

Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

to be held at the Council Chamber, 32 Civic Drive, Greensborough
on Tuesday 11 November 2025 commencing at 7:00 PM.

Agenda

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

Thursday 6 November 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)

Katia Croce
Manager
Governance and
Property

Blaga Naumoski
Director
Governance,
Communications
and Community
Safety

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

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive
Officer

Cr Kim Cope
Sugarloaf Ward

Cr Kate McKay
Swipers Gully Ward

Cr John Dumaresq
(Mayor)
Wingrove Ward

Nillumbik Shire Council

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Nillumbik Shire Council

**Agenda of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting to be held
Tuesday 11 November 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 and recognises the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung as the Traditional Owner of the land on which Nillumbik is located. We pay tribute to all First Peoples living in the Nillumbik Shire, give respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and extend our respect to all First Peoples. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

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.

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5. Confirmation of Minutes

COM.001/25 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 October 2025

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14 October 2025.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) confirms the Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14 October 2025 (**Attachment 1**).

Attachments

- 1  Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14 October 2025

5. Confirmation of Minutes

COM.001/25 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 October 2025

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6. Officers' reports

PCC.021/25 Diamond Creek BMX Jumps and Recreation Park - Community Consultation

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Jeremy Livingston, Acting Chief Operating Officer

Author: Stewart Broussard, Manager Recreation and Leisure

Summary

This report presents and considers public submissions received through community consultation regarding the BMX Jumps and Recreation Park concept plan for Challenger Street Reserve, in Diamond Creek.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Notes the submissions received in relation to the Diamond Creek BMX Jumps and Recreation Park concept plan (**Attachment 1**).
2. Thanks the submitters for providing Council with feedback on this important project.
3. Considers the comments contained in the submissions.
4. Authorises officers to finalise concept plan and seek endorsement from Council at a future Council Meeting.
5. Resolves that **Attachment 3** – Consultation Submissions is to 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  BMX Jumps and Recreation Park Concept Plan
- 2  Consultation Submissions
3. Consultation Submissions - *CONFIDENTIAL*

Discussion

1. In November 2021, Council resolved to initiate investigations into BMX and off-road biking opportunities across the Shire, and to actively pursue external funding for future project initiatives.

6. Consultation Matters

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2. Between late 2021 and throughout 2022, Council undertook extensive community consultation regarding BMX and off-road biking opportunities near the Diamond Creek Trail on Allendale Road. Feedback gathered during this process directly informed the planning and design stages, resulting in a final BMX jumps layout shaped by community input.
3. In October 2022, Council secured \$2,163,424 in funding from the State Government through the Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF). Council also committed a contribution of \$650,000 towards the project.
4. The BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park project was initially planned for construction at 145 Allendale Road, Diamond Creek. However, due to Cultural Heritage requirements and flood level implications, the project could not proceed at this location.
5. At the Council Meeting on 27 May 2025, Council endorsed Challenger Street Reserve as the new site for the BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park project.
6. Following the change in location, the BMX jumps design was adapted to suit the new site by mirroring the original layout to accommodate existing trees. This adjustment ensures that no trees will be removed and positions the beginner runs adjacent to the 'learn-to-ride' track, enhancing both safety and integration.
7. Whilst the design intent is not changing, consideration has been given to the surface finish type. Two options that were identified:
 - a) Natural compacted dirt finish
 - i) The jumps would need to remain covered with tarps when not in use. This would also result in limited use during winter.
 - ii) Users would be required to uncover and lightly hose the jumps before riding to protect their integrity. This helps bind the surface, ensures the lips are firm, provides a consistent launch, and slows deterioration.
 - iii) After each session, users would be required to re-shape the jumps to maintain their structure and design. A light hose and re-covering with tarps would also be necessary at the end of use.
 - iv) Regular maintenance would be required to undertake more substantial reshaping and repairs.
 - v) There is potential to establish a community-led volunteer Committee of Management or Friends of group to support education, engagement, and participation in ongoing maintenance activities.
 - b) Sealed surface finish
 - i) Consideration is being given to the application of a sealed finish of the dirt jumps known as 'Sic Surface'. Sic Surface is a durable, weatherproof polymer aggregate coating.
 - ii) Use of this product could decrease ongoing maintenance costs and resources by up to 75%.

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PCC.021/25 Diamond Creek BMX Jumps and Recreation Park - Community Consultation

- iii) This surface type does not require covering when not in use, nor does it require pre-use or post-use maintenance.
 - iv) This option would not require a community-led volunteer Committee of Management or Friends of group to maintain the site.
8. To enhance the users' experience and support the use of the BMX jumps, a community recreation park will be built around the jumps.
9. A concept plan has been developed that features:
- a) Disabled car park and drop off area
 - b) Toilet facilities – minimum one DDA compliant toilet
 - c) 1.8m concrete path connection
 - d) Learn-to-ride 'pump-track'
 - e) Shelters
 - f) Bike racks and bicycle repair station
 - g) Bench seating at various locations throughout the activity site
 - h) BBQ
 - i) Waste Bins
 - j) Water fountain stations
 - k) Safety lighting at car park and toilet facilities
 - l) Vegetation and tree planting.
10. The recreation park has been designed to cater for the wider community by:
- a) Ensuring the site is accessible and offers amenities for all community members
 - b) Giving new or younger riders the facilities required to learn how to ride the jumps
 - c) Providing necessary facilities to support 'long stays' such as toilets, seating and shelter
 - d) Providing necessary features to create a safe, enjoyable community space including water fountain stations, waste bins, BBQ and landscaping.

Related Council decisions

11. At the Council Meeting on 27 May 2025, Council endorsed Challenger Street Reserve as the new site selection for the BMX dirt jumps and Community Recreation Park project.
12. At the Council Meeting on 30 September 2025, Council resolved to:
- a) Endorse the attached BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park Concept Plan for the purpose of community consultation.
 - b) Approve Council officers to undertake community consultation for the period of 1 October 2025 to 21 October 2025, inviting written submissions for the BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park in line with the endorsed concept plan.

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PCC.021/25 Diamond Creek BMX Jumps and Recreation Park - Community Consultation

- c) Consider all public submissions at the Planning and Consultation Committee meeting to be held on 11 November 2025.

Options

- 13. Following the Committee's consideration of submissions, officers will complete the final concept plan and seek endorsement from Council at a future Council Meeting.

Council plans and policies

- 14. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2025-2029 strategy:
 - Promote active participation in sports, leisure, and recreation, with a focus on providing well-planned facilities to meet the needs of the community.

Access, Equity and Inclusion

- 15. The recreation park concept plan incorporates Universal Design Principals.
- 16. An Equity Impact Assessment has been completed and will be reviewed at key stages of the project to ensure the project delivers an inclusive space that meets the diverse needs of the community.

Sustainability implications

- 17. The activity area sits outside the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO).
- 18. The activity area is outside the area of Cultural Sensitivity. A heritage consultant has provided formal advice that the project would be exempt from a mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP).
- 19. Challenger Street Reserve is a highly valued environmental site. The design addresses this by including fencing around high valued areas and other environmental initiatives.
- 20. Protection measures for high value vegetation and the existing wetlands will be incorporated in a site-specific Environmental Management Plan which will be developed prior to construction.

Community engagement

- 21. Community consultation was planned for the period 1 October 2025 to 21 October 2025. Due to the high level of interest and the large volume of feedback received, the consultation closing date was extended to 26 October 2025.
- 22. The opportunity was promoted via Council's website, social media platforms, e-newsletters, and on-site signage.
- 23. The consultation outlined the components of the concept plan that could not be influenced by the community, including;
 - a) Project activity area
 - b) BMX jumps design
 - c) Environmental protection features.
 - d) Inclusion of funding agreement deliverables:
 - i) DDA compliant toilet

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- ii) Amenities and pathways
- iii) Seating
- iv) Learn to-ride track
- v) Car parking
- vi) Vegetation and tree planting
- vii) Safety lighting.

24. The draft concept plan was published on a dedicated project page on Council's Participate Nillumbik platform. The page included a survey designed to capture community feedback on the proposed upgrades.
25. The consultation page received visits from 1,840 unique users during the consultation period.
26. Council received a total of 343 survey submissions. A summary of the survey responses is provided below.

Note: as questions were not 'mandatory', not all questions were answered by all submitters.

27. Q1. How will you most likely travel to Challenger Street Reserve?

Response Options	Responses
By vehicle and park	120
By vehicle and get dropped off	9
Ride/Walk	137
Public transport then Ride/Walk	28

28. Q2. When you arrive at the park, what side of the Reserve will you be entering from?

Response Options	Responses
From Challenger Street (near the scouts building)	21
From Henry Arthur Drive (around the farm house)	6
From Diamond Creek Trail, near where the 'learn-to-ride' track will be	133
From Arthur Henry	2

29. Q3. How often do you think you would visit this BMX park?

Response Options	Responses
Daily	14
A few times a week	71
Once a week	60
Once or twice a month	71
A few times a year	29
Rarely / Unsure	52

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30. Q4. On a typical visit, how long do you expect to stay?

Response Options	Responses
Less than 30 minutes	20
30 minutes – 1 hour	53
1–2 hours	107
2–3 hours	51
More than 3 hours	26
Unsure	38

31. Q5. What would your main reason for visiting the park be?

Response Options	Responses
BMX riding	151
Scooter riding	1
Supervising children	57
Spectating	6
Toilet Access	25
BBQ facilities	3
Rest or meal break	5
Walking through the park	46

32. Q6. Where do you currently go for BMX riding or similar activities?

*Refer to **Attachment 2** – Consultation submissions (within the free text submissions section)*

33. Q7. Accessible toilets have been located near the disabled car park and drop-off area in the current concept plan. Where would you prefer the accessible toilets to be located?

Response Options	Responses
Near the disabled car park / drop-off area	147
Closer to the learn-to-ride area and trail connection	135

34. Q8. Do you support the use of Sic Surface?

Response Options	Responses
Yes	232
No	49

35. Q9. Would you still use the jumps if you were required to complete this work before and after riding?

Response Options	Responses
Yes	121
No	55
Unsure	105

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.021/25 Diamond Creek BMX Jumps and Recreation Park - Community Consultation

36. Q10. Would you be interested in joining a community-led group to help maintain the jumps on an ongoing basis?

Response Options	Responses
Yes	65
No	134
Unsure	85

37. Q11. How much time could you commit to this group?

Response Options	Responses
3 hours + per week	8
1-2 hours per week	19
3-5 hours per month	13
1-2 hours per month	25

38. Q12. BBQ facilities have been included near the learn-to-ride track. Do you support the inclusion of BBQ facilities?

Response Options	Responses
Yes	258
No	34

39. Q13. If no, why not?

*Refer to **Attachment 2** – Consultation submissions (within the free text submissions section)*

40. Q14. There are 8 bench seats and 5 picnic tables included in the concept plan. Do you think this is?

Response Options	Responses
The right amount of seating	198
Not enough seating	58
Too much seating	30

41. Q15. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating seating?

*Refer to **Attachment 2** – Consultation submissions (within the free text submissions section)*

42. Q16. There are 5 shelters included in the concept plan. Do you think this is

Response Options	Responses
The right amount of shelters	209
Not enough shelters	34
Too much shelters	37

43. Q17. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating shelters?

*Refer to **Attachment 2** – Consultation submissions (within the free text submissions section)*

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.021/25 Diamond Creek BMX Jumps and Recreation Park - Community Consultation

44. Q18. Where are the most important locations for drinking fountains? (Select all that apply)

Response Options	Responses
Near the toilets	123
Near the learn-to-ride track	120
Near the BMX jumps drop-in	86
Near the end of the BMX runs	89
Along the return areas for walking back to the drop-in	113
Near the BBQ	194

45. Q19. Where are the most important locations for bins? (Select all that apply)

Response Options	Responses
Near the toilets	215
Near the learn-to-ride track	82
Near the BMX jumps drop-in	84
Near the end of the BMX runs	43
Along the return areas for walking back to the drop-in	105
Near the BBQ	254

46. Q20. Are there any specific areas where you feel safety lighting should be prioritised? (Select all that apply)

Response Options	Responses
Carpark	200
Toilets	223
Learn-to-ride track	84
BMX jumps area	114
Pathways and return areas	159

47. Q21. Who in your household or community is most likely to use the facilities?

Response Options	Responses
Young children (under 10)	93
Older children (10–14)	107
Older teen (15-19 years)	84
Young adult (20-25 years)	28
Adult (26 years +)	118
No one in my household/community	44

48. Q22. How would you describe this person's current riding skill level for BMX Jumps?

Response Options	Responses
Beginner	82
Intermediate	101
Advanced	61

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PCC.021/25 Diamond Creek BMX Jumps and Recreation Park - Community Consultation

49. Q23. Do you support the inclusion of a public art piece incorporated in the final design?

Response Options	Responses
Yes	200
No	88

50. Q24. Considerations for vehicle access and power supply have been included in the concept design to support flexible use of the site. Which of the following activities would you support at this location?

Response Options	Responses
Coffee van on site	194
Food truck/s	179
Small community events	197
Large community events	121
BMX competition events	202

51. Q25. Thinking about the whole BMX park and recreation area, what are your top priorities?

Response Options	Score
High-quality BMX jumps and riding experience	3.70
Accessibility and inclusive facilities	3.24
Comfort features (shade, seating, BBQs)	2.54
Safety and security	2.91
Environmental sustainability	2.62

52. Q26. Is there anything else you'd like to share about the BMX park and recreation space?

*Refer to **Attachment 2** – Consultation submissions (within the free text submissions section)*

53. It is worth noting that a number of the submissions included an objection to the proposed location of the proposal, however, this was not a component that could be influenced as part of this consultation.

Innovation and continuous improvement

54. Consideration is being given to the application of a sealed finish of the dirt jumps known as 'Sic Surface'. Sic Surface is a durable, weatherproof polymer aggregate coating. Use of this product could decrease ongoing maintenance costs and resources by up to 75%.

Collaboration

55. The concept design incorporates feedback from internal stakeholders, including the Environment & Sustainability and Parks & Open Space teams, and draws on learnings from similar projects experienced by the consulting designers.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.021/25 Diamond Creek BMX Jumps and Recreation Park - Community Consultation

Budget considerations

56. The project is jointly funded with the State Government, with Council receiving \$2,163,424 through the Growing Suburbs Fund and committing an additional \$650,000.

Relevant law

57. Not applicable

Regional, state and national plans and policies

58. Not applicable

Conflicts of interest

59. 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.022/25 Community Engagement Policy

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

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

Author: Michele Purtle, Manager Advocacy Communications and Engagement

Summary

This report presents and considers public submissions received through community consultation regarding the Community Engagement Policy and seeks Council’s agreement to table the Community Engagement Policy for endorsement at the 9 December Council meeting.

The designed outcome for the Community Engagement Policy is to guide our practices in community engagement.

The Policy outlines Council’s commitment to engaging the Nillumbik community in planning and decision-making through appropriate, effective, and inclusive practices.

Two phases of community engagement were conducted in 2020 to develop the Community Engagement Policy 2021-2025 (2021–2025 Policy), and it was formally adopted at a Council Meeting in February 2021.

The Advocacy, Communications and Engagement team has reviewed the Community Engagement Policy 2021-2025 (**Attachment 1**) and made changes to support consistent, effective engagement that gives our community a voice in shaping Council decisions.

On 26 August 2025, Council authorised the Draft Community Engagement Policy 2025 (Draft CE Policy) to be placed on community consultation from 1-30 September 2025 and for engagement initiatives to be undertaken to receive community feedback.

Following completion of the consultation period, the feedback confirms that the amendments made accurately reflect community expectations, sentiment and contemporary engagement practice. A report on the community engagement findings can be found at **Attachment 2**, with a summary page at **Attachment 3**.

The review considered feedback from both internal and external stakeholders, as well as the evolution of community participation during the life of the 2021–2025 Policy.

The revised Policy strengthens Council’s commitment to meaningful, inclusive, and transparent engagement.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Notes the submissions received in relation to the Community Engagement Policy.
2. Considers the feedback and comments within the submissions.
3. Thanks the submitters for providing Council with feedback on this important project.
4. Authorises Officers to finalise the Community Engagement Policy and seek adoption at the 9 December Council Meeting.

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PCC.022/25 Community Engagement Policy

Attachments

- 1  Draft Community Engagement Policy 2025
- 2  Community Engagement Findings Report - Community Engagement Policy 2025
- 3  Community Engagement Consultation Findings - Summary

Discussion

1. The Community Engagement Policy is a formal commitment to engage with the Nillumbik community in the planning and decision-making through the use of effective and inclusive practice.
2. Community expectations around engagement have evolved — people want more transparency, earlier involvement, and inclusive opportunities to shape Council decisions.
3. Engagement is a key enabler of trust, good governance, and better project outcomes.
4. The volume and complexity of engagement across Council has continued to grow. This review ensures that our teams are appropriately resourced and structured to support this increased demand.
5. On average, Council undertakes 15 engagement projects a year. The level of activity varies throughout the year, with some periods experiencing a higher concentration of projects. Engagement is generally paused during the Christmas and New Year holiday period to respect community availability and ensure meaningful participation.
6. In 2022, there were 18,433 site visits to Participate Nillumbik compared to 24,176 in 2025. This increase of nearly 6,000 visits reflects a noticeable shift in how our community engages with Council.
7. The review of the Community Engagement Policy has taken into consideration:
 - The policy's usability by staff across departments.
 - Equity and inclusiveness in engagement practices.
 - Roles and responsibilities across the organisation.
 - Links to other strategies and frameworks (e.g. Reconciliation Action Plan, Accessibility Framework, Council Plan).

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PCC.022/25 Community Engagement Policy

8. The table below provides a summary of the key changes in the Draft Community Engagement Policy 2025 (**Attachment 1**):

Greater focus on inclusive engagement	Expanded detail on how Council will identify and reduce barriers to participation, ensuring engagement opportunities are accessible to all members of the community.
Clarification on hearing of submissions	Clearer guidance on how the community can formally present their views to Council as part of statutory consultation processes.
Commitment to accessible information	Emphasis on providing information in formats that are easy to understand and accessible to diverse audiences.
Improved reporting	A stronger commitment to reporting back to both the community and Council on the outcomes of engagement activities.
Alignment with the Council Plan	A clearer explanation of how community engagement supports the delivery of Council Plan priorities.
Updated definitions	Revised and expanded definitions to reflect current engagement practices and terminology.

9. These changes are designed to:

- Strengthen the organisation’s approach to engagement
- Identify resourcing or capability gaps
- Embed engagement earlier in project lifecycles
- Update language to reflect best practice and internal feedback
- Build stronger feedback loops between Council and the community

10. The Community Engagement team conducted internal staff consultations and a public-facing engagement process from 1 – 30 September 2025. This included:

- a) the Participate Nillumbik website which provided key information about the project and hosted an online survey
- b) Council officers conducted drop-in sessions and roamed the Hurstbridge Wattle Festival, Diamond Creek Rotary Festival, Edendale Community Environment Farm
- c) Attended the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee
- d) held two internal staff meetings/drop-in sessions.

11. Over 100 people engaged with the project information and resources provided. With the predominant amount from consulting the community via roaming at Hurstbridge Wattle Festival and the Diamond Creek Rotary event.

12. 10 community members completed the online survey.

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PCC.022/25 Community Engagement Policy

13. Communication methods used to notify the community of the engagement were:

- a) Website – Participate Nillumbik
- b) Posters
- c) Postcards
- d) Social Media post
- e) Social media reel
- f) Social media advertisement with a reach of 6.5k and 13.4k impressions.
- g) Newsletters
- h) Enews
- i) Nillumbik News article
- j) News Release
- k) Website news release

14. The feedback confirms the changes made in the Draft Community Engagement Policy 2025 align with community expectations, sentiment, and contemporary engagement practices.

Key findings include:

Participation Insights

- Majority of participants do not face barriers to engagement.
- Some felt their feedback wouldn't influence decisions or were unaware of opportunities to contribute.

Encouraging Feedback

- Residents are more likely to engage when they feel heard and see tangible improvements in their community.
- Building trust through visible outcomes and positive engagement experiences is key.

Maintain diverse engagement methods

- Combine digital tools with in-person sessions, printed materials, and direct contact with Councillors to ensure accessibility for all.

Close the loop

- Provide timely updates to the community to avoid long gaps between consultations and demonstrate how feedback is used.

Strengthen relationships

- Use informal engagement settings to foster approachability and better connect with underrepresented groups, including First Nations people and younger residents.

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PCC.022/25 Community Engagement Policy

Related Council decisions

15. At the Council meeting on 30 August 2025 Council resolved to go out to the community to consult of the Draft Community Engagement Policy.

Options

16. Following the Committee’s consideration of submissions, officers will finalise the Draft Community Engagement Policy and seek adoption of Council at a the 9 December 2025 Council meeting.

Council plans and policies

17. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2025-2029 strategy:
- Build strong community relationships through clear, consistent communication and meaningful engagement.

Access, Equity and Inclusion

18. An Equity Impact Assessment has been completed DOC/25/99603.

Sustainability implications

19. Not applicable.

Community engagement

20. In 2020, Council undertook two phases of consultation to inform the Community Engagement Policy. Community Engagement Policy was subsequently adopted in February 2021.
21. The community engagement approach on the draft Community Engagement Policy in September 2025 was supported by a blended model of online and face-to-face consultation methods, tailored to reach both internal and external stakeholders effectively. This approach allowed us to gather diverse perspectives in a way that is accessible, inclusive, and responsive to how people want to engage.
22. The Community Engagement team conducted internal staff consultations and a public-facing engagement process from 1 – 30 September 2025. This included:
- a) the Participate Nillumbik website which provided key information about the project and hosted an online survey
 - b) Council officers conducted drop-in sessions and roamed the Hurstbridge Wattle Festival, Diamond Creek Rotary Festival, Edendale Community Environment Farm
 - c) Attended the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee
 - d) held two internal staff meetings/drop-in sessions.
23. The revised policy, incorporating community input, is now being considered by the Planning and Consultation Committee on 11 November 2025, before being formally adopted by Council on 9 December 2025.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.022/25 Community Engagement Policy

Innovation and continuous improvement

24. Engagement evaluations conducted from June 2024 to the present to inform forward planning, ensuring insights and learnings are embedded into future engagement design. This includes analysing feedback gathered during the September 2025 consultation process to identify emerging community expectations, highlight what’s working, and refine our future engagement planning accordingly.

Engagement Approach at Community Events

- a) For this round of community engagement, a new approach was trialled at larger public events. Rather than setting up a traditional marquee, Council officers opted for a roaming engagement method. This decision was informed by previous feedback indicating that marquees often failed to attract sufficient community interest and limited spontaneous interaction.
- b) To facilitate this new approach, key consultation questions were printed on corflute boards. Officers then moved through the event spaces, initiating conversations with attendees and inviting them to respond to short and easy-to-answer questions.
- c) This method proved highly effective, significantly increasing participation and boosting survey response numbers. The informal and mobile nature of the engagement allowed for more dynamic interactions and greater reach across diverse community members.

Collaboration

25. As part of the policy review process, informal discussions were held with engagement officers from other councils to gain insights into their approaches to reviewing community engagement policies. These conversations provided valuable perspectives on best practices, challenges, and innovative methods being trialled across the sector, contributing to a broader understanding of engagement trends and opportunities for improvement.

Budget considerations

26. The review of the community engagement policy has been accommodated within existing operational budget.

Relevant law

- 27. Section 55 of the *Local Government Act 2020* sets out the obligations regarding the Community Engagement Policy.
- 28. Every council must adopt and maintain a Community Engagement Policy under Section 55(1) of the Act.
- 29. The Policy must be developed in accordance with the community engagement principles outlined in Section 56. These include transparency, accessibility, inclusion, and responsiveness.
- 30. While the Act does not specify a fixed timeframe for reviewing the policy (example every 4 years), it is implied under good governance obligations and continuous improvement that councils should review the policy regularly.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.022/25 Community Engagement Policy

Regional, state and national plans and policies

31. Not applicable.

Conflicts of interest

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

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.022/25 Community Engagement Policy

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