

Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

to be held at the Council Chamber, 32 Civic Drive, Greensborough
on Tuesday 16 July 2024 commencing at 7:00pm.

Agenda

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

Thursday 9 July 2024

Distribution: Public

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

Council Chamber Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting seating plan

Cr Natalie Duffy
(Chairperson
Consultation
Matters)
Edendale Ward

Cr Karen Egan
Bunjil Ward
(Deputy Mayor)

Cr Richard
Stockman
Blue Lake Ward

Cr Ben Ramcharan
(Mayor)
Sugarloaf Ward

Cr Frances Eyre
Swipers Gully Ward

Cr Geoff Paine
Wingrove Ward

Katia Croce
Manager
Governance and
Property

Blaga Naumoski
Director
Governance,
Communications
and Community
Safety

Cr Peter Perkins
(Chairperson
Planning Matters)
Ellis Ward

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive
Officer

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Nillumbik Shire Council

**Agenda of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting to be held
Tuesday 16 July 2024 commencing at 7:00pm.**

1. Welcome by the Chair

Members of the public are advised the meeting will be livestreamed and recorded and the livestream recording will be made publicly available on YouTube and Council's website.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Acknowledgement of Country to be read by the Chairperson

Nillumbik Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which Nillumbik is located, and we value the significance of the Wurundjeri people's history as essential to the unique character of the shire. We pay tribute to all First Nations People living in Nillumbik, give respect to Elders past, present and future, and extend that respect to all First Nations People.

We respect the enduring strength of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and acknowledge the ongoing impacts of past trauma and injustices from colonial invasion, massacres and genocide committed against First Nations People. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people hold a deep and ongoing connection to this place. We value the distinctive place of our First Nations People in both Nillumbik and Australia's identity; from their cultural heritage and care of the land and waterways, to their ongoing contributions in many fields including academia, agriculture, art, economics, law, sport and politics.

3. Apologies/Leave of Absence

Committee to note any apologies by Councillors not in attendance and or considers requests for any leave of absence submitted.

4. Declarations of conflict of interest

Committee members and Officers should note that any conflicts of interest should also be disclosed immediately before the relevant item.

5. Confirmation of Minutes


COM.001/24 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 11 June 2024

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 2024.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) confirms the Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 2024 (**Attachment 1**).

Attachments

1.  Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 2024

6. Officers' reports

PCC.011/24 Draft Housing Strategy 2024 - Hear from submitters and outcomes of engagement

Item: Planning Matter

Distribution: Public

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

Author: Leigh Northwood, Manager Strategic Planning and Environment

Summary

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

At its April meeting, the Planning and Consultation Committee (acting under delegation), resolved to commence public consultation on the draft Housing Strategy 2024 (draft Strategy).

The draft Strategy was exhibited between 22 April and 27 May 2024 and was supported by a number of communications and engagement activities including drop in sessions.

A total of 103 submissions were received, 91 via Participate Nillumbik (80 surveys and 11 written submissions), and 12 submissions outside of Participate Nillumbik.

Feedback demonstrates that there is support for the draft Strategy's priority areas and goals, with the strongest support being for the continued protection of Nillumbik's unique neighbourhood character and environment in supporting housing outcomes. This is consistent with previous consultation on the adopted Neighbourhood Character Strategy, highlighting the importance of progressing this housing strategy which works in tandem with the Neighbourhood Character Strategy to achieve positive housing outcomes for the community.

Feedback also evidences tensions and competing views amongst the community regarding housing, which is not unexpected given people have different aspirations for housing depending on (predominantly) where they are on their housing journey. Community sentiments highlight the desire for more diverse housing that supports downsizing and ageing in place however at the same time, it was clear that the community is concerned that more diverse housing (including affordable housing) would place pressure on our road infrastructure, services and neighbourhood character.

A Community Reference Group (CRG) was specifically convened to provide input into development of the draft Strategy and these broader tensions were also demonstrable in deliberation and discussions with that group. The CRG deliberated on complex matters such as changing household composition, demographic changes and the impacts of cost of living on housing. There was at times a stark difference in views, particularly about priorities.

On Sunday 16 June, the State government released its housing targets as part of development of a new 'Plan for Victoria', in advancing the State government's Housing Statement to deliver 2.24 million homes in Victoria by 2051 (800,000 in the next decade). The targets are at this stage in draft form, and all Victorian Councils have been advised that submissions will be open on Plan for Victoria (and housing targets) on the 1st of July with a deadline for submission of 30 August.

The housing targets (current figure and potentially final figure) have implications for our adopted strategies.

6. Planning Matters

PCC.011/24 Draft Housing Strategy 2024 - Hear from submitters and outcomes of engagement

Council will be preparing a submission to the State government's draft Plan for Victoria and housing targets for councils in identifying our unique planning settings, and the challenges that come with that in provision of housing as the Green Wedge Shire.

For all councils no matter where they are in progress of their strategies, or amendments to their planning schemes to implement strategies into them, they will need to re-visit their strategies to plan for the final housing targets.

Given Nillumbik Shire has just completed a round of community engagement on the first draft of the Housing Strategy, Council will finalise this phase of engagement on the draft Housing Strategy inviting and hearing verbal submissions to this Planning and Consultation Committee meeting.

Once Council understands the final housing targets, and works through accommodation of those targets which will require further analysis, the draft Housing Strategy can be updated and another draft can be put out for community consultation next year subject to Council endorsement. Absolute dates cannot be confirmed at the moment as we will need to await the final housing targets from the State government (tentatively end of 2024 has been advised).

Recommendation




That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Notes the community responses and feedback to the draft Housing Strategy 2024 (written and verbal).
2. Resolves that the confidential un-redacted copies of submissions to engagement on the draft Housing Strategy, as provided in **Attachment 3**, remains confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
3. Notes officers will bring a submission to a draft *Plan for Victoria* and housing targets to the August Council meeting for consideration of adoption to submit to State government by the 31st August submission deadline.
4. Makes copies of **Attachment 1** Draft Housing Strategy 2024 Outcomes of Community Engagement Report and **Attachment 4** Draft Housing Strategy 2024 Community Reference Group Outcomes Report_WSP available on Participate Nillumbik.
5. Writes to all respondents to the community engagement to express Council's gratitude for their contribution and to advise them of the Council's resolution and the next scheduled steps in the project.

6. Planning Matters

PCC.011/24 Draft Housing Strategy 2024 - Hear from submitters and outcomes of engagement

Attachments

- 1  Draft Housing Strategy 2024 Outcomes of Community Engagement Report
- 2  Draft Housing Strategy 2024 Redacted Survey and Written Submissions
3. Draft Housing Strategy 2024 Un-redacted Survey and Written Submissions - *CONFIDENTIAL*
- 4  Draft Housing Strategy 2024 Community Reference Group Outcomes Report_WSP

Discussion

1. The development of both a new Housing Strategy and a new Neighbourhood Character Strategy are priority actions in the current Council Plan.
2. To note, the last sitting Council in 2020 resolved to abandon the draft Nillumbik Housing Strategy at the time; with the view to prioritise a new Neighbourhood Character Strategy (now complete and adopted November 2023) and form a Community Reference Group (CRG) to inform any future Nillumbik Housing Strategy (CRG process now complete).
3. At the Planning and Consultation Committee meeting of 16 April 2024, Council endorsed commencing the public consultation of the draft Strategy which took place from 22 April to 27 May 2024.
4. The community were notified about the engagement and invited to contribute their views through a range of engagement/communications supports. As a result of community engagement, Council received broad views from the community which are outlined in **Attachment 1** (Draft Housing Strategy 2024 Outcomes of Community Engagement Report). A total of 103 submissions were received (91 through Participate Nillumbik both survey/written, and 12 written submissions received by other means).
5. Through review of submissions (refer to **Attachment 2** for redacted consolidated survey and written submissions and **Attachment 3** for un-redacted version which remains confidential information pursuant to section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*), it is clear that there is support for the draft Strategy’s priority areas and goals, with the strongest support for Nillumbik’s unique neighbourhood character and environment. This is in line with previous consultation on the Neighbourhood Character Strategy, highlighting the importance of progressing this housing strategy, which works in tandem with the Neighbourhood Character Strategy to achieve positive housing outcomes for the community.

6. Planning Matters

PCC.011/24 Draft Housing Strategy 2024 - Hear from submitters and outcomes of engagement

6. Feedback also evidences tensions and competing views amongst the community, particularly with regard to supporting housing affordability, ageing in place and housing diversity. Community sentiments highlight the desire for more diverse housing that supports downsizing and ageing in place. At the same time, it was clear that the community is concerned that more diverse housing (including affordable housing) would place pressure on our road infrastructure, services and neighbourhood character.
7. Other observations from analysis include:
 - a) The complexity and size of the draft Strategy, and the absence of a summary (including executive summary) was a common concern, noting the document is almost identical in size to the adopted Neighbourhood Character Strategy;
 - b) Lack of infrastructure (public transport) and especially congested roads were big issues, with comments filtering into missing priority areas, vision comments and final remarks;
 - c) A handful of comments on bushfire risk in relation to missing priority areas;
 - d) Protection of biodiversity, environment or environmental character generated lots of comments, however in a mixed way, i.e. it was either liked in the vision, or not given sufficient emphasis in priority areas or the Housing Statement vision. Protection of the environment was also associated with protection of the green wedge, either missing as a priority area or not emphasised in the vision;
 - e) There was abundant commentary on overdevelopment and a general dislike of medium density housing, with associated commentary on the effect of such development on Nillumbik's neighbourhood and environmental character. This was also tied in with concern over the removal of vegetation and loss of canopy trees;
 - f) Building design and quality were considered as missing in the priority areas by several submitters; and
 - g) A few submitters want to be able to develop rural land for residential living, either as second dwellings or through subdivision, and felt that this was missing as a priority area or in disagreeing with goals.
8. These tensions were also evident through the six CRG meetings held between 11 October 2023 and 12 June 2024 that informed preparation of parts of the draft Strategy. The CRG deliberated on complex matters such as changing household composition, demographic changes and the impacts of cost of living on housing. There were at times stark differences in views, particularly about priorities.
9. For example, the CRG shared concerns for the growing pressure on roads, services, and local facilities, and voiced concerns that it this would only be exacerbated by developing already built-up areas.

6. Planning Matters

PCC.011/24 Draft Housing Strategy 2024 - Hear from submitters and outcomes of engagement

10. The CRG disagreed on the necessity for more development. Some argued the minimal forecast population increase for Nillumbik did not warrant more development and that further development was likely to have an adverse impact on the environment and/or the neighbourhood character. Others saw the benefit in expanding the Shire's housing supply, depending on where and to what design guidelines.
11. Other topics were less contentious: the CRG agreed on the need for more affordable, diverse, and practical housing options for residents at every life stage and circumstance. Lived experiences and preferences influenced the solutions suggested, but the sentiment was shared that Nillumbik's largely uniform housing supply (large, inaccessible houses) does not meet the needs of:
 - a) Older residents looking to downsize
 - b) People with a disability
 - c) Multi-generational households, among others.
12. Some of the CRG supported community-led housing noting a greater focus on developing housing in line with community aspirations could:
 - a) Support youth retention
 - b) Attract people under pressure from the cost-of-living crisis
 - c) Help first-time homebuyers, and essential workers.
13. The group's contributions formed the development of the priority areas in the draft Strategy including:
 - Housing diversity and accessibility
 - Housing affordability
 - Ageing in Place
 - Nillumbik's unique character and environment
 - Supporting the townships and our activity centres
 - Innovative and sustainable housing design
14. The full report on the CRG outcomes can be found in **Attachment 4** (note: report includes Appendix A only. Remaining appendices have been excluded due to size. The full report will be made available on the Participate Nillumbik site).

Plan for Victoria and Housing Targets

15. In planning for Victoria, the State government is reviewing its overarching strategic planning document Plan Melbourne which will now address Victoria. The government has announced that the new *Plan for Victoria* will:
 - Focus on delivering more homes near transport, jobs and essential services.
 - Ensure 70% of new homes will be built in established areas and 30% in growth areas.
 - Establish local government targets for where homes will be built.

6. Planning Matters

PCC.011/24 Draft Housing Strategy 2024 - Hear from submitters and outcomes of engagement

16. On Sunday 16 June 2024, the State government released new draft housing targets for every Victorian council via the Age newspaper/online.
17. The issue of the availability and cost of housing, and implications for society and the economy, has rarely featured more prominently in the media or in government policy.
18. The **draft** target for Nillumbik is 12,000 homes by 2051 (+52.9%).
19. This exceeds the current draft Housing Strategy figures, noting the draft Strategy is based (as it is required to, and consistent with all housing strategies up until now) on population growth forecasts, and historical and projected building rates).
20. The planning system can provide the 'capacity' for housing in the right location. Accordingly, the planning system needs to incorporate 'housing capacity' and 'housing diversity' targets.
21. Councils (under their mandated requirement to plan for housing) can only create the right settings for the delivery of housing. The planning system (and local government) does not deliver housing.
22. Submissions will be open on *Plan for Victoria* and the draft housing targets on the 1st of July with the deadline for submissions on 30th of August.
23. Council will prepare a submission to *Plan for Victoria* and the draft housing targets in identifying our unique planning settings, and the challenges that come with that in provision of housing as the Green Wedge Shire.
24. Advice from the Department (indicative) is that a final Plan for Victoria and final housing targets would be published by the end of 2024.
25. Given Nillumbik Shire has just completed a round of community engagement on the first draft of the draft Housing Strategy, it is timely given the State government's announcement to close this first round of engagement out.
26. Once Council understands the final housing targets, and works through accommodation of those targets which will require further analysis, the draft Housing Strategy can be updated and another draft can be put out for community consultation next year. Absolute dates cannot as yet be confirmed as we will need to await the final housing targets from the State government, updates will be made to the community as we understand more.

Related Council decisions

27. The related Council decisions are summarised as follows:
 - a) 23 June 2020 – Council's resolution to abandon the current draft Nillumbik Housing Strategy which was in its final phase of engagement; prioritise a new Nillumbik Neighbourhood Character Strategy and Community Reference Group to inform any future Nillumbik Housing Strategy.
 - b) 26 October 2021 - Council's resolution to adopt the Council Plan 2021-2025, which includes as priority actions to develop a Neighbourhood Character Strategy and Housing Strategy.

6. Planning Matters

PCC.011/24 Draft Housing Strategy 2024 - Hear from submitters and outcomes of engagement

- c) 12 December 2023 – Council’s resolution to adopt the Neighbourhood Character Strategy 2023.
- d) 16 April 2024 – Planning and Consultation Committee meeting resolution to commence the public consultation of the draft Housing Strategy 2024.

Options

- 28. Consider the submissions received to inform the refinement of the draft Housing Strategy 2024.
- 29. Note the release of the State governments *Plan for Victoria* and draft housing targets for Councils will require further consideration in the next draft of the Housing Strategy, which will be updated and released for another round of consultation, subject to the State government releasing the final draft of Plan for Victoria and its final housing targets.

Council plans and policies

- 30. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategy:
 - *We respect and enhance the unique neighbourhood character in our communities to ensure a considered approach to planning and development.*

Access, Equity and Inclusion

- 31. Housing is fundamental and something that impacts all people. It is particularly a matter of considerable concern for at risk and marginalised groups of the community who experience many barriers to accessing safe, secure and long-term housing. This is particularly heightened in Australia, Melbourne and Nillumbik Shire given affordability issues.
- 32. A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been prepared for the Housing Strategy in collaboration with our Gender Equity Officer. Key areas that the Housing Strategy needs to have regard to as a result of the GIA include:
 - a) The need to ensure the CRG as a representative group of the Nillumbik community includes diversity of views and includes people who would be experiencing housing vulnerability for various reasons (as much as is practicable given the subject matter), e.g. people with disabilities, older women, younger people, renters; and
 - b) The need for the demographic data that supports the preparation of the Housing Strategy to include data on vulnerable groups, some of which will not be sourced through the normal ABS data representation e.g. homelessness rates, people ‘sleeping rough’ and Council rates hardship applications.

Sustainability implications

- 33. Protecting a preferred neighbourhood character and providing for sustainable housing can provide direct benefits in regard to sustainability across social, environmental and economic outcomes.

6. Planning Matters

PCC.011/24 Draft Housing Strategy 2024 - Hear from submitters and outcomes of engagement

Community engagement

Community engagement

34. An outcomes of engagement report on the draft Strategy that took place between 22 April and 27 May 2024 can be found in **Attachment 1**. Redacted and consolidated survey and written submissions are available at **Attachment 2** (Un-redacted Confidential version at **Attachment 3**).
35. A range of community engagement and communications supports were utilised consistent with the engagement plan for the project and included:

Participate Nillumbik

- Updated page with the draft Strategy, survey, open submission box, supporting information and links
- Notification sent to followers and 'stay informed' list (84 people)

Social media

- Sponsored Facebook post
- Promotion of Q&A sessions

Print and online

- Nillumbik News – March edition
- Media release on Nillumbik Website
- Internal newsletters

Q&A pop ups

- Two hours at Eltham Library x 3 (morning and afternoon)
- Two hours at Diamond Creek Living and Learning Centre x 2 (morning and afternoon)
- Three hours at Hurstbridge Hub x 1 (morning)

Flyers

- Eltham library (60+ handed out, posters hung)
- Diamond Creek Living and learning Centre (~20 flyers handed out, posters hung)
- Hurstbridge Hub (~30 flyers handed out, posters hung)

Advisory and Community Group meetings

- Positive Ageing Advisory Committee (PAAC) – attendance and discussion at two meetings
- Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee (IAAC) – attendance and discussion at two meetings
- Youth Council Advisory Committee (YCAC)

6. Planning Matters

PCC.011/24 Draft Housing Strategy 2024 - Hear from submitters and outcomes of engagement

- Wurundjeri Cultural Committee
- Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)
- Downsizing in Nillumbik Community group meeting (through Nillumbik U3A)

Agency and other Council's engagement and notification

- Aboriginal Housing Victoria
- Department of Transport and Planning
- Country Fire Authority (CFA)
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library
- Banyule City Council
- Whittlesea City Council
- Manningham City Council
- Yarra Ranges Shire Council
- Murrindindi Shire Council

Community Reference Group

- Convened six meetings
- Provided reading material and resources via email
- Private Participate Nillumbik site for informal discussions
- Invited feedback during and after the meetings via email or phone
- Refer to **Attachment 4** for the CRG outcomes report which outlines the methodology of the CRG and their influence on the development of the draft Strategy.

Other:

- Neighbourhood Character Strategy submitters notified
- Project working group networks
- All internal staff via the CEO

36. Refer to **Attachment 1** – Engagement Outcomes Report to view the findings from this round of engagement.

Innovation and continuous improvement

37. The project is important to updating Council's planning policy regarding housing in residential areas, particularly in regards to identify the Shire's capacity for sustainable growth without compromising the unique and valued neighbourhood character of the Shire.

6. Planning Matters

PCC.011/24 Draft Housing Strategy 2024 - Hear from submitters and outcomes of engagement

Collaboration

38. The project is being managed in consultation with an internal Project Working Group comprising members from relevant units within Council.

Budget considerations

39. The project is funded and accounted for across Council's 2023-24 financial year noting the draft Strategy has been prepared in house. Officers have not engaged consultants to undertake the preparation of the Housing Strategy or broader community engagement activities/summaries. To do so in the current market would have required substantially more budget allocation.
40. It is noted consultant services have been engaged for specific inputs only in the preparation of the Housing Strategy that Council cannot resource internally e.g. population/data inputs, Participate Nillumbik mapping 'plug-in' and convening the CRG.

Relevant law

41. The project responds to relevant provisions within the Nillumbik Planning Scheme and relevant to that from a legal perspective, *The Planning and Environment Act 1987* is the State legislation that regulates all Victorian planning schemes.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

42. A Housing Strategy is required to align to State Planning Policy with regard to the planning and provision of housing on a local government level.

Next steps

43. Officers will prepare a submission to the draft Plan for Victoria and draft Housing Strategy and present to Council's August Council meeting for consideration of adoption to meet the State governments end August deadline.
44. The implications of a final Plan for Victoria and final housing targets will need to be considered in a further draft of the Housing Strategy, which will be made available for community engagement subject to Council endorsement.

Conflicts of interest

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

6. Officers' reports

PCC.012/24 Nillumbik Integrated Transport Strategy

Item: Planning Matter

Distribution: Public

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

Author: Ayman William, Coordinator Transport and Development

Summary

The development of a new Integrated Transport Strategy is a key action in the Council Plan.

At its meeting of 12 December 2023, Council resolved to commence public consultation to develop a new Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) in 2024. An initial Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and Option Paper (**Attachment 1**) was developed for community consultation which highlights at a high level, the Strategy objectives Council proposes to guide the development of the final Integrated Transport Strategy.

Community consultation was undertaken for a total of six weeks from 15 April 2024 to 27 May 2024. Additional stakeholder engagement, internal workshops and workshops with other government agencies have occurred outside of this period.

The community consultation was conducted via the *Participate Nillumbik* webpage and provided comprehensive information, including a link to the Issues and Options Paper, an interactive/social map, key points, and a survey questionnaire designed to encourage and facilitate community feedback and submissions. Additional information was available at Council's Customer Service Centre. Community consultation also included a series of face-to-face 'pop-up' consultations, as well as online and in-person presentations and meetings with various stakeholders and community groups.

In total, Council received a total of 246 submissions, including 163 issues/opportunities highlighted on the social maps and 83 submissions to the written survey. It is also noted that there were over 1000 visits to the Integrated Transport Strategy consultation page via Participate Nillumbik.

The community feedback has resulted in the identification of a number of themes that will inform the final draft of the Nillumbik Integrated Transport Strategy and associated short, medium and long term actions Action Plan, to be presented at a later Councillor briefing session.

The key themes raised by the community consultation include Road Safety, Pedestrian crossings, missing active travel links, lack of bus networks and footpath amenity concerns.

Given Nillumbik Shire has just completed a round of community engagement on the Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and Options paper to assist the development of the Integrated Transport Strategy, Council will finalise this phase of engagement on the Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and Options Paper inviting and hearing verbal submissions to this Planning and Consultation Committee meeting.

Once officers have analysed any additional feedback received at this Planning and Consultation Committee meeting, the draft Integrated Transport Strategy can be updated and presented to Council for consideration for endorsement at the August 2024 Council Meeting.

6. Planning Matters




PCC.012/24 Nillumbik Integrated Transport Strategy

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Acknowledges and considers the matters contained in the verbal and written submissions to the Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and Options Paper, which will inform the draft Integrated Transport Strategy.
2. Requests a further report be presented at the August 2024 Council meeting in consideration of adoption of the Integrated Transport Strategy.
3. Resolves that the confidential un-redacted copies of written submissions and survey responses to the exhibition of the public engagement for the Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and Options Paper consultation (**Attachment 3**) and the confidential un-redacted Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and Options Paper Consultation Summary 2024 (**Attachment 5**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
4. Thanks all respondents to this community engagement and expresses Council's gratitude for their contribution to this project.

Attachments

- 1  ITS Issues and Options Paper
- 2  ITS Issues and Options Paper Community Consultation Submissions REDACTED 2024
3. ITS Issues and Options Paper Community Consultation Submissions UNREDACTED - *CONFIDENTIAL*
- 4  ITS Issues and Options Paper Consultation Summary 2024 - REDACTED
5. ITS Issues and Options Paper Consultation Summary 2024 - UNREDACTED - *CONFIDENTIAL*

Discussion

1. Over the past 20 years, Nillumbik Shire Council has adopted three specific integrated transport strategies: Integrated Transport Strategy (2001); Sustainable Transport Strategy (2010); and Nillumbik Integrated Transport Statement (2014).
2. The purpose of these strategies is to provide strategic direction in relation to transportation and guide current and future transport development within the Shire. It is different to operational plans such as Local Area Traffic Management Plans.
3. Council has also adopted a significant number of strategies that relate to land use, environment, recreation and accessibility which influence transport outcomes.

6. Planning Matters

PCC.012/24 Nillumbik Integrated Transport Strategy

4. The Council Plan 2021-2025, Annual Council Action Plan 2023-2024, Action 25 requires that Council “Complete and adopt a new Integrated Transport Strategy”.
5. Council’s Vision for Nillumbik 2040 and Council’s Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 include actions to increase physical activity through strategies that promote sustainable and active transport options.
6. In addition, Council’s *Climate Action Plan 2022-2032* provides the strategic direction for Council’s climate action over the next decade. Importantly, it includes the 2022 Council declaration of climate emergency and a mitigation target for Council emissions of net zero by 2030 and a community emissions target of net zero by 2035.
7. Improving Nillumbik’s public and active transport networks is an essential component for Nillumbik Shire Council to realise its objectives and to ensure sustainable transport outcomes across the Shire.
8. In recognition of the outdated strategic transport planning framework at Nillumbik, the Council Plan 2021-2025 identified a ‘priority action’ to: “Develop a new Integrated Transport Strategy to guide transport planning, sustainable out comes and advocacy”.
9. The focus of the Nillumbik Integrated Transport Strategy is to build on previous strategies with the focus on sustainability and active transport.
10. In October 2022, Council awarded a contract to PMP Urbanists (People Movement and Place urban planning consultants) to prepare the Integrated Transport Strategy.
11. In late 2022 and early 2023, a series of workshops were held with Council and the Department of Transport and Planning staff. The outcomes of these workshops has helped the consultant prepare the Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and Options Paper.
12. This Issues and Options Paper was released to the community for consultation, with comments received to inform the development of the draft Integrated Transport Strategy.
13. The engagement included the distribution of collateral, Mayoral message, establishing a Participate Nillumbik Shire Council webpage, a six week public consultation window, pop up stalls, and meetings.
14. The Participate Nillumbik webpage asked a series of questions on transport within Nillumbik in the context of sustainability and climate change with both open ended questions, multiple choice questions, an invitation to lodge a submission with Council and the ability to populate an interactive map with known problematic areas.
15. The consultation included references to Council’s declaration of a climate emergency and a mitigation target for Council emissions of net zero by 2030 and a community emissions target of net zero by 2035.
16. Community responses to the community consultation process will inform a final draft Integrated Transport Strategy and an Integrated Transport Strategy Action Plan that can be adopted by Council, with programmed regular progress reporting, similar to the Climate Action Plan reporting.

6. Planning Matters

PCC.012/24 Nillumbik Integrated Transport Strategy

Related Council decisions

17. The development of a new Integrated Transport Strategy is a key action in the Council Plan 2021-2025.
18. At its meeting of 12 December 2023, Council resolved to commence public consultation to develop a new Integrated Transport Strategy in Quarter 1 of 2024.
19. Over the past 20 years, Council has adopted three specific integrated transport strategies:
 - a) Integrated Transport Strategy (adopted by Council on 18 December 2001). The strategy sought to preserve the Green Wedge, conserve energy and minimise greenhouse gas emissions, optimise the use of public transport, minimise unnecessary motor vehicle travel, integrate the community’s transport systems with land uses (activities) and provide a 10 year integrated transport planning horizon.
 - b) Sustainable Transport Strategy (adopted by Council 16 November 2010). This Strategy was prepared through a Victorian Government grant and considered future growth projections for Nillumbik and how additional trips can be accommodated. This strategy is currently available on Council’s webpage. This strategy has a focus on the Eltham and Diamond Creek Activity Centres, with a particular aim to encourage sustainable transport (cycling, walking and public transport) in each town centre.
 - c) Nillumbik Integrated Transport Statement (adopted by Council on 29 July 2014). This Statement outlines Council’s position on integrated transport and identifies a number of actions and recommendations flowing from the Nillumbik Shire Council Integrated Transport Strategy of 2001.
20. In addition, Council has also adopted a number of mode specific transport strategies.

Options

21. Consider the written and verbal submissions received for the Integrated Transport Strategy Issue and Options Paper, which will inform the final draft Integrated Transport Strategy.

Council plans and policies

22. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategy:
 - We prioritise and actively advocate for new and better public transport options and a reduction of private car use and dependence.
 - We prioritise and actively advocate for new and better public transport options and a reduction of private car use and dependence.

Access, Equity and Inclusion

23. Council’s Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 requires a Gender Impact Assessment on any new policy, program or service or those under review.
24. A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been applied to the Integrated Transport Strategy Issue and Options Paper.

6. Planning Matters

PCC.012/24 Nillumbik Integrated Transport Strategy

25. The community engagement process was designed to be accessible to, and collect feedback from, diverse community groups with both in-person and on-line feedback opportunities.

Sustainability implications

26. Council’s Climate Action Plan 2022-2032 provides the strategic direction for Council’s climate action over the next decade. Importantly, it includes the 2022 Council declaration of a climate emergency and a mitigation target for Council emissions of net zero by 2030 and a community emissions target of net zero by 2035.
27. The ability to enable sustainable transport outcomes, such as improving Nillumbik’s public and active transport networks, is an essential component for Nillumbik Shire Council to realise its Climate Action Plan.
28. Encouraging a shift towards sustainable transportation (walking, cycling and public transport) requires individuals to take ownership of their personal travel choices. By recognising the convenience of alternatives like walking, cycling, micro mobility and public transit, the community can embrace a more responsible travel behaviour. Council can play a vital role in promoting this mindset by raising awareness of the Shire's climate change commitment and the challenges posed by the growing number of vehicles on the road, which lead to more traffic and parking issues.
29. The Integrated Transport Strategy will assist in prioritising sustainable transport modes, reduce transport emissions and improve our resilience to climate change risks of peak oil and fossil fuel dependency.

Community engagement

30. An outcomes of engagement report on the Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and Options Paper can be found in **Attachment 4**. Redacted survey and written submissions are available at **Attachment 2** (Un-redacted Confidential version at **Attachment 3**).
31. Community consultation was conducted via the *Participate Nillumbik* webpage and provided comprehensive information, including a link to the Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and Options Paper, an interactive/social map, key points, and a survey questionnaire designed to encourage and facilitate community feedback and submissions.
32. Additional information was available at the Council’s Customer Service Centre and during 'pop-up' consultation sessions. The six week community consultation period was undertaken from 15 April 2024 to 27 May 2024.
33. Engagement / feedback was sought from:
 Advisory group meetings:
- Positive Ageing Advisory Committee
 - Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee
 - Wurundjeri Cultural Committee
 - Economic Development Advisory Committee

6. Planning Matters

PCC.012/24 Nillumbik Integrated Transport Strategy

Other groups / committees:

- Friends of Groups
- Youth / LGBTIQ+ / Young People Groups
- Cultural Groups
- Business Groups
- Climate Action Groups
- Transport Advocacy Groups
- Rural Community Groups

34. The consultation was explicit about the objectives of developing an Integrated Transport Strategy through the Issues and Options Paper and its alignment to Council's strategies and policies on Health and Wellbeing, Climate Action and sustainability. This includes Council's declaration of a climate emergency and a mitigation target for Council emissions of net zero by 2030 and a community emissions target of net zero by 2035.
35. Council's emissions targets are more ambitious than the Victorian Government's *Climate Change Act 2017* target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Consideration of the draft Integrated Transport Strategy and transport policy in this context will require the community to consider measures that are a significant deviation from the 'business as usual' approach to transport planning, with a much stronger emphasis on sustainable modes of transport (walking, cycling, scooters, e-scooters, e-vehicles and public transport) over the current dominance of fossil fuel powered private vehicle use (which is responsible for nearly half of Victoria's transport emissions).
36. The key themes raised through the community consultation include road safety, pedestrian crossings, missing active travel links, lack of bus network and footpath concerns.
37. The community was also asked to rank four strategic direction objectives identified in the Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and options Paper. Not all respondents ranked the strategic direction objectives, however many provided commentary in the general comments of the online survey relating to the strategic direction objectives. Officers have reviewed both the results of the question and the commentary to determine the rankings.
38. Based on the community responses and comments captured in the online survey, the objectives have been ranked as follows:
 - I. Plan and deliver active transport networks that are safe, accessible, connected, comfortable and inclusive.
 - II. Advocate and encourage public transport by enhancing its accessibility, safety, convenience, and attractiveness.
 - III. Encourage land use planning that supports safe and sustainable transport outcomes.
 - IV. Enable emerging sustainable transport.

6. Planning Matters

PCC.012/24 Nillumbik Integrated Transport Strategy

39. Refer to the Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and Options Paper Consultation Summary 2024 redacted version at **Attachment 4** (Un-redacted Confidential version at **Attachment 5**) to view a summary of the types of consultation undertaken and the overall findings from the community engagement process.

Innovation and continuous improvement

40. Not Applicable

Collaboration

41. The preparation of the Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and Options Paper involved a series of workshops held with Council staff and the Department of Transport and Planning staff throughout 2022 and 2023.

Budget considerations

42. The Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and Options Paper is a high-level strategic document and does not make specific budget commitments. The Integrated Transport Strategy Issues and Options Paper will inform the draft Integrated Transport Strategy.
43. The cost of implementing the Integrated Transport Strategy needs to be considered as it is being refined. Budget requirements will be considered via the formal annual budget setting process.

Relevant law

44. The *Transport Integration Act 2010* is Victoria’s key piece of legislation in the area of transport. It provides an example of the use of aspirational legislation to reflect the broad policy aims of the Government for integrated and sustainable transport.
45. The *Transport Integration Act 2010* does not legislate that authorities prepare a transport strategy. However it is best practise for authorities to prepare a framework to guide the delivery of transport investments and provide for an endorsed position for advocacy purposes.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

46. There are several Council plans that guide Council’s decision making, with several of these plans focusing on transport and access within and around the Shire. These include:
- a) Council Plan 2021-2025 Annual Council Action Plan 2023-2024 Action 25 requires Council “Complete and adopt a new Integrated Transport Strategy”.
 - b) Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040 is for Nillumbik to have “Connected transport systems, including public and active transport, as well as appropriate infrastructure, are accessible to all residents.
 - c) Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025 – a key objective is to increase physical activity of the Nillumbik Community through various strategies including “Promote sustainable and active transport options” and “Create environments that encourage walking and cycling”.

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PCC.012/24 Nillumbik Integrated Transport Strategy

- d) The Climate Action Plan 2022-2032 details Council's response by defining objectives, strategies, and a path for active and collaborative work to tackle the climate change emergency.
47. In addition to the local policy context, the preparation of the draft Integrated Transport Strategy will also be strongly influenced by the State Government's key transport documents and strategies, including:
- a) Infrastructure Victoria - Victorian Infrastructure Strategy 2021 -2051
 - b) Department of Transport and Planning Strategic Plan 2023-2027
 - c) Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 (addendum 2019)
 - d) Department of Transport and Planning Movement and Place 2019

Conflicts of interest

48. All officers involved in the preparation of this report have made a declaration that they have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report

6. Officers' reports

PCC.013/24 Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework Outcomes of Engagement

Item: Planning Matter

Distribution: Public

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

Author: Leigh Northwood, Manager Strategic Planning and Environment

Summary

The Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework project is a priority action of the Place and Space theme of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

At its May Council Meeting, Council endorsed the Draft Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework for exhibition, for three weeks during May and June 2024.

Engagement ran from the 29th May to 18th June, and was supported by a number of communications and engagement activities, including notifications and invitations to attend community information sessions to land owners and occupiers within Wattle Glen and to all submitters to the project's first round of engagement (2021). Social media posts, a Participate Nillumbik project webpage with relevant documents and survey, and two face-to-face community information sessions were held at the Wattle Glen Primary School on the evenings of the 6th and the 11th of June, which enabled the community to engage with officers and ask questions. In total 50 interested community members attended these sessions.

In total 127 submissions were received to this recent consultation including 120 survey submissions, and seven written submissions.

Involvement and in-principle support for the draft Framework was provided by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) with a specific requirement that the draft Framework could not identify any specific solutions to arterial road reserve land and assets as yet, as there has been no technical exploration or validation of any solutions, nor is there currently any budgetary support within the Department of Transport and Planning and VicTrack for the development of solutions. There is only an in-principle support from the Department of Transport and Planning that something needs to be done, and the Department of Transport and Planning will partner with Council to advance those objectives.

In broader terms, the Department of Transport and Planning's support for the draft Framework will assist on-going collaboration with VicTrack regarding key initiatives concerning rail land and assets. Together, these arterial road and rail initiatives will serve as catalysts for broader integrated public realm improvements in Wattle Glen – essential to the overall safety and connectivity, whilst retaining Wattle Glen's unique rural character.

On adoption of the Framework, a framework implementation plan would be developed by officers which would outline the timeline and stages for the implementation of the Framework, including progressing funding and design of key improvements to State infrastructure, future community engagement on developing designs to allow for iterative feedback by the community, and the identification of any opportunities for advancement of work that may be facilitated through recent grant funding awarded to Council.

The final Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework will be presented to the August Council meeting for consideration of endorsement.

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PCC.013/24 Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework Outcomes of Engagement

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Acknowledges and considers the matters contained in the verbal and written submissions to the draft Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework (**Attachment 1**).
2. Requests a further report to be presented at the August 2024 Council meeting in consideration of adoption of the final Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework.
3. Resolves that the confidential un-redacted copies of written submissions and survey responses to the exhibition of the public engagement for the Draft Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework consultation (at **Attachments 2, 4 and 6**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
4. Thanks all respondents to this community engagement and expresses Council's gratitude for their contribution to this project.

Attachments

- 1  Draft Wattle Glen Public Framework Plan Consultation Draft June 2024
2. Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework - Combined Written Submissions Un-redacted - *CONFIDENTIAL*
- 3  Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework - Combined Written Submissions Redacted
4. Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework - Results of Survey Responses Un-redacted - *CONFIDENTIAL*
- 5  Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework - Results of Survey Responses Redacted
6. Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework - Consolidated Survey Submissions 'Free Form' Content Un-redacted - *CONFIDENTIAL*
- 7  Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework - Consolidated Survey Submissions 'Free Form' Content Redacted
- 8  Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework - Consultation Overview Report

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PCC.013/24 Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework Outcomes of Engagement

Discussion

The draft public realm framework

1. The draft Public Realm Framework (the draft Framework) (**Attachment 1**) outlines a range of key initiatives that provide high level strategic direction for improving Wattle Glen's public realm.
2. The draft Framework addresses the community's concerns about the safety and connectivity of Wattle Glen's public realm and its sense of place, as expressed in the project's first round of engagement in 2021 which sought to understand the community's concerns.

Movement and Place Assessment (MAPA)

3. Wattle Glen's public realm is defined by arterial roads and rail reserves that present fundamental challenges and opportunities for addressing the township's overall safety and connectivity and sense of place.
4. Importantly, these key assets that are identified for improvement in the draft Framework are owned and managed by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and VicTrack, not Council. This necessitated the need for officers to collaborate with those State agencies to gain their support for the draft Framework and to ensure they would work with Council on future infrastructure solutions for Wattle Glen.
5. Collaboration with the Department of Transport and Planning and VicTrack has been occurring since the project's first round of community engagement in 2021, which has included a Movement and Place Assessment (MAPA) (as required by the Department of Transport and Planning) which looked at matters such as pedestrian connections through and around Wattle Glen, implications for slowing traffic or intermittently stopping traffic, and impacts on broader matters such as traffic implications in adjoining suburbs, timetabling implications for rail and bus services including on the broader network, and whether evidence could be mounted for agreement on the need to change conditions at Wattle Glen.
6. The collaboration and MAPA process involved Council providing preliminary conceptual work which was informed by 2021 community feedback, and assisted those agencies in understanding issues and opportunities, and provided evidence for the need for change in Wattle Glen. This work brought about revision to the Department of Transport and Planning's own movement and place classifications for Wattle Glen to better reflect the strategic role and opportunities of the movement systems/modes and places within the township. This thereby enabled the Department of Transport and Planning's own acknowledgement that something needs to be done in Wattle Glen as confirmed in their letter of in-principal support for the draft Framework.

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PCC.013/24 Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework Outcomes of Engagement

Framework implementation

7. Involvement and in-principle support for the draft Framework was provided by the Department of Transport and Planning with a specific requirement that the draft Framework could not identify any specific solutions to arterial road reserve land and assets as yet, as there has been no technical exploration or validation of any solutions, nor is there currently any budgetary support within the Department of Transport and Planning and VicTrack for the development of solutions. There is only an in-principle support from the Department of Transport and Planning that something needs to be done, and the Department of Transport and Planning will partner with Council to advance those objectives.
8. With an adopted Framework Council can advance its partnership with the Department of Transport and Planning and Victrack in development of longer term solutions, but importantly move on to development and consultation with the community on smaller projects within the context of the Framework (having support of the relevant State agencies for the Framework's key infrastructure objectives in the future), to resolve issues that Council has control over as long as they do not result in impediments to the larger infrastructure solutions.
9. By way of example, subject to endorsement of the Framework, Council's Strategic Planning team will collaborate with various internal departments, such as Traffic and Transport, and Operations and Maintenance, to identify and develop targeted mitigation actions to address known hazards on the local road network. These actions will align with the adopted Framework Plan's strategic goals and complement larger infrastructure solutions.
10. These actions include identifying and developing missing links within the local footpath network, implementing road safety measures through specific local area traffic management, and conducting regular operational maintenance in line with the Council's Road Management Plan 2021. These projects will be updated and engaged on with the community to ensure consistency with broader goals and to support the advancement of larger-scale projects upon adopting the broader Framework.
11. In broader terms, the Department of Transport and Planning's support for the draft Framework will assist on-going collaboration with VicTrack regarding key initiatives concerning rail land and assets. Together, these arterial road and rail initiatives will serve as catalysts for broader integrated public realm improvements in Wattle Glen – essential to the overall safety and connectivity, whilst retaining Wattle Glen's unique rural character.

Community Engagement

12. See section 'Community Engagement' for detail in regards to the conduct and results of this recent engagement, and **Attachments 3, 5 and 7** which include redacted written submissions, survey submissions and 'free form' survey content from survey submissions (consolidated). Note **Attachments 2, 4 and 6** (respectively) include the un-redacted versions of these documents and remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

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PCC.013/24 Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework Outcomes of Engagement

13. Given the timeframe in working with the Department of Transport and Planning through the Movement and Place Assessment (MAPA) to garner the Department's in principle support to acknowledge there are matters that need to be addressed at Wattle Glen, and the fact that such in- principle support would only be given to a very high level of strategic objectives and not a level of detail that would provide confidence of an 'on the ground' design/solution, (e.g. specific traffic calming infrastructure), the community's frustration, as anticipated, is evident through submissions to consultation.
14. Notwithstanding this frustration, the 'free form' responses to the survey, as evidenced at **Attachments 6 and 7**, demonstrate some submitters gained clarification after attending the face-to-face community information sessions with Council officers, and hearing that this was early 'broad' work and that future detail would be brought to the community for their view.
15. Notwithstanding the above, it is clear from both survey and written submissions that there are varied views amongst the Wattle Glen community as to what detailed solutions should be (notwithstanding that is not the purpose of the Framework – to provide this detail nor solutions as yet), however there is clearly a demonstrable desire for key matters to be resolved, particularly the safety of pedestrian access to Wattle Glen Station, the bus stop and further connectivity issues. Notably these key matters may only be resolved through partnering with the asset owners and responsible authorities (the Department of Transport and Planning /VicTrack).

Key sentiments

16. Key themes/sentiments that are apparent include:
 - a. Lack of detail provided in the draft Framework and the community wanting to see detail, with particular concern that Council has something designed that will be built without further consultation;
 - b. The long timeframe taken to reach this point (since the project's first round of engagement in 2021);
 - c. Lack of transparency on how the draft Framework would be implemented;
 - d. The understanding now, of the stage the draft Framework is at, and that solutions will come later, attained by attending the community information sessions held by Council, and the support for officers who presented at those community sessions noting they provided clarity;
 - e. No need for traffic lights – existing roundabout works;
 - f. Concern about connecting Wattle Glen to the Diamond Creek Trail and interaction of users;
 - g. Concern about the draft Framework trying to improve Wattle Glen's linkages to Diamond Creek, noting it is contrary to community sentiment that sees Wattle Glen as distinct from Diamond Creek;
 - h. Need for safe pedestrian linkages across Main Hurstbridge Road and to the Diamond Creek Trail (that includes consideration of reduction of speed, road treatments), although there is a clear divide in preferred solution - traffic lights/an additional roundabout;

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PCC.013/24 Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework Outcomes of Engagement

- i. The need for urgency in regard to the safety issue;
- j. Concern about any future infrastructure to facilitate safe pedestrian crossing of Main Hurstbridge Road or any infrastructure upgrades resulting in a proliferation of signage or other hard infrastructure solutions that will not be in keeping with the rural characteristics of Wattle Glen, noting the recent State government carpark development for the station has been raised as ‘an eye sore’ and not in keeping with the rural character of Wattle Glen;
- k. On the Wattle Glen Station carpark, commentary that it’s construction and lack of community input has resulted in a lack of trust by the community in regard to Council/government proposals;
- l. A lack of consideration/interest in Wattle Glen with too much emphasis given to Eltham and Diamond Creek communities;
- m. Concern Council is trying to make Wattle Glen more urban and add in development not in keeping with its rural nature as a way to raise revenue;
- n. Call for a second draft of the Framework to be prepared with detail so that residents can understand and comment on the detail which addresses and provides solutions for feedback given in 2021;
- o. Other infrastructure improvements/issues identified including:
 - i. Improvement to surface of bike lanes;
 - ii. Obvious and dangerous missing link is a pathway from Hurstbridge Main Road along Wilson Road to the Diamond Creek Trail. Every day people are walking or riding on a dangerous section of the road;
 - iii. Remove existing proliferation of signage at the roundabout;
 - iv. Limiting truck access along Reynolds Road;
 - v. Protection of the natural environment, native flora and fauna;
 - vi. A roundabout at corner of Mannish Road and Wilson Road;
 - vii. Purchasing land for open space/environment at Mannish Road to give back to the community;
 - viii. Upgrade of the ‘goats track’ between Lorimer Road and Reynolds Road to access the General Store/Tennis Courts/Train Station;
 - ix. Upgrade to Lorimer Road – surface is in very poor condition;
 - x. Traffic calming via roundabouts at the KG/Valley Road as well as the Mannish Road intersections.
 - xi. Slowing down the traffic coming into the community with roundabouts at Wilsons Road and Neerim Rise/Valley Road;
 - xii. Electronic signs for the new school zone on the Wattle Glen - Kangaroo Ground Rd would also help the 40 zone school sign coming into Wattle Glen;
 - xiii. Need for a petrol station and other commercial amenities including doctor/shops;

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- xiv. Upgrade playground/bbq area and new skatepark;
- xv. Walkers using Valley Road to access the Silvan Rd/Moonlight Rd/ Watery Gully Rd/ Flat Rock Rd area - Valley Rd has blind corners and is narrow - it's dangerous to have pedestrians, horse riders and motorists all using the road;
- xvi. Green Wedge trails are completely impassable near the corner of Watery Gully and Thorns Road due to not being maintained in any way since they were constructed. The original trails were not safe for horse riders due to being too narrow and having low hanging branches. Walkers and horse riders detour onto the road which is narrow and winding

Related Council decisions

- 17. Council endorsed the commencement of the first round of community engagement at its June 2021 Council Meeting
- 18. At the 16 November 2021 Planning and Consultation Committee meeting, it was resolved that the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) among other matters, noted the public response, and that a first draft of the Public Realm Framework Plan was scheduled to be presented to a Council meeting in early to mid-2022 with a view to Council endorsing it for public engagement.
- 19. Council endorsed the commencement of a second round of community engagement on the draft Framework at its May 2024 Council Meeting.

Options

- 20. Consider the submissions received to the draft Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework.
- 21. Consider (in context of submissions and the views within) implications, particularly that:
 - a. The Framework once adopted allows for partnership with the relevant State agencies in development of their assets to advance the aspirations of the Wattle Glen community, particularly with regard to safety and connectivity; and
 - b. The Wattle Glen community would be engaged in development of any future design/approach for future projects as aligned to the broader Framework which will denote a level of detail the community is anticipating to see.

Council plans and policies

- 22. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategies of the Movement and Place theme:
 - *We work to understand what residents, businesses and visitors need from modes of transport, to ensure that getting around is easy, accessible, safe and sustainable*
 - *We champion the notion of living locally; making it easier for people to meet most of their daily needs within the Shire*
 - *We facilitate the enjoyment of the Green Wedge by residents and visitors through the development and maintenance of shared trails*

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PCC.013/24 Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework Outcomes of Engagement

- *We continue to deliver on our road management responsibilities; working to enhance infrastructure that aligns with the character of the neighbourhood*
- *We prioritise and actively advocate for new and better public transport options and a reduction of private car use and dependence*
- *We work with our community, neighbouring councils and transport and planning agencies to advocate for improved transport solutions.*

Access, Equity and Inclusion

23. The project commenced before the introduction of requirements for the preparation of a Gender Impact Assessment, however in meeting relevant objectives of Council’s Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy, and as relevant to areas the project may influence with regard to such, the first round of community engagement in the project has been extensive, and was carefully designed to access as many stakeholder groups as possible. Future detailed projects as they stem from the adopted Framework will be prepared with Gender Impact Assessments and community engagement accordingly.

Sustainability implications

24. The project and the draft Framework respond directly to the climate emergency and seeks sustainable outcomes, especially by the prioritisation of safe and connected public realm infrastructure within Wattle Glen that can reduce car dependency and:

- reduce fossil fuel consumption;
- reduce motor vehicle-induced pollution;
- reduce risk of road accidents, and deaths;
- encourage human activity in everyday travel to combat obesity;
- remove wasted space and reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour and improve conditions for public life;
- support economic activity in the Shire through improved opportunities for visitation to Wattle Glen and surrounds; and
- enhance environmental values.

Community engagement

25. Refer 16 November 2021 Planning and Consultation Committee (PCC.031/21) for community engagement undertaken to date (the project’s first round of engagement). The themes established from the first round of community engagement that have directly informed the draft Framework, are:

- Wattle Glen’s rural character and natural and environmental setting are valued as the distinctive qualities of the township;
- a fundamental lack of connectivity among key points within the township; and
- unsafe conditions for travel, especially for non-motorists, among key points within the township.

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PCC.013/24 Wattle Glen Public Realm Framework Outcomes of Engagement

26. This recent engagement, consistent with the earlier engagement, was targeted at the Wattle Glen community and engagement ran for three weeks from 29th May to 18th June, and was supported by a number of communications and engagement including:
- a. Notification letter to land owners and occupiers of Wattle Glen and invitation to attend community information sessions;
 - b. Email notification to all submitters to the first round of engagement and invitation to attend community information sessions;
 - c. Two face-to-face community sessions held at the Wattle Glen Primary School on the evenings of the 6th and the 11th of June 2024, which enabled the community to ask officers questions and was attended by 50 residents in total;
 - d. Participate Nillumbik project webpage with on-line survey; and
 - e. Social media and other collateral to support exhibition.
27. In total 127 submissions were received to this recent consultation, including 120 survey submissions and seven written submissions. Note that the survey allowed for standard questions to be answered, but also contained free form sections to allow submitters to provide detail in regard to their survey responses and any additional feedback.
28. The Participate Nillumbik webpage generated 1,011 visits and 1,207 views from 779 people through this recent consultation, which resulted in 125 contributions from 107 contributors through the webpage. Refer to **Attachment 8** for the Consultation Overview Report, noting this report does not include review of the written submissions emailed to Council, rather, it provides an overview of the 125 contributions made through Participate Nillumbik.

Survey Results

29. The response to the three direct survey questions are summarised below:
- i. Support for the draft Framework’s key initiatives
 - 40% Yes
 - 43% No
 - 16% Somewhat
 - ii. Importance of the draft Framework’s key initiatives (0 – not important; 5 - most important)
 - 33% level 2 out of 5
 - 31% level 5 out of 5
 - 14% level 3 out of 5
 - 10% level 4 out of 5
 - 8% level 0 out of 5
 - 4% level 1 out of 5

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- iii. Urgency of developing solutions to the draft Framework's key initiatives (0 - not urgent; 5 - most urgent)
 - 35% level 2 out of 5
 - 35% level 5 out of 5
 - 13% level 4 out of 5
 - 9% level 0 out of 5
 - 4% level 1 out of 5
 - 4% level 3 out of 5

Innovation and continuous improvement

30. Not applicable

Collaboration

- 31. Collaboration with the Department of Transport and Planning and VicTrack has been on-going since the inception of the project in 2021.
- 32. The collaboration has confirmed the project's dependency on the Department of Transport and Planning and VicTrack for support in the development of initiatives concerning State land and assets of a public realm framework (as well as for further development and consultation of initiatives aligned to the framework in the future).

Budget considerations

- 33. Budget allocation has been made in the 2023-2024 Strategic Planning budget for the completion of the public realm framework.
- 34. On adoption of the Framework by Council, a Framework implementation plan would be developed by officers, which would outline the timeline and stages for the implementation of the Framework. This would include progressing funding and design of key improvements to State infrastructure, opportunities for future iterative community engagement on developing designs, and the identification of any opportunities for advancement of work that may be facilitated through recent grant funding awarded to Council.

Relevant law

35. Not applicable.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

36. The project and the draft Framework supports all relevant State and local planning policy.

Conflicts of interest

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

6. Officers' reports

PCC.014/24 Naming proposal for Civic Drive Precinct (Park)

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

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

Author: Natalie Campion, Coordinator Property

Summary

At its Council Meeting on 30 April 2024, Council endorsed the commencement of the public consultation process on the following naming proposals as required under Section 7 of the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria – 2022 (Naming Rules) and Council's Community Engagement Policy:

- a) The entire Civic Drive Precinct (Park) to be named 'Kirrip Park';
- b) The Building within the Civic Drive Precinct (Park) area to be named 'Kirrip Pavilion';
- c) The Outdoor Performance Area within the Civic Drive Precinct (Park) area to be named 'Kirrip Outdoor Performance Space';
- d) The Playground within the Civic Drive Precinct (Park) area to be named 'Kirrip Playspace'; and
- e) The Exercise / Flat Open Space Area within the Civic Drive Precinct (Park) area to be named 'Kirrip Recreation Space'.

Community consultation occurred on the above name proposals between 3 May 2024 to 2 June 2024.

204 submissions were received via Participate Nillumbik, four written submissions and one submission from Apollo Parkways Primary School with feedback from 32 children. All submissions are included in **Attachment 2 (redacted) and Attachment 3 (unredacted)**.

This report provides a summary of the feedback received from the community consultation process in response to the proposed naming of Civic Drive Precinct (Park) and other areas in the Park.

Submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to speak to their submission.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):



- 1. Acknowledges and notes the submissions received on the following naming proposals as required under Section 7 of the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria – 2022 (Naming Rules) and Council's Community Engagement Policy:
 - a) The entire Civic Drive Precinct (Park) to be named 'Kirrip Park';
 - b) The Building within the Civic Drive Precinct (Park) area to be named 'Kirrip Pavilion';

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PCC.014/24 Naming proposal for Civic Drive Precinct (Park)

- c) The Outdoor Performance Area within the Civic Drive Precinct (Park) area to be named 'Kirrip Outdoor Performance Space';
 - d) The Playground within the Civic Drive Precinct (Park) area to be named 'Kirrip Playspace'; and
 - e) The Exercise / Flat Open Space Area within the Civic Drive Precinct (Park) to be named 'Kirrip Recreation Space'
as shown in **Attachment 1**.
2. Acknowledges and notes the submissions received from the community in **Attachment 2 and Attachment 3** and any verbal presentations made to the Committee on the naming proposal for Civic Drive Precinct and other assets in the Park.
 3. Requests a further report be presented to Council on 27 August 2024 Council meeting to consider naming Civic Drive Precinct 'Kirrip Park' and the other areas within the park.
 4. Thanks submitters for providing Council with feedback on the naming proposal.
 5. Resolves the confidential un-redacted copy of the written submissions to the naming proposal (**Attachment 3**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Attachments

1.  Plan of Civic Drive Precinct - 'Kirrip Park'
2.  Submissions - redacted
3. Submissions - no redaction - *CONFIDENTIAL*

Discussion

1. Community engagement on the naming proposal commenced Friday 3 May 2024 and closed Sunday 2 June 2024.
2. On conclusion of the process, 204 submissions were received via Participate Nillumbik from 194 contributors, four written submissions and one submission from Apollo Parkways Primary School with feedback from 32 children. All submissions are included in **Attachment 2 (redacted)** and **Attachment 3 (unredacted)**.
3. Of the 204 submissions through Participate Nillumbik, 130 (63.73%) participants supported the name 'Kirrip Park' and 74 participants (36.27%) were not supportive of the name.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.014/24 Naming proposal for Civic Drive Precinct (Park)

4. The contribution summary from all submissions received:

Type of submissions	Support Name	Object to Name	General feedback /questions
Participate Nillumbik	130	74	
Written by email	2	1	1
Hardcopy – school	21	11	
Total	153	86	1

5. Submitters who did not support the name ‘Kirrip Park’ did so for the following reasons:

- a) Concerns that it is renaming the Park and Greensborough Outdoor Performance Area NSP
- b) Cost and replacement of signage
- c) Hard to pronounce and do not like the word ‘Kirrip’
- d) Does not adequately identify the area or match place, has no meaning to members of the Shire
- e) As a whole the Nation voted ‘No’ to the Voice yet Council is still moving towards direction of the ‘Yes’ vote
- f) Waste of ratepayers money on naming process and concerns about funds being spent on this process
- g) The aboriginal name ‘Kirrip’ is for minority of people, discriminates against others
- h) A few recommended English men names in connection with the area
- i) Concerns about name duplication in Wollert, South Melbourne and Whittlesea Shire
- j) Prefer the park be named Civic Drive Precinct or Civic Drive Park as many people currently refer to the park area.

6. Council also received feedback from two residents when community engagement commenced that the online survey through Participate Nillumbik was missing the age range bracket of 55-64. This was immediately rectified by Council’s Communication team.

7. Council officers have provided comments in response to the submissions which objected to the name ‘Kirrip Park’ in **Attachment 2**.

8. Council officers have reviewed the name to ensure compliance with the principles within the Naming Rules for places Victoria 2022. These include:

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.014/24 Naming proposal for Civic Drive Precinct (Park)

Principle	Officer Comment
Principle A - Ensuring public safety	At present this Park has no registered name with Geographic Place Names Victoria. Registered names ensure emergency services can locate the feature (park area).
Principle B - Recognising the public interest	The short and long term benefits are that a registered name will assist emergency services as well as recognise that the area is a public park for the community which includes a number of public assets.
Principle C - Linking the name to place	<p>This park already has artwork completed by Fiona Clarke which is on the Diamond Valley Sports Centre external wall. This art work is called 'Family and Future' (Past, Present and Future...emerging).</p> <p>The name 'Kirrip Park' suits the park area as it will be a meeting place for friends to use the playground, exercise equipment, tables and chairs and schools to use the open space for other activities.</p>
Principle D - Ensuring names are not duplicated	<p>Duplication is not allowed within the same locality or the following default distances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • metropolitan urban areas - 5 kilometre radius • regional urban areas - 15 kilometre radius • rural or remote areas, within a 30 kilometre radius <p>In this case the area in question is considered metropolitan so any instances of "Kirrip" outside the 5km radius are not be considered duplications.</p>
Principle E - Recognition and use of Traditional Owner languages	Approval has been received from Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal to use the name 'Kirrip Park'.
Principle F - Names must not discriminate or be offensive	The name is not considered to be derogatory or patently offensive, and it does not discriminate.
Principle G - Gender equality	The name is neutral and inclusive of all genders.
Principle H - Dual names	Not applicable to this naming proposal.
Principle I - Using commemorative names	Not applicable to this naming proposal.
Principle J - Using commercial and business names	Not applicable to this naming proposal.
Principle K - Language	Complies with all language requirements.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.014/24 Naming proposal for Civic Drive Precinct (Park)

Principle	Officer Comment
	Fairly easy to pronounce, spell and write, and does not exceed three words allowance.
Principle L - Directional names to be avoided	The names complies with this.
Principle M - Assigning extent to a road, feature or locality	The Plan shown in Attachment 1 – outlines the proposed areas. This was shown during the submission phase on Participate Nillumbik and mail out to residents.

9. Submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to speak to their submission.

Related Council decisions

10. Council resolved at the May 2016 Council Meeting:
- a) *That Council officers commence the detailed design process in consultation with the community and stakeholders in 2016-2017, subject to the adoption of the 2016-17 Budget. The detailed planning to include appropriate naming of the precinct after community consultation and retention of the existing Outdoor Performing Arts Centre with a view to using the building for multipurpose use, making the existing toilets public and a future upgrade of the building if further community consultation so wishes.*
 - b) *Refers the required planning scheme amendment to rezone the land at Civic Drive to Public Park and Recreation Zone to the budget process for 2017-2018 and receive a further report to seek authorisation to commence the amendment.*
11. On 15 August 2017, at the Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting, the Committee acknowledged key stakeholders and community members involvement in the development of the detailed concept plan and to commence construction on the open space south of the carpark abutting Greensborough Bypass.
12. On 29 October 2019, Council adopted the Planning Scheme Amendment C117, to rezone 15 parcels of land in Diamond Creek, Eltham, Greensborough, Hurstbridge and Research, the Civic Drive Precinct land shown in **Attachment 1** formed part of this Amendment and was rezoned Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) in February 2020.
13. At its Council Meeting on 30 April 2024, Council endorsed the commencement of the public consultation process on the proposed naming of Civic Drive Precinct (Park) to ‘Kirrip Park’, including naming the:
- a) Building ‘Kirrip Pavilion’;
 - b) Outdoor Performance Area ‘Kirrip Outdoor Performance Space’;
 - c) Playground ‘Kirrip Playspace’; and
 - d) Exercise / Flat Open Space Area ‘Kirrip Recreation Space’.

Options

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.014/24 Naming proposal for Civic Drive Precinct (Park)

14. The Planning and Consultation Committee notes the written submissions and any verbal submissions.
15. Officers will review the submissions and any verbal submissions before presenting the proposed naming of the Park and other assets in the Park for endorsement at the Council Meeting on 27 August 2024.

Council plans and policies

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

Access, Equity and Inclusion

17. The Naming Rules include Principle G - Gender equality, which states 'Gender equality in the naming of roads, features and localities is encouraged. When developing a naming proposal consideration should be given to gender equality'.
18. Proposed names must conform to the Principles in the Naming Rules.
19. The proposed name 'Kirrip' for the Park and other features complies with this principle as the name is neutral and inclusive of all genders.

Sustainability implications

20. Not applicable

Community engagement

21. Council must undertake a public consultation process on the proposed name as required under section 7 of the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria – 2022 (Naming Rules).
22. This is a key component in the process of naming roads, features and localities. Naming authorities typically consult the public on any naming proposal and must comply with the minimum requirements under Section 7.1, where relevant.
23. Section 7.1 of the Naming Rules include that consultation with the immediate and/or extended community must be a minimum of 30 days, though may be longer.
24. Community engagement on the naming proposal commenced Friday 3 May and closed Sunday 2 June 2024.
25. Consultation took the form of a survey on Council's Participate Nillumbik site.
26. The consultation was promoted through:
 - a) An email to targeted audience;
 - b) Public Notice on Council's website;
 - c) News release on website – explain Participate Nillumbik community engagement;
 - d) Social posts (where possible);
 - e) Letters to adjoining and nearby properties;
 - f) Letters and emails to the relevant Emergency Service Organisations; and
 - g) The ability to submit hard copy submissions if requested.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.014/24 Naming proposal for Civic Drive Precinct (Park)

27. Submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to speak to their submission.

Innovation and continuous improvement

28. The Naming Rules - Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities, was reviewed and updated to fulfil Geographic Names Victoria's requirement under the Geographic Place Names Act 1998 section 6 to review the 'guidelines' once every five years.
29. The Naming Rules were developed following consultation with municipal councils, government departments and emergency response and public service providers.
30. The Naming Rules focus on and support Traditional Owner languages and commemorative naming of places after women.
31. Council as a statutory naming authority must comply with the Naming Rules, which includes naming principles.

Collaboration

32. Internal consultation has occurred with Governance, Social Planning and Equity, Recreation and Community Infrastructure, Community Facilities, Environment and Sustainability, Environmental Works, Recreation and Leisure, Strategic Planning, and Spatial IT Business Analyst on the proposed name 'Kirrip Park' and the proposed names for the additional areas. All of the relevant teams supported the name proposal for the Park and areas within the Park.
33. Consultation and approval has been received from Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal to use the name 'Kirrip Park' and Geographic Names Victoria have provided informal in principle support for the use of the name.
34. Initial approval has also been received from Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal and GNV to name other areas within the Park 'Kirrip'.
35. The applicant has advised that the proposed names have been endorsed by the local community as represented by The Friends of Apollo Parkway.

Budget considerations

36. Naming request submitted to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal cost between \$350 to \$750 for word translation and approval. Should Council resolve at a later date to officially name the Civic Drive Precinct (Park) 'Kirrip Park' and Geographic Place Names approves the name, usage fees for ongoing use of a name will be \$3,500 plus GST.
37. Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal has confirmed that no additional charges will be incurred for officially naming the four areas within the Civic Drive Precinct (Park).
38. Costs associated with the naming proposal and community consultation process will be costed to the Governance and Property Department operational budget.
39. If the name is endorsed and registered with GNV, identification signage will be erected with the new name. Signage will be funded out of an existing sign budget.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.014/24 Naming proposal for Civic Drive Precinct (Park)

Relevant law

- 40. The Naming Rules for places in Victoria 2022, statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities are commonly referred to as the Naming Rules.
- 41. The Naming Rules uphold the guidelines in the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*. They are mandatory for naming authorities in Victoria.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

- 42. Not applicable

Conflicts of interest

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

6. Officers' reports

PCC.015/24 Draft Reconciliation Action Plan - submissions

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Corrienne Nichols, Director Communities

Author: Nichole Johnson, Manager Community Partnerships

Summary

This report notes the public submissions received from the community regarding the Draft Reconciliation Action Plan (*the draft RAP*) (**Attachment 1**).

The draft RAP was released for the purpose of public consultation at the Council meeting on 30 May 2024. Public consultation was undertaken from the 2 – 26 May 2024, seeking feedback on the draft RAP and RAP Vision Statement (**Attachment 1**).

The findings from this consultation are presented in the Community Engagement Findings Report (**Attachment 2**). Sixteen formal submissions were received on the draft RAP along with one email response. These are provided in the Public Submissions Report (**Attachment 3**) and in the confidential Un-redacted Public Submissions Report (**Attachment 4**).

An artwork titled Kulin Nation Dreaming (**Attachment 5**) created by Kinya Lerrk Kulin Nation Artists Emma Bamblett and Megan Van Den Berg will be the final designed version of the RAP. This artwork has been approved for use by Wurundjeri Elders.

Recommendation





That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Acknowledges and notes the submissions received on the draft RAP presented in the Community Engagement Findings Report (**Attachment 2**) and in the Public Submissions Report (**Attachment 3**).
2. Resolves that the confidential un-redacted public submissions on the Draft RAP (**Attachment 4**) remains confidential in accordance with section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
3. Acknowledges any presentations to the Committee.
4. Considers the matters contained in the submissions and this report during finalisation of the Draft RAP.
5. Requests a further report to be presented at the 27 August 2024 Council Meeting to adopt the final version of the Reconciliation Action Plan for submission to Reconciliation Australia.
6. Thanks the submitters for providing Council with feedback on this important document.
7. Notes the artwork (**Attachment 5**) that will be incorporated into the final designed version of the RAP.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.015/24 Draft Reconciliation Action Plan - submissions

Attachments

1.  Draft Reconciliation Action Plan
2.  Community Engagement Findings Report
3.  Public Submissions Report
4. Un-redacted Public Submissions Report - *CONFIDENTIAL*
5.  RAP Artwork

Discussion

1. In line with the Council Plan 2021-2025, Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to developing a RAP. A RAP is a formal commitment to support First Nations peoples' rights, culture, heritage, needs and aspirations.
2. Following a Cultural Reflections Survey conducted in 2020, it was recommended that Nillumbik Shire Council develop a *Reflect* RAP. This type of RAP has a 12 month lifespan and outlines steps to prepare the organisation for reconciliation initiatives in future RAPs.
3. Council's *Reflect* RAP will outline the shared approach Council will take to progress reconciliation and work alongside First Nations people in all Council services.
4. To oversee the development of the RAP, a RAP Working Group (RWG) was established, consisting of sixteen members including Wurundjeri Traditional Owners, First Nations community members, and key stakeholders from across Council and Nillumbik.
5. The RWG met twice in the RAP development phase and focused on reviewing and refining the draft RAP, developing the RAP Vision Statement, and planning Community Engagement activities.
6. Council undertook extensive phase 1 consultation in March - April 2023. The consultation sought community ideas on actions for inclusion in the RAP. The ideas were reviewed by the RWG, and incorporated into the draft RAP.
7. Suggestions from engagement and RWG that were beyond the scope of a *Reflect* RAP, have been listed in the Appendix at the end of the draft RAP (**Attachment 1**). This ensures they are not lost and can be considered in the development of future RAPs.
8. Phase 2 of community engagement was undertaken from the 2 – 26 May 2024. The aim of this round of community engagement was for the public to provide comment and feedback on the draft RAP and RAP Vision Statement (**Attachment 1**).
9. Detailed findings from community engagement are outlined in the Community Engagement Findings Report (**Attachment 2**) and in the Public Submissions Report (**Attachment 3 and 4**).

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.015/24 Draft Reconciliation Action Plan - submissions

10. The purpose of the consultation was to:
 - a. Provide the public with an opportunity to comment and offer feedback on the draft RAP and vision, rather than generating new ideas.
 - b. Outline agreement or concerns with the draft Reflect RAP vision and actions.
 - c. Highlight any major gaps in the vision or actions (these must relate to evidence-based needs that apply to more than one community group or individual).
 - d. Outline any key considerations for the implementation of the actions already identified in the plan.
11. Community engagement and high level outcomes for the draft RAP included:
 - 233 visits to Participate Nillumbik
 - 409 views of the Participate Nillumbik webpage
 - 49 downloads of the draft RAP
 - 16 submissions received via the Participate Nillumbik online survey. Most responses were supportive of the vision and actions. Where people disagreed with the vision and actions, they were generally unsupportive of Council undertaking any work in the reconciliation space.
 - One community feedback drop-in session held on 20 May 2024 at the Eltham Library from 10:00am – 1:00pm. 22 out of 24 people reached were supportive of the vision and actions.
 - Three Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Traditional Owners Woi-wurrung Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Corporation members were consulted. Traditional Owners were supportive of the draft RAP.
 - One formal submission received via email which was supportive of the draft RAP.
12. The RWG scheduled to meet on 4 June 2024 did not proceed as a quorum of 6 community members could not be met. As an alternative to meeting, RWG members were provided with an opportunity to provide feedback on public submissions and RAP collaterals. This feedback will be incorporated into future draft RAP revisions.
13. Recommendations from Council Officers and RWG members in response to submissions to the Draft RAP are provided on pages 10-13 of the Community Engagement Findings Report (**Attachment 2**).
14. Council commissioned Kinya Lerrk (Wemba Wemba for ‘women coming together’) Kulin Nation Artists (Wemba Wemba, Gunditjmara, Ngadjonji and Taungurung) and Megan Van Den Berg (Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung Yorta Yorta and Boon Wurrung) to develop artwork for the final RAP (**Attachment 5**).
15. The artwork titled Kulin Nation Dreaming depicts Bunjil and Waa (the wedge-tailed eagle and crow), the seasons, Elders, footprints and trees. The artwork was approved by Wurundjeri Elders Aunty Julieanne and Aunty Gail Smith at the Cultural Consultation meeting on 12 June 2024.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.015/24 Draft Reconciliation Action Plan - submissions

16. Graphic designer Reanna Bono of Yakuwa Designs (Wemba Wemba and Wiradjuri) has been contracted to develop the final designed version of the RAP incorporating the Kulin Nation Dreaming artwork.

Related Council decisions

17. In line with the Council Plan 2021-2025, Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).
18. On 30 April 2024 Council endorsed the Draft RAP actions and vision (**Attachment 1**) for the purpose of community consultation.

Options

19. Council officers and members of the RWG have reviewed the submissions outlined in the Community Engagement Findings Report (**Attachment 2**) and the Public Submissions Report (**Attachment 3 and 4**).
20. Note the RAP Artwork (**Attachment 5**) that will be incorporated into the final designed version of the RAP.
21. Following the Committee's consideration of submissions, the final RAP will be presented at the 27 August Council Meeting for adoption and submission to Reconciliation Australia.

Council plans and policies

22. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategy:
- We actively work towards reconciliation and the process of healing with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and recognise them as the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways of Nillumbik.
 - We protect Aboriginal cultural heritage; through building trust, education and celebration, we stand with First Nations people respecting their unique place in our Nation.

Access, Equity and Inclusion

23. The RAP directly aligns with the Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy principals, commitment and priority groups. Implementing the RAP will improve access, equitability and inclusion for First Nations people.
24. Recommendations from the Gender Impact Assessment undertaken in February 2023 were considered prior to round 2 of community engagement.

Sustainability implications

25. Care of Country has been considered, discussed and incorporated into the RAP deliverables, this approach responds to aspects of sustainability.

Community engagement

26. Community engagement seeking feedback on the draft RAP and Vision Statement (**Attachment 1**) was undertaken from the 2 - 26 May. Outcomes are included in the Community Engagement Findings report (**Attachment 2**) and in the Public Submissions Report (**Attachment 3 and 4**).

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.015/24 Draft Reconciliation Action Plan - submissions

Innovation and continuous improvement

27. The RAP provides numerous opportunities for innovation and continuous improvement, particularly within the Human Resources, Procurement and Communications spaces.

Collaboration

28. Council Officers participate in the LG Pro Special Interest Group: Reconciliation. This provides an opportunity to collaborate and share with local Councils across Victoria.

Budget considerations

29. Costs associated with the development of the Nillumbik *Reflect* RAP have been accounted for within the operational budget.

Relevant law

30. Not applicable.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

31. *Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy 2021-2026.*

Conflicts of interest

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

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.015/24 Draft Reconciliation Action Plan - submissions

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6. Officers' reports

PCC.016/24 Proposed Road Deviation - Part of Simpson Road and Ridge Road, Christmas Hills

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

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

Author: Natalie Campion, Coordinator Property

Summary

At the Council meeting on 30 April 2024, Council considered Melbourne Water Corporations (MWC) request to complete a road deviation for part of Simpsons Road and Ridge Road in Christmas Hills so that the titles are consistent with the location of Simpson Road and Ridge Road as constructed, refer to **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2**.

Council resolved to give public notice of the proposed Road Deviation pursuant to section 207A and 223 of the 1989 Act on 20 May 2024, inviting submissions in accordance with section 223 of the 1989 Act. Submissions closed on 16 June 2024.

This report is to consider any submissions received in respect of the proposed Road Deviation and Land Transfer of part of Ridge Road and Simpson Road, Christmas Hills (Road).




Council received no written submissions on the proposed road deviation.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. acknowledges and notes that no written submissions have been received in respect of the proposed road deviation of part of Simpson Road and Ridge Road, Christmas Hills and subsequent transfer of the former road to Melbourne Water Corporation as shown on the plan contained in **Attachment 3** to this report.
2. receives a further report at the 27 August 2024 Council Meeting following the completion of the procedures required under clause 2 of Schedule 10 and 207A and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, prior to making a final decision on whether to proceed with the proposed road deviation and land transfers to Melbourne Water Corporation (MWC).

Attachments

- 1  Aerial Plan of part of Ridge Road and Simpson Road, Christmas Hills
- 2  Proposed Title Plan - Ridge Road and Simpson Road, Christmas Hills
- 3  Proposed Road Exchange Plan - Ridge Road and Simpson Road, Christmas Hills

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.016/24 Proposed Road Deviation - Part of Simpson Road and Ridge Road, Christmas Hills

Discussion

1. Following Council’s resolution at the April Council meeting to give public notice of the proposed Road Deviation pursuant to 207A and 223 of the 1989 Act, a public notice was published in the Herald Sun on 20 May 2024 inviting submissions on the proposal in accordance with section 223 of the 1989 Act.
2. The closing date for submissions on the proposed Road Deviation was Sunday 16 June 2024, being 28 days from the date the public notice was published.
3. On conclusion of the public notice process, Council received no submissions to the Proposal.
4. The Proposal will regularise the existing constructed road alignment on title and will assist in the land to the north of Ridge Road being transferred to DEECA for future management by Parks Victoria. It will not change the existing constructed road alignment.
5. Council has the power to complete the Road Deviation under clause 2 of Schedule 10 of the (1989 Act), and the Land Transfers under section 116 of the (2020 Act), subject to Council complying with its obligations under section 223 of the 1989 Act in respect of the Road Deviation proposal. The two proposals can be considered concurrently by Council.

Related Council decisions

6. The following was resolved by Council at its 30 April 2024 Council Meeting:

That Council:

1. *Resolves to commence the statutory procedures with respect to the proposed road deviation of part of Simpson Road and Ridge Road, Christmas Hills (Road) which comprises the following:*
 - a) *discontinuing that part of the Road shown as Lot 5 and cross-hatched on the plan contained in Attachment 3 to this report (Unused Road); and*
 - b) *deviate the Road shown as Lot 4 and hatched on the plan contained in Attachment 3 to this report, being part of the land contained in certificates of title volume 8222 folio 900, volume 8480 folio 275 and volume 8480 folio 278, which is registered in the name of Melbourne Water Corporation (MWC) (Constructed Road),*

(together the Road Deviation) under clause 2 of Schedule 10 and sections 206, 207 and 223 of the (1989 Act); and
2. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:*
 - a) *give public notice of the proposed Road Deviation pursuant to 207A and 223 of the 1989 Act;*
 - b) *the public notice will note that the proposed Road Deviation is subject to Council obtaining the consent of the Minister for the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (Minister) to the proposed Road Deviation pursuant to clause 2(2) of Schedule 10 of the 1989 Act; and*

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.016/24 Proposed Road Deviation - Part of Simpson Road and Ridge Road, Christmas Hills

- c) *undertake the administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 223 of the 1989 Act in relation to this matter; and*
 3. *Considers any public submissions received in respect of the proposed Road Deviation and Land Transfers at the Planning and Consultation Committee (PCC) meeting on 16 July 2024.*

Options

7. The Planning and Consultation Committee notes that no written submissions have been received on the proposed road deviation proposal.
8. Officers will provide a further report at the 27 August 2024 Council Meeting for Council to consider and make a final decision on whether to proceed with the proposed Road Deviation and Land Transfers with MWC.

Council plans and policies

9. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategy:
 - We maintain good governance and transparency; clearly defining and communicating the role of Councillors and Council.

Access, Equity and Inclusion

10. Not applicable.

Sustainability implications

11. DEECA has advised MWC that the road alignment and title boundaries need to be regularised prior to the land to the north of Ridge Road being transferred to DEECA for future management by Parks Victoria.
12. The proposal under the Planning Scheme Amendment is to rezone the land surrounding Old Simpson Road and Simpson Road to 'Public Conversation and Resource Zone'. Basically this means that the intended future use will be Crown land and form part of the 'Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conversation Reserve'.

Community engagement

13. Council must give public notice of the Road Deviation, pursuant to section 207A of the 1989 Act and consider any submissions received in respect of the proposal, pursuant to section 223 of the 1989 Act.
14. Under 223 of the 1989 Act, Council must publish a public notice and allow 28 days for submissions to be received. Any person making a submissions is entitled to request in the submission that they wish to be heard in support of the submission.
15. A public notice was placed in the Herald Sun on the 20 May 2024 advising of the proposed Road Deviation and Land Transfers with MWC, and inviting submissions on the proposal.
16. The closing date for submissions on the proposed Road Deviation was Sunday 16 June 2024, being 28 days from the date the public notice was placed.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.016/24 Proposed Road Deviation - Part of Simpson Road and Ridge Road, Christmas Hills

17. Letters were also sent to adjoining and nearby properties to Ridge Road and Simpsons Road, Christmas Hills.
18. The public notice was also placed on Council's website under the 'Public Notices' section.
19. The public was able to contact Council's Property team to discuss the proposed Road Deviation. During the consultation period Council officers received two enquiries seeking further clarity on the Road Deviation proposal and confirmation that the proposal did not involve a new road being constructed or a change in the alignment of the Constructed Road. Following the response from Council's officers, no written submission or request to be heard was received by Council.

Innovation and continuous improvement

20. Not applicable.

Collaboration

21. Council Officers have been working with MWC on the proposed Road Deviation and Land Transfers, which will benefit both organisations in essentially regularising the road boundaries on title.
22. This road deviation also forms part of MWC's planning scheme amendment and transfer of some land parcels to the Crown.
23. Internal consultation has occurred with Traffic and Transport, Strategic Planning, Assets, and Roads, Drains and Cleansing teams, which all have no objections to the road deviation provided that access arrangements and maintenance responsibilities for the end road user remain unchanged from existing conditions.

Budget considerations

24. MWC has advised Council that they will reimburse Council \$5,000 plus GST to cover Council's expenses related to the road deviation. Additionally, Melbourne Water will cover any additional disbursements, encompassing costs such as public notices, Government Gazette notices, Land Use Victoria registration fees for the title application, survey expenses, and all stamp duty fees associated with the transfer of the Unused Road to Melbourne Water.
25. Any relevant costs which should be paid by Council in relation to the matter will be paid through Governance and Property's operational budget.

Relevant law

26. Section 206 and Schedule 10 of the 1989 Act provides powers to a Council in relation to roads in its municipal district.
27. The statutory procedures to carry out the Road Deviation are pursuant to clause 2 of Schedule 10 and sections 206, 207 and 223 of the 1989 Act.
28. Council must obtain the Minister's consent to the proposal under clause 2(2) of Schedule 10 of the 1989 Act.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.016/24 Proposed Road Deviation - Part of Simpson Road and Ridge Road, Christmas Hills

Regional, state and national plans and policies

29. Victorian Government agencies, which includes Melbourne Water Corporation must comply with the Victorian Government Land Transactions Policy dated April 2022 in respect of its land dealings, including obtaining approval of the Victorian Government Land Monitor (VGLM) to certain transactions.

Conflicts of interest

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

6. Consultation Matters

**PCC.016/24 Proposed Road Deviation - Part of Simpson Road and Ridge Road,
Christmas Hills**

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