

Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

to be held at the Council Chamber, 32 Civic Drive, Greensborough
on Tuesday 12 August 2025 commencing at 7:00 PM.

Agenda

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

Thursday 7 August 2025

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 Peter Perkins
Ellis Ward
**(Chairperson
Planning
Matters)**

Cr Kelly Joy
Edendale Ward

Cr Naomi Joiner
Bunjil Ward
(Deputy Mayor)

Cr Kim Cope
Sugarloaf Ward

Cr Kate McKay
Swipers Gully Ward

Cr John Dumaresq
(Mayor)
Wingrove Ward

Katia Croce
Manager
Governance and
Property

Sally Johnson
Acting Director
Governance,
Communications
and Community
Safety

Cr Grant Brooker
Blue Lake Ward
**(Chairperson
Consultation Matters)**

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive
Officer

Nillumbik Shire Council

Contents

1. Welcome by the Chair	1
2. Acknowledgement of Country	1
3. Apologies/Leave of Absence	1
4. Declarations of conflict of interest	1
5. Confirmation of Minutes	3
COM.001/25 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 8 July 2025	3
6. Officers' reports	5
Consultation Matters	
PCC.010/25 Indara Corporation P/L lease proposal for Optus telecommunications infrastructure at Eltham Lower Park	5
PCC.011/25 Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 - Submissions	15
PCC.012/25 Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 - Public Submissions	21
PCC.013/25 Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 and Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035 - Submissions	27
PCC.014/25 MAV State Council Meeting - Endorsement of Nillumbik Shire Council Motions	33
7. Supplementary and urgent business	39
8. Confidential reports	39
9. Close of Meeting	39

Nillumbik Shire Council

**Agenda of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting to be held
Tuesday 12 August 2025 commencing at 7:00 PM.**

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.

THIS PAGE WAS LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

5. Confirmation of Minutes


COM.001/25 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 8 July 2025

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8 July 2025.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) confirms the Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8 July 2025 (**Attachment 1**).

Attachments

- 1  Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8 July 2025

5. Confirmation of Minutes

**COM.001/25 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee
Meeting held Tuesday 8 July 2025**

THIS PAGE WAS LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

6. Officers' reports

PCC.010/25 Indara Corporation P/L lease proposal for Optus telecommunications infrastructure at Eltham Lower Park

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

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

Author: Katia Croce, Manager Governance and Property

Summary

At its Council Meeting on 27 May 2025, Council resolved to commence the statutory procedures in accordance with section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), to undertake a community engagement process in accordance with the Council's community engagement policy in respect to the proposal to enter into a lease with Indara Corporation Pty Ltd for part of the land at 570-576 Main Road, Eltham known as Eltham Lower Park shown on the Plan in **Attachment 1**, on the following terms and conditions:

- a) **Term of lease:** 10 years, with one further term of 10 years.
- b) **Rent amount:** \$25,000 per annum plus GST.
- c) **Rent review:** Fixed 3 percent (3%) per annum increase on the anniversary of the commencement date for 10 years, then a market rental review at the end of the first 10 year period.
- d) **Permitted Use:** To construct, maintain and operate a communications facility including but not limited to installing, inspecting, constructing, storing, operating, repairing, maintaining, altering, upgrading and replacing the Tenant's equipment, in accordance with any applicable planning permit.
- e) **Tenant's outgoings:** All outgoings including but not limited to; structure and maintenance of all the Tenant's assets on the leased land, building and public liability insurance, utility supply and usage charges, and reinstatement of land at end of the lease.
- f) **Relevant approvals received:** Ministerial Approval from the Minister or their delegate responsible for the Crown Land (*Reserves Act*) 1978 must be received on the proposed lease terms and conditions (Grant and Purpose Approval) and then the final agreement (terms and conditions approval), as Council is the Committee of Management for the land. The Tenant must also receive any other relevant approvals including but not limited to planning permit approvals.

Community consultation occurred between Friday 30 May to Sunday 22 June 2025.

This report provides a summary of the feedback received from the community consultation process in response to the lease proposal with Indara Corporation Pty Ltd (Indara) at Eltham Lower Park.

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

6. Consultation Matters





PCC.010/25 Indara Corporation P/L lease proposal for Optus telecommunications infrastructure at Eltham Lower Park

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Acknowledges and notes the submissions received from the community in **Attachment 2 (redacted) and Attachment 3 (unredacted)** and any verbal presentations made to the Committee on the lease proposal with Indara Corporation Pty Ltd for telecommunications infrastructure at Eltham Lower Park.
2. Requests a further report be presented to Council on 30 September 2025 to make a final decision on whether to proceed with the lease proposal.
3. Thanks submitters for providing Council with feedback on the lease proposal.
4. Resolves the confidential un-redacted copy of the written submissions to the lease 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  Indara Proposed Lease Plan
- 2  Submissions - redacted
3. Submissions - unredacted - *CONFIDENTIAL*
- 4  Existing Sites and Coverage of Proposed Tower
- 5  Factsheet - Mobile Telephones Base Stations

Discussion

1. Community engagement on the Indara Corporation P/L lease proposal for Optus telecommunications infrastructure at Eltham Lower Park occurred between Friday 30 May to Sunday 22 June 2025.
2. On conclusion of the process, 63 submissions were received via Participate Nillumbik from 594 visitors to the webpage, and three written submissions.
3. Two further written submissions (written submission No.4 and No.5) were provided as additional material to the submitters Participate Nillumbik submission.
4. All submissions are included in **Attachment 2 (redacted) and Attachment 3 (unredacted)**.
5. Of the 63 submissions through Participate Nillumbik, 25 (39.68%) participants supported the lease proposal, 35 participants (55.56%) were not supportive of the lease proposal and 3 (4.76%) were unsure. Two out of the three written submissions supported the lease proposal.

6. Consultation Matters**PCC.010/25 Indara Corporation P/L lease proposal for Optus telecommunications infrastructure at Eltham Lower Park****6. The contribution summary from all submissions received:**

Type of submissions	Support Proposal	Object to Proposal	Unsure
Participate Nillumbik	25	35	3
Submitted by email (Written submissions)	2	1	0
Total	27 (40.9%)	36 (54.56%)	3 (4.54%)

7. Submitters via Participate Nillumbik indicated that 29 of the submitters had struggled with poor internet and mobile connectivity and 31 of submitters reported that they had no concerns.
8. Submitters who did not support the lease proposal did so for the following reasons:
- Intrusive and damaging to natural surrounds
 - Concerns of electromagnetic energy emitted to animals and humans
 - Infrastructure doesn't belong in area where people, especially children play sports, picnic or use the playgrounds, as well as close to Hohnes Road Playhouse
 - Unsightly tower which destroys visual landscape and feel of Eltham Lower Park
 - This proposed tower is too close to a nationally threatened Eltham Copper Butterfly population in Hohnes Hill Reserve, and Lenister Wetlands the junction of Yarra River and Diamond Creek, which is home to native animals
 - Scientific evidence that electromagnetic radiation, including frequencies used in 5G technology, may negatively affect insects
 - This infrastructure will only improve reception for Optus, when Telstra also has issues in the area. Don't want more antennas in the area, when only one is needed
 - Not in best interest of people, more about shareholders profits before well-being
 - Consider different location within the Park
 - Sufficient phone coverage already, insufficient detail regarding black spot area.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.010/25 Indara Corporation P/L lease proposal for Optus telecommunications infrastructure at Eltham Lower Park

9. Two clubs utilise the pavilion and oval regularly which are Lower Eltham Cricket Club and Eltham Lacrosse Club. Lower Eltham Cricket Club did not have any objections to the tower, but did question the location near the pavilion and whether it could possibly be near the cricket nets; and the Eltham Lacrosse Club only raised concerns about the affect during installation on the facility and grounds and questioned when installation would occur.
10. Officers have addressed a number of concerns raised by submitters below under Sustainability Implications.
11. Submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to speak to their submission.

Related Council decisions

12. At its Council Meeting on 27 May 2025, Council resolved to commence the statutory procedures in accordance with section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), to undertake a community engagement process in accordance with the Council's Community Engagement Policy in respect to the proposal to enter into a lease with Indara Corporation Pty Ltd for part of the land at 570-576 Main Road, Eltham known as Eltham Lower Park.

Options

13. The Planning and Consultation Committee notes the submissions in **Attachment 2** and **3** and any verbal submissions.
14. Officers will review the submissions and any verbal submissions before presenting a further report to the Council Meeting on 30 September 2025 to make a final decision on whether or not it will enter into a lease with Indara Corporation.

Council plans and policies

15. 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

16. Not applicable.

Sustainability implications

17. During the community consultation period following concerns raised by community about the Eltham Copper Butterfly, Council's Environmental Works and Land Management team provided a summary of feedback from an environmental perspective.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.010/25 Indara Corporation P/L lease proposal for Optus telecommunications infrastructure at Eltham Lower Park

-
18. It is recommended that the applicant consider a response in its application for the proposed infrastructure taking into account the following environmental considerations:
- a) Concerns were raised that the existing sports field light currently only comes on during certain times e.g. winter nights when there is an activity going on at the oval and that the new lights will be on all the time potentially affecting the population of the ECB species at Hohnes Hill. Eltham Lower Park and adjacent Hohnes Hill Reserve have high biodiversity values, including nationally threatened flora and fauna (including presence of the Nationally Critically Endangered Matted Flax-lily within 100m of the proposal, Connectivity to the Birrarung (Yarra River) and Diamond Creek habitat corridors.)
 - b) The proposal may impact endangered species (e.g., Matted Flax-lily, Swift Parrot, Eltham Copper Butterfly, Clover Glycine) and native vegetation.
 - c) The proposal may trigger Commonwealth and State environmental legislation (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act*, Native Vegetation Regulations).
 - d) Consideration of potential tree canopy loss and options to retain tree canopy where appropriate.

Officer comment on telecommunications infrastructure and impact to Eltham Lower Park:

- 19. The proposed monopole infrastructure will have minimal ground impact on the land as it is being swapped over for existing sporting oval light pole, however some vegetation may need to be removed where the equipment cabinet is to be located.
- 20. Planning have reviewed the proposed plan provided by Downer and advised by virtue of Clause 52.19 -1 of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme a planning permit will be required as the cabin and light pole are located within an Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO1) and cannot be determined as a low impact facility as specified in the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018* (Cth).
- 21. The removal or trimming of existing trees is only noted on the proposed (draft) plans (**Attachment 1**) as "TBC", however Council would require an assessment of the trees impacted to understand whether there are any planning permit requirements for the tree works. Planning permission may be required under the ESO1 and Clause 52.17 (Native Vegetation) planning controls.
- 22. When Downer apply for a planning application the requirement to advertise the application is normally determined by the planning officer after a site inspection in terms of whether there would be any loss of amenity by the installation of the tower. Based on the plans provided by Downer it is likely that Planning would advertise the application as it will be located in a public area.
- 23. Downer have been requested to complete a pre-application meeting so that their proposed plans can be discussed with a Planner. Through this process, it is recommended that the applicant have regard to addressing the environmental feedback noted above.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.010/25 Indara Corporation P/L lease proposal for Optus telecommunications infrastructure at Eltham Lower Park

-
24. DEECA also needs to provide Land Owner Consent to any proposed works before the works are undertaken within Eltham Lower Park. The proposed works are assessed by DEECA Environmental Planning Area.
 25. Indara's proposed plan does not increase lighting in the area, it only reinstates the existing sports field lighting to the monopole. This light would only come on at the existing times with the other sports field lights.
 26. The lease is subject to Indara receiving any applicable planning approvals for the new telecommunications infrastructure, as well as DEECA landowner consent.

Downer's response to black spot and colocation by Telstra:

27. Downer have advised that Indara are aware that Telstra is also looking into a new proposal in the area which would indicate they also have issues with coverage in this same area. **Attachment 4** shows existing nearby towers and the carriers.
28. Telecommunication carriers can and do commonly share structures. In this case Indara are a neutral host and offer colocation opportunities to all telco carriers. For this particular site Telstra have approached Indara for the feasibility of Telstra co-locating and the structure will be designed to hold both Optus and Telstra if Telstra do intend on co-locating.
29. The plan shown on page 3 of **Attachment 4**, shows the "black spot" areas where there is lack of Optus signal in the area and how this will increase with the new telecommunication infrastructure.

Downer's response around potential effects of radiation to humans and insects

30. Telecommunication facilities are bound by the rules that Australian regulatory agency ARPANSA (Australian Radiation Protection & Nuclear Safety Agency) set. The ARPANSA RF Standard is intended for protecting humans against the known harmful effects of exposure to RF EME and does not specifically consider protection of flora and fauna in its principles. However, existing studies on the effects of the low-level RF EME exposure on plants and animals indicate that the exposure limits set within the Standard are adequate in providing protection to the environment. Refer to: <https://www.arpansa.gov.au/regulation-and-licensing/regulatory-publications/radiation-protection-series/codes-and-standards/rpss-1-qa#the-environment-animals-and-plants>.
31. Telecommunications towers generally have a minimal impact on wildlife, particularly when they are carefully planned and sited to avoid environmental risks. These facilities typically require a small footprint, causing limited land disturbance and reducing disruption to wildlife habitats. By placing them on previously disturbed land or near existing infrastructure, such as buildings, the need for land clearing is minimised, ensuring that larger areas of native vegetation or wildlife corridors remain intact.
32. Downer has provided the attached Factsheet on Mobile Telephone Base Stations and Health to support their infrastructure in this public area, refer to **Attachment 5**.

Officer comment in response to considering other site options:

33. Downer approached multiple other candidates before proceeding with this location, including two in Bolton Street shops and a few locations within Eltham Lower Park.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.010/25 Indara Corporation P/L lease proposal for Optus telecommunications infrastructure at Eltham Lower Park

-
- 34. As the telecommunications cabin needs to be close to the telecommunications monopole, this had to be taken into account when considering which light pole around the oval was most suitable.
 - 35. Downer approached Council with a few other options within Eltham Lower Park, however these areas were not feasible following assessment by Council officers and Downer representatives for a number of reasons, including the impact to other areas within the park (including oval, cricket nets, car parking, more impact to vegetation) and more underground wiring across further distances within the park (easements) which could cause more long term problems and ground disturbance.

Officer comment in response to rental amount and reviews:

- 36. There is no legal requirement for Council to obtain a market rental valuation prior to granting a lease of Council owned or managed premises under the *Local Government Act 2020*, however Council's practice in negotiating commercial leases is to engage a qualified external valuer to assess and complete a formal market rental valuation prior to commencing negotiations on key lease terms and conditions.
- 37. Council considers the Local Government Best Practice Guidelines for the Sale and Exchange of Land dated June 2009, which extends to cover leasing.
- 38. Council's external valuer, Matheson Stephen Valuations (MSV) has completed an assessment of the market rent for this lease proposal and confirmed by a certificate of valuation that the market rent is \$25,000 net of GST and outgoings, this takes into account the above and underground infrastructure connecting the site to the main road; and Eltham is a prime location.
- 39. MSV advised that there is not enough evidence of rent increasing due to colocation for them to provide a market rental fee in the event that Indara have more than one carrier (Optus & Telstra etc) utilising their infrastructure. Under the lease Indara will be responsible for all infrastructure, compliance, maintenance and upgrades. The way in which they manage colocation is ultimately their responsibility.
- 40. MSV considered similar lease proposals and existing leases for similar infrastructure on public land managed by Victorian Councils, including Yarra Ranges and Merri-bek.
- 41. As Council manages the Land on behalf of DEECA, Council is obligated to complete market valuations for commercial tenants to determine the market rent.
- 42. Council's lawyers have advised that LGPro's position was that Tenants can bring on carriers (Telstra, Optus etc) without Landlord consent and uplift in rent. Council still however has the option to consider negotiating a lease with an uplift in rent if more than one carrier, although this maybe a difficult to negotiate given that it is becoming less common practice.

Community engagement

- 43. The leasing of Council land is subject to the requirements of Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, which requires Council to undertake a community engagement process in accordance with the Council's community engagement policy in respect of the lease proposal if the proposed lease is over 10 years or the rent is over \$100,000 per annum.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.010/25 Indara Corporation P/L lease proposal for Optus telecommunications infrastructure at Eltham Lower Park

44. As this lease proposal involves new telecommunications infrastructure on public land, it is appropriate for Council to engage with its community on the matter.
45. Community engagement on the leasing proposal commenced Friday 30 May to Sunday 22 June 2025.
46. Consultation took the form of a survey on Council's Participate Nillumbik site <https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au>.
47. The consultation was promoted through:
 - a) Notice and survey on Participate Nillumbik - Have your say on the lease proposal;
 - b) News release on website – explain Participate Nillumbik community engagement;
 - c) E-News – June 2025 publication;
 - d) Email with letter to Eltham Lower Park tenants and sports clubs (Eltham Lower Park Pavilion and Oval);
 - e) Letters to adjoining and nearby properties; and
 - f) The ability to submit hard copy submissions if requested.
48. Submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to speak to their submission.

Innovation and continuous improvement

49. Council has committed through the Green Wedge Management Plan 2019 to advocate for improved internet access and mobile phone coverage. This proposal provides an opportunity for Council to improve coverage for residents, businesses and emergency services within Eltham.

Collaboration

50. Internal consultation has been completed with a number of teams and feedback was provided by Recreation and Leisure, Amenities, Traffic and Transport, Capital Works and Strategic Planning. These areas of Council preferred that if telecommunications infrastructure is to be erected in Eltham Lower Park it is located as indicated in **Attachment 1**. Council's Environmental teams have provided further feedback which is outlined above.
51. Communications and Economic Development & Tourism have previously completed work and community engagement on black spot areas within the Shire, which supports this lease proposal in Eltham.

Budget considerations

52. Costs associated with the lease proposal have been accounted for in the Governance and Property Department operational budget.
53. There will be legal costs associated with negotiating a lease with Indara Corporation, however Council Officers will request as part of the lease terms and conditions that Indara pay Council's legal fees of \$3,000 plus GST.
54. Council will receive \$25,000 per annum income from the lease, with 3% increases annually.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.010/25 Indara Corporation P/L lease proposal for Optus telecommunications infrastructure at Eltham Lower Park

Relevant law

55. Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, states that a Council must include any proposal to lease land in a financial year in the budget, where the lease is—
 - (a) or one year or more and—
 - (i) the rent for any period of the lease is \$100 000 or more a year; or
 - (ii) the current market rental value of the land is \$100 000 or more a year; or
 - (b) for 10 years or more.
56. If a Council proposes to lease land that is subject to any of the points above and that was not included as a proposal in the budget, the Council must undertake a community engagement process in accordance with the Council's community engagement policy in respect of the proposal before entering into the lease.
57. The *Crown Land Reserves Act 1978* (the Crown Land Act) enables reservation of land for a range of public purposes, stipulates how reserved land must be dealt with and prescribes some governance arrangements for committees of management appointed to manage reserved land.
58. The leasing provisions in the Crown Land Act are used to authorise a wide range of leases for commercial and non-commercial purposes on reserved Crown land.
59. Section 17D of the Crown Land Act provides that trustees or committees of management with the approval in writing of the Minister may enter into an Agreement to Lease.
60. Indara is not a licensed carrier under the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and therefore has no legal right to occupy land without a lease (or other agreement) with Council. However, it is important to note that under Schedule 3 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*, licensed telecommunication carriers (for Low Impact Facilities) have the right to enter onto Land, including public land, for the following purposes:
 - a) To inspect the land, to determine whether the land is suitable for the carrier's purposes;
 - b) To install a facility on the land; and
 - c) To maintain facilities situated on the land.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

61. The Victorian Government is fast-tracking better mobile coverage and broadband across the state through the \$550 million *Connecting Victoria* program. Together with our co-partnerships with telecommunications providers, they announced locations to receive upgrades or new infrastructure throughout 2022.
62. The Eltham Lower Park site has now been proposed by Optus for Connecting Victoria funding.

Conflicts of interest

63. 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.010/25 Indara Corporation P/L lease proposal for Optus telecommunications infrastructure at Eltham Lower Park

THIS PAGE WAS LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

6. Officers' reports**PCC.011/25 Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 - Submissions**

Item: Consultation Matter**Distribution: Public****Manager: Jeremy Livingston, Director Culture and Performance****Author: Craig King, Manager Customer Experience and Business Performance****Summary**

This report notes the submissions received from the community regarding the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 (Draft Plan).

The Council Plan is the Council's primary strategic document for its four-year term and is the elected Council's statement of its priorities for the Nillumbik community. The Council Plan is a requirement under section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and must be adopted by Council before 31 October 2025.

The Draft Plan has been informed by both broad and deliberative community engagement. This included the Nillumbik Now and Beyond campaign in February and March 2025, which featured surveys and pop-up sessions across the Shire to gather a wide range of community perspectives. This was followed by a two-day Community Forum in May 2025, where a representative group of 20 residents explored key themes and priorities in greater depth. Development of the Draft Plan was also informed by a series of workshops with Councillors.

The community feedback also identified strong support for the existing Community Vision, which is proposed to remain unchanged.

The Draft Plan (**Attachment 1**) was released for the purposes of public consultation at the Council Meeting on 17 June 2025. It was exhibited for three weeks, and 16 submissions were received (**Attachment 2**).

It is recommended that the Committee notes the submission on the Draft Plan, before finalising the documents and presenting it to Council for adoption at the Council Meeting on 30 September 2025.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):



1. Acknowledges and notes the submissions received from community members and groups who provided feedback on the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 (**Attachment 2**).
2. Acknowledges the presentations to the Committee.
3. Considers the matters contained in the submissions and this report during finalisation of the draft Council Plan 2025-2029.
4. Requests a further report to be presented at the September 2025 Council Meeting to adopt the final version of the Council Plan 2025-2029.
5. Thanks the submitters for providing Council with feedback on this important document.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.011/25 Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 - Submissions

6. Resolves the confidential un-redacted copy of the written submissions to the **Draft Council Plan (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  Draft Council Plan 2025-2029
- 2  Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 - Redacted submissions
3. Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 - Submissions - *CONFIDENTIAL*

Discussion

1. The *Local Government Act 2020* (section 90) requires all Victorian councils to prepare a Council Plan for its four-year term, and to adopt this before 31 October in the year following a general election. The Council Plan is the elected Council's statement of its priorities for the Nillumbik community, and describes how the Council will work towards its community vision during its four-year term.
2. The Draft Plan has been informed by both broad-based and deliberative community engagement. This included the Nillumbik Now and Beyond campaign in February and March 2025, which featured surveys and pop-up sessions across the Shire to gather a wide range of community perspectives. This was followed by a two-day Community Forum in May 2025, where a representative group of 20 residents explored key themes and priorities in greater depth. Development of the Draft Plan was also informed by a series of workshops with Councillors.
3. The Draft Plan identifies four themes for Nillumbik which are:
 - Our People – Inclusive Living and Participation
 - Our Place – Liveable and connected communities
 - Our Future – Sustainable futures and healthy environments
 - Our Council – Responsible governance and community leadership.
4. Each theme includes an objective, a set of strategies and strategic indicators. Council services as well as key strategy and planning documents have also been included to demonstrate their alignment with the Draft Plan.
5. Council will implement the Council Plan through an Annual Action Plan, outlining the specific actions to be delivered each year in support of the Plan's objectives and strategies. Progress will be reported quarterly to Council and the community, and summarised in the Annual Report at the end of each financial year.
6. While the Council Plan sets the overarching direction and priorities for the next four years, many of its objectives and strategies will be delivered through supporting Council strategies and plans.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.011/25 Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 - Submissions

7. These documents contain more detailed actions, measures and timelines for specific focus areas. In this way, the Council Plan acts as a signpost to the broader work of Council, with individual strategies and plans outlining the specific steps to achieve these commitments. Some of these supporting documents may also be reviewed and updated following the adoption of the Council Plan 2025–2029.
8. A professionally designed version of the Council Plan will be prepared once the document is finalised and adopted by Council.

Submissions

9. At the close of the public consultation period, 16 submissions were received on the Draft Plan (**Attachment 2**).
10. Submitters were generally supportive of the Draft Plan.
11. Where issues were identified, submitters suggested the Draft Plan could be strengthened by including additional metrics (particularly relating to biodiversity and climate), reinforcing Council's commitment to advocacy and actively pursuing innovative funding models and partnerships to support the delivery of key projects.
12. The key themes identified in the submissions included:
 - Environmental protection and biodiversity – Preserving natural ecosystems, enhancing habitat connectivity, and reducing threats to native flora and fauna.
 - Wildlife safety and data-informed monitoring – Implementing measures to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and improving the tracking of wildlife impacts across the Shire.
 - Road safety, traffic management, and active transport – Addressing congestion, improving pedestrian and cyclist safety, and enhancing access through connected transport networks.
 - Tree canopy protection and revegetation – Protecting mature trees, increasing canopy in low-coverage areas, and promoting community stewardship through the Urban Tree Canopy Strategy.
 - Climate action and carbon reduction – Reducing emissions and supporting local climate adaptation through targeted initiatives.
 - Inclusive community participation and engagement – Strengthening community voice in decision-making through transparent, accessible, and representative engagement practices.
 - Reconciliation and recognition of Traditional Owners – Embedding respect and acknowledgement of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture and heritage.
 - Cultural heritage and the arts – Celebrating history and creativity through events, infrastructure, and programs that build cultural connection and identity.
 - Support for people with disability and accessibility – Removing barriers and promoting equity through inclusive policy, service design, and public realm improvements.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.011/25 Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 - Submissions

- Housing diversity and ageing in place – Supporting a range of housing options close to services that allow residents to remain in their community as they age.
 - Neighbourhood character and sustainable development – Balancing growth with protection of local identity, landscapes, and built form through strategic planning frameworks.
 - Advocacy and partnerships for service and infrastructure delivery – Leveraging relationships with other levels of government to deliver funding, projects, and long-term improvements.
 - Strategic planning, measurement, and transparent reporting – Aligning actions with measurable outcomes and ensuring accountability through regular reporting and review.
13. Submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to speak to their submissions.
14. All 16 written submissions have been noted and individual responses have been provided.
15. Further consideration will be given to all submissions following the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting as Council continues to refine the Draft Plan.

Related Council decisions

16. The Draft Plan (**Attachment 1**) was released for the purposes of public consultation at the 18 June 2025 Council Meeting for a period of three weeks (18 June – 9 July 2025).

Options

17. Council has endorsed a Draft Plan and exhibited this for public consultation. Following the Committee's consideration of submissions (and subsequent changes to the Draft Plan), the Council Plan will be presented to the September 2025 Council Meeting with the view to adopting the Council Plan.

Council plans and policies

18. 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

19. Council recognises that it has a role in creating a more fair and equal society by playing an important role in supporting, facilitating and working with community to empower people to have their say and help shape the future of the Shire.
20. The development of the Draft Plan has been guided by the principles outlined in Council's Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy.
21. In developing the draft document Equity Impact Assessments (EIA) were conducted for the broad-based community engagement along with the Community Forum.
22. A further EIA will be undertaken prior to adoption to ensure the document is accessible, inclusive and representative of the Nillumbik community.

6. Consultation Matters**PCC.011/25 Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 - Submissions**

Sustainability implications

23. The Draft Plan supports Council to act in the best interests of the community by promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability. It also encourages decisions that are realistic and achievable within Council's available resources, ensuring sustainable outcomes over the long term.

Community engagement

24. Through the Nillumbik Now and Beyond campaign held in February and March 2025, Council invited broad community input to inform the development of the Draft Plan.
25. The engagement involved a combination of surveys, pop-up sessions across the Shire, workshops and other interactive opportunities. The process was designed to reach a wide cross-section of the community, with a focus on capturing diverse perspectives and experiences.
26. Following the general engagement, a two-day Community Forum was held in May 2025 with a randomly selected, representative group of 20 residents. The Forum explored key themes and strategic priorities in greater depth, providing Council with valuable insights to shape the Draft Plan.
27. Councillor workshops were held throughout the development of the Draft Plan to consider community feedback, test key themes and priorities, and ensure alignment with emerging community sentiment. These sessions shaped the Draft Plan's objectives, strategies and actions.
28. The Draft Plan was the subject of a public consultation period from 18 June – 9 July 2025 where community members and groups had the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Plan.

Innovation and continuous improvement

29. Opportunities for innovation and continuous improvement will be identified through the implementation of the Council Plan 2025-2029, and through various supporting Council strategies and plans.

Collaboration

30. Partnerships and collaboration have played an integral role in the implementation of the Draft Plan. Council will continue to work with other levels of government, agencies and the community in order to achieve the strategies within the Council Plan 2025-2029.

Budget considerations

31. The Council Plan is a high-level strategic document and does not make specific budget commitments.
32. Each year, in line with the budget process, Council will produce an Annual Action Plan identifying how Council will work towards achieving the objectives and strategies of the Council Plan through specific actions that Council will commit to delivering across that financial year.
33. The cost of preparing and exhibiting the Draft Plan is met from the operating budget.

6. Consultation Matters**PCC.011/25 Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 - Submissions**

Relevant law

34. The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to prepare a four-year Council Plan (section 90), informed by a Community Vision (section 88), to ensure that Council's strategic direction reflects the aspirations and priorities of the community. The Draft Council Plan 2025–2029 has been developed in alignment with these legislative requirements and builds on the Nillumbik Community Vision 2040, adopted in 2021 which is now fully integrated into the Draft Plan.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

In accordance with section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must give effect to overarching governance principles, including consideration of regional, state and national plans and policies in its strategic planning and decision-making.

35. The Plan also aligns with broader state and national frameworks, including:
- Victorian Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) – supporting transparency and accountability in planning and reporting.
 - Plan Melbourne 2017–2050 – particularly regarding housing choice, transport connectivity, and 20-minute neighbourhood principles.
 - *Climate Change Act 2017 (Vic)* – through alignment with Council's Climate Action Plan 2022–2032 and actions supporting climate resilience.
 - *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)* – as reflected in the integration of health and wellbeing priorities through Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Conflicts of interest

36. Officers who have been involved in the preparation of this report declare that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

6. Officers' reports

PCC.012/25 Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 - Public Submissions

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Corrienne Nichols, Director Communities

Author: Nichole Johnson, Manager Community Partnerships

Summary

This report provides Council with the outcomes of the community engagement on the Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025 -2029 (draft Plan) **Attachment 1**.

Council adopted the draft Plan at the Council Meeting on 17 June 2025 for the purpose of public consultation. The draft Plan was exhibited from for a three-week period (18 June 2025 through to 9 July 2025) to provide the community and partners an opportunity to provide feedback.

The submissions received, including an Officer Response to each of the submissions, can be found in **Attachment 2** and confidential **Attachment 3**. Officers have outlined recommended changes to the Plan for Council consideration.

It is proposed that the Committee considers the submissions on the draft Plan and that the matter then be considered by Council on 30 September 2025.

Recommendation



That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Acknowledges and notes the nine submissions from stakeholders and community members who provided feedback on the Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025 -2029 (**Attachment 2 and Attachment 3**).
2. Considers the matters contained in the submissions and this report during finalisation of the Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29.
3. Acknowledges presentations to the Committee.
4. Requests a further report to be presented at the Council Meeting on 30 September 2025 to adopt the final version of the Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 (**Attachment 1**).
5. Resolves the confidential un-redacted copy of the written submissions to the Plan (**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*.
6. Thanks the submitters for providing Council with feedback on this important document.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.012/25 Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 - Public Submissions

Attachments

1.  Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029
2.  Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 - Submissions - Redacted
3. Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 - Submissions - *CONFIDENTIAL*

Discussion

1. Development of the Plan (**Attachment 1**) is occurring in line with Council's legislative requirements under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*. The incorporation of the Disability Action Plan into the Plan also responds to our legislative requirements under the *Disability Act 2006*.
2. As outlined in the Victorian *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, the process to develop the Plan (**Attachment 1**) meets the legislative requirements in developing a MPWHP which include:
 - a. Examining data about local health status and health determinants (Nillumbik Community Health and Wellbeing Profile 2025)
 - b. Identifying strategies based on evidence for creating maximum health and wellbeing
 - c. Specifying measures to prevent family violence and respond to the needs of victims of family violence
 - d. Involving local community in the development and evaluation of the plan
 - e. Specifying how council will work with the Department and other agencies
 - f. Ensuring consistency with the council plan and municipal strategic statement
 - g. Having regard to the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
 - h. Reviewing the Plan annually, and amending if needed
 - i. Considering climate change mitigation and adaptation.
3. The Plan identifies a health and wellbeing vision informed by feedback sought from community members, partners, Councillors and staff.
4. The Plan includes six health priority areas, to support each priority there are evidence-based and community-informed strategies that will be developed and implemented over the next four years. They include:
 - a. Priority 1 – Improving mental wellbeing and social connection
 - b. Priority 2 – Preventing discrimination and violence
 - c. Priority 3 – Increasing active living
 - d. Priority 4 – Improving food systems
 - e. Priority 5 – Reducing harm from alcohol, drugs, vaping, tobacco, and gambling

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.012/25 Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 - Public Submissions

-
- f. Priority 6 – Advocating for and improving access to services, facilities and housing.
 - 5. Annual implementation plans will provide a greater level of detail of how the strategies within the Plan will be delivered. This work will be undertaken by teams across Council, as well as in partnership with local organisations and community groups.
 - 6. The Plan includes information about legislative and strategic alignment with the Council Plan, Community Vision and Municipal Planning Strategy.
 - 7. It is a requirement to involve community in the development of a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. The engagement process to inform the development of the Draft Plan has involved three phases.
 - 8. All three phases of Community Engagement Plan are nearly complete, and have informed the development of the draft Plan.
 - 9. In February 2025, Council undertook a broad community survey, *2025 Nillumbik Now and Beyond* to identify what is important to the community and inform high-level priority areas for Council. Community Engagement activities included a survey and pop-ups.
 - 10. In March and April 2025, Council conducted a number of outreach community engagement activities. These Phase 2 activities included focus groups, drop-in sessions, and outreach with community groups, local services, community centres and schools. These activities aimed to target priority populations who may have been missed in the online survey in Phase 1.
 - 11. The extensive engagement process for Phase 2 revealed that top 10 most important health and wellbeing issues for our community are:
 - a. Access to transport
 - b. Access to education
 - c. Access to housing
 - d. Healthy, affordable, and sustainable food
 - e. Preventing family violence
 - f. Mental health
 - g. Increasing active living
 - h. Preventing elder abuse
 - i. Promoting social inclusion, reducing isolation
 - j. Prevention of physical, chronic health conditions
 - 12. The draft Plan (Phase 3) was exhibited for a three-week period (18 June 2025 through to 9 July 2025) to provide the community and partners an opportunity to provide feedback.

Related Council decisions

- 13. At the Council Meeting on 17 June 2025, Council endorsed the Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 (**Attachment 1**) for public exhibition.

6. Consultation Matters**PCC.012/25 Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 - Public Submissions**

Options

14. Council officers have reviewed the public submissions on the draft plan, assessing the proposed changes against the goals and objectives of the plan, and the legislative requirements of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.
15. Recommended changes to be made as a result of the public submissions have been included in the table in **Attachment 2 and Attachment 3** for consideration.
16. A number of submitters may present to the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting scheduled for 12 August 2025.

Council plans and policies

17. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategy:
 - We address the social, environmental and economic factors of health to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for our communities.
 - We work with our local partners, government and non-government agencies to respond to health and wellbeing priorities in Nillumbik.

Access, Equity and Inclusion

18. The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 recognises the significant role of councils in improving the health and wellbeing of people in their municipality. It also requires councils to support the implementation of state priorities which include a focus on priority groups to reduce health inequalities and achieve a fair and equal society.
19. The Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy has been considered extensively during the development of the Plan. An equity, disability inclusion, ageing, and gender lens have been applied to the development of the Plan, with specific strategies and actions focusing on a number of priority populations.
20. A staged Equity Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed for the Plan. The first stage was on the community engagement plan, the second stage was an analysis of data and findings, and the final stage was an EIA on the Plan, this was undertaken as a review of the Plan by the Gender Equity Lead.

Sustainability implications

21. Climate change has significant impacts on health and wellbeing. It is a legislated requirement that the Plan considers climate change mitigation and adaptation. Officers from the Environment and Sustainability team will provide expert advice regarding the consideration and incorporation of climate change and sustainability measures within the Plan, while also aiming to reduce duplication between the Climate Action Plan and the Plan.
22. A climate lens has been applied and embedded into each priority area in the draft Plan (**Attachment 1**).

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.012/25 Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 - Public Submissions

Community engagement

- 23. Phase 1 – In February 2025, Council undertook a broad community survey, *2025 Nillumbik Now and Beyond*.
- 24. Phase 2 – In March and April 2025, Council conducted a number of outreach community engagement activities.
- 25. Phase 3 – public exhibition for a three week period (18 June 2025 through to 9 July 2025) to provide the community and partners an opportunity to provide feedback.
- 26. Submissions from the public will be considered and inform the final Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029.

Innovation and continuous improvement

- 27. Not applicable.

Collaboration

- 28. Partnerships and collaboration play an integral role in the implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of this Plan. Council will continue to work with key partners in order to deliver on strategies within the plan, through the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee and other local and regional partnerships.
- 29. Internal collaboration across council teams is essential and will be supported by a Health and Wellbeing Plan Project Control Group.

Budget considerations

- 30. The strategies stated within the draft plan, and subsequent actions which fall out of these, will be resourced through the existing operational budget. Where gaps exist in resources or new opportunities for initiatives are presented, additional budget or grant funding opportunities may be sought.

Relevant law

- 31. *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, Disability Act 2006, Climate Change Act 2017, Gender Equality Act 2020 and the Local Government Act 2020.*

Regional, state and national plans and policies

- 32. Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-2027
- 33. VicHealth Strategy 2023-2033
- 34. NEPHU Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

Conflicts of interest

- 35. 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.012/25 Draft Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 - Public Submissions

THIS PAGE WAS LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

6. Officers' reports**PCC.013/25 Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 and Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035 - Submissions**

Item: Consultation Matter**Distribution: Public****Manager: Jeremy Livingston, Director Culture and Performance****Author: Melika Sukunda, Chief Financial Officer****Summary**

This report notes the submissions received from the community regarding the draft Asset Plan (Draft Asset Plan) and draft Financial Plan 2025-2035 (Draft Financial Plan).

The Draft Asset Plan (**Attachment 5**) and Draft Financial Plan (**Attachment 6**) were released for the purposes of public consultation at the Council Meeting on 17 June 2025. The draft plans were exhibited for three weeks, with the Draft Asset Plan receiving four submissions (**Attachment 1**) and the Draft Financial Plan also receiving four submissions (**Attachment 2**).





It is recommended that the Committee notes the submissions to the Draft Asset Plan and Draft Financial Plan, before finalising the documents and presenting them to Council for adoption at the Council Meeting on 30 September 2025.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Acknowledges and notes the submissions received from community members and groups who provided feedback on the draft Asset Plan and draft Financial Plan 2025-2035 (**Attachment 1 and 2**).
2. Acknowledges the presentations to the Committee.
3. Considers the matters contained in the submissions and this report during finalisation of the draft Asset Plan and draft Financial Plan 2025-2035.
4. Requests a further report to be presented at the September 2025 Council Meeting to adopt the final version of the Asset Plan and Financial Plan 2025-2035.
5. Thanks the submitters for providing Council with feedback on these important documents.
6. Resolves the confidential un-redacted copy of the written submissions to the Draft Asset Plan and Draft Financial Plan (**Attachment 3 and 4**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

6. Consultation Matters**PCC.013/25 Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 and Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035 - Submissions****Attachments**

- 1  Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 - Redacted submissions
- 2  Financial Plan 2025-2035 - Redacted submissions
3. Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 - Submissions - *CONFIDENTIAL*
4. Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035 - Submissions - *CONFIDENTIAL*
- 5  Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035
- 6  Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035

DiscussionDraft Asset Plan 2025-2035

1. Section 92 of *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council develop, adopt and keep in force an Asset Plan that has an outlook of at least 10 years. An Asset Plan should include information about maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade and disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure asset under the control of Council.
2. Council is required to adopt the Asset Plan prior to 31 October in the year following a general election. The Asset Plan has effect from 1 July in the year following a general election.
3. The scope of the Draft Asset Plan (**Attachment 5**) is for the next ten-year period, 2025-2035.
4. The table below shows the asset classes that are represented within the four major infrastructure asset categories recognised within the Draft Asset Plan. Note that the Draft Asset Plan only covers infrastructure that is under Council's control and is recognised as an asset.

Asset Category	Asset Classes
Transport	Road and car parks
	Kerbs
	Footpaths
	Bridge and major culverts
Building	Buildings (excluding public and sporting shelters)
Drainage	Underground pits

6. Consultation Matters**PCC.013/25 Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 and Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035 - Submissions**

Asset Category	Asset Classes
	Underground pipes
	Surface drainage (i.e. wetlands, dams etc.)
Open Space	Playgrounds and fitness Parks
	Playing surfaces (i.e. ovals, basketball courts, hockey fields etc.)
	Trails and walkways
	Public and sporting shelters

5. The following key sections are included within the Draft Asset Plan:

Section	Details
Strategic Asset Management Framework	Defines Council's strategic approach to asset management.
Valuations	Detail the net worth of the assets.
Current State of Assets	Considers the physical condition of assets and whether that condition allows it to meet the intended service level.
Levels of Service	Levels of Service are key business drivers and influence how Council manage its assets. Service standards describe the output intended to be delivered to the community, whilst delivery mode defines the strategies Council has in place to achieve these outcomes.
Legislative & Council Requirements	Describes how the Asset Plan links to key legislation and Council documents.
Future Demand	The ability to predict future demand for services enables Council to plan ahead and identify the best way of meeting that demand. This section analyses the various drivers influencing the services supported by major asset classes.
Funding Levels	Outlines the projected expenditure requirements for Council's infrastructure assets over the next ten years. It aligns with Council's Financial Plan and represents the investment that is required to maintain existing levels of service.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.013/25 Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 and Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035 - Submissions

Risk Management	Council's Risk Management Policy sets the overall framework for addressing risk within the framework of ISO31000-2009. This section enables informed decisions to be made regarding the management of risks associated with Council's assets.
Continuous Improvement	Details the Asset Plan review cycle and Council's approach to asset management improvement.

Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035

6. Under section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to adopt a Financial Plan prior to 31 October in the year following a general election. The Financial Plan has effect from 1 July in the year following a general election.
7. The Financial Plan includes financial statements outlining the financial resources required to give effect to the Council Plan and contains information about the decisions and assumptions that underpin the forecasts in the statements.
8. The scope of the Draft Financial Plan (**Attachment 6**) is for the next ten-year period, 2025-2035.
9. The Draft Financial Plan has been prepared in compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Financial Plan Better Practice Guide and Model and the Australian Accounting Standards Board standards.
10. The information and community feedback gathered through the Nillumbik Now and Beyond community engagement program undertaken in February and March 2025 has been considered throughout the development of the Draft Financial Plan.

Submissions

11. At the close of the public consultation period:
 - four submissions were received on the Draft Asset Plan (the submissions are provided in **Attachment 1**) and
 - four submissions were received on the Draft Financial Plan (these submissions are provided in **Attachment 2**).
12. The key themes identified the Draft Asset Plan submissions included review of the assets considered within the plan, consideration of referenced documents and of topics such as climate change and innovation.
13. The submissions to the Financial Plan submissions provided commentary on the Budget 2025-2026, the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 and considered the indicators, targets and assumptions included in the Financial Plan.
14. Submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to speak to their submission.
15. All eight written submissions have been noted, and individual responses have been provided.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.013/25 Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 and Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035 - Submissions

16. Further consideration will be given to all submissions following the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting as Council continues to refine the Draft Asset Plan and Draft Financial Plan.

Related Council decisions

17. The Draft Asset Plan (**Attachment 5**) and Draft Financial Plan (**Attachment 6**) were released for the purposes of public consultation at the 17 June 2025 Council Meeting for a period of three weeks (18 June to 9 July 2025).

Options

18. Council has endorsed a Draft Asset Plan and Draft Financial Plan and exhibited these for public consultation. Following the Committee's consideration of submissions (and subsequent changes to the draft plans), the draft plans will be presented to the September 2025 Council Meeting with the view to adopting the Asset Plan 2025-2035 and Financial Plan 2025-2035.

Council plans and policies

19. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategy:
- We continue to exercise sustainable and responsible financial management.
20. The Financial Plan and Asset Plan directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2025-2029.

Access, Equity and Inclusion

21. The Draft Asset Plan considers accessibility within the Levels of Service, Legislative and Council Requirements and also within the Future Demand section along with gender diversity and participation in sports.

Sustainability implications

22. The draft plans support Council to act in the best interests of the community by promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability. They encourage decisions that are realistic and achievable within Council's available resources, ensuring sustainable outcomes over the long term.
23. The Draft Asset Plan considers the impact of climate change on assets within the Future Demand section and sustainability within the Levels of Service section.
24. With respect to the Draft Financial Plan, Council's financial sustainability is informed by the indicators set by the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO). These indicators comprise of both short term and longer-term measures.

Community engagement

25. These draft plans were subject to community consultation in the period from 18 June to 9 July 2025 where community members had the opportunity to view the plans and provide feedback.
26. Community members have also been invited to share their thoughts on the draft plans at this meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.013/25 Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 and Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035 - Submissions

Innovation and continuous improvement

27. Continuous improvement and innovation opportunities identified have been considered as part of these plans' development process.
28. The draft Asset Plan has also been designed as a digitally interactive document, allowing exploration of the data in a dynamic and user-friendly manner. This will allow for greater access to and understanding of this information across the organisation.

Collaboration

29. The draft Financial Plan and Asset Plan will be circulated to Audit and Risk Committee members in August 2025.
30. As part of the development of the Draft Asset Plan, consultation occurred across relevant teams within Council:
 - Capital and Infrastructure
 - Finance, Assets and Procurement
 - Operations Centre
 - Recreation and Leisure.

Budget considerations

31. The costs of preparing and exhibiting these draft plans are funded from operating budgets.
32. The Draft Asset Plan is a high-level strategic document, with financial projections aligned with Council's Financial Plan 2025-2035.

Relevant law

33. The *Local Government Act 2020* is relevant to both draft plans.
34. The approach to the Draft Financial Plan and the composition of the financial statements are prepared in compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

35. Not applicable.

Conflicts of interest

36. Officers who have been involved in the preparation of this report declare that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

6. Officers' reports

PCC.014/25 MAV State Council Meeting - Endorsement of Nillumbik Shire Council Motions**Item: Consultation Matter****Distribution: Public****Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Director Governance, Communications and Community Safety****Author: Michele Purtle, Manager Advocacy Communications and Engagement****Summary**

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meets to consider matters of state-wide significance. The deadline for motions to be submitted for consideration at the 10 October 2025 is 15 August 2025.

Motions must have state-wide significance or relevance across the Victorian Local Government sector and be related to issues and initiatives that affect the livelihood and wellbeing of the Nillumbik community.

This report is seeking Council endorsement to lodge three motions to the MAV State Council Meeting to be held on 10 October 2025.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Resolves to adopt the following three motions to the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Council Meeting to be held on 10 October 2025.
 - a) *That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocates to the State Government to:*
 1. Provide a dedicated and ongoing funding commitment to peri-urban councils to better support the preparation of Green Wedge Management Plans and the ongoing implementation, monitoring and review of these plans to ensure long-term objectives are delivered.
 2. Strengthen the powers of local councils to effectively enforce, respond to breaches of, and have increased penalty units for, contraventions of their Planning Schemes under the Victorian Planning Provisions, particularly regarding illegal native vegetation removal as referenced in the "Offsetting Native Vegetation Loss on Private Land" VAGO Report (May 2022), and illegal earthworks.
 3. Prioritise a bus network review in peri-urban council areas to identify where to improve services and expand bus infrastructure to provide better connectivity to townships and existing rail infrastructure.
2. Resolves to lodge motions and rationale (**Attachment 1**) at the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Council Meeting to be held on 10 October 2025.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.014/25 MAV State Council Meeting - Endorsement of Nillumbik Shire Council Motions

Attachments

Nil

Discussion

1. The MAV State Council Meeting provides the opportunity for councils to submit motions on matters of state-wide significance to the Victorian Local Government sector. MAV State Council Meetings are convened twice a year, in May and October.
2. Council has until 15 August 2025 to submit motions to the MAV.
3. Councils are encouraged to align their motions with the 10 priorities listed in the MAV Strategic Plan 2024-2027, which include:
 - a) Active local democracy
 - b) Connected places
 - c) Health & wellbeing
 - d) Sustainable economy
 - e) FutureGen
 - f) First Peoples local government relations
 - g) Climate & regenerative design
 - h) Diversity, equity & inclusion
 - i) Resilience & recovery
 - j) Intergenerational infrastructure.
4. Motions must have been the subject of a council resolution and must be either of strategic relevance to the MAV and/or significant to the sector and must not be repetitive of an item considered by State Council in the last 12 months.
5. Endorsement at the State Council indicates an issue has state-wide support and strengthens the profile of these issues, which facilitates stronger advocacy with other levels of government.
6. Under the Rules all motions are due to be submitted by no later than midnight on Friday 15 August 2025.
7. In preparation for Council's endorsed representative to the MAV State Council, a summary of the motions will be circulated to Officers to provide an indication of whether Nillumbik supports the motion presented, provide any necessary commentary and advise if the motions have relevance to Nillumbik.

Related Council decisions

8. These motions are consistent with advocacy priorities included in Council's draft advocacy priorities report, to be endorsed by Council in September.

Options

9. Officers have originally identified six motions relevant to MAV State Council.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.014/25 MAV State Council Meeting - Endorsement of Nillumbik Shire Council Motions

10. It is proposed that three motions be endorsed by Council and a request be made to amend a motion being submitted by Hume City Council.

Proposed Motions

Theme 1 - Supporting Peri-Urban Councils to implement, monitor and review Green Wedge Management Plans

Motion

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocates to the State Government to:

Provide a dedicated and ongoing funding commitment to peri-urban councils to better support the preparation of Green Wedge Management Plans and the ongoing implementation, monitoring and review of these plans to ensure long-term objectives are delivered.

Rationale

Green Wedge Councils responsibilities in engaging, preparing and implementing their Green Wedge Management Plan have broader implications than simply local outcomes. These responsibilities and resourcing implications set Green Wedge Councils apart from Metropolitan Councils.

As the State Government continues to implement its planning reform to address the housing shortage, and as populations in urban areas become higher in density, protecting our Green Wedge areas for their biodiversity and agricultural values and as 'the lungs of Melbourne' will become even more critical.

Green Wedge Councils have increased responsibility to meaningfully engage with Traditional Owners for their values to be included and actions implemented to enhance management of Country. To achieve this, Councils need appropriate support and resourcing to undertake this level of work, alongside engagement with the growing community interest to produce robust, inclusive plans.

Additionally, there is a need for State Government to accelerate work on tools to operationalise the Green Wedge Ministerial Direction and ensure resources are available for Councils to develop, monitor and review Green Wedge Plans.

At a time when Councils are grappling with broader systemic issues such as the impacts of climate change, bushfire risk, and infrastructure gaps, many of which extend beyond local government's direct control, it is essential that the State Government shares responsibility and provides additional resources for Green Wedge areas.

Theme 2 - Strengthening the powers of local government to respond to illegal clearing of vegetation.

6. Consultation Matters**PCC.014/25 MAV State Council Meeting - Endorsement of Nillumbik Shire Council Motions**

Motion

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocates to the State Government to:

Strengthen the powers of local councils to effectively enforce, respond to breaches of, and have increased penalty units for, contraventions of their Planning Schemes under the Victorian Planning Provisions, particularly in regard to illegal native vegetation removal as referenced in the “Offsetting Native Vegetation Loss on Private Land” VAGO Report (May 2022), and illegal earthworks.

Rationale

Native vegetation plays a critical role in protecting biodiversity, providing food and shelter for wildlife, helping control erosion, and improving water quality.

It is a unique and valued feature of our landscapes, particularly in rural and peri-urban regions of the state that often comprise large parcels of land designated as Green Wedge.

Under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* it is illegal to remove native vegetation without a permit.

Local Councils are responsible for enforcing breaches of the Act through their planning schemes as part of the Victorian Planning Provisions. However, current powers limit the enforcement action that councils are able to undertake, and fines for breaches are often not high enough to deter people from illegally removing vegetation.

When fines are issued, they are often significantly less than what Councils spend resourcing enforcement action. When infringements are issued by the Magistrates Court, they are referred to Fines Victoria. However, fines are frequently not paid and get lost in the system. Councils also find it difficult to recover fines through Fines Victoria.

Councils spend a lot of time trying to negotiate on-ground remediation outcomes including voluntary native vegetation offsets. Outside of these voluntary measures, Councils have the ability to try and seek enforcement orders at VCAT. However, again, this has significant impacts on budgets and resources, and costs are often not recouped, even in the event of costs applications being made.

Councils spend significant time and resources undertaking valuable work and producing important strategies, including Urban Tree Canopy, Neighbourhood Character and Biodiversity strategies, to protect biodiversity values and vegetation. Support in the deterrence of illegal vegetation removal, as outlined above, will support that investment and ensure better outcomes are achieved for our community and the environment.

Theme 3 - *Providing better connectivity to urban areas.*

Motion

That the Municipal Association of Victoria advocates to the State Government to:

Prioritise a bus network review in peri-urban council areas to identify where to improve services and expand bus infrastructure to provide better connectivity to townships and existing rail infrastructure.

6. Consultation Matters**PCC.014/25 MAV State Council Meeting - Endorsement of Nillumbik Shire Council Motions**

Rationale

Buses provide essential transport for many people in our community, particularly for the many younger and older residents who don't drive and do not live close to a train station. These community members rely on buses to access health services, employment and education.

However, the current availability of services, particularly in outer suburbs and rural areas, makes those trips longer and in most cases isolates and disconnects the community from public transport.

Upgrading bus infrastructure, including bus shelters and features that improve accessibility, and increasing the volume and frequency of bus services would achieve better coordination of bus and rail transportation, while also reducing the overall reliance on motor vehicles.

This action would play a critical role in providing better connections across municipalities and improving outcomes for currently isolated and vulnerable communities, while easing congestion on our roads.

Amended Motion (Hume Council)

It is proposed that Council's MAV delegate be permitted to request an amendment to a Motion being submitted by Hume City Council on the topic of dumped waste.

The motion proposed by Hume City Council is as follows:

That the MAV:

1. Call upon the Victorian Government to undertake an immediate review of the penalty amounts assigned to littering and dumping offences under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* (The Act) to include:
 - a. Significant increases to the penalty amount currently assigned to all littering and dumping offences included under the Act; and/or
 - b. Establishing a mechanism that would enable individual Councils to be able to set penalties amounts within defined parameters to reflect our community's local circumstances and zero tolerance approach towards littering and rubbish dumping.
2. Establish a taskforce with a combination of elected representatives and officers focused on addressing issues of illegal dumping in growth municipalities.
11. The amendment to the motion would include the wording in point 2 to read "That the MAV establish a taskforce with a combination of elected representatives and officers focused on addressing issues of illegal dumping in growth municipalities and those on the rural urban fringe."

Council plans and policies

12. This report directly aligns with the Council Plan 2021 -2025: We advocate with the State and Federal Government for our community's best interest.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.014/25 MAV State Council Meeting - Endorsement of Nillumbik Shire Council Motions

Access, Equity and Inclusion

13. Not applicable.

Sustainability implications

14. The motions being proposed in this report relate to issues that have economic, environmental, social and economic sustainability implications.

15. The motions proposed by Council have the potential to achieve worthwhile results for the Nillumbik community and the broader Victorian community.

Community engagement

16. The motions are consistent with strategies included in the draft Council plan which recently underwent extensive community consultation.

Innovation and continuous improvement

17. The motions recommended in this report may represent continuous improvement opportunities by pursuing solutions to issues that have been identified as important to local communities across the state.

Collaboration

18. Not applicable.

Budget considerations

19. There are no budget implications associated with submitting motions to the MAV.

Relevant law

20. Not applicable.

Regional, state and national plans and policies

21. The MAV State Council is an important opportunity for Council to influence actions that support key priorities of the sector that are of state-wide significance.

Conflicts of interest

22. 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.

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