capacity barriers to implementing the Edendale Energy Master Plan which need to be addressed as a phase 1 priority.	MINOR ISSUES
41d	Continue to deliver sustainability upgrades at council facilities via Council's annual Climate Action Fund. In Year 2 this is planned to include assets across the shire such as preschools, leisure, sporting, community facilities and council facilities.	Sustainability upgrades such as LED lighting, draught sealing, heat pump hot water systems, rooftop solar PV installations, and gas to electric cooker replacements have been undertaken at 15 facilities, including preschools, halls and sporting clubs. Additionally, annual maintenance of solar and battery storage systems	COMPLETE AND ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE

#	Action	Annual Commentary	Status Column (as at 30 June 2024)
		has been undertaken; and physical audits, feasibility investigations and scope development for future works are being planned across preschools, leisure and Council facilities.	
41e	Progress the replacement of Nillumbik's existing mercury vapour street lighting with LED lighting	The timing of these works has been rescheduled. Will be undertaken next financial year (Year 3).	MINOR ISSUES
41f	Audit other street lighting managed by Council (including T5, sodium and decorative) to confirm future energy efficiency upgrade options.	A quote for the audit has been received from consultants. A decision on next steps has not yet been determined, options for progressing this project are being considered.	MINOR ISSUES
41g	Progress the Diamond Creek Pool gas to electric transition	Preliminary concept designs were developed for formal public consultation. The initial designs included replacing existing gas equipment with efficient electric alternatives, such as heat pump hot water systems along with the potential to add solar PV and solar water heating. Work is progressing.	ON TRACK
42	Incorporate ESD principles and PV solar generation within the design of the new Diamond Creek Pool Pavilion	A design brief has been finalised and ESD principles included within the project scope.	COMPLETE
43	Investigate alternative power sources for flashing lights that are used as part of Council traffic management operations.	Initial investigations have commenced with more options to be identified for consideration in Year 3.	ON TRACK
<b>Focus Area 6: Enhancing sustainable transport</b>			
44	Consider whether any upgrades to bike parking facilities at or near Council facilities are required to help encourage and support staff to ride.	This item is on hold and will carry into Year 3, while a suitable Civic Centre location is determined.	MINOR ISSUES
45	Complete the development of a new Integrated Transport Strategy that includes climate consideration.	The Integrated Transport Strategy development is underway with a discussion paper out for community consultation in April 2024. It includes a strong climate change mitigation focus.	ON TRACK
46	Complete and adopt the trails network implementation framework.	The strategy was completed and adopted on 30 April 2024.	COMPLETE
47	Implement Council's annual program of footpath installation in key locations where there is currently no footpath. Triaged list.	Over 1.2 kms of footpaths were completed for 23/24 and include: Kurrak Road, Leane Drive and Parsons Road, Anzac Avenue, Bishop Avenue, Challenger Street to Diamond Creek Trail	COMPLETE
48	Implement new work practices for the drivers of Council's heavy fleet, to reduce the time a truck is idling through the day in order to reduce emissions and fuel wastage.	Trends have been identified for vehicle idling and reasons for truck idling have been discussed with a number of drivers. Alternative practices to limit truck idling are being considered and investigations into onboard vehicle telematics that identify idling time have commenced. Telematics in trucks will enable reporting (length of time, emissions etc.) on vehicles idling to then look to implement better practices.	ON TRACK
49	Continue to operate a Local Producers Directory that supports and encourages residents to 'buy local' and 'reduce food miles'.	Directory live and will be updated as required.	COMPLETE
50	Continue to transition Council's passenger fleet and explore placement opportunities for electric charging stations for Council vehicles.	Three new electric vehicles have been added to Council's passenger fleet this year, to replace older vehicles. Placement opportunities for new EV charging infrastructure are being explored. It is expected that another location at the Civic Centre (in the front entrance car park) will be installed in 24/25. Energy infrastructure barriers to installing EV charging stations at Edendale Farm and Council's Operations Centre have been identified and solutions are being explored.	ON TRACK
51	Continue to participate at a regional level around placement opportunities for electric vehicle charging stations, while exploring targeted placement opportunities for electric charging stations in the Shire (Council Plan initiative)	A proposal from an electric vehicle charge station developer to install four high-powered electric vehicle charge stations (two 75kW twin outlet stations) within a Council carpark in the Eltham activity precinct, through federal grant funding, is being considered. This location and proposal is in line with the regional recommendations proposed in the Community EV Transition Plan developed for the Northern Council Alliance, which includes Nillumbik Shire Council.	ON TRACK
52	Continue to provide and maintain Council's community electric vehicle charging stations, including at the Eltham Leisure Centre; Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre, Greensborough; and Community Bank Stadium, Diamond Creek	All public electric vehicle charge stations across the shire have been maintained to a high level of continuous functionality. There was one record of an outlet fault, with repairs and function restored within one week of the fault being reported.	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE

#	Action	Annual Commentary	Status Column (as at 30 June 2024)
53	Investigate installing a bike repair station and additional bike racks at Edendale, and stocking puncture repair kits for sale.	New bike racks have been installed at the back / north pedestrian entrance of Edendale. The next step is to install the bike repair station and additional seating under the peppercorn tree.	COMPLETE
Focus Area 7: Achieving a zero waste and circular economy			
54	Work with the Victorian government to introduce a container deposit scheme in Nillumbik in 2023.	The Victorian Government container deposit scheme (CDS) launched 1 November 2023. There is a new CDS section on Council's website directing residents to the latest information, and some details have been shared via Council's communication channels.  Visy is the zone operator for the northern zone of Victoria, including Nillumbik. There are currently limited drop-off points in Nillumbik, however, this will increase as the network grows, with the aim of 600 drop-off points across Victoria by August 2024.	ON TRACK
55	Provide ongoing services that enable the recovery of materials to divert them from landfill, including: the provision of small e-waste collection hubs at various locations across the Shire, the curbside recycling collection service, hard-waste collection service for residents, hosting Detox Your Home, the Nillumbik reuse shop and Council's Recycling Centre in Plenty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As at March 2024, Council provided 6,105 hard waste collections this financial year.</li> <li>Following success of the fully-booked Detox Your Home event in May 2023, another is planned for 2024.</li> <li>Collection hubs for small e-waste and batteries continue to be provided at Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek, Eltham and Greensborough.</li> <li>Council's Recycling Centre continues to provide recycling options for garden waste, metal, e-waste, batteries, light globes, mobile phones, CDs/DVDs and video tapes, motor oil, paper and cardboard, tyres, mattresses, fridges/freezers/air conditioners and x-rays. This is supported by the on-site Reuse Shop.</li> <li>The kerbside bin collection service for recycling, food and garden organics and landfill has diverted 70.5% of waste from landfill. This is a slight decrease compared to the previous year to date due to lower recycling and food and garden organics tonnes.</li> </ul>	COMPLETE & ONGOING ANNUAL INITIATIVE
56	With grant funded support from Sustainable Victoria, deliver the following new projects that support the community (residents and businesses) to avoid and reduce waste generation:	-	
56a	Implement the 'Best Practice reusable nappy program' which builds on research to most effectively increase the uptake of reusable nappies within the community, and which will develop regional benchmark data to measure the impact of the program in terms of a reduction of waste to landfill.	This renewable nappy program has been delivered. It include a train-the-trainer workshop and three community workshops. There was very high involvement from Nillumbik residents compared to the other councils involved in the program. Seventy-seven Nillumbik residents participated in workshops. The overall program evaluation indicated that 80% of participants (across the 12 councils) are using reusable nappies following their involvement in the program.	COMPLETE
56b	Assess the viability of online garage sales by trialing the GarageSaleit platform (subject to grant outcome).	Collaborative grant application unsuccessful	COMPLETE
56c	Build the capacity of Nillumbik businesses to consider circular economy opportunities, via delivery of a Going Full Circle capacity building program (subject to grant outcome).	Collaborative grant application unsuccessful	COMPLETE
56d	Implement a suitable waste and recycling model in the Research shopping strip that helps businesses address their common waste avoidance, reduction and recycling issues.	Traders were engaged and ten site assessments conducted. Limited opportunities to change waste service options in the precinct that would improve resource recovery were identified, due to the location and available waste collection contractors - however somewhat improved bin storage areas and configuration, and signage and education about changes to the waste and recycling system were delivered.	COMPLETE
57	Deliver a circular economy pilot program for (10) businesses in the Shire in partnership with Monash Business School.	The first iteration of Council's partnership with Monash Business School has been delivered. Ten Nillumbik businesses were supported to progress their journey to circularity. Additional 'practical' workshops and presentations are being developed which will be open to the broader business community. A stand-out example of collaboration identified that is a successful step to circularity is a partnership between Imbue Gin Distillery and Naturally Goat - the spent gin botanicals are provided to Naturally Goat for feed, with the bi-product increasing the goats milk production and lowering their mite count.	COMPLETE

**CM.065/24 Nillumbik Climate Action Plan - Year 2 (23/24) Annual Performance Report and Year 3 (24/25) Implementation Plan**

**Attachment 2 Year 2 (23/24) CAP Implementation Report**

#	Action	Annual Commentary	Status Column (as at 30 June 2024)
58	Promote and help to build the sharing and repair economy across Nillumbik, including investigating the feasibility of hosting a repair café at Edendale.	A study has been underway on the feasibility of hosting a repair café at Edendale Farm. Community consultation during April and May received over 300 responses. Community champions to lead the development of a repair café are currently being sought. This work will continue into Year 3.  Additionally, Council has continued to help promote other local sharing and repair initiatives that are operating within the Shire.	ON TRACK
59	Continue to operate a Council service that collects and diverts Nillumbik's green waste from landfill to reduce methane emissions and return carbon to soils.	Nillumbik's residential green waste bin service continues. 7,866 tonnes of food and garden organics were collected and processed from June 2023-March 2024.	COMPLETE AND ONGING INITIATIVE
60	Review and improve Council's compost and worm farm subsidy program to help provide cost effective home composting tools for residents and to encourage more households to recycle food waste at home.	Options have been investigated and planning is underway, with a new program expected to launch in 2024.	ON TRACK
61	Develop and deliver a new food-waste diversion campaign that encourages residents to stop putting food waste into their red bins.	Council made free kitchen-caddies available for residents to encourage them to separate their food waste and place it into their FOGO green bin instead of their red bin. This campaign has been highly successful. Around 4500 kitchen-caddies have been supplied to date. Promotion included social media, Nillumbik News and pop-up engagement events at festivals and shopping precincts. The project was launched in August 2023 and caddies will continue to be available for residents to pick up from Council facilities.	COMPLETE
62	Reduce the amount of waste that is generated and that goes to landfill from Council facilities, with a Year 2 focus on Living and Learning Centres and the Eltham Community and Reception Centre (ECRC).		
62a	Consider the recommendations of the recent Waste Management Plan that was prepared for Eltham Living and Learning Centre and how they might also be applied across Councils other Living and Learning centres.	Ongoing team discussions are taking place around waste management for each venue.	ON TRACK
62b	Participate in a multi-council Circular Economy Leadership Management Program that is aimed at building the knowledge of Council officers to help lead the transition of council operations to a circular economy (subject to SV grant outcome).	Grant successful through the Sustainability Victoria Circular Economy Councils Fund.  The program will be delivered in Year 3.	ON TRACK
62c	Investigate options to provide a water bottle refill station at the ECRC	Installed and operational. Dual purpose for visitors, installed near the main kitchen	COMPLETE
62d	Establish a new fee-free cutlery, crockery and glassware use agreement for venue hirers at the ECRC to reduce single-use catering waste	System is in operation and appreciated by clients. Includes fee-free cutlery, crockery and glassware and majority of users' use this service, and they wash and return items. Since implementation, no hirers have brought their own or used an alternative disposable source.	COMPLETE
63	Provide instructional information for ECRC venue users on how to use its onsite organic waste recovery system.	This has been implemented and is working well. Signs in both kitchen areas, food waste bins are itemised. For large functions, bins are also signed.	COMPLETE
64	Where appropriate, specify and prioritise the use of recycled materials in Council's construction projects.	Tender specifications have all requested the use of green or eco products where suitable. This excludes concrete or asphalt that must be used within VicRoads roads. This is now standard practice, along with seeking waste-to-landfill minimisation initiatives on all construction contracts.	ON TRACK
65	Increase the use of recycled road material in Councils annual grading program. Baseline and target to be nominated this year.	Repurposeit has been trialled but has been challenging due to a lack of the quantity that is required, investigations will continue.	MINOR ISSUES
66	Investigate options for the use of acceptable street sweeping material and waste from storms and roadside drain clearing, so that it can be repurposed rather than disposed of as waste.	Council's Unsealed Roads team is increasing its disposal of cleared road and drain material to be repurposed. For example, in February, several hundred tonnes of stockpiled material was taken to a recycling facility as opposed to landfill.	ON TRACK
67	Continue to install furniture, such as seats and tables, in our open spaces that is made from recycled plastic or repurposed timber.	100% of furniture installs used recycled options (3 seats and 6 picnic settings) or repurposed options (pine from the Eltham Gateway project – the timber was milled and then used in boardwalks and seats on site).	COMPLETE AND ONGOING INITIATIVE

CM.065/24

Nillumbik Climate Action Plan - Year 2 (23/24) Annual Performance Report and Year 3 (24/25) Implementation Plan

Attachment 2: Nillumbik Climate Action Plan - Year 2 (23/24) CAP Implementation Report

#	Action	Annual Commentary	Status Column (as at 30 June 2024)
Focus Area 8: Integrated Water Management			
68	Commence a review of Council's Integrated Water Management Plan (Council Plan action)	Involvement in the Yarra Integrated Catchment Management Forum has continued, and Council has been exploring options to partner with Melbourne Water to conduct works that will help inform a review of Nillumbik's Integrated Water Management Plan. The timing of the review is being considered and it will be a future action of Council.	YET TO COMMENCE
69	Finalise and adopt a new Domestic Wastewater Management Plan to enable Council to effectively manage the risk associated with domestic wastewater across the Shire (Council Plan action)	Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2024 adopted at Council Meeting, 26 September 2023	COMPLETE
70	Develop an Edendale Integrated Water Management Plan.	An IWM Plan has been developed and implementation has commenced with a new, more efficient watering system at the nursery. The Plan prioritises projects based on impact, costs, funding opportunities and internal capacity/resourcing availability.	COMPLETE
71	Implement Council's IQ centrally controlled irrigation program which enables irrigation to be regulated based on weather conditions, to reduce water use and increase efficiencies.	The IQ central control system is working soundly, with flow sensors monitoring water usage.	COMPLETE & ONGOING INITIATIVE
72	Consider options to increase the use of non-potable water sources (including use of captured water from the Operations Centre) for use in street sweeping and wetting down unsealed roads as part of annual road grading program. Target to be considered this year.	Options have been considered and changes are being made to increase the use of non-potable water sources for operational use. This work will continue in Year 3, as we identify additional non-potable water sources that could feasibly be utilised.	ON TRACK

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## Nillumbik Climate Action Plan - Year 3 (2024/25) Implementation Plan

**The three goals of the Nillumbik Climate Action Plan 2022-2032 are to:**

- Goal 1 (Council mitigation) – Reduce Council's direct contribution to climate change. *Target: Net-zero Council emissions by 2030.*
- 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. *Target: Net-zero community emissions by 2035.*

Actions		Contributes to Goal #	New CAP initiative or ongoing
<b>Focus Area 1: Strong climate action leadership and culture</b>			
1	Annually report on climate-action initiatives delivered and progress to date against indicators and targets; and prepare the next year's annual implementation plan.	All	Ongoing
2	Expand the use of Council's new 'Climate Action Everyday logo' across a broader range of climate action and sustainability projects to help raise community and staff awareness of Council's diverse range of climate mitigation and adaptation action.	All	New
3	Consider climate risks and impacts (and adaptation and mitigation solutions) in the development/finalisation of new Council policies, strategies and plans. In Year 3 (2024/25) these will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of new four-year Council Plan</li> <li>- Development of new four-year Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan</li> <li>- Completion of new Biodiversity Strategy (<i>Focus Area 3</i>)</li> <li>- Completion of new Urban Tree Canopy Strategy</li> <li>- Completion of new Integrated Transport Strategy (<i>Focus Area 6</i>)</li> <li>- Completion of new Housing Strategy</li> </ul>	All	Ongoing
4	Trial a program of conducting face-to-face climate-action training for new staff as part of their induction process, that expands upon our embedded online Climate Action 101 induction training; and identify opportunities for staff to attend external training and conferences that support ongoing climate mitigation and adaptation learning.	All	New
5	Offer a Health and Wellbeing program and climate action events for Council staff, to continue to expand their climate awareness and improve wellbeing	All	New
6	Annually identify Council priorities for climate action advocacy and embed within Council's advocacy process	All	Ongoing
7	Participate in regional research (led by NAGA) into future carbon offsetting, insetting, drawdown and sequestration opportunities for local government	All	New
<b>Focus Area 2: Having a climate resilient, adaptive and safe community</b>			
8	Finalise then commence implementation of a 5-year plan for Edendale Community Environment Farm to be a Nillumbik Environment & Climate Action Hub and demonstrate climate action (mitigation and adaptation). An initial action is likely to include commencing a redesign of the Edendale website to provide educational climate action information.	All	Ongoing
9	Offer a wide range of in-person and online climate resilience/sustainability courses, information sessions and resources for local residents and businesses, through Living & Learning Nillumbik, Edendale and other venues.	3	New
10	Scope and implement two major communications campaigns that encourage and support community climate action: an electrification campaign and a ReThink sustainability campaign.	All	New
11	Offer training for local community groups and organisations focusing on how they can demonstrate 'sustainability leadership' by incorporating positive energy efficiency and waste practices into their day-to-day operations.	3	New

**CM.065/24 Nillumbik Climate Action Plan - Year 2 (23/24) Annual Performance Report and Year 3 (24/25) Implementation Plan**  
**Attachment 3. Year 3 (24/25) CAP Implementation Plan**

Actions		Contributes to Goal #	New CAP initiative or ongoing
12	Investigate opportunities to encourage more applications/nominations to Council's community grants, leadership programs and recognition/awards programs that have a climate action focus and embed/report on this.	All	New
13	Encourage and provide guidance for community events and placemaking projects that Council supports to transition to be more climate friendly.	3	New
14	Provide information about the sustainability aspects of Councils hireable facilities on Councils website, to assist hirers to consider the sustainability of venues when selecting what venue to hire.	3	New
15	Seek to annually commission and profile artists who focus on climate change and sustainability in their materials selection and/or their storytelling.	3	New
16	Partner with LaTrobe University, Melbourne Polytechnic and two neighbouring councils to deliver a regional Secondary School Sustainability Challenge program	3	New
17	Support youth led climate action through implementation of Council's Youth Strategy and responding to 2024 Youth Summit recommendations.	3	New
18	Continue to deliver bushfire preparedness information for the community in conjunction with the CFA and other partners; and share agency heat health and other climate/weather-related health messages and warnings to the community via Council media channels.	3	Ongoing
19	Deliver the final 6 months of the grant-funded Disaster Resilient Nillumbik project that aims to help lessen the effect of potential catastrophic natural events by enhancing community disaster preparedness and resilience, including running a community emergency exercise and regular preparedness pop-ups.	3	Ongoing
20	Train relevant staff in the use of a Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness approach to best support people with disability to tailor emergency preparedness planning to their individual support needs.	2	New
21	Continue advocacy for streamlining involvement of agencies in disaster response.	2	New
<b>Focus Area 3: Having a climate resilient natural environment</b>			
22	Finalise, then implement, Councils new Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Tree Canopy Strategy with a climate mitigation and resilience lens, seeking opportunities to reduce urban heat-island impacts and provide climate resilient habitat for example.	2 & 3	New
23	Develop an indigenous perspectives education program at Edendale Farm, with particular reference to Wurundjeri seasons, changing land management and connecting to country.	3	New
24	Prepare a list of climate change resilient plants (i.e. heat, flood etc) that our community can purchase through Edendale nursery.	3	New
25	Investigate options to calculate the potential 'carbon sequestration value' of the plants sold at Edendale nursery	2 & 3	New
<b>Focus Area 4: Having climate responsive Council services, facilities/buildings and infrastructure</b>			
26	Explore and develop training opportunities for staff in collaboration with support agencies to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies	2	New
27	Implement the findings from Council's 'sectorisation project' to further enhance how Council allocates resources and prepares for emergency events in order to minimise the time that roads, footpaths, trails and drainage systems are subsequently out of action. Including; updating warning signage, investigating additional gates at high risk locations, training for impacted staff, updated infrastructure	2	Ongoing

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Actions		Contributes to Goal #	New CAP initiative or ongoing
28	Finalise and implement Councils new 'Environmentally Sustainable Development' (design, building and works) (ESD) Policy 2024' and associated standards - which will provide parameters around having ESD principles incorporated within Council's annual capital works, infrastructure, building renewal and maintenance works.	All	Ongoing
29	Continue to investigate the installation of a Shade Sail over the amphitheatre at Edendale to support sun smart outdoor learning and school education programs	2	Ongoing
30	Conduct maintenance of Council's static fire water-tanks as per the findings of a 2023 audit and associated triaged recommendations.	2	New
<b>Focus Area 5: Achieving net-zero emissions energy use</b>			
<b>Community focus:</b>			
31	Expand Councils <i>Sustainability Advisory Service</i> to be available to business' as well as local residents, and at a variety of times and locations.	3	New
32	Promote state and federal funding/grant opportunities for Nillumbik businesses to invest in sustainability initiatives and transition to net zero.	3	New
33	Deliver a series of renewable energy and energy efficiency education programs for local residents and businesses including some that help participants to learn how to reduce emissions themselves and one that helps to create new net-zero community champions	3	New
34	Continue to help identify and support feasible opportunities for local community battery / micro grids / virtual power plants, via collaboration with community partners and the network provider as opportunities arise.	3	Ongoing
35	Promote the advantages of 'building' sustainability to Nillumbik sporting clubs and explore opportunities to engage directly with sporting clubs to improve energy efficiency at their facilities.	3	New
36	Collaborate with Nillumbik early years educators to identify how best to support them to be able to access information about relevant climate resilience and sustainability practices - for practical implementation.	3	New
<b>Council operations focus:</b> <i>Implement Council's 2023-2030 Zero Emissions Roadmap that guides Council's transition to net-zero emissions, in a staged approach, by 2030.</i> <i>Year 3 will focus on the following initiatives:</i>			
37	Join the local government Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) which pools our joint electricity needs into a single long-term energy supply contract - sourced from renewable energy generated from Victorian wind-farms.	1	New
38	Replace all of Nillumbik's remaining mercury vapour street lighting with LED lighting	1	New
39	Commence a major upgrade of the energy infrastructure at Councils Recycling and Operations Centre in Plenty (subject to grant outcome) to enable the installation of EV charging stations and additional solar.  <i>Note, if this grant is secured, considerable Council resources will be focused on contributing co-funding to deliver it. Therefore many of the below emissions reduction actions would be reprogrammed to occur at a later date.</i>	1	New
40	Review the findings of recent energy-efficiency and gas-replacement audits undertaken at Eltham Leisure Centre, Community Bank Stadium and Diamond Creek Community Centre, to identify future emission reduction opportunities at these venues.	1 & 3	New
41	Undertake gas replacement feasibility audits at all Council facilities to help inform Council and tenants of replacement opportunities (or barriers).	1	New

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Actions		Contributes to Goal #	New CAP initiative or ongoing
42	Support tenants of Council buildings (sports clubs and community organisations etc.) to install solar - by undertaking solar feasibility audits ( <i>at up to four sporting pavilions this year</i> ) and by promoting and implementing Council's new 'Tenant Solar Support Process'.	1	New
43	Undertake lighting audits at Council's public toilet blocks to identify sites where LED lighting upgrades are required.	1	New
44	Install solar panels at Hurstbridge Hub and the Hurstbridge Mens Shed ( <i>dependent on outcome of action 41</i> )	1	New
45	Explore the opportunity to install a battery at the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre ( <i>grant-dependent</i> ).	1 & 3	New
46	Provide thermal and energy efficiency upgrades at various Council facilities, including: - upgrading the lighting at Eltham Leisure Centre; and potentially several preschools, sports clubs, halls and toilet blocks; - installing solar hot water service and heat pump at Diamond Creek Pool; - thermal efficiencies at Meruka Childcare Co-op; - etc ( <i>all dependent on outcome of action 41</i> )	1	New
47	Complete research into alternative power sources for flashing lights that are used as part of Council traffic management operations, and trial the proposed new option.	1	Ongoing
<b>Focus Area 6: Enhancing sustainable transport</b>			
48	Conduct a 12 month trial of new work practices for the drivers of Council's heavy fleet, to reduce the time a truck is idling through the day in order to reduce emissions and fuel wastage.	1	New
49	Provide visitor and secure staff bike parking facilities at the Civic Centre, Greensborough.	1 & 3	Ongoing
50	Progress the development of a new Integrated Transport Strategy which includes a focus on climate and sustainability.	1 & 3	Ongoing
51	Identify and apply for grant funding opportunities, for example from Victoria Walks, TAC etc, to deliver active-transport initiatives.	3	New
52	Implement Council's annual program of footpath installation in key locations where there is currently no footpath. Triaged list.	3	Ongoing
53	Commence a review of Council's passenger and tool-of-trade fleet to determine fit-for-purpose criteria ahead of future electric vehicle purchases, promoting down-sizing for improved efficiency where suitable; and continue to transition Council's fleet to be electric.	1	New
54	Pursue opportunities for new public electric vehicle charge stations to be installed in Nillumbik.	1 & 3	Ongoing
<b>Focus Area 7: Achieving a zero waste and circular economy</b>			
55	Provide services that enable the recovery of materials to divert them from landfill, including: the provision of e-waste collection hubs, kerbside recycling and FOGO collection services, a hard-waste collection service for residents, hosting Detox Your Home, the Nillumbik reuse shop and Council's Recycling Centre in Plenty, and awareness raising of container deposit locations.	3	Ongoing
56	Deliver new projects that support the community (residents and businesses) to avoid and reduce waste generation and improve landfill diversion	3	Ongoing
57	Support potential new 'community-sharing' initiatives to start-up in Nillumbik by delivering training and subsequent one-on-one mentoring.	3	New
58	Review and improve Council's compost and worm farm subsidy program to help provide cost effective home composting tools for residents and to encourage more households to recycle food waste at home.	3	New

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Actions		Contributes to Goal #	New CAP initiative or ongoing
59	Further develop the waste reduction and associated education system at Eltham Community Reception Centre. Showcase the enhancements to other Nillumbik facility managers to identify potential opportunities for enhanced waste reduction options to be considered at those sites.	3	New
60	Further investigate the feasibility of hosting a repair café at Edendale.	3	New
61	Implement phase 2 and 3 of Council's Sustainability Victoria <i>Circular Economy Household Education Fund grant</i> , focusing on recycling contamination, waste avoidance and food waste diversion.	3	New
62	Develop and distribute circular economy business information factsheets and flyers to help enable Nillumbik business's to participate in the circular economy	3	New
63	Participate in a regional, multi-council Circular Economy Leadership Program that aims to build the knowledge of Council officers to lead the transition of council operations to a circular economy	All	Ongoing
64	Continue to specify that recycled products should be used where suitable in Council construction projects, and progress research into how to collect data on the volumes of such products that are used. This will include a trial project.	1	Ongoing
65	Conduct further research into how to measure/ track the use of recycled road material in Councils annual grading program.	1	Ongoing
66	Embed the practice of repurposing acceptable street sweeping material and waste from storms and roadside drain clearing, rather than disposing of it as waste.	1	Ongoing
<b>Focus Area 8: Integrated Water Management</b>			
67	Consider opportunities to increase the use of non-potable water sources from additional locations for use in street sweeping and wetting down unsealed roads as part of the annual road grading program (including use of captured water from the Operations Centre, Eltham Leisure Centre, Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre and Hurstbridge).	2	Ongoing
68	Partner with Melbourne Water to commence flood modelling and mapping of flood risk areas across Nillumbik.	2 & 3	New
69	Implement Council's annual drainage improvement program in key locations. Triaged approach.	2 & 3	Ongoing

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# Draft Biodiversity Strategy

2024 – 2034

*Draft Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy 2024 - 2034*

## 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.



### Acknowledgements

This strategy was prepared with the support of environmental consultancy, NGH; Council's Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee; and many other stakeholders and community members who engaged via consultation processes.

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*Draft Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy 2024 - 2034*

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*Draft Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy 2024 - 2034*

## **Message from our Councillors**

Nillumbik's unique and highly valued biodiversity is important to our community and central to our health, wellbeing and climate actions.

In the face of growing environmental challenges, including climate change and habitat loss, the need for a strategic approach to biodiversity conservation is critical.

This Strategy represents our commitment to safeguarding our natural heritage, helping to protect and enhance our biodiversity and environment into the future.

The Strategy provides a comprehensive framework to help guide Council over the coming decade. It outlines clear goals, targets and objectives that aim to protect our flora and fauna, restore native habitats, and support our community to act for nature.

Many factors have informed its development including research, environmental data, extensive community consultation, Government policy and adopted Council strategies.

The community consultation undertaken for the Strategy highlights how passionate and dedicated Nillumbik community members are about protecting Nillumbik's biodiversity. We love living in the Green Wedge Shire. Our community shares a strong connection to nature and see the protection of our biodiversity as a priority.

Our Strategy has four focus areas of action: Leadership and advocacy, People and partnerships, Species and habitat enhancement, and Mitigating threatening processes and impacts.

Central to the success of preserving our Shire's precious environment, is the ongoing dedicated efforts of Nillumbik volunteers and landholders who contribute to protecting and enhancing Nillumbik's biodiversity. Their commitment is invaluable, and we acknowledge their passion and hard work in preserving our unique natural landscape.

It is through their dedication that, together, we can achieve meaningful progress towards our goals of having healthy biodiversity and a community that values and cares for nature.

We encourage you to read this important document, get involved in conservation initiatives, and join Council in taking meaningful action.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Strategy overview

The Shire of Nillumbik, also known as The Green Wedge Shire, is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.

Our biodiversity and its character are strongly valued by Council and our community:

- Our indigenous flora and fauna are precious and are in our safekeeping.
- Our natural environment is at the very heart of our lifestyle and is fundamental to the beauty of our landscape, our neighbourhood character, our economy, culture and our health and wellbeing.

Supporting a diverse array of flora and fauna, Nillumbik is around 43,000 hectares (ha) in size, 91 per cent of which is outside of Melbourne’s urban growth boundary.

Most land is privately owned (61 percent), and the rest is public land (reserves, parks, roads, schools etc):

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| • 61 per cent is private land            | • 5 per cent is Melbourne Water |
| • 24 per cent is national parks/reserves | • 2 per cent is Council owned   |
| • 8 per cent is other crown land         |                                 |

This Biodiversity Strategy considers biodiversity action in urban and rural contexts; and it provides the strategic direction to support Council’s work in helping to protect and enhance biodiversity across public and private land over the next ten years.

Its goals are that:

**Goal 1 - The biodiversity of Nillumbik is healthy**

**Goal 2 - Nillumbik’s community values and cares for nature.**

Detail on these goals is provided in Section 4 “What we will do”

Ambitious targets are proposed, including:

- Achieve a net gain in the extent, connectivity and condition of habitat by 2034
- 70 per cent of Nillumbik’s residents are acting to protect our natural environment by 2034.

The Strategy:

- Considers threats and opportunities, setting objectives that seek to protect our current biodiversity; improve its condition; and help restore and enhance connectivity where it’s fragmented, over time.
- Seeks to connect people with nature – so that they can enjoy the outdoors and thrive from its intrinsic health and wellbeing benefits; and to help build their appreciation of biodiversity and interest in taking action to care for it.
- Seeks to enable action that will guide conservation where it is needed the most; and improve the resilience of our natural environment to cope with climate change.
- Recognises that harnessing a collective effort is instrumental - Council, private landholders, environmental volunteer groups, the general community, Traditional Owners and entities such as Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water all have an important role to play in sustaining a healthy biodiversity and a community that values nature.

A detailed implementation plan will be prepared annually which will list the specific actions that will be undertaken that year.

Our four focus areas for action are: Leadership and advocacy; People and partnerships; Species and habitat enhancement; and Mitigating threatening processes and impacts.

*Draft Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy 2024 - 2034*

*“Biodiversity encompasses all components of the living world: the number and variety of plants, animals and other living things, including fungi and micro-organisms, across our land, rivers, coast and ocean. It includes the diversity of their genetic information, the habitats and ecosystems within which they live, and their connections with other life forms and the natural world”.*

## 1.2. Why Council has a Biodiversity Strategy

Biodiversity is fundamentally important; it is essential for the processes that support all life. It creates balance, with every lifeform playing a part in maintaining that balance; and it provides environmental, social, wellbeing and economic benefits.

Globally however, biodiversity is declining. Climate change is bringing new and challenging threats to biodiversity which need to be addressed; and in Australia - over the last 200 years - human activity, weeds and pest animals have greatly impacted biodiversity, resulting in the loss of many native species and habitats. This needs to be halted.

The importance of biodiversity and the factors that are contributing to its decline are why Council has a Biodiversity Strategy.

Recognising that it is complex, we need to do our best to help protect and enhance our indigenous biodiversity locally in Nillumbik; and to contribute to state, national and global strategic action.

## 1.3. The steps taken to develop the Strategy

In developing this Strategy, we were guided by international conventions; the goals of the Victorian State Government's *Protecting Victoria's Environment, Biodiversity 2037 strategy*; and other national, state, regional and local policy considerations (discussed in **Appendix A**).

- **Phase 1** - We reviewed the outcomes of our *Biodiversity Strategy 2012* and *Invasive Species Action Plan 2015*.
- **Phase 2** - We researched legislative requirements, policy, publicly available biodiversity data, and best practice management.
- **Phase 3** - We asked the community what their priorities are. We received feedback from 350 people, which included 184 survey respondents plus people who attended workshops and pop-up consultations.
- **Phase 4** - We consulted with Council advisory committees, Traditional Owners and partners.
- **Phase 5** - The draft strategy was placed on public exhibition - 112 people provided feedback that helped further refine the strategy.
- **Phase 6** - The strategy was adopted by Council on 30 July 2024.

### Considering community views

Across all engagement activities, community members consistently and strongly indicated that biodiversity is very important.

Community survey respondents told us:

- They think that five biggest threats to biodiversity in Nillumbik are:
  1. Habitat / vegetation loss
  2. Climate change impacts
  3. Subdivision and development of land / tree canopy loss in urban areas
  4. Pest animals such as foxes, deer, rabbits and cats

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5. Weeds

- The five most important actions they want Council to take, to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik are:
  1. “Greater use and enforcement of planning rules and other regulatory tools to protect trees/native vegetation and other biodiversity on private land”
  2. “Embed consideration of nature and biodiversity into all Council decision making”
  3. “Advocate to state and federal governments to take biodiversity supportive action”
  4. “Community education and awareness raising about protecting and enhancing biodiversity”
  5. “Manage pest animals on Council land”.

#### **1.4. Strategic context within Council**

This Biodiversity Strategy supports the delivery of our Community Vision and our Council Plan, which place high importance on caring for our environment; and it is delivered in tandem with a range of Council strategies and plans, listed in **Appendix A**, that operate together to help manage biodiversity values and provide positive environment and community outcomes.

## 2. Nillumbik's biodiversity and threats

### 2.1. Our biodiversity

Across Australia, more than 1.75 million species of plants, animals and other organisms have been identified so far, and there are likely to be many more. Our biodiversity is unlike any other in the world, with nearly half of our birds and more than half of our mammals unique to Australia.

Nillumbik alone supports a wonderfully diverse array of species and their habitats, spanning the riparian forests along the Yarra River and woodlands along the Plenty River, to the gullies and hills leading up to the Kinglake Plateau of the Great Dividing Range.

In comparison with Victoria's other metropolitan and peri urban areas, we have a very diverse and relatively healthy biodiversity, and a large extent of remnant vegetation. In the last 30 years, an incredible 44 per cent of Melbourne's indigenous terrestrial flora species and 33 per cent of terrestrial fauna species have been observed in Nillumbik<sup>1</sup>.

Our landscape includes a mix of urban, peri-urban and rural areas across various land tenures; with national and state parks, dry forests and woodlands, wet and damp forests, waterways and wetlands, and rural land.

We are one of the 12 green wedges of metropolitan Melbourne.

#### **Nillumbik's Bioregions and Ecological Vegetation Classes**

**Bioregions** are a landscape-scale approach to classifying the environment using a range of attributes such as climate, geomorphology, geology, soils and vegetation. There are 28 bioregions within Victoria, and Nillumbik is primarily located in the *Highlands - Southern Fall bioregion* on the southerly aspect of the Great Dividing Range. There is also a small area of the *Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion* in the west of the Shire.

**Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs)** is the term used to classify different vegetation types across Victoria. Different EVCs will typically support different plants (flora) and animals (fauna).

Over 20 EVCs are found in Nillumbik, covering approximately 29,000 ha<sup>2</sup>. A map of their extent and accompanying statistics is presented in **Appendix B**.

Each EVC has a 'bioregional conservation status' rating, which is based on the level of depletion in each bioregion (compared to its modelled pre-1750 extent and condition).

The five most commonly occurring EVC's in Nillumbik, and their 'bioregional conservation status', in order of extent, are:

- Grassy Dry Forest (*Least Concern*)
- Valley Grassy Forest (*Vulnerable*)
- Herb-rich Foothill Forest (*Least Concern*)
- Heathy Dry Forest (*Least Concern*)
- Riparian Forest (*Least Concern*)

The EVCs that occur widely within our parks and other public land reserves are provided with the highest level of security and protection.

Some of Nillumbik's EVC's have little representation in such areas - including: Plains Grassy Woodland (*Endangered*), Creekline Herb-rich Woodland (*Vulnerable*), and Valley Grassy Forest (*Vulnerable*).

Over the past decade, native vegetation removal within the Shire has most severely impacted Grassy Dry Forest (*Least Concern*), Valley Grassy Forest (*Vulnerable*) and Swampy Riparian Complex (*Endangered*).

<sup>1</sup> ALA - Atlas of Living Australia, 2023

<sup>2</sup> Victorian government - Bioregions and EVC benchmarks, 2017, accessed via NatureKit, 2024

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### Nillumbik's vegetation extent

Nillumbik is fortunate to retain a high cover of native vegetation across the Shire. While indigenous native vegetation is preferable and offers greater habitat value, most vegetation has some biodiversity value.

Table 2-1 Native vegetation and tree canopy extent by land tenure

Cover	Council managed (ha)	Govt/ Public controlled (ha)	Private land (ha)	Total (ha)	% of cover on Council land	% of cover on Public controlled	% of cover on Private land	Total % cover of Shire
<b>Native vegetation<sup>1</sup></b>	479	8,551	20,256	29,296	2%	29%	69%	68%
<b>Tree canopy 2m+ (native &amp; exotic)<sup>2</sup></b>	437	7,909	13,615	21,962	2%	36%	62%	51%

<sup>1</sup> – Native vegetation extent is derived from Landsat data mapped at 30 meter spatial resolution, includes native grasses, herbs, shrubs and trees. Source: DELWP 2017, based on the 2017 Native Vegetation Regulation Extent mapping.

<sup>2</sup> – Tree canopy extent includes native and exotic species, trees and shrubs 2 meters + in height, Lidar data mapped at 21cm spatial resolution. Source: DELWP 2021, based on Vic Map 2019/20 vegetation tree extent mapping.

**Native vegetation extent** (covering approximately 29,000 ha in Nillumbik) includes all native vegetation shrublands, grasslands and wetlands. This Strategy seeks to achieve a net gain in native vegetation extent over the coming decade.

Table 2-1 above provides a breakdown of native vegetation extent by land tenure type:

- Over two-thirds of our native vegetation is located on private land.
- The locations of the largest areas of native vegetation on public land in Nillumbik are, in size order:
  - Kinglake National Park, managed by Parks Victoria
  - Warrandyte - Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve, managed by Parks Victoria
  - Plenty Gorge Parklands, managed by Parks Victoria
  - Over 100 bushland reserves (totalling around 500 ha), located across the Shire, managed by Council.

**Tree canopy**, considered for the purpose of this strategy to be woody vegetation (both native and exotic species) greater than two metres in height<sup>3</sup>, is estimated to cover approximately 22,000ha or 51 per cent of the Shire.

A map in **Appendix C** illustrates the presence and absence of tree canopy cover across Nillumbik, derived from aerial photography.

A relatively small percentage of Nillumbik's tree extent is exotic (not native) including plantations, ornamental trees and environmental weeds (objectives to reduce weed presence are included in this Strategy).

This Strategy includes a target to (at least) maintain this tree canopy extent at 51 per cent. There are many challenges to this, which are discussed under 'threats' and responded to within the objectives of this Strategy.

<sup>3</sup> This height has been selected because (in 2024) high resolution aerial photography data at 2m+ was the most readily available data point to measure and monitor change. Technology may improve over time.



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**Nillumbik's plant and animal species**

The Shire supports a large array of native plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms:

- Over 990 indigenous flora (plant species), including 42 species that are considered threatened at a national or state level have been recorded.
- Around 400 indigenous fauna (animal species), including 71 species that are classified as threatened at a national or state level have been recorded.

The below tables provide a summary of local species records and threatened species data.

Table 2-2 Species records across the Shire

Taxon Group	Total number of species	Number of records
Plants (native)	992	52,943
Fungi (may include some exotic species)	381	6,430
Birds (native)	307	529,683
Mammals (native)	41	5,533
Frogs (native)	18	170,464
Reptiles (native)	33	1,653
Insects (native)	1,831	12,635
Fish (native)	18	913

Source: (ALA 2023; VBA 2023)

Table 2-3 Number of threatened flora and fauna in Nillumbik, listed under federal and state legislation

Status:	EPBC-listed species (Federal)		FFG-listed species (State)	
	Flora	Fauna	Flora	Fauna
Critically endangered	1	3	10	10
Endangered	3	7	25	27
Vulnerable	3	14	6	29
Total*	7	24	41	66

Source: Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) and Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG Act)

\*Some species are listed at both a federal and state level (i.e. in both the EPBC and FFG Acts).

The *Australia State of the Environment Report* identified that between 2017 and 2021 there was an 8 per cent increase in the number of species listed as threatened, or reassessed as meeting criteria for a higher level of risk of extinction (e.g. moved from Vulnerable to Endangered to Critically Endangered), across Australia.

A list of the threatened species that are present in Nillumbik (as per the Federal EPBC Act and the Victorian FFG Act), is provided in **Appendix E**.

Absence of monitoring and data collection for most threatened species, at the state and local level, means that it is difficult to determine species-specific improvement or decline for most species occurring in Nillumbik. Opportunities to improve such monitoring are being sought.

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**Nillumbik's habitat corridors**

Habitat corridors seek to connect areas of habitat to allow movement for both flora and fauna species. A habitat corridor can vary in size. For example some connect regions, down to corridors on properties. There are many habitat corridors across public and private land in Nillumbik. A map depicting major corridors is provided in **Appendix D**.

- Regional habitat corridors include the Yarra River and the catchments of its major tributaries (Plenty River, Arthurs Creek, Diamond Creek and Watsons Creek). They are considered critical to the maintenance of faunal/habitat significance at the regional level. Native vegetation corridors along waterways, or often along roadsides, support the passage of wildlife between natural areas.
- Local habitat corridors and 'stepping stones', including those in urban areas, provide essential connectivity where fragmentation of important populations of species, such as the Eltham Copper Butterfly (*Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida*), are at risk from genetic isolation.
- Shelterbelts and windbreaks act as local habitat corridors in rural areas, provided they are wide enough.

Action to protect, enhance and further connect these corridors, particularly in strategically important locations, is a desired outcome to help support the goals of this strategy.

**Case Study – Phascogales and habitat corridors**

The benefits of wildlife corridors can be evidenced in examples such as the Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*). The Nillumbik area remains an important stronghold for Phascogales, which forage over great distances in their home range: 30-60 ha for females and 100 ha for males, nesting in about 30 different sites each year.

For such species, habitat corridors that link core habitat areas (which have native vegetation, large hollow bearing trees, logs and stumps for shelter etc) are vital - as they enable animals to move from one area of bushland to another.

**Nillumbik's 'Strategic Biodiversity Values' in a state-wide context**

All of these biodiversity considerations should be considered together.

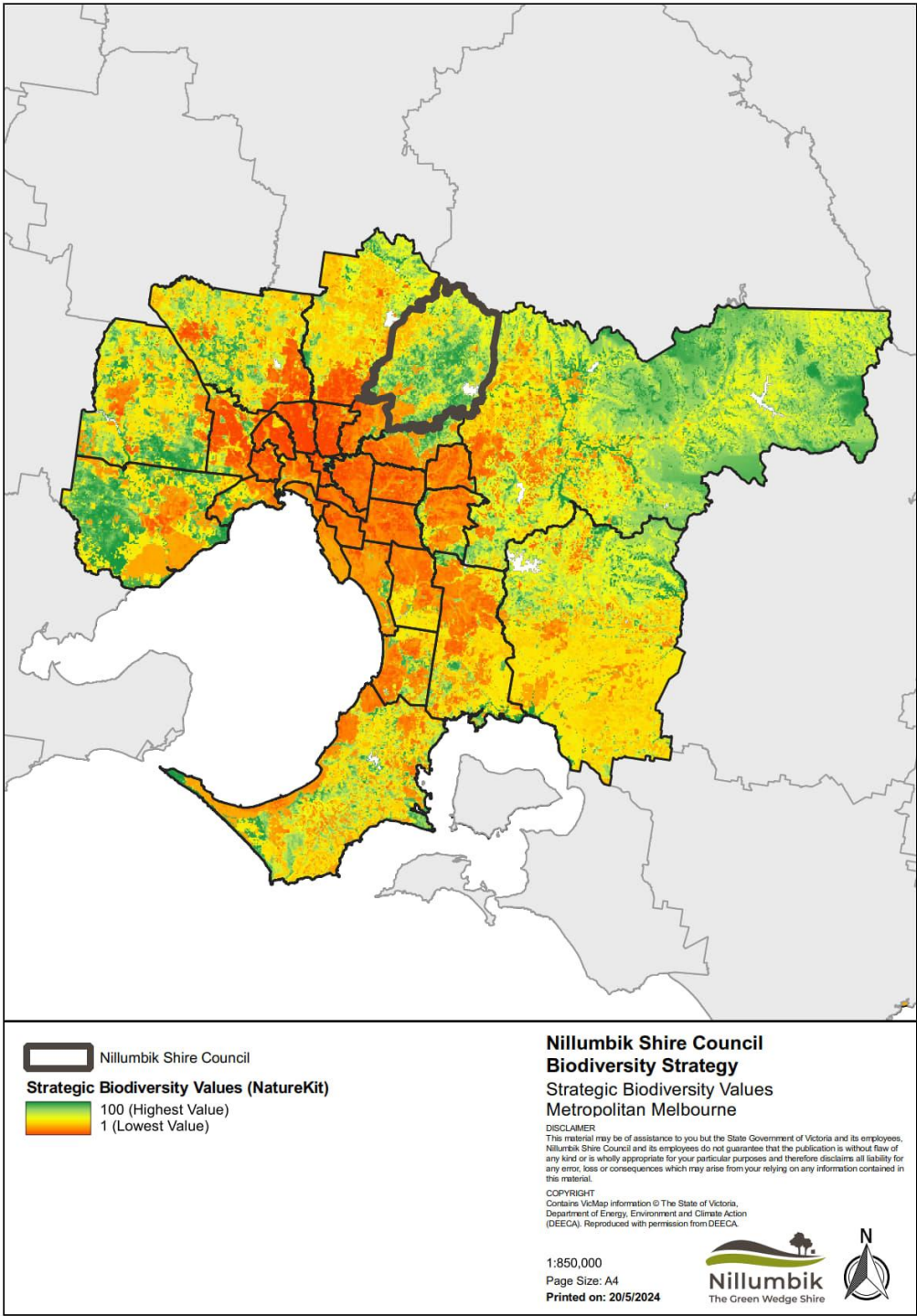
State government developed spatial analytical tools set 'strategic biodiversity value' scores (0–100) that provide a score of relative biodiversity importance to all parts of the Victorian landscape. These scores are derived from a combination of data for important areas for threatened flora and fauna, levels of depletion, connectivity, vegetation types and condition.

Nillumbik's scores are high in a Victorian context, and of particular note, scores are high across much of our private as well as public land.

**Figure 1** illustrates Nillumbik's comparatively high biodiversity values compared with other Greater Melbourne local government areas, and also shows which areas of our shire score higher than others.

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Figure 1 - Nillumbik’s ‘strategic biodiversity values’ in a regional context



Source: DEECA 2023, Victorian Government Naturekit tool

## 2.2. Threats to the health of biodiversity in Nillumbik

The threatening processes impacting biodiversity within the Shire, and the challenges associated with achieving a community that values nature and acts to care for it, are many and varied. This Strategy seeks to provide strategic direction to better understand and respond to these challenges.

As set out in the globally recognised *International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List*, and adapted for use in federal *State of the Environment* reporting, threats to biodiversity can include:

- climate change
- urban development
- human disturbance
- invasive species (e.g. weeds, pest animals and pathogens)
- ecosystem modification
- pollution
- agricultural activity
- traffic and transport
- over-exploitation
- energy production and mining

Successful mitigation of such threats requires targeted action with consistent and ongoing resourcing.

### **Case studies - The causes and consequences of threats to Nillumbik's biodiversity vary, for example:**

- Climate change in south-eastern Australia is creating warmer days and more heatwaves, as well as declining cool season rainfall. In the Nillumbik region, by 2050, it is predicted that days over 35°C will double, while annual rainfall will concurrently decline by 8 per cent. This poses a threat to the health and persistence of biodiversity, especially through the exacerbation of other threats such as increased severity of fires and reduced flows within waterways.
- Infrastructure including roads and rail, can form barriers to wildlife movement, severing habitat connectivity and isolating populations. Wildlife vehicle collisions cause serious injury and death to numerous species. Over 3,500 animals were recorded by Wildlife Victoria as 'hit by vehicle' within Nillumbik between 2012 and 2022. Higher levels of road vehicle collisions are associated with vehicle speed, traffic volume and presence of roadside vegetation cover.
- Historic and ongoing land-use changes within the Shire have led to habitat loss and fragmentation. Habitat fragmentation impairs essential ecological processes such as pollination, natural regeneration and the distribution of fauna. If species are restricted to small, isolated islands of habitat, biodiversity becomes less resilient and more vulnerable to other threats. Reduced populations and genetics ultimately lead to declining biodiversity.
- There are a variety of habitat / vegetation-loss causes that are threats to biodiversity. Permitted and non-permitted native vegetation removal is an obvious contributor, which requires ongoing education and enforcement responses. Track building and off trail riding in Nillumbik's reserves and roadsides can lead to habitat degradation, increased weeds and erosion of soils.
- The quality of vegetation and habitats on public and private land is under sustained pressure from herbivores. Over-grazing can contribute to changes in the structure, diversity and composition of native vegetation communities; erosion and compaction of soil; damage to waterways and water quality; spread of diseases, pathogens and weed seeds; and has led to a gradual decline in the presence and abundance of a number of flora and fauna species.

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- Predatory pest animals such as Foxes and Cats have caused the extinction of numerous native species throughout Australia. In Nillumbik, both threatened and common native animals, including mammals, reptiles, and birds, are significantly affected. The control of predatory pest animals, at both landscape levels and in urban environments is difficult and takes significant resources.
- Weeds impact on our native plants and animals by reducing habitat quality; out-competing native flora species; harbouring pest animals; changing ecosystem composition, structure and function; and hybridising with locally indigenous plants. Nillumbik sits in a peri-urban environment where weeds originate from diverse sources such as garden escapes and agricultural contaminants. These invasive plants spread through various means - including wind, animal and human activities.
- Invasive pathogens can include diseases, fungi and parasites which affect the health and resilience of native vegetation or impact specific species. In Nillumbik, examples affecting local biodiversity include Cinnamon Fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) and Myrtle Rust (*Uredo rangeli*) on plants and Chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*) on frogs.
- There is a growing body of research showing a global reduction in people's connection with nature. Under-appreciation of biodiversity and disconnection from nature may prevent action on biodiversity conservation. People with an understanding and appreciation of nature are more likely to care for and act to protect it.

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### 3. Previous biodiversity action that we're building upon

Council and our partners implement a wide variety of programs and actions which have contributed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity across the Shire.

These projects and programs are undertaken collaboratively where possible; with other levels of government, agencies, neighbouring councils, landholders and community groups.

#### 3.1. Biodiversity action by Council

This Strategy builds upon decades of action.

There are many ways that Council invests in biodiversity and invasive species action, these broadly include:

- Managing Council owned land, including 100 bushland and wetland conservation reserves and 1,200km of roadsides. *(Allocation of biodiversity and invasive species resources is managed to achieve best possible outcomes, but there are gaps).*
- Raising awareness and educating our community about biodiversity and sustainable land management. Including through advice, events, publications and awards.
- Providing incentives for positive land management and conservation (grants and rate rebates).
- Edendale Community Environment Farm's education program and indigenous plant nursery.
- Advocacy for change that will support biodiversity outcomes, including through legislative reviews, parliamentary inquiries, and policy and budget submissions.
- Implementing Council's regulatory system via our planning scheme and local laws which guide permissible land use, and which include a focus on achieving positive biodiversity outcomes.
- Supporting Landcare, Friends of and other community groups and volunteers to act for the local environment.
- Facilitating partnership projects to enable effective projects across multiple land tenures, often at a landscape scale, including obtaining grants to leverage and provide more cost-effective results.

Some examples of Council projects delivered collaboratively include:

- The Nillumbik Gardens for Wildlife program, established in partnership with the community
- Land Management Incentive grant Program
- Nillumbik Forest Health Monitoring Program
- Nillumbik Deer Control Project
- Eltham Copper Butterfly monitoring
- Involvement in the development of the Eastern Region Pest Animal Strategy 2020 – 2030
- Sugarloaf Link Project (deer, foxes and weeds)
- Rivers to Ranges Project (peri-urban landscape scale weed control)
- Conservation Futures Project, focusing on threatened flora and fauna species
- Southern Toadlet and Threatened Orchid working groups
- Management of several native vegetation offset sites, including Chase Reserve in North Warrandyte.

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

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### 3.2. Biodiversity action in the community

We are very fortunate that so many people in the Nillumbik community value and care for biodiversity in all its forms. Council values these people who are making significant contributions to protecting and improving biodiversity, both in formal volunteer capacities and in their day-to-day lives.

A highly motivated network of individuals and community groups focus on the environment, undertaking on-ground works, advocacy, lobbying and communication to encourage and support positive and collaborative action. For example:

- 10+ Landcare groups operate across the Shire, supported by many in their local communities, the Nillumbik Landcare Network, and a state funded Landcare Facilitator.
- 20+ Friends of Groups undertake important habitat restoration and revegetation works, largely in Council's bushland reserves; and additional Friends of Groups support the biodiversity of local Parks Victoria reserves.
- Several volunteer-based wildlife rescue groups and shelters operate locally, supporting injured wildlife.
- Various community groups who want to support biodiversity to thrive actively engage with others to inspire, encourage and support action.
- Through Citizen Science our community is supporting initiatives such as BirdLife Australia's 'Birds in Backyards', iNaturalist BioBlitzes, DeerScan, Frog census and platypusSPOT.
- Individuals are planting wildlife gardens at home and managing their properties sustainably (including some who, through Trust for Nature covenants, are protecting properties for biodiversity in perpetuity).

The action that individual people and community groups are undertaking is incredibly important. Council hopes that, over the life of this strategy, even more people in our community will value and act for nature.

### 3.3. Biodiversity action by agencies and Government

State and federal government provide a variety of legislative and policy tools to protect biodiversity; these are discussed in **Appendix A**. They also invest in various programs that support on-ground action to achieve biodiversity improvements across Nillumbik.

Work is delivered by Melbourne Water along waterways on private and public land; and Parks Victoria in Kinglake National Park, Plenty Gorge Parklands and the numerous reserves that form the Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Reserve.

These agencies and government bodies' partner with each other and with Council. Some of our collaborative projects are listed in previous pages.



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## 4. What we will do

### 4.1. Guiding principles

Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to working actively and collaboratively to undertake biodiversity action.

This Strategy has been developed under the guidance of the following principles and in alignment with the state government's *Biodiversity 2037* priorities:

1. Council values the Shire's biodiversity and appreciates its intrinsic importance and its interconnections with the health and wellbeing of our community.
2. We acknowledge that Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung have an ongoing connection to the lands, water, plants and animals of Nillumbik; they have knowledge of Country and cultural obligations that their traditional lands and waters are managed to keep Country healthy.
3. Protecting biodiversity is an essential tool in fighting the climate emergency.
4. We seek to protect, maintain and improve the quality and extent of native vegetation cover, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitats.
5. We take a biosecurity approach to pest plants, animals, diseases and pathogens which threaten environment and economic values in Nillumbik.
6. We apply adaptive management practices using the best available information. Spatially explicit data and information about biodiversity values and threats is needed to make evidence-based decisions about where resources and investment should be directed.
7. Partners and community volunteers are valued, supported and celebrated, to galvanize transformative action through broad participation, enabling actions and capacity building.
8. We take a collaborative and landscape-scale approach to biodiversity management so that all knowledge systems, including Indigenous knowledge, are included in decision making.
9. Key implementation actions and indicators to track progress will be reported on annually and will help inform Council planning and resourcing considerations, subject to annual Council Plan and budget processes.

These principles underpin and guide the implementation of the Strategy.

### 4.2. Our overarching goals, targets and indicators

We have two overarching goals and ambitious associated targets guiding Council's investment and focus:

#### **Goal 1 – Biodiversity in Nillumbik is healthy**

i.e. Nillumbik has functioning plant and animal populations, improved habitats and resilient ecosystems.

**Target: Achieve a net gain in the overall extent, connectivity and condition of habitat by 2034**

Indicators include:

1. Extent of native vegetation (based on Ecological Vegetation Classes). Measured by Victorian Government approximately every 10 years. Target: net gain.
2. Extent of tree canopy cover (2 metres+ in height). Measured every 4 years. Target: No net loss.
3. Number of new local extinctions. Target: zero (i.e. safeguard the persistence of species). Source: VBA and ALA.
4. Proportion of rural and urban Forest Health monitoring sites that three or more of the following native fauna Forest Health indicator species are detected at: *Brush-tailed Phascogale, Eastern Whipbird, Powerful Owl, Sacred Kingfisher, Scarlet Robin, Southern Boobook, White-throated Nightjar, White-throated Treecreeper, Gang-Gang Cockatoo and Superb Lyrebird*. Measured annually. Target: increase.



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5. Proportion of rural and urban Forest Health monitoring sites that rabbits and/or foxes are detected at. Measured annually. Target: decrease.
6. Proportion of Council bushland reserves ranked as being of national, state, regional, local or basic conservation significance. Target: Maintain or improve ranking of each reserve.
7. Scored condition of habitat in Council bushland reserves, based on an adapted habitat hectares assessment at point locations (with each reserve assessed every three years on a rolling rotation). Target: Improved condition.
8. Number of indigenous plants planted on Council land (in streets, parks and reserves). Target: increase.
9. Number of partners working collaboratively to support biodiversity gain. Target: 20+

**Goal 2 – Nillumbik's community values and cares for nature**

i.e. Nillumbik's community understand the importance of biodiversity and value nature, and as a result are more likely to help care for it. Caring (and acting to protect) refers to activities that directly protect or enhance biodiversity such as environmental volunteering, planting native gardens, protecting local waterways, placing a conservation covenant on land, controlling pest species, revegetating, purchasing green products, responsible pet ownership, and/or getting involved in citizen science monitoring.

**Target: That 70% of Nillumbik residents care for nature by 2034**

Indicators include:

1. Percentage of people acting to care for/protect Nillumbik's natural environment. (Source: Annual community survey) Target: increase
2. Number of nature/environment/ land management community-focused programs/events delivered and number of attendees. Target: increased number of attendees
3. Number of properties supported by Council to undertake biodiversity actions. Target: increase
4. Number and total area of permanently protected areas of private land (Trust for Nature covenants). Target: increase
5. Number of indigenous plants sold by Edendale Indigenous Plant Nursery. Target: 80,000 per year, including 50 per cent for local revegetation projects.

**Indicators**

We've included indicators to help track our progress towards achieving our overarching goals and targets.

Over the life of the Strategy we may review and update our indicators, if more effective options emerge.

**Key focus areas**

This Strategy aims to achieve its overarching goals over a ten-year period - through numerous objectives under four key focus areas:

1. Leadership and Advocacy
2. People and Partnerships
3. Species and Habitat Enhancement
4. Mitigating Threatening Processes and Impacts

Alongside each objective there is a list of associated supporting strategies. These are examples of the types of actions that will be implemented to help meet the objectives of each focus area, and ultimately the goals of the strategy.

Some objectives (and supporting strategies) inevitably overlap each of the focus areas, delivering multiple benefits.

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## 5. Key Focus Areas for Action

### 5.1. Focus Area 1 - Leadership and Advocacy

Council is committed to taking decisive action that protects and enhances the biodiversity of Nillumbik.

We lead by example, and advocate for action by:

- Requiring our staff to consider biodiversity in their day-to-day roles and as part of decision making.
- Adopting a low-risk appetite for any activities which may impact on the environment or the achievement of Council's environmental objectives.
- Caring for biodiversity on land and assets owned or managed by Council.
- Administering a planning system that has core objectives around protecting biodiversity.
- Seeking opportunities to enhance our natural capital (i.e. the elements of nature that directly or indirectly produce value for people).
- Taking a leadership role in coordinating cross-tenure landscape scale approaches that help to manage invasive species and protect indigenous flora and fauna.
- Partnering and collaborating.
- Advocating strongly to state and federal government for action and support to protect and enhance Nillumbik's biodiversity.
- Actively pursuing funding opportunities.

Council recognises that achieving our environmental objectives will require strategies that respond to our sense of urgency and current climate emergency.

With often limited available resources, our actions need to be strategic, collaborative, evidence based, prioritised and cost-effective.

#### Objectives and supporting strategies

Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Supporting strategies
<b>1.1 Consider biodiversity impacts and opportunities in day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions</b>	✓	✓	<p>A. Embed delivery of the Biodiversity Strategy within the CEO's contract / performance plan.</p> <p>B. Embed consideration of biodiversity protection and enhancement within Council's decision-making processes, and into new Council policies, strategies and plans.</p> <p>C. Support Council staff and contractors to be adequately informed on biodiversity matters, including biodiversity targets and legislative obligations.</p> <p>D. Implement and enforce Council's regulatory tools that support biodiversity protection.</p> <p>E. Allocate time, resources and training to staff charged with delivering biodiversity programs and other works that help achieve the goals and targets of this Strategy.</p>
<b>1.2 Demonstrate leadership by improving the biodiversity values of</b>	✓		<p>A. Actively avoid and minimise the impact of Council operations (such as capital works projects and maintenance activity) on native vegetation and biodiversity.</p>

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Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Supporting strategies
<b>Council-owned and managed land</b>			<p>B. Increase the conservation values (e.g. restoration and improved connectivity) of Council's reserves, wetlands and roadsides. (Also covered in focus area 3).</p> <p>C. Consider opportunities to apply 'nature-based solutions' such as green infrastructure, biodiversity sensitive urban design (BSUD), water sensitive urban design (WSUD), carbon sequestration etc.</p> <p>D. Determine where there are opportunities for new or replacement planting in parks, reserves, activity centres and along urban streets; and implement a long-term planting (and tree maintenance) program.</p>
<b>1.3 Advocate for action by state and federal government that will facilitate positive biodiversity outcomes</b>	✓		<p>A. Advocate for broad and urgent biodiversity action by state and federal government to protect and enhance biodiversity - including legislation, policy, enforcement mechanisms, research and data, programs, environmental impact assessments on infrastructure projects, and resourcing.</p> <p>B. Advocate for the state government to continue to coordinate, and further improve, an accessible and regularly updated biodiversity data 'decision support tool' - to inform evidence-based decision making at the state, regional and local scale.</p>
<b>1.4 Pursue external funding for biodiversity management.</b>	✓	✓	<p>A. Seek investment and commitment from all levels of government and other funding bodies to help monitor, protect and enhance the Shire's biodiversity.</p> <p>B. Investigate opportunities for co-investment in restoration and revegetation from businesses seeking to meet environment and social governance objectives such as the nature repair market, natural capital and net-zero commitments.</p>

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## 5.2. Focus Area 2 - People and Partnerships

Safeguarding biodiversity values across a vast landscape with various land uses and land tenures is challenging. We all share a responsibility in improving and enhancing the region's biodiversity and finding ways to reduce our impacts on the environment.

Council plays an important role in helping to facilitate partnerships and build community awareness, willingness and ability for positive biodiversity action to be undertaken. We continuously explore opportunities to encourage and support people and organisations to get involved.

We also help to collaboratively deliver on a range of policy such as Melbourne Water's *Healthy Waterway Strategy 2018 - 2028* and the *Burndap Birrarung Burndap Umarkoo Yarra Strategic Plan 2022-2032*.

Sharing biodiversity values and knowledge learned through collaboration benefits our environment and the health and wellbeing of our community.

Our partners regularly evolve and diversify, and include Traditional Owners, all levels of government, land and water management agencies, businesses, research institutions, environmental volunteer groups and our broader community – including residents, landholders, farmers, businesses, youth, community groups and others.

Council gratefully acknowledges the many individuals, volunteers and organisations contributing to positive biodiversity outcomes in our Shire.

### Objectives and supporting strategies

Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Supporting strategies
<b>2.1 Incorporate Traditional Owner knowledge within biodiversity management</b>	✓	✓	<p>A. Traditional Owners help inform Caring for Country and recovery activities for threatened species and ecological communities.</p> <p>B. Identify opportunities for Council and the community to participate in training, programs and initiatives that Care for Country and build cultural awareness with Traditional Owners.</p> <p>C. Work with Traditional Owners and partners to explore options for cultural burning or ecological burning.</p>
<b>2.2 Foster partnerships to achieve landscape-scale biodiversity outcomes</b>	✓	✓	<p>A. Connect and collaborate with private landholders, community groups, Traditional Owners, researchers, and organisations such as Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and neighbouring councils.</p> <p>B. Expand partner types to incorporate a variety of industry, businesses and academic institutions that seek to deliver on natural capital projects or Environmental and Social Governance obligations; or to advance environmental research.</p> <p>C. Support and help to further build the capacity of Nillumbik environmental volunteer groups such as Landcare, Friends of Groups, wildlife volunteers and others; and celebrate these environmental volunteers.</p> <p>D. Participate in opportunities to contribute to/ comment on plans and policies that may have environmental impacts and/or gains.</p>

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Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Supporting strategies
			<p>E. Work collaboratively to support the persistence of threatened species across all land tenures in Nillumbik.</p> <p>F. Upload data (including spatial data) on Council's management actions towards threatened species and invasive species into the state government's Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) to help inform collaborative decision making by all partners.</p> <p>G. Identify opportunities to support and encourage individuals and volunteer groups to upload biodiversity data into the VBA, or similar, so that a comprehensive range of data informs our knowledge and decision making.</p> <p>H. Network, share knowledge and learn about latest research and decision support tools available.</p>
<b>2.3 Increase people's understanding of the environment and support them to protect and enhance biodiversity</b>	✓	✓	<p>A. Provide targeted education and communication to help people understand, appreciate, value and care for our environment.</p> <p>B. Launch and operate a <i>Nillumbik Environment and Climate Action Hub</i> (NECAH) at our Edendale Community Environment Farm.</p> <p>C. Support young people to learn about biodiversity and sustainability, including via the <i>Edendale Schools Environmental Education Program</i>.</p> <p>D. Deliver and support programs that promote and encourage habitat gardening in home gardens, properties and schools.</p> <p>E. Propagate and sell indigenous plants, and provide planting guidance, through the Edendale Indigenous Plant Nursery.</p> <p>F. Provide sustainable land management advice.</p> <p>G. Support and promote citizen science projects and platforms, and the associated monitoring of ecological values.</p> <p>H. Identify less engaged demographics/groups and the barriers to them taking action.</p>
<b>2.4 Provide opportunities for residents to regularly connect with and enjoy nature</b>	✓	✓	<p>A. Promote and encourage people to visit Nillumbik's reserves, parks and trails.</p> <p>B. Provide safe and welcoming access for visitors to Council's reserves and Edendale, including through maintained trails, wayfinding and interpretive signage.</p> <p>C. Support people to view their backyards as places where they can appreciate nature.</p> <p>D. Host and support events/activities that provide opportunities for a diverse range of people to experience nature.</p> <p>E. Embed the beneficial health and wellbeing outcomes of connecting with nature into programming.</p>

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Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Supporting strategies
			I. Encourage and educate people to treat biodiversity with respect and to avoid causing damage when in nature.

**Case Study – Education is important and can be delivered in so many ways**

Protecting our environment requires action by people - so Council is committed to helping our community to understand why, what and how to make beneficial changes.

We're doing this alongside local schools, community groups, libraries, zoo's, parents, neighbours, friends and many others.

Our methods and topics of focus evolve regularly, and are delivered through guided walks, demonstrations, workshops, property visits, training programs, support for volunteers, citizen science campaigns, Edendale Farm school-excursions, interpretive signage, fact-sheets and so on.

**Case Study – Working collaboratively to save Nillumbik's threatened orchids**

Nillumbik is home to a wonderfully diverse array of native Orchids - over 90 species have been observed!

Many of these orchids have unique relationships with fungi, pollinating insects and habitat types - making them more susceptible to local extinctions and being threatened across their range.

To help protect and increase the numbers of threatened orchids in Nillumbik, we work with partners including government agencies, research institutions, volunteers, community groups and private landholders.

We are working, for example, to save the Charming Spider-orchid (*Caladenia amoena*), which is considered by the Federal government to be one of Australia's most endangered plants.

### 5.3. Focus Area 3 - Species and Habitat Enhancement

Nillumbik is home to a rich and varied natural environment which we seek to protect and enhance.

All indigenous plants and animals need suitable and high-quality habitat. We can protect these species by supporting healthy ecosystems through restoration of areas, mitigating the impacts of invasive species and other threatening processes and connecting fragmented habitat.

Species that are listed as threatened often require additional protections to support them to persist.

*Objectives specific to addressing invasive species and other threatening processes are provided in Focus Area 4.*

#### Objectives and supporting strategies

Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Supporting strategies
<b>3.1 Protect and improve the condition, extent and connectivity of habitat</b>	✓		<p>A. Collaborate with partners and community to identify local threats which threaten ecosystem function and connectivity of catchments across all land tenures - to help prioritise strategic action.</p> <p>B. Identify opportunities to enhance the condition, extent, connectivity and function of indigenous vegetation and ecosystems (terrestrial and aquatic) across the Shire - including through collaborations, investigations and targeted projects.</p> <p>C. Manage Council's 100+ bushland reserves and wetlands, and vegetation along Council roadsides, with available funds targeted in a strategic manner.</p> <p>D. Support people to protect and enhance biodiversity on private land - including through targeted outreach, advice and grant programs, land management plans, and by supporting voluntary covenants or on-title agreements. (also covered in focus area 2)</p> <p>E. Protect the condition of Council's Native Vegetation Offset Sites, in perpetuity, and consider feasibility of any new site(s).</p> <p>F. Consider opportunities for the strategic acquisition of land to add to Council's bushland reserve system - using a decision-matrix framework that comprehensively considers all aspects of such a decision.</p>
<b>3.2 Reduce the risk of extinction for all of Nillumbik's indigenous species</b>	✓	✓	<p>A. Implement this Strategy in collaboration with partners and the community to provide a resilient and healthy natural environment for all species.</p> <p>B. Work collaboratively to support the implementation of recovery plans for threatened species and ecological communities.</p> <p>C. Encourage and where feasible assist public and private land managers to be aware of the presence and location of</p>

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Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Supporting strategies
			<p>threatened flora species (e.g. orchids) on their land, to effectively manage access or exclusion to sensitive sites.</p> <p>D. Build and maintain a seed library of priority Nillumbik plants, to protect genetic diversity and aid climate adaptation.</p> <p>E. Undertake and seek opportunities to monitor the distribution, abundance data and ecological information of Nillumbik's species and communities to help inform priority actions to prevent local extinctions.</p>

**Case study – Are our forests healthy?**

For many years Council has been working in partnership with the Nillumbik Landcare Network, Melbourne Museum, Parks Victoria and local landholders to establish a viable and statistically robust local wildlife monitoring program.

We use survey techniques such as motion-sensing cameras and acoustic recorders to detect 'indicator' wildlife species that are associated with healthy and degraded forest habitats.

Annual collection of data at 30+ sites across the Shire helps us assess the health of Nillumbik's wet and dry forests and track changes over time.

In the first five years of the monitoring, between 2017 and 2022:

- More than 70,000 camera images were collected which identified 23 species of native birds and two non-native birds; 11 species of native mammals and nine non-native mammals; three species of native reptiles; and one native butterfly.
- Acoustic recognisers were created for 16 indicator species. The most commonly detected birds were the Southern Boobook and the White-throated Treecreeper (detected at nearly all sites) and the rarest was the Powerful Owl (detected at three sites).

The knowledge gained from this monitoring program forms the basis of an indicator for this strategy that helps us consider and track whether we're meeting Goal 1 – *That Biodiversity in Nillumbik is Healthy*.



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## 5.4. Focus Area 4 - Mitigating Threatening Processes and Impacts

There are numerous threatening processes operating within Nillumbik that may impact biodiversity.

Key risks and impacts arise from, for example: temperature increase, altered rainfall, extreme weather frequency, changing fire regimes, and invasive species; combined with anthropogenic activities such as clearing, traffic, use of rodenticides and other harmful chemicals, fencing entanglement, attacks on wildlife by cats and dogs, and incremental degradation.

The cumulative impact of such threats is concerning.

The scale of threatening processes is often so large that they are often very difficult to manage.

### Objectives and supporting strategies

Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Supporting strategies
<b>4.1 Minimise risk to biodiversity from climate change</b>	✓	✓	<p>A. Improve the climate resilience of ecosystems and species by reducing the impact of invasive species and other threats.</p> <p>B. Encourage revegetation and restoration projects that maximise carbon sequestration, ecosystem function and improved bio-links.</p> <p>C. Encourage development that implements green infrastructure and nature-based solutions which will assist in mitigating or adapting to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>D. Apply latest research and climate change projections to help guide Council's biodiversity management actions.</p>
<b>4.2 Reduce the presence and impact of invasive species across public and private land</b>  <i>(For example, deer, rabbits, foxes, cats, pigs, goats etc; and a wide variety of woody, bulb and grassy weeds etc).</i>	✓	✓	<p>A. Implement a biosecurity approach to guide the prioritisation and management of invasive species on Council land and seek opportunities to increase budget.</p> <p>B. Apply a landscape scale approach to reducing the presence of invasive species across all land tenures.</p> <p>C. Collaborate with government agencies, private landholders and adjacent Council's to action strategic pest animal and weed control.</p> <p>D. Keep abreast of new and emerging, and established invasive species - and options to prevent, eradicate, contain and manage them.</p> <p>E. Provide information to the community on how they can report observations of invasive species presence.</p> <p>F. Support landholders in managing invasive species, through assisted coordination, capacity building and land management grants.</p> <p>G. Apply Section 37 of the <i>Nillumbik General Local Law 1</i> when necessary to reduce noxious and environmental weed presence on private land.</p>

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Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Supporting strategies
			<p>H. Seek government funding to deliver cross-tenure invasive species management programs.</p> <p>I. Encourage the collation of invasive species data and management works from all partners into biological databases such as the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas to enhance evidence-based decision making.</p>
<b>4.3 Reduce degradation to waterways</b>	✓	✓	A. Encourage best practice riparian management across urban and rural areas to reduce erosion, optimise infiltration of water into soils, and to help prevent silt and pollutants from flowing into waterways or wetlands.
<b>4.4 Use Nillumbik's planning system effectively to protect and enhance biodiversity values</b>	✓		<p>A. Consolidate development within the urban growth boundary and seek to incorporate nature-based solutions in urban development and planning.</p> <p>B. Protect and enhance the natural environment in our rural areas by continuing to enforce the planning scheme, to avoid fragmentation and loss of the Green Wedge.</p> <p>C. Review the environmental framework within the planning scheme, with a focus on optimising and tailoring the strategic basis, application and content of planning controls designed to protect biodiversity outcomes in the Shire.</p>
<b>4.5 Reduce and eliminate the illegal clearing of vegetation</b>	✓	✓	<p>A. Provide education on the benefits and legalities of vegetation retention to help prevent illegal removal of trees and other native vegetation.</p> <p>B. Enforce Council regulation, planning and development controls that protect trees, native vegetation and threatened species.</p> <p>C. Monitor vegetation loss and regeneration over time, through analysis of aerial photography.</p>
<b>4.6 Balance the needs of bushfire mitigation and biodiversity protection</b>	✓	✓	<p>A. Work collaboratively with partners involved in bushfire mitigation to share knowledge that supports the delivery of collaborative and integrated biodiversity and fire management outcomes.</p> <p>B. Keep abreast of industry research into the design and maintenance of ecologically sustainable fire regimes.</p> <p>C. Include ecological requirements that consider fire dependent (i.e. wildflower and grasses) and sensitive species (i.e. orchids, hollow bearing trees etc) and communities in burn plans.</p>

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Objective	Goal 1	Goal 2	Supporting strategies
			D. Support landholders to understand how to consider biodiversity protection when preparing their property for bushfire season.
<b>4.7 Protect native fauna from harm</b>	✓	✓	<p>A. Target management actions to be specific for the species that they are seeking to protect, and the associated threats.</p> <p>B. Preserve high-quality fauna habitats and improve connectivity of habitat through restoration and invasive species management.</p> <p>C. Provide information and education for our community on how they can manage their property to help to protect native fauna, including from poisons, light spill, barbwire, containment of domestic cats and dogs, feeding of birds, lack of water etc.</p> <p>D. Collaborate with state government and other agencies to identify works or driver-behaviour education campaigns that might be feasible and useful to help mitigate wildlife vehicle collisions e.g. wildlife signage, road markings, speed reduction etc.</p> <p>E. Keep abreast of virtual fencing and other fauna protection and management trials, in terms of their efficacy and potential suitability for trial or implementation in Nillumbik.</p>

**Case study - Climate change, deer and other impacts on Southern Toadlets**

Some of Nillumbik's flora and fauna species are already feeling the effects of a warming and changing climate. Other threats exacerbate the effects of this climate change, and while some species may be able to adapt or move to cope with the different conditions, others may need assistance or interventions for them to survive.

Southern Toadlet (*Pseudophryne semimarmorata*) was once widespread across Nillumbik. A study initiated by the Nillumbik Landcare Network of former known sites found a significant decline across its range to only a handful of sites. Threats such as fragmentation of populations and habitat loss, changed rainfall patterns with climate change, altered hydrology, pest animal's (in particular Deer) and disease have had a significant effect.

Collaborative partnerships are attempting to improve habitat and protect this species. Raising awareness and getting schools to act for Southern Toadlet is another important step to help protect the species.

The threat of climate change means that the Southern Toadlet will need further assistance to cope with changed habitat conditions and could still be unable to persist.

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## **6. Implementation**

### **6.1. Implementation approach**

The 10-year timeframe of this Strategy means that Council's approach to supporting biodiversity protection and enhancement is likely to be adapted over time.

An Implementation Plan that specifies key biodiversity and land management actions that are responsive to current and long term threats and opportunities will be developed every year; and will be considered in Council's annual budget process.

Having an annual monitoring and review process will enable the progress of implementing the Strategy to be tracked in the context of changing conditions, policy, resourcing, knowledge and science; and to respond accordingly.

### **6.2. Progress reporting**

Council will track progress and the outcomes of the Strategy.

The indicators and targets are intended to help illustrate whether we are successfully progressing towards achieving the two overarching goals of the strategy.

Evaluation will consider:

- To what extent are the goals and targets being reached?
- What has helped and what has hindered effective implementation and outcomes?

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

## Appendix A Legislative and policy framework

This Strategy aligns with Australia's hierarchy of legislation and biodiversity policy. Legislation at the Federal, State Victorian (Vic) government and local level contribute to the retention of biodiversity within private and public lands. Key legislation includes:

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Federal)
- *Biosecurity Act 2015* (Federal)
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic)
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP) (Vic)
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (P&E Act) (Vic).

The protection of the Shire's flora, fauna and ecosystems also aligns with global, Commonwealth and State biodiversity strategies and frameworks including:

- *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* (International)
- *Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030* and *Threatened Species Strategy 2021 – 2031* (Federal)
- *Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037* (Vic).

These frameworks stipulate measurable, quantitative targets for environmental areas of protection such as vegetation cover and promote the means for implementing and achieving goals and targets which the Biodiversity Strategy also seeks to demonstrate and achieve.

### A.1 International biodiversity convention

The international *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* (GBF) of which Australia is a signatory, was adopted in December 2022. The GBF sets numerous global biodiversity actions for the next decade; notably, specifying quantitative measures including *net gains of at least 5 per cent in the area, connectivity and integrity of natural systems*, and to *ensure at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas are effectively conserved and managed*.

It aims to galvanize urgent and transformative action by governments and indeed, all of society (including indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society, and businesses), to achieve the outcomes it sets out in its vision, mission, goals and targets. The GBF measurable targets enable quantitative assessment of progress to be more easily monitored and measured.

### A.2 Federal government

The Australian government provides various environmental laws and policy, including:

- The *EPBC Act* – which provides a legal framework to protect and manage matters of national environmental significance (MNES) and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places.
- *Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030* – which coordinates the national delivery of Australia's international commitments.
- In 2023, the Australian Government set a national goal to protect and conserve 30 per cent of land and 30 per cent of oceans by 2030 ('30 by 30').
- *Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032* – which maps a pathway to protect, manage and restore Australia's threatened species and important natural places.
- *Pest Animal Strategy 2017-2027* – which provides national guidance on preventing and responding to new pest animal incursions and how to manage the negative impacts of established pest animals.

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All levels of government need to commit to a coordinated effort to achieve the national '30 by 30' goal, and this Biodiversity Strategy seeks to incorporate a locally relevant refinement of the 30 per cent conservation goal. Our peri-urban Green Wedge location means our vegetation coverage sits well above most national and regional goals, making us well-placed to lead the region in preserving biodiversity.

### **A.3 State government**

The State Planning Policy Framework provides specific direction regarding the protection and management of biodiversity and native vegetation, including that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

*Biodiversity 2037's* primary goals focus on maintaining environmental health and it advocates moving away from focussing on the most endangered species, to how ecosystems and ecological processes can be managed for the benefit of all species, particularly given the impacts of climate change.

The Victorian *Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-2027* includes strategic direction aimed at increasing active living, particularly in the natural environment, to improve Victorian's physical and mental health, reduce environmental impacts and increase peoples connection with nature.

The Victorian government has also invested in State-developed spatial analytical tools, which, for example, set 'strategic biodiversity value' scores (0–100) that provide a score of relative biodiversity importance to all parts of the Victorian landscape - to help inform investment decision making.

### **A.4 Council**

This Strategy supports the delivery of our Community Vision and our Council Plan, which place high importance on caring for our environment.

It is delivered in tandem with a range of Council strategies and plans that operate together to help manage biodiversity values in Nillumbik and to enhance people's connections with nature.

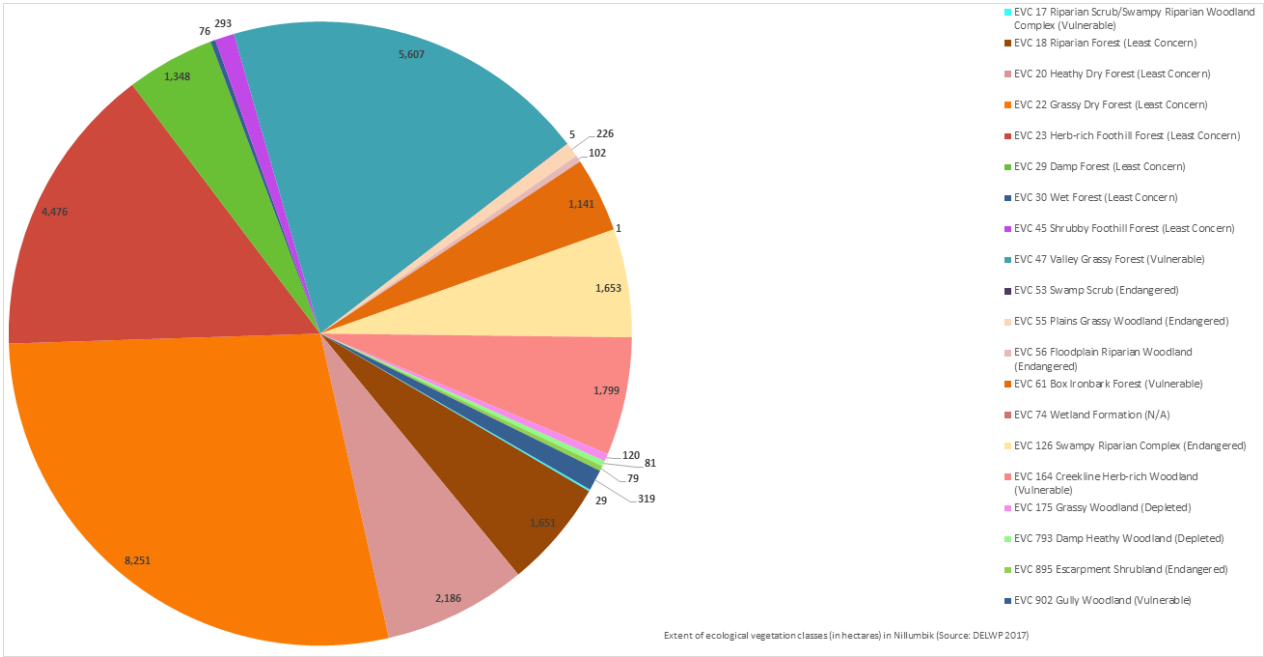
Many have overlapping objectives and targets for the environment, biodiversity and nature. They include our: Municipal Planning Strategy and planning scheme, Local Laws, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Green Wedge Management Plan, Neighbourhood Character Strategy, Climate Action Plan, Tree Management Policy, Roadside Management Plan, and Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

It builds on the achievements of various previous iterations of Council strategy, including our past Biodiversity Strategy, Invasive Species Action Plan, Weed Action Plan, Rabbit Action Plan, Environmental Education Strategy and bushland reserve prioritisation.

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## Appendix B Nillumbik’s Ecological Vegetation Classes

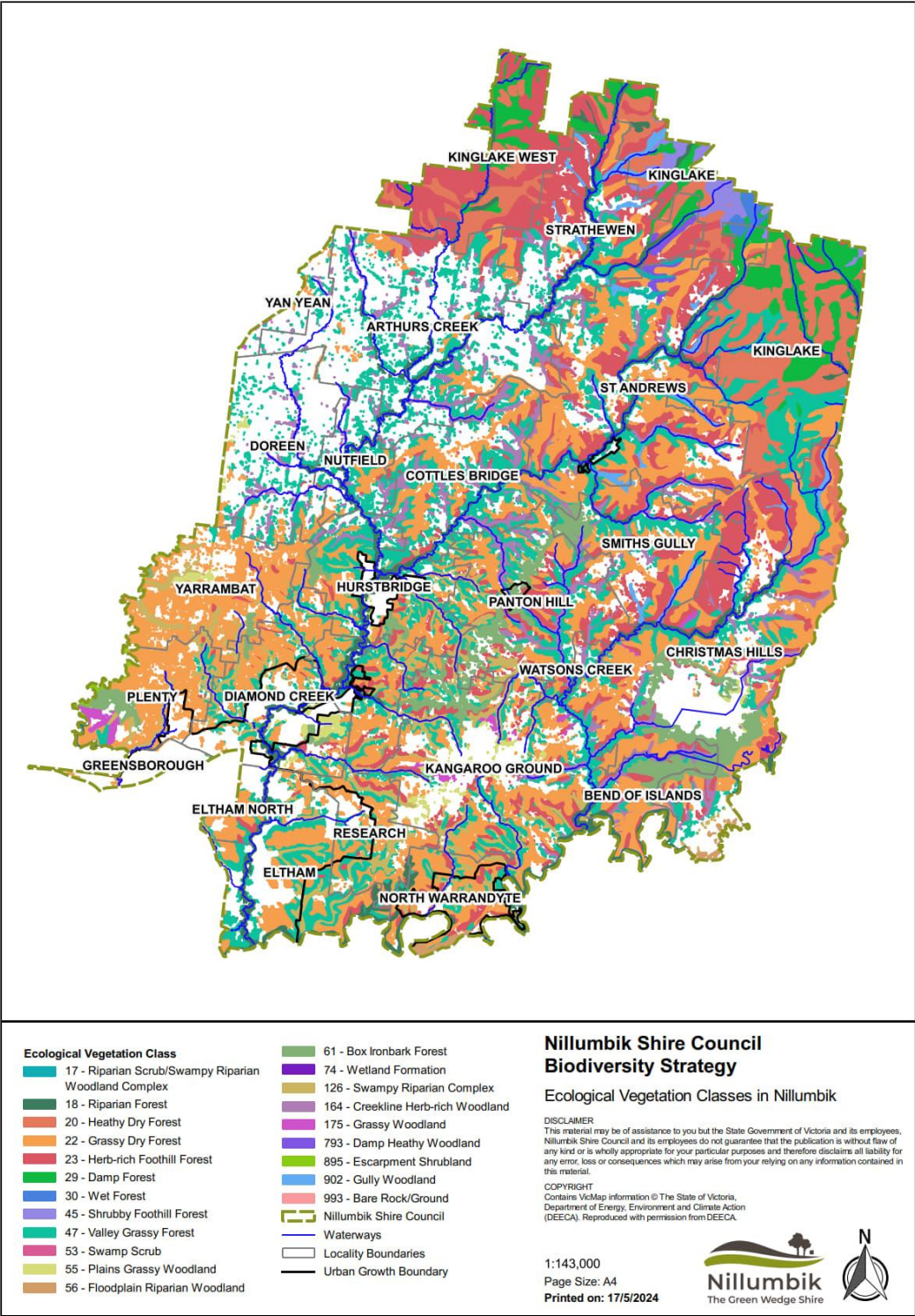
Figure 2 - Nillumbik’s Ecological Vegetation Classes – Pie chart representation





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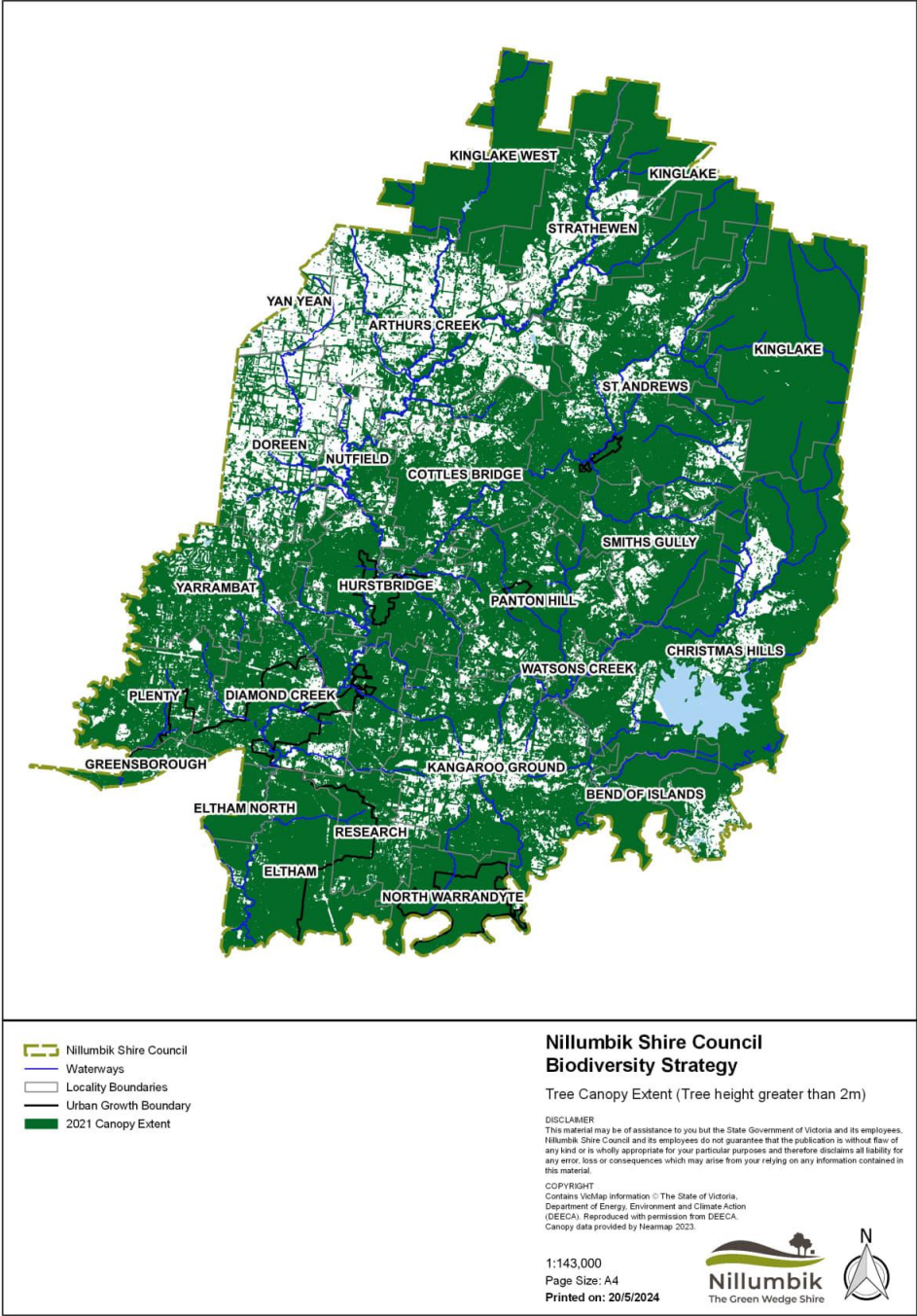
Figure 3- Nillumbik’s Ecological Vegetation Classes – Mapped representation





Appendix C Nillumbik’s tree canopy extent

Figure 4- Tree canopy extent that is 2m plus in height

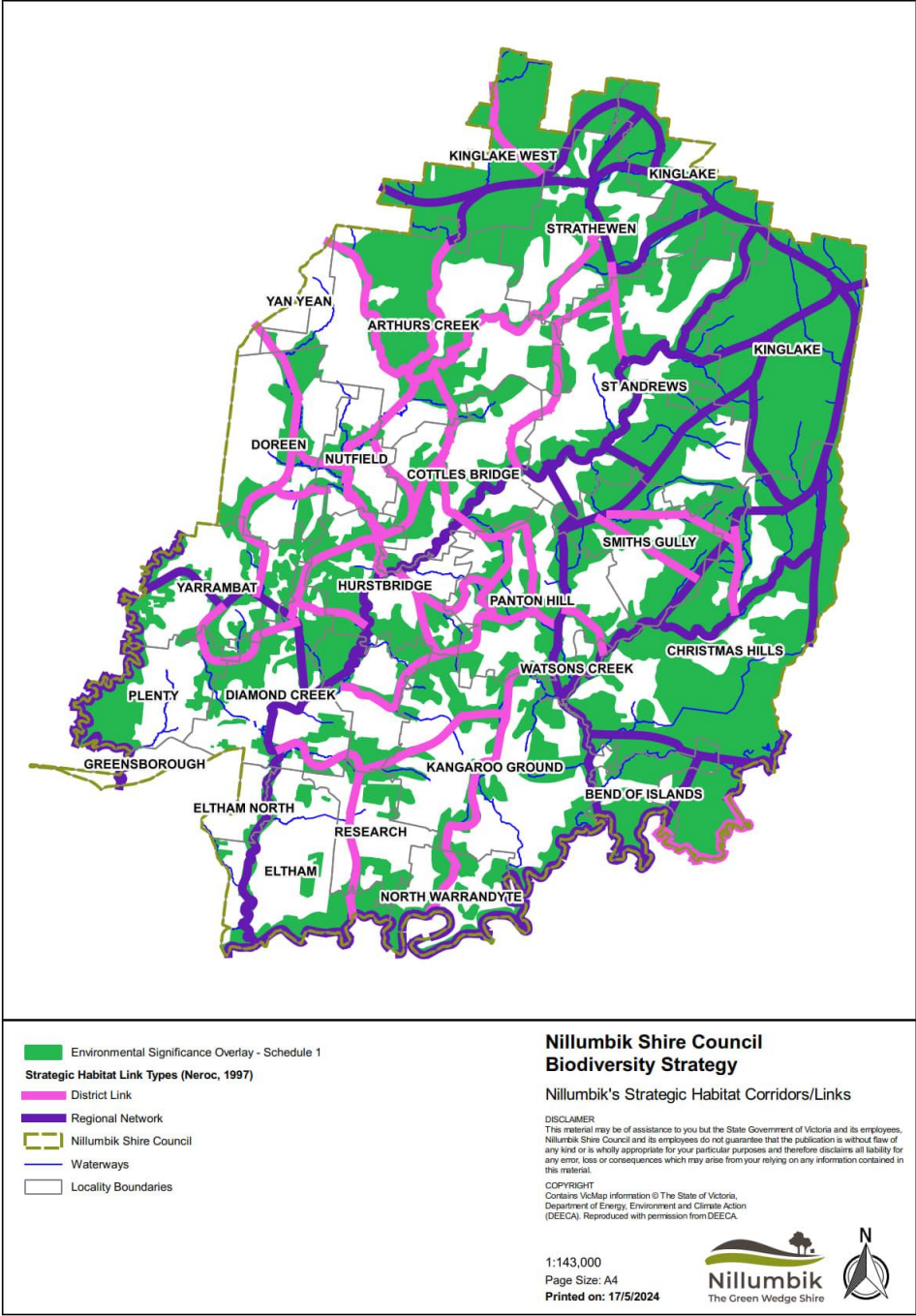


Source: DELWP 2021, based on Vic Map 2019/20 vegetation extent mapping

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Appendix D Strategic habitat corridors across Nillumbik

Figure 5 - Nillumbik’s strategic habitat corridors/links



## Appendix E Threatened species lists

### E.1 Threatened Nillumbik fauna

Taxon Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG Status
Amphibian	Brown Toadlet	<i>Pseudophryne bibronii</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Amphibian	Growling Grass Frog	<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Amphibian	Murray River Turtle	<i>Emydura macquarii</i>	Not listed	Critically Endangered
Amphibian	Southern Toadlet	<i>Pseudophryne semimarmorata</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Birds	Australasian Shoveler	<i>Spatula rhynchotis</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Australian Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus dubius</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Birds	Barking Owl	<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Not listed	Critically Endangered
Birds	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Birds	Black Falcon	<i>Falco subniger</i>	Not listed	Critically Endangered
Birds	Blue-billed Duck	<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Blue-winged Parrot	<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Birds	Brown Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Birds	Bush Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Not listed	Critically Endangered
Birds	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	<i>Calamanthus pyrrhopygius</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Diamond Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Birds	Eastern Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Freckled Duck	<i>Stictonetta naevos</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Birds	Gang-gang Cockatoo	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Birds	Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Birds	Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Hooded Robin	<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Endangered	Vulnerable
Birds	Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Birds	Lewin's Rail	<i>Lewinia pectoralis</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Little Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Birds	Magpie Goose	<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	<i>Lophochroa leadbeateri</i>	Endangered	Critically Endangered
Birds	Masked Owl	<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	Not listed	Critically Endangered
Birds	Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Painted Honeyeater	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Birds	Pilotbird	<i>Pycnoptilus floccosus</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Birds	Plains-wanderer	<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>	Critically	Critically Endangered

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Taxon Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG Status
			Endangered	
Birds	Powerful Owl	<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Red-chested Button-quail	<i>Turnix pyrrhorthora</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Birds	Regent Honeyeater	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
Birds	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Birds	Sooty Owl	<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Birds	Speckled Warbler	<i>Pyrrholaemus sagittatus</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Birds	Square-tailed Kite	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Swift Parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
Birds	Turquoise Parrot	<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Birds	Western Whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Birds	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Birds	White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Fish	Macquarie Perch	<i>Macquaria australasica</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Fish	Murray Cod	<i>Maccullochella peelii</i>	Vulnerable	Endangered
Fish	Australian Grayling	<i>Prototroctes maraena</i>	Vulnerable	Endangered
Fish	Freshwater Catfish	<i>Tandanus tandanus</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Invertebrate	Amethyst Hairstreak Butterfly	<i>Jalmenus icilius</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Invertebrate	Eltham Copper Butterfly	<i>Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Invertebrate	Fiery Jewel Butterfly	<i>Hypochrysops ignitus ignitus</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Invertebrate	Genoveva Blue	<i>Ogyris genoveva</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Invertebrate	Jewel Beetle	<i>Temognatha sanguinipennis</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Invertebrate	Large Ant Blue Butterfly	<i>Acrodipsas brisbanensis</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Invertebrate	Two-spotted Grass-skipper Butterfly	<i>Pasma tasmanica</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Invertebrate	Yellow Ochre Butterfly	<i>Trapezites luteus luteus</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Mammal	Brush-tailed Phascogale	<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Mammal	Common Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis murina murina</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Mammal	Dingo	<i>Canis lupus dingo</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Mammal	Eastern Bent-winged Bat	<i>Miniopterus orianae oceanensis</i>	Not listed	Critically Endangered
Mammal	Eastern Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus megaphyllus megaphyllus</i>	Not listed	Endangered
Mammal	Grey-headed Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Mammal	Platypus	<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Mammal	Southern Greater Glider	<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Mammal	Spot-tailed Quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Mammal	White-footed Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis leucopus</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable



*Draft Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy 2024 - 2034*

Taxon Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG Status
Mammal	Yellow-bellied Glider	<i>Petaurus australis australis</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Reptile	Bearded Dragon	<i>Pogona barbata</i>	Not listed	Vulnerable
Reptile	Lace Monitor	<i>Varanus varius</i>	Not listed	Endangered

Source: Victorian Biodiversity Atlas 2024, Atlas of Living Australia 2024 and Matters of National Significance search tool 2024.

Note: Records of vagrant species or observations earlier than 1980 have been excluded from this list. Over time this list may change as other species are formally recognised as being threatened or if the status of already listed species change.

## E.2 Threatened Nillumbik flora

Scientific name	Common name	EPBC status	FFG status
<i>Acacia leprosa</i> var. <i>uninervia</i>	Large-leaf Cinnamon-wattle	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Acacia stictophylla</i>	Dandenong Wattle	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>	River Swamp Wallaby-grass	Vulnerable	Not listed
<i>Austrostipa rudis</i> subsp. <i>australis</i>	Veined Spear-grass	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Billardiera scandens</i> s.s.	Velvet Apple-berry	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Caladenia amoena</i>	Charming Spider-orchid	Endangered	Critically Endangered
<i>Caladenia concolor</i>	Crimson Spider-orchid	Vulnerable	Endangered
<i>Caladenia oenochila</i>	Wine-lipped Spider-orchid	Not listed	Critically Endangered
<i>Caladenia rosella</i>	Little Pink Spider-orchid	Endangered	Critically Endangered
<i>Caladenia vulgaris</i>	Slender Pink-fingers	Not listed	Vulnerable
<i>Calochilus imberbis</i>	Naked Beard-orchid	Not listed	Critically Endangered
<i>Cardamine papillata</i>	Forest Bitter cress	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Coronidium gunnianum</i>	Pale Swamp Everlasting	Not listed	Critically Endangered
<i>Corybas fimbriatus</i>	Fringed Helmet-orchid	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Dianella amoena</i>	Matted Flax-lily	Endangered	Critically Endangered
<i>Dianella longifolia</i> var. <i>grandis</i>	Glaucous Flax-lily	Not listed	Critically Endangered
<i>Dipodium pardalinum</i>	Spotted Hyacinth-orchid	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Eucalyptus fulgens</i>	Green Scentbark	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> subsp. <i>connata</i>	Melbourne Yellow-gum	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Eucalyptus xstudleyensis</i>	Studley Park Gum	Not listed	Critically Endangered
<i>Eucalyptus yarraensis</i>	Yarra Gum	Not listed	Critically Endangered
<i>Euchiton umbricola</i>	Cliff Cudweed	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Euphrasia collina</i> subsp. <i>trichocalycina</i>	Purple Eyebright	Not listed	Vulnerable
<i>Gentianella polysperes</i>	Early Forest-gentian	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Geranium solanderi</i> var. <i>solanderi</i>	Austral Crane's-bill	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	Clover Glycine	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Goodia pubescens</i>	Silky Golden tip	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Grevillea repens</i>	Creeping Grevillea	Not listed	Endangered

*Draft Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy 2024 - 2034*

Scientific name	Common name	EPBC status	FFG status
<i>Isolepis wakefieldiana</i>	Tufted Club-sedge	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Levenhookia sonderi</i>	Slender Stylewort	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Pomaderris vacciniifolia</i>	Round-leaf Pomaderris	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
<i>Prasophyllum lindleyanum</i>	Green Leek-orchid	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Pterostylis clivosa</i>	Red-tip Greenhood	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Pterostylis planulata</i>	Flat Rustyhood	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Pterostylis smaragdina</i>	Emerald-lip Greenhood	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Pterostylis X ingens</i>	Sharp Greenhood	Not listed	Vulnerable
<i>Pultenaea weindorferi</i>	Swamp Bush-pea	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Rhagodia parabolica</i>	Fragrant Saltbush	Not listed	Vulnerable
<i>Senecio campylocarpus</i>	Bulging Fireweed	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Tetralthea stenocarpa</i>	Long Pink-bells	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Thelymitra X irregularis</i>	Crested Sun-orchid	Not listed	Endangered
<i>Wurmbea uniflora</i>	One-flower Early Nancy	Not listed	Vulnerable

Source: Victorian Biodiversity Atlas 2024, Atlas of Living Australia 2024 and Matters of National Significance search tool 2024.

Note: Over time this list may change as other species are formally recognised as being threatened or if the status of already listed species change. Threatened species considered introduced or with taxonomic uncertainty in Nillumbik are not considered.



**If you need an interpreter, please call  
TIS National on 131 450 and ask them to  
call Nillumbik Shire Council on 9433 3111.**

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## Nillumbik Shire Council

### Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy

Stage 2 Engagement Consultation Findings Report

Final (3 April 2024)

Acknowledgement

Nillumbik Shire Council and ChatterBox Projects 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.

Document title	Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy – Stage 2 Engagement Consultation Findings Report
Version	Final
Date	3 April 2024
Prepared by	Sam Walsh, Director, Chatterbox Projects Angela Walter, Senior Consultant, Chatterbox Projects
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## 1 Executive summary

ChatterBox Projects was engaged to support Nillumbik Shire Council to plan and deliver engagement activities to seek community feedback and ideas to inform the development of a new Biodiversity Strategy (the strategy).

The purpose of the strategy is to help guide the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across the Shire. The new strategy, which will replace the previous 2012 Biodiversity Strategy and 2015 Invasive Species Action Plan, will establish a 10-year strategic framework with high-level goals and associated targets and indicators, objectives and a framework for action.

Its proposed key focus areas for action are:

- Leadership and Advocacy;
- People and Partnerships;
- Species and Habitat Enhancement; and
- Mitigating Threatening Processes and Impacts.

Annual implementation plans will be developed, which will specify the actions to be prioritised each year.

An essential component of developing the new strategy is community and stakeholder input. Council developed an engagement program that involved two stages of community consultation:

- Stage 1: undertaken over five weeks from 26 June to 30 July 2023 gathered feedback to inform the development of a draft Biodiversity Strategy; and
- Stage 2: undertaken over almost five weeks from 1 February to 3 March 2024, gathered feedback on the draft Biodiversity Strategy document.

In addition, in March 2023, a research project was undertaken by ChatterBox Projects to review previous community feedback related to biodiversity, received on a range of other Council policies and projects over the past few years.

This report focusses on the findings from community and stakeholder feedback from Stage 2 Engagement. The Consultation Findings Report from Stage 1 can be found [here](#).

### 1.1 Overview of engagement activities

Engagement activities where people could provide feedback included:






- a feedback form (available in hardcopy and online via Council's Participate Nillumbik engagement platform);
- an online stakeholder workshop (three workshops were advertised but limited interest resulted in only one being held);
- two drop-in sessions; and
- written submissions.

People may also register to make a verbal submission at the Council Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting on 14 May 2024.

These engagement activities were supported by a range of communication activities including:


- information on Council's Participate Nillumbik engagement platform including a video, FAQ's, the draft strategy and project timelines;
- promotion via Nillumbik News/e-News and other relevant Council newsletters;
- social media posts on Council's social media platforms as well as paid social media advertisements;
- posters and postcards placed at libraries, Council's customer service areas and other community facilities;
- direct email notification to relevant community groups and to people who registered to stay informed;
- promotion via community newsletters, such as school newsletters; and
- promotion through Council's advisory committees and community groups.

## 1.2 Overview of participation and participation profile

	The engagement activities obtained feedback from 112 participants.
	82 feedback form responses (online and hard copy)
	5 participants at the two drop-in sessions (at Edendale Community Environment Farm and at Panton Hill Neighbourhood House)
	12 participants at the online stakeholder workshop
	13 submissions

*Please note that some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity.*

In addition, there was also:

	566 visitors to the Participate Nillumbik project page including over 279 downloads of the draft Biodiversity Strategy.
---	---

Participant demographic data was captured via the online and hard copy feedback form. Through the feedback form we heard from:

- Mostly people who live in Nillumbik (87%)
- People who live in a range of Nillumbik suburbs like with the highest representation from Eltham (22%), Hurstbridge (11%) and Diamond Creek and Panton Hill (both 6%)
- Mostly women (74%)
- All age groups, however, the highest representation was from older people including 65-84 years (35%), 55-64 years (30%), 45-54 years (13%), and 35-44 years (11%).

Through submissions and at the online workshops we also heard from a range of community groups including Nillumbio, Wildlife Advocates Nillumbik, Landcare groups, Friends of Nillumbik, St Andrews Wildlife Shelter, Green Wedge Protection Group.

### 1.3 Key findings from the analysis of community feedback

Survey respondents clearly expressed strong support for the goals, targets, indicators and objectives under the four focus areas in the draft strategy including:

- Goal 1
  - 84% support for Goal
  - 87% support for target
  - 84% support for indicators
- Goal 2
  - 91% support for Goal
  - 77% support for target
  - 81% support for indicators
- Focus Area Objectives
  - 83% and above for all Objectives under each focus area

Many respondents indicated support for the intent and direction of the strategy and commended the work to develop the document and to continue the focus on biodiversity and the environment.

In addition to the support, almost 80% of survey respondents as well as all submitters and those who attended the online workshop, provided feedback and ideas about how the draft strategy could potentially be improved and strengthened including the **need for stronger, clearer measures and targets**.

Themes that emerged from the feedback included the need for:

- stronger and more measurable, specific goals and targets, with timelines to ensure accountability (most common theme);
- stronger more active words / desired outcomes in goals, targets, indicators, objectives and strategies;
- more ambitious, higher targets to address the urgent need around biodiversity decline;
- more data sources to be identified in the strategy and baseline data identified so progress towards goals and targets could be measured;
- goals, targets and indicators to be linked to and measure biodiversity health (including looking at Indigenous species, small birds species, insects, fungi etc);
- clearer definition of key words in the goals like 'healthy biodiversity' and 'care for nature' as these could be interpreted in different ways;

- prioritisation of objectives and threats to drive actions;
- more accountability and what actions will be taken if goals and targets are not met.
- increased focus on Indigenous species in the strategy, including increasing trees and native vegetation using Indigenous species and improving biodiversity health and diversity through Indigenous flora and fauna; and
- the need for adequate budget and resources to ensure the strategy could be delivered.

In relation to ideas put forward for strategies and actions, popular themes that emerged included:

- the need for communications, information and education to increase community awareness and understanding about biodiversity and how to improve it;
- working closely with, supporting and acknowledging the work of rural landowners and their role managing their properties and protecting biodiversity;
- achieving balance between vegetation clearing in preparation for fire season - and protecting biodiversity;
- increasing enforcement in relation to illegal tree and vegetation removal; and
- working with community groups and government agencies to collaborate on biodiversity projects.

Other feedback to be noted (supported by 25 surveys and 1 submission) involved horse riders using trails in Council's reserves. This feedback involved concern around:

- wording in the strategy about overgrazing and horses off formal tracks; and
- strategies in the document that may potentially make it harder for horse riders to continue to enjoy use of the trails in reserves.

## 2 Project background and engagement overview

### 2.1 Background and purpose

Nillumbik Shire Council is developing a new Biodiversity Strategy (the strategy). The purpose of the strategy is to guide the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across the Shire.

Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life found in an area, including the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and microorganisms like bacteria that make up the natural world. All these species and organisms work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life on earth, and many things such as clean water, fresh air, habitat, medicines, and food.

Developing a new Biodiversity Strategy is an action outlined in the Council Plan Annual Action Plan 2023-2024. The new strategy will replace the previous 2012 Biodiversity Strategy and 2015 Invasive Species Action Plan. It will establish a 10-year strategic framework with goals and associated targets and indicators; objectives and a framework for action. Its proposed key focus areas for action are:

- Leadership and Advocacy;
- People and Partnerships;
- Species and Habitat Enhancement; and
- Mitigating Threatening Processes and Impacts.

Annual implementation plans will be developed, which will specify the actions to be prioritised each year.

There are a range of inputs that are considered to inform the development of the new strategy including State and Federal policy and legislation, Council adopted strategies, biodiversity reports and data, as well as community and stakeholder feedback and ideas.

To gather community and stakeholder feedback, Council has undertaken two stages of consultation:

- Stage 1: undertaken over five weeks from 26 June to 30 July 2023 gathered feedback to inform the development of a draft Biodiversity Strategy; and
- Stage 2: undertaken over almost five weeks from 1 February to 3 March 2024, gathered feedback on the draft Biodiversity Strategy document.

In addition, in March 2023, a research project was undertaken to interrogate previous community feedback received on a range of Council projects, using a biodiversity lens. A report was produced and provides insights into community sentiment and views about the Nillumbik environment. The findings from this work informed the engagement program and the new draft strategy.

This report presents the findings from the analysis of community and stakeholder feedback gathered in Stage 2 consultation.

### 2.2 Engagement overview and program

The aim of the Stage 2 consultation was to seek feedback from community and stakeholders about the draft Biodiversity Strategy document. ChatterBox Projects was engaged to support Council to plan and deliver some of the engagement activities and to analyse and report on the community feedback.

The engagement activities where people could provide feedback included:



- a feedback form (available in hardcopy and online via Council's Participate Nillumbik engagement platform) – see Appendix 1 to view a copy of the form;
- an online stakeholder workshop held 20 February, 7pm to 8.30pm;
- Four drop-in sessions
  - 12 Feb 2024 1pm-3pm – Diamond Valley Library
  - 15 Feb 2024 10am - 12pm– Hurstbridge Hub
  - 18 February 10am – 12pm- Edendale Community Environment Farm
  - 19 February 10am – 12pm -Panton Hill Neighbourhood House
- staff visiting local library branches including Yarra Plenty, Greensborough and Eltham; and
- written submissions.

Originally three workshops were organised and promoted (two online and one in-person) but due to low numbers, all those who registered were invited to attend the one online workshop on 20 February or they were invited to come along to the drop-in sessions.

People will also be able to register to make a verbal submission at the Council Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting on 14 May 2024.

These engagement activities were supported by a range of communication activities including:

- information on Council's Participate Nillumbik engagement platform including a video, FAQ's, the draft strategy and timelines;
- promotion via Nillumbik News/e-News and other relevant Council newsletters;
- social media posts on Council's social media platforms as well as paid social media advertisements;
- posters and postcards placed at libraries, Council's customer service areas and other community facilities;
- direct notification to relevant community groups and people who had registered to stay informed;
- promotion on community newsletters,;
- promotion via Warrandyte Diary;
- media release; and
- promotion through Council's advisory committees and community groups.

## 2.2 Overview of participation

The engagement activities resulted in feedback from 115 participants as shown in the table below. The communication activities drove many people to the website with over 270 downloads of the draft strategy.

**Table 2.1. Overview of communication and engagement activities with participation outcomes**

Communication and engagement methods	Participation outcomes*
<b>Engagement activities</b>	
Feedback form submissions (online and hard copy)	82
Online stakeholder workshop	12
Drop-in sessions	5
Submissions	13
<b>TOTAL (approximate)</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Communications activities (inform and raise awareness)</b>	
Visitors to Participate Nillumbik project page	566 visitors
Downloads of the draft Biodiversity Strategy	279 downloads

\*Please note: Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity.

3 Description of participation profile

The feedback form was the main source of demographic information. Through the survey we heard mostly from people who live in Nillumbik (87%). In relation to where people live, there was representation across all Nillumbik suburbs with most respondents coming from Eltham (22%), Hurstbridge (11%) and Diamond Creek and Panton Hill (both 6%).

In terms of age, we heard mostly from older age groups including 65-84 years (35%), 55-64 years (30%), 45-54 years (13%), and 35-44 years (11%). We also heard from many more women than men (74% women compared to 23% men).

Through submissions and at the online workshops we also heard from a range of community groups including Nillumbio, Wildlife Advocates Nillumbik, Landcare groups, Friends of Nillumbik, St Andrews Wildlife Shelter, Green Wedge Protection Group.

Figure 3.1. Participant relationship to Nillumbik (Survey)

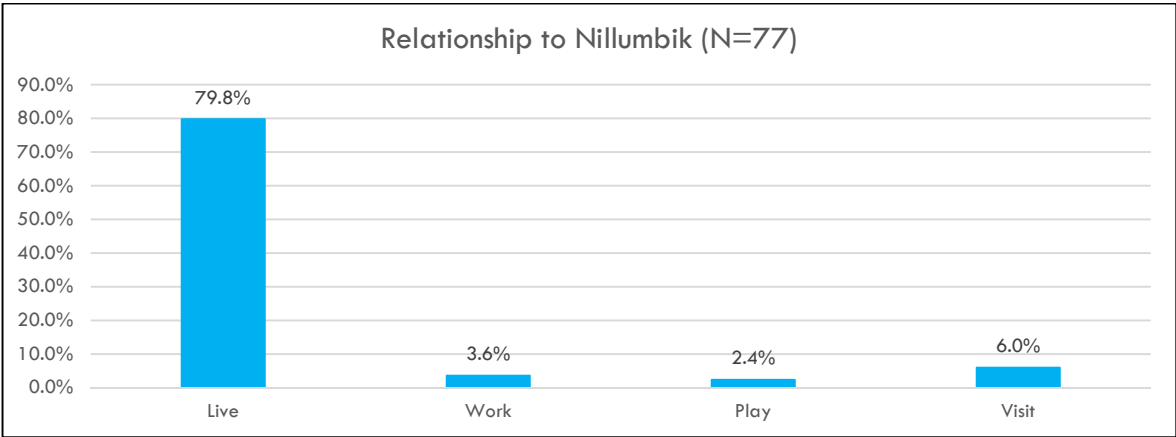


Figure 3.2. Gender of participants (Survey)

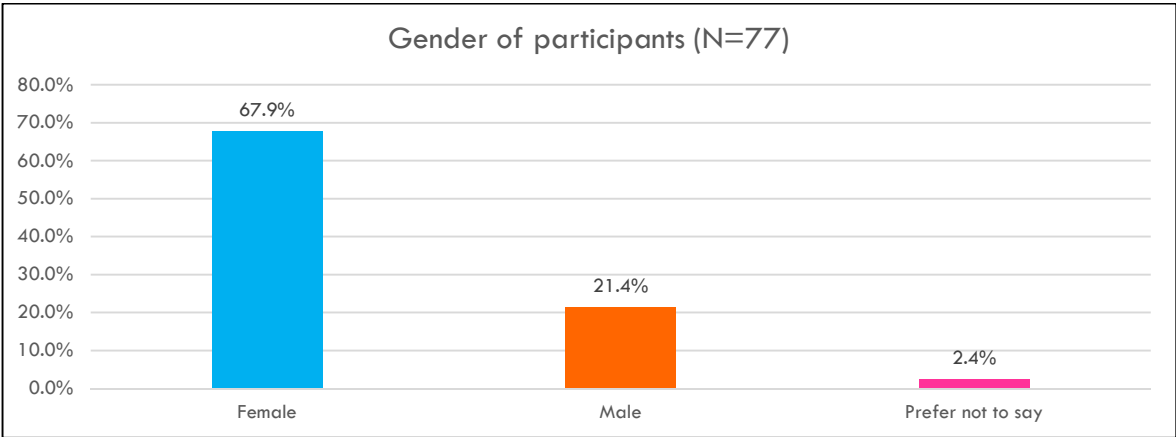


Figure 3.3. Participant residential township/locality (Survey)

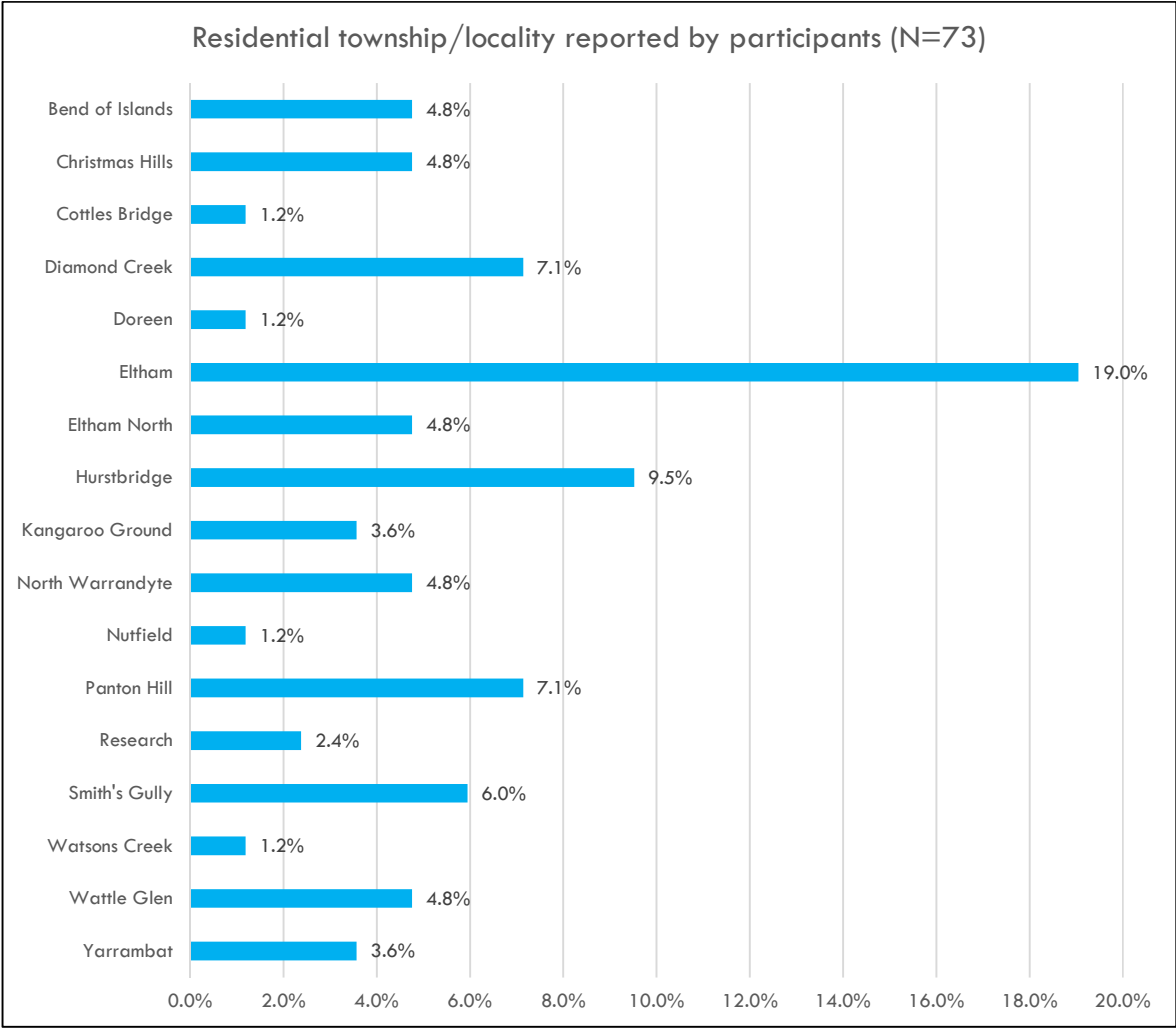


Figure 3.4. Gender of participants (Survey)

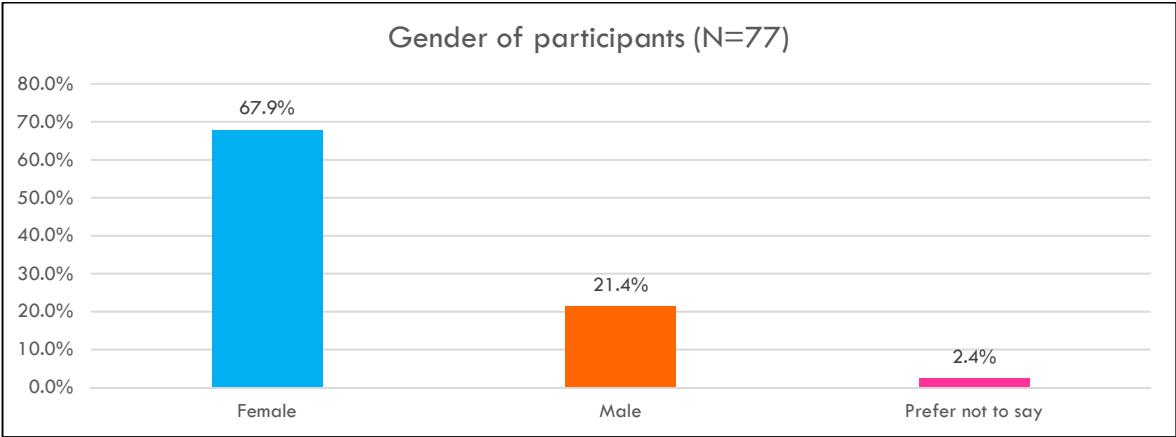


Figure 3.5. Age of participants (Survey)

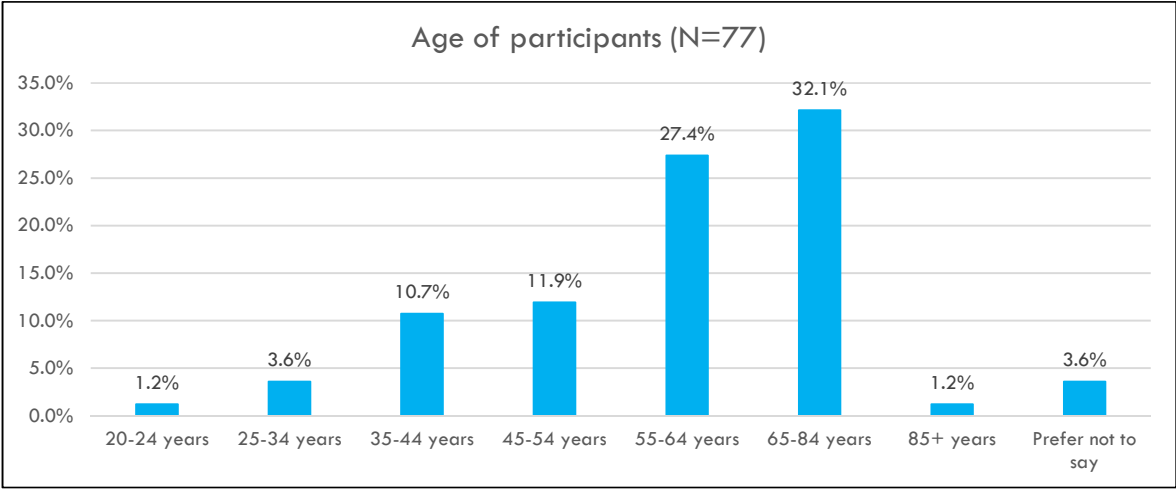
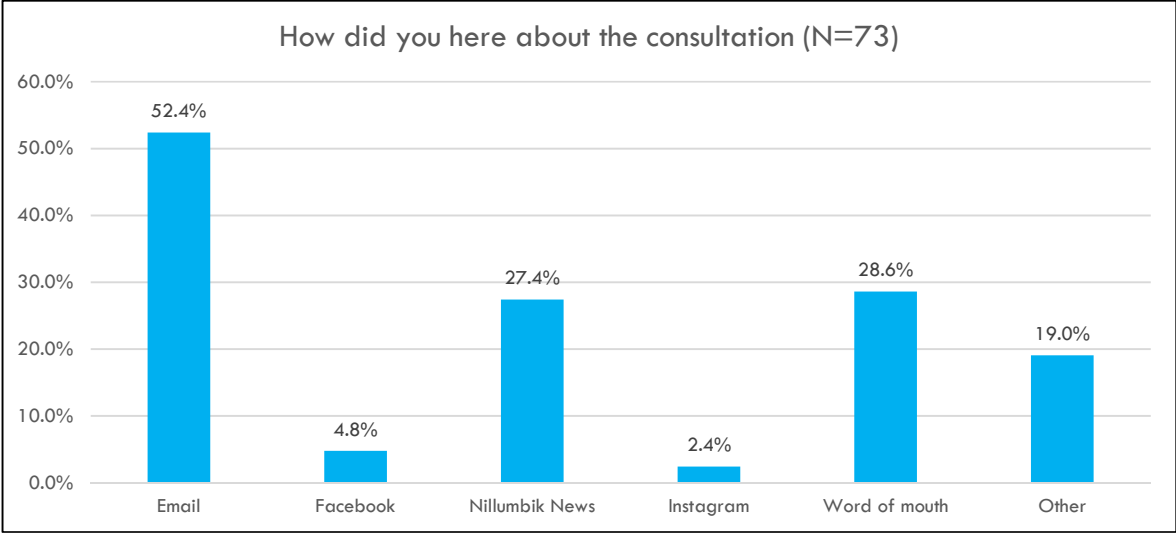


Figure 3.6. How participants heard about the consultation (Survey)



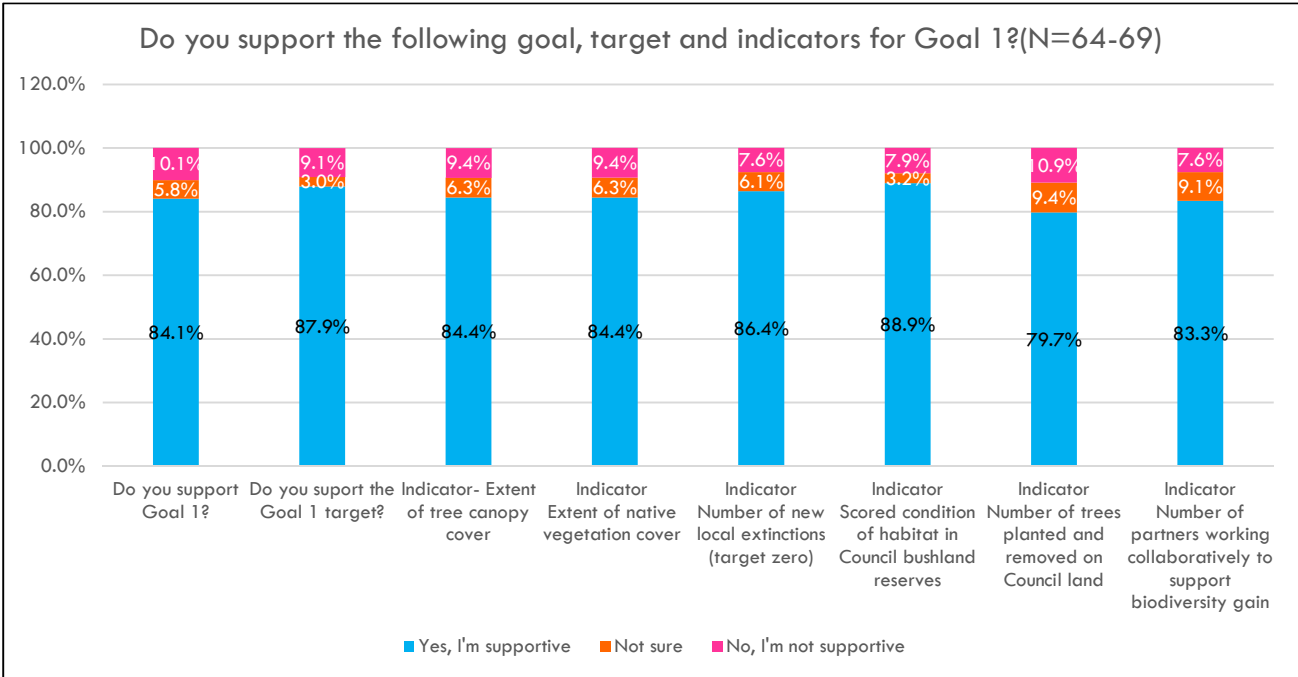
4 Findings from the analysis of the community feedback form / survey

4.1 Goal 1- Biodiversity in Nillumbik is Healthy

Survey participants were asked to indicate their level of support for Goal 1 ‘Biodiversity in Nillumbik is Healthy’; the corresponding target “Achieve a net gain in the overall extent, connectivity and condition of habitat by 2034”; and the six indicators to measure progress.

Figure 4.1 shows strong support across all categories with including 84% support for Goal 1 ; 87% support for the target; and an average of 84% for the six indicators under Goal 1.

Figure 4.1: Level of satisfaction rating with Goal 1, Target and Goal 1 Indicators (Survey)



4.2 Summary of open-ended text responses about Goal 1

After indicating their level of support, survey respondents were asked if there were any changes they would like to see with Goal 1 and the target, or if there were any other indicators they wanted to suggest. (They were not asked what they liked about the goals, targets or indicators).

There were 44 respondents who answered this question.

Table 4.1 shows a snapshot of the number of surveys where Goal 1, the target, direct comments about the indicators and possible new indicators were mentioned. Table 4.2 goes into more details about the content of the comments.

**Table 4.1: Snapshot - Goal 1, Target, Indicators mentioned in surveys**

Goal target, indicators	Mentioned in surveys
Goal 1: Biodiversity in Nillumbik is healthy	16
Target: Achieve a net gain in the overall extent, connectivity and condition of habitat by 2034	11
Ind 1: Extent of tree canopy cover	13
Ind 2: Extent of native vegetation cover	3
Ind 3: Number of new local extinctions	7
Ind 4: Scored condition of habitat in Council bushland reserve	3
Ind 5: Number of trees planted and removed on Council land	6
Ind 6: Number of partners working collaboratively to support biodiversity gain	3
Comments about Indigenous species	15
Other indicators suggested	26

\*Please note: Of the 44 personalised responses to this open-ended question, it was observed that 10 had similar/ or the same content and this has been reflected in the tally counts in table 4.1.

**Table 4.2: Summary of comments in relation to Goal 1, Target and Goal 1 Indicators (Survey)**

Goal, target and indicators	Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes Goal 1
<b>Goal 1 and the target</b>  <i>Mentioned in 27 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include more specific, clearer and baseline data to measure and track progress. Sources of data should be described.</li> <li>Better define the word 'healthy' as it could be interpreted differently by different people.</li> <li>Ensure goal and target is more measurable, detailed and time specific.</li> <li>Need more ambitious goal and target to address urgency of biodiversity decline.</li> <li>Better reflect breadth of biodiversity and species richness.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S5, S8, S10, S12, S13, S14, S17, S18, S22, S24, S32, S36, S37, S54, S55, S57, S63, S69, S74, S77
<b>Ind 1: Extent of tree canopy cover</b>  <i>Mentioned in 13 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include desired direction - 'maintain or extend tree cover' or achieve positive gain.</li> <li>Include Indigenous trees – not just any trees</li> <li>Look beyond tree canopy to mid-storey, ground level vegetation etc</li> <li>Tree canopy measure alone is too narrow and does not measure biodiversity health. Include measure around bird, insect, fungi etc.</li> <li>Concern re tree and vegetation planting on roadsides has increased fuel loads re bushfires.</li> </ul>	S1, S6, S8, S11, S12, S12, S13, S28, S40, S54, S55, S70, S75

Goal, target and indicators	Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes Goal 1
<b>Ind 2: Extent of native vegetation cover</b>  <i>Mentioned in 3 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include indigenous species</li> <li>Extent of vegetation cover measure is too narrow and does not measure biodiversity health.</li> </ul>	S13, S11, S6
<b>Ind 3: Number of new local extinctions (target zero)</b>  <i>Mentioned in 7 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rather than no new extinctions, aim for each threatened species to not climb into an elevated ranking. Looks at trajectories of threatened species (from vulnerable to endangered).</li> <li>Indicator is too negative, and plant focused.</li> </ul>	S6, S11, S12, S13, S14, S54, S75
<b>Ind 4: Scored condition of habitat in Council bushland reserve</b>  <i>Mentioned in 3 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explanation needed about what scored condition of habitat means.</li> <li>Habitat scoring could be offered to private landowners.</li> <li>Majority of bushland in Nillumbik is not owned by Council so this indicator has use.</li> </ul>	S12, S54, S74
<b>Ind 5: Number of trees planted and removed on Council land</b>  <i>Mentioned in 6 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include Indigenous trees.</li> <li>Look beyond trees to mid-storey, ground level vegetation to measure biodiversity health.</li> <li>Majority of bushland in Nillumbik is not owned by Council.</li> <li>Trees planted and canopy coverage should be on a more localised basis to avoid clearing in one place and planting in another leading to a net zero change.</li> </ul>	S6, S12, S13, S40, S70, S74
<b>Ind 6: Number of partners working collaboratively to support biodiversity gain</b>  <i>Mentioned in 3 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to define "number of partners" - is this individual people or groups?</li> <li>Target should be to increase numbers.</li> <li>Consider residents in different ecological habitat zones to understand the dynamics between humans and flora/fauna in their neighbourhood. This will enable more local responsiveness/guardianship of biodiversity: a bottom-up approach.</li> </ul>	S11, S55, S75
<b>Comments about Indigenous species</b>  <i>Mentioned in 15 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase focus on Indigenous species including increasing trees and native vegetation using Indigenous species.</li> <li>Include Indigenous flora and fauna as a measure for a healthy biodiversity.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S10, S12, S17, S20, S24, S28, S36, S69, S77, S82

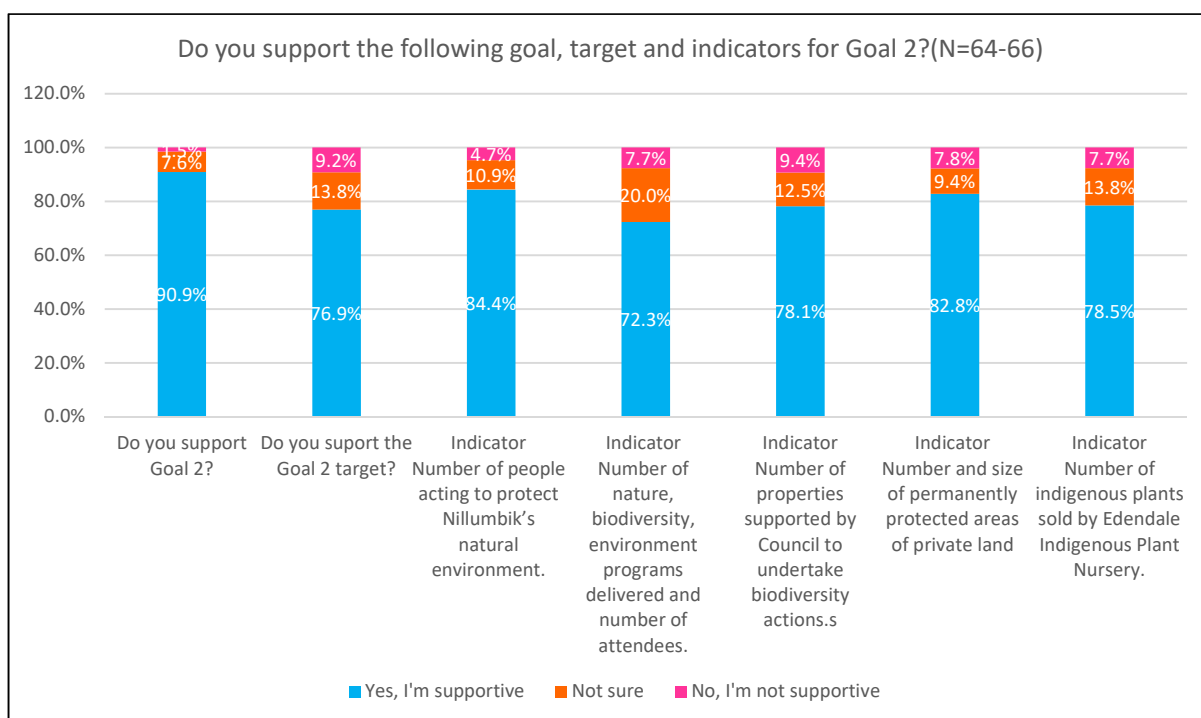
Goal, target and indicators	Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes Goal 1
<b>Other indicators suggested</b>  <i>Mentioned in 26 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of vegetation, waterways and soil</li> <li>Revegetation with Indigenous/ local species</li> <li>Measuring habitat connectivity</li> <li>Reducing pollutants, weeds, introduced animals, waste and climate pressures</li> <li>Maintaining the urban growth boundary and minimising subdivisions</li> <li>Expanding measure/ indicators to go beyond Council land</li> <li>Ensuring adequate budget and resourcing.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S6, S7, S11, S13, S14, S17, S20, S23, S24, S28, S32, S35, S36, S37, S57, S69, S70, S71, S73, S75, S79, S81, S82, S84

### 4.3 Goal 2- Nillumbik's community values and cares for nature

Survey participants were asked to indicate their level of support for Goal 2 'Nillumbik's community values and cares for nature'; the corresponding target "That 70% of Nillumbik residents care for nature by 2034"; and the five indicators to measure progress.

Figure 4.2 shows strong support across all categories with including 91% support for Goal 2; 77% support for the target; and an average of 81% for the five indicators under Goal 2.

**Figure 4.2: Level of satisfaction rating with Goal 2, Target and Goal 2 Indicators (Survey)**





#### 4.4 Summary of open-ended text responses about Goal 2

After indicating their level of support, survey respondents were asked if there were any changes they would like to see with Goal 2 and the target, or if there were any other indicators they wanted to suggest. (They were not asked what they liked about the goals, targets or indicators). There were 51 respondents who answered this question.

Table 4.3 shows a snapshot of the number of surveys where Goal 2, the target, direct comments about the indicators and possible new indicators were mentioned. Table 4.4 goes into more details about the content of the comments.

**Table 4.3: Snapshot - Number of comments related to Goal 2, Target, Goal 2 Indicators (Survey)**

Goal target, indicators	Mentioned in surveys
Goal 2: Nillumbik's community values and cares for nature	15
Target: That 70% of Nillumbik residents care for nature by 2034	16
Ind 1: Number of people acting to protect Nillumbik's natural environment	4
Ind 2: Number of nature/ biodiversity/ environment program delivered and number of attendees	8
Ind 3: Number of properties supported by Council to undertake biodiversity actions	2
Ind 4: Number and size of permanently protected areas of private land (Trust for Nature Covenants)	4
Ind 5: Number of Indigenous plants sold by Edendale Indigenous Plant Nursery	8
Other indicators suggested	27

\*Please note: Of the 51 personalised responses to this open-ended question, it was observed that nine had similar/ or the same content. In addition, when answering this open-ended question there were also five survey submissions that had the same/ or similar content which objected to the draft strategy mentioning horses riding off trails and impacting the health of biodiversity in Nillumbik.

**Table 4.4: Summary of comments in relation to Goal 2, Target, Goal 2 Indicators (Survey)**

Indicator	Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes Goal 2
<b>Goal 2</b>  <i>Mentioned in 15 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs to be more specific and measurable.</li> <li>Better define 'care for nature' as it could be interpreted differently by different people.</li> <li>Needs to connect more strongly and measure biodiversity health and outcomes on the ground (not just people indicating their care for nature).</li> <li>Additional goal needed involving Council's delegated powers for rate collection and land use management to improve biodiversity, shifting responsibilities away from Council and to community to play a bigger role.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S5, S6, S10, S12, S13, S17, S24, S28, S32, S36, S57, S69, S70

Indicator	Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes Goal 2
<b>Target</b>  <i>Mentioned in 16 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target of 70% is too low.</li> <li>Clarify how 70% was chosen and if there is a baseline measure to track progress and to determine if 70% is a stretch target or easy to achieve.</li> </ul>	S5, S6, S8, S12, S13, S23, S26, S36, S37, S40, S57, S63, S71, S74, S75, S77
<b>Ind 1: Number of people acting to protect Nillumbik's natural environment</b>  <i>Mentioned in 4 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need a clear definition of 'natural environment' and acting to protect' – these could mean a variety of things to different people and may be detrimental to biodiversity.</li> <li>Need more specific measure and a target eg: 70% of 18+ yr olds in Nillumbik answering the annual survey</li> </ul>	S8, S12, S36, S37
<b>Ind 2: Number of nature/ biodiversity/ environment program delivered and number of attendees</b>  <i>Mentioned in 8 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to measure effectiveness of programs and if they lead to action with significant measurable benefit to indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem health (ask attendees will you take action).</li> <li>Need to offer programs that a more engaging and suit all residents (more days / times).</li> <li>Needs a baseline and baseline review of current programs.</li> <li>More valuable to record new/ unique attendees.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S8, S13, S14, S17, S36, S73
<b>Ind 3: Number of properties supported by Council to undertake biodiversity actions</b>  <i>Mentioned in 2 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen indicator by including a measure.</li> <li>A total area of supported properties is a better measurement than the number of properties.</li> </ul>	S36, S54
<b>Ind 4: Number and size of permanently protected areas of private land (Trust for Nature Covenants)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply this to Council land.</li> <li>Concern for condition of current Trust for Nature properties.</li> <li>A total area of Trust for Nature Covenants is a better measurement than the number of properties.</li> </ul>	S1, S8, S40, S54

Indicator	Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes Goal 2
<i>Mentioned in 4 surveys</i>		
<b>Ind 5: Number of Indigenous plants sold by Edendale Indigenous Plant Nursery</b>  <i>Mentioned in 8 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern that Indigenous plants sold at Edendale Nursery might not be planted in the Shire, be the best species for healthy biodiversity, survive to maturity.</li> <li>Better to record the number of people that Edendale nursery interacts with than plant numbers sold, or record purchaser postcode.</li> <li>Need to include other nurseries in the indicator and for Edendale to operate over longer hours to increase customers.</li> <li>Include measure and specific details to strengthen indicator eg: An increase by 10% each year in the number of people/households from within Nillumbik who purchase indigenous plants from Edendale.</li> </ul>	S8, S12, S36, S54, S58, S70, S71, S74
<b>Other indicators / actions suggested</b>  <i>Mentioned in 27 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase indigenous biodiversity on private property and nature-strips and incentives for residents to support/ increase biodiversity</li> <li>Return of locally extinct animals, plants and fungi</li> <li>Increase of small birds in urban and rural areas</li> <li>Communications, education, awareness raising, workshops, schools teaching biodiversity in the area</li> <li>Reducing pollutants, weeds, introduced animals, waste, impermeable surfaces and climate pressures</li> <li>Ecologically sensitive approach to fire and perceived fire risk</li> <li>Enforcement for illegal tree poisoning/ land clearing</li> <li>Different indicators for rural areas and urban areas</li> <li>Ensuring adequate budget and resourcing.</li> </ul>	S1, S2, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10, S17, S20, S22, S24, S26, S28, S31, S32, S35, S36, S45, S55, S57, S58, S60, S68, S69, S80, S81, S82

4.5 Focus Areas

Survey respondents were asked how much they liked the objectives under each of the four focus areas in the strategy.

The figures below (Figure 4.3 to 4.3) show strong support for all objectives under the four focus areas, with each objective scoring over 83% 'like' and six objectives scoring more than 90%.

Figure 4.3: Like rating for Focus Area 1 – Leadership and Advocacy and Objectives (Survey)

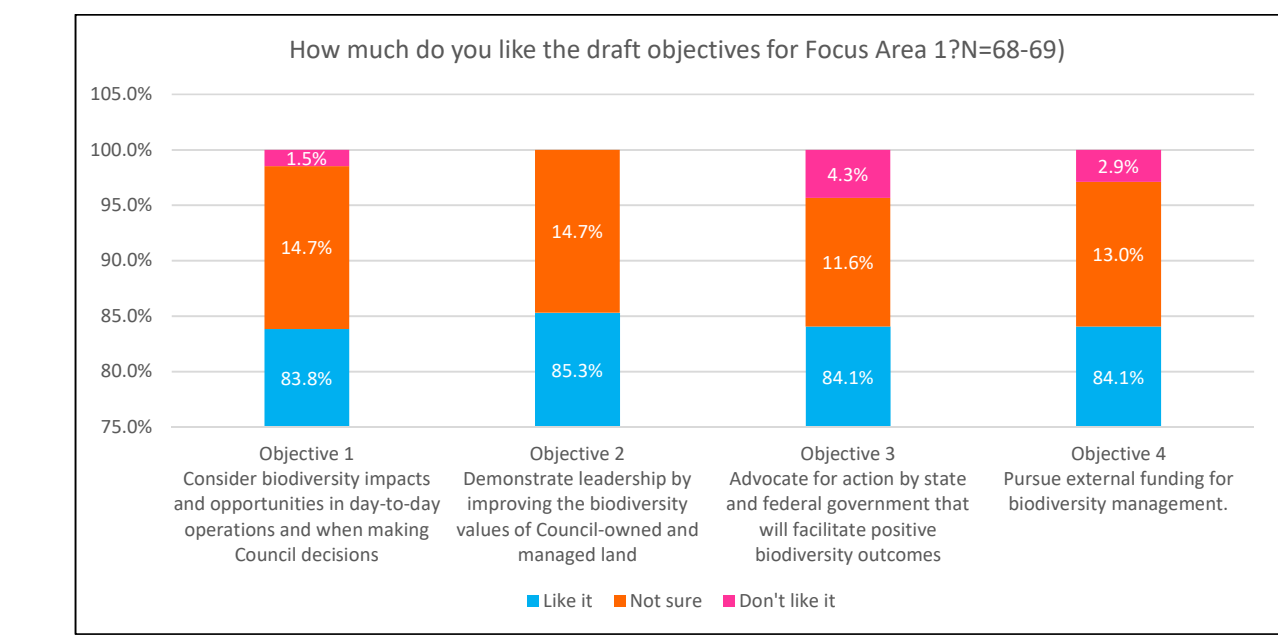


Figure 4.4: Like rating for Focus Area 2 – People and Partnerships and Objectives (Survey)

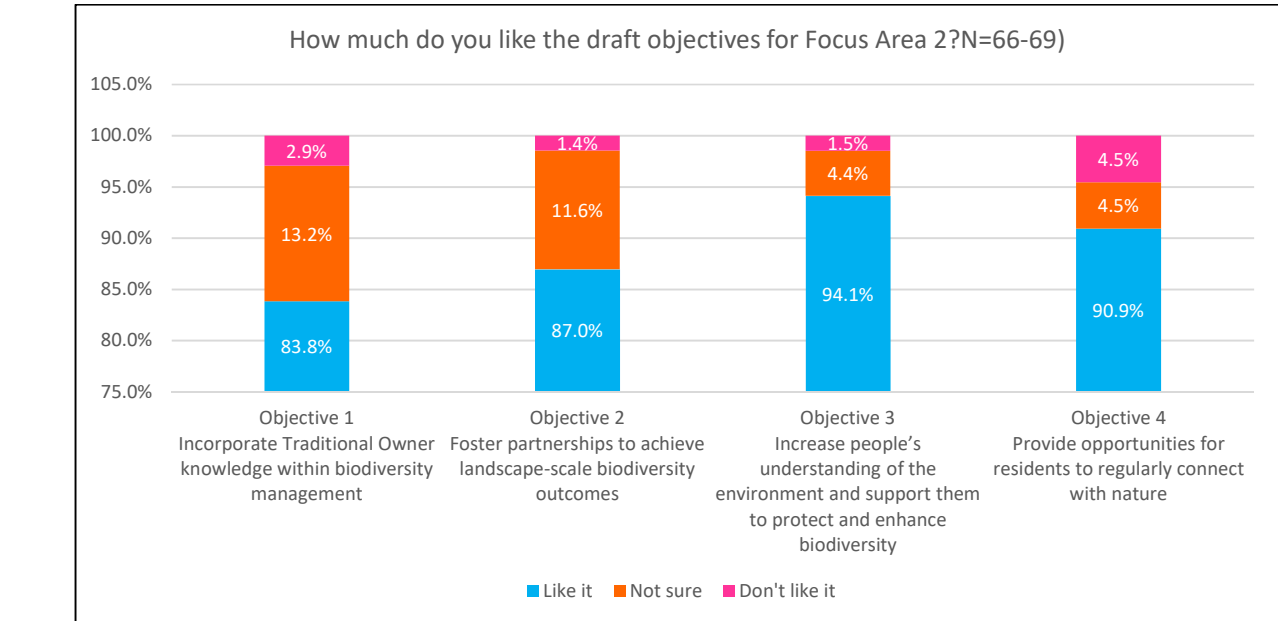


Figure 4.5: Like rating for Focus Area 3 – Species and Habitat Enhancement and Objectives (Survey)

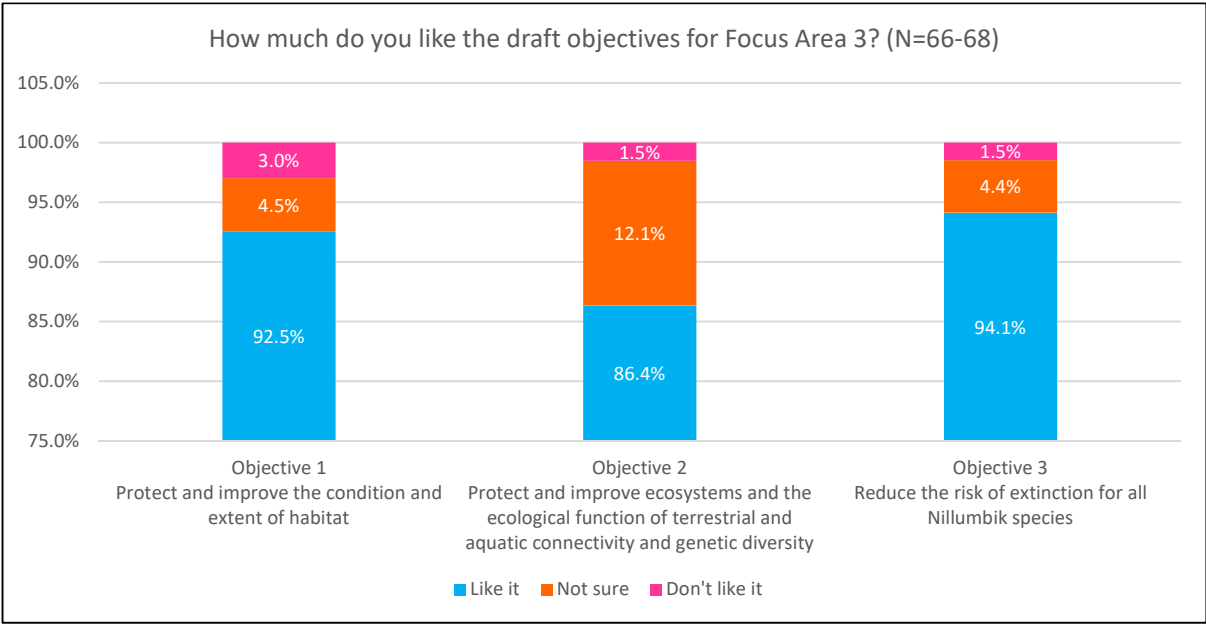
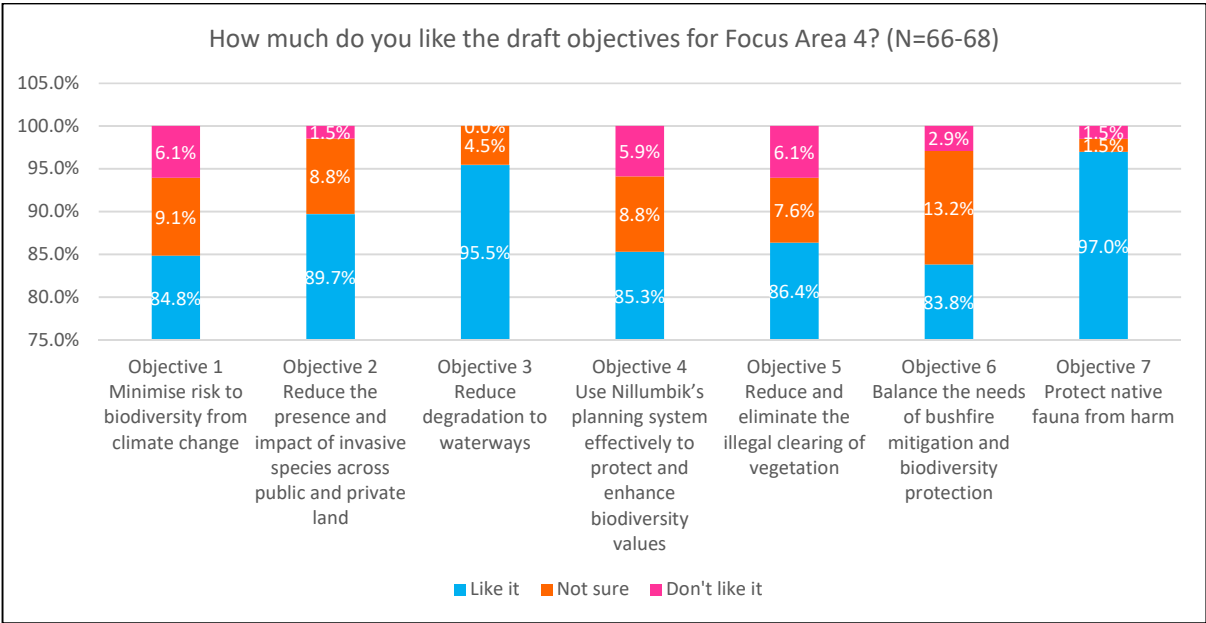


Figure 4.6: Like rating for Focus Area 4 – Mitigating Threatening Processes and Impacts and Objectives (Survey)



#### 4.6 Summary of open-ended text responses on the four focus areas

After indicating if they liked the objectives or not, respondents were given the opportunity to identify any changes or gaps relating to the focus areas, objectives, or corresponding strategies.

There were 57 respondents who answered this question. (Respondents were not specifically asked to indicate what they liked about the draft objectives). The following tables summarise comments made about the focus areas in general, and about the objectives under each of the focus areas.

\*Please note: Of the 57 personalised responses to this open-ended question, it was observed that six had similar/ or the same content. In addition, when answering this open-ended question there were also five survey submissions that had the same/ or similar content which objected to the draft strategy mentioning horses riding off trails and impacting the health of biodiversity in Nillumbik.

Following the tables about each focus area and corresponding objectives is a list of additional ideas put forward by survey respondents (answering Q8 – other comments about the strategy) and those who put in a submission. These extensive range of ideas include possible new actions, strategies, and objectives.

**Table 4.5: Summary of comments in relation to Focus Areas and Objectives in general (Survey)**

Focus area/ objective and no of mentions	Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes for Focus Areas
<b>Focus areas and objectives in general.</b>  <i>Mentioned in 18 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus areas and objectives are generally supported, however they need to be more specific, less vague, measurable, strengthened, and linked to time frames and associated budget and resources.</li> <li>They need to include how they will be achieved, with measures, targets, methods, and a framework for implementation.</li> <li>There needs to be prioritisation of the objectives.</li> <li>Supporting strategies are non-specific and they need stronger language.</li> <li>Language could be more positive and ambitious.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S6, S8, S10, S11, S17, S20, S24, S26, S28, S32, S35, S36, S55, S69, S74, S77

**Table 4.6a: Summary of comments in relation to Focus Area 1 and Objectives (Survey)**

Focus area 1 – Leadership and Advocacy (Objectives mentioned in 18 surveys)		Feedback ID codes for Focus Area 1
<b>Objective 1</b> Consider biodiversity impacts and opportunities in day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for embedding the strategy into all council areas and activities including fire notices, training for all staff and contractors including engineers, recreation planners, road crews etc.</li> <li>Strengthen the language from 'consider' to 'ensure' and to minimise the impact of Council operations on vegetation and biodiversity.</li> </ul>	S5, S23, S36, S55, S75

Focus area 1 – Leadership and Advocacy (Objectives mentioned in 18 surveys)		Feedback ID codes for Focus Area 1
Mentioned in 5 surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council employees to be specific about how they will support biodiversity goals.</li> </ul>	
<b>Objective 2</b> Demonstrate leadership by improving biodiversity values on Council-owned land.  Mentioned in 2 surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council needs to plant indigenous species on all Council land.</li> <li>Increase standards for projects on Council land in particular light spill and plastic pollution caused by broken bits from soccer pitches.</li> </ul>	S9, S73
<b>Objective 3</b> Advocate for action by State and Federal government that will facilitate positive biodiversity outcomes.  Mentioned in 0 surveys	No comments received	
<b>Objective 4</b> Pursue external funding for biodiversity management.  Mentioned in 2 surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A threat to biodiversity in Nillumbik is insufficient Council, and external, funding.</li> <li>Include objective to see external funding from private industries and businesses as part of sponsorship for biodiversity projects.</li> </ul>	S14, S54
<b>Suggested objectives</b>  Mentioned in 9 surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embed delivery of the Biodiversity Strategy within CEO/ senior staff KPIs</li> <li>Include objectives related to allocating Council core funding and resources towards biodiversity strategy, including increasing funding each year – (4)</li> <li>Include recognition of residents as leaders in this space.</li> <li>Include objective to encourage Nillumbik-specific Narrap team.</li> <li>Council to advocate for and publicly identify Nillumbik as 'the conservation shire with the Green Wedge'.</li> </ul>	S5, S6, S11, S12, S14, S17, S54, S57, S63

**Table 4.6b: Summary of possible additional ideas for Focus Area 1 (Survey, Submissions)**

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 1 – Leadership and Advocacy</b>	
Increased focus on maintaining and improving roadsides for habitat. Plant roadside trees in rural areas.	S2, S3, S17, S20, S32, S36, S63, S77
Reduce the use of chemicals such as glyphosates and ensure they are not replaced with other destructive methods or substances. Reduce herbicides.	S2, S3, S17, S24, S36, SUB3
Have regular and meaningful meetings between Environmental staff and Parks Recreation and Open Space staff.	S5
Ensure that planting by Council Parks Recreation and Open Space staff complies with Live Local Plant Local.	S5
Ensure internal processes within Council that may impact biodiversity are not in conflict – i.e fire notices to “mow grass” should not be sent to bushland properties.	SUB12
Officer training to ensure enforcement re vegetation and habitat has been removed.	SUB12
Fund a review of Live Local Plant Local.	S5
Council to protect its own land and do more to support residents when developing properties.	S8
Have out of hours rangers available to fauna in the shire.	S8
Return Wadeson Road reserve to the council and protect it, look for other land in the Shire that could be purchased.	S8
Nillumbik to be a leader in conservation and biodiversity enhancement.	S33
Council decisions to be made through a biodiversity lens if there is to be a reversal of decline.	S33
Consider tree roots in Tree Root Zones as part of Council projects.	SUB1
All Council projects impacting biodiversity/ environment be required to get approval from planning department.	SUB1
All planning applications/ State Government infrastructure projects to be assess through a climate impact lens and sustainability lens.	SUB1
All Council plans, strategies, and actions to be respectful of, and responsive to, the long-held knowledge and consciousness of Australia’s Indigenous people.	SUB3
Biodiversity priorities to be embedded with policy so future Councils cannot reverse them.	SUB3
Fund actions to deliver the Biodiversity Strategy and promote level of investment and funding opportunities from Council and other levels of government.	SUB8
Establish databases, collect and populate baseline data of current biodiversity condition, and establish an ongoing monitoring regime for biodiversity and environmental condition.	SUB8
Update Nillumbik Tree Management Guidelines 2018 to prioritise the planting of indigenous tree species as part of determining whether there are opportunities for new or replacement plantings in parks, reserves, activity centres and along urban streets and implementing a long-term planting program.	SUB11
Advocate for collaborative and cooperative biodiversity outcomes with neighbouring LGAs	SUB12



Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas
Advocate for clean air to reduce pollution from new industry, increased traffic, wood heater smoke, and planned burning smoke.	SUB1

**Table 4.7a: Summary of comments in relation to Focus Area 2 and Objectives (Survey)**

Focus area 2 – People and Partnerships (Objectives mentioned in 26 surveys)		
<b>Objective 1</b> Incorporate Traditional Owner knowledge within biodiversity management.  <i>Mentioned in 4 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This objective is not clear.</li> <li>▪ Concerns raised about traditional burns in reserves as today we have a very different environment with more introduced weeds.</li> <li>▪ Include other practices and approaches beyond cultural burning, ecological burning.</li> </ul>	S12, S48, S58, S75
<b>Objective 2</b> Foster partnerships to achieve landscape-scale biodiversity outcomes.  <i>Mentioned in 9 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Objective needs to be strengthened to encourage the whole community to get involved.</li> <li>▪ Include recognition of residents as leaders in this space; acknowledge rural landholders for their efforts and contribution to in managing their properties.</li> <li>▪ Suggestions for partnerships with different groups including community groups for mapping and monitoring; Landcare groups to work with new landowners; sports clubs to understand impact of sports lights.</li> <li>▪ Stronger partnerships with State Government authorities eg: Vic Roads re tree planting and to minimise tree removal and to reduce speed limits to better protect wildlife.</li> </ul>	S12, S28, S45, S54, S57, S60, S71, S73, S76
<b>Objective 3</b> Increase people's understanding of the environment and support them to protect and enhance biodiversity.  <i>Mentioned in 3 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Objective needs to be strengthened to encourage the whole community to get involved.</li> <li>▪ Contact new landowners and provide information on biodiversity.</li> <li>▪ Educating the community is a priority.</li> </ul>	S28, S54, S82
<b>Objective 4</b> Provide opportunities for residents to regularly connect with nature.  <i>Mentioned in 7 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Objective needs to be strengthened to encourage the whole community to get involved.</li> <li>▪ Connect with nature is passive and vague – needs to be strengthened to show people are part of nature (not separate).</li> </ul>	S6, S21, S28, S29, S54, S55, S58

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure strategies to connect people to nature do not impact the biodiversity eg: putting in new paths so people can walk in nature.</li> <li>Interact with different groups such as U3A, sports clubs, parent groups, men's sheds, neighbourhood houses, etc. regarding nature connection.</li> <li>Horse riders appreciate the reserves and can connect with nature because of access to the trails.</li> </ul>	
<b>Suggested objectives</b>  <i>Mentioned in 3 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More education on healthy EVC's. More education on species to plant for endangered parrots.</li> <li>Council officers to develop an outreach program to enlist rural landowners to support the strategy.</li> <li>Include recognition of residents as leaders in this space.</li> </ul>	S6, S54, S57

**Table 4.7b: Summary of possible additional ideas for Focus Area 2 (Survey, Submissions)**

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 2 – People and Partnerships</b>	
Edendale farm to collect seeds from a wider area than Ironbark Rd.	S8
Generate an index of seed collection locations within the municipality and also develop a seed orchard for more common species or species that are difficult to collect.	SUB12
Better informative signage for learning and education opportunities.	S8
Provide financial and other incentives (biodiversity credits) to protect and/or improve biodiversity on private land.	S12, S31, SUB2, SUB3
Increase education and capacity building for those on private land to improve biodiversity, or create a small areas for native vegetation.	S12, S30
Identify specific opportunities for working with community groups, e.g. education, publicity, advisory, local mapping, implementation.	S12
Identify less engaged demographics/groups and the barriers to them taking action to inform the strategy.	S14
Use diverse forms of communication to educate, inform, and connect the community with a focus on indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem function.	S31, SUB3
Avoid use of "off-sets" and encourage 'avoidance of damage'.	S33
Provide residents with online information including habitat condition reports for Council reserves. Each reserve could have a web page explaining management plans, threats, weeds of concern, tree removal or planting plans and options for community involvement.	S54
Promote the strategy and implementation plans.	S57
Increase information about what good biodiversity diversity is, safe vegetation on private land, what ideal biodiversity looks like on various sized blocks.	S71, S80
Create footpaths to reduce car usage.	S82
Monitor strict speed limits on roads in Nillumbik. 40 mph to be the rule where wildlife is obviously located.	
Pop up Council-initiated information desks in and around business, cafe areas.	S82

All schools in Nillumbik to create indigenous gardens and plant only indigenous vegetation in their spaces.	S82
Create a pamphlet about invasive species like European Wasps (compared to native wasps) and also where European Wasp nests are likely to be found, i.e. in tree hollows, rabbit burrows, walls of houses and garden rockeries	SUB2
Strategy to distinguish between private land and public land with regard to targets and indicators because they represent very different proportions of the overall biodiversity challenge.	SUB8
Ensure public and private land managers are aware of the presence and location of threatened flora species.	SUB12
Require the retention of fallen and standing dead timber as habitat on private property, particularly hollow-bearing trees.	SUB12
Liaise with the Round the Bend Conservation Co-operative re installation and subsequent success of household transpiration beds.	SUB2
Biodiversity Accreditation program for businesses operating in Nillumbik Shire	SUB3

**Table 4.8a: Summary of comments in relation to Focus Area 3 and Objectives (Survey)**

Focus area 3 – Species and Habitat Enhancement (Objectives mentioned in 12 surveys)		Feedback ID codes for Focus Area 3
<b>Objective 1</b> Protect and improve the condition and extent of habitat.  <i>Mentioned in 5 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include references to Indigenous species and ecosystem health “native is good, indigenous is better”.</li> <li>Need to identify the ‘how’ we can improve and protect habitat.</li> </ul>	S18, S28, S36, S37, S55
<b>Objective 2</b> Protect and improve ecosystems and the ecological function of terrestrial and aquatic connectivity and genetic diversity.  <i>Mentioned in 1 survey</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sounds like mostly covered in much broader 1st objective. Why not have an objective on animal biodiversity.</li> </ul>	S75
<b>Objective 3</b> Reduce the risks of extinction for all Nillumbik species.  <i>Mentioned in 1 survey</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus area is too ‘threatened species’ focused and gives insufficient attention to ecosystem enhancement.</li> </ul>	S13
<b>Suggested objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritise support of properties with higher biodiversity value.</li> </ul>	S12, S14, S54, S75

Focus area 3 – Species and Habitat Enhancement (Objectives mentioned in 12 surveys)		Feedback ID codes for Focus Area 3
Mentioned in 5 surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place greater emphasis on expanding existing habitat and include objective on animal biodiversity.</li> <li>Add objective to strengthen habitat links, create nature strip program, have goals for each bio-link.</li> <li>Train road work contractors in habitat protection.</li> <li>Local seed bank to provide EVC appropriate seed for land remediation after earthworks.</li> </ul>	

**Table 4.8b: Summary of possible additional ideas for Focus Area 3 (Survey, Submissions)**

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 3 – Species and Habitat Enhancement</b>	
Put economic values on canopy trees, especially in urban areas.	S5
Add significant trees on the significant tree register.	S8
More nesting boxings, 1 tree removed twenty nesting boxes placed in the area.	S8
Wider diversity of plantings used in landscaping.	S8
Consider shade trees for car parks rather than eucalyptus species.	S8
Create system whereby indigenous species are regenerating themselves.	S20
Active monitoring of changes to land usage and tree canopies to compare changes over time.	S24
All areas of high biodiversity, on public and private land to be identified and monitored.	S31
Adopt a 'Precautionary Principle'.	S33
Include opportunities in planning applications to strengthen habitat and corridors.	S34
Purchase land for positive biodiversity outcomes.	S34
Ban use of UV lit electrified outdoor insect traps in Nillumbik.	SUB2, SUB3
Use local plant stocks for restoration.	SUB2
Ensure revegetation occurs in ecologically sensitive ways to enable balance in the ecosystem, providing habitat for diverse species	SUB3
Protect and appropriately revegetate hilltops through Nillumbik.	SUB3
Use ecologically sensitive methods and reduce use of chemical sprays which impact soils, waterways, fungi, terrestrial and aquatic animals.	SUB3
Reduction of hard and impermeable surfaces.	SUB3
Require remediation of sites of illegal vegetation clearing, and the provision of native vegetation offsets.	SUB12
Extend the riparian zone (30 metres with more structured layers) connecting to main corridor like a creek.	
More focus on Indigenous species. Repair disturbed soil using seed/ stock from Indigenous flora.	SUB3

**Table 4.9a: Summary of comments in relation to Focus Area 4 and Objectives (Survey)**

Focus area 4– Mitigating Threatened Processes and Impacts (Objectives mentioned in 29 surveys)		Feedback ID codes for Focus Area 4
<b>Objective 1</b> Minimise risk to biodiversity from climate change.  Mentioned in 0 surveys		
<b>Objective 2</b> Reduce the presence and impact of invasive species across public and private land.  Mentioned in 4 surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More emphasis on invasive weeds, limit invasive species/weeds on private properties, and develop easy way for community to report weed concerns (3).</li> <li>Add goal for 24/7 cat curfew.</li> </ul>	S8, S23, S54, S84
<b>Objective 3</b> Reduce degradation of waterways.  Mentioned in 3 surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend riparian widths and connecting wetlands to creeks and rivers.</li> <li>Collaborate with DEECA, the relevant Catchment Management Authority to reduce degradation of waterways.</li> <li>Monitoring illegal private harvesting of water, dam building etc.</li> </ul>	S40, S47, S70
<b>Objective 4</b> Use Nillumbik's planning system effectively to protect and enhance biodiversity values.  Mentioned in 7 surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal for all building permits to have a biodiversity protection points system to them.</li> <li>Strengthen wording and enforcement of planning rules re tree and vegetation removal. Use 'implement and enforce' the planning system.</li> <li>Council to report on this objective yearly to track progress and on outcomes.</li> <li>Planning controls and permits must reflect adequate room on development sites for canopy trees and greater garden areas.</li> </ul>	S5, S8, S9, S33, S34, S54, S68
<b>Objective 5</b> Reduce and eliminate the illegal clearing of vegetation.  4 comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase compliance and enforcement for clearing of trees and vegetation including fines for private landowners who allow significant trees to be killed.</li> <li>Arborists to check that permits have been issued before tree removal.</li> <li>Concern that clearing has increased and accelerated over the past 10 years.</li> </ul>	S8, S23, S54, S71

Focus area 4– Mitigating Threatened Processes and Impacts (Objectives mentioned in 29 surveys)		Feedback ID codes for Focus Area 4
<b>Objective 6</b> Balance the needs of bushfire mitigation and biodiversity protection.  <i>Mentioned in 10 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not enough slashing and burning in preparation of fire season.</li> <li>▪ Bushfire management needs to be a high priority.</li> <li>▪ Protection of open grazing land as a good fire break.</li> <li>▪ Too much vegetation removal is occurring for bushfire mitigation purposes.</li> <li>▪ More education about what really constitutes a fire threat and education for landowners about how to protect good habitat.</li> <li>▪ Need to be more specific about what does balance mean and measures.</li> <li>▪ More data and information needed to show how removal of vegetation reduces fire risk.</li> <li>▪ Mixed views about organised burns including the need for slow burning following Aboriginal laws; cool burns each autumn in appropriate EVC with recorded data and studies; Indigenous knowledge used from other parts of the country may not be applicable to fire regimes in Nillumbik.</li> </ul>	S1, S2, S3, S8, S23, S48, S49, S54, S69, S79, S80
<b>Objective 7</b> Protect native fauna from harm.  <i>Mentioned in 2 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Keep abreast of virtual fencing and other fauna protection and management trials" - trials have already been conducted have demonstrated benefit. Nillumbik should move to conducting trials using current data to prioritise high risk areas.</li> <li>• Include both fauna and flora.</li> </ul>	S36, S23
<b>Suggested objectives</b>  3 comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ban on second generation rodenticides used by council and its contractors.</li> <li>• Measure waste collected on Clean Up Australia Day and the number of people registered for the event and compare annually.</li> <li>• Need to take into account infrastructure and recreation including road widening/bike paths/bigger and more sports fields/lighting for sports fields. These are big treats to biodiversity.</li> </ul>	S23, S54, S73

**Table 4.9b: Summary of possible additional ideas for Focus Area 3 (Survey, submissions)**

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 4 – Mitigating Threatening Processes and Impacts</b>	
If one tree is removed, replace with 20 and monitored for the next 20 years.	S8
Improve traffic light sequences to reduce carbon emissions.	S8
Reduce clearing / tree removal through enforcement of greater penalties for unapproved activities.	S12, S16, SUB4, SUB12
Policy and education on the impact of domestic cats and more dogs on leads signs.	S16, S58
Strict containment of cats and dogs and introduce a 24hr cat curfew (enforce through planning rules).	S31, SUB1, SUB2, SUB3, SUB4
Active monitoring of dog and cat registrations and increased enforcement on pet compliance.	S24
Increased enforcement on landowners who allow stock to graze on bush blocks.	S16
Reduce/ control pest species including Noisy Miners (including the avoidance of planting trees that attract them), foxes, kangaroos etc.	S30, S31, S40
Develop mitigation plan aimed at reducing pollution and emissions, light pollution, weed species and pest animals.	S31, SUB1, SUB3, SUB4, SUB12
Overlay the strategy with Bushfire Management Overlay.	S31
Greater priority on waterways.	S47
Increase shallow wetlands close to the creek lines and revegetate historical dams.	S73
Measure and reduce the carbon emissions and embodied carbon within the Shire.	SUB1
Funding and project plan for wildlife virtual fences.	S35, SUB5, SUB9, SUB10, SUB13
Change the planning regulations to prohibit non - fauna friendly fencing for rural areas.	SUB1
Reduce speed limits to better protect wildlife and people.	S82, SUB1, SUB13
Prohibit the use and sale of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) and glyphosates.	S2, S3, S17, SUB1, SUB3
Regulate excavations as per the planning scheme, including requiring reversal of works carried out without permits.	SUB1
Loss of stored carbon through Council tree removals be measured and recorded.	SUB1
Planning decisions to include environmental value of land that is in or near to the mapped habitat links in Nillumbik.	SUB1
Implement control regime to eradicate feral European Honeybee hives.	SUB2, SUB3
Service for residents to notify Council of European Wasp nests on their land and to cover some or all of the cost of having them destroyed.	SUB2, SUB3
Stop selling and cultivation of Monterey Pines in Nillumbik. Existing commercial plantations of the species need to be replaced with a non-invasive tree species after they are felled.	SUB2
Maintaining Urban Growth Boundary and strengthening Zoning/overlays for biodiversity protection.	SUB3
Ecologically sensitive approach to fire and perceived fire risk	SUB3

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas
Support rural landholders in undertaking prescribed burning and for Council to connect with rural landholders, CFA, Wurundjeri's Narrap team and other organisations.	SUB11, SUB12
Encourage and support fencing of waterways on private properties to exclude stock grazing, in collaboration with water authorities.	SUB12
Make nature strip planting easier (no permit required)	S73
Spread out development zones more evenly.	S8
Create wildlife passages overhead and underground	SUB1

#### 4.7 Summary of open-ended text responses about the draft strategy overall

Survey respondents were asked if they had any other feedback about the draft strategy. There were 54 respondents who provided further comments. Table 4.10 shows the various topics that were raised by respondents and the number of surveys where these comments appear.

\*Please note: Of the 54 personalised responses to this open-ended question, it was observed that six had similar/ or the same content. In addition, when answering this open-ended question there were also 25 survey responses that had the same/ or similar content which related to riding horses in Nillumbik reserves and/ or acknowledging landowners for the work they do in managing their properties. These 25 responses have been collated and summarised in the table below.

**Table 4.10: Summary of comments in relation to draft strategy overall (Survey)**

Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes for overall strategy comments
<b>Concerns from horse riders and landowners about working in the strategy – Mentioned in 25 surveys</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern around the wording in the draft strategy under Threats section 2.2 about overgrazing and horses off formal tracks.</li> <li>There is a request for the statements to be removed.</li> <li>Responses have stated that horse riders using the trails within reserves do so consciously and respectfully of the environment.</li> <li>There is also a request for statements to be added to the strategy under Biodiversity action in the community acknowledging the efforts and contribution of private rural landholders in supporting the natural environment and biodiversity.</li> </ul>	S4, S21, S29, S31, S32, S38, S40, S41, S42, S43, S44, S45, S48, S49, S50, S51, S52, S53, S56, S59, S62, S64, S65, S67, S68
<b>Information missing that could be added to the strategy – Mentioned in 20 surveys</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the appendix two species need to be added to the list of Threatened Fauna – the Yarra Pygmy Perch, Nannoperca obscura, and Freshwater Herring, Potamalosa richmonida.</li> <li>Acknowledge species that are not currently threatened but will be soon. There are many other species that are disappearing 'under the radar' – Spotted Quail-thrush, Jacky Winter.</li> <li>Acknowledge rarity and importance of grasses.</li> <li>Increase focus, emphasis and action around Indigenous vegetation and species.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S8, S10, S13, S17, S20, S23, S24, S30, S31, S32, S33, S34, S35, S36, S37, S39, S70, S74



Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes for overall strategy comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add clarity and more detail around the previous Biodiversity Strategy, what was learnt, outcomes, assessment of programs and how it has informed the current draft.</li> <li>Add commitment to engagement with the community on development of the annual Implementation Plans.</li> <li>Add current state of biodiversity in Nillumbik; 'green wedge'; a more explicit definition of biodiversity health; statement about private landowners' environmental responsibility; advances in environmental science; and reference to 'Caring for Landscape' document.</li> <li>Add population growth, capitalism, housing to section on threats.</li> <li>Add more visual elements/ images re challenges, beauty of biodiversity.</li> </ul>	
<b>Strategy needs more specific measures, targets, baseline data, accountability – Mentioned in 15 surveys</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy needs to include strong, clear and measurable goals, clear baseline measures, measurable indicators, specific targets, minimum standards, specific timeframes to ensure accountability.</li> <li>Strategy needs to show accountability and what actions will be taken if goals and targets are not met.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S8, S10, S14, S17, S24, S28, S32, S35, S36, S37, S55, S70, S77,
<b>Comments on budget, funding, and resources – Mentioned in 13 surveys</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More information about how the strategy and implementation plans will be funded and resources allocated.</li> <li>Concern that the strategy will not be funded or have enough resources to implement it.</li> <li>Apply environmental full-cost accounting to biodiversity services, both for loss and gain.</li> <li>Cost savings from more sustainable actions (such as reducing landfill, reducing electricity usage, increasing indigenous vegetation therefore decreasing the need for weed-control measures etc) to go back into funding biodiversity actions.</li> <li>Allocate budget or substantially increase the LMIP budget to support residents to improve biodiversity, especially in high value areas.</li> <li>Increase resources to develop and implement the strategy (not externals) to grow internal and local knowledge.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S8, S13, S14, S16, S23, S31, S35, S39, S54, S73, S77
<b>General positive comments on the strategy and support of general direction – Mentioned in 11 surveys</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and commend the work in developing the draft strategy and Council's focus on the environment and biodiversity.</li> <li>Support the strategy as it enables discussion about biodiversity.</li> <li>Agree with sentiment and direction of the strategy.</li> </ul>	S14, S16, S23, S26, S27, S28, S30, S35, S54, S63, S74

#### 4.8 Summary of comments made at online workshop

On Tuesday 20 February, 12 people attended an online workshop to provide feedback and seek information about the draft strategy. The below provides a summary of the comments made at this workshop.

##### Goal 1

- Targets need to look at overall biodiversity health and include measures around animal and insect numbers like small bird species surveys, insect species surveys, platypus in creek etc. These are a better measure of biodiversity health.
- Bendigo Biodiversity Strategy (good example to look at for more general bio-indicators and case studies and actions).
- Tree canopy cover is just one indicator and may not measure biodiversity health.
- If you want a higher level of diversity of birds and insects – look at wetlands/ Diamond Creek for small bird diversity.
- There should be a greater emphasis on waterways, soil, fungi, habitat connectivity.
- Resources for data collection is an issue. The DECCA data is available for free and the Council commitment to collect further data may not be available.
- Could collaborate with groups to collect data for the indicators.
- It is important to make the distinction between Indigenous biodiversity and just biodiversity which can include a significant number of introduced species.
- Threatened species is a continuum from vulnerable to extinct. Need to include measures around threatened species to prevent them from becoming extinct.

##### Goal 2

- Goal 2 would be better if also connected to physical/ on the ground biodiversity outcomes – quantifiable – evident in the landscape and waterways.
- Number of properties supported by Council – would prefer an area measurement and a habitat extent measurement.
- There are other good native nurseries in Nillumbik. Only tracking sales from Edendale may not be a true indication.

## 5 Submissions (freeform)

There were 13 freeform submissions from a range of groups as well as individuals, which provided detailed responses and feedback to the draft strategy. Table 5.1 provides a high-level snapshot of the areas within the strategy covered by these submissions.

**Table: 5.1 High-level snapshot of topics covered in submissions**

Topic	Mentioned in no. of submissions
Goal 1: Biodiversity in Nillumbik is Healthy	4
Goal 2: Nillumbik community values and cares for nature	5
Focus Area 1: Leadership and Advocacy	8
Focus Area 2: People and Partnerships	7
Focus Area 3: Species and habitat enhancement	5
Focus Area 4: Mitigating threatening Processes and impacts	12
Possible ideas, actions, strategies, objectives	10

Table 5.2 provides more details from the submissions on the overarching topics covered. Please note that there were a range of specific and detailed proposed changes or updates for the strategy document (re wording changes/ small additions) that were suggested across multiple submissions. These specific changes or additions to the strategy have not been covered in table 5.2.

**Table 5.2 Summary of comments presented in the submissions**

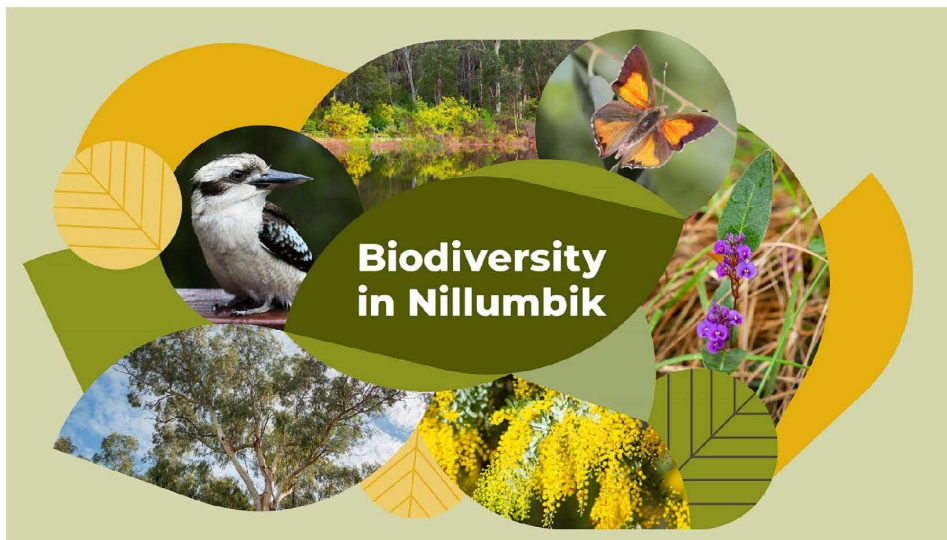
Summary and number of comments	Feedback ID codes for submissions
<b>Information missing that could be added to the strategy – mentioned in 5 submissions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the appendix two species need to be added to the list of Threatened Fauna – the Yarra Pygmy Perch, <i>Nannoperca obscura</i>, and Freshwater Herring, <i>Potamalosa richmonida</i>.</li> <li>Increase focus, emphasis and action around Indigenous vegetation and species.</li> <li>Add clarity and more detail around the previous Biodiversity Strategy, what was learnt, outcomes, assessment of programs and how it has informed the current draft.</li> <li>Include importance of the age of trees on biodiversity and ecological importance of hill tops.</li> <li>Increase focus on our contribution to climate change.</li> <li>Need to add Feral European Honeybees, European Wasp and Monterey Pines as invasive species.</li> <li>Add more visual elements/ images re challenges, beauty of biodiversity.</li> <li>Include assessment of biodiversity threats to help set priorities.</li> <li>Include reference to outcomes of the 2012 Biodiversity Strategy and Invasive Species Action Plan.</li> </ul>	SUB1, SUB2, SUB3, SUB7, SUB8
<b>Comments about the goals and targets – mentioned in 5 submissions</b>	
<b>Goal 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Goal 1</b> - is unclear, without measure and can be open to interpretation.</li> </ul>	SUB1, SUB3, SUB7, SUB8, SUB12

Summary and number of comments	Feedback ID codes for submissions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Goal 1 summary sentence</b> - fails to focus on Indigenous species, habitat connectivity, landscape scale. The word 'functioning' could be changed to 'thriving and resilient'.</li> <li>▪ <b>Target</b> – Stronger target needed as any minimal gain over ten years would satisfy this target.</li> <li>▪ <b>Indicators</b> – Age of trees is missing. Add Collective Age of trees on Council and private land, Target Net increase. Five of the six indicators listed do not indicate if progress is being made towards the target.</li> <li>▪ Need baseline measures to measure improvement of habitats and connectivity. Baseline measures/data need to be outlined in the Biodiversity Strategy. Sources of this data should be described.</li> </ul> <p><b>Goal 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Goal 2</b> - is unclear, without measure and can be open to interpretations with minimal connection to measurable outcomes for biodiversity. Needs to include 'first protect and then add'.</li> <li>▪ <b>Target</b> – may not be effective as most people already would say they care for nature. May be better to have a target that seeks to have Council allocate resources to deliver the strategy.</li> <li>▪ <b>Indicators</b> - Four of the five indicators listed do not indicate if progress is being made towards the target.</li> </ul> <p>Add Number of adverse biodiversity actions (maintenance works that damage biodiversity such as mowing of regenerating trees, removal of logs and coarse woody debris, projects, developments) - Target reduce; and add Number of animals killed on roads – Target measure and reduce.</p>	
<b>Feedback on Virtual Fence Trial – mentioned in 4 submissions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prioritize the project as a matter of urgency and include actions, timelines, budget and resources to make it happen.</li> <li>▪ Use already existing data to make a start on the project and identify hot spots.</li> <li>▪ Collaborate with stakeholders to develop an effective project plan.</li> </ul>	SUB5, SUB9, SUB10, SUB13
<b>Strategy needs more specific measures, targets, baseline data, accountability – mentioned in 3 submissions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strategy needs to include strong, clear and measurable goals, clear baseline measures, measurable indicators, specific targets, minimum standards, specific timeframes to ensure accountability.</li> <li>▪ Strategy needs to show accountability and what actions will be taken if goals and targets are not met.</li> <li>▪ Change structure of strategy so it follows a logic frame and provides clarity of how to meet goals and targets.</li> </ul>	SUB3, SUB7, SUB8
<b>General positive comments on the strategy – mentioned in 4 submissions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General support of the intent and direction of the strategy.</li> </ul>	SUB5, SUB7, SUB8, SUB12
<b>Comments on budget, funding, and resources – mentioned in 2 submissions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More information about how the strategy and implementation plans will be funded and resources allocated.</li> </ul>	SUB3, SUB8

Summary and number of comments	Feedback ID codes for submissions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Concern that the strategy will not be funded or have enough resources to implement it.</li> <li>▪ Cost savings from more sustainable actions (such as reducing landfill, reducing electricity usage, increasing indigenous vegetation therefore decreasing the need for weed-control measures etc) to go back into funding biodiversity actions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Concerns from horse riders and landowners about wording in the strategy – mentioned in 1 submission</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Concern around the wording in the draft strategy under Threats section 2.2 about overgrazing and horses off formal tracks.</li> <li>▪ There is a request for the statements to be removed.</li> <li>▪ Responses have stated that horse riders using the trails within reserves do so consciously and respectfully of the environment.</li> <li>▪ There is also a request for statements to be added to the strategy under Biodiversity Action in the Community, acknowledging the efforts and contribution of private rural landholders in supporting the natural environment and biodiversity.</li> </ul>	SUB6

## 6 Appendix

### 6.1 Appendix 1: Community survey



### Share your feedback on Council's Draft Biodiversity Strategy

Nillumbik Council has developed a draft Biodiversity Strategy to help guide the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across the Shire.

Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you'll find in one area—the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world.

The draft strategy was developed after extensive community and stakeholder consultation in 2023. As well as reviewing and considering a range of national, state, regional and local policies.

We are now seeking feedback on the draft strategy to ensure we are on the right track to achieve a range of biodiversity outcomes over the next 10 years.

You can also complete the feedback form online at Participate Nillumbik – go to <https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-strategy>

or scan the QR code.



Feedback closes at 11.59pm on Sunday 3 March 2024

To return by mail or email:

Attn: Warren Tomlinson  
Senior Environment Project Officer  
Nillumbik Shire Council  
Civic Drive (PO Box 476) Greensborough VIC 3088  
Or by email: [nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)



## Feedback Form

This feedback form has been designed so you can provide your feedback on the draft guiding principles, goals, targets, indicators and focus areas as outlined in the Draft Biodiversity Strategy.

Before you start, can you please tell us if you have read the draft Biodiversity Strategy? It is available [here](#).

- ☐ Yes, I have read the draft strategy.  
☐ No, I haven't read the draft strategy.

### Section 1: Goals and targets

The draft strategy has two overarching goals and targets and is proposing a range of indicators to help track progress in achieving them.

**Goal 1- "Biodiversity in Nillumbik is healthy" and**

**Goal 2: "Nillumbik's community values and cares for nature"**

They align with the goals and targets of the Victorian Government's '[Biodiversity 2037 strategy](#)'.

Below we have outlined the targets and indicators for each goal. Please indicate your level of support for each goal, target and the range of indicators.

#### Goal 1 – "Biodiversity in Nillumbik is healthy"

i.e: Nillumbik has functioning plant and animal populations, improved habitats and resilient ecosystems.

**Q2: Do you support the following goal, target and indicators for Goal 1?**

	Yes, I'm supportive	Not sure	No, I'm not supportive
<b>Goal 1: "Biodiversity in Nillumbik is Healthy"</b>			
<b>Target:</b> Achieve a net gain in the overall extent, connectivity and condition of habitat by 2034			
<b>Indicators (i.e. ways of tracking progress):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extent of tree canopy cover</li> <li>▪ Extent of native vegetation cover (includes grasses, trees etc)</li> <li>▪ Number of new local extinctions (target zero)</li> <li>▪ Scored condition of habitat in Council bushland reserves</li> <li>▪ Number of trees planted and removed on Council land</li> <li>▪ Number of partners working collaboratively to support biodiversity gain</li> </ul>			

**Q2a. Are there any changes you would like to see for this proposed goal and target; and/or are there any other indicators you would like to see for Goal 1? (Indicators must be SMART-specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely)**

**Goal 2 – “Nillumbik’s community values and cares for nature”**  
i.e. Nillumbik’s community understand the importance of biodiversity and value nature, and as a result are more likely to help care for it.

Q3: Do you support the following goal, target and indicators for Goal 2?

	Yes, I'm supportive	Not sure	No, I'm not supportive
Goal: “Nillumbik’s community values and cares for nature”			
Target: That 70% of Nillumbik residents care for nature by 2034			
Indicators (i.e. ways of tracking progress): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Number of people acting to protect Nillumbik’s natural environment. (Source: Annual community survey)</li><li>▪ Number of nature/biodiversity/environment programs delivered and number of attendees.</li><li>▪ Number of properties supported by Council to undertake biodiversity actions.</li><li>▪ Number and size of permanently protected areas of private land (Trust for Nature Covenants)</li><li>▪ Number of indigenous plants sold by Edendale Indigenous Plant Nursery.</li></ul>			

Q3a. Are there any changes you would like to see for this proposed goal and target; and/or are there any other indicators you would like to see for Goal 1? (Indicators must be SMART- specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely)

Section 3: Focus areas for action

The draft Strategy aims to achieve the overarching goals over a ten-year period through numerous objectives under four key focus areas:

A range of draft objectives and strategies have been developed to assist in implementing the draft Biodiversity Strategy under four focus areas: Leadership and Advocacy (LA), People and Partnerships (PP), Species and Habitat Enhancement (SH) and Mitigating Threatening Processes and Impacts (MI). Please provide feedback on each below.



#### Focus Area 1- Leadership and Advocacy

Council is committed to taking decisive action that protects and enhances the biodiversity of Nillumbik.

Q4. How much do you like the below draft objectives for Focus Area 1?

Objective	Like it	Not sure	Don't like it
Objective 1-Consider biodiversity impacts and opportunities in day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions			
Objective 2- Demonstrate leadership by improving the biodiversity values of Council-owned and managed land			
Objective 3- Advocate for action by state and federal government that will facilitate positive biodiversity outcomes			
Objective 4- Pursue external funding for biodiversity management.			

Q4a. Are there any gaps or changes you would like to recommend for this focus area, including its objectives and the 'supporting strategies' that are listed above and as outlined in the draft

#### Focus Area 2-People and Partnerships

We all share a responsibility in improving and enhancing the region's biodiversity and finding ways to reduce our impacts on the environment. Council plays an important role in helping to facilitate partnerships and build community awareness.

Q5. How much do you like the below draft objectives for Focus Area 2?

Objective	Like it	Not sure	Don't like it
Objective 1- Incorporate Traditional Owner knowledge within biodiversity management			
Objective 2- Foster partnerships to achieve landscape-scale biodiversity outcomes			
Objective 3- Increase people's understanding of the environment and support them to protect and enhance biodiversity			
Objective 4- Provide opportunities for residents to regularly connect with nature			

Q5a. Are there any gaps or changes you would like to recommend for this focus area, including its objectives and the 'supporting strategies' that are listed above and as outlined in the draft

### Focus Area 3-Species and Habitat Enhancement

Nillumbik is home to a rich and varied natural environment which we seek to protect and enhance.

Q6. How much do you like the below draft objectives for Focus Area 3?

Objective	Like it	Not sure	Don't like it
Objective 1- Protect and improve the condition and extent of habitat			
Objective 2- Protect and improve ecosystems and the ecological function of terrestrial and aquatic connectivity and genetic diversity			
Objective 3- Reduce the risk of extinction for all Nillumbik species			

*You can provide further feedback on the draft objectives on the next page.*

Q6a. Are there any gaps or changes you would like to recommend for this focus area, including its objectives and the 'supporting strategies' that are listed above and as outlined in the draft

### Focus Area 4- Mitigating Threatening Processes and Impacts

. There are numerous threats to biodiversity in Nillumbik and collaborative action is needed to help minimise their impacts.

Q7. How much do you like the below draft objectives for Focus Area 4?

Objective	Like it	Not sure	Don't like it
Objective 1- Minimise risk to biodiversity from climate change			
Objective 2- Reduce the presence and impact of invasive species across public and private land			
Objective 3- Reduce degradation to waterways			
Objective 4- Use Nillumbik's planning system effectively to protect and enhance biodiversity values			
Objective 5- Reduce and eliminate the illegal clearing of vegetation			
Objective 6- Balance the needs of bushfire mitigation and biodiversity protection			
Objective 7- Protect native fauna from harm			

Q7a. Are there any gaps or changes you would like to recommend for this focus area, including its objectives and the 'supporting strategies' that are listed above and as outlined in the draft.

Q8 – If you have any other feedback about the draft strategy that you haven't already told us please tell us here.

Section 4: About you

Please tell us a little bit about yourself so that we can understand who we're hearing from. We value diversity and want to ensure our consultations are capturing a cross-section of our community.

To ensure the integrity of the feedback received, only one feedback form is permitted per person. For this reason, we require your name and email address. Only feedback forms with this information will be accepted and processed.

Name: (required)	
Email: (required)	

- Q9. Gender:
- ☐ Woman/Female
- ☐ Nonbinary/genderqueer/genderfluid
- ☐ Man/Male
- ☐ Prefer not to say

- Q10: Age (select/tick one response only)
- ☐ Under 15 years
- ☐ 25-34 years
- ☐ 65-84 years
- ☐ 15-19 years
- ☐ 35-44 years
- ☐ 85+ years
- ☐ 20-24 years
- ☐ 45-54 years
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ 55-64 years

- Q11. Relationship to Nillumbik (select/tick one response option)
- ☐ Live
- ☐ Play
- ☐ Work
- ☐ Visit

Q12. What suburb do you live in?  [\(online survey to list suburbs\)](#)

- Q13. How did you hear about this consultation?
- ☐ Nillumbik News
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Postcard
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Instagram
- (please specify)

**Privacy Collection Notice**

Nillumbik Shire Council is inviting feedback for the purpose of facilitating effective community consultation in relation to the Biodiversity Strategy. The information will be collated into a Consultation Findings Report which will be published in a Council or Committee business paper considering this strategy and will help Council understand the views of the community. Name/s, contact information as well as any information that will enable you to be identified will be redacted.

If you do not provide the mandatory information, then 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](mailto:privacy@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) or PO Box 476, Greensborough Vic 3088.

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**Comments received on the draft Biodiversity Strategy via stage 2 consultation from 1 March – 4 April 2024:**

Officer responses have been colour coded to indicate where community feedback:

- Has been reflected via wording changes in the draft strategy
- No colour indicates no change to the draft strategy as feedback is outside the scope, not feasible, not appropriate, or already covered by objectives and strategies.

Section of draft	Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes	Officer response
<b>Goal 1 – goal, target and indicators</b>			
<b>Goal 1 and the target</b>  <i>Mentioned in 27 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better define the word 'healthy' as it could be interpreted differently by different people.</li> <li>Ensure goal and target is more measurable, detailed and time specific.</li> <li>Need more ambitious goal and target to address urgency of biodiversity decline.</li> <li>Better reflect breadth of biodiversity and species richness.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S5, S8, S10, S12, S13, S14, S17, S18, S22, S24, S32, S36, S37, S54, S55, S57, S63, S69, S74, S77	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The wording of the goal mirrors that of the Victorian Government Biodiversity 2037 Strategy.</p> <p>An existing explanation of the term healthy is provided, which also mirrors that of the Biodiversity 2037 Strategy “Nillumbik has functioning plant and animal populations, improved habitats and resilient ecosystems”.</p> <p>The target is time specific.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include more specific, clearer and baseline data to measure and track progress. Sources of data should be described.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The strategy acknowledges that lack of biodiversity data to help inform and direct targeted action is a challenge, however Council's ability to collect data and monitor is limited to what is feasible to carry out or to access from other external sources such as the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, Council does collect valuable biodiversity data via its existing Forest Health Monitoring Program and other programs such as Eltham Copper Butterfly counts and threatened orchid works.</p> <p>Objective 1.3 seeks support from state and federal government to make it feasible to extend such data collection; and Objective 3.3e covers the monitoring of the distribution, abundance and other ecological information of Nillumbik species and communities to help inform priority actions.</p>
<b>Ind 1: Extent of tree canopy cover</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include desired direction - 'maintain or extend tree cover' or achieve positive gain.</li> </ul>	S1, S6, S8, S11, S12, S12, S13,	<i>Noted – no change</i>

Section of draft	Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes	Officer response
<i>Mentioned in 13 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include Indigenous trees – not just any trees</li> <li>Look beyond tree canopy to mid-storey, ground level vegetation etc</li> <li>Tree canopy measure alone is too narrow and does not measure biodiversity health. Include measure around bird, insect, fungi etc.</li> <li>Concern re tree and vegetation planting on roadsides has increased fuel loads re bushfires.</li> </ul>	S28, S40, S54, S55, S70, S75	The proposed tree canopy indicator is the best that can be achieved with available budget and associated current technology.
<b>Ind 2: Extent of native vegetation cover</b>  <i>Mentioned in 3 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include indigenous species</li> <li>Extent of vegetation cover measure is too narrow and does not measure biodiversity health.</li> </ul>	S13, S11, S6	<i>Noted – no change</i>  The methodology for this indicator is set by DEECA.
<b>Ind 3: Number of new local extinctions (target zero)</b>  <i>Mentioned in 7 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rather than no new extinctions, aim for each threatened species to not climb into an elevated ranking. Looks at trajectories of threatened species (from vulnerable to endangered).</li> <li>Indicator is too negative, and plant focused.</li> </ul>	S6, S11, S12, S13, S14, S54, S75	<i>Noted – no change</i>  This indicator mirrors a Biodiversity 2037 indicator.
<b>Ind 4: Scored condition of habitat in Council bushland reserve</b>  <i>Mentioned in 3 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explanation needed about what scored condition of habitat means.</li> <li>Habitat scoring could be offered to private landowners.</li> <li>Majority of bushland in Nillumbik is not owned by Council so this indicator has little use.</li> </ul>	S12, S54, S74	<i>Noted – text updated</i>  Council can only access and monitor the condition of habitat that is on council land.  The wording of this indicator has been updated and now reads 'scored condition of habitat in Council bushland reserves, based on adapted habitat hectares assessment at point locations'.
<b>Ind 5: Number of trees planted and removed on Council land</b>  <i>Mentioned in 6 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include Indigenous trees.</li> <li>Look beyond trees to mid-storey, ground level vegetation to measure biodiversity health.</li> <li>Majority of bushland in Nillumbik is not owned by Council.</li> <li>Trees planted and canopy coverage should be on a more localised basis to avoid clearing in</li> </ul>	S6, S12, S13, S40, S70, S74	<i>Noted – text updated</i>  Wording updated to specify reference to indigenous plants.  Reference to tracking the number of trees removed as this data is difficult to obtain, particularly, for example, with multiple organisations and contractors removing damaged or dangerous trees following storm / natural disaster events.

Section of draft	Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes	Officer response
	one place and planting in another leading to a net zero change.		Can only reference plants/trees planted on Council land has council does not have access to data on plantings occurring elsewhere.
<b>Ind 6: Number of partners working collaboratively to support biodiversity gain</b>  <i>Mentioned in 3 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to define “number of partners” - is this individual people or groups?</li> <li>Target should be to increase numbers.</li> <li>Consider residents in different ecological habitat zones to understand the dynamics between humans and flora/fauna in their neighbourhood. This will enable more local responsiveness/guardianship of biodiversity: a bottom-up approach.</li> </ul>	S11, S55, S75	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>This wording mirrors a Biodiversity 2037 indicator.</p>
<b>Comments about Indigenous species</b>  <i>Mentioned in 15 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase focus on Indigenous species including increasing trees and native vegetation using Indigenous species.</li> <li>Include Indigenous flora and fauna as a measure for a healthy biodiversity.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S10, S12, S17, S20, S24, S28, S36, S69, S77, S82	<p><i>Noted – text updated</i></p> <p>The strategy acknowledges that indigenous vegetation is preferable in section 2.1 but also acknowledges that most vegetation can be of some biodiversity value. Greater reference to indigenous vegetation has been included throughout the strategy, additionally, objective 3.1 has been updated to replace the word native with indigenous. It now reads “Identify opportunities to enhance the condition and extent of indigenous vegetation across the Shire”.</p>
<b>Other indicators suggested</b>  <i>Mentioned in 26 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of vegetation, waterways and soil</li> <li>Revegetation with Indigenous/ local species</li> <li>Measuring habitat connectivity</li> <li>Reducing pollutants, weeds, introduced animals, waste and climate pressures</li> <li>Maintaining the urban growth boundary and minimising subdivisions</li> <li>Expanding measure/ indicators to go beyond Council land</li> <li>Ensuring adequate budget and resourcing.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S6, S7, S11, S13, S14, S17, S20, S23, S24, S28, S32, S35, S36, S37, S57, S69, S70, S71, S73, S75, S79, S81, S82, S84	<p><i>Noted – text updated</i></p> <p>Together, the indicators cover Council and private land.</p> <p>Five additional indicators have been added, noting that they are limited to what is feasible to track.</p>
<b>Goal 2 - goal, target &amp; indicators</b>			

Section of draft	Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes	Officer response
<b>Goal 2</b>  <i>Mentioned in 15 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs to be more specific and measurable.</li> <li>Better define 'care for nature' as it could be interpreted differently by different people.</li> <li>Needs to connect more strongly and measure biodiversity health and outcomes on the ground (not just people indicating their care for nature).</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S5, S6, S10, S12, S13, S17, S24, S28, S32, S36, S57, S69, S70	<p><i>Noted – No change</i></p> <p>The wording of the goal mirrors that of the Victorian Government Biodiversity 2037 Strategy.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional goal needed in relation to Council's delegated powers for rate collection and land use management to improve biodiversity, shifting responsibilities away from Council and to community to play a bigger role.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – No change</i></p> <p>Out of the scope of this strategy.</p>
<b>Goal 2 Target</b>  <i>Mentioned in 16 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target of 70% is too low.</li> <li>Clarify how 70% was chosen and if there is a baseline measure to track progress and to determine if 70% is a stretch target or easy to achieve.</li> </ul>	S5, S6, S8, S12, S13, S23, S26, S36, S37, S40, S57, S63, S71, S74, S75, S77	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The Victorian government's target is 75% by 2037. The Nillumbik target was reduced to 70% in line with this strategy's earlier 2034 end date.</p>
<b>Ind 1: Number of people acting to protect Nillumbik's natural environment</b>  <i>Mentioned in 4 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need a clear definition of 'natural environment' and acting to protect' – these could mean a variety of things to different people and may be detrimental to biodiversity.</li> <li>Need more specific measure and a target eg: 70% of 18+ yr olds in Nillumbik answering the annual survey</li> </ul>	S8, S12, S36, S37	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The wording mirrors that in the Victorian governments Biodiversity 2037 Strategy.</p> <p>Natural environment definition is provided in glossary of terms</p>
<b>Ind 2: Number of nature/ environment / land management programs delivered and number of attendees</b>  <i>Mentioned in 8 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to measure effectiveness of programs and if they lead to action with significant measurable benefit to indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem health (ask attendees will you take action).</li> <li>Need to offer programs that are more engaging and suit all residents (more days / times).</li> <li>Needs a baseline and baseline review of current programs.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S8, S13, S14, S17, S36, S73	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Evaluation of programs is undertaken to help inform future programs, even though this is not specified as being an overarching strategy indicator.</p>



Section of draft	Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes	Officer response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More valuable to record new/ unique attendees.</li> </ul>		
<b>Ind 3: Number of properties supported by Council to undertake biodiversity actions</b>  <i>Mentioned in 2 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen indicator by including a measure.</li> <li>A total area of supported properties is a better measurement than the number of properties.</li> </ul>	S36, S54	<p><i>Noted – word updated</i></p> <p>A target to increase the number of properties supported has been added, noting that this is subject to resourcing.</p>
<b>Ind 4: Number and size of permanently protected areas of private land (Trust for Nature Covenants)</b>  <i>Mentioned in 4 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply this to Council land.</li> <li>Concern for condition of current Trust for Nature properties.</li> <li>A total area of Trust for Nature Covenants is a better measurement than the number of properties.</li> </ul>	S1, S8, S40, S54	<p><i>Noted – wording updated</i></p> <p>The word 'size' has been replaced with 'total area'.</p>
<b>Ind 5: Number of Indigenous plants sold by Edendale Indigenous Plant Nursery</b>  <i>Mentioned in 8 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern that Indigenous plants sold at Edendale Nursery might not be planted in the Shire, be the best species for healthy biodiversity, survive to maturity.</li> <li>Better to record the number of people that Edendale nursery interacts with than plant numbers sold, or record purchaser postcode.</li> <li>Need to include other nurseries in the indicator and for Edendale to operate over longer hours to increase customers.</li> </ul>	S8, S12, S36, S54, S58, S70, S71, S74	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Currently, Edendale does not track postcodes and it is not feasible to reliably track interactions with customers. While data is collected on the number of people that enter via the main entrance to the nursery, there are also two smaller side entrances and not all people who enter purchase plants.</li> <li>- Council does not have access to data on plants sold by other nurseries.</li> <li>- Edendale is open seven days a week.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include measure and specific details to strengthen indicator eg: An increase by 10% each year in the number of people/households from within Nillumbik who purchase indigenous plants from Edendale.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – wording updated</i></p> <p>A measure has been attached to this indicator “Target: Plant sales over 80,000 per year, including 40,000 supplied for revegetation projects in Nillumbik”.</p> <p>Note, this represents maintaining current sales as the nursery is already selling the maximum number of plants possible given its size and facilities.</p>

Section of draft	Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes	Officer response
<b>Other goal 2 indicators / actions suggested</b>  <i>Mentioned in 27 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase indigenous biodiversity on private property and nature-strips and incentives for residents to support/ increase biodiversity</li> </ul>	S1, S2, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10, S17, S20, S22, S24, S26, S28, S31, S32, S35, S36, S45, S55, S57, S58, S60, S68, S69, S80, S81, S82	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The strategy seeks to maintain and enhance biodiversity on all land tenures. Focus area 2 includes objectives to encourage and support action by private landholders.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Return of locally extinct animals, plants and fungi</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>It is not proposed to add an indicator on this, however in instances where such occurrences take place Council will support such data being reported to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas and other information sharing.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase of small birds in urban and rural areas</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – wording updated</i></p> <p>A new indicator has been added that tracks the presence of indicator species, including nine bird species, at 30+ Forest Health monitoring sites across urban and rural Nillumbik.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reducing pollutants, weeds, introduced animals, waste, impermeable surfaces and climate pressures</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Actions associated with invasive species, development and climate pressures are included in Focus Area 3 and 4.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ecologically sensitive approach to fire and perceived fire risk</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Existing objective 4.6b is to 'keep abreast of industry research into the design and maintenance of ecologically sustainable fire regimes'.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enforcement for illegal tree poisoning/ land clearing</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – text updated</i></p> <p>A new indicator is recommended that tracks the number of land clearing enforcement reports received and the percentage investigated per annum.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Different indicators for rural areas and urban areas</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The mix of indicators already provided does provide insights into biodiversity in rural and urban contexts, but are limited to what is feasible to track.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring adequate budget and resourcing.</li> </ul>		<p>Section 6 of the strategy commits that "an implementation plan that specifies key biodiversity and land management actions will be developed every year and will be considered in Council's annual budget process".</p>

Summary of comments in relation to **Focus Area 1** and Objectives (Survey)

Focus area 1 – Leadership and Advocacy (Objectives mentioned in 18 surveys)		Feedback ID codes for Focus Area 1	Officer response
<b>Objective 1</b> Consider biodiversity impacts and opportunities in day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions.  <i>Mentioned in 5 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for embedding the strategy into all council areas and activities including fire notices, training for all staff and contractors including engineers, recreation planners, road crews etc.</li> <li>Strengthen the language from 'consider' to 'ensure' and to minimise the impact of Council operations on vegetation and biodiversity.</li> <li>Council employees to be specific about how they will support biodiversity goals.</li> </ul>	S5, S23, S36, S55, S75	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The language in the draft is appropriate.</p>
<b>Objective 2</b> Demonstrate leadership by improving biodiversity values on Council-owned land.  <i>Mentioned in 2 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council needs to plant indigenous species on all Council land.</li> <li>Increase standards for projects on Council land in particular light spill and plastic pollution caused by broken bits from soccer pitches.</li> </ul>	S9, S73	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The supporting strategy covers actively avoiding and minimising the impact of council operations on native vegetation and biodiversity.</p> <p>Council's Tree Management Policy and Guidelines specify tree species considerations.</p>
<b>Objective 3</b> Advocate for action by State and Federal government that will facilitate positive biodiversity outcomes.  <i>Mentioned in 0 surveys</i>	No comments received		No response required
<b>Objective 4</b> Pursue external funding for biodiversity management.  <i>Mentioned in 2 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A threat to biodiversity in Nillumbik is insufficient Council, and external, funding.</li> <li>Include objective to see external funding from private industries and businesses as part of sponsorship for biodiversity projects.</li> </ul>	S14, S54	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The existing wording in the supporting strategies covers these suggestions.</p>

Focus area 1 – Leadership and Advocacy (Objectives mentioned in 18 surveys)		Feedback ID codes for Focus Area 1	Officer response
<b>Suggested objectives</b>  Mentioned in 9 surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embed delivery of the Biodiversity Strategy within CEO/ senior staff KPIs</li> </ul>	S5, S6, S11, S12, S14, S17, S54, S57, S63	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>This is an existing strategy of Objective 1.1a.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include objectives related to allocating Council core funding and resources towards biodiversity strategy, including increasing funding each year – (4)</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>This is an existing strategy of Objective 1.1e.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include recognition of residents as leaders in this space.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>This is recognised in Section 3 of the draft, Biodiversity action in the community; and in Focus Area 2 – People &amp; Partnerships.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include objective to encourage Nillumbik-specific Narrap team.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The existing wording of Objective 2.1 covers incorporating traditional owner knowledge within biodiversity management.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council to advocate for and publicly identify Nillumbik as 'the conservation shire with the Green Wedge'.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p>

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 1 – Leadership and Advocacy</b>		
Increased focus on maintaining and improving roadsides for habitat. Plant roadside trees in rural areas.	S2, S3, S17, S20, S32, S36, S63, S77	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>This is an existing strategy of Objective 1.2b "Increase the conservation values (e.g. restoration &amp; improved connectivity) of Council's reserves, wetlands and roadsides"</p>
Reduce the use of chemicals such as glyphosates and ensure they are not replaced with other destructive methods or substances. Reduce herbicides.	S2, S3, S17, S24, S36, SUB3	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>This is an existing strategy of Objective 4.7c, which covers protecting native fauna from poisons.</p>
Have regular and meaningful meetings between Environmental staff and Parks Recreation and Open Space staff.	S5	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p>

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 1 – Leadership and Advocacy</b>		
Ensure that planting by Council Parks Recreation and Open Space staff complies with Live Local Plant Local.	S5	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Council's Tree Management Policy and Guidelines specify tree species / planting considerations.
Ensure internal processes within Council that may impact biodiversity are not in conflict – i.e fire notices to “mow grass” should not be sent to bushland properties.	SUB12	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Objective 4.6 is to “ <i>Balance the needs of bushfire mitigation and biodiversity protection</i> ”.
Officer training to ensure enforcement re vegetation and habitat has been removed.	SUB12	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Relevant staff receive training.
Fund a review of Live Local Plant Local.	S5	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Over the life of the strategy, specific initiatives such as this can be explored and actioned via the annual implementation plans.
Council to protect its own land and do more to support residents when developing properties.	S8	<i>Noted – no change</i>  This is considered within the Focus Areas.
Have out of hours rangers available to fauna in the shire.	S8	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Provision of a ranger to respond to injured wildlife call-outs is not a service that Council is resourced to offer.
Return Wadeson Road reserve to the council and protect it, look for other land in the Shire that could be purchased.	S8	<i>Noted – no change</i>  This is an existing strategy of Objective 3.1e – “ <i>consider opportunities for the strategic acquisition of land to add to Councils bushland reserve system – using a decision-matrix framework that comprehensively considers all aspects of such a decision</i> ”.
Nillumbik to be a leader in conservation and biodiversity enhancement.	S33	<i>Noted</i>

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 1 – Leadership and Advocacy</b>		
Council decisions need to be made through a biodiversity lens if there is to be a reversal of decline.	S33	<i>Noted – no change</i> This is an existing strategy of objective 1.1b.
Consider tree roots in Tree Root Zones as part of Council projects.	SUB1	<i>Noted – no change</i> Council's Tree Management Policy and Guidelines specify such considerations.
All Council projects impacting biodiversity/ environment be required to get approval from planning department.	SUB1	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Internal referral processes are in place. Many developments/works are exempt from requiring a planning permit.
All planning applications/ State Government infrastructure projects to be assess through a climate impact lens and sustainability lens.	SUB1	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Planning applications to Council are considered through a climate and sustainability lens to the extent of the current Victorian Planning Provisions. Advocacy is underway to create more rigorous ESD requirements within the VPP for inclusion in Nillumbik's planning scheme.  Council is not the approving authority for State Government infrastructure projects that are proposed within Nillumbik, however Council does advocate for positive environmental outcomes.
All Council plans, strategies, and actions to be respectful of, and responsive to, the long-held knowledge and consciousness of Australia's Indigenous people.	SUB3	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Objective 2.1 is to "Incorporate Traditional Owner knowledge within biodiversity management". Additionally, Council is developing a Reconciliation Action Plan
Biodiversity priorities to be embedded with policy so future Councils cannot reverse them.	SUB3	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Objective 1.1 is to "Consider the biodiversity impacts in day-to-day operations and when making Council decisions".
Fund actions to deliver the Biodiversity Strategy and promote level of investment and funding opportunities from Council and other levels of government.	SUB8	<i>Noted – no change</i>  The strategy acknowledges that insufficient resourcing is a challenge. Addressing this is a strategy of Objective 1.1e.

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 1 – Leadership and Advocacy</b>		
Establish databases, collect and populate baseline data of current biodiversity condition, and establish an ongoing monitoring regime for biodiversity and environmental condition.	SUB8	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The strategy acknowledges that lack of biodiversity data to help inform and direct targeted action is a challenge, however Council's ability to collect data and monitor is limited to what is feasible to carry out.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, Council does collect valuable biodiversity data via its existing Forest Health Monitoring Program and other programs such as Eltham Copper Butterfly counts and threatened orchid works.</p> <p>Objective 1.3 seeks support from state and federal government to make it feasible to extend such works; and Objective 3.3e covers the monitoring of the distribution, abundance and other ecological information of Nillumbik species and communities to help inform priority actions.</p>
Update Nillumbik Tree Management Guidelines 2018 to prioritise the planting of indigenous tree species as part of determining whether there are opportunities for new or replacement plantings in parks, reserves, activity centres and along urban streets and implementing a long-term planting program.	SUB11	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The Tree Management Guidelines are reviewed periodically and such reviews consider appropriate species in the context of climate change, risk, neighbourhood character and other factors.</p>
Advocate for collaborative and cooperative biodiversity outcomes with neighbouring LGAs	SUB12	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Regional collaboration relationships are already in place</p>
Advocate for clean air to reduce pollution from new industry, increased traffic, wood heater smoke, and planned burning smoke.	SUB1	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>These matters are out of scope for this strategy, but are considered via the Environment Protection Authority and/or via local government's environmental health role.</p>

Summary of comments in relation to **Focus Area 2** and Objectives (Survey)

Focus area 2 – People and Partnerships (Objectives mentioned in 26 surveys)			Officer response
<b>Objective 1</b> Incorporate Traditional Owner knowledge within biodiversity management.  <i>Mentioned in 4 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This objective is not clear.</li> <li>Concerns raised about traditional burns in reserves as today we have a very different environment with more introduced weeds.</li> <li>Include other practices and approaches beyond cultural burning, ecological burning.</li> </ul>	S12, S48, S58, S75	<i>Noted – no change</i>  The wording of this objective and its supporting strategies provides room for more or less traditional owner involvement according to their capacity over time.
<b>Objective 2</b> Foster partnerships to achieve landscape-scale biodiversity outcomes.  <i>Mentioned in 9 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective needs to be strengthened to encourage the whole community to get involved.</li> <li>Include recognition of residents as leaders in this space; acknowledge rural landholders for their efforts and contribution to in managing their properties.</li> <li>Suggestions for partnerships with different groups including community groups for mapping and monitoring; Landcare groups to work with new landowners; sports clubs to understand impact of sports lights.</li> <li>Stronger partnerships with State Government authorities eg: Vic Roads re tree planting and to minimise tree removal and to reduce speed limits to better protect wildlife.</li> </ul>	S12, S28, S45, S54, S57, S60, S71, S73, S76	<i>Noted - no change</i>  The wording of the supporting strategies specifies the wide range of community and organisational partners to engage with, including community groups, land care, private residents / landholders, and agencies/government departments.  The role of landholders efforts and contribution in managing their properties is also acknowledged in Section 3 of the draft, Biodiversity action in the community. Objective 4.7 – Protect native fauna from harm covers speed limits.
<b>Objective 3</b> Increase people's understanding of the environment and support them to protect and enhance biodiversity.  <i>Mentioned in 3 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective needs to be strengthened to encourage the whole community to get involved.</li> <li>Contact new landowners and provide information on biodiversity.</li> <li>Educating the community is a priority.</li> </ul>	S28, S54, S82	<i>Noted – no change</i>  The wording of this objective's supporting strategies is in line with these suggestions.
<b>Objective 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective needs to be strengthened to encourage the whole community to get involved.</li> </ul>	S6, S21, S28, S29, S54, S55, S58	<i>Noted – wording updated</i>



Focus area 2 – People and Partnerships (Objectives mentioned in 26 surveys)			Officer response
<p>Provide opportunities for residents to regularly connect with nature.</p> <p><i>Mentioned in 7 surveys</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect with nature is passive and vague – needs to be strengthened to show people are part of nature (not separate).</li> <li>Ensure strategies to connect people to nature do not impact the biodiversity eg: putting in new paths so people can walk in nature.</li> <li>Interact with different groups such as U3A, sports clubs, parent groups, men's sheds, neighbourhood houses, etc. regarding nature connection.</li> <li>Horse riders appreciate the reserves and can connect with nature because of access to the trails.</li> </ul>		<p>The word 'enjoy' has been added to the objective. It has been updated to read "Provide opportunities for residents to regularly connect with and enjoy nature".</p> <p>Other objectives in this focus area already include strategies to foster partnerships and to support people to protect and enhance biodiversity; and objective 3.1 covers protecting and improving the condition and extent of habitat.</p>
<p><b>Suggested objectives</b></p> <p><i>Mentioned in 3 surveys</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More education on healthy EVC's. More education on species to plant for endangered parrots.</li> <li>Council officers to develop an outreach program to enlist rural landowners to support the strategy.</li> <li>Include recognition of residents as leaders in this space.</li> </ul>	S6, S54, S57	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Over the life of the strategy, specific initiatives such as these can be explored via the annual implementation plans. The role of residents/ landholders efforts and biodiversity contributions in managing their properties is acknowledged in Section 3 of the draft, Biodiversity action in the community.</p>

**Summary of possible additional ideas for Focus Area 2 (Survey, Submissions)**

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 2 – People and Partnerships</b>		
Edendale farm to collect seeds from a wider area than Ironbark Rd.	S8	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Seed collection from Council reserves is managed via a permit process and occurs across a wide variety of locations.</p>

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 2 – People and Partnerships</b>		
Generate an index of seed collection locations within the municipality and also develop a seed orchard for more common species or species that are difficult to collect.	SUB12	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>This is covered via Objective 3.3d “Build and maintain a seed library of priority Nillumbik plants, to protect genetic diversity and aid climate adaptation”.</p> <p>A list of current seed collection locations is already maintained.</p>
Better informative signage for learning and education opportunities.	S8	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>This is covered via Objective 2.4b “Provide safe and welcoming access to Council’s reserves and Edendale, including through...interpretive signage”</p>
Provide financial and other incentives (biodiversity credits) to protect and/or improve biodiversity on private land.	S12, S31, SUB2, SUB3	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Council does provide financial incentives for positive land management and conservation via grants and rate rebates as specified in Section 3. However, biodiversity credits are outside of local government remit.</p>
Increase education and capacity building for those on private land to improve biodiversity, or create a small areas for native vegetation.	S12, S30	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>This is a focus of the strategy and is covered in Focus Area 2 &amp; 3.</p>
Identify specific opportunities for working with community groups, e.g. education, publicity, advisory, local mapping, implementation.	S12	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Over the life of the strategy, specific initiatives will be explored and actioned via the annual implementation plans.</p>
Identify less engaged demographics/groups and the barriers to them taking action to inform the strategy.	S14	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Objective 2.3h is to ‘identify less engaged demographics/groups and the barriers to them taking action’. Over the life of the strategy, specific initiatives will be explored.</p>
Use diverse forms of communication to educate, inform, and connect the community with a focus on indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem function.	S31, SUB3	<p><i>Noted, no change</i></p> <p>Over the life of the strategy, specific communication initiatives will be explored and actioned via the annual implementation plans to support the delivery of Objective 2.3.</p>

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 2 – People and Partnerships</b>		
Avoid use of "off-sets" and encourage 'avoidance of damage'.	S33	<i>Noted – no change</i>  This is covered in objectives 4.4 and 4.5. and is in line with State Planning Policy Framework principles of avoid, minimise before offsetting.
Provide residents with online information including habitat condition reports for Council reserves. Each reserve could have a web page explaining management plans, threats, weeds of concern, tree removal or planting plans and options for community involvement.	S54	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Over the life of the strategy, specific initiatives will be explored.
Promote the strategy and implementation plans.	S57	<i>Noted – no change</i>  The strategy and annual implementation plans will be placed on Council's website and promoted.
Increase information about what good biodiversity diversity is, safe vegetation on private land, what ideal biodiversity looks like on various sized blocks.	S71, S80	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Over the life of the strategy, specific initiatives will be explored for potential action via annual implementation plans.
Create footpaths to reduce car usage.	S82	<i>Noted – no change</i>  This is outside the scope of this strategy, but is relevant to council's Climate Action Plan and draft Integrated Transport Strategy.
Monitor strict speed limits on roads in Nillumbik. 40 kph to be the rule where wildlife is obviously located.		<i>Noted – no change</i>  This is covered via Objective 4.7d, "collaborate with the Department of Transport to identify driver-behaviour education campaigns that might be feasible and useful to help mitigate wildlife vehicle collisions e.g. wildlife signage, road markings, speed reduction etc".
Pop up Council-initiated information desks in and around business, cafe areas.	S82	<i>Noted – no change</i>
All schools in Nillumbik to create indigenous gardens and plant only indigenous vegetation in their spaces.	S82	<i>Noted – no change</i>

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 2 – People and Partnerships</b>		
		Over the life of the strategy, specific initiatives will be explored for potential action via annual implementation plans. Council can't mandate this suggestion but there are opportunities to support schools.
Create a pamphlet about invasive species like European Wasps (compared to native wasps) and also where European Wasp nests are likely to be found, i.e. in tree hollows, rabbit burrows, walls of houses and garden rockeries	SUB2	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Over the life of the strategy, specific initiatives will be explored for potential action via annual implementation plans. Council has a European wasp section on its website which could be reviewed.
Strategy to distinguish between private land and public land with regard to targets and indicators because they represent very different proportions of the overall biodiversity challenge.	SUB8	<i>Noted – no change</i>  While the overarching targets of the strategy cover all land tenures many of the various objectives, and their supporting strategies that seek to help achieve these targets, are distinguished between private land and public land.
Ensure public and private land managers are aware of the presence and location of threatened flora species.	SUB12	<i>Noted – wording updated</i>  The wording of Objective 3.3c has been updated to replace the word ensure. It now reads "Encourage and where feasible assist public and private land managers to be aware of the presence and location of threatened flora species..."
Require the retention of fallen and standing dead timber as habitat on private property, particularly hollow-bearing trees.	SUB12	<i>Noted – no change</i>  This is outside of the scope of local government.  Environment officers do, however, encourage such retention when providing land management advice.
Liaise with the Round the Bend Conservation Co-operative re installation and subsequent success of household transpiration beds.	SUB2	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Over the life of the strategy, specific initiatives will be explored for potential action via annual implementation plans.

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 2 – People and Partnerships</b>		
Biodiversity Accreditation program for businesses operating in Nillumbik Shire	SUB3	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Over the life of the strategy, specific opportunities for co-investment in restoration and revegetation from businesses can be explored as per existing objective 1.4B.</p>

**Summary of comments in relation to Focus Area 3 and Objectives (Survey)**

Focus area 3 – Species and Habitat Enhancement (Objectives mentioned in 12 surveys)		Feedback ID codes for Focus Area 3	Kirsten
<p><b>Objective 3.1</b> Protect and improve the condition and extent of habitat.</p> <p><i>Mentioned in 5 surveys</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include references to Indigenous species and ecosystem health “native is good, indigenous is better”.</li> <li>Need to identify the ‘how’ we can improve and protect habitat.</li> </ul>	S18, S28, S36, S37, S55	<p><i>Noted – wording updated</i></p> <p>There is now greater reference to indigenous vegetation throughout the strategy, including objective 3.1b which has been reworded to replace the word native with indigenous. i.e. “Identify opportunities to enhance the condition of indigenous vegetation across the Shire”.</p>
<p><b>Objective 3.2</b> Protect and improve ecosystems and the ecological function of terrestrial and aquatic connectivity and genetic diversity.</p> <p><i>Mentioned in 1 survey</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sounds like mostly covered in much broader 1st objective. Why not have an objective on animal biodiversity.</li> </ul>	S75	<p><i>Noted – wording updated</i></p> <p>Objective has been merged with objective 3.1.</p>
<p><b>Objective 3.3</b> Reduce the risks of extinction for all Nillumbik species.</p> <p><i>Mentioned in 1 survey</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus area is too ‘threatened species’ focused and gives insufficient attention to ecosystem enhancement.</li> </ul>	S13	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Objectives 3.1 and 3.2 are not threatened species focused.</p>

<b>Suggested objectives</b>  <i>Mentioned in 5 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritise support of properties with higher biodiversity value.</li> </ul>	S12, S14, S54, S75	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Over the life of the strategy, specific initiatives will be explored for potential action via annual implementation plans.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place greater emphasis on expanding existing habitat and include objective on animal biodiversity.</li> </ul>		<i>Noted – no change</i> Expanding existing habitat is covered in Objective 3.2.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add objective to strengthen habitat links, create nature strip program, have goals for each bio-link.</li> </ul>		<i>Noted – no change</i>  The reworded objective 3.2 covers extent and connectivity.  Initiatives such as creating a nature strip program or preparing a Biolinks Plan will be explored over the life of the strategy for potential action via annual implementation plans.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train road-work contractors in habitat protection.</li> </ul>		<i>Noted – no change</i>  The existing objective 1.1c is to support all council staff and contractors to be adequately informed on biodiversity matters, including biodiversity targets and legislative obligations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local seed bank to provide EVC appropriate seed for land remediation after earthworks.</li> </ul>		<i>Noted – no change</i>  Objective 3.3d is to “Build and maintain a seed library of priority Nillumbik plants, to protect genetic diversity and aid climate adaptation”. Having sufficient quantity for broad commercial purposes is not a current focus.

**Table 4.8b: Summary of possible additional ideas for Focus Area 3 (Survey, Submissions)**

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 3 – Species and Habitat Enhancement</b>		
Put economic values on canopy trees, especially in urban areas.	S5	<i>Noted – no change</i> This is outside the scope of this strategy but is being considered via the draft Urban Tree Canopy Strategy.
Add significant trees on the significant tree register.	S8	<i>Noted – no change</i>

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 3 – Species and Habitat Enhancement</b>		
		This has been considered via the drafting of the Urban Tree Canopy Strategy and at this stage is not recommended. Instead the community will be directed to nominate potentially significant trees to The National Trust and/or with First Peoples-State Relations.
More nesting boxes, 1 tree removed twenty nesting boxes placed in the area.	S8	<i>Noted – no change</i> Replacement plantings on Council land are covered by Council's Tree Management Policy and Guidelines. Opportunities for new nest box programs will be considered as potential initiatives within annual implementation plans.
Wider diversity of plantings used in landscaping.	S8	<i>Noted – no change</i> The strategies listed under objective 2.3 cover supporting habitat gardening.
Consider shade trees for car parks rather than eucalyptus species.	S8	<i>Noted – no change</i> This is outside the scope of this strategy but may be considered via the draft Urban Tree Canopy Strategy.
Create system whereby indigenous species are regenerating themselves.	S20	<i>Noted – no change</i> This is a desired outcome of Focus Area 3.
Active monitoring of changes to land usage and tree canopies to compare changes over time.	S24	<i>Noted – no change</i> Extent of shire-wide tree canopy cover will be measured as an indicator of Goal 1 every five years.
All areas of high biodiversity, on public and private land to be identified and monitored.	S31	<i>Noted – wording updated</i> Section 2.2 identifies ‘...lack of comprehensive, robust biodiversity data to help inform and direct targeted action’ as one of the threats to biodiversity within Nillumbik. However unfortunately it is not feasible to be able to identify and monitor all areas of high-biodiversity across the shire. Council can also access the Victorian Government's biodiversity database. Objective 1.4a has been updated to “seek investment and commitment from all levels of government and other funding bodies to help <u>monitor</u> , protect and enhance the Shire's biodiversity”.
Adopt a 'Precautionary Principle'.	S33	<i>Noted - no change</i> The existing Objective 1.1b is to “embed consideration of biodiversity protection and enhancement within Council's decision making processes and into new Council policies, strategies and plans”.

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 3 – Species and Habitat Enhancement</b>		
Include opportunities in planning applications to strengthen habitat and corridors.	S34	<i>Noted – no change</i> The existing Objective 4.4 is to “use Nillumbik’s planning system effectively to protect and enhance biodiversity values”. Additionally, Council’s draft Urban Tree Canopy Strategy and Neighbourhood Character Strategy seek planning outcomes that optimise tree retention and planting.
Purchase land for positive biodiversity outcomes.	S34	<i>Noted - no change</i> The existing objective 3.1f is to “consider opportunities for the strategic acquisition of land to add to Council’s bushland reserve system – using a decision-matrix framework that comprehensively considers all aspects of such a decision”.
Ban use of UV lit electrified outdoor insect traps in Nillumbik.	SUB2, SUB3	<i>Noted – no change</i> This is outside of local government scope, however opportunities for community education on the risks of use of such traps could be considered as a potential initiative within an annual implementation plan.
Use local plant stocks for restoration.	SUB2	<i>Noted – no change</i> The use of indigenous vegetation is covered under the strategies of the existing objective 3.1.
Ensure revegetation occurs in ecologically sensitive ways to enable balance in the ecosystem, providing habitat for diverse species	SUB3	<i>Noted – no change</i> This is covered in objective 3.1.
Protect and appropriately revegetate hilltops through Nillumbik.	SUB3	<i>Noted – no change</i> The existing objective 3.1c is to ‘identify opportunities to enhance the condition of indigenous vegetation across the Shire’, which includes hilltops.
Use ecologically sensitive methods and reduce use of chemical sprays which impact soils, waterways, fungi, terrestrial and aquatic animals.	SUB3	<i>Noted – no change</i> The existing objective 4.7c includes ‘provide information and education for our community on how they can manage their property to help protect native fauna, including from poisons...’. The provision of new community information/education on this topic can be considered as an initiative within an annual implementation plan.
Reduction of hard and impermeable surfaces.	SUB3	<i>Noted – no change</i> The existing Objective 4.4 is to “use Nillumbik’s planning system effectively to protect and enhance biodiversity values”. This includes consideration of permeable surface areas in planning applications.
Require remediation of sites of illegal vegetation clearing, and the provision of native vegetation offsets.	SUB12	<i>Noted – no change</i>



Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 3 – Species and Habitat Enhancement</b>		
		<p>The existing objective 4.5 is to ‘reduce and eliminate the illegal clearing of vegetation’.</p> <p>Also, the existing objective 1.3 is to ‘advocate for action by state and federal government that will facilitate positive biodiversity outcomes’. This includes advocacy for stronger enforcement mechanisms to help redress illegal vegetation clearing occurrences.</p>
Extend the riparian zone (30 metres with more structured layers) connecting to main corridor like a creek.		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Management of riparian areas is dependent on a wide variety of factors and a 30meter zone is not always feasible or practical.</p>
More focus on Indigenous species. Repair disturbed soil using seed/ stock from Indigenous flora.	SUB3	<p><i>Noted – text updated</i></p> <p>Objective 3.1 has been updated to replace the word native with indigenous. It now reads “Identify opportunities to enhance the condition and extent of <b>indigenous</b> vegetation across the Shire”.</p>

Summary of comments in relation to Focus Area 4 and Objectives (Survey)

Focus area 4– Mitigating Threatened Processes and Impacts (Objectives mentioned in 29 surveys)		Feedback ID codes for Focus Area 4	Officer response
<b>Objective 4.1</b> Minimise risk to biodiversity from climate change.  <i>Mentioned in 0 surveys</i>	-	-	-
<b>Objective 4.2</b> Reduce the presence and impact of invasive species across public and private land.  <i>Mentioned in 4 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More emphasis on invasive weeds, limit invasive species/weeds on private properties, and develop easy way for community to report weed concerns (3).</li> </ul>	S8, S23, S54, S84	<p><i>Noted – text updated</i></p> <p>A new strategy to support this objective has been added. “Provide information to the community on how they can report instances of invasive species presence”.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add goal for 24/7 cat curfew.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Council reviewed its Local Laws in 2022 and at that time determined not to introduce a 24/7 cat curfew. This can potentially be reconsidered in the future, in particular through the upcoming review of Council’s Domestic Animal Management Plan.</p> <p>In the meantime, existing objective 4.7c includes ‘provide information and education for our community on how they can manage their property to help protect native fauna ... including containment of domestic cats ...’</p>
<b>Objective 4.3</b> Reduce degradation of waterways.  <i>Mentioned in 3 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend riparian widths and connecting wetlands to creeks and rivers.</li> <li>Collaborate with DEECA, the relevant Catchment Management Authority to reduce degradation of waterways.</li> <li>Monitoring illegal private harvesting of water, dam building etc.</li> </ul>	S40, S47, S70	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The existing strategy supporting this objective (4.3a) is to ‘encourage best practice riparian management across urban and rural areas to reduce erosion, optimise infiltration of water into soils, and to trap silt and nutrients before flowing into waterways or wetlands’, which may incorporate the proposed suggestions. Opportunities for specific works will be considered as potential initiatives within annual implementation plans.</p> <p>Compliance and enforcement regarding illegal harvesting of water and dam construction is a regulatory function of Melbourne Water.</p>

Focus area 4– Mitigating Threatened Processes and Impacts (Objectives mentioned in 29 surveys)		Feedback ID codes for Focus Area 4	Officer response
<b>Objective 4.4</b> Use Nillumbik's planning system effectively to protect and enhance biodiversity values.  <i>Mentioned in 7 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal for all building permits to have a biodiversity protection points system to them.</li> <li>Strengthen wording and enforcement of planning rules re tree and vegetation removal. Use 'implement and enforce' the planning system.</li> <li>Council to report on this objective yearly to track progress and on outcomes.</li> <li>Planning controls and permits must reflect adequate room on development sites for canopy trees and greater garden areas.</li> </ul>	S5, S8, S9, S33, S34, S54, S68	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Building permits are issued under the Building Act which is controlled by State Government.</p> <p>Councils Neighbourhood Character Strategy 2023 recommends expansion of existing planning controls and new planning controls to require retention of existing vegetation and planting of new vegetation. This will be the subject of a future planning scheme amendment.</p>
<b>Objective 4.5</b> Reduce and eliminate the illegal clearing of vegetation.  4 comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase compliance and enforcement for clearing of trees and vegetation including fines for private landowners who allow significant trees to be killed.</li> <li>Arborists to check that permits have been issued before tree removal.</li> <li>Concern that clearing has increased and accelerated over the past 10 years.</li> </ul>	S8, S23, S54, S71	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The existing objective 1.3 is to 'advocate for action by state and federal government that will facilitate positive biodiversity outcomes'. This includes advocacy for stronger enforcement mechanisms to help redress illegal vegetation clearing occurrences.</p>
<b>Objective 4.6</b> Balance the needs of bushfire mitigation and biodiversity protection.  <i>Mentioned in 10 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not enough slashing and burning in preparation of fire season.</li> <li>Bushfire management needs to be a high priority.</li> <li>Protection of open grazing land as a good fire break.</li> <li>Too much vegetation removal is occurring for bushfire mitigation purposes.</li> <li>More education about what really constitutes a fire threat and education for landowners about how to protect good habitat.</li> </ul>	S1, S2, S3, S8, S23, S48, S49, S54, S69, S79, S80	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Balancing the needs of bushfire mitigation and biodiversity protection is complex. As per the existing strategies supporting this objective, Council will continue to work collaboratively, keep abreast of industry research and share knowledge.</p>

Focus area 4– Mitigating Threatened Processes and Impacts (Objectives mentioned in 29 surveys)		Feedback ID codes for Focus Area 4	Officer response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to be more specific about what does balance mean and measures.</li> <li>More data and information needed to show how removal of vegetation reduces fire risk.</li> <li>Mixed views about organised burns including the need for slow burning following Aboriginal laws; cool burns each autumn in appropriate EVC with recorded data and studies; Indigenous knowledge used from other parts of the country may not be applicable to fire regimes in Nillumbik.</li> </ul>		
<b>Objective 4.7</b> Protect native fauna from harm.  <i>Mentioned in 2 surveys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Keep abreast of virtual fencing and other fauna protection and management trials" - trials have already been conducted have demonstrated benefit. Nillumbik should move to conducting trials using current data to prioritise high risk areas.</li> <li>Include both fauna and flora.</li> </ul>	S36, S23	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Research undertaken for Council in 2023 identified that Nillumbik is not an ideal location for virtual fences as its landscape is considerably more permeable compared with other LGAs; and found that based on current data, virtual fencing trials are not recommended for the Shire.</p> <p>Trials will continue to be monitored and over the life of the strategy, specific initiatives will be explored for potential action via annual implementation plans.</p>
<b>Suggested objectives</b>  3 comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ban on second generation rodenticides used by council and its contractors.</li> <li>Measure waste collected on Clean Up Australia Day and the number of people registered for the event and compare annually.</li> <li>Need to take into account infrastructure and recreation including road widening/bike paths/bigger and more sports fields/lighting for sports fields. These are big threats to biodiversity.</li> </ul>	S23, S54, S73	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Waste collected by Clean Up Australia Day events in the shire that are supported with a free skip provided by council is tracked.</p> <p>Existing objective 1.2e is to 'actively avoid and minimise the impact of Council operations (such as capital works projects and maintenance activity) on native vegetation and biodiversity.</p> <p>Existing objective 1.3a is to 'advocate for broad and urgent biodiversity action by state and federal government to protect and enhance biodiversity including... environmental impact assessments on infrastructure projects...'</p>

Summary of possible additional ideas for Focus Area 4 (Survey, submissions)

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 4 – Mitigating Threatening Processes and Impacts</b>		
If one tree is removed, replace with 20 and monitored for the next 20 years.	S8	<i>Noted - no change</i>  This suggestion is currently not feasible.
Improve traffic light sequences to reduce carbon emissions.	S8	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Outside of the scope of this strategy
Reduce clearing / tree removal through enforcement of greater penalties for unapproved activities.	S12, S16, SUB4, SUB12	<i>Noted – no change</i>  The existing objective 1.3 is to 'advocate for action by state and federal government that will facilitate positive biodiversity outcomes'. This includes advocacy for stronger enforcement mechanisms to help redress illegal vegetation clearing occurrences.
Policy and education on the impact of domestic cats and more dogs on leads signs.	S16, S58	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Existing objective 4.7c is to 'provide information and education for our community on ...how they can help to protect native fauna, including by containing domestic cats and dogs..'
Strict containment of cats and dogs and introduce a 24hr cat curfew (enforce through planning rules).	S31, SUB1, SUB2, SUB3, SUB4	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Council reviewed its Local Laws in 2022 and at that time determined not to introduce a 24/7 cat curfew. This can potentially be reconsidered in the future, including as part of the upcoming review of Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan. In the meantime, existing objective 4.7c includes 'provide information and education for our community on how they can manage their property to help protect native fauna ... including containment of domestic cats and dogs...'
Active monitoring of dog and cat registrations and increased enforcement on pet compliance.	S24	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Outside the scope of this strategy.
Increased enforcement on landowners who allow stock to graze on bush blocks.	S16	<i>Noted – no change</i>

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 4 – Mitigating Threatening Processes and Impacts</b>		
		Existing objective 4.4c is to 'review the environmental framework within the planning scheme, with a focus on optimising and tailoring the strategic basis, application and content of planning controls designed to protect biodiversity outcomes in the Shire'. The timing and scope of this review will be a decision of Council.
Reduce/ control pest species including Noisy Miners (including the avoidance of planting trees that attract them), foxes, kangaroos etc.	S30, S31, S40	Noted – no change  Existing objective 4.2 is to 'reduce the presence and impact of invasive species across public and private land'. It includes a list of example species, but the Noisy Miner and kangaroos are native species that require State Government issued permits for any control.
Develop mitigation plan aimed at reducing pollution and emissions, light pollution, weed species and pest animals.	S31, SUB1, SUB3, SUB4, SUB12	Noted - no change.  The existing objectives of focus area 4 include a focus on reducing weed species and pest animals. Reducing pollution and emissions is outside of the scope of this strategy.
Overlay the strategy with Bushfire Management Overlay.	S31	Noted - no change
Greater priority on waterways.	S47	Noted - no change Existing objectives 3.1 and 4.3 cover waterways. The Melbourne Water Healthy Waterways Strategy is the overarching strategic document.
Increase shallow wetlands close to the creek lines and revegetate historical dams.	S73	Noted – no change The existing supporting strategy of objective 4.3 is to 'encourage best practice riparian management ...', including of wetlands.
Measure and reduce the carbon emissions and embodied carbon within the Shire.	SUB1	Noted – no change  This is outside the scope of this strategy. It is already being done as part of Council's Climate Action Plan 2022-2032.
Funding and project plan for wildlife virtual fences.	S35, SUB5, SUB9, SUB10, SUB13	Noted – no change  Research undertaken for Council in 2023 identified that Nillumbik is not an ideal location for virtual fences as its landscape is considerably more permeable

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 4 – Mitigating Threatening Processes and Impacts</b>		
		<p>compared with other LGAs; and found that based on current data, virtual fencing trials are not recommended for the Shire.</p> <p>Trials will continue to be monitored and over the life of the strategy, specific initiatives will be explored for potential action via annual implementation plans.</p>
Change the planning regulations to prohibit non - fauna friendly fencing for rural areas.	SUB1	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Due to the complexity of land use and land management, Council is unable to prohibit non-fauna friendly fencing. However, information on fauna friendly fencing is providing on Council's planning and environment web pages and associated advice is provided in pre-application meetings and land management advice discussions.</p>
Reduce speed limits to better protect wildlife and people.	S82, SUB1, SUB13	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Existing objective 4.7d is to 'collaborate with the Department of Transport to identify driver-behaviour education campaigns that might be feasible and useful to help mitigate wildlife vehicle collisions e.g. wildlife signage, road markings, speed reduction etc'.</p>
Prohibit the use and sale of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) and glyphosates.	S2, S3, S17, SUB1, SUB3	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>This is outside of local government scope.</p>
Regulate excavations as per the planning scheme, including requiring reversal of works carried out without permits.	SUB1	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Regulation of earthworks is regulated through the Planning Scheme. On the matter of reported illegal works, Council undertake enforcement and require mitigation where appropriate.</p>
Loss of stored carbon through Council tree removals be measured and recorded.	SUB1	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>This is not currently feasible.</p>
Planning decisions to include environmental value of land that is in or near to the mapped habitat links in Nillumbik.	SUB1	<i>Noted – no change</i>

Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 4 – Mitigating Threatening Processes and Impacts</b>		
		Planning decisions do consider environmental values, including through application of environmental significance overlays. Existing objective 4.4c is to 'review the environmental framework within the planning scheme, with a focus on optimising and tailoring the strategic basis, application and content of planning controls designed to protect biodiversity outcomes in the Shire'. The timing and scope of this review will be a decision of Council.
Implement control regime to eradicate feral European Honeybee hives.	SUB2, SUB3	<i>Noted – no change</i> Objective 4.2 'reduce the presence and impact of invasive species across public and private land' covers a wide variety of species.
Service for residents to notify Council of European Wasp nests on their land and to cover some or all of the cost of having them destroyed.	SUB2, SUB3	<i>Noted, no change</i> Existing objective 4.2 'reduce the presence and impact of invasive species across public and private land'. Information on this species is available on Council's website and can be considered for update. It is not feasible for Council to introduce a service to support nest destruction.
Stop selling and cultivation of Monterey Pines in Nillumbik. Existing commercial plantations of the species need to be replaced with a non-invasive tree species after they are felled.	SUB2	<i>Noted – no change</i>  It is outside of local government scope to ban the sale of specific plant species.
Maintaining Urban Growth Boundary and strengthening Zoning/overlays for biodiversity protection.	SUB3	<i>Noted – no change</i>  The application of the Urban Growth Boundary is a state government function. Reviewing overlays would be a decision of Council, which could be undertaken in the future under objective 4.4c 'review the environmental framework within the planning scheme...'. 
Ecologically sensitive approach to fire and perceived fire risk	SUB3	<i>Noted – no change</i>  Existing objective 4.6b is to 'keep abreast of industry research into the design and maintenance of ecologically sustainable fire regimes'.
Support rural landholders in undertaking prescribed burning and for Council to connect with rural landholders, CFA, Wurundjeri's Narrap team and other organisations.	SUB11, SUB12	<i>Noted – no change</i>



Additional ideas	Feedback ID codes for new ideas	Officer response
<b>Ideas for Focus Area 4 – Mitigating Threatening Processes and Impacts</b>		
		Existing objective 4.6a is to 'work collaboratively with partners involved in bushfire mitigation...'. Councils LMIP program already allows for grant support to be provided for cultural burns.
Encourage and support fencing of waterways on private properties to exclude stock grazing, in collaboration with water authorities.	SUB12	Noted – no change  Existing objective 4.3, strategy a is to "encourage best practice riparian management..." and objective 2.2, strategy a is to 'connect and collaborate with private landholders...Melbourne Water...' Relevant officers already work collaboratively with Melbourne Water and promote the Melbourne Water Stream Frontage grant program which can support fencing of waterways on private properties.
Make nature strip planting easier (no permit required)	S73	Noted – no change Existing objective 2.3, strategy d is to 'deliver and support programs that promote and encourage habitat gardening in home gardens, properties and schools'. Specific initiatives will be explored for potential action via annual implementation plans.
Spread out development zones more evenly.	S8	Noted – no change Outside of the scope of this strategy
Create wildlife passages overhead and underground	SUB1	Noted – no change Existing objective 4.7 is to 'protect native fauna from harm', including via approaches that 'target management actions to be specific to the species they are seeking to protect'. Specific initiatives can be explored for potential action via annual implementation plans, subject to resourcing availability.

**Summary of comments in relation to draft strategy overall (Survey)**

Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes for overall strategy comments	Officer response
Concerns from horse riders and landowners about working in the strategy – Mentioned in 25 surveys		

Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes for overall strategy comments	Officer response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern around the wording in the draft strategy under Threats section 2.2 about overgrazing and horses off formal tracks.</li> <li>There is a request for the statements to be removed.</li> <li>Responses have stated that horse riders using the trails within reserves do so consciously and respectfully of the environment.</li> </ul>	S4, S21, S29, S31, S32, S38, S40, S41, S42, S43, S44, S45, S48, S49, S50, S51, S52, S53, S56, S59, S62, S64, S65, S67, S68	<p><i>Noted – wording updated</i></p> <p>Reference to horse riders has been removed.</p>
There is also a request for statements to be added to the strategy under Biodiversity action in the community acknowledging the efforts and contribution of private rural landholders in supporting the natural environment and biodiversity.		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The role of landholders efforts and contribution in managing their properties is acknowledged in Section 3 – Biodiversity action by the community “a highly motivated network of individuals and community groups ... undertaking on-ground works...including individuals who are managing their properties sustainably”; and in Focus Area 2 – People &amp; Partnerships.</p>
<b>Information missing that could be added to the strategy – Mentioned in 20 surveys</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the appendix two species need to be added to the list of Threatened Fauna – the Yarra Pygmy Perch, <i>Nannoperca obscura</i>, and Freshwater Herring, <i>Potamalosa richmonida</i>.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The species listed in the Appendix are those that are currently formally recognised under EPBC or FFG status as being listed threatened species.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledge species that are not currently threatened but will be soon. There are many other species that are disappearing ‘under the radar’ – Spotted Quail-thrush, Jacky Winter.</li> <li>Acknowledge rarity and importance of grasses.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S8, S10, S13, S17, S20, S23, S24, S30, S31, S32, S33, S34, S35, S36, S37, S39, S70, S74	<p><i>Noted – text updated</i></p> <p>An additional sentence has been added to the tables in Appendix C acknowledging that ‘over time, this list may change as other species are formally recognised as being threatened or if the status of already listed species change’.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase focus, emphasis and action around Indigenous vegetation and species.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted - wording updated</i></p> <p>Objective 3.1 has been updated to replace the word native with indigenous. It now reads “Identify opportunities to enhance the condition and extent of indigenous vegetation across the Shire”.</p>

Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes for overall strategy comments	Officer response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Add clarity and more detail around the previous Biodiversity Strategy, what was learnt, outcomes, assessment of programs and how it has informed the current draft.</li></ul>		<i>Noted – no change</i>  The process of developing this strategy included reviewing the outcomes of Council's Biodiversity Strategy 2012, as stated in Section 1.2.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Add commitment to engagement with the community on development of the annual Implementation Plans.</li></ul>		<i>Noted – no change</i>  The development of the annual implementation plans will be an operational manner, with the focus being on contributing to the achievement of the objectives, goals and targets of the endorsed strategy. As specified in Section 6.1, progress and outcomes will be tracked and reported on annually to Council and the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Add current state of biodiversity in Nillumbik; 'green wedge'; a more explicit definition of biodiversity health; statement about private landowners' environmental responsibility; advances in environmental science; and reference to 'Caring for Landscape' document.</li></ul>		<i>Noted – no change</i>  Section 2 provides an overview of the current state of biodiversity in Nillumbik. A definition for what is meant by healthy biodiversity is provided in section 4.2, this definition mirrors that provided in the Victorian Government's Biodiversity 2037 strategy and has now been bolded to make it easier to notice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Add population growth, capitalism, housing to section on threats.</li></ul>		<i>Noted – no change</i>  The Section 2.2. list of threats to biodiversity includes urbanisation and associated impacts, and land use changes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Add more visual elements/ images re challenges, beauty of biodiversity.</li></ul>		<i>Noted – the strategy will be designed and will include visual elements once the wording is finalised</i>
Strategy needs more specific measures, targets, baseline data, accountability – Mentioned in 15 surveys		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Strategy needs to include strong, clear and measurable goals, clear baseline measures, measurable indicators, specific targets, minimum standards, specific timeframes to ensure accountability.</li><li>▪ Strategy needs to show accountability and what actions will be taken if goals and targets are not met.</li></ul>	S2, S3, S8, S10, S14, S17, S24, S28, S32, S35, S36, S37, S55, S70, S77,	<i>Noted – no change</i>  The wording of the goal mirrors that of the Victorian Government Biodiversity 2037 Strategy.  Indicators do need to be measurable and the proposed indicators are, noting that this has limited the scope of indicators proposed - as if data is not readily available on a topic then an associated indicator is not possible.

Summary of comments	Feedback ID codes for overall strategy comments	Officer response
		The proposed goals and targets are aspirational and are not all within the direct control of Council. If they are not being met during the life of the strategy, opportunities that are within Council's remit will be continually re-assessed.
<b>Comments on budget, funding, and resources – Mentioned in 13 surveys</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More information about how the strategy and implementation plans will be funded and resources allocated.</li> <li>Concern that the strategy will not be funded or have enough resources to implement it.</li> <li>Apply environmental full-cost accounting to biodiversity services, both for loss and gain.</li> <li>Cost savings from more sustainable actions (such as reducing landfill, reducing electricity usage, increasing indigenous vegetation therefore decreasing the need for weed-control measures etc) to go back into funding biodiversity actions.</li> <li>Allocate budget or substantially increase the LMIP budget to support residents to improve biodiversity, especially in high value areas.</li> <li>Increase resources to develop and implement the strategy (not externals) to grow internal and local knowledge.</li> </ul>	S2, S3, S8, S13, S14, S16, S23, S31, S35, S39, S54, S73, S77	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Section 6 of the strategy commits that “an implementation plan that specifies key biodiversity and land management actions will be developed every year and will be considered in Council's annual budget process”.</p> <p>Additionally, within the past 12 months Council has increased the ongoing resourcing of environment staff, including creating a new full-time position and modifying a part-time position to become full time; and appointed a new temporary part-time position.</p>
<b>General positive comments on the strategy and support of general direction – Mentioned in 11 surveys</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and commend the work in developing the draft strategy and Council's focus on the environment and biodiversity.</li> <li>Support the strategy as it enables discussion about biodiversity.</li> <li>Agree with sentiment and direction of the strategy.</li> </ul>	S14, S16, S23, S26, S27, S28, S30, S35, S54, S63, S74	<i>Noted with thanks</i>

Summary of comments presented in freeform submissions:

Summary and number of comments	Feedback ID codes for submissions	Officer response
<b>Information missing that could be added to the strategy – mentioned in 5 submissions</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the appendix two species need to be added to the list of Threatened Fauna – the Yarra Pygmy Perch, <i>Nannoperca obscura</i>, and Freshwater Herring, <i>Potamalosa richmonida</i>.</li> </ul>	SUB1, SUB2, SUB3, SUB7, SUB8	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The species listed in the Appendix are those that are currently formally recognised under EPBC or FFG status as being listed threatened species.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase focus, emphasis and action around Indigenous vegetation and species.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted - wording updated</i></p> <p>Increased emphasis on indigenous vegetation has been added, including updating objective 3.1 to replace the word native with indigenous. It now reads “<i>Identify opportunities to enhance the condition and extent of indigenous vegetation across the Shire</i>”.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add clarity and more detail around the previous Biodiversity Strategy, what was learnt, outcomes, assessment of programs and how it has informed the current draft.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The process of developing this strategy included reviewing the outcomes of Council's Biodiversity Strategy 2012, as stated in Section 1.2.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include importance of the age of trees on biodiversity and ecological importance of hill tops.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase focus on our contribution to climate change.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Our contribution to climate change is outside of the scope of this strategy. It is considered in Councils Climate Action Plan 2022-2032.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to add Feral European Honeybees, European Wasp and Monterey Pines as invasive species.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Specific species are not referenced.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add more visual elements/ images re challenges, beauty of biodiversity.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – the strategy will be designed and will include visual elements once the wording is finalised.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include assessment of biodiversity threats to help set priorities.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Objective 4.2a is to “<i>implement a biosecurity approach to guide the prioritisation and management of invasive species...</i>”. This requires consideration / assessment of biodiversity threats to help set priorities.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include reference to outcomes of the 2012 Biodiversity Strategy and Invasive Species Action Plan.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The process of developing this strategy included reviewing the outcomes of Council's Biodiversity Strategy 2012 and Invasive Species Action Plan, as stated in Section 1.2.</p>
<b>Comments about the goals and targets – mentioned in 5 submissions</b>		
<p><b>Goal 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Goal 1</b> - is unclear, without measure and can be open to interpretation.</li> </ul>	SUB1, SUB3, SUB7, SUB8, SUB12	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The wording of the goal mirrors that of the Victorian Government Biodiversity 2037 Strategy.</p> <p>An explanation of the goal is provided in Section 4.2 – <i>Nillumbik has functioning plant and animal populations, improved habitats and resilient ecosystems.</i></p> <p>The proposed indicators provide a means of measuring the goal outcomes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Goal 1 summary sentence</b> - fails to focus on Indigenous species, habitat connectivity, landscape scale. The word 'functioning' could be changed to 'thriving and resilient'.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The goal explanation mirrors that of the Victorian Government Biodiversity 2037 Strategy</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Target</b> – Stronger target needed as any minimal gain over ten years would satisfy this target.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The target mirrors that of the Victorian Government biodiversity 2037 Strategy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Indicators</b> – Age of trees is missing. Add Collective Age of trees on Council and private land, Target Net increase.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>This tree age data is not available to be used as an indicator.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Indicators</b> - Five of the six indicators listed do not indicate if progress is being made towards the target.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – wording updated</i></p> <p>Increase or decrease targets provided for more of the indicators.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need baseline measures to measure improvement of habitats and connectivity. Baseline measures/data need to be outlined in the Biodiversity Strategy. Sources of this data should be described.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Where indicator baseline data is available it will be reported as part of the Year 1 implementation reporting, which will be publically available.</p>
<b>Goal 2</b>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Goal 2</b> - is unclear, without measure and can be open to interpretations with minimal connection to measurable outcomes for biodiversity. Needs to include 'first protect and then add'.</li> </ul>		The wording of the goal mirrors that of the Victorian Government Biodiversity 2037 Strategy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Goal 2 target</b> – may not be effective as most people already would say they care for nature. May be better to have a target that seeks to have Council allocate resources to deliver the strategy.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The target is extrapolated from that of the Victorian Government Biodiversity 2037 Strategy.</p> <p>Having Council resources allocated to deliver the strategy is covered by Objective 1.1e “Allocate time, resources and training to staff charged with delivering biodiversity programs and other works that help achieve the goals and targets of this strategy”.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Goal 2 Indicators</b> - Four of the five indicators listed do not indicate if progress is being made towards the target.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – wording updated</i></p> <p>Increase or decrease targets provided for more of the indicators.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Goal 2 Indicators:</b> Add Number of adverse biodiversity actions (maintenance works that damage biodiversity such as mowing of regenerating trees, removal of logs and coarse woody debris, projects, developments) - Target reduce;</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>This data is not available to be used as an indicator</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Goal 2 Indicators:</b> Number of animals killed on roads – Target measure and reduce.</li> </ul>		<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>We can investigate whether this could become an additional indicator in the future.</p>
<b>Feedback on Virtual Fence Trial – mentioned in 4 submissions</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prioritize the project as a matter of urgency and include actions, timelines, budget and resources to make it happen.</li> <li>▪ Use already existing data to make a start on the project and identify hot spots.</li> <li>▪ Collaborate with stakeholders to develop an effective project plan.</li> </ul>	SUB5, SUB9, SUB10, SUB13	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Research undertaken for Council in 2023 identified that Nillumbik is not an ideal location for virtual fences as its landscape is considerably more permeable compared with other LGAs; and found that based on current data, virtual fencing trials are not recommended for the Shire.</p> <p>The existing Objective 4.7 Protect native fauna from harm includes strategy e “keep abreast of virtual fencing and other fauna protection and management trials, in terms of their efficacy and potential suitability for trial or implementation in Nillumbik”.</p> <p>Over the life of the strategy, specific initiatives will be explored for potential action via annual implementation plans.</p>

Strategy needs more specific measures, targets, baseline data, accountability – mentioned in 3 submissions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy needs to include strong, clear and measurable goals, clear baseline measures, measurable indicators, specific targets, minimum standards, specific timeframes to ensure accountability.</li> <li>Strategy needs to show accountability and what actions will be taken if goals and targets are not met.</li> <li>Change structure of strategy so it follows a logic frame and provides clarity of how to meet goals and targets.</li> </ul>	SUB3, SUB7, SUB8	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>The wording of the goal mirrors that of the Victorian Government Biodiversity 2037 Strategy.</p> <p>Indicators do need to be measurable and the proposed indicators are, noting that this has limited the scope of indicators proposed - as if data is not readily available on a topic then an associated indicator is not possible.</p> <p>The proposed goals and targets are aspirational and are not all within the direct control of Council. If they are not being met during the life of the strategy, opportunities that are within Council's remit will be continually re-assessed.</p>
General positive comments on the strategy – mentioned in 4 submissions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General support of the intent and direction of the strategy.</li> </ul>	SUB5, SUB7, SUB8, SUB12	<i>Noted with thanks</i>
Comments on budget, funding, and resources – mentioned in 2 submissions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More information about how the strategy and implementation plans will be funded and resources allocated.</li> <li>Concern that the strategy will not be funded or have enough resources to implement it.</li> <li>Cost savings from more sustainable actions (such as reducing landfill, reducing electricity usage, increasing indigenous vegetation therefore decreasing the need for weed-control measures etc) to go back into funding biodiversity actions.</li> </ul>	SUB3, SUB8	<p><i>Noted – no change</i></p> <p>Section 6 of the strategy commits that "an implementation plan that specifies key biodiversity and land management actions will be developed every year and will be considered in Council's annual budget process".</p>
Concerns from horse riders and landowners about wording in the strategy – mentioned in 1 submission		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern around the wording in the draft strategy under Threats section 2.2 about overgrazing and horses off formal tracks.</li> <li>There is a request for the statements to be removed.</li> <li>Responses have stated that horse riders using the trails within reserves do so consciously and respectfully of the environment.</li> </ul>	SUB6	<p><i>Noted – wording updated</i></p> <p>Reference to horse riders has been removed.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is also a request for statements to be added to the strategy under Biodiversity Action in the Community, acknowledging the efforts and</li> </ul>		<i>Noted – no change</i>



contribution of private rural landholders in supporting the natural environment and biodiversity.		Section 3 – Biodiversity action by the community already acknowledges “a highly motivated network of individuals and community groups ... undertaking on-ground works...including individuals who are managing their properties sustainably”.
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Response No:  
1

Contribution ID: 24703  
Member ID:  
Date Submitted: Apr 04, 2024, 11:49 AM

Submission 1

Q1	Do you have any feedback on the draft Leasing and Licensing Policy?
Long Text	Draft policy looks good and thanks for opportunity to review
Q2	Do you belong to a group or organisation that lease or licence land or land & building from Nillumbik Shire Council?
Select Box	Yes
Q3	Your group or organisation?
Short Text	
Q4	First Name
Short Text	
Q5	Last Name
Short Text	
Q6	Email
Email	
Q7	What is your connection to Nillumbik?
Multi Choice	Work
Q8	How did you hear about this consultation?
Multi Choice	Email

**Natalie Campion**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 April 2024 1:44 PM  
**To:** Property  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Nillumbik Shire Council - Draft Leasing and Licensing Policy

Dear Sirs

I was distracted by our heavy involvement in Anzac Day ceremonies and missed your deadline for feedback on the Draft Leasing Policy. Notwithstanding, I hope this feedback is accepted.

Whilst we accept the overall thrust and objectives of the Draft Policy, the Committee of the Nillumbik Historical Society is particularly concerned with the requirements for Insurance of the Society's Building and Assets.

Of course, we hold the Public Liability and Association insurances required of the Draft Policy through the Royal Historical Society of Victoria schemes. We have found in the past however, that policies that can provide adequate cover for our tangible assets are not available to us due to the very high premiums. The limitation of co-insurance contained in common insurance policies means that full insurance of key building and non fixed tangible assets is beyond the financial means of our Society's members.

Few of our historical records and artefacts have any commercial value taht may be insured for damage or theft. The historic items in our custody located in our building or the Council's are the property of the community and not Society's. Hence, provision should be made to agree on which items are insurable, what hazards are they to be insured against (e.g, damage, theft of total loss) and who is responsible for insurance costs (community or Society).

With respect to our own buildings and non fixed tangible assets we believe that it is our prerogative to take any approach that does not impinge on Council's liabilities. In the past we have mostly self insured for damage and theft.

Should our alternative approach not be acceptable to Council the financial and liability implications of the Draft Policy could lead to cessation of our custodianship of Ellis Cottage, abandonment, sale or relocation of our building, serious curtailment of our community service, or all of the foregoing.

We expect our situation is not unique and application of the insurance policy alone could make many community groups unviable. We suggest that it be reviewed having regard for the above.

yours respectfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Property** <[Property@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Property@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)>  
Date: Thu, 4 Apr 2024 at 11:10 am

## Governance and Property Leasing and Licensing Policy 2024

Purpose	<p>This Policy aims to establish a consistent, transparent, equitable and fair process for the administration of leases and licenses for properties owned and managed by the Council.</p> <p>The overall goal is to responsibly maximise the use of community assets in alignment with the Council's vision, policies, and Council Plan.</p>
Scope	<p>This Policy is applicable to all Council owned land and buildings and where Council acts as Committee of Management for Crown land.</p> <p>It does not apply to premises that are managed on behalf of Council under contract management arrangements; seasonal sports arrangements; event permits; council managed or operated buildings such as community hall network, living and learning centres and maternal child health centres; and facilities under service agreements such as libraries.</p>
Version Number	Version Number: 2.0

Policy Owner	Governance and Property Department
Authorised by	
Authorisation date	
Date of next review*	

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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.



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### Inclusion statement

Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to creating a fair, equitable and inclusive community where human rights are respected, participation is facilitated, barriers are addressed 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 groups and individuals experience more barriers than others.

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Council can be contacted through the National Relay Service (NRS). The NRS is available as a phone solution for people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment.

All calls are confidential. Users must be registered via [www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au) to make and receive calls:

- TTY users phone 133 677, then ask for Council on 9433 3111.
- Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech) users phone 1300 555 727, then ask for Council on 9433 3111.
- A Hearing loop is located at the Customer Service Counter, Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough
- Communication boards are available at the Civic Drive Customer Service Counter, Civic Centre, Civic Drive Greensborough.
- Interpreting services are available.

**If you require the Leasing and Licensing Policy in an alternative format, please email [nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) or call 9433 3111.**

Please contact Council's Property Team on 9433 3111 if you need to discuss any leasing and licensing matter or require assistance understanding this policy.

## 1. Policy Statement

Nillumbik Shire Council recognises its role as the custodian of land and buildings on behalf of the Nillumbik Shire community.

The Council's property portfolio encompasses a diverse range of lease and license agreements,

Nillumbik's property portfolio has a wide variety of lease and licence agreements, reflecting our commitment to fostering community well-being, cultural enrichment, and sustainable development.

These agreements relate mostly to land with buildings or vacant land owned by Council, as well as Crown land where Council is the delegated Committee of Management appointed by the State Government.

This Policy reflects our commitment to responsible and community-driven property management, ensuring that our assets are utilised for the benefit of all residents of Nillumbik Shire.

## 2. Objectives

This Policy aims to establish a consistent, transparent, equitable and fair process for the administration of leases and licenses for properties owned and managed by the Council.

It outlines clear objectives for developing agreements, specifying the roles and responsibilities of both the Council and tenants.

The overall goal is to responsibly maximise the use of community assets in alignment with the Council's vision, policies, and Council Plan.

## 3. Guiding Principles

The guiding principles of this Policy encompass:

Community benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing efficient use of Council facilities that supports a diverse range of community groups to provide benefit for the Nillumbik community.</li> </ul>
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Return to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximise the commercial return to Council of its commercial and residential properties and provide a fair and reasonable rate for community groups and not-for-profit entities.</li> </ul>
Good governance and accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering an equitable, transparent process for leasing and licensing of Council properties to a diverse range of organisations, businesses, agencies and community groups that is consistent with the Council Plan and other Council policies and strategies.</li> </ul>
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting sustainable practices and encouraging lessees to take an active role in environmental initiatives.</li> </ul>

## 4. Definitions

In this Policy, the following definitions apply:

Reference term	Definition
<b>Property officer</b>	the Council Officer who is responsible for negotiating the terms and conditions of the lease or licence with the community group. They are also responsible for the management of the tenant for the duration of the lease or licence.
<b>DEECA</b>	the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.
<b>Fittings</b>	also known as chattels, are items that are freestanding and retain their independence from the building or land and are capable of being removed. Examples include refrigerators, microwaves, furniture etc.
<b>Fixtures</b>	are items that are attached to the building or land and cannot easily be removed from the Premises. Examples include central heating systems, air conditioning units affixed to the wall, kitchen units, stoves, dishwashers, solar panels and water tanks.
<b>Incorporated Association</b>	a club or community group, operating not-for-profit, whose members have decided to give their organisation a formal legal structure.
<b>LGA</b>	the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>
<b>Licensee</b>	the occupier of a facility under a licence agreement.
<b>Not-for-Profit (NFP)</b>	an organisation that does not operate for the profit, personal gain or other benefit of particular people. They can vary in size, from small groups who may rely on volunteers and the receipt of grants, donations or fundraising, to larger

	organisations who are well funded by membership fees and programs as the principal source of income and may supplement this income with trading activities. Large and successful NFPs comprise of paid employees and other staff including managers and executives.
<b>Outgoings</b>	Council rates, taxes, building and public liability insurance, utility supply and usage charges, and other levies (eg Fire Levy) assessed against the property.
<b>Premises or Property</b>	the land or land and building leased or licensed to the tenant.
<b>RLA</b>	the <i>Retail Leases Act 2003</i> .
<b>Services</b>	all services in connection with the property, including electricity, gas, water and telephone charges.
<b>TCA</b>	the <i>Telecommunications Act 1997</i> .
<b>Tenant</b>	is an authorised person or incorporated body that has entered into a lease or licence with Council for the use of a Council owned or Council managed property.
<b>Lessee</b>	the authorised person or incorporated body that has entered into a Lease with Council for the use of Council property.

## 5. Types of Tenure

In determining the appropriate occupancy agreement for Council owned and managed assets, including Crown land where the Council is the designated Committee of Management and any other assets the Council has control over requiring occupancy or usage arrangement, the choice of tenure for the circumstances will be at Council's sole discretion.

Nillumbik Shire Council has two main forms of tenure which are used to grant the use of Council land holdings. They are as follows:

### 5.1 Licence agreement

A licence agreement gives the tenant permission to enter and use a property for a specific purpose over an allocated time, but it does not grant exclusive occupancy.

A licence agreement does not create an interest in the land and cannot be assigned or transferred to a third party.

A licence may be granted for either vacant land or land and buildings.

## 5.2 Lease agreement

A lease is a contract which permits sole occupancy or “exclusive use” of an Asset that Council owns or controls for a specific purpose and time period (Term), usually in return for rent. A property may be leased under the provisions of:

- Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020*
- Section 17D of the *Crown Land (Reserve) Act 1978*, if the property is Crown land of which the Council is Committee of Management
- *The Residential Tenancies Act 1997*
- *The Retail Leases Act 2003*

## 6. Policy and Legislation

All agreements will have regard to, and consideration of, other Council adopted Policies and Statutory requirements, applicable acts and Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Any agreement will be negotiated with the tenant and all rights and responsibilities will be included in that agreement.

A comprehensive list of Council Policies and relevant Legislation has been included at the end of this Policy for reference.

## 7. Categories and fee structure

Tenants have been grouped into categories which determine the fee structure and obligations which will apply to the tenant when entering into an agreement.

Rent or licence fees charge for the premises will be set at the discretion of the Council in line with one of the categorised rental categories:

- Category A - Community Service Providers
- Category B - Community Partnerships
- Category C - Other Organisations 'Not-for-Profit'
- Category D - Commercial and Private Use

The eligibility for a tenancy agreement with Council is determined by an assessment against eligibility requirements, tenant structure, the broader community benefit, alignment with the Council Plan, and the organisation's capacity to occupy a leased facility. Once eligibility is established the assessment criteria is used to determine tenant categories.

Refer to **Schedule A** - Tenant categories

## 8. Tenant selection, negotiations and over-holdings

The assessment and selection of suitable tenants underpins Council's long term Strategic Plan associated Policies and Strategies, Stakeholder expectations and DEECA guidelines, for the provision of services and other benefits for the Nillumbik community.

The Council promotes inclusion and diverse representation within Council facilities. Use of a Council facility or asset by tenants must align with Council's Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

If tenants are not managing or utilising the Council asset or facility in line with Council's Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy, this will be treated as a breach of the agreement. Council will give notice to the tenant to remedy the breach.

The current condition of the building and Council's future requirements will be taken into consideration before selecting a tenant to operate from a Council facility.

The Council recognises some tenants have historical affiliations with assets they currently have agreements for however do not guarantee that current or historical tenants will be offered new agreements.

Groups or organisations wishing to occupy Council facilities will be assessed against the eligibility criteria contained in Council's Leasing and Licensing Procedure.

Selection of a tenant may be required if a Council building or part of a building becomes vacant, or there is a requirement to assess an existing tenant whose lease or licence has expired before offering a renewal of the agreement.

Where the property is Crown land and only managed by Council, Council will be required to follow the guidelines as set down by DEECA. This may require Council to advertise the lease or licence or undertake an Expression of Interest (EOI) process and tenant selection will then be in line with those guidelines.

### 8.1 Over-holding

All lease and licence agreements are to remain in a current status. Under certain circumstances, agreements may be allowed to enter into over-holding. The over-holding period will be at Council's discretion depending on the specific circumstances.

Capital works will not occur or be approved to occur at a Property which has an agreement in over-holding or an existing tenant with no agreement in place. Capital

works associated with safety or compliance are exempt and in circumstances where short term funding for works is available, capital works may proceed provided the leasing process has commenced and there is a low risk to Council.

## 8.2 Expression of Interest (EOI) to use Council property

In the event that a significant Council asset becomes available for use, either on a shared or exclusive basis, then Council will consider the *Local Government Best Practice Guideline for the Sale and Exchange of Land* dated June 2009 which can extend to cover leasing. This guideline outlines a public process be conducted unless Council can justify a public treaty negotiation.

As part of the ongoing management of Council's assets, all general leasing and licensing enquiries can be submitted via the Nillumbik Shire Council's website - Enquire about leasing or licensing Council land or via email to [nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au).

## 8.3 Council as tenant

Council may require the use of a building and/or land which is owned by another organisation, should the type of facility required be unavailable in the current asset pool, or vacant buildings or land are not deemed suitable for the intended purpose.

## 9. Terms and conditions

The terms and conditions of all Council tenure will be assessed on the nature of the agreement. Additional provisions will be included when necessary to meet specific requirements of Council or the other party involved.

Council has a suite of standard documents used for occupancy agreements under this Policy.

The standard terms and conditions are set and agreements can be tailored for individual groups through the use of specific Special Conditions.

## 10. Insurance

As a minimum, all tenants are required to hold the following insurance:

- ~~At least \$20,000,000 public liability insurance;~~ **Public liability insurance for a value determined by Council;**
- Contents insurance for the tenant's own property; and

- Building insurance, where the tenant has constructed the building or other infrastructure on Council land, **unless agreed otherwise with Council.**

Tenants must provide Council with a Certificate of Currency on or before the commencement date of the agreement and annually thereafter if requested.

## 11. Reporting and Inspections

All tenants must provide to Council as requested annually a certificate of currency for their public liability insurance policy.

Community groups may be required to provide various reports as a condition of their agreement on a regular basis or upon request by Council, which may include (but is not limited to) the following information:

- a. proof of the tenant's current registration with Consumer Affairs Victoria as an Incorporated Association in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* (Vic);
- b. a copy of the tenant's current licence or permit under the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* (Vic) (if held);
- c. a copy of the tenant's Annual Financial Statement or a copy of the Lessee's Annual Statement lodged with Consumer Affairs Victoria;
- d. a list of its current committee members, including names and contact details for after hours and emergency situations;
- e. the number of current registered members of the tenant (if applicable); and
- f. the tenant's current child safe policies.

### 11.1 Entry by Council

The authorised Council Officer or contractor may enter the facility at any reasonable time after giving the tenant reasonable notification where practical to inspect the condition of the building, undertake repairs, maintenance, works or alterations in the building which Council decides to undertake or is required to carry out by any law or authority or in accordance with the use agreement.

Council will use all reasonable endeavours to cause as little disruption as possible to the tenant's use of the facility in exercising this right. However notice will not be provided for cyclic and routine maintenance and inspections undertaken by Council's contractors that involve multiple buildings in the following situations:

- The carrying out of routine essential safety measures and building condition audits; and

- Inspections for the purpose of valuation

Contractors will be required to provide suitable identification before entering the facility.

## 12. Maintenance and repair obligations and costs

A maintenance schedule is included in the standard community lease and licence to ensure a consistent approach to maintaining Council's facilities, which specifies the level of maintenance responsibility for the tenant and Council. Some of the items of responsibility include structural repairs, essential safety measures, maintenance and repairs of fittings and fixtures, cleaning of the interior and exterior and damage to the building.

The level of maintenance required of the tenant is determined by the tenants ability to maintain the premises, the category of the tenant, and if the tenant has constructed all or part of the premises.

Any assets, fixtures or fittings purchased and installed by the tenant, after seeking Council's prior written consent, is to be repaired and maintained by the tenant at their cost and will become Council's property at the end of the agreement, unless agreed otherwise.

Any planning permit required will be the responsibility of the tenant including the cost of obtaining the permit. The tenant must also obtain Council's consent to use its own contractors to install any assets, fixtures or fittings. Council's preference is to use its own contractors and recover this cost from the tenant.

Should Council undertake the repair and maintenance of the asset, fixture or fitting on behalf of the tenant, then Council will seek reimbursement of this cost from the tenant.

The tenant is liable for the cost of repair or replacement of any item that is damaged as a result of misuse or vandalism by the tenant or the tenant's guests, invitees and contractors.

## 13. Financial hardship

In the case of demonstrable financial hardship by the tenant, Council may at its discretion waive the requirement of the tenant to pay the Rent and/or other charges required under the lease or licence for a period of the Term, to be determined by Council.



## 14. Gambling

A tenant is not permitted to apply for any licence under the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* for the installation of electronic gaming machines in any of Council's facilities. Any form of gambling activity is not permitted, including promotion or advertising in or on Council-owned facilities under the tenant's occupancy agreement. Gambling activity includes, but is not limited to, sports betting, lotto and casino games.

## 15. Retail leases

In Victoria, retail leases are governed by the *Retail Leases Act 2003* (Vic). The Act applies to all retail premises, defined as premises used wholly or predominantly for the sale or hire of goods by retail or the retail provision of services.

The Act specifies what is and what isn't a retail lease and imposes extended obligations on landlords and affords extra protections to tenants.

## 16. Vacant land leased to residents for leisure, agricultural and grazing purposes

Some vacant Council land is able to be leased or licensed to residents as there are no short to medium term requirements by Council to use the land or it is encumbered with, for example, a drainage easement. Council benefits from the leasing or licensing of this land as the tenant maintains the land which also becomes rateable upon being leased by an individual, corporation or public utility.

Land will only be leased to residents for grazing, agricultural purposes, private residential use and leisure, not for permanent structures.

These leases will be subject to determination of a current market rental. A reduced market rental may be determined in certain circumstances where Council benefits from leasing or licensing of the Land.

## 17. Residential leases

Council has a small number of residential properties that are leased under the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*.

These residences are managed by a commercial property agent and are leased at a market rental.



These residential properties each form part of a larger parcel of land which is reserved as Public Park and Recreation (PPRZ).

Council benefits from the leasing of this land as the lessee maintains the property.

## 18. Related legislation, regulations, policies, procedures and/or guidelines

A number of laws, regulations, policies and plans apply to Council's implementation and management of leases and licences. The following are of relevance:

- *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)*
- *Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2023 (Vic)*
- Child Safe Standards
- *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic)*
- Committee of Management Guidelines dated December 2021
- *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*
- *Crown Land Leasing Guidelines 2012*
- *Leasing policy for Victorian Crown land 2023*
- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Local Government (General) Regulations 2004*
- *Land Act 1958*
- *Leasing Policy for Victorian Crown Land 2023*
- Local Government Best Practice Guideline for the Sale and Exchange of Land dated June 2009
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)*
- *Property Law Act 1958*
- *Retail Leases Act 2003*
- *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*

### Nillumbik's relevant Plans and Strategies

- *Access Equity and Inclusion Policy*
- *Climate Action Plan 2022-2032*
- *Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040*
- *Community Engagement Policy*
- *Nillumbik Council Plan & Budget*
- *Nillumbik Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-25*
- *Nillumbik Shire Council's Local Laws*
- *Nillumbik Shire Council - Leasing and Licensing Procedure 2024*

## 19. Review

This Policy must be reviewed within 5 years of the authorised date or as legislation requires or as determined by Council.

This Policy has been reviewed for Human Rights Charter compliance.

## Schedule A - Tenant categories

### Category A – Community Service Providers

#### Eligibility Indicators

- **Community Benefit:** Provides the maximum level of community benefit by providing children services, services to disadvantaged groups within the Nillumbik community, management of a Council hall or Historical Society.  
These utilise Council owned or managed facilities and include Childcare - Long Day and Occasional Care, Preschools, Halls managed by Committees, Historical Societies, Foodshare, and Adaptive Bike Storage Facility in Diamond Creek to organisations and residents.
- **Use:** Aligns with a Council service and the Council Plan. Proposed use will increase social inclusion, equity and promote health and wellbeing of Nillumbik Shire Council residents.
- **Funding:** Receives limited funding aside from that provided for the ongoing operation of the service.
- **Fit for Purpose:** The proposed use of the Property is appropriate taking into account building and planning requirements.
- **Revenue:** Is low to medium and there are no permanent retail activities.
- **Utilisation:** Community access and utilisation of the Property will be maximised either by direct use of the Property or through shared use or hire arrangements.
- **Operational:** Not-for-profit organisation, or community group or club run by volunteers or paid workers.
- **Compliance:** Not-for-profit organisation, registered legal entity (incorporated, legitimate body or under the auspice of an incorporated body), financially viable, complies with all relevant legislation governing its activities, holds all relevant certificates including certificate of currency of insurance (public liability or others as required), and governance capability.

Management of a Preschool or Child Care Cooperative must be compliant with the requirements of the *Educational and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Vic) and

*Educational and Care Services National Regulations 2011 and Council's relevant Service Level Agreement.*

### Category B – Community Partnerships

#### Eligibility Indicators

- **Community Benefit:** Provides significant community benefit of which is in demand by the local community in the form of recreational, learning services for adults, sporting or club based activities. Promotes and supports volunteerism. The type of community benefit provided could not be delivered unless supported by Council.
- **Use:** Aligns with a Council service and the Council Plan. Proposed use will increase social inclusion, equity and promote health and wellbeing for the Nillumbik Shire Council community.
- **Funding:** Receives limited funding other than Council.
- **Fit for Purpose:** The proposed use of the Property is appropriate taking into account the land, building and planning requirements.
- **Revenue:** Limited capacity to generate revenue from use of the Property (i.e. memberships or hiring) or activities consistent with the organisational purpose. The tenant must not use the Premises wholly or predominantly for the sale or hire of goods by retail or the retail provision of services within the meaning of the *Retail Leases Act 2003* (Vic).
- **Utilisation:** Community access and utilisation of the Property will be maximised either by direct use of the Property or through shared use or hire arrangements.
- **Operational:** Not-for-profit organisation or community group or club run by volunteers or paid workers.
- **Compliance:** Not-for-profit organisation, registered legal entity (incorporated, legitimate body or under the auspice of an incorporated body), financially viable, complies with all relevant legislation governing its activities, holds all relevant certificates including certificate of currency of insurance (public liability or others as required), and governance capability.

### Category C – Other Organisations 'Not-for-Profit'

#### Eligibility Indicators

- **Community Benefit:** There is evidence base that the proposed use is in strong demand and will provide a significant community benefit and service which is in high demand by the Nillumbik Shire community.
- **Use:** Aligns with a Council service and the Council Plan. Proposed use will increase social inclusion, equity and promote health and wellbeing for the Nillumbik Shire Council community.
- **Funding:** Receives significant funding other than Council.

- **Fit for Purpose:** The proposed use of the Property is appropriate taking into account the land, building and planning requirements.
- **Revenue:** Has increased capacity to generate revenue from use of the Property (i.e. memberships or hiring) or activities consistent with the organisational purpose. The tenant must not use the Premises wholly or predominantly for the sale or hire of goods by retail or the retail provision of services within the meaning of the *Retail Leases Act 2003* (Vic).
- **Utilisation:** Community access and utilisation of the Property will be maximised either by direct use of the Property or through shared use or hire arrangements.
- **Operational:** Tenancy by a State/Nation Wide organisation that is registered 'not-for-profit', however, may operate with more than one branch or service (unit) and have the option of treating their units as if they were separate entities for 'not-for-profit' purposes, that are predominately run by paid employees. For example Country Fire Authority.
- **Compliance:** Not-for-profit organisation, registered legal entity, financially viable, complies with all relevant legislation governing its activities, holds all relevant certificates including certificate of currency of insurance (public liability or others as required), have a management committee or board with appropriate governance arrangements.

#### Category D – Commercial and Private Use

##### Eligibility Indicators

- **Community Benefit:** Desirable to provide community benefit.
- **Use:** Aligns with and not detrimental to Council Plan strategic objectives.
- **Funding:** Receives significant funding other than Council or is a profit based organisation.
- **Fit for Purpose:** The proposed use of the Property is appropriate taking into account the land, building and planning requirements.
- **Revenue:** has increased capacity to generate revenue from use of the Property or activities consistent with the organisational purpose.
- **Utilisation:** Community access and utilisation of the Property will be maximised either by direct use of the Property or through shared use or hire arrangements.
- **Operational:** Run by paid workers or for private use. Includes retail leases, residential, commercial, telecommunication facilities (utilities) and vacant land leased to private individuals.
- **Compliance:** Registered legal entity, professional capacity and experience, financially viable, complies with all relevant legislation governing its activities, and holds all relevant certificates including certificate of currency of insurance (public liability or

others as required). This excludes residential which are managed by the Real Estate Agent and generally require:

- The Financial capacity to pay ongoing rent
- Undertaken a 100 point check for identification
- A proven rental history and are reference checked.

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# **Nillumbik Shire Council**

## **Economic Development Advisory Committee**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Name**

Economic Development Advisory Committee (**Advisory Committee**)

#### **Introduction**

Nillumbik's Economic Development Advisory Committee provides a formal mechanism for Council to consult with key stakeholders, seek specialist advice and enable community participation in all matters relating to economic development and tourism in Nillumbik.

#### **Policy Statement:**

The Economic Development Advisory Committee is a broad interest group providing advice to Council on matters relating to economic development and tourism.

#### **Aims:**

The purpose of the Economic Development Advisory Committee is to facilitate the successful implementation of the [Economic Development Strategy 2020-2030](#) and respond to broader economic development matters.

#### **Objectives**

- Identify and provide advice on a range of economic development opportunities and issues facing Nillumbik's business community and prioritise actions to address these issues.
- Provide a forum for discussion on a range of topics impacting on the prosperity of the business community.
- Ensure consultation and ongoing liaison between Council and key business and community stakeholders.
- Support the implementation of the Nillumbik Economic Development Strategy 2020 - 2030 and provide recommendations to deliver on the strategic actions.
- Provide feedback and advice to Council on Council strategies, plans, policies and related documents.
- Represent the views and needs of business within Nillumbik.
- Assist Council to communicate, consult and engage more effectively with the broader Nillumbik business community.
- Strengthen partnerships with industry partners and groups, business associations and support services in Nillumbik and the broader Northern region.
- Contribute to a cycle of continually assessing and improving Nillumbik's business community.



### **Membership**

The Advisory Committee membership will consist of up to 14 members and will include representation from:

- Two representatives of the Nillumbik Shire Council (Councillors) - one as Chair, one as alternate Chair.
- A representative, or alternate, nominated by each of the following key business and industry Associations:
  - Eltham Chamber of Commerce and Industry (1)
  - Diamond Creek Traders Association (1)
  - Hurstbridge Traders Association (1)
  - Nillumbik Tourism & Business Association (1)

Note: Representatives and alternates from the key business groups outlined above will be nominated by the business group and appointed by Council.

- One youth representative from the Nillumbik community;
- One Agricultural representative from the Nillumbik community and;
- Six General business and industry representatives.

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

### **Council Directorate**

The Advisory Committee falls within Council's Planning, Environment and Strategy directorate and will be managed by Council's Economic Development and Tourism Department.

### **Meeting Frequency**

The Advisory Committee Meetings will be held quarterly.

### **Endorsed by Council**

These Terms of Reference were originally endorsed by Council June 2022

### **Next Review Due**

June 2026

### **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, and from other organisations will be sought through advertising.

**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.

**Child Safety and Wellbeing**

The safety and wellbeing of children and young people is everyone's responsibility.

Every child and young person has the right to feel safe and we all have a shared responsibility to protect them from harm and abuse.

At Nillumbik Shire Council, we are required by law to implement the Victorian Child Safe Standards and Council is committed to being a child-safe organisation where all children and young people are valued and protected from harm and abuse.

In meeting Council's obligations under the Child Safe Standards, Advisory Committee members are responsible for ensuring that they adhere with Council's Child Safe Policy and Child Safe Reporting processes.

Advisory Committee members are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children and support the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children.

**Selection Criteria for Membership of Advisory Committees**

Nominees for membership must be able to demonstrate:  
Economic Development Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

- Genuine and valuable reasons for wanting to join the Advisory Committee.
- Qualifications, knowledge, skills and/or lived experience that are relevant to the advisory committee
- Current involvement in the community in the interest area that relates to the purpose of the Economic Development Advisory Committee.
- A strong understanding of local issues that are relevant to the Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.
- Endorsement by their own organisation. Individuals should provide two character referees as part of their application, unless they are a returning member.
- Strong community networks and linkages.
- An ability to constructively participate in an advisory capacity.
- An ability to represent a broad range of views that reflect the diversity of the community.
- 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
- Senior Manager of a local provider (if appropriate)
- Senior Manager of a local industry (if appropriate).

A recommendation about the membership is made for the endorsement of Council.

It is noted that once the committee has been appointed, this selection panel is disbanded.

**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.
- 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.
- Take an active role in communicating the views of business 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 on an annual basis 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.

**CM.070/24 Tender Report - Upcoming Contracts during Election Period**  
**Attachment 1. Attachment 1 - List of Future Contracts**

Contract Number	Contract Name	Source	Intended Contract Start Date	Initial Contract End Date	Contract Options	Contract Cost or Estimated Spend	Main Business Area	Number of Suppliers
2324-048	Herberts Lane Playspace – Construction	Public Tender by Council	1-Sep-24	31-Dec-24		Approved Budget of \$360k	Capital Works	1
2324-073 2324-074 2324-075	Supply and Delivery of: 1 x 5.5 tonne Hybrid Tip Truck with Winch and Removable Litter Cage 1 x 8.5 tonne Hybrid truck with 6-8m³ storage bin/hopper and 2.2 tonne towing capacity 1 x 8.5 tonne Hybrid Truck with specified trade body	Selective Tender by Council	1-Dec-24	Buy outright		Est. Cost for all three trucks - \$400k	Operations Centre Parks and Open Space & Roads and Drainage	1
2324-083	Finance Lease of Combination Vac Hydro Excavation Truck	Selective Tender by Council	1-Oct-24	TBF	Council is seeking the following lease period options 3 Years 5 Years 7 Years	Can not be confirmed until tendered offers received and reviewed. Top end of costs over a longer lease term of 7 years will be \$1mil plus	Operations Centre Roads and Drainage	1
2324-084	Insurance Brokerage Services	Public Tender by Council	1-Nov-24	31-Oct-27	1 x 3 year extension	Est. \$300k over full term of contract	Culture and Performance Risk and Safety	1
2324-087	Provision of Internal Audit Services	Public Tender by Council	1-Jan-25	31-Dec-28	2 x 1 Year Extension options	Est. \$420k over full term of contract	Finance & Audit and Risk Committee	1
2324-090	Provision of Banking Services	State Government Purchasing Contract Arrangement via Department of Treasury and Finance	1-Nov-24	30-Sep-30		Est. \$900k over full term of contract	Finance	1
2324-093	Cleaning Services - Collaborative Joint Council Tender	Collaborative Joint Public Tender Banyule - Lead Council Merri-bek Nilumbik Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries (YPRL)	1-Feb-25	31-Mar-28	2 x 1 Year Extension options	Est. \$2.6mil over full term of contract	All council facilities	1
2425-002	Fuel Cards via Procurement Australia	Agency Tender	1-Feb-25	31-Mar-28	2 x 1 Year Extension options	Est. \$450k over full term of contract	Operations Centre Fleet Fuel	1
2425-003	Electricity Large Sites and Street Lighting - MAV	Agency Tender	1-Jan-25	31-Dec-27		Est. \$1.4mil over term of contract	Operations and Infrastructure	1
2425-004	Fleet (incl. EV) Services and Consumables	Agency Tender	1-Sep-24	30-Jun-27	2 x 1 Year Extension options	Est. \$350k over full term of contract	Operations Centre Fleet Spare Parts, Tyres, Consumables + EV Charging Infrastructure	Multiple

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In the following document, amendments that have been made to the existing Procurement Policy have been highlighted in Yellow

Table structure has been provided to provide ease of comparing existing policy items and the amendments made as part of the review process.

## Appendix I – Nillumbik Shire Council Procurement Methodology Thresholds

### A. Requirement for tenders, proposals and quotes

Council will invite tenders, proposals, quotes and expressions of interest from the supplymarket for goods, services, building and construction works in accordance with the thresholds listed below:

Procurement Threshold Inclusive of GST	Procurement Methodology – Original June 2021	Procurement Methodology – Revised – May 2024
<\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchases which are once-off</li> <li>No quotation required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchases which are once-off and are for non-contracted requirements</li> <li>No quotation required.</li> <li>Preference is to source from local supplier and/or First Nations business where there are local or first nation's suppliers available for requirements.</li> <li>Purchase can be made via Purchasing Card if permitted for type of purchase</li> <li>Purchase Order is not required unless requested by Supplier.</li> </ul>
\$1,001- \$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchases which are once-off</li> <li>Obtain at least one written quotation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchases which are once-off and are for non-contracted requirements</li> <li>Obtain at least one written quotation.</li> <li>Preference is to invite local suppliers, First Nations or Social Enterprise businesses where there are suppliers available for requirements.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase Order must be created prior to purchase taking place.</li> </ul>
\$5,001 - \$20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchases which are once-off</li> <li>• Obtain at least two written quotations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchases which are once-off and are for non-contracted requirements</li> <li>• Obtain at least two written quotations.</li> <li>• Preference is to invite local suppliers, First Nations or Social Enterprise businesses where there are suppliers available for requirements.</li> <li>• Purchase Order must be created prior to purchase taking place.</li> </ul>
\$20,001 - \$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchases which are once-off</li> <li>• Obtain at least three formal quotations via VendorPanel system.</li> <li>• When seeking and or evaluating quotes, preference will be applied to local suppliers and a minimum of one local supplier must be invited, depending on availability of local suppliers</li> <li>• Where only one quote is received from those invited, Value for Money must be demonstrated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchases which are once-off and are for non-contracted requirements</li> <li>• Preference is to invite local suppliers, First Nations or Social Enterprise businesses where there are suppliers available for requirements.</li> <li>• Obtain at least three formal quotations via VendorPanel system.</li> <li>• Purchase Order must be created prior to purchase taking place.</li> <li>• Where only one quote is received from those invited, Value for Money must be demonstrated.</li> </ul>



\$50,001 - \$300,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain a Contract Number and</li> <li>• Undertake a formal Requestfor Quote process as per Procurement Guideline and processes.</li> <li>• <del>When seeking and or evaluating quotes, preference will be applied to local suppliers and a minimum of one local supplier must be invited, depending on availability of local suppliers</del></li> <li>• At least four formal quotes are to be invited from suppliers via VendorPanel system who are considered able to meet the requirements.</li> <li>• Where only one quote is received from those invited, Value for Money must be demonstrated.</li> <li>• The Senior Procurement Officer may direct that a public tender process be issued.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain a Contract Number and</li> <li>• Undertake a formal Requestfor Quote process as per Procurement Guideline and processes.</li> <li>• Preference is to invite local suppliers, First Nations or Social Enterprise businesses where there are suppliers available for requirements.</li> <li>• At least four formal quotes are to be invited from suppliers via VendorPanel system who are considered able to meet the requirements.</li> <li>• Where only one quote is received from those invited, Value for Money must be demonstrated.</li> <li>• Purchase Order must be created prior to purchase taking place</li> <li>• The Senior Procurement Officer may direct that a public tender process be issued.</li> </ul>
\$300,000+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A public tender process is required for the procurement of goods, services or works where once-off or ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A public tender process is required for the procurement of goods, services or works where once-off or ongoing cumulative spend over the full possible period (life) of the contract is expected to exceed \$300,000</li> </ul>

## Appendix 2 Performance KPIs

### *A. Procurement Performance Indicators*

Original June 2021	Revised May 2024
<p>Nillumbik Shire Council will seek to understand and improve its procurement performance by capturing and analysing data on key performance indicators including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Collaborative Procurement contracts;</li> <li>• New preferred supplier (panel) contracts;</li> <li>• The number of Local Businesses engaged and proportion of local spend;</li> <li>• Value of savings and benefits achieved;</li> <li>• Level of compliance with the Procurement Policy;</li> <li>• Annual spend on sustainable goods and services; and</li> <li>• Extent of contracts delivered on time and on budget</li> </ul> <p>A report detailing actual performance against these indicators will be presented annually to the Audit &amp; Risk Committee and the Council.</p>	<p>Nillumbik Shire Council will seek to understand and improve its procurement performance by capturing and analysing data on key performance indicators including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Collaborative Procurement contracts;</li> <li>• New preferred supplier (panel) contracts;</li> <li>• The number of Local, First Nation or Social Enterprise Businesses engaged and proportion of spend;</li> <li>• Value of savings;</li> <li>• Level of compliance with the Procurement Policy;</li> <li>• Performance of Panel Supplier Contracted arrangements – issued works and spend by supplier; and</li> <li>• Extent of contracts delivered on time and on budget</li> </ul> <p>A report detailing actual performance against these indicators will be presented annually to the Audit &amp; Risk Committee and the Council.</p>

Comments re removal of wording re benefits achieved and annual spend on sustainable good and services.

Within Council's Financial/Purchasing system, there is no systemic way to identify benefits and to report on what is a sustainable good or service. As such these report requirements have been removed.

### Appendix 3 Council Specific Exemptions

This is a new appendix

This section will include any additional exemptions not included in Section 2.3.2.1 from tendering applicable to Nillumbik Shire Council and Appendix 1 - Nillumbik Shire Council Procurement Methodology Thresholds; that are identified from time to time.

Exemption Name	Explanation, limitations, responsibilities and approvals
Limited selection of Hybrid/Electric Trucks and Vehicles within Australian Marketplace	Council reserves the right to issue a selective tender process to procure specific future Hybrid/Electric truck requirements where there is a limited range of Hybrid/Electric Trucks within the Australian Marketplace.
Traditional custodians of the lands within the Council region.	Allows Council to engage directly with the traditional custodians on indigenous or cultural heritage matters native to the region where no competition exists.

## **Appendix 4 Local, First Nations and Social Enterprise Businesses**

This is a new appendix

### *A. Identification of and engaging Local, First Nations and Social Enterprise Businesses*

As part of Nillumbik Shire Council procurement and purchasing practices, Council will seek to identify, engage with and encourage local, First Nations and Social Enterprise Businesses to participate in Councils purchasing requirements.

### *B. Identification of First Nations Businesses*

Council purchasing officers will conduct a search for suitable First Nations Businesses on Supply Nations and Kinaway business registers and advise suppliers of opportunities.

### *C. Verification of Registered or Certified First Nations Business*

First Nations Businesses must meet one of the following criteria to be a Registered or Certified First Nations Business;

- Certified businesses are 51% or more (and often 100%) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander owned, managed and controlled.
- Registered businesses are at least 50% or more, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander owned. This caters for equal partnerships with non-Indigenous owners.

In the event a supplier states they are First Nations Business, but is not listed on Supply Nations or Kinaway registers, the First Nations Business must be able to provide evidence of their business eligibility before any purchasing will be undertaken or contracts awarded.

### *D. Identification of Local Businesses*

Council purchasing officers will conduct a search for suitable Local Businesses on VendorPanel.

### *E. Identification of Social Enterprise Businesses*

Council purchasing officers will conduct a search for suitable Social Enterprise Businesses via Social Traders website



# Nillumbik

## The Green Wedge Shire

# PROCUREMENT POLICY

1 JULY 2021 – 30 JUNE 2025

Version Control	
Version 0	ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: 29 June 2021
Version 1	ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: 30 July 2024

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## Procurement Policy

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## Definitions and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
Act	<a href="#"><u>Local Government Act 2020</u></a>
Collaborative Procurement Arrangement	A contract established by the Council, government or a nominated agent, such as Procurement Australasia, Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Northern Councils Alliance (NCA) or local government entity, for the benefit of numerous state, federal and/or local government entities that achieves best value by leveraging combined economies of scale.
Commercial in Confidence	Information that, if released, may prejudice the business dealings or commercial interests of Council or another party, e.g. prices, discounts, rebates, profits, methodologies and process information, etc.
Contract Management	The process that ensures all parties to a contract fully meet their respective obligations as efficiently and effectively as possible, in order to deliver the contract objectives and provide Value for Money.
Council	Nillumbik Shire Council
Councillors	Council's elected representatives (the Mayor and Councillors) or Administrator(s) appointed to act in this capacity.
Council Staff	Includes all Council officers, temporary employees, contractors, volunteers and consultants while engaged by Council.
IBAC	The Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission
Indigenous Business (First Nation Business)	An Indigenous Business is one that is at least 50% owned by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islands person(s) (consistent with Supply Nation's definition).
Local Business	A commercial business with an operational premises that is physically located within the municipal borders of the 7 Northern Regional Councils.
Northern Councils Alliance (NCA)	The 7 Councils comprising the NCA, being the Cities of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Merri-bek, Whittlesea and Mitchell and Nillumbik Shire Councils.
Probity	Within government, the term "probity" is often used in a general sense to mean "good process". A procurement process that conforms to the expected standards of probity is one in which clear procedures that are consistent with the Council's policies and legislation, are established, understood and followed from the outset. These procedures need to consider the legitimate interests of suppliers and ensure that all potential suppliers are treated equitably.
Procurement	Procurement is the whole process of acquisition of external goods, services and works. This process spans the whole life cycle from initial concept through to the end of the useful life of an asset (including disposal) or the end of a service contract.
Schedule of Rates Contract	A standing offer arrangement based on a Schedule of Rates contract that sets out rates for goods and services which are available for the term of the agreement but without a commitment to purchase a specified value or quantity of goods or services.

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Term	Definition
Sustainability	Activities that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
Total Contract Sum	The potential total value of the contract including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• costs for the full term of the contract, including any options for either party to extend the contract;</li> <li>• applicable goods and services tax (GST);</li> <li>• anticipated contingency allowances or variations;</li> <li>• all other known, anticipated and reasonably foreseeable costs.</li> </ul>
Value for Money	Value for Money in procurement is about selecting the supply of goods, services and works taking into account both cost and non-cost factors including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-cost factors such as contribution to the advancement of Council's priorities, fitness for purpose, quality, service and support; and</li> <li>• Cost-related factors including whole-of-life costs and transaction costs associated with acquiring, using, holding, maintaining and disposing of the goods, services or works.</li> </ul>



## I. Procurement Policy

### A. Overview

This Procurement Policy is made under Section 108 of the [Local Government Act 2020 \(the Act\)](#). The Act requires each council to:

- Prepare and adopt a procurement policy which specifies the principles, processes and procedures applying in respect of the purchase of goods and services and carrying out of works by the Council; and
- Review its Procurement Policy at least once during each 4-year term of the Council.
- This Policy has been developed collaboratively by the Northern Councils Alliance with a view to facilitating smooth collaborative procurement processes, consistent with the Act. This Policy also incorporates content that is specific to the Council and may differ from that of the other NCA councils and is intended to apply only to procurement involving the Council.

### B. Applicability

This Policy applies to all contracting and procurement activities at the Council and is applicable to Councillors and Council Staff.

It is recognised this will enhance achievement of the Council's objectives such as sustainable and socially responsible procurement, supporting local economies and obtaining Value for Money, leading to a better result in the provision of goods, services and works for the benefit of the community.

This Policy provides direction on the conduct of procurement activities throughout the sourcing, management and disposal phases. It also covers the general procurement framework but does not extend to the related accounts payable processes.

The Council must comply with this Procurement Policy before entering into a contract for the purchase of goods or services or the carrying out of works.

### C. Objectives

This Policy is consistent with the requirements of S108(2) of the Act and will:

- Seek to promote open and fair competition and provide Value for Money;
- Provide clear guidelines to the Council to allow consistency and control over procurement activities;
- Demonstrate accountability to ratepayers and residents;
- Provide guidance on ethical behaviour in public sector procurement;
- Demonstrate the application of best practice in procurement activities;
- Demonstrate the consideration of sustainability in procurement with respect to social, economic and environmental factors;
- Increase the probability of obtaining the best outcome for the municipal community when procuring goods and services; and
- Seek to undertake collaborative procurement in accordance with section 2.3.4 of this Policy;

These objectives will be achieved by requiring, that the Council's contracting, purchasing and contract management activities:

- Support the Council's corporate strategies, aims and objectives;
- Span the whole life cycle of an acquisition and take sustainability considerations into account;
- Achieve demonstrable Value for Money;
- Are conducted in, and demonstrate an impartial, fair and ethical manner;
- Seek continual improvement through innovative and technological initiatives; and
- Generate and support Local Business through inclusion wherever practicable.

## **1        Procedures**

### **1.1      Treatment of GST**

All monetary values stated in this policy include GST unless specifically stated otherwise.

## **2        Effective Legislative and Policy Compliance and Control**

### **2.1      Ethics and Probity**

#### **2.1.1    Requirement**

The Council's procurement activities shall be performed in an open, transparent and ethical manner with demonstrated integrity, fairness and accountability that meets relevant legal requirements.

All tender processes shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of this Procurement Policy and any associated procedures, relevant legislation, relevant Australian Standards, Commercial Law and *the Act*.

#### **2.1.2    Conduct of Councillors and Council Staff**

Councillors and Council Staff shall at all times conduct themselves in ways that are in accordance with the Councillor Code of Conduct or the Staff Code of Conduct respectively, and will perform their duties ethically and with integrity and must:

- Treat potential and existing suppliers with equality and fairness;
- Not use their position to seek or receive personal gain in procurement matters;
- Maintain confidentiality of Commercial in Confidence information;
- Present the highest standards of professionalism and probity;
- Afford suppliers and tenderers with the same information and an equal opportunity to tender or quote for goods, services and works contracts;
- Be able to account for all decisions and demonstrate and provide evidence of the processes followed;
- Not perform any work under any Council contracts they are supervising i.e. Council Staff cannot also work for the relevant supplier;
- Query incidents, decisions or directions that appear to contradict or deviate from Council's standards of ethics or probity or established policies and procedures; and
- Ensure that this Procurement Policy and Council's Procurement Guidelines are adhered to in relation to any expenditure of Council funds.

#### **2.1.3    Conflict of Interest**

Councillors and Council Staff shall at all times avoid situations which may give rise to an actual or perceived conflict of interest. A conflict of interest may be a 'general' or a 'material' conflict of interest.

A member of Council Staff has a general conflict of interest in a matter if an impartial, fair-minded person would consider that the person's private interests could result in that person acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty.

A member of Council Staff has a material conflict of interest in a matter if an affected person would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter. The benefit or loss may be direct or indirect and pecuniary or non-pecuniary. Affected persons include, among others, the member of Council Staff and their family members.

Council Staff involved in the procurement process, in particular preparing tender documentation, writing tender specifications, opening tenders, participating in tender

evaluation panels, preparing a recommendation report; and Councillors and Council Staff awarding tenders must:

- **Avoid** conflicts of interest, whether material or general or actual, potential or perceived;
- **Declare** that they do not have a conflict of interest in respect of the procurement. All Council Staff participating in tender evaluation panels must complete a Conflict of Interest declaration. Council Staff must declare any actual or perceived conflicts in line with Council's internal processes for reporting conflicts of interest; and
- **Observe** prevailing Council and Government guidelines on how to prevent or deal with conflict of interest situations; and not take advantage of any tender related information whether or not for personal gain.

#### 2.1.4 Fair and Honest Dealing

All prospective contractors and suppliers must be treated impartially and afforded an equal opportunity to tender or submit a quotation.

Any suspected improper conduct, including suspected fraud, corruption, substantial mismanagement of public resources, risk to public health and safety, risk to the environment, or detrimental action should be managed in accordance with Council's internal policies and processes.

#### 2.1.5 Probity, Accountability and Transparency

Accountability in procurement means being able to justify and provide evidence of the process followed. An independent third party must be able to see clearly that a process has been followed and that the process was fair and reasonable.

Council Staff must be able to account for all procurement decisions and ensure all procurement activities leave an audit trail for monitoring and reporting purposes.

#### 2.1.6 Gifts and Benefits

No Councillor or member of Council Staff shall seek or accept any immediate or future reward or benefit in return for the performance of any duty or work for Council or where it could be reasonably perceived as influencing them or their position or undermining their integrity or the integrity of the process in some way.

Any gift or benefit offered to a Councillor or Council Staff will be managed in accordance with Council's internal policies and processes.

Councillors and Council Staff, particularly contract supervisors:

- must not knowingly visit a current supplier's premises without invitation when acting in their official capacity; and
- must not knowingly engage a Council supplier for private benefit, unless that engagement is on proper commercial terms.

#### 2.1.7 Disclosure of Information

Commercial in Confidence information received by the Council must not be disclosed and is to be stored in a secure location.

Councillors and Council Staff must take all reasonable measures to maintain confidentiality of:

- Information disclosed by organisations in tenders, quotation or during tender negotiations; and

- Commercial in Confidence information.

Councillors and Council Staff are to avoid references to current or proposed contracts in discussion with acquaintances or outside interests.

Discussion with potential suppliers during tender evaluations should not go beyond the extent necessary to resolve doubt on what is being offered by that supplier.

At no stage should any discussion be entered into which could improperly influence the procurement process or negotiation of a contract prior to the contract approval process being finalised, other than authorised pre-contract negotiations.

#### 2.1.8      Complaints & Reporting suspicious activities

##### **Complaints Handling**

Members of the public and suppliers, are encouraged to report known or suspected incidences of improper conduct to the CEO or the Public Interest Disclosure Coordinator. Councillors and Council Staff will report and manage complaints in accordance with Council's internal policies and processes.

##### **Reporting Suspicious Activities**

All Councillors, Council Staff and Council suppliers are required at all times to act honestly and with integrity and to safeguard the public resources for which they are responsible. Council is committed to protecting all revenue, expenditure and assets from any attempt to gain illegal benefits (financial or otherwise).

Council will take all reasonable steps to protect those who assist Council by providing information about suspected fraud. This will include confidentiality of identity and protection from harassment, to the extent possible.

Suspected improper conduct, offers of bribes, commissions and any other irregular approaches from suppliers, prospective suppliers or other individuals will be investigated and reported in accordance with Council's internal policies and processes.

The CEO or the Public Interest Disclosure Coordinator must notify IBAC of any matter they suspect on reasonable grounds to involve corrupt conduct occurring or having occurred in accordance with mandatory reporting requirements under the *Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2011*.

## 2.2      Governance

### 2.2.1      Structure

Council has delegated a range of powers, duties and functions to the CEO in relation to procurement. The delegation aims to ensure that the Council's procurement structure operates according to processes that:

- Are flexible enough to procure in a timely manner the diverse range of goods, works and services required by Council;
- Guarantee that prospective contractors and suppliers are afforded an equal opportunity to tender or submit a quotation; and
- Encourage competition and collaboration,

### 2.2.2 Methods

The Council's standard methods for procuring goods, services and works shall be by any of the following:

- Purchase order following a quotation process from suppliers for goods or services that represent best Value for Money under the quotation thresholds adopted by the Council. An approved purchase order must be created prior to committing expenditure on behalf of Council for the provision of services, goods or works in accordance with the Council's procurement thresholds and guidelines;
- Under contract following a quotation or tender process;
- Using Collaborative Procurement Arrangements;
- Multi-stage tenders commencing with an EOI followed by a tender process;
- Under a sole-sourcing arrangement in line with the conditions contained in section 2.3.2.3;
- Purchasing Cards; and
- Petty Cash,

unless other arrangements are authorised by Council or under appropriate delegated authority on an 'as needs' basis as required by abnormal circumstances such as emergencies.

### 2.2.3 Responsible Financial Management

The principle of responsible financial management shall be applied to all procurement activities. Accordingly, to give effect to this principle, the availability of existing funds within an approved budget or source of funds shall be established prior to the commencement of any procurement action for the supply of goods, services or works.

Council funds must be used efficiently and effectively to procure goods, services and works and every attempt must be made to contain the costs of the procurement process without compromising any of the procurement principles set out in this Policy.

## 2.3 Procurement Thresholds and Competition

Wherever it would likely achieve best value, procurements will be arranged under a relevant contractual arrangement established in accordance with section 108 of [the Act](#) and this Procurement Policy.

In every procurement activity all practicable efforts will be made to consider the sustainable procurement considerations as listed in Section 3.2.

Council will invite offers from the supply market for goods, services and works in accordance with the thresholds listed in [Appendix 1A](#).

### 2.3.1 Procurement Principles

Council will apply the following fundamental best practice principles to procurement, irrespective of the value and complexity of that procurement:

- Value for Money;
- Sustainability (social, economic and environmental);
- Open and fair competition;
- Accountability;
- Risk management; and
- Probity and transparency.

### 2.3.2 Procurement Methodology

Section 108 of the Act details that each Council will set the public tender threshold above which tenders or expressions of interest for contracts must be publicly invited.

A public tender process must be used for all procurements valued at \$300,000 and above (incl. GST) for goods, services or works.

For procurements under \$300,000 (incl. GST), the procurement methodology and thresholds detailed in [Appendix 1A](#) will apply.

#### 2.3.2.1 Exemptions from tendering

The following circumstances are exempt from the general publicly advertised tender, quotation and expression of interest requirements.

Exemption Name	Explanation, limitations, responsibilities and approvals
1. A contract made because of genuine emergency or hardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where the Council has resolved that the contract must be entered into because of an emergency (e.g. to provide immediate response to a natural disaster, declared emergency).</li> </ul>
2. A contract made with, or a purchase from a contract made by, another government entity, government-owned entity or other approved third party.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This general exemption allows engagements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With another government entity or government owned entity. For example, Federal, State or Local Government or an entity owned by the Federal, State or Local Government; and/or</li> <li>In reliance on contracts and arrangements established by another government entity, local authority or local government group purchasing scheme, Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) or National Procurement network members (e.g. Local Buy), Procurement Australia (PA).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3. Extension of contracts while Council is at market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows Council to extend an existing contract where the procurement process to replace the contract has commenced, and where the tender process or negotiations will take or are taking longer than expected.</li> <li>This exemption may be used when the establishment of an interim short-term arrangement with an alternative supplier is considered not to be in the public interest, as it may be cost prohibitive and/or present a risk in the delivery of critical public services to the municipality.</li> </ul>
4. Professional services unsuitable for tendering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal Services.</li> <li>Insurance.</li> </ul>
5. Novated Contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where the initial contract was entered into in compliance with the Act and due diligence has been undertaken in respect to the new party.</li> </ul>
6. Information technology resellers and software developers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows Council to renew software licenses and maintenance and support, or upgrade existing systems, where there is only</li> </ul>

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Exemption Name	Explanation, limitations, responsibilities and approvals
	one supplier of the software, who holds the intellectual property rights to the software.
7. Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Situations where a Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Group constituted the Environment Protection Act 1970 had already conducted a public tender for and on behalf of its member councils.</li> </ul>
8. Statutory Compulsory Monopoly Insurance Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motor vehicle compulsory third party</li> <li>WorkCover</li> </ul>
9. Operating Leases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where a lessor leases an asset (generally a vehicle or plant and equipment) to the Council and assumes the residual value risk of the vehicle.</li> </ul>
10. Other specific Council exemptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defined in Appendix 5.</li> <li>Specific Council exemptions will be reviewed and updated in Appendix 5 from time to time, as per the Policy Review Process (section 5.1.2).</li> </ul>

#### 2.3.2.2 Contract Variations

All contract variations must be assessed to determine whether they are properly characterised as variations, or whether they are in effect a new contract. This will depend on factors like:

- The monetary value of the proposed variation, i.e. the value of the variation in the context of the thresholds fixed by the Procurement Policy; and
- The subject matter of the proposed variation, and whether it is consistent with the scope of the original contract.

#### 2.3.2.3 Sole or select sourcing

Supply of goods, services or works can be sought from one supplier (sole sourcing) or a restricted group of suppliers (select sourcing) where it is consistent with this Procurement Policy and:

- It is in the public interest;
- There is one or a limited number of available tenderers in the market or suppliers able to submit quotations;
- The marketplace is restricted by statement of license or third-party ownership of an asset (excluding public utility plant); or
- Council is party to a joint arrangement where Council jointly owns the Intellectual Property with a third party provider.

#### Sole Sourcing:

If there is a current procurement or disposal process in place, that process must be terminated prior to sole sourcing being implemented.

Sole sourcing is subject to existing delegations.

#### Select Sourcing:

Select sourcing is subject to existing delegations.

### 2.3.3      Public Tender Requirements

All public tenders invited by the Council will be published via Council's eTendering Portal and may be advertised in the media.

Information regarding Current Tenders and Awarded Tenders will be published on Council's website.

#### 2.3.3.1      Tender Evaluation

A tender evaluation panel will be established to evaluate each tender submission against the tender's selection criteria. Tender evaluation panels can include external personnel in order to ensure the best outcome for a procurement activity and must comprise of at least 3 persons as well as a chairperson.

A detailed Tender Evaluation Plan shall be developed, approved and strictly adhered to by that panel. Amongst other things, this involves the establishment of more detailed evaluation criteria (i.e. than those published with the tender) and the application of a pre-approved and robust weighted scoring system.

The Tender Evaluation Plan should be completed and signed off prior to the tender or quotation being issued.

#### 2.3.3.2      Evaluation Criteria

The Council may include the following evaluation criteria categories to determine whether a proposed contract provides Value for Money:

- Mandatory Compliance criteria (e.g. ABN registration, OH&S, Fair Work Act);
- Tendered price;
- Capacity of the Tenderer to provide the goods and/or services and/or works;
- Capability of the Tenderer to provide the Goods and/or Services and/or Works; and
- Demonstration of sustainability.

#### 2.3.3.3      Probity Advisor

A formal probity plan should be developed, and a probity advisor appointed in the following circumstances:

- Where the proposed Total Contract Sum exceeds \$10 million over the life of the contract or for a lesser value set by Council from time to time; or
- Where a proposed contract is considered by Council or the CEO to be particularly complex, of a high risk or controversial nature, and requiring a high level of public confidence.

A probity advisor may be appointed to any tender evaluation panel and may be appointed to oversee the evaluation process.

#### 2.3.3.4      Shortlisting and Negotiations

Council may conduct a shortlisting process during EOI, tender and quotation processes. Shortlisting can be based on any criterion or criteria but only in pursuit of the most advantageous outcome for the Council.

Shortlisted tenderers may be invited by the Council to submit a best and final offer in relation to all or certain aspects of their respective tenders. Once a preferred tenderer/s is/are selected, negotiations can be conducted in order to obtain the optimal solution and commercial arrangements, within the original scope and intent of the tender. Probity requirements apply to all negotiations.



#### 2.3.4 Collaborative Procurement

In accordance with section 108(c) of the Act, the Council will first give consideration to collaboration with other Councils and public bodies or utilise Collaborative Procurement Arrangements, when procuring goods, services and works in order to take advantage of economies of scale.

Council Staff must consider any opportunities for Collaborative Procurement in relation to a procurement process undertaken by Council. Any Council report that recommends commencing a procurement process must set out information relating to opportunities for Collaborative Procurement, if available, including:

- The nature of those opportunities, if any, and the councils or public bodies with which they are available; and
- Why Council did, or did not, pursue the identified opportunities for collaboration in relation to that procurement process.

When collaborating with the NCA, the Council will do so in accordance with the following:

- The NCA will develop a consolidated contract register to identify joint procurement projects on an annual basis.
- Council contracts with a minimum value of \$1 million per annum (per Council), for the ongoing supply of goods or provision of services or works, other than projects that are unique to an individual Council (e.g. unique construction or works projects), will be included in the consolidated contract register for collaboration consideration;
- Other contracts which, due to the subject matter, nature or scope, are likely to deliver operational efficiencies if procured in collaboration with the NCA, must be included in the consolidated contract register for consideration as a possible joint procurement opportunity;
- Where Collaborative Procurement is to be pursued:
  - A pre-market approval submission will be submitted to each Council and the NCA prior to commitment to collaboration, seeking delegation of contract approval to CEOs;
  - The NCA will establish a Heads of Agreement that gives authority for a lead council to act as each Council's agent in the Collaborative Procurement;
  - Each of the Councils who participate will be able to enter into a contract with the preferred supplier identified through the Collaborative Procurement process, or may choose as a group to enter into a contract using "jump in/opt-in" contract provisions during the contract term, or with the Council which conducted the public tender; and
  - Each participating council must be involved in:
    - The initial decision to undertake the Collaborative Procurement;
    - Preparation of, and agreement to, the specifications;
    - Ensuring probity for the Collaborative Procurement; and
    - The acceptance of tender(s) and awarding of contract(s).

Furthermore, Council may collaborate with other Councils or other bodies such as MAV Procurement or Procurement Australasia to procure goods, services or works, or utilise existing Collaborative Procurement Arrangements for the procurement of goods, services or works established through a public tender process where it provides an advantageous, Value for Money outcome for the Council.

Any Federal or State Government grant funded projects may be excluded from collaborative procurement.

## **2.4      Delegation of Authority**

### **2.4.1    Requirement**

Delegations define the limitations within which Council Staff are permitted to commit Council to the procurement of goods, services or works and the associated costs. The Instrument of Delegation allows specified Council Staff to undertake certain purchases, quotation, tender and contractual processes without prior referral to the Council. This enables the Council to conduct procurement activities in an efficient and timely manner whilst maintaining transparency and integrity.

Council has delegated responsibilities relating to the expenditure of funds for the purchase of goods, services and works, the acceptance of quotations and tenders and for contract management activities to the CEO. The CEO has further delegated some of those responsibilities to other members of Council Staff, subject to specified conditions and limitations.

## **2.5      Internal Controls**

The CEO will install and maintain a framework of internal controls over procurement processes that will ensure:

- More than one person is involved in and responsible for the authorisation and management of a transaction from end to end;
- Transparency in the procurement process;
- A clearly documented audit trail exists for procurement activities;
- Appropriate authorisations are obtained and documented;
- Systems are in place for appropriate monitoring and performance measurement; and
- A process is in place for escalation, where appropriate, of procurement matters (including procedural non-compliance) to the Executive Leadership Team, the Audit and Risk Committee and Council.

## **2.6      Risk Management**

### **2.6.1    General**

Risk assessments are a vital part of the procurement planning process, particularly for significant contracts. Risks will be identified for each part of the sourcing, transition, delivery and finalisation stages of procurement. Appropriate risk avoidance and mitigation strategies will be employed whenever practicable and appropriate.

## **2.7      Endorsement**

Council Staff must not publicly endorse any products or services without the permission of the relevant Director or the CEO.

## **2.8      Dispute Resolution**

Where relevant, all Council contracts shall incorporate dispute management and alternative dispute resolution provisions to minimise the chance of disputes escalating to legal action.

## **2.9      Contract Management**

In order to continually improve its procurement and contract management processes and outcomes, Council will evaluate and seek to improve on all aspects of procurement and contract management, in accordance with its documented procurement processes and Contract Management Guidelines.

Good contract management ensures goods, services and works are delivered to the required standards of quality and quantity as intended by the contract through:

- Establishing a system monitoring and achieving the responsibilities and obligations of all parties under the contract;
- Providing a means for the early recognition of issues and performance problems and the identification of solutions;
- Adhering to the Council's risk management framework and relevant Occupational Health and Safety and sustainability requirements.

Council contracts are to include contract management requirements commensurate with the complexity of the procurement. Furthermore, contracts are to be proactively managed by the member of Council Staff responsible for the delivery of the contracted goods, services or works to ensure the Council and therefore the community, receives Value for Money.

Council awards some contracts that are strategically critical and of relatively high value. Council *will* provide additional senior oversight to the management of such significant contracts.

### **3      Demonstrate Sustained Value**

#### **3.1      Achieving Value for Money**

##### **3.1.1      Requirement**

The Council's procurement activities will be carried out on the basis of obtaining Value for Money. This means minimising the total cost of ownership over the lifetime of the requirement consistent with acceptable quality, reliability and delivery considerations. Lowest price is not the sole determinant of Value for Money.

##### **3.1.2      Approach**

This will be facilitated by:

- Achieving continuous improvement in procurement activity in accordance with the direction set out in the Council's Strategic Procurement Plan;
- Developing, implementing and managing processes that support the co-ordination and streamlining of activities throughout the procurement lifecycle;
- Effective use of competition;
- Using existing Council contractual arrangement or Collaborative Procurement Arrangements where appropriate;
- Identifying and rectifying inefficiencies in procurement processes;
- Developing cost efficient tender processes;
- Council Staff responsible for providing procurement services or assistance within the Council providing competent advice in terms of available products and agreements; and
- Working with suppliers to create relationships that are professional, productive, and are appropriate to the value and importance of the goods, services and works being acquired.

#### **3.2      Sustainable Procurement**

##### **3.2.1      Sustainable procurement definition**

Sustainable procurement involves decision making that has the most positive environmental, social and economic impacts possible across the entire lifecycle of goods, services and works. The United Nations Environment Programme defines sustainable procurement as a "process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves Value for Money on a whole of life basis in terms of generating benefits

not only the organisation, but also to society and the economy whilst minimising damage to the environment.”

### 3.2.2 Applying sustainable procurement in Council

Sustainability will be embedded in the Council’s work. All Council Staff will have a clear and shared understanding about what it means and how they can apply it to their daily tasks. The Council commits to applying the principles of sustainability to all of its decision-making and activities.

Council demonstrates sustainable procurement by:

- Being accountable for its impacts on society, the economy and the environment including the impacts of the organisation’s supply chain;
- Examining anticipated organisational, project and/or community needs;
- Continually improving sustainability specifications, practices and outcomes; and
- Planning and undertaking sustainability evaluations as part of contracting activities.

### 3.2.3 Objectives

The following Economic, Environmental and Social objectives have been determined in line with these principles.

Area	Principles	Objectives
Economic	Council is committed to procurement that supports Local Business and economic diversity in the NCA. Where practicable and applicable Council will give preference to goods manufactured or produced in Australia and will actively seek quotations and tenders from Local Businesses in the Northern Region.	Council’s economic sustainability approach aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve Value for Money on a whole of life (including disposal) basis, rather than just initial cost;</li> <li>• Consider broader life cycle impacts of products procured;</li> <li>• Ensure probity and accountability in the procurement process;</li> <li>• Commit to sourcing locally where practicable;</li> <li>• Build relationships with Local Business and encourage procurement from them to help build their capacity; and</li> <li>• Increase local employment.</li> </ul>
Environmental	Where applicable Council will purchase goods, services and works that reduce air, water and soil pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, waste production, natural resource depletion and biodiversity depletion whenever they present an acceptable Value for Money outcome, and in some cases where they might not.	Council’s environmental sustainability approach aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve energy efficiency;</li> <li>• Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribution towards Council’s carbon footprint;</li> <li>• Minimise waste production;</li> <li>• Improve water efficiency;</li> <li>• Reduce air, water and soil pollution;</li> <li>• Reduce biodiversity impacts; and</li> <li>• Increase the use of recycled materials to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduce demand for raw materials and non-renewable resources; and</li> <li>○ Close the loop on kerbside recycling.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Area	Principles	Objectives
Social	Council is committed to building stronger communities and meeting social objectives which benefit the municipality and commits to integration of measures in its procurement processes and documentation which promote improved social outcomes.	<p>Council's social sustainability approach aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure vendors do not exploit workers and provide fair wages, including inclusive business practices;</li> <li>• Ensure sourced products are accessible by all segments of the community;</li> <li>• Increase employment opportunities for indigenous people, people with a disability, disadvantaged people and long term unemployed;</li> <li>• Improve gender equity</li> </ul>

## 4 Build and Maintain Supply Relationships

### 4.1 Managing Suppliers

Council recognises the importance of effective and open working relationships with its suppliers and is committed to managing existing suppliers via performance measurements to ensure the benefits negotiated through contracts are delivered.

### 4.2 Supply Market Development

A wide range of suppliers are encouraged to compete for Council work. The focus for new work need not always be with the larger more familiar businesses. Other types of organisations offering business diversity include:

- Green suppliers;
- Local, small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and Social enterprises;
- Ethnic and minority businesses (e.g. Indigenous Business); and
- Volunteer and community organisations.

## 5 Policy Key Linkages and Governance

### 5.1.1 Standards and Linkages

The Council's procurement activities shall be carried out to the professional standards in accordance with best practice and in compliance with the Act and applicable policies and procedures including Codes of Conduct for Councillors, Council Staff and suppliers.

Compliance will be monitored by the Council's Procurement Team and minor issues identified will be addressed by Council Staff in leadership positions. Where required, serious compliance issues will be reported by the CEO to the Audit and Risk Committee and Council.

This Policy has clear linkages to a range of codes, charters, legislation and Council documents, including:

- [Local Government Act 2020](#)
- Procurement procedures and guidelines
- Purchasing and accounts payable manuals

- Codes of Conduct and associated policies

Other relevant legislative requirements include compliance with the [Competition and Consumer Act 2010](#), *Goods Act 1958*, *Fair Work Act 2009*, *Working with Children Act 2005*, *Working with Children Regulations 2016* and the *Environment Protection Act 1970* and *Environment Protection Act 2017* and other relevant Australian Standards.

#### 5.1.2 Policy Review Process

In accordance with *the Act*, Council will review its Procurement Policy at least once during each 4-year term of the Council.

Members of the NCA will endeavour to work together to keep this Policy under review and to prepare any amendments to Sections 1-5.

Any amendment to the Sections within Appendices, which is specific to the individual Council can be made at any time during the 4-year term of the Council and is only required to be reviewed and adopted by the individual Council.

#### 5.1.3 Policy Enquiries and Contact Details

For further information on this policy, please contact Council's Procurement Function via:

Email: [Procurement@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Procurement@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

## APPENDICES

All policy requirements contained within these Appendices Sections are only applicable to Nillumbik Shire Council.

### Appendix I – Nillumbik Shire Council Procurement Methodology Thresholds

#### A. Requirement for tenders, proposals and quotes

Council will invite tenders, proposals, quotes and expressions of interest from the supply market for goods, services, building and construction works in accordance with the thresholds listed below:

Procurement Threshold Inclusive of GST	Procurement Methodology
<\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchases which are once-off and are for non-contracted requirements</li> <li>No quotation required.</li> <li>Preference is to source from local supplier and/or First Nations business where there are local or first nation's suppliers available for requirements.</li> <li>Purchase can be made via Purchasing Card if permitted for type of purchase</li> <li>Purchase Order is not required unless requested by Supplier.</li> </ul>
\$1,001 - \$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchases which are once-off and are for non-contracted requirements</li> <li>Obtain at least one written quotation.</li> <li>Preference is to invite local suppliers, First Nations or Social Enterprise businesses where there are suppliers available for requirements.</li> <li>Purchase Order must be created prior to purchase taking place.</li> </ul>
\$5,001 - \$20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchases which are once-off and are for non-contracted requirements</li> <li>Obtain at least two written quotations.</li> <li>Preference is to invite local suppliers, First Nations or Social Enterprise businesses where there are suppliers available for requirements.</li> <li>Purchase Order must be created prior to purchase taking place.</li> </ul>
\$20,001 - \$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchases which are once-off and are for non-contracted requirements</li> <li>Preference is to invite local suppliers, First Nations or Social Enterprise businesses where there are suppliers available for requirements.</li> <li>Obtain at least three formal quotations via Vendor Panel system.</li> <li>Purchase Order must be created prior to purchase taking place.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where only one quote is received from those invited, Value for Money must be demonstrated.</li> </ul>
\$50,001 - \$300,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain a Contract Number and</li> <li>Undertake a formal Request for Quote process as per Procurement Guideline and processes.</li> <li>Preference is to invite local suppliers, First Nations or Social Enterprise businesses where there are suppliers available for requirements.</li> <li>At least four formal quotes are to be invited from suppliers via VendorPanel system who are considered able to meet the requirements.</li> <li>Where only one quote is received from those invited, Value for Money must be demonstrated.</li> <li>Purchase Order must be created prior to purchase taking place</li> <li>The Senior Procurement Officer may direct that a public tender process be issued.</li> </ul>
\$300,000+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A public tender process is required for the procurement of goods, services or works where once-off or ongoing cumulative spend over the full possible period (life) of the contract is expected to exceed \$300,000</li> </ul>

Procurement transactions will not be split to circumvent those thresholds. Obtaining sufficient quotations can sometimes be difficult, e.g. if there are few suppliers for the goods, services or works being sought or where the work is highly specialised. In such a case, an Executive Manager/Director/CEO may waive the requirement to request required quotations via the formal request for exemption process.

**NB:** Public Tender requirements cannot be exempted.



## **Appendix 2 Performance KPIs**

### **A. Procurement Performance Indicators**

Nillumbik Shire Council will seek to understand and improve its procurement performance by capturing and analysing data on key performance indicators including:

- New Collaborative Procurement contracts;
- New preferred supplier (panel) contracts;
- The number of Local, First Nation or Social Enterprise Businesses engaged and proportion of local spend;
- Value of savings;
- Level of compliance with the Procurement Policy;
- Performance of Panel Supplier Contracted arrangements – issued works;
- Extent of contracts delivered on time and on budget; and
- 

A report detailing actual performance against these indicators will be presented annually to the Audit & Risk Committee and the Council.

Appendix 3 Council Specific Exemptions

This section will include any additional exemptions not included in Section 2.3.2.1 from tendering applicable to Nillumbik Shire Council that are identified from time to time.

Exemption Name	Explanation, limitations, responsibilities and approvals
Limited selection of Hybrid/Electric Trucks and Vehicles within Australian Marketplace	Council reserves the right to issue a selective tender process to procure specific future Hybrid/Electric truck requirements where there is a limited range of Hybrid/Electric Trucks within the Australian Marketplace.

## **Appendix 4 Local, First Nations and Social Enterprise Businesses**

### **A. Identification of and engaging Local, First Nations and Social Enterprise Businesses**

As part of Nillumbik Shire Council procurement and purchasing practices, Council will seek to identify, engage with and encourage local, First Nations and Social Enterprise Businesses to participate in Councils purchasing requirements.

### **B. Identification of First Nations Businesses**

Council purchasing officers will conduct a search for suitable First Nations Businesses on Supply Nations and Kinaway business registers and advise suppliers of opportunities.

### **C. Verification of Registered or Certified First Nations Business**

First Nations Businesses must meet one of the following criteria to be a Registered or Certified First Nations Business;

- Certified businesses are 51% or more (and often 100%) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander owned, managed and controlled.
- Registered businesses are at least 50% or more Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander owned. This caters for equal partnerships with non-Indigenous owners.

In the event a supplier states they are First Nations Business, but is not listed on Supply Nations or Kinaway registers, the First Nations Business must be able to provide evidence of their business eligibility before any purchasing will be undertaken or contracts awarded.

### **D. Identification of Local Businesses**

Council purchasing officers will conduct a search for suitable Local Businesses on VendorPanel.

### **E. Identification of Social Enterprise Businesses**

Council purchasing officers will conduct a search for suitable Social Enterprise Businesses via Social Traders website

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## Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*)

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In this Instrument '**officers**' means –

Renae Ahern  
Briana Barnes  
Emma Barrett  
John Brennan  
Megan Brittingham  
Andrea de Boer  
Melody Du  
Alex Everill  
Andrew Feeney  
Aidan Francischelli  
Eloise Gabriele  
Richard Glawitsch  
Kamal Hasanoff  
Brendan Hunt  
Mark Huntersmith  
Simon Ilsley  
Achy Kalinga  
Jennifer Kemp  
Ben Kenyon  
Sav Koletas  
Catriona Little  
Stewart Mala  
Sarah Mayman  
Karen McPherson  
Raymond Micallef  
Robert Mitchelmore  
Daniel Nicolo  
Tim Oldfield  
Leigh Northwood  
Nicholas Ouzas  
Serge Perna  
Barry Pilliner  
Katrina Ross  
Catriona Sexton  
Sarah Shehata  
Craig Smith  
Marianne Sparks  
Warren Tomlinson  
Michael van Oosterwijck  
Frank Vassilacos  
Timothy Vickers  
Emrys Williams

By this Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation Nillumbik Shire Council –

1. under section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* – appoints the officers to be authorised officers for the purpose of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the regulations made under that Act; and
2. under section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* authorises the officers either generally or in a particular case to institute proceedings for offences against the Acts and regulations described in this Instrument.

It is declared that this Instrument –

- a) comes into force immediately upon its execution;
- b) remains in force until varied or revoked.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of **Nillumbik Shire Council** on 30 July 2024.

THE COMMON SEAL of NILLUMBIK )

SHIRE COUNCIL was affixed hereto )

On the            day of July 2024 )

On the authority of the Council and )

signed by: )

.....

Councillor

.....

Chief Executive Officer

# Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 7:00pm

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee
	<b>Date:</b>	Monday 20 May 2024
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chambers and Via Zoom
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Paine
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Nichole Johnson, Saleh Hadi, Jacqueline Felstead, Ignacio Zamora.
	<b>Other:</b>	Leanne Ipsen, Rebecca Davies, Chris Cook, Terrie Waddell, Jean Verso, Chloe Mann, Simone Thomson, Cassie May, Sandra Miller, Yu Fang Chi, , Alli Spoor, Elsa Ch'ng, Mel Paine.
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Corrienne Nichols, Sarah Hammond, Sammaneh Pourshafighi.

<b>MATTERS CONSIDERED</b>		<b>DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS</b>
1	<b>Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arts &amp; Cultural Advisory Committee EOIs.</li> <li>Acquisitions.</li> </ul>	No disclosures were made
2	<b>Arts &amp; Cultural Development Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creative Infrastructure Framework Update</li> <li>Art Policies and Guidelines Review</li> </ul>	No disclosures were made
3	<b>Officer Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curator &amp; Collections Management</li> <li>Arts Development - Public Art</li> <li>Arts Programs</li> <li>Eltham Library Community Gallery &amp; Socials</li> </ul>	No disclosures were made
4	<b>ACAC Member Presentations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Cook – Murwillumbah Art Trail</li> <li>Leanne Ipsen – Face to Face Exhibition</li> </ul>	No disclosures were made
5	<b>ACAC Membership</b>	No disclosures were made
6	<b>Other Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nillumbik Art Museum Committee and a Nillumbik gallery</li> </ul>	No disclosures were made
7	<b>2024 Meetings</b>	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 8.50 pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name/Title:	Sarah Hammond, Arts Program Officer
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## Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 2pm

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Living & Learning Nillumbik Advisory Committee
	<b>Date:</b>	Monday 17 June 2024
	<b>Location:</b>	Pavilion, Eltham Neighbourhood House
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Geoff Paine
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Natalie Bucknell, Vanessa Veldman, Cobie Vermeulen, Hilary Duns-McKay, Erin Elderhurst, Fancy Chen
	<b>Other:</b>	Committee Members - Sarah Doherty, Bambi McLean, Sabi Bueler, Lynne Ellis Observers: Ni Li; Holly Visaggio
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Kellie Grocock, Corrienne Nicholls, Deanna Finn, Deborah Donehue

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Snapshot of 2023/2024	None
2	Neighbourhood House update	None
3	Skills Hub update	None
4	Communications and Engagement	None
5	Carers Hub update	None
6	Upcoming Events	None
7	Advisory Committee Considerations	None

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
8	'Eyes and ears of the community'	None
9	Nillumbik Literary Festival	None
8	Social Planet Client Management System	None

**The Meeting concluded at 3:30pm**

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Cobie Vermeulen
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Executive Officer Living & Learning Nillumbik

## Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 5.05pm

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Councillor Briefing
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 18 June 2024
	<b>Location:</b>	Virtual meeting
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Peter Perkins, Cr Frances Eyre, Cr Natalie Duffy, Cr Karen Egan, Cr Geoff Paine, Cr Ben Ramcharan and Cr Richard Stockman
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Carl Cowie, Vince Lombardi, Blaga Naumoski, Jeremy Livingston, Renae Ahern, Kirstie Mackenzie, Bridget Russell, Anna Maio, Katie Camilleri, Eloise Gabriele, Kirsten Reedy, Warran Tomlinson, Tracey Varley, Kamal Hasanoff
	<b>Other:</b>	
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		

<b>MATTERS CONSIDERED</b>		<b>DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS</b>
1	Draft Reconciliation Action Plan - submissions	No disclosures were made
2	Draft Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy - proposed updates following community consultation	No disclosures were made
3	Update on the outcomes of the Environmental Volunteering Initiative for 23/24	No disclosures were made
4	Planning Investigations Service Update	No disclosures were made
5	2024/25 Nillumbik Community Fund outcomes and funding allocations	No disclosures were made
6	CEO Update with Councillors - 18 June 2024	No disclosures were made
7	Councillor only discussion - Discussion on KPI 13 – updated on advocacy activities - Discussion on proposed housing targets and the Housing Statement	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 7.05pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b> <b>Officer Title:</b>	Blaga Naumoski Director Governance Communications and Community Safety
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## Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 6pm

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
	<b>Date:</b>	19 June 2024
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chamber, Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Geoff Paine, Cr Ben Ramcharan
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Laura Nix, Kirsten Reedy
	<b>Other:</b>	Committee Members - Malcolm Cock, Orianna Edmonds, Lily van Eeden, Katrina Naish, Graeme Lang, Elnaz Ettehad, Lynlee Tozer, Sue Rosenhain
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Lucinda Flynn, Andrew McMahon

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	New committee Admin	No disclosures were made
2	Introduction to being a member of ESAC	No disclosures were made
3	Introduction to key guiding Council strategies	No disclosures were made
4	Key matters that members would like ESAC to work on	No disclosures were made
5	Other business	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 8.06pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Laura Nix Environment and Climate Change Officer
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	Officer Title:	
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## Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 7:06pm

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Panton Hill bushland Reserve System User Group – Advisory Committee
	<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 20 <sup>h</sup> June 2024
	<b>Location:</b>	Panton Hill Living and Learning Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Karen Egan
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Brad Tadday, Bridget Russell
	<b>Other:</b>	Lydia Heap, Mark Hood, Bob West, Janice Crosswhite, Cathy Giles
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Lee Hartman

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
<b>3</b>	Apologies - Condolences expressed for AC member Sue-Anne Penrose who recently passed away	No disclosures were made
<b>5</b>	Minutes of previous meeting	No disclosures were made
<b>6</b>	Outstanding Action Items	No disclosures were made
<b>7</b>	Works update and planned works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threatened fauna monitoring and management</li> <li>Rabbit control program</li> <li>Capital Works program</li> </ul>	No disclosures were made
<b>8</b>	Interpretation Design Plan Implementation Working Group Update.	No disclosures were made

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
9	Community Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friends of Bunjil Reserve</li> <li>• Panton Hill Primary School</li> <li>• PH Living and Learning Centre</li> <li>• Council Biodiversity events</li> <li>• Gawa Planting event</li> <li>• Fauna monitoring</li> <li>• Other – Clintons Rd Reserve working bee</li> </ul>	No disclosures were made
11	Other Business – Catering for meeting not desired	No disclosures were made

**The Meeting concluded at 8:43pm**

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Brad Tadday
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Environmental Works Officer

# Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 5:05pm

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Council Meeting Pre-Meet
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 25 June 2024
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chamber
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Peter Perkins, Cr Natalie Duffy, Cr Karen Egan, Cr Geoff Paine, Cr Ben Ramcharan, Cr Richard Stockman and Cr Frances Eyre (attended virtually)
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Carl Cowie, Vince Lombardi, Blaga Naumoski, Corrienne Nichols, Jeremy Livingston, Renae Ahern, Leigh Northwood, Steven Blight, Tracey Varley, Katia Croce
	<b>Other:</b>	
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		

<b>MATTERS CONSIDERED</b>		<b>DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS</b>
1	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting May 2024 and Audit and Risk Committee Charter	No disclosures were made
2	Quarterly Risk and Safety Report - March 2024	No disclosures were made
3	Birraring Valley Walk Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	No disclosures were made
4	Eltham Bowling Club - Bank Loan Guarantor	No disclosures were made
5	Unsealed Roads Improvement Prioritisation Policy	No disclosures were made
6	Special Rate and Special Charge Policy and Guidelines	No disclosures were made
7	Endorsement of Motions for Municipal Association Victoria State Council 23 August 2024	No disclosures were made
8	Informal Meetings of Councillors Records - 25 June 2024	No disclosures were made
9	Bourchiers Road Special Charge Scheme, Kangaroo Ground - Intention to Declare	<i>Cr Karen Egan disclosed a material conflict of interest and temporarily left the meeting at 5:36pm and returned at the conclusion of the item at 5:46pm</i>
10	Notice of Motion – Councillor Expenses – Legal Advice/Support	<i>Cr Natalie Duffy disclosed a material conflict of interest and left the meeting at 5:56pm. Carl Cowie and Blaga Naumoski only offices in the gallery for this item.</i>

The Meeting concluded at 6:09pm



RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name: Officer Title:	Katia Croce Manager Governance and Property
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## Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 10:00am

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee
	<b>Date:</b>	Friday 28 June 2024
	<b>Location:</b>	Hurstbridge Hub, 50 Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Peter Perkins
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Narelle Hart, Angela Lampard, Angela Clare, Cassie Zurek and Julie-Anne Grech
	<b>Committee Members:</b>	Neville Coutts, Gina Lloyd-Thomas, Diana Warrell, Silvana Scibilia, Courtney Walsh, Seane Cumming, Helen Ryan, Lisa Mills and Aaron Williams
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Rhonda Bain, Melanie Keely, Carol Lee, Nicole Coxford and Sue King

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 May were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	No disclosures were made
2	Hurstbridge Hub Tour	No disclosures were made
3	Tovertafel (Magic Table) training and promotion	No disclosures were made
4	Araluen – Hurstbridge Community Garden initiative	No disclosures were made
5	Disability Action Plan and Health and Wellbeing Plan integration	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 12:12pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Julie-Anne Grech
	Officer Title:	Business and Program Support Officer

## Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

The Meeting commenced at 5:09pm

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Planning and Consultation Committee Pre-Meet
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 16 July 2024
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chamber
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Peter Perkins, Cr Frances Eyre, Cr Natalie Duffy, Cr Ben Ramcharan, Cr Richard Stockman and Cr Karen Egan (virtually)
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Carl Cowie, Vince Lombardi, Blaga Naumoski, Corrienne Nichols, Jeremy Livingston, Leigh Northwood, Nichole Johnson, Tracey Varley, Rae Lopez, Natalie Campton, Andrew Feeney, Ayman William, Sam Boynton, Ssarah Shehata, Liz Lambropoulos, Katia Croce
	<b>Other:</b>	
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Cr Geoff Paine

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Draft Housing Strategy 2024 - Hear from submitters and outcomes of engagement	No disclosures were made
2	Nillumbik Integrated Transport Strategy	No disclosures were made
3	Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework Outcomes of Engagement	No disclosures were made
4	Naming proposal for Civic Drive Precinct (Park)	No disclosures were made
5	Draft Reconciliation Action Plan - submissions	No disclosures were made
6	Proposed Road Deviation - Part of Simpson Road and Ridge Road, Christmas Hills	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 5:23pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b> <b>Officer Title:</b>	Katia Croce Manager Governance and Property
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