

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.

Attachments

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
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Nillumbik Shire Council

Attachments

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

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

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PCC.022/25 Community Engagement Policy

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- COM.001/25** **Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 October 2025**
- Attachment 1.** **Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14 October 2025**

Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

held at the Council Chamber, 32 Civic Drive, Greensborough
on Tuesday 14 October 2025 commencing at 7:00 PM.

Minutes

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

Friday 17 October 2025

Distribution: Public

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

Attachment Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting Minutes Meeting held Tuesday 14 October 2025

Nillumbik Shire Council

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Nillumbik Shire Council

Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 October 2025. The meeting commenced at 7:01 PM.

Councillors present:

Cr John Dumaresq	Wingrove Ward (Mayor)
Cr Naomi Joiner	Bunjil Ward (Deputy Mayor) (Temporary Chairperson)
Cr Grant Brooker	Blue Lake Ward (Chairperson Consultation Matters) (virtual)
Cr Kelly Joy	Edendale Ward
Cr Peter Perkins	Ellis Ward (Chairperson Planning Matters)
Cr Kim Cope	Sugarloaf Ward

Officers in attendance:

Carl Cowie	Chief Executive Officer
Claire Quinlan	Chief Operating Officer
Blaga Naumoski	Director Governance, Communications and Community Safety
Corrienne Nichols	Director Communities
Frank Vassilacos	Director Planning, Environment and Strategy
Jeremy Livingston	Director Culture and Performance
Katia Croce	Manager Governance and Property
Heath Gillett	Manager Operations Centre
David Keep	Parks and Open Space Coordinator
Danielle Henne	Open Space Project Officer

1. Welcome by the Chair

2. Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was read by the Temporary Chairperson Consultation Matters, Deputy Mayor, Cr Naomi Joiner.

3. Apologies/Leave of Absence

A request for a leave of absence has been received from Cr Kate McKay.

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Kim Cope

SECONDED: Cr Kelly Joy

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) grants the leave of absence for Cr Kate McKay.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Declarations of conflict of interest

Nil

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

Attachment 1 Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 October 2025

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

Attachment 1 Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 October 2025
5. Confirmation of Minutes

COM.001/25 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 9 September 2025

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9 September 2025.

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins
SECONDED: Cr Grant Brooker

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) confirms the Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9 September 2025 (**Attachment 1**).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Attachment 1 Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 October 2025

5. Confirmation of Minutes

COM.001/25 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 9 September 2025

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6. Officers' reports

PCC.018/25 Parks & Open Space Service Standards

Item: Consultation Matter
Distribution: Public
Manager: Claire Quinlan, Chief Operating Officer
Author: Heath Gillett, Manager Operations Centre

Summary

The Parks & Open Space Service Standards (POSSS) is intended to provide the community with a high-level overview of the information, especially in relation to programmed works and maintenance / defect levels.

The desired outcome of the Parks & Open Space Service Standards is to see it used to articulate, communicate and educate all on what, when and how Open Space Infrastructure and Assets are managed and maintained.

This report creates transparency in relation to the Open Space budget but is not a decision-making document for capital works or policy.

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

- 1 Don Vincent, President, on behalf of Friends of Nillumbik.

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins

SECONDED: Cr Kelly Joy

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Notes the Park and Open Space Service Standards (**Attachment 1**) that provide:
 - a) Definitions of programs and maintenance
 - b) Understanding of intervention levels
 - c) Transparency in regard to expectations
2. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to develop and implement a Communication Plan to support an education and promotion campaign on the Parks and Open Space Service Standards.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Attachment 1 Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 October 2025

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.018/25 Parks & Open Space Service Standards

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

Attachment 1 Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 October 2025
6. Officers' reports

PCC.019/25 Hurstbridge Dog Park Upgrade Community Consultation

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Claire Quinlan, Chief Operating Officer

Author: Stewart Broussard, Manager Recreation and Leisure

Summary

This report presents and considers public submissions received through community consultation regarding the Hurstbridge Dog Park Upgrade Concept Plan.

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Kelly Joy

SECONDED: Cr Peter Perkins

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Notes the submissions received in relation to the Hurstbridge Dog Park Upgrade project draft concept plan.
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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Attachment 1 Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 October 2025

4. Consultation Matters

PCC.020/25 Victorian carded play trial for electronic gaming machines

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7. Supplementary and urgent business

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Peter Perkins

SECONDED: Cr Kim Cope

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) in accordance with Clause 57 of the Governance Rule Meeting Procedure, admit the item of urgent business relating to the Victorian carded play trial for electronic gaming machines..

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PCC.020/25 Victorian carded play trial for electronic gaming machines

Item: Consultation Matter

Distribution: Public

Manager: Corrienne Nichols, Director Communities

Author: Nichole Johnson, Manager Community Partnerships

Summary

The Alliance for Gambling Reform and the City of Monash have withdrawn their support for the Victorian government's trial for mandatory carded play for electronic gaming machines (EGM's) and have invited Councils to support their stance.

Committee Resolution

MOVED: Cr Grant Brooker

SECONDED: Cr Peter Perkins

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) approves the Mayor to co-sign the Alliance of Gambling Reform and Monash joint letter to the Minister for Casino Gaming and Liquor Regulation and the Minister for Local Government, advocating for strong consumer protections and transparency.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments

1. Letter to Ministers Co-signed with Alliance and Monash
2. Template letter to Members of Parliament
3. Example of Motion Recommendations

Discussion

1. In May 2025, the *Gambling Legislation Amendment (Pre-commitment and Carded Play) Bill 2024* was passed in Parliament.

2. Following this the Victorian Government announced a trial from May to June 2025 of mandatory pre-commitment systems known as 'carded play' for the local government areas of Monash, Greater Dandenong and Ballarat. These Councils and the broader sector were not consulted.
3. Since the initial announcement of the trial, the State Government have removed the mandatory pre-commitment and binding loss limits, the timeframes for the trial, transparency around the evaluation of the proposed trial and the inclusion of other types of technology.
4. Optional pre-commitment and cashless play is largely viewed as ineffective in addressing gambling harm.

Related Council decisions

5. The Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy 2016-2021 was adopted at the 9 February 2016 Policy and Services Committee.

Options

6. **Option 1:** Co-sign the Alliance and Monash joint letter to Ministers (**Attachment 1**) – this option strongly aligns with Council's commitment to harm minimisation and advocacy under the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy and the Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 in supporting Council's role in promoting community health and safety. This option strengthens partnerships and demonstrates sector leadership. There is low resource requirement for this option and can be prepared within existing officer capacity. The deadline for co-signing has been extended to 20 October 2025.

Option 2: Send a separate letter to MPs and Ministers outlining Council's position based on our current policies (**Attachment 2**) – this option strongly aligns with Council's commitment to harm minimisation and advocacy under the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy and the Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 in supporting Council's role in promoting community health and safety. This option further reinforces broad advocacy for safer regulations and equity in wellbeing outcomes and reinforces Council's specific position and alignment with its commitments. There is low resource requirement for this option and can be prepared within existing officer capacity.

Option 3: Prepare a Council motion reaffirming Council's stance and advocacy role (**Attachment 3**) – this option supports adherence to Council's Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy, Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 and Access Equity and Inclusion Policy. This option is consistent with Council's harm minimisation approach, transparency and community wellbeing commitments. This option reflects Council's role in educating and empowering the community and increases visibility and community awareness. There is moderate resources requirements for this option as officer coordination is required with both the Governance and Communications teams.

Option 4: Defer advocacy – this option partially aligns with Council's harm-minimisation approach but may not reflect a proactive stance in relation to current policy commitments. This option allows alignment with future policy, however, may limit immediate influence. There is no resource requirement for this option.

Council plans and policies

7. This report directly supports the achievement of the Council Plan 2025-2029 strategy:
 - Address the social determinants of health by supporting initiatives that promote safe housing, education, community connection and food environments.

8. Councils Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy recognises gambling as a public health issue and commits Council to harm minimisation, independence from gambling industry funding and supports advocacy for safer regulations.
9. The Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 Identifies 'reducing harm from alcohol, drugs, vaping, tobacco and gambling' as a strategic priority, including limiting opportunities for gambling and addressing its social and economic impacts.
10. The Access Equity and Inclusion Policy Commits Council to fair and equitable access to services and the promotion of community wellbeing, including addressing gambling harm, which disproportionately affects priority populations.

Access, Equity and Inclusion

11. Applying Nillumbik's Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy to gambling harm reduction means ensuring that prevention, education and advocacy efforts are designed and delivered in ways that are inclusive, equitable and responsive to diverse community needs.
12. This includes recognising that gambling harm disproportionately affects people experiencing financial stress, social isolation, disability, or other forms of disadvantage, and that barriers such as stigma, digital exclusion and limited access to information can reduce help-seeking.

Sustainability implications

13. Not Applicable

Community engagement

14. Not Applicable

Innovation and continuous improvement

15. Not Applicable

Collaboration

16. Not Applicable

Budget considerations

17. Not Applicable

Relevant law

18. *Gambling Legislation Amendment (Pre-commitment and Carded Play) Bill 2024*

Regional, state and national plans and policies

19. Not Applicable

Conflicts of interest

20. 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.

PCC.020/25 -> Victorian carded play trial for electronic gaming machines
Attachment 1. -> Letter to Ministers Co-signed with Alliance and Monash



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1 October 2025

The Hon. Enver Erdogan MLC
Minister for Casino, Gaming & Liquor
Email: enver.erdogan@parliament.vic.gov.au

Copy to: The Hon. Nick Staikos
Minister for Local Government
Email: nick.staikos@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister Erdogan,

Re: Victorian EGM trials

The Alliance for Gambling Reform is joined by the undersigned Victorian Councils, spearheaded by the City of Monash in collectively sharing our concerns regarding the mandatory carded play trial announced on 21 July and the progress of the 'Landmark Reforms' announced in July 2023

Local government was generally supportive of the announced reforms to curb the year-on-year record high pokies losses across the state, including carded gambling with mandatory loss limits, noting that these reforms represent a critical step toward reducing gambling harm and restoring agency to individuals affected by it. The Alliance co-ordinated with our Leadership Council partners to provide a submission to the 'Landmark Reforms' consultation in October 2023. You can review that submission [here](#).

As one of the LGA's consistently experiencing the top ten losses, Monash Council publicly welcomed the announced plan that from September to November across all 43 in venues with gaming machines in Monash, as well as the City of Greater Dandenong and the City of Ballarat that:

"People gambling at these venues will need to use a YourPlay card to play electronic gaming machines and set loss limits – helping put the power back into the hands of patrons and prevent money laundering."

At its meeting on 26 August, Monash Council made the decision to withdraw its initial support due to the lack of mandatory and binding loss limits as a feature of the trial.

This came after the June passage of the **Gambling Legislation Amendment (Pre-commitment and Carded Play) Bill 2024** through the Legislative Council where the Minister did not commit to previously stated timelines for a full rollout of the mandatory pre-commitment reforms and introduced that other types of technology including facial recognition technology were now likely to be trialled, therefore the timeline was unknown.

The timeline provided for in the second reading of the Bill by the previous Minister, Melissa Horne, included a pilot for these changes in mid-2025 and mandatory carded play with binding pre-commitment limits implemented state-wide in late 2027. We understand that the Bill was finalised later than expected, which naturally delayed the initial trial. However, we don't accept that there is no longer a date for when the mandatory pre-commitment will be trialled, along with when mandatory pre-commitment will be rolled out across the state.

Can you please communicate the planned schedule for the statewide rollout?

PCC.020/25 - Victorian carded play trial for electronic gaming machines
Attachment 1. - Letter to Ministers Co-signed with Alliance and Monash

We are also concerned about the evaluation for the current trial, and any future trials, including a lack of transparency on what is being assessed, by who, whether that assessment will be published in full and when the Minister will respond.

Can you provide us with responses to our questions regarding the evaluation?

Finally, we are concerned that local government has not been recognised as a stakeholder through the trial and through the rollout of the 'Landmark Reforms'. This is despite the ongoing interest of councils in reducing gambling harm in their communities, and their demonstrated willingness to engage realistically with Government on the impacts to their communities.

As the level of government closest to communities, councils are well placed to provide key insights into gambling harm at a local level, as well as identify local opportunities to educate communities on changes that can give them much needed tools to limit harm caused by gambling.

The Alliance was disappointed and surprised that local councils weren't engaged ahead of the trial being finalised, and that even post the announcement, there was no attempt to engage directly with council officers and provide background information.

We believe this lack of engagement has contributed to councils' uncertainty around the trial and its efficacy and are disappointed that no growth area councils (many of which are included in the top 10 losses in the state), were earmarked to participate in the trial.

We urge you to engage directly with councils, including by meeting directly with the Alliance, together with representatives from Monash, Ballarat and Dandenong to discuss the trial and future steps as part of the rollout, and with how councils can be better engaged as a significant stakeholder.

We also hope you will engage directly with the sector on this issue in the coming months by convening an online briefing for all councils and providing greater engagement and supporting collateral so that councils understand the purpose and timelines of future reforms.

We are keen to meet with you as soon as practicable, and we are eager to continue to engage with you regarding the reforms as they progress.

Yours Sincerely



Martin Thomas
CEO
Martin.Thomas@agr.org.au



Rev Tim Costello
Chief Advocate
Tim.Costello@agr.org.au



Cr Paul Klisaris
Mayor – City of Monash

Council signatories

PCC.020/25 - Victorian carded play trial for electronic gaming machines
Attachment 2 - Template letter to Members of Parliament

Dear

Re: Victorian EGM trials

The Alliance for Gambling Reform is joined by the undersigned Victorian Councils, spearheaded by the City of Monash in collectively sharing our concerns regarding the mandatory carded play trial announced on 21 July and the progress of the 'Landmark Reforms' announced in July 2023.

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Can you please advocate to the Minister to communicate the planned schedule for the statewide rollout?

PCC.020/25 → Victorian carded play trial for electronic gaming machines
Attachment 2. → Template letter to Members of Parliament

We are also concerned about the evaluation for the current trial, and any future trials, including a lack of transparency on what is being assessed, by who, whether that assessment will be published in full and when the Minister will respond.

Can you advocate to the Minister to provide us with responses to our questions regarding the evaluation?

Finally, we are concerned that local government has not been recognised as a stakeholder through the trial and through the rollout of the 'Landmark Reforms'. This is despite the ongoing interest of councils in reducing gambling harm in their communities, and their demonstrated willingness to engage realistically with Government on the impacts to their communities.

As the level of government closest to communities, councils are well placed to provide key insights into gambling harm at a local level, as well as identify local opportunities to educate communities on changes that can give them much needed tools to limit harm caused by gambling.

The Alliance was disappointed and surprised that local councils weren't engaged ahead of the trial being finalised, and that even post the announcement, there was no attempt to engage directly with council officers and provide background information.

We believe this lack of engagement has contributed to councils' uncertainty around the trial and its efficacy and are disappointed that no growth area councils (many of which are included in the top 10 losses in the state), were earmarked to participate in the trial.

We urge you to engage directly with councils, together with representatives from Monash, Ballarat and Dandenong to discuss the trial and future steps as part of the rollout, and with how councils can be better engaged as a significant stakeholder.

We also hope you will engage directly with the sector on this issue so that councils understand the purpose and timelines of future reforms. We are eager to continue to engage with you regarding the reforms as they progress.

Yours Sincerely

PCC.020/25 → Victorian carded play trial for electronic gaming machines Attachment 3. → Example of Motion Recommendations
Recommendations: That Council 1. Withdraws its support for the State Government's mandatory account-based gambling trial, due to the lack of mandatory and binding loss limits as a feature of the trial 2. Continues working with the Alliance for Gambling reform and urges the State Government to reinstate a mandatory precommitment pilot, with independent evaluation and a statewide roll-out plan, alongside complementary harm-reduction measures (e.g., reduced operating hours and fewer machines in high-harm areas) 3. Advocates to the State Government to recognize Council as an equally important stakeholder as industry, ensuring its involvement in all significant decision-making processes for the trial 4. Advocates for other Councils to be included in the trial, importantly, those most impacted by gambling harm including other local government areas within the top 10 for gambling losses 5. Submits a joint letter of advocacy to State Government with other top 10 loss councils or trial site councils advocating for harm prevention to form a key part of the trial

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

Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 October 2025

8. Confidential reports

Nil

9. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.37pm.

Confirmed: _____

Cr Chairperson Planning Matters

Cr , Chairperson Consultation Matters

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Diamond Creek BMX Park

Illustrative Schematic Plan
For internal review only

Concrete (Charcoal gradient)

Concrete

Compacted Toppings

Sealed Track Surfacing

Grass infill

All-access Toilet Facilities

Landmark Shelters 4 x 6m

Rock Edging for Rainwater Management
incl. rain gardens & swales as req

Existing Trees to be retained

New Trees



- A** CAR PARK/DROP OFF AREA

Disabled parking & turnaround space for drop off where indicated.
- B** TOILET FACILITIES

All-Access Toilet located at key access point
- C** CONCRETE PATH

1.8m wide concrete path linking all key activity areas, running around tracks & linking to key access points along Diamond Creek Trail. Paths have been located around the structural root zones of all existing trees, and are deliberately winding where the slope is steepest to allow for a slightly gentler climb and lessen the ability to fly down the path on a BMX.
- D** BMX TRACK

Track as per plans by The Trail Collective. Compacted toppings used between jumps & key access points, with dense planting/trees where feasible and safe to create a more bush track effect & provide passive shade in the future. Track starts on the south side, at the highest point of the hill, and ends next to the car park area.
- E** PUMP TRACK

Pump track located along area with less slope, with 2 metre offset from circulation path and trees in the centre for shade. Multiple shelters & BBQs, benches are located nearby for parents, groups etc, with the junior playground close by.
- F** NEW SHELTERS

Large picnic shelter with BBQ & tables and/or benches where indicated. Located at key activity spaces such as beginning & end of the BMX track & around the junior pump track.

G BIKE RACKS

With repair station

H SEATING BENCHES

Various bench types, focused in key gathering areas such as the beginning of the BMX track and around the pump track & junior play area

I NEW TREES

Where feasible & safe to do so, a diverse range of trees will be planted across the site to provide shade long-term and increase biodiversity. If possible will including some non-local feature trees to provide specific amenity such as thick shade .

J EXISTING TREES

Path networks, shelters & park features are all located to ensure long-term protection and survival of the remaining groups of existing trees on site.

K RAIN GARDENS / SWALES / WOODY MEADOW

Various strategies for retaining water on site including:
 - Rain gardens around sump pits in both tracks
 - Heavily vegetated swales (verging on rain gardens) on path edges, with rock edging where required to retain runoff
 - Woody Meadow as rain garden - planting project working with native shrubs to create low-maintenance, drought tolerant gardens with a strong aesthetic appeal. See <https://woodymeadow.unimelb.edu.au> for further details of other Woody Meadow installations around Melbourne including Birrarung Marr & Royal Park. To be confirmed & collaborated with Melbourne University, Burnley College.

L FENCING 01

To protect areas of high biodiversity value.

M FENCING 02

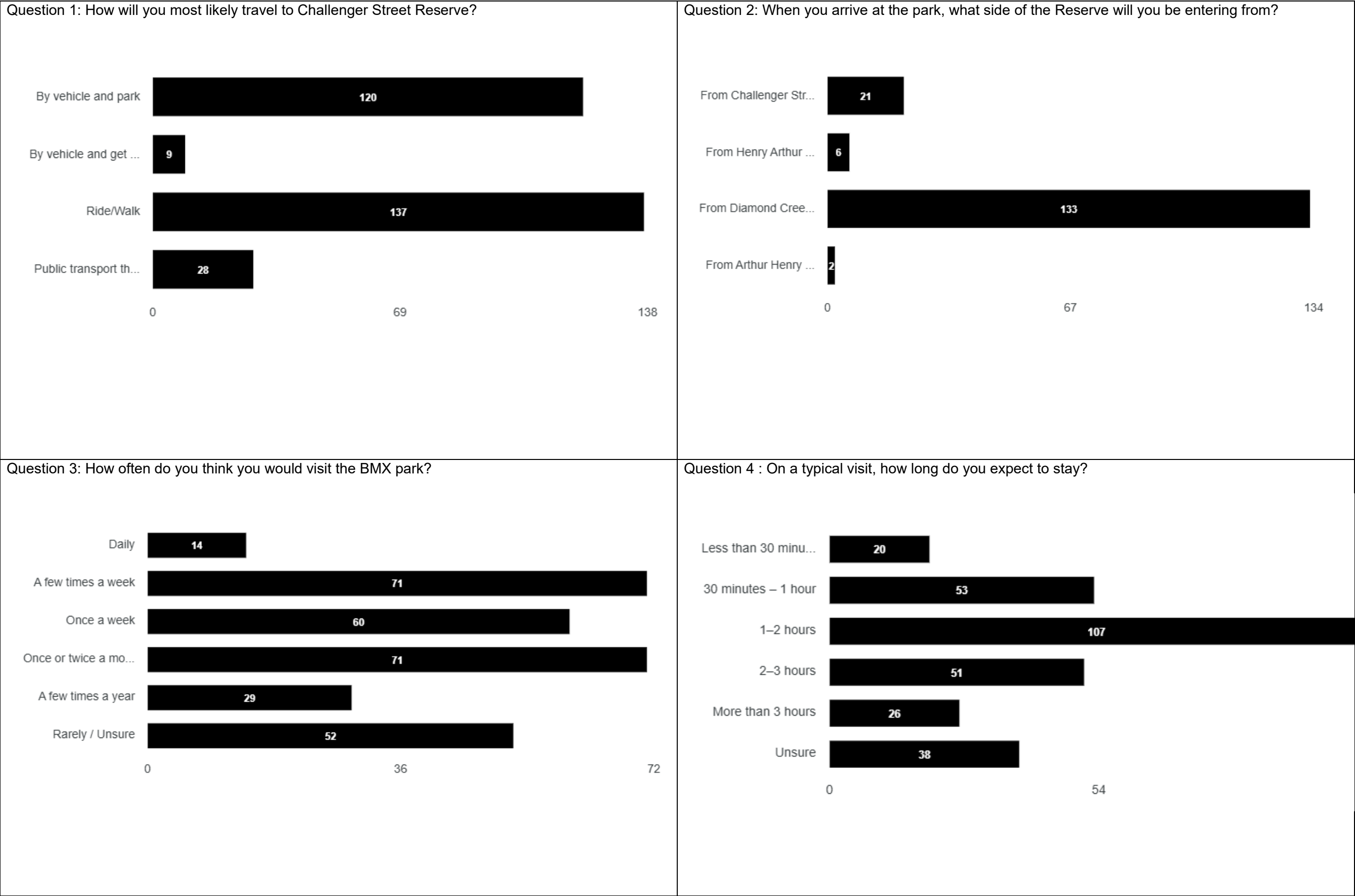
Post and rail fence between the BMX jumps and the BBQ area to discourage track access by small children
-
-
-
-
- Attachments - 21

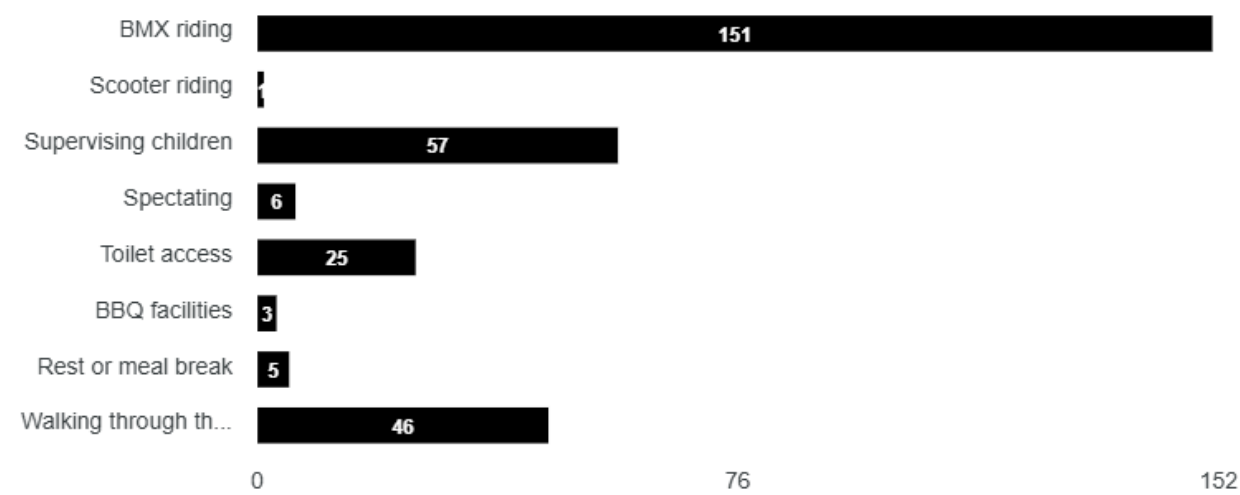
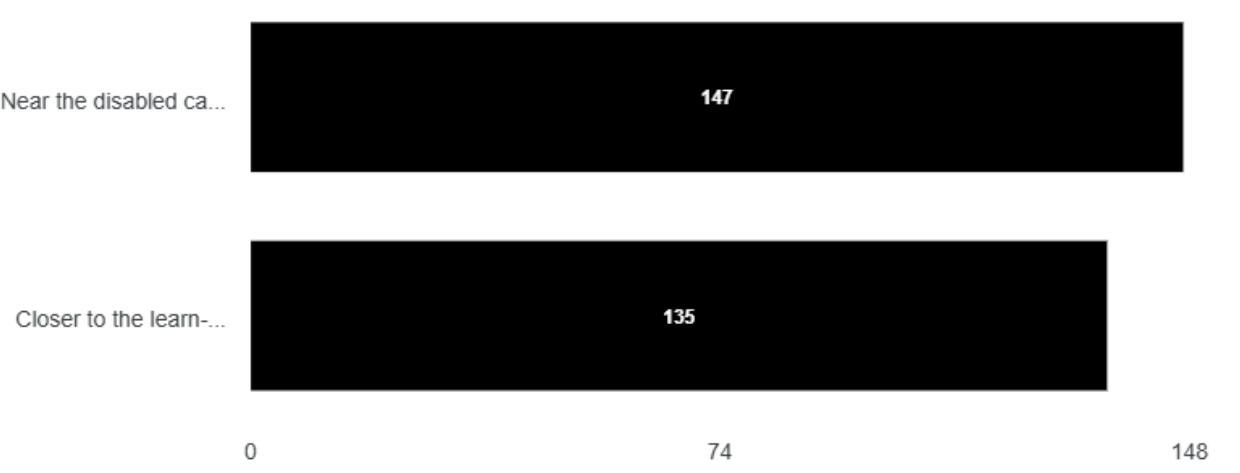
Diamond Creek BMX Park

Illustrative Schematic Plan
Broader Context Map



BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park consultation 1-26 October – Graphs



Question 5: What would your main reason for visiting the park be?  <table><thead><tr><th>Reason</th><th>Count</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>BMX riding</td><td>151</td></tr><tr><td>Scooter riding</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Supervising children</td><td>57</td></tr><tr><td>Spectating</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Toilet access</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>BBQ facilities</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Rest or meal break</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Walking through the park</td><td>46</td></tr></tbody></table>	Reason	Count	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	Question 6: Where do you currently go for BMX riding or similar activities? Refer the free text submissions
Reason	Count																		
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Walking through the park	46																		
Question 7: Accessible toilets have been located near the disabled car park and drop-off area in the current concept plan. Where would you prefer the accesible toilets to be located?  <table><thead><tr><th>Location</th><th>Count</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Near the disabled car park</td><td>147</td></tr><tr><td>Closer to the learn-to-ride area</td><td>135</td></tr></tbody></table>	Location	Count	Near the disabled car park	147	Closer to the learn-to-ride area	135	Question 8: Do you support the use of Sic surface?  <table><thead><tr><th>Response</th><th>Count</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Yes</td><td>232</td></tr><tr><td>No</td><td>49</td></tr></tbody></table>	Response	Count	Yes	232	No	49						
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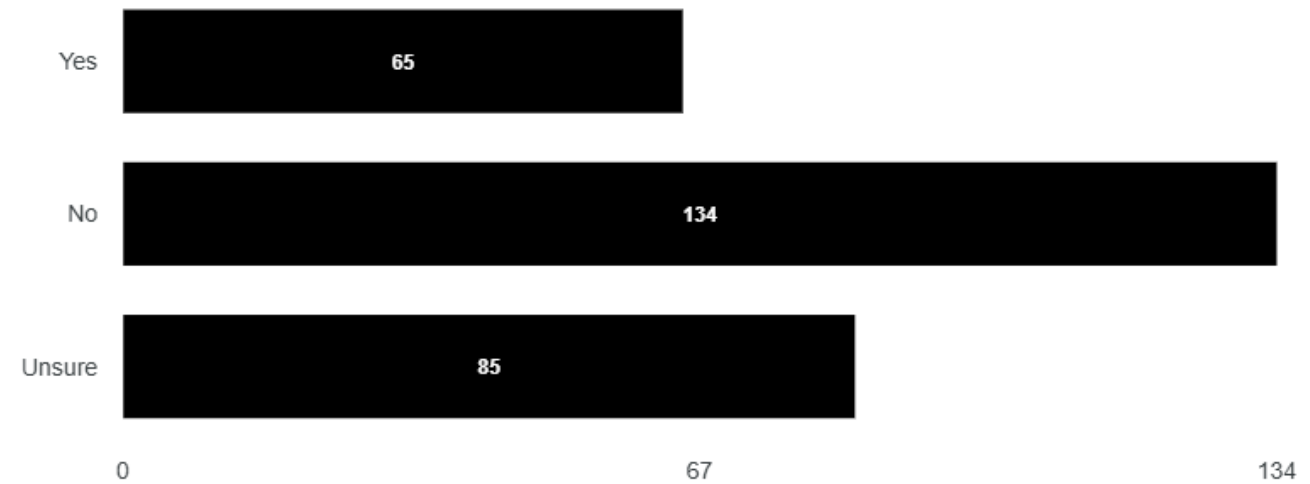
Question 9:

Did you know that natural dirt jumps require regular maintenance?
Before use: They must be uncovered and lightly watered.
During and after use: They need reshaping to keep them safe and consistent.
After use: They must be watered again and covered.

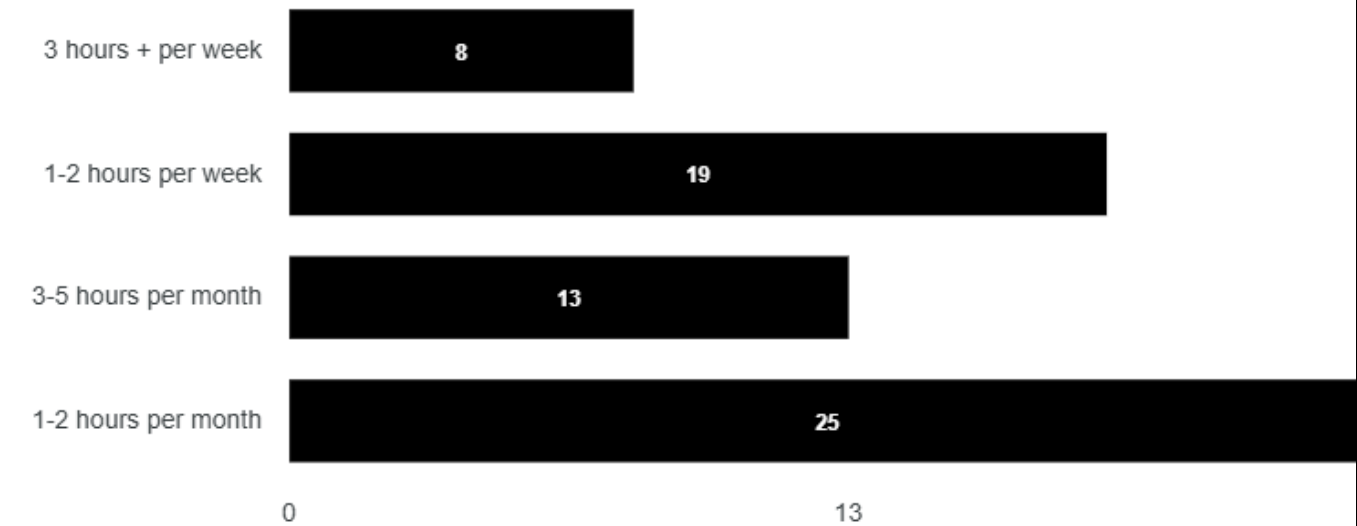
Would you still use the jumps if you were required to complete this work before and after riding?



Question 10: Would you be interested in joining a community-led group to help maintain the jumps on an ongoing basis?



Question 11: How much time would you commit to this group?

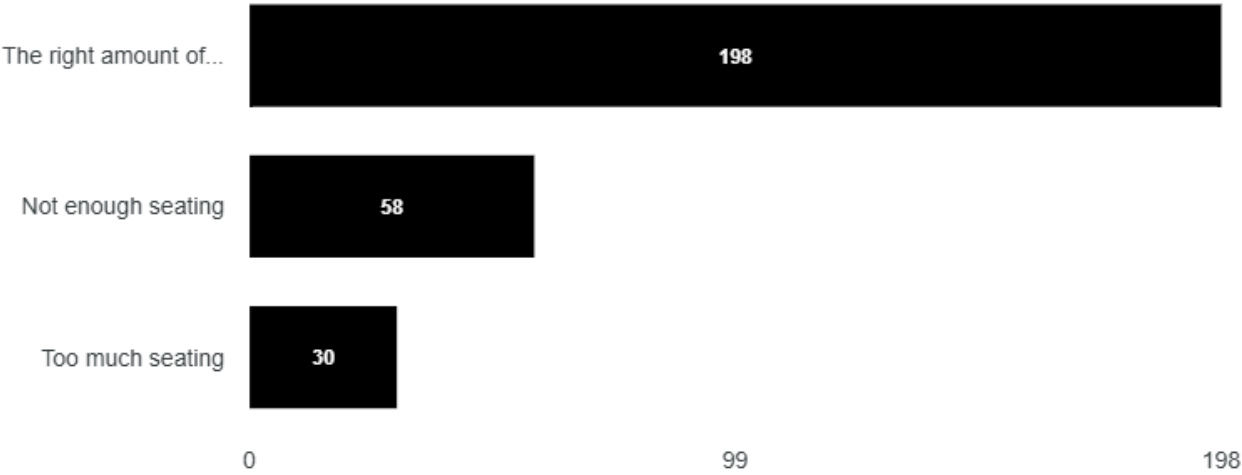


Question 12: BBQ facilities have been included near the learn-to-ride track. Do you support the inclusion of BBQ facilities?



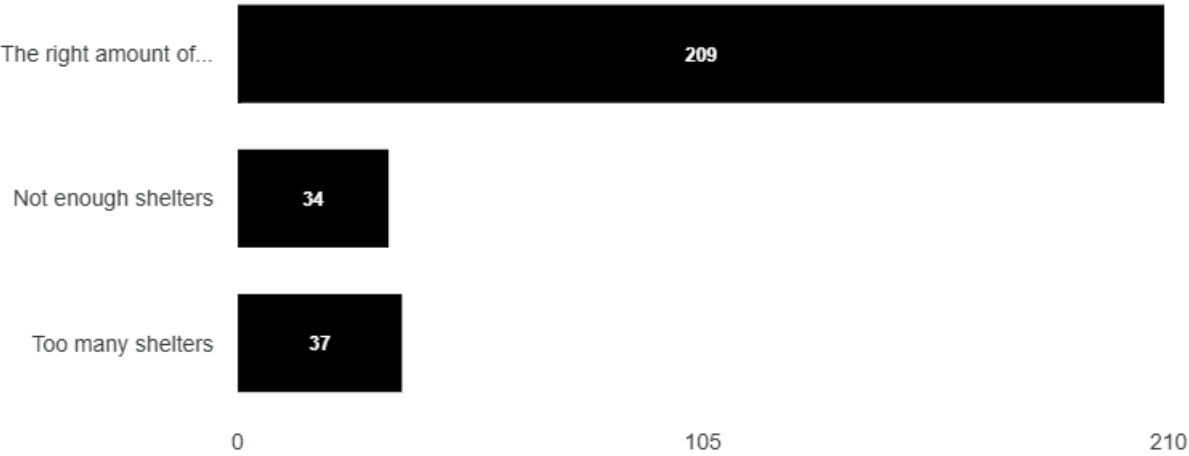
Question 13: If no, why not
Refer to the free text submissions

Question 14: There are 8 benches seats and 5 picnic tables included in the concept plan. Do you think this is the :



Question 15: Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating seating?
Refer to the free text submissions

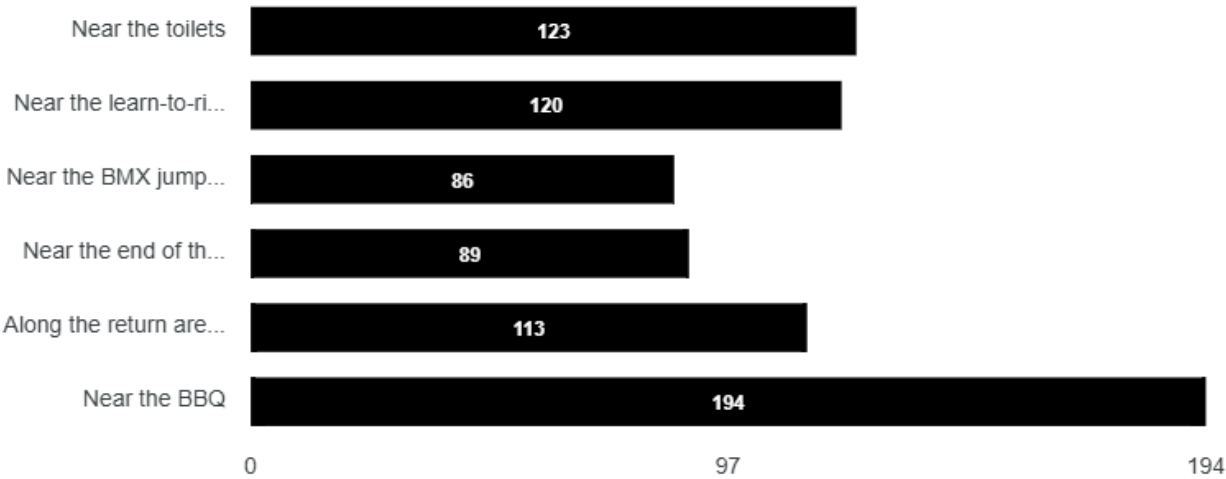
Question 16: There are 5 shelters included in the concept plan. To you think there is:



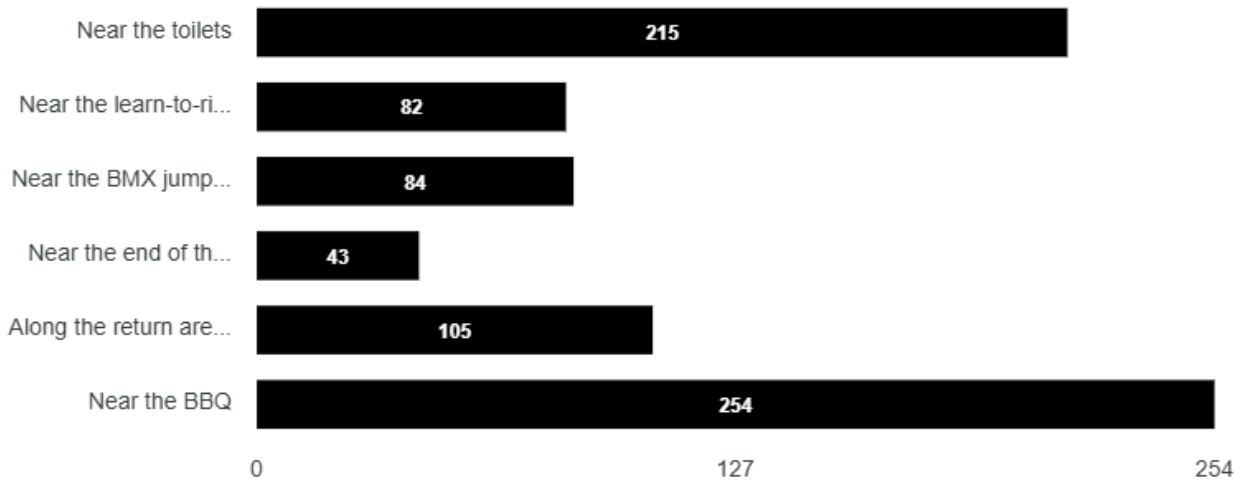
Question 17: Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating the shelters?

Refer to the free text submissions

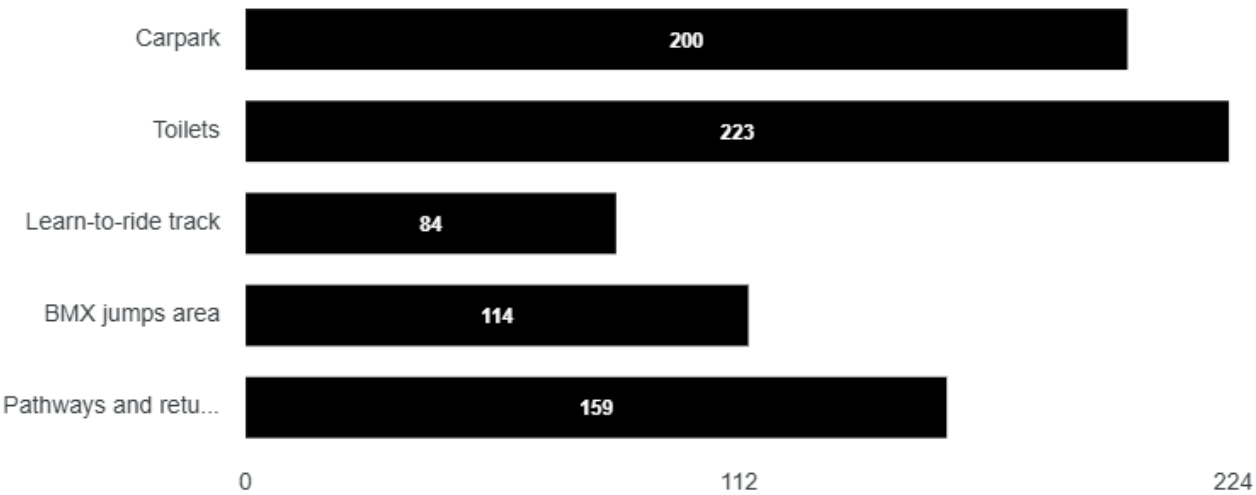
Question 18: Where are the most important locations for drinking fountains?



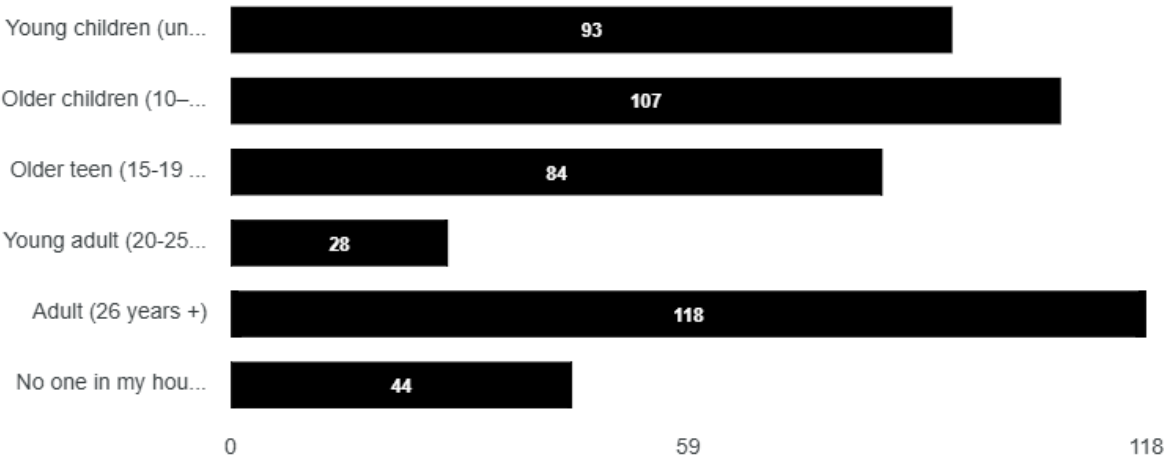
Question 19: Where are the most important locations for the bins?



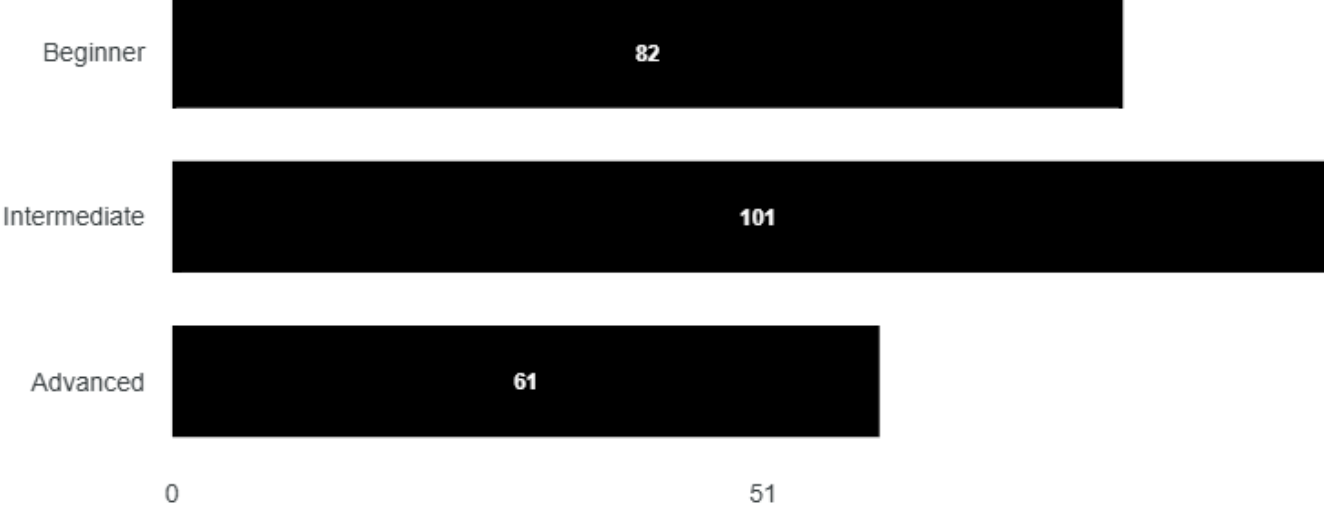
Question 20: Are there any specific areas where you feel safety lighting should be prioritised?
(Select all that apply)



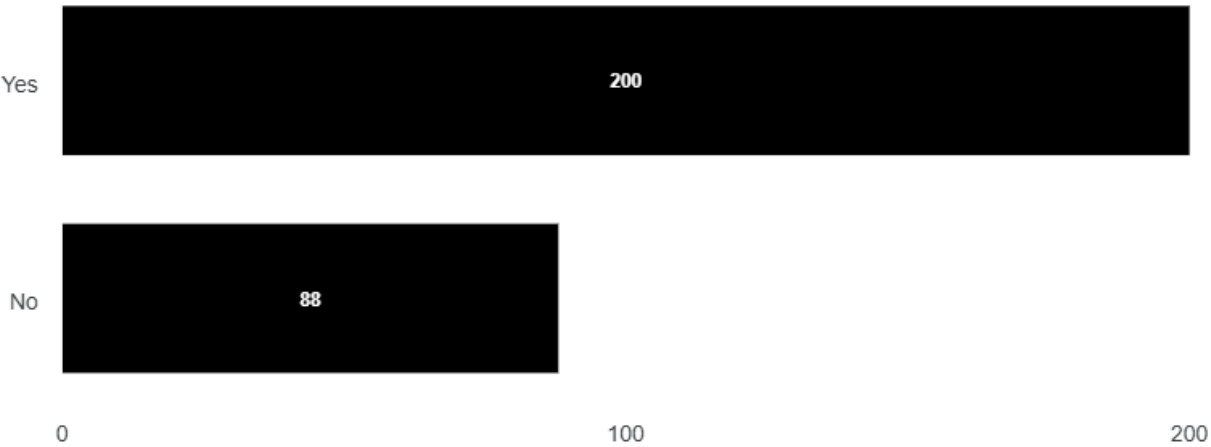
Question 21: Who in your household is most likley to use the facilities?



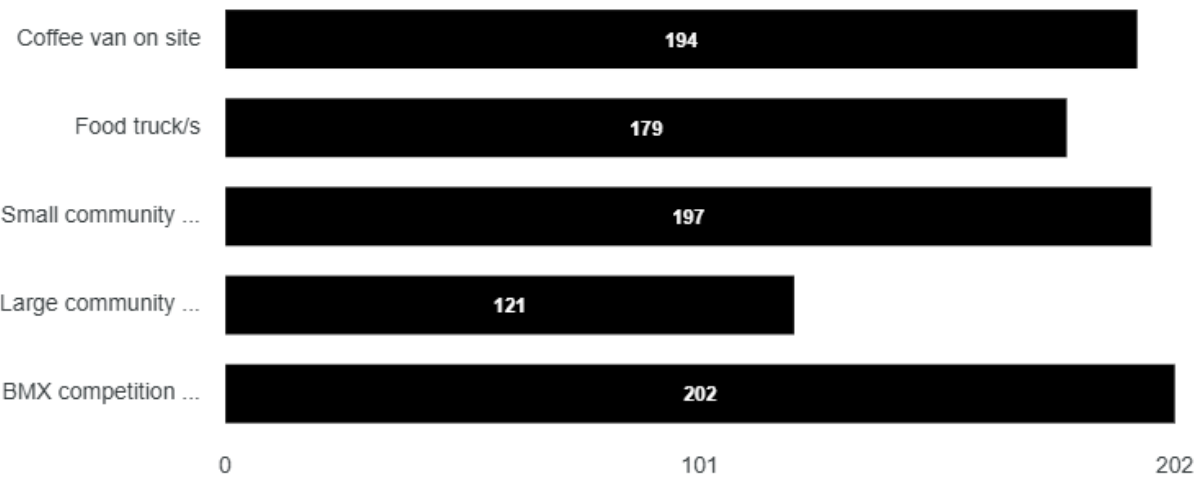
Question 22: How would you describe this persons current riding skill?



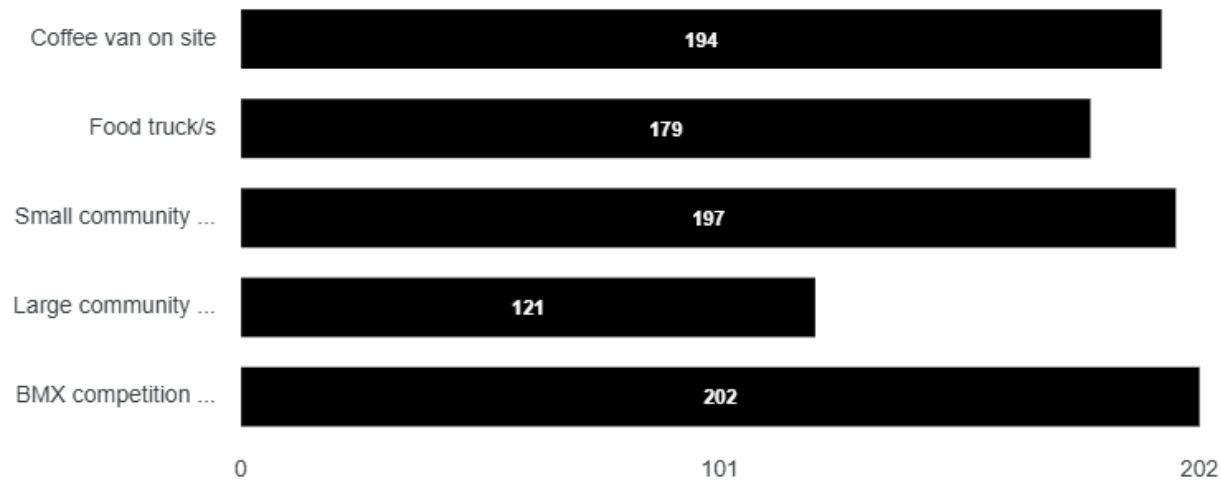
Question 23: Do yo u support the inclusion of a public art piece incorporated in the final design?



Question 24: Consideration 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?



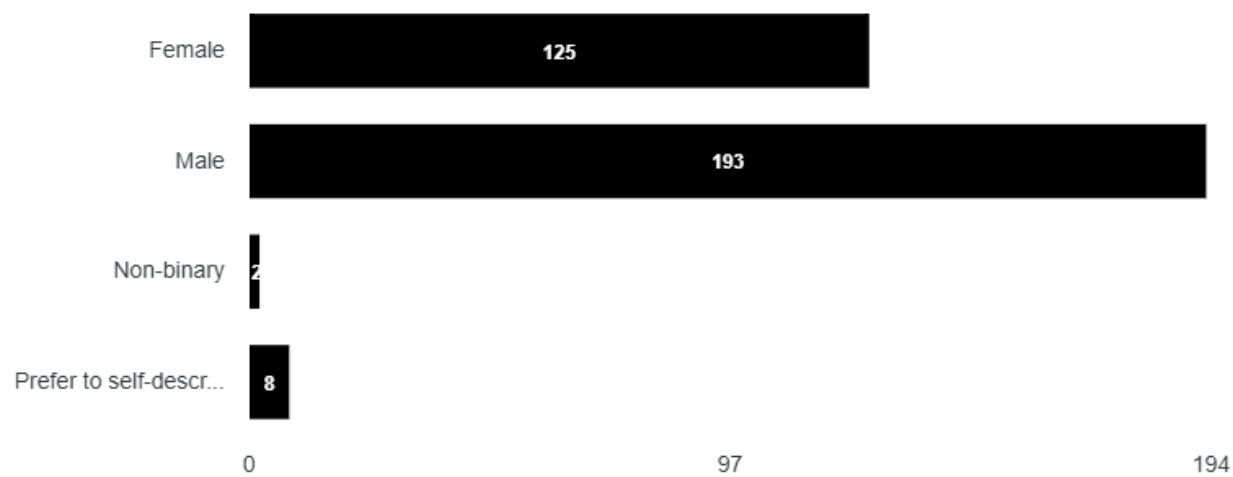
Question 25: Thinking about the whole BMX park and recreation area, what are your top priorities?



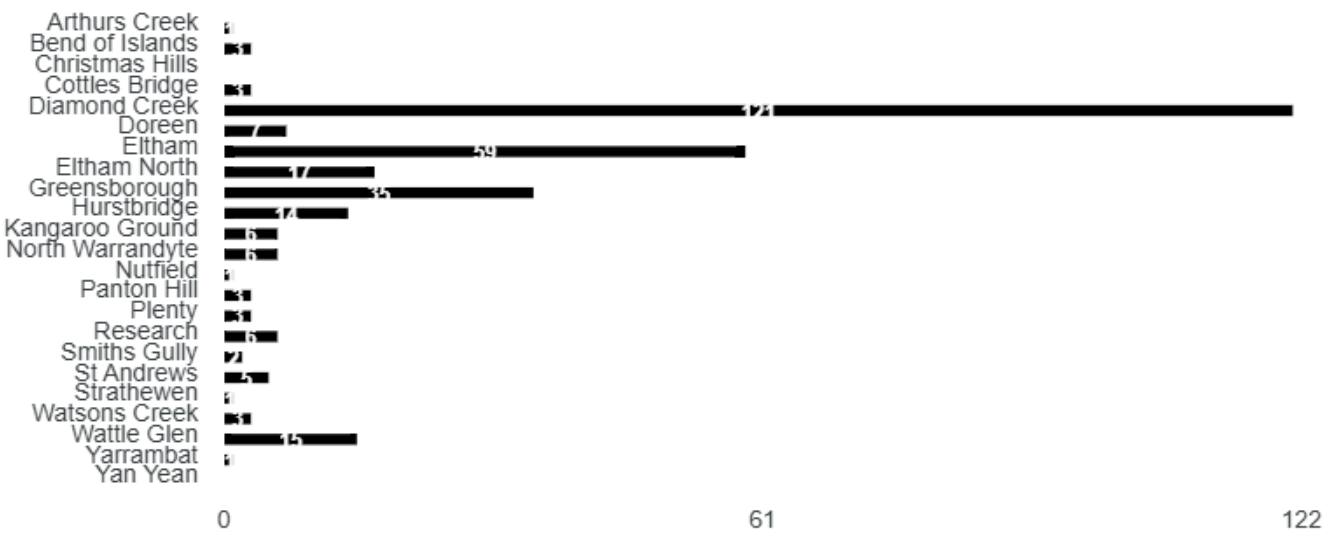
Question 26: Is there anything else you would like to share about the BMX park and recreation space?

Refer to the free text submissions

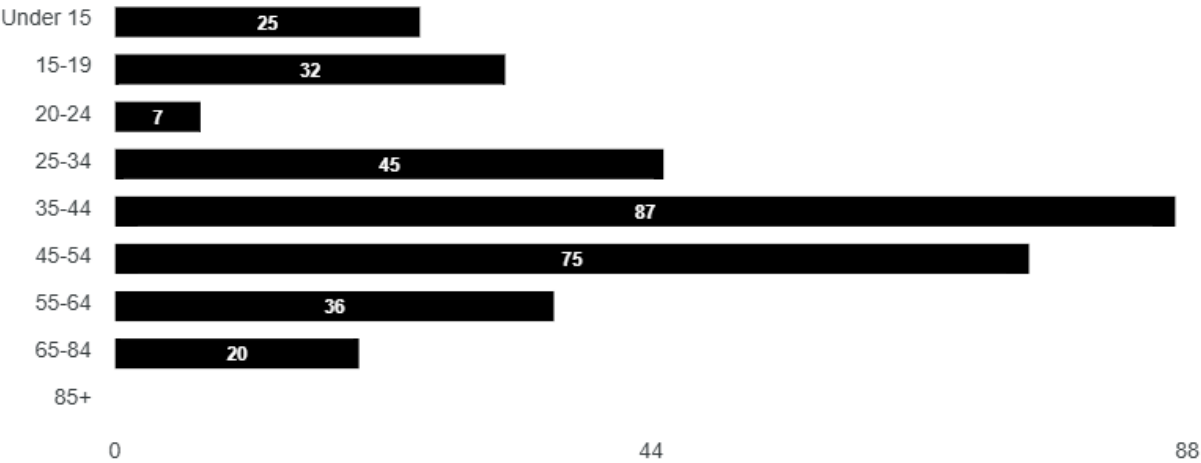
Gender



Suburbs



Age group



Are you?



How did you hear about this consultation?



Written submission 1



25.10.2025

Nillumbik Shire Council
32 Civic Drive
Greensborough
Victoria 3088

Dear Nillumbik Shire

I am writing in objection to Challenger St Reserve as the site for The Diamond Creek Recreation Precinct (BMX Park).

I also object to the duplication of such facilities within such a small distance.

I support a BMX park in the area, I value the needs of teenagers. I have a teenage son. He grew up riding ‘the DC trails’ in Diamond Creek. The attraction was having an outdoor space where he and his friends could not only ride, but build and reshape the jumps, learning and developing life skills such as collaboration, problem solving and of course riding skills. This lifestyle contributed to their sense of purpose, achievement, positive relationships and self-worth, qualities that enhance and promote General well-being.

I understand, building unauthorised jumps is a safety issue and causes environmental damage, especially in sensitive riparian zones, and this led to the removal of the ‘DC Trails’ on 17th Nov 2021. I also understand that you have consulted with the local BMX community and considered their needs when designing the plan. You also paid an Adelaide company, The Trails Collective to consult on and design the plan.

Diamond Creek Community
Recreation Park

15 Allendale Road, Diamond Creek 3089

The Growing Suburbs Fund will assist Nillumbik Shire Council to deliver a community recreation park in Diamond Creek to support the social and recreational needs of the whole community.

The scope of the project includes:

- A DDA compliant path network
- Seating
- Public amenities
- Bicycle track and learn to ride track
- Landscaping, safety lighting and carparking

Expected date of commencement: March 2024
Expected date of completion: March 2026

Total Project Cost: \$2,813,424
Growing Suburbs Fund: \$2,163,424
Other contributions:

- Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program: \$650,000

The other projects in Nillumbik Shire Council to receive funding from the 2022-23 Growing Suburbs Fund are:

- Ryans Reserve Rejuvenation Project (\$1,190,837)
- Diamond Valley Library Outdoor Space (\$438,243)

In Oct 2022, Nillumbik Shire Council received a Victorian Government Growing Suburbs Fund grant of \$2.16million.

This fund granted for Allendale Rd site states;
The Growing Suburbs Fund will assist Nillumbik Shire Council to deliver a community recreation park in Diamond Creek to support the social and recreational needs of the whole community.

The scope of the project includes:

- DDA compliant path network
- Seating
- Public amenities
- Bicycle track and learn to ride track
- Landscaping, safety lighting and carparking

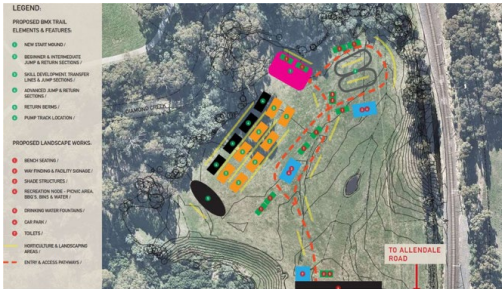


Figure 1 Growing Suburbs Fund 2022-2033 Scope of Project

Figure 2 Plan in Funding Document

The plan used for initial consultations and promotion, did not show the full scope of the works (Figure 3). It showed the jumps and the carpark but failed to show the extra family friendly facilities that were required to secure the grant.

At the Council meeting 27th May 2025 it was first announced Challenger St as new site. They said they will engage with community and stake holders on the new location. Full public consultation will be required. They acknowledged that houses overlooked the site.



Figure 1 Plan made publicly available to promoting the BMX park

At the Council meeting 30th Sept

All agreed on a participate Nillumbik survey, detailing the full scope of family friendly facilities, and it was to be rushed through to get work started in the new year. This is the largest project the current council has listed consultation for and they said spending constraints may be required because of the extensive community consultation in 2002 for the Allendale Rd site and they could not build now what they could build in 2022.

On the 3rd of June 2025, NSC published this plan uploading a Website page headed, BMX park rolls into a new location, which stated;

*While the process has been complex, it reflects Council's commitment to **getting it right** for our young people, our **environment and our community**. **Challenger Street Reserve, Diamond Creek has been selected as the new location**.*

*This site meets the requirements for a BMX park, **ensuring minimal environmental and cultural impact**, is located adjacent to the Diamond Creek Trail and will provide easy access for riders.*

Council remains committed to delivering a safe, exciting and inclusive facility for all riders and will contribute \$650,000 to fund the new BMX dirt jumps.

In addition to the new BMX park, the Victorian Government has committed to fund \$2.16 million through the Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF) for a community and recreation park, which will include infrastructure surrounding the BMX dirt jumps.

It's clear that there's a strong local support. This is an exciting project for the Shire because many BMX riders have told us it's something the community really wants.

I have spoken with many locals about the BMX plan in the past 3 weeks, since I became aware of the project. One of them said they attended a meeting in the first consults for the Allendale Rd site proposal. They put their name on a list of people who would like to be part of the consultation process but they were never contacted. When questioning a NSC Recreation and Leisure Officer about this, he said, that intention and desire for this consultation process went nowhere and that group was never established because of the delay in the timeline.

NSC has made no attempt to *get it right* for the environment or our community. They have not conducted and Environmental Effects Statement for this site. Nor did they consult boarder community, beyond BMX riders who only consulted the plan (figure 3)with none of the infrastructure or amenities required to secure the grant (figures 1&2). In accepting this grant, NSC has blown the original concept plan, a BMX track to replace the DC Trails, out of the park (excuse the pun)! When originally consulted, the BMX community was not aware they had to share this space with the wider community such small children and their parents. The Diamond Creek Recreation Park was only conceived because of the grant stipulations.

In two phone conversations 23 & 24th Oct, with NSC [REDACTED] Officers, told myself and [REDACTED], that it was an 'oversight' that the extra amenities were not on the plan. It does not appear to be an 'oversight' rather a deliberate tactic to create confusion and receive less objection to the BMX park plan, now way out of the expected timeline.

In those conversations, just 1 & 2 business days from the end of Community consultation period 1-26th Oct, I notified the NSC Officers their website still displayed the Plan (figure 3) as the site for the BMX park. They amended this the afternoon on the 24th Oct after [REDACTED] informed another Officer.

These screenshots show that on in the morning of 24th Oct the pin linking the BMX park was still on Allendale Rd (figure 4) and shows the plan for the Allendale Rd site without amenities (figure 5).

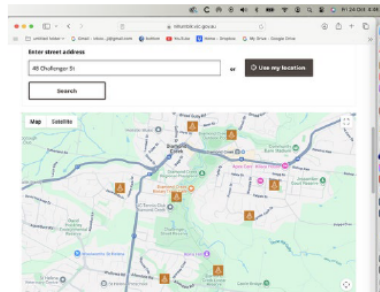


Figure 3 Friday 24/10/2025 4.26am

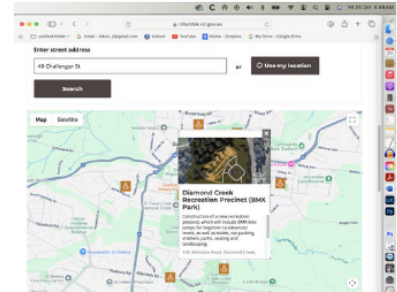


Figure 2 Friday 24/10/2025 4.26am

By the afternoon of 24th Oct the pin had been moved to Challenger St Reserve (figure 6) and the picture used was not a plan but a cool kid doing jumps (figure 7), with just 2 weekend days left to complete the survey, inform Council of your concerns, or or object to the plan.

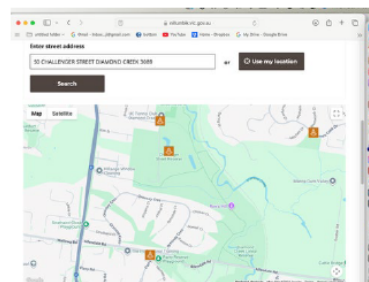


Figure 5 Friday 24/10/2025 7.17

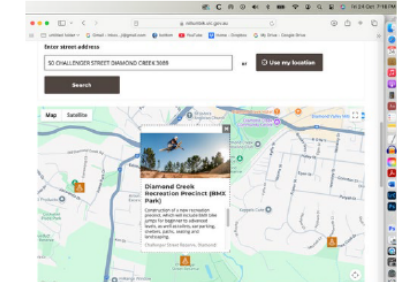


Figure 4 Friday 24/10/2025 4.26am

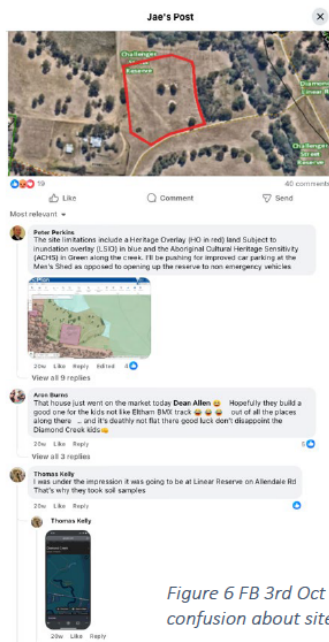


Figure 6 FB 3rd Oct community confusion about site

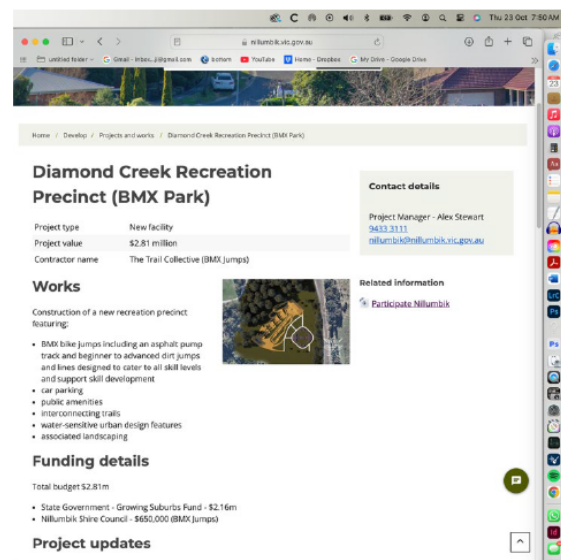


Figure 7 Thursday 23 Oct BMX park NSC webpage

Nillumbik Shire Council's webpages throughout the consultation period have been inaccurate, except for the last 2 ½ days after we let them know about it on 23 and 24 Oct 2025.

Did NSC consult local BMX riders based on the full scope plan in the Growing Suburbs Fund document?

How Does NSC justify the lack of transparency in not using the full scope plan in their published promotions throughout the entire process since 2002?

How can NSC say they've conducted comprehensive community consultation when publishing inaccurate plans on their website throughout the consultation period?

Community Consultation and the Participate Nillumbik Survey

This survey focuses on:

- *the surface type for the jumps*
- *The location of key facilities*
- *How the surrounding recreation park can best serve the community*
- *How the community plans to use the site*

This survey does not give an option to choose an alternative site.

The questions give tick the box options about infrastructure, jump surface, BBQs, toilets, lighting, and shelters, most with no option to say none. The 5 options for activities include, Community and BMX competition events, impacting local residents, with no option to say none. There are some boxes for comments within and at the end of the survey, which is the only option to say no to anything including the location. The survey allowed 21 days to comment or object. This is their policy however, the local residents, current Reserve users and general community of Nillumbik Shire knew nothing about it.

This is what NSC call community consultation, consulting only one demographic, with no regard for the concerns or needs of other demographics living within the shire. People of all demographics within the shire who already visit Challenger St Reserve for the flora and fauna, passive recreation and open space it provides. Local residents living adjacent to and nearby have no voice for this plan which will directly impact them with visual, noise, dust, and litter pollution if a BMX park was constructed in Challenger St Reserve. None of this is in line with NSC's Health and Wellbeing Plan, Recreation & Leisure Strategy, Open Space Strategy, Community Sport Fair Access Policy, Environment Charter, Green Wedge Management Plan and even the Council Charter.

I found out about the site change on 03.10.2025 from a neighbour who discovered it from watching the council meeting on 30.07.2025 for a different agenda item. I live adjacent to the entrance and access route in the BMX park plan. To date I have received no communication about the park from NSC, yet I have a received notices for speed humps and tree pruning in local streets.

I did attend an onsite meeting attended by with 5 local residents, NSC representatives, Cn [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on 10th Oct 2025. Concerned local residents requested this meeting for the Council to hear our concerns. Hot topics included, community consultation, the site change, environmental impacts to fauna and habitat, the size of the park and security. What we did achieve from this meeting was a 5 day extension to comment on or object to the BMX plan. Given there was still no formal communication with local and shire wide residents, 5 days didn't make a lot of difference.

As stipulated in the Growing Suburbs Fund grant, to be commenced March 2024 and completed March 2026. Time and grant money was wasted by NSC on the Allendale Rd site, knowing of the already existing LSIO and Cultural Heritage (ACHS) overlays . this site as it was deemed unsuitable when artefacts were found in the flood zone.

Why did Nillumbik Shire Council put time and money into a plan that had existing LSIO and ACHS overlays?

The DC trails has been rebuilt. This BMX park will not stop this and NSC will still have to deal with it. The people who build and ride there are unlikely to leave their hand built jumps and come out to play with families on ugly uniformed track surfaces.

The proposed BMX park is no longer designed for your target demographic.

These teenagers wanted a space for themselves. If NSC had have been transparent with the plan and really listened to their concerns and not been grant focused, I'm sure a very different plan would have been designed. The original plan for Allendale Rd (figure 3) was more suitable to the demographic it was intended for. If you really want to support the male dominated BMX community.... Give them a shovel!

.

The size of the park will attract riders Melbourne wide and has potential to host State, National and even International competitions. When I googled big BMX park Melbourne, I found that one of them hasn't been built yet, the Diamond Creek Recreation Precinct (BMX park).

Suddenly our Precious Open Space is subject not just to local youth riding the jumps but patrons coming for weekend, school holiday and competition events creating even more visual, noise, dust and litter pollution. This is totally inappropriate in the middle of a Wetland Reserve.

A BMX park is appropriate for land that is already degraded. An industrial, commercial or other vacant land that does not impinge on a rehabilitated Wetland Reserve rich in wildlife and habitat, in a riparian zone?

Solving a problem impacting one demographic at the expense of the rest of the community does not align with NSC's Health and Wellbeing Plan, Recreation & Leisure Strategy, Open Space Strategy, Community Sport Fair Access Policy, Environment Charter, Green Wedge Management Plan and the Council Charter.

There are already 2 fully facilitated, family friendly Recreational Precincts just 500 -700 metres away from Challenger St Reserve. The Netball Precinct and the Diamond Creek Regional Play Space. This fantastic family friendly space has all the facilities including the Rotary Tram Café. The Rotary Club supports the Diamond Creek Community, NSC could support The Rotary Club by directing family friendly activities to this facility.

Maintaining 3 separate Recreational facilities within such a short distance will cost NSC and ratepayers. It does not align with your waste management and climate change policies and the values, goals and principles promoted in all the other plans, strategies and guidelines.

I'm sure the rural areas would love the \$650,000 NSC have contributed to this plan for a nearby recreational facility.

I object to the duplication of such facilities within such a small distance of each other.

I object to Diamond Creek being the target suburb when we already have several.

How will NSC integrate the maintenance of the new Recreation Precinct and (BMX) Plan in the NSC budget? Why did you not inform or consult local residents when the site Changed?

Environmental Impact

Challenger St Reserve is highly valued for its wildlife and Precious Open Space. Since funding its construction in 2004, Nillumbik Shire Council have shown their commitment with extensive rehabilitation work. It is a Wetlands Reserve part of the riparian corridor and the riparian zone of the Diamond Creek (even if it is not zoned that way on your overlay maps).

Wildlife see habitat, not zones.

The local community has supported the rehabilitation participating in NSC events such as National tree Day. In collaboration with the local community, NSC has created valuable habitat for wildlife and is now home to many species including Powerful Owls, Gang-gang Cockatoos and Latham's Snipe, all on Victoria's Threatened Species List.



I have lived here for 8 years and am extremely impressed with the extensive rehabilitation work NSC has done within Challenger St Reserve. They have created an established ecosystem with microclimates suitable for a variety of species of birds and other wildlife. The rehabilitation works follow the tributaries within the reserve, linking and contributing to the health of the Diamond Creek riparian corridor. The Open Space is important for birds of prey as there are mature trees from which to perch whilst hunting.



A comprehensive EES for the Latham's Snipe will need to be completed before approval is given for this site. In 1971 a treaty was signed to protect internationally significant wetlands. Challenger Street is not a Ramsar listed site. However agreements signed between Japan and Australia JAMBA & China and Australia CAMBA apply on certain species migratory bird species. One of which is Latham's snipe. There are many accounts of Latham's snipe in Challenger St Reserve and being a migratory bird, an EES will need to be conducted during the bird's non breeding season. The threats to this bird include habitat loss caused by residential and commercial development, increase in frequency, scale or severity of fire and cat and fox predation.

Challenger St Reserve is an ecosystem. Birds of prey, cockatoos, swallows, use the hillside for hunting and foraging. A BMX park will impact the area significantly, breaking the links within the reserve and disrupting wildlife and habitat. It will cause erosion, dust, noise, light, and visual pollution. The series of wetlands in Challenger St Reserve provides microclimates and is vital habitat and passage for wildlife.

Fencing off the wetland areas may protect some of the habitat but the wildlife will be impinged as it is vital for animals to move between different areas, which is crucial for biodiversity and genetic health. The BMX plan skirts tightly around the wetlands to the very edge of the 3 heritage, flood (LSIO) and Cultural Heritage Sensitivity overlay zones. The entire Reserve is in a Designated Bushfire Prone Area and has an Environmental Significance Overlay, and. Wildlife don't see zones, they see habitat. It seems that NSC sees empty space not habitat rich Open Space. The construction of a BMX park in the middle of this important habitat is in conflict with NSC's Health and Wellbeing Plan, Recreation & Leisure Strategy, Open Space Strategy, Community Sport Fair Access Policy, Environment Charter, Green Wedge Management Plan and the Council Charter.





The Challenger St Reserve community

The people who currently visit Challenger St Reserve cover all demographics within the shire.

It is a peaceful Open Space utilised for exercise, socialising, dog walking, picnics, family outings, Park Run, wildlife and bird watching. It is highly valued for its current recreational and environmental qualities and utilised regularly by residents across the shire, many of whom come here daily. You can see in the top middle photo, the path is well worn.

It is public Open Space where residents feel safe. It provides personal space for residents who like to keep to themselves and opportunities for socialising with friends, dogs and meet other locals.

In the 8 years I have lived here I have made acquaintance and friends with many local residents who visit Challenger St Reserve. This community of residents care for and support one another, which has become obvious talking with them about this BMX plan. I value the Challenger St Reserve community and I know that the wellbeing of many of us will be impacted severely.

During the Covid Pandemic it was an important environment for outdoor socialising and mental health for residents who visit the Reserve.

Before choosing Challenger St Reserve did you consider or consult local residents and the broader community about the impact this BMX plan will have on them?

Have you considered the health and wellbeing of the multiple people currently using Challenger St Reserve for passive recreation in Precious Open Space?

How does NSC justify the contradictions this plan has with the NSC's Health and Wellbeing Plan, Recreation & Leisure Strategy, Open Space Strategy, Community Sport Fair Access Policy, Environment Charter, Green Wedge Management Plan and the Council Charter.

Have you considered this is one of few off leash areas and is utilised regularly for this purpose?

Fire Management

Challenger St Reserve is in a Designated Bushfire Prone Area.

The proposed BMX plan is in conflict with the Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Plan.

It contradicts, the Vision for 'a safer and more resilient community', the Purpose, 'reduce risks to the community' and the Principles, particularly 'Community focus', the core values and strategies of this plan.

Diamond Creek CFA uses the proposed access route every Tuesday and Sunday to train volunteers. They practice around wetlands and up the hilly western side, and down to the eastern wetland area where they train volunteers to fill their tanks using the 'billabong', the water body to the east of the BMX plan to train volunteers in filling up their tanks in the case of emergencies.

There is no access on the south side of the billabong as it is planted out with State Government Freeway Trees. To the north, more Freeway Trees, with enough space for a CFA truck to get through. The BMX plan blocks this access on the North side and therefore will be no access for the CFA to water to fill their tanks within the Reserve in case of an emergency.

The CFA is called out regularly for fires on the east side of the park. Some of these fires are lit by the people who use the unauthorised jump park. Redirecting these people into the Reserve increases the likely event of fire within the reserve.

I addressed this in a FB comment on one of Peter Perkin's post to Diamond Creek Community Voice No Business Advertising group on 6th Oct 2025

He did not reply but coincidentally, the following Sunday 12.Oct, the CFA used the access gate adjacent to the Men's Shed for training in the northern area of the Reserve floodplain. The tank filling exercise was conducted via the walking trail on the side east of the billabong. A member of the CFA I spoke with said it is NSC who directs where training is allowed and conducted. Myself and other residents have never seen the CFA train on the east side of the Reserve.

This plan puts the safety of local residents and patrons to the BMX park at risk. Challenger St Reserve acts as a fire break. The area along the east side of the park is heavily vegetated. It is extremely important that the CFA has full, uninhibited access to the Reserve to protect residents and dwellings adjoining and close to the Reserve.

The BMX Park plan breaches the Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Plan.

How will NSC manage the reduced safety and increased risk to residents and patrons in the event of a fire emergency?

How does NSC justify the contradictions and conflicts this plan has with the Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Plan?

Permits & Obligations to Interested Parties

Melbourne Water

Melbourne Water has not received a planning permit for Challenger St Reserve. The Build Over Consent applications are not available to the public.

Council agenda paper commenting on the Allendale Rd site from Tuesday 27th October 3rd June:

Further, and ultimately, Melbourne Water did not approve because of the significant earthworks and importation of fill following the CHMP

Has NSC received Build Over Consent from Melbourne Water?

Traffic and Parking

The planned access into the Reserve is via small residential streets.

Watkins, Moray, Campbell Streets have speed bumps to manage the traffic. These streets plus Challenger St are already congested at times with the Men's Shed, Netball, Baseball, Tennis, Scouts and residents who walk in the reserve.

I am aware you intend to upgrade the Men's Shed car park but there is no room for extension as it is surrounded by flood zone and planning is restricted with an LSIO.

How does NSC intend to manage the increased traffic in these streets?

How will NSC manage traffic in an emergency situation particularly bushfire?

Access Route and Heritage tree

The access into the reserve is in conflict with the Heritage Overlay on the Sugar Gum tree at the entrance to Challenger St Reserve. The impact of a carpark construction and increased traffic from patrons and construction vehicles will compromise the trees' health.

This tree is important habitat site for many birds including Powerful Owls and Gang-gang Cockatoos. It has many hollows for breeding and is a very busy forage tree. I regularly see Gang-gang Cockatoos frolicking in that tree. I regularly hear Powerful Owls calling to each other within the reserve and in this tree.

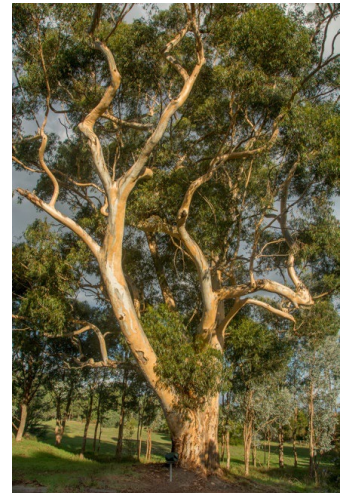
It is also adjacent to my boundary and is just 3.65 – 5 metres away from the wall of my house. This will impact me greatly with dust, noise, and traffic pollution and will significantly affect the quality of life and mental health for those of us who live there.

Increasing traffic in a Designated Bushfire Prone Area will put local residents and patrons of the BMX park at risk in an emergency in a bushfire?

This access is currently only used by resident, Government and emergency vehicles.

How will you manage the Heritage listed Sugar Gum tree?

How does NSC justify expanding a carpark and directing public traffic over the root Zone of the Heritage Tree?



Police

I contacted Diamond Creek Police on 24th Oct. They are aware of and concerned about the BMX Park plan. The concerns we discussed and share are:

- drug use within the BMX park and the surrounding Reserve, used by residents of all demographics including children
- damage to the wetlands and nearby rehabilitation works from motorbikes and drug users
- increased motorbike and moped use within the park
- increase in police call outs for unlawful and disruptive behaviour
- increase in police call outs for emergencies such accidents, snake bites and fires within the reserve

Increased motor bike and moped use within the Reserve is already of great concern to police and residents. These vehicles are really loud and tear through the park regularly causing noise and environmental pollution

and degradation. Can you imagine how happy they'll be to have jumps? Police regularly attend call outs due to motorbike and moped use within the Reserve. By the time they get there, the motorised bikes are long gone.

Additional concerns I have which are police matters that I have not yet discussed with them include:

- the potential increase in vandalism to the Reserve and adjacent properties caused by people living in and away from the shire who don't respect the Reserve's nearby residents, wetlands and wildlife.
- the personal safety of local residents using the park both in daytime and nighttime hours?

How will NSC manage these concerns shared by police and local residents alike and the additional concerns I have mentioned?

How does NSC justify creating a facility which has real and concerning potential to increase police call outs.

In Summary, it is Nillumbik Shire Council and elected Councillors' responsibility to adhere to the Vision, Principles and Goals within NSC's Strategies, Management Plans and Guidelines.

As I ratepayer and resident I expect this and hold you accountable to them.

As these conflicts highlight that Challenger St Reserve is the wrong location, can we find a more suitable location for the Diamond Creek Recreation Precinct (BMX park)?

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please note, the image captions may not be numbered correctly.

The following pages contain statements from NSC's strategies, plans, guidelines and charters.

Green italic text indicates NSC's Visions, goals and intentions.

Red italic text indicates statements which contradict or conflict with the BMX park plan.

Nillumbik Shire's core documents in conflict with this plan:

Nillumbik Shire Council Plan

In the Summary, *Our community deeply values Nillumbik's environment, natural beauty, heritage and creative spirit. Protecting local waterways, sustaining our urban tree canopy, and conserving biodiversity were identified as essential to long-term livability and environmental wellbeing.*

Community Vision – Nillumbik

Under the Local Government Act 2020, the Council Plan must align with our community vision, which is an aspirational description, looking at least 10 years into the future, of what community values and wants for the future.

Our People

Inclusive living and participation

We support and empower our diverse community by reducing barriers, strengthening connections, and creating a welcoming environment where everyone feels respected, included, and able to participate fully in community life.

Livable and connected communities

We create vibrant, inclusive neighbourhoods and rural townships through thoughtful planning, improved walking and transport links, diverse housing options, quality open spaces, and community infrastructure that reflect the needs of our community all while protecting Nillumbik's Green Wedge and unique character. Sustainable futures and healthy environments

We lead with practical, local action to reduce the environmental and financial impacts of climate change, grow and protect our tree canopy, cut waste, and support a thriving natural environment for current and future generations.

Responsible governance and community leadership

We strengthen governance and community leadership to ensure transparent, inclusive decision-making processes that engage all residents, build trust, and create sustainable solutions for Nillumbik's future.

Nillumbik Environment Charter

Nillumbik has a rich natural environment with many significant plant and animal species and diverse habitats and waterways. It also has productive agricultural land and valued landscapes requiring protection. And, importantly, Nillumbik has an aware community that is concerned about both the local environment and global environmental issues including biodiversity conservation, climate change and the depletion of resources.

We are committed to:

1. Protecting and improving Nillumbik's biodiversity and productivity Council will be proactive in caring for waterways, improving soils, pest plant and animal control, reserve management, roadside management, biodiversity conservation, land management and Green Wedge management.

Green Wedge Management Plan

Vision

'Management of the Nillumbik green wedge will lead the way in supporting a vibrant, resilient, connected and diverse community; living in the landscape to enhance the environmental, social and economic sustainability of Nillumbik's green wedge.

Principles Implementation of the vision, goals, objectives and key actions of this plan will be guided by the following 10 principles:

1. Leadership

Council's leadership will demonstrate its values of:

- Respect: we actively listen and encourage all views, respecting our peers, our community and the environment.*
- Collaboration: we are one team working effectively, we willingly share our knowledge and time to achieve successful outcomes.*
- Integrity: we are accountable, genuine and transparent in our actions and decisions.*
- Adaptability: we are responsive, agile and reactive.*
- Community: we build strong relationships that benefit our community and customers.*

4. Manage change for future benefit

The green wedge is a changing environment and home to many people. Change will be managed to conserve its values and with a focus on stewardship.

5. Collaboration and connectedness

Partnership between Council, community, landowners and stakeholders is critical to the management of the green wedge, recognising the interests of Nillumbik's various communities, communities in metropolitan Melbourne and other levels of government.

6. Celebrate, appreciate and enjoy local identity and the landscape

The special nature of the green wedge's biodiversity and landscape and the diverse identities of its communities are to be embraced.

7. Social equity

We will recognise diverse social and employment needs, differing personal needs, intergenerational equity and variable access to services.

8. Safety, wellbeing and resilience

A commitment to build collective capability to plan for, respond to and better manage and adapt to climate change, bushfire, an ageing population and transport restrictions.

9. Conserve and enhance our heritage

The green wedge's biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage are irreplaceable resources for the local and metropolitan community that need to be conserved and enhanced.

10. Sustainability and the precautionary principle

Solutions to problems need to be tailored to meet Nillumbik's unique social, economic and environmental needs now and into the future. We need to anticipate and avoid any actions that may cause serious or irreversible harm to the environment and the people who live within it.

Values

The Nillumbik green wedge is highly valued locally and regionally because of its biodiversity, natural beauty, rolling hills, landscapes, visitor experiences, steep escarpments, water courses, agriculture, rural living, and open space.

The community engagement revealed, in summary: What people liked about the green wedge:

- *Space, peace, wellbeing – particularly how the green wedge made people feel, with appreciation of views and fresh air and the less stressful environment*
- *Environment, biodiversity, plants and animals – the importance of the natural environment for plants and animals as well as humans*
- *Community*
- *Recreation and leisure activities*
- *Lifestyle*
- *Rural living.*

What people thought the opportunities were:

- *Utilising the green wedge for health and wellbeing services and industries and the opportunities provided by the environment to improve human health and wellbeing.*
- *Improving infrastructure to encourage people to visit the green wedge and to assist the local community in day-to-day activities.*
- *Community building to leverage the community strengths and work with existing groups to develop a shared understanding of living in the green wedge.*
- *Sustainable tourism opportunities to encourage people into the green wedge and local towns.*
- *Environmental protection to protect the green wedge for future generations.*

And what people thought the challenges might be:

- *Concerns that the population will be increased and the area over developed.*
- *Transport issues, particularly poor quality and congested roads and lack of good public transport, safe cycling and horseriding options.*
- *The risk of bushfires and the need to manage land to reduce its impacts.*
- *Avoiding a reduction in the quality of the land through poor management, development or neglect.*
- *Costs for individuals living in the green wedge and the importance of finding funding options from other levels of government, to reduce the financial pressure on local residents of maintaining the green wedge.*
- *Finding the balance between people and the environment and between different groups, such as farmers, conservationists and recreational users.*
- *Difficult, costly, time-intensive and unfair planning processes were considered a challenge by some respondents.*

Goal 1: Engaged connected communities

A place where communities and ideas thrive, underpinned by trust, confidence and continuous learning.

People are the lifeblood of our community and play the most important role of all in caring and looking after our green wedge. They own the majority of the land and manage our beautiful landscapes. It is the community who volunteer, participate and engage in public life.

Bushland & Wetland Reserves Prioritisation & Planning Guidelines

Challenger St Reserve is listed as one of 8 reserves of note, prioritised in the top 25% of the 99 reserves within the Shire and is highlighted to Conserve and Enhance.

(Nillumbik reserves CSTR 19.49 ha Asset Id 91976 score 43 Conserve & Enhance)

Integrated Water Management Strategy

Integrated Water Management (IWM) recognises projects which deliver multiple benefits such as; water security, protection of receiving waters, ecosystem services, social/political engagement, microclimate benefits, improved liveability and community well-being.

Open Space Strategy

The Open Space Strategy's primary focus is on open space used for passive recreation and conservation purposes rather than organised sports.

The following terms define the use of open space:

- *Passive Recreation - includes non-organised land uses including informal play, walking, sitting, bird watching etc.*
- *Organised Sport - generally includes land used for organised events such as football, cricket, soccer, swimming or equestrian uses.*
- *Conservation - reserves where there is an identified conservation function such as habitat areas, wetlands, waterways and land with remnant vegetation.*
- *Connectivity- land identified with a connectivity function (provides habitat) generally including shared pathways and linear links. (Power line easements may be included.)*
- *Heritage- reserves with identified heritage features.*

Need for Open Space

Population characteristics and trends show that there is a need to cater for a range of open space types including active and passive facilities. While the Shire will experience only modest growth, there is a high expectation that this growth will occur in the established areas .

Community surveys indicate that walking, bike riding and dog walking were the main leisure activities residents participated in. Other concerns were accessibility and distance to open space.

The open space network, especially along waterways, plays a key role in protecting rare and threatened flora, fauna and vegetation communities.

Strategic Directions for the Open Space Network

Vision

- *Nillumbik will provide a diversity of open space with a range of high quality regional, district and neighbourhood parks linked by a network of trails.*
- *Nillumbik's open space network will be easily accessible and provide all residents and visitors with a range of passive and active recreation opportunities.*
- *Nillumbik will ensure its open space is developed and managed on a sustainable basis to meet the needs of the community and protect environmental values for present and future generations.*

The Open Space Vision will be supported by five Guiding Principles.

The Guiding Principles establish a framework for how decisions will be made in relation to public open space.

They are as follows:

Diversity

Maintain and enhance the open space network to cater for the community's wide range of recreation and leisure activities.

Quality

Ensure the open space network is of a high quality that caters for local residents and visitors to the Shire.

Access

Ensure open space is equitably distributed across the Shire and linked through a comprehensive network of trails.

Sustainability

Protect areas of significant environmental value including remnant vegetation, habitat, waterways, cultural heritage and areas of landscape significance.

Partnerships

Work in partnership with government agencies and the local community in the planning and management of open space, trails and recreation facilities.

Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan

The Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 outlines our commitment to address health and wellbeing priorities and reduce inequalities over the next four years.

Our priorities for the next four years are:

- *Social inclusion and connection*
- *Community and climate resilience*
- *Gender equality and prevention of family violence*
- *Physical activity*
- *Food*
- *Reducing harm from alcohol, other drugs and gambling.*

We are committed to regularly sharing outcomes and progress with the community. The delivery and evaluation of this plan will be supported through Annual Implementation Plans and Annual Progress Reports which will be developed in collaboration with the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee and made available on Council's website.

As your elected representatives, we will continue to engage with you and ensure transparency and accountability in implementing this plan.

Our health and wellbeing vision for Nillumbik

Everyone in Nillumbik is able to achieve mental, physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing. Our community is connected, safe, healthy and engaged and has equitable access to opportunities, information, resources and services.

Everyone is able to thrive through all stages and experiences of life.

Our approach

Working in partnership

A whole-of-community approach is needed to protect, promote and improve health and wellbeing and, as such, partnerships play an integral role in the implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of this Plan

Climate change

We are acutely aware of the multiple threats facing our communities and ecosystems as a result of climate change. This requires urgent action by all levels of government, including local government and other agencies.

Objective

Nillumbik is an inclusive community where people feel a sense of belonging and are well connected to the people, places, resources, opportunities, capabilities and services which enable them to learn, work, engage and have a voice.

Objective

The Nillumbik community is resilient and connected, and supports each other through challenging situations. All people experience positive mental health and wellbeing and are connected to the natural environment. All residents are supported to stay healthy and well through changing climate conditions.

Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Plan

Vision

A safer and more resilient community that has the capabilities to withstand, plan for, respond to and recover from fire.

Purpose

*To guide stakeholders in integrated fire management planning activities, **reduce risks to the community**, and increase the awareness of community regarding their own responsibilities.*

Principles

The principles of the Committee are:

- *Collaboration of member agencies in developing and implementing shared and coordinated fire management planning and preparedness activities that **reduce risks to the community***
 - *Accountability in supporting effective committee direction and action including reviewing, monitoring and reporting*
Community focus that supports community resilience and provides communities with the opportunity to actively participate in fire management planning
 - *Providing a common understanding that guides the collective activities and actions of committee members, agencies and community.*
1. *Fire risks*

Goal

Strengthen our focus on fire risk and the consequences of fire to ensure that hazards are reduced to the greatest reasonable extent for the greatest number of people.

Human Rights and Responsibilities Guidelines

1. Purpose

The Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 is a law that protects the human rights of all people in Victoria.

The Charter will increase transparency in decision making affecting people's rights, and will assure the public that their rights are being taken into account by the courts, the parliament and public authorities.

2. Objectives

Council's objectives are to:

- ***act in a fair, transparent and equitable manner***
- *encourage compliance with the Charter*
- *support others to act compatibly with the Charter*
- *respect and promote human rights*
- ***utilise the human rights principles to improve customer service to the community***

Council's values in the Council Plan 2007-2011 also underpin how we work with each other, our partners and our community and how we plan for and deliver services.

Council's values are:

Respect

We value our community and each other.

Collaborative leadership

We work with each other and the community to achieve our goals.

Integrity

We aim to be honest, open and fair in everything we do.

Diversity

We embrace the strength which diversity brings to our community.

Accountability

We take responsibility for our actions.

Innovation

We will encourage better ways of doing things.

Written submission 2



25.10.2025

Nillumbik Shire Council
32 Civic Drive
Greensborough
Victoria 3088

Dear Nillumbik Shire

I am writing in objection to Challenger St Reserve as the site for The Diamond Creek Recreation Precinct (BMX Park). Great Idea Wrong Location.

Upon moving to the area I have been amazed by the amount of work that has gone into Challenger Street Reserve. Nillumbik shire spent \$180,000 to create a wetlands reserve and have continued with rehabilitation via Acacia Environmental Management and volunteers on community planting days.

I grew up in country Victoria and developed a love for our forests. As a young adult I became a Diploma qualified Arborist. I worked in State and National forests as a seed collector to help replant forest areas after natural disasters and logging. When I moved to Melbourne I was drawn to Nillumbik Shire due to its green nature and values.

Recently I found out about the BMX Jump Park. I've spoken to people I've met around Diamond Creek and in Challenger St Reserve. I found out about the illegal jumps, went to see them and was amazed by what has been happening beside the creek for 30 plus years. So YES the idea to create a BMX Park to reduce this from happening is a good idea.

They dig, build and then ride what they have created. In Alexandra about 10 years ago, the council solved this problem by dumping big loads of soil in an already degraded space, and the kids were then allowed to build their own jumps. This was so successful it continues to grow with council support to this day.

Designing them a \$2.81 million family friendly Recreation BMX Jump Park doesn't make sense. Who are we trying to make this park for? It's not for the people who it was intended for. The councillors told me it had to be used in Diamond Creek and has to be a family friendly space with facilities. Not really the place I expect to see the people creating the illegal jumps to be hanging out. Who are we planning to build these jumps for?

I decided to contact all the elected Councillors to ask questions and share my opinion on the plan. I spoke with 6 of the 7 (one didn't respond), and was mostly met with hostility. It was clear 3 had already made their decision and 3 said they were waiting for more information before making a decision.

One councillor Gave me the Council's official statement,
"We are in community consultation at the moment."

Then he gave me his personal statement,
“It’s here or we give the money back, and we are not giving the money back”.

Quite a Statement, especially as due process has not yet occurred!
Community consultation was not conducted for this site and is currently not on the table.

One councillor said a comprehensive environmental survey is being conducted.
Environmental studies had not been conducted before this site was chosen and this plan has not even reached the desk of the your own Environment Department.

Why have an Environment Department with specialised Officers if you don’t seek their council on building a large Recreational Facility in the middle of a Wetland Reserve? These Officers are employed because of their specific environmental knowledge, including the biodiversity and requirements of wetlands. They know the country because they spend time observing, planning, maintaining and rehabilitating the reserve. Some of them said they visit for their own enjoyment.

Who is conducting the comprehensive environmental survey?
Is the survey being rushed through like the BMX jump survey?

The council wasted time on Allendale Rd site knowing there were LSIO and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Overlays on the site. I was also told this is the only place available to put the BMX Jump Park, that is not in the LSIO. A jump park is not appropriate in the middle of a Wetland Reserve regardless of the LSIO because it is vital habitat for wildlife.
It is also a beautiful place, used by many people of all ages for peaceful recreation.

Another concern I have is Heritage Sugar Gum tree at the entrance to the Reserve.
Already 2/3 of the root system are compromised due to soil compaction from car parking and heavy vehicles. Why have NSC not protected these trees with bollards to stop parking around the tree?
This is standard practice.
Increasing traffic on the remaining 1/3 is not a recommended for the longevity of the tree. You can’t upgrade the car park, because the tree protection zone is 24 metres for this size tree. Digging the area will damage the roots of the tree under the car park.

Green Wedge Council only when it comes to you, not them?

The BMX Jump Park is on the left of the driveway, on the right there are two old red gum trees, both on the historic tree register, no bollards or protection for them either.
One has an active split in the stem caused through mismanagement of the tree. If left unattended it will fail and be catastrophic for the trees future.

The Nillumbik Council Plan, How can this be met, when council shows know integrity with their intentions and communication, when they fail to consult the community and when they make decisions on projects without all the information being presented to them?

As a new community member (that hasn’t changed Facebook details) I was shocked by one councillor’s comments on Social Media. Instead of helpful, informative comments, they were belittling, deflective and sometimes rude. They were mostly directed at concerned residents and greater community that wanted questions answered because they hadn’t been informed.

If the funding goes back to the Victorian Government the council and councillors have said it would affect future grants. Does that mean we have to get a Recreation Precinct (BMX park), with (BMX park) now in brackets? Family facilities are less than a km away at the Tram Café, Baseball field and Netball courts.

The council are less concerned about the intended demographic, and now intend to ruin a beautiful Wetlands Reserve which is currently used by all demographics from across the Shire, just because the council don't want red faces?

Council needs to read and adhere to their own Vision, Principles, Values, Goals and commitments in their Council Plan, Environmental Charter, Green Wedge Management Plan, Open Space Strategy, Climate Action Plan, Health and Wellbeing Plan, Reserves Prioritisation and Planning Guidelines in which they clearly state they are transparent and fair and care for community and the environment.

We need more time to get this right. Find a location that is not near the creek and wetlands. Great idea to have a BMX Jump Park, but wrong location.

Kind Regards,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the person who wrote the consultation submission.

Written submission 3

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 10 October 2025 7:44 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Objection to proposed BMX Park Location

Hi [REDACTED] (and Nillumbik Councillors),

Thank you for taking the time to meet this morning to discuss our concerns regarding the proposed location for the BMX park. We appreciated your patience listening to our queries and frustrations as well as the perspective you were able to provide regarding the BMX park proposal. Understanding that the consultation process for this project is now commencing, as per your suggestion I have included some of the concerns I compiled within the council survey I responded to earlier this week, and included all 7 councillors on the distribution list.

As we discussed, I have been a Nillumbik resident for over 20 years and my house is on the fence-line overlooking the proposed location for the park, therefore I am directly impacted if this project proceeds as is planned. I am not opposed to the concept of this project, but my concerns and objections relate to the proposed location, the process that has been followed to this point, and also the increased risk to safety and security of impacted residents. In summary, these concerns include:

- There has been an absence of community consultation regarding the recent revisions of this project.
- The proposed location is unsuitable as it is simply too close to residential housing.
- The proposed design is simply too large and appears significantly larger than my understanding of the original proposal for the Allendale Road site
- The project will directly impact the safety and security of local residents as well as negatively affecting the quiet enjoyment of their property.
- To this point, no information has been supplied to impacted residents. Many residents have either heard of this project by word of mouth or remain completely unaware that this project has been proposed.
- There has been no information released as to why this project is an effective use of rate payers' money, and there is no apparent detail to the broader community of the construction and ongoing run/maintain costs related to this project.
- There is no information available that states why the Challenger reserve location has been selected when there are seemingly multiple superior locations that would not impact residents, including the original Allendale Rd location, Elizabeth Street or the vacant space beside the Tram café playground.

Therefore, I request that Nillumbik council engage in community consultation and share the reasoning and considerations that support the selection of the Challenger Reserve location for this

project. The purpose of this consultation should be to inform and seek feedback from impacted residents prior to confirmation of this project, on topics that include:

- How the safety of residents and their properties will be assured
- The number of daily visitors expected to this facility, both local and non-Nillumbik residents
- Recommendations on the additional security measures that should be taken by the nearby residents whose properties (back fences) will be exposed to an increased number of visitors.
- How this project aligns with the regulations governing the protection of the wetlands area.
- How noise levels will be monitored and controlled.
- How the potential issue of loitering youths will be managed.
- The general level of police surveillance that will be provided.
- The hours the track will be in operation, including lighting for the area.
- How will the safety of riders will be assured/monitored, including how injuries will be managed
- Whether security cameras will be established and what will these cameras be monitoring
- What additional traffic access will need to be established (ie how will ambulances access the track when a rider inevitably has a crash requiring medical attention)
- How many car parking spaces are planned to enable access at the expense of additional wetlands
- What upgrades to local roads/intersections have been considered, noting the danger presented by the Challenger Street, Ryans Road intersection
- How impacts to local fauna will be managed (ie Powerful Owl, wombats, echidnas, kangaroos etc)

Although awareness of this project across local residents is still limited, the points listed above are reflective of many of the concerns shared by those that I have spoken with.

I hope today's discussion prompts reconsideration of the alternate locations, and look forward to the further consultation that explains how these concerns can be mitigated.

Yours Sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Written submission 4

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 26 October 2025 4:44 PM

To: Governance <Governance@nillumbik.vic.gov.au>

Subject: BMX park location concern

Dear [REDACTED], Councillors, and Nillumbik Council Leadership Team,

I'm writing with deep concern regarding the recent decision to locate the proposed BMX Jumps and Recreation Park at Challenger Street Reserve.

As a local resident and mother of three young children, I fully support creating spaces for young people to ride and connect, but this particular location is completely unsuitable. The scale of the proposed park is far too large and far too close to nearby homes, and it would take up a significant portion of a much-loved community reserve.

Challenger Street Reserve is a peaceful green space, home to native birds, wetlands, and wildlife, and is used daily by walkers, runners, cyclists, dog owners, horse riders, and families. It also sits between two major parks already, so converting this smaller, quieter reserve into an intensive BMX facility will remove valuable open space for all residents.

What has left many of us most disappointed is the lack of consultation around the recent change of location. Local residents and regular users of the reserve were not notified or engaged before the decision was endorsed. That is not genuine community consultation or transparent planning.

If other potential sites across the shire have been explored and found unsuitable, then perhaps this project simply isn't one that can be delivered appropriately within this community.

Forcing it into a sensitive residential and environmental area is not the answer.

In just a few hours of discussion among neighbours, another community member started a petition opposing the location signed by over 200 residents. This response reflects the deep concern and frustration many locals are feeling.

I urge Council to pause this project immediately, conduct genuine consultation with residents, and work collaboratively to find an alternative approach that aligns with the Green Wedge principles and preserves the natural and social character of our neighbourhood.

Please, reconsider this decision before irreversible damage is done. Challenger Street Reserve is a treasured part of our community, let's keep it that way.

I request that it be included in the formal community consultation for the BMX Park.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Written submission 5

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, 11 October 2025 6:50 PM

To: Nillumbik <nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au>: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Objection to site of Challenger street BMX track

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed location for the new BMX track. While I am not opposed to the idea of a BMX facility and acknowledge the value it can bring to the community, I am deeply concerned about the site that has been selected for its development.

The location in question occupies an area of open space that is not only visually beautiful but also environmentally sensitive. The construction of the track—along with associated infrastructure such as an access road, car park, and toilet facilities—would result in significant disruption to the natural landscape and the habitats it supports. This space is currently valued by many residents as a place of tranquillity and informal recreation, and its loss would be felt widely within the community.

My concern is not with the BMX track itself, but with the unnecessary sacrifice of a greenfield site when alternative, more suitable locations likely exist—particularly those where supporting infrastructure already exists or where environmental impact would be minimal. Building new roads, parking areas, and amenities in a sensitive open space seems both environmentally and economically unjustified when more appropriate brownfield or existing recreational areas could be used.

I urge the council to reconsider the proposed location and to explore alternative sites that would better balance the needs of BMX users with the broader interests of environmental preservation and community wellbeing.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope that a more sustainable and sensitive solution can be found.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park survey – Free text submissions (Consultation 1-26 October 2025)

Q6. Where do you currently go for BMX riding or similar activities?	Q12. BBQ facilities have been included near the learn-to-ride track. Do you support the inclusion of BBQ facilities?		Q13. If no, why not?	Q15. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating seating?	Q17. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating shelters?	Q26. Is there anything else you'd like to share about the BMX park and recreation space?
	Yes	No				
Northern bmx club & park or orchards bmx club	1					Food & coffee vans will only encourage litter, there is enough places in town to buy food & drink.
Ksate parks around the area. But they aren't fir for BMX's. I'm so excited for this new park	1					
Rogue trails around		1	Will attract too many family's with kids who will ruin the jumps. Pumptracks aer not playgrounds for kids to be left unattended			
	1					
	1					
Eltham bmx, it is not good		1	I dont need food	Nope	No	I just want high quality jumps with a set of shovels so we can build more jumps if we get bored of the old ones
Eltham BMX park	1					
	1					

BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park survey – Free text submissions (Consultation 1-26 October 2025)

Q6. Where do you currently go for BMX riding or similar activities?	Q12. BBQ facilities have been included near the learn-to-ride track. Do you support the inclusion of BBQ facilities?		Q13. If no, why not?	Q15. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating seating?	Q17. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating shelters?	Q26. Is there anything else you'd like to share about the BMX park and recreation space?
	Yes	No				
Plenty Gorge	1					
Bush trails	1					Yes please complete asap , long overdue
	1					
Plenty gorge	1			No	No	Shocking location. Car park is planned to be right over a flood plain in winter. Terrible accessibility considering it is pretty much a driveway. Kids go to the dirt jumps across the train tracks where they can manicure and create their own jumps. Waste of rate payers money. Option 1; what a joke. No one in their right mind would take the responsibility of using tarps to cover the jumps when they are finished with them for the day. You don't know anything about the biking culture.
Northern hornets bmx club and skate parks	1					
Doreen, Bundoora, mill park	1					
Mill Park or Wonga Park						
I don't	1				In the areas surrounding the BMX track, it would be great to have investment in facilities in the	

BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park survey – Free text submissions (Consultation 1-26 October 2025)

Q6. Where do you currently go for BMX riding or similar activities?	Q12. BBQ facilities have been included near the learn-to-ride track. Do you support the inclusion of BBQ facilities?		Q13. If no, why not?	Q15. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating seating?	Q17. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating shelters?	Q26. Is there anything else you'd like to share about the BMX park and recreation space?
	Yes	No				
					wider area and not just isolated to the BMX track given the amenity /Space that the BMX track is taking away	
	1					Key to safety is progression. Please make sure all features can be tackled to allow rider progression.
I don't engage in that activity		1	The park will become too populated			It's not necessary. Too many undesirables will frequent the area and cause disruption and litter issues
	1					
We go to bundoorra pump track	1			Definitely more seat around the pump track and the dirt jumps	There definitely could be more in the area between the pump and dirt jump area	
Plenty gorge, Omeo	1					

BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park survey – Free text submissions (Consultation 1-26 October 2025)

Q6. Where do you currently go for BMX riding or similar activities?	Q12. BBQ facilities have been included near the learn-to-ride track. Do you support the inclusion of BBQ facilities?		Q13. If no, why not?	Q15. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating seating?	Q17. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating shelters?	Q26. Is there anything else you'd like to share about the BMX park and recreation space?
	Yes	No				
Aside from skate parks not much, no really good place for beginners anywhere around.		1	don't think that will get used much	simple benches on different sides of the park		Yes, please build it! Every such facility built in the area is getting heavy use, especially when done well—the playgrounds, the skateparks. Things that haven't been done well, like the bmx area in Eltham, are ignored. So please build it, don't overthink, and most importantly, ignore the NIMBYs!!
N/a						The revised location to challenger st reserve has not been consulted with public at all. It is not a suitable location for this type of facility given close relationship to residential dwellings and protected nature areas. The close proximity to residence will cause significant disturbance to these home owners and it is unreasonable to not let them have their say. The close proximity to the creek and protected wetlands will be impacted through poor youth behaviour and littering. Open honest conversation with not only residents to hear there concerns should be had, but also with bmx users re what they want for a location. Dirt jumps like this are never located close to towns because users want their own space, not to be policed and have freedom. BMX is what some would call a rebellious sport, this facility brings bmx culture into close contact with people who are not familiar with it and do not want to be close to it.

BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park survey – Free text submissions (Consultation 1-26 October 2025)

Q6. Where do you currently go for BMX riding or similar activities?	Q12. BBQ facilities have been included near the learn-to-ride track. Do you support the inclusion of BBQ facilities?		Q13. If no, why not?	Q15. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating seating?	Q17. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating shelters?	Q26. Is there anything else you'd like to share about the BMX park and recreation space?
	Yes	No				
Proper BMX tracks like Northern BMX and Park Orchards BMX	1					We current travel half an hour for the kids to pursue their BMX racing as a sport several times a week. It would be great to have it as a track that racing event could be also done on to increase its usage
Plenty gorge or Park Orchards		1	Don't believe they would get used and would likely be vandalised			I think this is a great initiative that will be well used by biie riders of all age groups and experience levels
Old diamond creek jumps that got knocked down	1					
Various jump areas.		1	Just let the kids ride, they don't need a BBQ.			His whole process has been way too long. Please get a move on.
						Too close to homes. Does not have my support. Need to find another location.
		1	I don't approve the location of this bmx track. The local residents have not been consulted at all in the process.	I don't want seats or the bmx track here		No where in this survey have you asked or considered the voice of the local residents. You have made a decision without the care of what residents of Challenger street want. This BMX track will bring increased traffic to the street, knowing how the kids behaved and treated the last bmx area I can only imagine what will be happening right outside my backyard. With all the money we pay in rates, you'd think that our voice or opinions would be considered. It's absolutely disappointing and I think locating the bmx jumps somewhere else would be better

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	Yes	No				
	1					Good idea
Diamo trails mate	1					Equipment to fix bikes
Most ridiculous location ever		1	Issues with illegal fires being lit in the area already. You're just encouraging more poor behaviour.	Illegal motor bikes roar through there every night already	Poor location choice	Find a more suitable location
Fitzroy bowl, Malahang Reserve, Epping skatepark and many other various locations	1					
Please do not remove green spaces for this. This is not why we love Diamond creek. Too many kids have access to motorised bikes and fly up and down these		1	Please do not remove natural spaces. DC is unique for this, please don't ruin it			Please reconsider council. This survey is biased and does not allow for true opinions or opposing views

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	Yes	No				
tracks around the walking trail. It will be an eyesore and disrupt the native birds and wildlife.						
DC trail, dirt jumps near train line	1			No	No	If there is power, consider provision for a current or future EV charger. Also consider providing a dirt/stone trail from Kim St Diamond Creek to allow access, currently only access from Henry Arthur Drive on a non-grass path.
	1					
	1					
All over Victoria	1					
I don't, but I'm sure my grandchildren will use it when they visit me	1					

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	Yes	No				
						My home [REDACTED] the Diamond Creek Reserve [REDACTED] the proposed BMX site. Whilst I think a BMX site is a wonderful idea for the Diamond Creek community, I am opposed to the location of the current BMX proposed site for reasons as follows: Noise and Disturbance to Residents A BMX facility will generate considerable noise from bikes, crowds, and amplified voices, particularly during evenings and weekends when residents seek quiet enjoyment of their homes. The inclusion of lighting for night-time use will extend activity well beyond daylight hours, creating constant disturbance for residents whose homes back directly onto the reserve. [REDACTED] bought our property specifically because of the peace and tranquility which I need for health reasons. Light Pollution The proposed lighting will intrude into neighbouring homes, disrupting sleep patterns and diminishing the peaceful ambience of the area. Artificial lighting will also disturb nocturnal wildlife, altering their behaviour and impacting biodiversity within the reserve and adjacent wetlands. Environmental and Ecological Concerns The proximity of the proposed site to the wetlands raises serious environmental issues. Construction and ongoing use of the track could lead to soil erosion, sediment runoff, and contamination of the wetland ecosystem. These wetlands are vital habitats for native birds, frogs, numerous other animals and plant species, many of which are sensitive to changes in water quality and human disturbance. The increased human activity, noise, and lighting would threaten these delicate ecosystems.

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	Yes	No				
						4. Traffic, Parking, and Safety Issues The BMX facility will attract users from outside the immediate neighbourhood, resulting in increased traffic and parking congestion in nearby residential streets. This raises safety concerns for pedestrians, particularly children, and will place additional strain on local infrastructure that was never designed to accommodate this level of activity. 5. Antisocial Behaviour and Security Risks Public facilities that operate into the evening, particularly those that attract unsupervised young people, often lead to antisocial behaviour such as littering, vandalism, graffiti, and noise disturbances. This poses safety and security risks for nearby residents. The proposed toilet blocks may also become targets for misuse and vandalism. 6. There is currently an increase in irresponsible and illegal use of motorised scooters and motorbikes on the DC Reserve. The BMX site will increase the likelihood of their use posing an increased risk to those using the paths on the Reserve. Not to mention the increased noise disturbance. 7. Loss of Amenity and Property Value Residents currently enjoy the peaceful, natural character of the reserve. The proposed development would fundamentally alter its purpose and atmosphere, transforming it from a quiet green space into a busy recreational hub. This loss of amenity will likely diminish property values for homes adjacent to the reserve.

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	Yes	No				
						8/ I have serious concerns about the maintenance and control of the site including litter, noise levels and how they will be monitored and controlled particularly after hours use, loitering, lighting, protection of the wetlands and additional security measures for nearby residents, myself included, whose back fences will be exposed to an increased number of visitors. 9/. Alternative Locations Should Be Considered There are more suitable locations for a BMX facility that would not negatively impact residential areas or sensitive ecosystems — such as established sporting precincts, recreation parks, or areas already zoned for active recreation. These locations would provide better access, existing amenities, and minimal impact on neighbours or wildlife.
Park orchards bmx track	1					
Diamond creek	1			No	No	No

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	Yes	No				
A BMX Park is a great idea just NOT in the Challenger St Reserve.		1	Challenger Street Reserve is NOT an appropriate place for a BMX park.	Challenger Street Reserve is NOT the appropriate place for a BMX park.	Challenger Street Reserve is NOT the appropriate place for a BMX park.	The Challenger Street Reserve is NOT the most suitable location for a BMX park. The area is both a home and a playground for native birds. You can spot more than 12 different species in less than an hour, at numerous times throughout the day. There has been no consultation with local residents! It is not clear how you will you minimise the impact of noise and lighting, not to mention increased road traffic, to the residents in Oronsay Crescent, Kim St and Challenger St? The Challenger Street Reserve is already heavily used by local dog walkers and families, who appreciate the open green space, and value the environment. There appears to be no contingency plan in place to minimise rubbish, waste or the erosion and damage caused by increased car traffic in the Reserve. The Reserve is utilised by the CFA for training. This will be impacted by the BMX park. In the event of a fire emergency, fire trucks would be unable to access the full Reserve in a straight forward and timely if the BMX park is there.
Plenty gorge	1			Just dot some around. It will get used	Same as the seating	Dont make it so safe that it doesnt work as intended. There will be some kids that can use this to become very good at the sport and it is important not to limit the possibilities

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	Yes	No				
I dont. This is an inappropriate use of the Challenger St wetlands which has been set aside for nature conservation						Council has been managing the adjoining wetland areas at Challenger for decades primarily for conservation purposes. For so many reasons this development is incompatible with the work undertaken by the community and the Enviro works team thus far. I am responsible for the onground management of the wetland areas at this reserve and to date I have not been approached or included by Leisure in any discussions on plans for this development.

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	Yes	No				
						I feel this location is not suitable. I purchased my home late last year to enjoy the space and peaceful surroundings, and I am now concerned about safety and loitering. There is concern that there could be property damage to the rear of my home, including the yard and fence. This site is located very close to the off-leash area in the reserve, which is enjoyed by many families and individuals walking peacefully with their dogs. Introducing a large number of bikes and people in such close proximity may become problematic, creating noise, increasing safety risks, and changing the tranquil character of the area. I am disappointed that this location was chosen. It is remote, with poor access to public transport. Parking is limited, and the small residential streets nearby may be further impacted, causing potential congestion and even vehicle damage. Neither option is suitable. Option 2, in particular, would create a large environmental footprint with significant ripple effects on local residents and the character of the area. I strongly urge that this site—and the project as proposed—be reconsidered in order to respect both the community and the environment.
	1					
	1					
	1			Please put them close to the walking track		

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	Yes	No				
				as I need to use them often when walking.		
						Toilets near the bike path trail, if I NEED to go i don't have time to get past the bmx track. I've had to stop walking the trail due to lack of Toilets close by (IBS)

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	Yes	No				
						I'm writing as a concerned local resident regarding the Nillumbik Shire Council's recent decision to endorse Challenger Street Reserve as the location for a new BMX Jumps and Recreation Park. While many in our community support the idea of providing more spaces for young people to ride and connect, the chosen location raises serious concerns. Challenger Street Reserve is a well-loved green space, home to native birds, wetlands, and wildlife, and regularly used by walkers, runners, cyclists, dog owners, horse riders, and families. There has been no consultation with nearby residents or local groups, nor any transparency about the environmental impact, noise, traffic, or lighting that such a development will bring to a quiet residential area. These omissions have left many locals feeling disappointed and unheard. Our community does not oppose a BMX park, as a mother of 3 young children myself, I would very much welcome such a park. I strongly believe it should be placed in a more suitable location. There are many other sites within the shire that could support such a facility without encroaching on natural habitats or residential areas. Kind regards, ██████████

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	Yes	No				
	1					
We use to go the dirtjumps along the creek before the council had them dozed.	1					Just get it built. All these promises and miney thrown at something yhe council should have never touched. Especially seeing it wasn't council land to begin with. Jumps that were around in the late 80s and 90s and victrac would often bring dirt in for us to use to build.
Nowhere	1					
	1					
Diamond Creek	1					
Old 'illegal' dirt jumps with grand children	1					
	1					
D'Creek trail	1					Consider having 'slow down' signage at all entry points to this new recreational space
	1					
	1					

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Facilities on private land unavailable for public use	1					Undoubtedly a raw dirt surface is best and the safest. but only if there is a dedicated crew to maintain it. I feel with how long the project has taken we have momentum with alot of the younger riders. Hopefully this consultation proves me wrong. If the SIC surface is to be installed it needs to be done properly. A group of 3 friends made the trip to overport bike park in Frankston recently (a facility built by the trail collective.) and two of us chose not to ride as the SIC surface was too dangerous to fall on due to how abrasive it was. While we were there a young girl fell and the surface shredded her leg quite bad. I recently had a look at the BMX race track in Mill Park where the entire facility is a mix of asphalt and SIC surface. The SIC surface there was much smoother and much less abrasive and was more akin to an asphalt then the surface in overport. I strongly believe the best compromise in terms of safety and maintenance especially for the bigger jumps in the park is to have the take-off ramps coated in SIC surface while the landing ramps be left as dirt. Reasons being is generally the take-off ramps require the most maintenance, while the landing ramps have the most crashes. I also believe the pump track needs a redesign. To many pumptracks are built without much thought. A good pumptrack especially at this size needs to be one track in one direction. As it will mainly be used by junior riders A bi directional double track causes a lot conflict and safety issues of kids crashing into each other. Also alot of pump tracks are made too narrow and a bit bland. Google pump tracks, they are the most boring things visually. Due to the size of this project it would be awesome to make little tunnels, fake bridges ect or give the pumptrack a theme like a pretend railway or something. Even if this was tendered out to an artist for a concept theme rather than an art installation.
	1					
Not applicable	1					
	1					
	1					
	1					
	1					
Plenty gorge	1					
	1					

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	Yes	No				
						As a resident [REDACTED] the proposed area for the BMX track I am horrified to not have been informed or consulted on this area being used for the BMX track. If I wanted to simply add a bedroom to my house, I would be forced to notify their neighbours allowing them time to consult on this process before any planning is approved! The idea of a BMX track is great, but not in the location as unfortunately this location will become a place for graffiti, rubbish and loitering during the evening close to people's houses, also making it unsafe for residents walking home from Diamond Creek Station. This was the case with the existing site next to the creek. Previously this proposed location was the site of a historic Milk Shed and yard which the council removed, instead of restoring, due to excessive graffiti and malicious damage. This sadly permanently destroyed one of Diamond Creeks earliest settlements and relics. Why has the council not considered the area next to the Base Ball Park where there are already toilets and car parking? The council will not maintain this area, you only need to drive to the Skate Park in Diamond Creek or Eltham where you will see excessive Graffiti, broken glass and plastic bottles modified to smoke drugs. Please find a location better suited for the track such as the area next to the Base Ball Park that has permanent lighting and car parking already in place, allowing us to get more out of our tax payers money and more projects across the line.

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	Yes	No				
	1					
I use the walking track each day for my daily walk, a toilet close to walking track would be fantastic	1			on the walking track between Diamond creek and Wattle glen there are lots of seats and picnic tables. You should replicate this		
Kids ride on the roads	1					
	1					
Just riding along Diamond Ck trail with kids	1					
Mountain bike riding and jumps around locally (Westerfolds & Plenty Gorge) and other locations further away.	1					
	1					
Mill park	1					
Friends house	1					

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	Yes	No				
Hurstbridge Trail	1			Some seats closer to the path, would be great to use facilities off the trail		Would be great if the facilities bbq and toilet would suit walkers, runners riders so closer to the path would be best
	1					
	1					
I don't.		1	The existing bbq facilities are rarely used and ultimately become an unnecessary cost to rate payers who already bare unreasonable rates in this shire.	No	No	This is a waste of money that this Council does not have, and or could be spent on many other higher priority community issues. There are already a number of Bmx sites around the area, that while they are not formally endorsed by council, they cost the rate payers who already nothing. The planned area is too close to what has been developed and recognised as an environmentally sensitive area.
Coldstream pumptrack	1					
	1					
	1					
Hurstbridge	1			No		Get it build soon
on the trail	1			Add some up on the drop in	Put one on the drop in	

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	Yes	No				
diamo jumps	1			carved out seats/long amphitheater like seats on the hill	on the hill down from the park	This should be a good addition as part of growing the diamo trail and making diamo a great place for people and community
Other local areas	1					
	1					
	1					
	1					
N/A	1					Please move the toilets closer to the walking trail.
Eltham near bunnin	1			Scattered around	As above scattered around	

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	Yes	No				
						Challenger St Reserve is an inappropriate site for a BMX park. It is a reserve and has had government and community involvement to revegetate wetlands and forest vegetation. The infrastructure involved with this plan will significantly harm this environment. Has Nillumbik Shire Council done an Environmental Impact Assessment, Cultural Impact Assessment or Cultural Heritage Assessment of this site. There are Powerful Owls living at Challenger St Reserve. I have seen them and hear them regularly. They are listed as vulnerable on the threatened species list. You can find more information on Nillumbik Shire Council's website. In addition to this; there has been no community consultation, the CFA will not have easy access to the billabong below, It is too close to residential areas for noise, dust and other pollutions, Residents from across the shire go there for peaceful walking and an off the lead dog area as these areas have been reduced by other infrastructure eg. the tram park. The south end of the tram park is a more appropriate location. The necessary infrastructure for the bmx park is already there. Doubling up on these facilities will be of great cost to the shire in maintenance.
Trail paths, St Andrew's, kinglake	1					
Eltham		1	Low usage high chance of vandalism	Nearbtha baseball field	Regional play space	
Nowhere	1					

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	Yes	No				
	1			All along the trail	Along the trail	
	1					
Coldstream, Croydon Hills or Park Orchids	1					
		1				
The existing illegal jumps	1					Concern that the feral kids will trash the facilities
Diamond Creek Trail	1					It would be fantastic for Diamond Creek parkrunners if the toilets and a water tap were closer to the Diamond Creek Trail entrance. Many parents with young kids participate in this weekly event and having a toilet and drink stop at this point on the course would be a great help to them.
	1					
Eltham skate park	1					Be careful with the lighting. Generally most new lighting projects are significantly over illuminated at night. This makes it unsafe for users walking from unlit to lit areas as it requires your eyes more time to adjust. It also creates light pollution & affects wildlife. Have a look at the public lighting in France which is significantly reduced in the last decade.
plenty gorge	1				no	it's taken way to long. let's hurry it up please.
Eltham Bmx track	1					
		1				No to bmx park challenger st is being flooded with traffic to men's shed baseball oval tennis courts and is a dead end st give us a break
	1					

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	Yes	No				
						Stay the [REDACTED] of my park, they already built their own track and bother no one, stop wasting my tax's on useless [REDACTED] no one wants!
Plenty Gorge	1					
						I am very concerned about this consultation process, which has arrived at a decision about a location without any consultation that we are aware of. The proposed location seems absurd for many reasons, but this questionnaire doesn't even give space to give information about this. There are many other much better locations, which don't seem to damage such a major community asset (this Reserve) in such a major way. One example of a preferable location would be near the Tram cafe. At that location there are various facilities which would have "both-way" benefits of synchronising public uses, while not spoiling a central area of the reserve which is currently benefitting from being open space.
						odd choice of position, not nearer the Tennis and Baseball areas where larger toilet/bbq areas could be shared and the "learn to ride" area more accessible
	1					
We simply ride on the bike trail, which is not ideal for kids	1			There need to be more parking and road access, ideally directly accessing Ryans road	Northern side near the drop off	Need direct access to Ryans road, is there a possibility to build a road between Kim St and Nicole crescent? Or at least road connecting Nicole crescent

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	Yes	No				
		1	They will get abused by teenage boys and all sorts of things will be cooked on them like in diamond creek netball courts they burnt a dog poo bag. So a massive no			I am opposed to this location. I think it's a great design, if not a bit large, but it is in the wrong place. There are too many residential houses around, and it's a beautiful parkland with so much wildlife and significant cultural history in the area. This includes the old milk shed that was unceremoniously torn down due to lack of maintenance. How will these jumps be any different? I fail to see how these bike jumps in this location, will benefit the community as a whole.
Not applicable		1	This is a BMX track for young people. Access to and from the park is via Campbell Street we do not need any more cars coming and going. Leave it for you riders.	No	No	Make a track for young people who will ride their bikes to the jumps the access to this area is bad and we don't need any more traffic coming and going from the only roads in and out being Campbell Street and Challenger Street.
	1					

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	Yes	No				
eltham	1					The new location you've chosen is on quite a slope, the designers will need to give more consideration to this. It won't be possible to ride jumps or a pump track going uphill.
Frankston - Overport Park	1			As long as they're not placed too close to where the seats or people using the seats will block a bike rider's path to the jumps like the seats do at Coldstream pumptrack.	No	Thankyou for building this facility and choosing the trail collective to build this, they did a great job building the Overport bike park in Frankston which has the sealed finish and has held up well over time. They've also built others like the Eaglemont dirt jumps and the Fanny St Reserve dirt jumps which were not sealed and since completion have deteriorated.
	1					

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	Yes	No				
Plenty Gorge	1			Make sure seats are located without people moving behind you (not like the recent Ryan's Reserve seats to the west of the park),	Relocate southwest of jumps to the south behind the launch/start or at the top of the start. Shelter north of the pump track with the sharp angle path relocate south of the pump track (item E) also serviced by DCT access path..	Ensure there is better design detailing in the documentation - recently completed Ryans Reserve has many design decisions that make it less polished or considered, and does not showcase sustainable design with the use of excessive material for duplicated paths, and poor interfaces. Looking at the BMX concept, there are too many path connections to the DCT access path, the shelters are tacked on to footpath without much consideration of the space these create, and gardenbeds shouldn't be used to mitigate people cutting corners on footpaths. The design also doesn't seem to consider the existing contours very well, for example the launch pad of the BMX jump would actually skew south east more as that corner is lower than the south west corner, and the path running along the back is perpendicular to the contours. And the shelters east of the dirt jumps will be lower than the baseline of the jumps (ultimately looking at the dirt, not the jumps) unless there is major excavation to flatten the slope with terracing (which is really hard to see in the concept plan)
St Andrew's, Warburton, Warrandyte	1					The sooner it's ready the better! The area is desperate for such a space for children.
		1	Because people will just leave excess rubbish around			I don't agree with the proposed site. I am not against a BMX park, I don't think this is the right place. I fear a big spend for a park that isn't going to get used, because it is too removed from the heart of Diamond Creek, why rip up a beautiful green space? I think the open land near the tram cafe is far better suited for this project.
Hurstbridge	1					

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	Yes	No				
Non sanctioned jumps.	1					
Along the Diamond Creek trail	1					
Healesville	1					
Too old for BMX, but do run/walk the Trail.	1					Concerns regarding graffiti and litter as per the skate park
St Andrews	1					
Eltham	1					
						It is not needed and will ruin the magnificent park where rare species of birds live and kangaroos inhabit. WhT happened to the "Green wedge" a bike park will destroy the peace and tranquility that is so rare in melbourne. It will become a place where teenagers hang out and drink alcohol and leave their rubbish . The park is magnificent and I cant think of any parks as natural and beautiful as this one and you want to ruin it with carparks and bikes. Shame on the nillinbik council! What-a pack of phonies pretending to care about the park and its wildlife.
Plenty gorge bike park And eltham bmx track	1				No	Have large jumps
Eltham BMX Track and Banyule Flats	1					

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	Yes	No				
Local skatepark and the jumps they have been built near by	1					
Hurstbridge	1					
Near bunnings skate park	1					
Pitt st bmx track	1					
The Eltham bmx track	1			No	No	Make a big table top jump
Westerfolds park, trail between diamond creek and Eltham, trail to hurstbridge	1					Let's get shredding
Eltham BMX park	1				Near the trail	
Trail or oval	1					
Kinglake and st andrews	1			Plan looks good	Looks good	
Mill park Bmx track	1					
N/A	1					
My children don't use since it	1					I do not want this space. Please leave as is

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	Yes	No				
was bulldozed down						
Plenty gorge, mystic bike park, warburton bike park	1					
Park orchards BMX club	1					
						Most fires along the Diamond Creek walking track are caused by teenagers. Where the jumps are situated is in open grassland. What is the emergency plan in case a grass fire gets going around the jumps during the fire season? The occupants of the jumps may be trapped with no way to safely evacuate?
I don't		1				I do not agree with this park, there are already jumps in diamo, bmx jumps in doreen and St Andrew's already. These are rarely used and not by families. The area is a beautiful natural area and should not be ruined by digging it up for a couple of kids to use and most will probably wreck it as the skate park is and avoided by people. It potentially will be vandalised, rubbish everywhere and an eyesore rather than the beautiful area it is now. There is absolutely no need for yet another plastic playground in diamo and there are toilets less than 1k away, we do not need more. Please do not ruin this area with a track that will not be used.

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	Yes	No				
	1					I support this park. However not in this location, it is too close to the walking and running trail and I suspect youth on BMX bikes will cause traffic chaos on the trail. An accident waiting to happen, will the Council be liable if someone is injured? I think this area is already used by people to exercise safely, and with dogs, away from playgrounds, it's a natural environment with many birds and many native animals that will also be impacted by noise, lighting etc, please consider moving the skate park, perhaps next to the new playground where there is already infrastructure in place.
Pump tracks in beverage and Craigieburn and Bmx tracks in Sunbury and Mill park	1					Make sure that it is a well thought out and effective track suitable for all range of riders on bikes.
Doreen dirt jumps or Plenty Gorge	1					
Netball courts	1					A more general learn to ride space for beginner riders to teach road rules.
Wonga Park	1					

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	Yes	No				
The Diamond Creek skate park but we have had to stop as it is dirty, full of graffiti and youths doing inappropriate things. We have toddlers and a primary aged child and this space is a no go for us now unfortunately.	1					It needs to be well maintained and regularly monitored, as parents of a young family, we are really disappointed to see many community spaces being taken over by older, unsupervised kids making these spaces uncomfortable for other community members.
All other bmx parks	1					
Diamond creek	1					
Eltham	1					
Eltham bmx track near the community centre	1					

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	Yes	No				
Illegal trails in the alpine shire	1					This could be a really good thing for the dirt jump community in Victoria. Please if your going to the dirt side of building please make sure it is good quality dirt and not gravel or dead ballbearing slippery stuff Consult real bmx riders and dirt jumpers ! You could really build something amazing or you could really fail ! Good luck
Candlebark park MTB tracks	1					On the concept plan, I see a lot of jumps with big gaps on them. If injuries to occur this would be the main places so I would suggest having similar size jumps but without the gap in between. And maybe have two advanced runs.
Wherever I can	1			No	No	
Fitzroy, Kew, east Brunswick	1					Tool stand
	1					
Plenty Gorge	1					Make sure the real-deal BMX jumpers who built the dirt jumps on the other side of the train line are generally in support. Also coordinate with Diamond Creek Parkrun as the course overlaps with the bike path entry to this proposed site.
Plenty gorge	1					
Plenty gorge and skate parks big diamos near train track	1					Please have an area for people with advanced skills
Diamo jumps	1			I don't think so	Nope	Nope

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	Yes	No				
I ride in the plenty gorge and. Would love to have a spot close to Diamondf Valley stadium to ride.	1			I think they should have a shelter with the tables underneath it	No	
Gorge	1			5	No	No
Skate park	1			Add in Greensborough	No	No
Plenty gorge	1					An area for riders to build and improve jumps with their own tools
	1					
Mernda skate park and whittlesea skate park	1					I think it is an amazing idea and I hope that it goes ahead as it'll see a lot more children being active and getting out of the house.
About an hour from our location	1					
Diamond creek dirt jumps	1					Age limit to bigger jumps so smaller kids don't get in the way.
Netball court	1					Can't wait!
Park Orchards (Stintons Reserve), Warburton,	1			I'm unfamiliar with the area, there should be a 'not sure'	I'm unfamiliar with the area, there should be a 'not sure',	

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	Yes	No				
Croydon Hills, Coldstream					shelter and BBQ area is a great idea though	
Just on the track.	1			I would love more seating, and a park there would be great too		A play area for little kids, such as a sandpit like at Eltham Adventure Playground with the diggers, or one like the Tram Park. Also some sort of water play would be great like at Eltham Adventure Playground too.
in the bush	1					
Mill Park Bike Track	1			Various areas, not just the main area	Shaded seating would be good	
	1			No		No
Not at the eltham bmx track has never been minted since built.	1					Do not put in a dog park or any more dog parks
Westerfolds, haunted hills, Mount Buller,	1					A facility like this is well overdue in the area so the sooner it is completed the better.
Local reserves in Eltham with unsafe jumps that have been illegally constructed by	1			No	No	Great initiative. Looking forward to it coming to life.

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	Yes	No				
local teenagers.						
	1					
Bright, Lysterfield	1					
No where what a waste of money		1	Really - we can't find other ways to spend our rates?	Yes	No at they will be damaged and graffiti like everything else	Waste of our rates. Where is the ask if we actually want this.....
Eltham skate park, plenty gorge jumps	1					Love it - very excited for this.
Eltham and pettys orchard	1					
Mill Park BMX Track	1			More around the learn-to-pump area	Just more around the whole track	Should be fully fenced around the whole track and only have access to the track from gates from the car park and public pavements, safety for children and curb thefts of property and bikes

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	Yes	No				
Eltham	1			Seating must have a supportive back to lean against for breastfeeding mothers & the elderly, those with back injuries etc. The seating should also be under cover for rain and sun protection. Please add more seating, there's simply not enough. Triple it.	Provide shade in other ways including large shade sails, more shelters mean more spectators can be cared for. Parents end up on the side lines for a significant amount of time.	This space needs to cater for our big teenage kids & adults on adult size bikes. Please consider the population who live outside of Diamond Creek but pay just as much in council rates if not more. Those in Kangaroo Ground. We live in the Bend of Islands. Can you please link the bike track that starts from Calwell Road in Kangaroo Ground through to Diamond Creek Reserve - THIS WOULD ACTUALLY CHANGE OUR LIVES!! Our kids deserve to be able to bike ride to this space and to school without being on the road. It would be great if we didn't have to drive our kids in. Consider the environmental impacts of bike riding in from Kangaroo Ground instead of driving. Accessibility means those living in the outer areas of your Council too, not just those in suburbia. All Kangaroo Ground residents would love to be able to ride their bikes through from Kangaroo Ground to Wattle Glen, Diamond Creek, Eltham North etc. This bike track would be considerably more affordable than this significant space planned too! We'd also love a bike / walking track that runs down Henley Road Bend of Islands to Calwell Road, our residents currently walk on the road and it is UNSAFE!! Please pass this request on to the relevant area of the council. Thankyou
Skate park	1			Add shade sails over these seating areas for sun and weather protection	Shade sails over seating areas that currently don't have covering	
						Why? This will disturb the reserve. I can picture just rubbish everywhere. This is an area for walking and exercising dogs. Don't take away this big open space.

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	Yes	No				
MTB Plenty Gorge, Doreen Jumps, Mill Park	1			Parents will be sitting here for 1-3 hours, benches need to have a back on them	It would be good to have one or two larger shelters for a school group, birthday party or a club group	More shaded family seating, encourages parents and families to stay around- makes the place safer. People will be here for several hours- make it comfortable, out of the sun, plenty of shade and drinking fountains to make it future proof.
Whittlesea and Doreen pump tracks	1					
Eltham bmx track	1					Consider other similar track related sports like an RC car track using the same surface type.
Plenty Gorge and DC trails	1					
Park Orchards	1					

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	Yes	No				
Local privately owned bmx trails	1					Hi Nillumbik, Diamond Creek has a rich history of BMX and dirt jumping in general. Over the past decade the culture has died off and the knowledge/Respect is either gate kept or doesn't exist, For this reason is why they need to be actually dirt jumps not SIC (not just another place to ride and leave, for the pump track and the smaller well used jumps SIC for sure gives the grooms some practice before the move up to the bigger dirt lines). The respect, discipline and gratitude gained from building and maintaining jumps is something that is missing in the current bike scene. I know this does require a crew of like minded individuals AKA Trail bosses but could be the grounds for a solid early education network and community engagement. Nothing beats riding something that you sculpted with your own hands and it's perfect. Look to places like George Road Trails some food for thought. Cheer, ██████
Norris Bank playground		1				

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	Yes	No				
Diamond creek /st Andrews		1	It's suppose to be a bmx park	As far from trails as possible	Instead of having five shelters have one or two spend more money on more jumps	Please don't use sic surface it crumbles and it's not what community wants we as a community have been very clear about that .If sic surface is used it's a product the community can not maintain and maintenance will be a ongoing cost to council
	1					
Westerfolds or eltham	1			Everywhere	No	No
N/A	1					
I dont		1	I hate the idea of the whole thing spoiling our beautiful park	No	No	I think it's a terrible place to put this sort of facility. It's a peaceful park with lots of wildlife. I often walk my dog here & the off leash dog area will now be taken over by kids on bikes loitering around. Rubbish & anti social behaviour is a given. As a resident living close to this area, I don't believe we were consulted. Such a shame this park will be ruined.
	1					Playground
Eltham Bmx park	1			No	Near the jumps	Jumps

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	Yes	No			
					Given what nillumbik have invested over the years environmentally in the challenger street wetlands precinct this seems incredibly destructive. Not just environmentally but financially. I have participated in a couple of community vegetation events in the wetlands and seeing it thriving has been great. Now they're going to add a mass of concrete jumps, carpark, toilet block and more? Like the last site that was chosen for this, it again, IS very rushed. No environmental surveys have been done so maybe, like the other location- they'll see why this location is not suitable for this. I'd love a bmx track in our shire, but again- this location is NOT the location. Yet council are fast tracking it because they know their funding for it is about to expire!!
Skate park		1	I doubt they would get used		
I visit this section of the park EVERYDAY to walk my dogs.	1				Why place a potential heavy traffic facility in the middle of an area predominately used by dog walkers and exercise advocates? Why not along the railwayline where it could stretch from Main Rd {behind the Tram cafe} to Allendale Rd without significant impact. This site leaves a very small space below the windmill as almost useless off lead area and creates the potential conflict with drivers and BMXers coming into conflict with dogs. It really appears to be DUMPED in the middle of the park rather than placed in the MOST SUITABLE area. Every resident deserves the freedom to use this parkland not just BMX users. How will council deal with the conflict of motorised scooter users, mini bike hoons { of which there are at least 3 using the area at present}and dog s off lead coming into contact with each other? ? BMX is a great idea - just not in this spot.
Beasley and plenty gorge	1			No	Covered jumps in tarps when not using to preserve

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	Yes	No				
Eaglemont dirt jumps, Eltham or Coldstream, park orchards		1	I like the idea, not very strongly against but I can see this place getting very busy if adding these facilities			Looks awesome, can't wait. It would be sick if there were lights for night use and a crit racing track nearby
Diamond creek trail user only	1					
Hurstbridge skate park	1					
Northern BMX or Park Orchards BMX tracks	1					

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	Yes	No				
I am too old to bmx					The area opposite the mens shed. It is out of the way and would fit into the area better. Less conspicuous. The current proposed area will look horrendous and completely destroy the area. It is a beautiful area	Move it. The area opposite the mens shed would be a better fit. There is already a car park and it would look much better in that area. the proposed sites will make the area look horrendous. It is wonderful to walk through that area and I see lots of people walk through there wh their dogs and children playing. Put it in an area that is less conspicuous. The concept is fantastic for the children but not in this area. There are lots of areas around park but not this one. Please assess it.
N/a		1	Cause I won't be able to breath			
	1					
Local illegal trails. Which are great, but unregulated. We'd much rather work with council like your	1			Just plenty at the beginning of the trail head		

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	Yes	No				
doing, then against them						
Croydon hills. Locals. Mtb trails. Skate parks	1					
Creswick	1					Make it happen, to many kids stuck inside, bmx is good for the soul and will teach kids lifelong lessons about trial and error
Local pump tracks and "illegal" dirt jumps	1					
Epping bmx track	1					BMX parks are great for getting the family out together and exercising whilst having fun.
Not any options as good as this plan	1					This looks to be one of the best planned jump sites in vic
Geelong	1					
Boundary rd reserve and redhill mtb park	1					
Foostscray bikepark	1					

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	Yes	No				
Many places	1					
used to go mcc but now skateparks	1			no	no	no
Bmx tracks because diamond creek is gone	1					
No local facility currently	1				No	
Travel to further trails and pump tracks	1					
Lilydale	1					Really hoping that we can get this approved, it would be great to have somewhere to ride in the area. Especially after the historical dirt jumps in the area were destroyed after so many years.
Here		1	Not required. It's not a family area, the park near eltham is the main family option. Plenty of bbq options in the area			
Warrandyte	1					

BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park survey – Free text submissions (Consultation 1-26 October 2025)

Q6. Where do you currently go for BMX riding or similar activities?	Q12. BBQ facilities have been included near the learn-to-ride track. Do you support the inclusion of BBQ facilities?		Q13. If no, why not?	Q15. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating seating?	Q17. Are there any areas where you would recommend adding or relocating shelters?	Q26. Is there anything else you'd like to share about the BMX park and recreation space?
	Yes	No				
Skateparks because there are no suitable dirt jump offerings nearby	1					
	1					
Dimo trails on top no ones gonna use this shit				Where the tram park is would be so much better access for parents children and anyone to use it	Tram park	Move the skatepark to behind the tram park
I will travel hours to find a good facility	1			Where ever you think there would be spectators/perants watching there children	The important part is the jumps for now in my opinion	Plenty of bins and also knowing that dirt jumps change over time and evolve so having a council member that understands that sometimes things evolve and changes need to be made is crucial in the community engagement for everyone to be on the same page .
Scare park	1			More near the trail	No	No
Anywhere possible	1					
Croydon dirt jumps, pump tracks and skate parks	1			Everywhere. Never enough seating		
Nsw	1					
All over, I like to find new areas to ride.	1				Any where there is more space	

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	Yes	No				
Lysterfield, haunted hills Moe	1					
Local trails		1				
St kilda	1					
Park orchards and wombat bend	1			Trail head/high spot		
	1					not sure this is the right location for this - too close to Parkrun circuit and other running/walking paths
	1					
Frankston	1					
All over the place	1			no	no	no
Overport park, Frankston BMX, Knox BMX, Diamond Creek Trails, Dromana Bullpaddocks, skateparks	1					
Rampfest indoor skatepark	1			No	No	Make it big fun but do-able
	1					
Omeo	1			No	No	

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	Yes	No				
Footscray	1			No		
Hidden local illegal jump parks	1				Scattered around the perimeter of the main jump section	
Na	1			Na	Na	This is the completely wrong site for this park. So many people use this space for dog walking & it will ruin the natural beauty of the space. Why isn't the vacant land adjacent to the tram cafe being considered? This is already an established recreation area with services. & you won't be ruining an area with natural beauty. I urge council to reconsider the location.
		1				I wish to object to locating the BMX park in the Challenger St Reserve . What a slap in the face for volunteers who for decades have worked to improve the reserve for passive recreation and more importantly wildlife . Why weren't interested parties given a chance to object when the location changed from Allendale linear reserve ? Once again the natural Environment comes a poor last . The displacement of wildlife if this over the top park doesn't bear thinking about .
Eltham	1			No	No	No
The diamond creek dirt jumps, St Andrew's dirt jumps	1					

BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park survey – Free text submissions (Consultation 1-26 October 2025)

						As a local resident, I fully support creating spaces for young people to ride and connect, but this particular location is completely unsuitable. The scale of the proposed park is far too large and far too close to nearby homes, and it would take up a significant portion of a much-loved community reserve. Challenger Street Reserve is a peaceful green space, home to native birds, wetlands, and wildlife, and is used daily by walkers, runners, cyclists, dog owners, horse riders, and families. It also sits between two major parks already, so converting this smaller, quieter reserve into an intensive BMX facility will remove valuable open space for all residents. What has left many of us most disappointed is the lack of consultation around the recent change of location. Local residents and regular users of the reserve were not notified or engaged before the decision was endorsed. That is not genuine community consultation or transparent planning. If other potential sites across the shire have been explored and found unsuitable, then perhaps this project simply isn't one that can be delivered appropriately within this community. Forcing it into a sensitive residential and environmental area is not the answer. I urge Council to pause this project immediately, conduct genuine consultation with residents, and work collaboratively to find an alternative approach that aligns with the Green Wedge principles and preserves the natural and social character of our neighbourhood. Please, reconsider this decision before irreversible damage is done. Challenger Street Reserve is a treasured part of our community, keep it that way.
Nowhere	1					This project would be an incredible addition to the family suburb of diamond creek
Dirt jumps in Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge, Eltham, skate parks	1					The better location is probably beside the tram cafe, as it already has toilets, a cafe and parking. But I don't have any issue with the current site so long as all the trees are kept and there are cameras for safety and to deter vandals.
Skate park	1			No	No	

BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park survey – Free text submissions (Consultation 1-26 October 2025)

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	Yes	No				
						This area is used by wildlife and has been cared for by volunteers. Another location should be found that is environmentally neutral- and old car park or at least a place away from the waterways
Skateparks	1			No	No	No
	1					
	1					

BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park survey – Free text submissions (Consultation 1-26 October 2025)

						No where in this survey is there an area to discuss the bmx location! I am all for the bmx park but not in this spot! This open green space that sits directly behind homes and right beside community facilities. It's also positioned between two major parklands the Diamond Creek Regional Playspace (around 1.4km away) and Eltham Adventure Playground (about 4.5km away) both of which already have extensive facilities and room for recreation. Why is the space next to the diamond creek regional play space tram cafe not considered? All the facilities are there and ready to go, and it's away from residents homes! This section of Challenger Street Reserve is one of the last quieter, natural green corridors left in the area. Many residents only recently found out about the change in location and weren't given the opportunity to be consulted. So the issue isn't opposition to a BMX it's about fairness, transparency, and protecting what little open community space we still have in this pocket. You as the council have not don't due diligence in looking for a spot for the bmx park.
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BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park survey – Free text submissions (Consultation 1-26 October 2025)

					My name is [REDACTED], and I have lived in the nillumbik area for over 50 years. At [REDACTED] years of age, I have watched this town grow and change in many ways, some for the better, and others, I'm afraid, not so much. I am writing today to express my sincere concern and opposition to the proposed BMX park in our quiet and treasured community. While I understand that young people need activities and places to socialise, I worry that a BMX park in this spot brings with it more problems than benefits. Our town has always prided itself on being a peaceful, family-friendly place where people of all ages can enjoy the natural environment and a slower pace of life. I fear a BMX park in this location would disrupt that. I am not against young people having fun or being active. But I do believe there is a better place, perhaps next to the tram cafe, where facilities are already available, saving tax payer money as well. I hope the council will seriously consider the views of older residents, many of whom feel increasingly sidelined in discussions about our community's future. It is also unfair these surveys are online, I thank my granddaughter for helping me submit this, a paper form should also be available for older residents.
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BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park survey – Free text submissions (Consultation 1-26 October 2025)

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	Yes	No				
						As old lifelong resident of Diamond Creek, I'm absolutely appalled by the proposed location for the BMX track. Why wasn't there a survey asking community about location? Myself and my kids grew up here, building bike jumps near the train tracks, the very area Council destroyed during COVID, without consultation. Now, you are coming to destroy the one open space and few natural areas left for peaceful walking and enjoying nature, which I do every day for my health and peace of mind. there are better suited locations for this track such as the open space next to the Regional Play Space and Tram cafe, where infrastructure already exists and it's away from residents homes. Why haven't you explored that option seriously? Why the rush to push this through? It's clear you're scrambling to use up funding before the deadline, at the expense of thoughtful planning and community well being. This rushed decision doesn't just impact walkers like myself. It also risks disturbing the nearby bush kinders one of which my grandson attends whose learning is directly connected to the quiet, natural surroundings. The impact on local children and families seems to have been completely ignored. How dare Council take away one of the last accessible open spaces for passive recreation in Diamond Creek. Listen to the community. This is the wrong spot and you know it

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	Yes	No				
						Im a local mum with young kids, and I strongly oppose the proposed BMX track location. We bushwalk here safely as a family regularly. There already a BMX park on Pitt Street in Eltham. Why not improve that one instead of destroying this space? It feels like Council is rushing this through without proper consultation. Families use and value this area. please don't take it away.
Its very hard to find anywhere normally i travel far	1					Victoria lags far behind other states for this sort of infrastructure please push ahead with this project so my family can enjoy it as many many others will
	1					
MTB Riding Westerfolds Park		1	Need more of such facilities in Eltham instead	Eltham	Eltham	Great idea, but when will Nillumbik stop pouring all of our rates into Diamond Creek sports facilities, and start spending some in Eltham instead?
Eltham		1	Maintenance and hygiene cost to keep in good use.			Access how ambulances.
Illegal trails near the tracks in DC. Not great for kids	1					
Skateparks	1			No	No	No

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	Yes	No				
Ride through Nillumbik bush reserves along existing trails, or drive to nearbyish bike tracks such as Plenty Gorge, or take the train to far away trail parks such as Creswick and Maryvale Pines	1				Only need one shelter between jumps and pump track	This way this form has been worded assumes that people have read the info page and makes it seem like the SIC surface is the one that requires maintenance. I feel that mean there might be a push against
Plenty Gorge	1					
Whittlesea	1					
	1					
Northern bmx track, park orchards bmx track, diamond creek dirt jumps, St Andrews dirt jumps	1					Happy to provide advice or assistance. My children and I compete in club, state & national level racing. We also ride local dirt jumps and I am a current committee member at northern bmx club.
	1					
Various locations around Melbourne	1				No	Build it and they will appreciate it.

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	Yes	No				
DC Trail and illegal jumps	1			Everywhere	Everywhere	
Where ever there are jumps.	1					Great opportunity.
No where	1					
Indoor skateparks and other skateparks	1			No	No	Nope
	1					
Eltham BMX track	1				Put a shelter and some seating at Eltham BMX track!	I am not convinced this is the right location for a BMX park. What consultation or feasibility study was done to select the location? Didn't you consult and propose a pump track for Alan Marshall Reserve? What happened to that idea? Has a CHMP been prepared? The lack of active surveillance will be an issue. Why not have both surfaces? Some dirt and some sic. I am concerned that the dirt jumps become "property" of those who are there maintaining it, which is fair enough but it should be maintained in a way that everyone can use it. And PLEASE make some improvements to Eltham BMX park. It's awful!
Hurstbridge	1					There is already one in Eltham and Hurstbridge. We do not need another one in Diamond Creek.
Club paid track	1					Excited about young people having somewhere to go, expend energy in a positive way
We don't	1			No	No	Received the notification 22 October, that is not consistent with engaging the community when the cut off for comment is 26 October.

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	Yes	No				
We go to a pump track in Coldstream and pump	1					A pump track would be great!
bright	1			no	no	
Diamond Creek dirt jumps (illegal ones). St Andrew's dirt jumps.	1			No	No	Can you just get it made so that we can ride the jumps please..
Altona bmx track	1				Nah	Nah
Mountain bike tracks	1					Great idea - wrong location

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	Yes	No				
Diamond creek trails		1	Its never looked after properly. Put them around the tram park. Everything is already there, save money and use what we have.	Yes near the tram park	The tram park needs many more of these	Im a resident on [REDACTED]. I feel this isn't the right location. I count approx 25 people everyday walking with dogs off lead in this area and exactly where that is going to be built. I feel it will be built and like every other skate park in nillumbik will get run down fast and not maintained, it will be an eye sore before you know it. You dont maintain these areas now. Build a smaller one near the tram park. All facilities are there already toilets, parking easy access. I think this is going to be a waste of so much money. I have [REDACTED] kids they also believe it won't be used to what your thinking it will be. You have planted so many trees will they be removed? Wasting more money? I dont understand the reason for this.

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	Yes	No				
This is the wrong location for the BMX track. This should have been tested with the community before the location was selected				This is the wrong location for the BMX track so seating is irrelevant. Why has there been NO community consultation regarding this location	This is the wrong location for the BMX track so shelters are irrelevant. Why has there been NO community consultation regarding this location	This is the wrong location for the BMX track. I cannot believe that there has not been ANY community consultation regarding this location and that I only became aware of this by word of mouth from my neighbours. After all the rehabilitation effort that has been invested over the past 20 years, why would anyone want to destroy these wetlands. How can Kelly support this project when she was involved in planting trees at this very location to help her get elected? Given there seems to be multiple superior locations that would have NO impact to residents or wildlife, this is Extremely disappointing Nillumbik Council. You are supposedly the custodians for our beautiful green wedge. Please consider this when you vote.
This is the wrong location for a BMX track				This is the wrong location for a BMX track	This is the wrong location for a BMX track	This is the wrong location for a BMX track
Streets and skateparks	1			Mpr	More seats near the track for spectators and riders to rest	I would love to help out in any way that I can. I grew up riding bmx and haven't stopped since.
I do NOT support the proposed location of this park! It is a GOOD idea but the challenger street reserve is		1	The BMX park is already too destructive to the area, let alone a BBQ area. It is hypocritical of the council to	No seating, and move the BMX park elsewhere.	No shelters, and move the BMX park elsewhere.	Again, I support the idea of a BMX park, but the Challenger Street Reserve is the WRONG location. Please consider the already substantial opposition to the park's location!

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	Yes	No				
a beautiful green space with lots of native wildlife that will be SEVERLY impacted by a BMX park. FIND another location!			propose something so detrimental to our local wildlife and serenity!			
						Great Idea Wrong location
Great idea wrong location				Great idea wrong location	Great idea wrong location	Great idea wrong location
	1					

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	Yes	No				
Track behind eltham community centre	1					I love that the park is being reinstated, and my kids are excited to get opportunities for different ages and abilities. I'm very concerned however about the location of these jumps. They are proposed to be off a residential access point rather than a main thoroughfare, and not close to a reasonable amount of parking for those needing to drive (kids too young right now to take public transport themselves). More than this though, I am concerned that the proposed site is on a current wetland. Not only does this jeopardise existing native wildlife, some of which is endangered, but I wonder about the commonsense of building on a wetland. Surely this is setting up to fail before it begins. There is a huge potential for damage to the site through subsidence, water logging, inability to access the jumps and safety of riders in an area that is prone to flooding. I am concerned that there will be portions of the year that the site will be inaccessible due to this, and the potential for serious injuries exacerbated. I fully support this project, but in a more accessible, safe and inclusive to all site
						Great idea wrong location
Great idea, wrong location				Great idea, wrong location	Great idea, wrong location	Great idea, wrong location. Furious with local gov for lack of consultation and environmental planning.

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	Yes	No				
						Absolutely wrong place to build the BMX Park. There are many more suitable areas than this. It would destroy the look and feel of this part of the park. It is too close to the rear of homes and the home that sits directly to the left. What about next to the skateboard park or across from the Men's Shed where there is already a car park.
						There is concern in the community that there has not been adequate consultation about the location of the park. I don't recall whether this happened or not so perhaps if it did it was not clear enough. I don't remember location decisions being part of the earlier consultation. The most prominent aspect of this would be environmental impact. Has there been an evaluation of the impact? I am very keen for there to be a BMX space but is there a location that would be more appropriate and less impactful?
						Think is real need but the local natural enviroent will suffer..put it somewhere else
						Great idea , WRONG LOCATION!!!!!!
		1	I don't agree with the project			I think the Shire needs other facilities that are more inclusive for non sporty teens, and that amount of money supporting something that is already catered for is shortsighted. Bend of Islands for example has nothing! It also is going to impact the wetlands and the open space that exists.

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	Yes	No				
						This proposal must be reconsidered due to its impact on the proposed location and environment, as well as its impact on the local community, as many residents do not wish for the project to be constructed.
						Good idea. Bad location.
						I think it's a great idea but the wrong place. I think the vacant oval adjacent to the tram cafe in Diamond Creek is a much better option. It would be close to the new playground there and give families another activity to participate in, particularly if they have children of varied ages and abilities. Also, being in proximity to a popular and well frequented venue would reduce the risk of vandalism and antisocial behaviour.
						Good idea but wrong location. A really harmful idea for the natural environment in that area
	1					I am concerned about the capacity to respond and eliminate bad social behaviours that are currently being displayed by BMX riders at other illegally build jumps in the area. Who's responsibility is it? I encourage the space to have facilities that entice ADULTS to attend. If it used by current riders, and it only takes a few, the space will be trashed and jumps altered with total disregard for rules. I would support security cameras, and I hope that there are hours that the space is closed and there is the commitment to enforcing closures. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

BMX Jumps and Community Recreation Park survey – Free text submissions (Consultation 1-26 October 2025)

Diamond creek trail	1			I am not certain that this is the best location for BMX Park. What consultation with neighbours has occurred? What locations have been considered?	How will neighbouring residents be affected by noise, light & rubbish? Please prioritise neighbouring residents suggestions regarding shelters. residents fee	I support a BMX Park and liked the original location at Allendale Road. This new design appears to be bigger than the original design. I am not convinced this location is the best location & would like to know what other locations have been considered. 1. The design has insufficient parking for large community events & BMX competitions. People will park in the neighbouring streets - Oransay Avenue, Henry Arthur, Windmill Rise. How will this be managed to not negatively impact residents? 2. What emergency vehicle access? 3. Will the existing road through the DC Men's shed be widened & bitumened to support two directional car travel? 4. How will Council & community's efforts to restore biodiversity in this area be protected? 5. Please encourage First Nations art to be the public art at the BMX park. 6. How will noise for neighbours be mitigated? 7. Can 2 toilet blocks be included - one near the carpark & one near the trail? How many toilets are planned? Please don't rush this decision - let's get it right for the community in the long term. This facility will bring tourists to the area so planning & placement of the BMX Park in the right location is really important. Previous feedback was that creating jumps was part of the appeal. Is there a possibility of including 2 areas of jump surfaces so that there is a sic sealed area & a dirt area with capacity for volunteer construction & maintenance? The Allendale Rd design had a shipping container which would store wheelbarrows, shovels etc. Why is that missing in this new design?
Netball courts	1				Near the learn to ride for parents supervising	Ensuring that there is enough deterrents for teens to not vandalised it.
						Great idea, wrong location
						Great idea, wrong location!
						While I believe that a BMX Park would be a great facility for our young riders, I am concerned about the environmental impact of a BMX facility in this location. Are there any other suitable sites that would not have such a detrimental impact on the environment. I believe the site in question is in close proximity to the nesting site of powerful owls. For me, environmental impact is my major concern.

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	Yes	No				
						A major sporting development on public open space is against the ethos of the green wedge surely a more appropriate site can be found
						Great idea wrong location!!!!!!
						Great idea. Wrong location. Keep this place for community to connect with wildlife and invest in existing BMX parks.
						Great idea. Wrong location.
kids all ride powered bikes now- hardly anyone rides bmx put the money to good use.		1	they just get trashed, no one cleans them and they stuff rubbish into the bins and they never get emptied- in summer attracts flies and rats			really need more car parking for netball courts, more bike lanes for road bike cyclists. scout hall and baseball club room etc both needs an overhaul, i genuinely don't think we need bmx tracks as kids dont ride them anymore- they ride the electric bikes. all this money spent on a facility that will hardly be used- and will be damaging to natural environment
Unsure	1			Relocate the whole park. It's a great idea but wrong location, please don't destroy the natural habitat that is there now	Relocate the whole park. It's a great idea but wrong location, please don't destroy the natural habitat that is there	Relocate the whole park. It's a great idea but wrong location, please don't destroy the natural habitat that is there now

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	Yes	No				
					now	
						Wrong location
						Great idea. Wrong location.
Plenty gorge						

Draft Community Engagement Policy

July 2025



Image: Community members during consultation on the Biodiversity Strategy

Acknowledgement

Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people who are the Traditional Custodians of Land known today as Nillumbik. We pay respect to the Elders both past and present and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians.

Revision history

2021 – February 2021 Community Engagement Policy (Original)
2025 – Draft Community Engagement Policy 2025

Summary of proposed changes to the Community Engagement Policy

To strengthen our commitment to meaningful, inclusive, and transparent engagement the following changes to the Policy are recommended:

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.

This update aims to support consistent, effective engagement that gives our community a voice in shaping Council decisions.

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Thank you to our community

Nillumbik Shire Council would like to thank community members who have contributed to the development of our community engagement policy.

Community feedback was used to inform the policy on how Nillumbik Shire Council will engage with our community going forward.

Through the feedback received by our community members and staff we identified some core engagement objectives.

Insights gathered during this next phase of engagement will guide any final refinements to the document.

Transparent	Effective two-way communication with clear and relevant information
Time	Fair and reasonable opportunity for community to give input
Keep it simple	Easy to understand language and less jargon
Opportunity	Multiple options to participate in the engagement processes

What is community engagement?

Community engagement is the process of involving the public in decisions that affect them. It is critical to the successful development and implementation of Council strategic planning and decisions, and for improving services by being responsive to the needs of the community.

Community engagement is:

- a two-way process of interaction between Council and the community; and
- about matters such as a decision Council needs to make, or a problem or issue affecting the community that Council wishes to address or an issue that the community wants council to address

Purpose of this policy

This Community Engagement Policy is a formal expression of Council's commitment to engaging the Nillumbik community in planning and decision-making through the use of appropriate, effective and inclusive practices.

This policy:

- articulates Council's commitment to engaging effectively with its community in a meaningful, accountable, responsive and equitable way.
- outlines how Council will ensure that community engagement is integrated into Council activities to support decision making, build relationships and strengthen the Nillumbik communities sense of identity
- should be applied at the planning stage of any project or initiative, when a change in service, activities or infrastructure is considered and again prior to when a decision is made.
- when a change in government policy or legislation impacts Council services/business
- seeks to improve Council's engagement processes and outcomes through encouraging a consistent and transparent approach and continual learning through evaluation, and through expanding the range of engagement methods used
- applies to Councillors, staff, contractors and volunteers. It also serves as a guide to external organisations delivering infrastructure and services in Nillumbik.
- outlines the key role of the community in Council's planning and decision-making.

Our commitment to community engagement

Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to providing good governance and the delivery of high quality local services by enabling meaningful engagement with the community.

It will achieve its commitment to inclusive and effective community engagement by adherence to this Community Engagement Policy to guide efforts to enhance the planning and delivery of Council's services and programs.

Community engagement does not necessarily mean achieving consensus. However, it does involve seeking broad, informed input into the decision-making process to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Community engagement core values

The International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) specify a series of core values that should be used to underpin community engagement. Nillumbik's Community Engagement Policy builds on these core values.

1. *Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.*
2. *Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.*
3. *Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.*
4. *Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.*
5. *Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.*
6. *Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.*
7. *Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.*

Source: www.iap2.org.au

Community engagement framework

Council's approach to community engagement is guided by the IAP2 framework for community engagement.

Council will apply the IAP2 framework appropriately in its community engagement processes based on the activity and context of the subject and the time and resources available. The table below identifies each of the five levels of engagement.

INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
GOAL				
To provide the public with balanced , succinct, and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution	To place the final decision in the hands of the public
COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY				
We will keep you informed	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives development and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible	We will implement what you decide
EXAMPLES				
Printed materials such as brochures, email, displays, website, Social media, local radio	Participate (online consultation platform), Printed materials, mailed surveys, Feedback register	Printed materials, Focus groups, interviews, workshops, field trips, Council Meetings	Council Advisory Committees with specific focus, Community representatives on Council committees	Mediation, Negotiation, Dialogue, Citizen juries, Deliberative polling

Source: International Association of Public Participation (IAP2)

We will also look to introduce new and innovative ways to communicate to ensure our engagement achieves the necessary reach and level of information.

Providing Accessible Information

We will provide participants in our community engagement processes with access to objective, relevant and timely information to inform their participation.

This will be done by:

- Providing all important data or evidence relating to the matter, consultant reports and other strategic documents where this is appropriate.
- Supplying information in plain language and translated and accessible formats and summary documents where this is appropriate.
- Using a range of communication channels and accessible formats.
- Making information about our projects available on our Participate Nillumbik digital engagement platform or provided in other formats as required.

Community engagement principles

The following principles will guide Council's approach to community engagement.

Clear Objectives	• clearly define the objectives and scope of the community engagement process, by describing the decision to be made, taking into account relevant legislation, and making clear how the community's input will influence Council decision making. • ensure that all information will be captured in a succinct summary and be available to the community. • ensure that the engagement is undertaken early enough in the decision-making process to ensure that its outcomes are considered before the decision is made • ensure that the community is given enough time to take part in engagement processes and provide feedback, avoiding where possible engaging only over holiday periods such as Christmas and New Year and other significant occasions • promote opportunities and provide reasonable support to enable a wide cross section of the people and groups affected by the matter that is the subject of community engagement to actively participate in decision-making. • consideration will be given to the types of engagement activities being planned to ensure they are inclusive and maximise the potential for participation
Inclusive and Diverse	• approach engagement free from bias toward any stakeholder and treat all participants in the engagement process with respect and dignity • provide participants in community engagement with relevant, objective, accessible and timely information and resources such as leaflets, rates notice, newspapers, Nillumbik News, social media, direct stakeholder engagement, stalls at community events to allow informed participation. • be accountable, accessible and ethical in all dealings with the community in a way that is consistent with our codes of conduct and relevant laws • actively listen to all points of view and respect the rights of all citizens to be heard

	• be willing to amend a position if a good argument/idea has been put forward.
Transparent	• commit to providing participants with updates at key stages throughout the project and why certain feedback may or may not have been taken into account • demonstrate that all community contributions and relevant data have been considered, prior to making any decisions that affect the local community • report back to the community on the outcome of the community engagement and how the community's input influenced decision-making

When we engage

Council is committed to being inclusive and transparent in its decision-making. Council will engage on matters that affect our community and where it believes that community engagement will result in a better outcome for the community and better informed decisions.

Council's engagement will commence as early as possible in the process. This helps to ensure our community and stakeholders can make a meaningful contribution that can help direct Council outcomes and decision making. Engagement may occur once or multiple times, commensurate with the scope, complexity and impact of the project or decision. Opportunities to give feedback and input will be made available for 3-4 weeks.

The following are examples of the occasions when community engagement would be undertaken:

- Major strategic planning
- Land use planning
- Service levels/standards
- The design of new infrastructure or facilities and renewal of existing infrastructure
- Specific projects or programs (such as sport and recreation, community safety, tourism)
- Legislative, policy or service issues that are the responsibility of higher levels of government, but where the Council wishes to convey community views

(such as issues impacting the Green Wedge, housing, education, the environment and health)

- Where the *Local Government Act 2020* or other legislation prescribes that community consultation is required.

There may be reasons or times when engagement will not be possible, these may include ;

- an immediate resolution is required, such as in an emergency
- a risk to public safety
- technical or other expertise is required
- an initiative involves confidential or commercial information
- clear and defined legislative responsibilities must be met
- developing or reviewing internal policies and procedures
- timeframes and methodology have been predetermined by other levels of government

Who we engage

Council values the input of all members of our community so it is important that our engagement methods are accessible and broad reaching.

For each engagement we will identify the communities or stakeholders who are impacted and seek to engage with them to ensure we have representative feedback to guide our project or decision making

The community includes but is not limited to:

- traditional owners of land in Nillumbik
- people who live, work, participate in leisure activities, visit, study, invest in, or pass through Nillumbik.
- people and bodies who are ratepayers of the Council.
- Nillumbik Council Staff
- people and bodies who conduct activities in Nillumbik. This may include, but is not limited to: community groups, not-for-profit organisations, businesses, State and Federal governments, other local governments and service providers.

Inclusive engagement

We recognise that good community engagement involves providing the right opportunities, at the right time and in the right way for people to have a say on issues that are important to and/or affect them.

Barriers to engagement

People may face barriers to participating in community engagement for a range of reasons. These barriers depend on the different circumstances of the individual and how these have been shaped by long-standing systems and social conditions that impact participation.

There are different groups in different communities who may find it more difficult to participate in engagement activities. Some of the groups often considered as harder to reach due to their respective barriers to engagement are:

- Homeless people
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- People with a disability
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)
- Established migrant communities
- New migrant communities
- The bereaved or traumatised
- People with health issues
- Residents in public housing
- Parents and carers
- New residents
- Hearing, speech or vision impaired people
- People living in rural or regional areas
- International students
- Professionals and business owners
- Lesbian, gay, bi, trans, intersex and queer (LGBTIQA+) people
- Young people
- Older people
- Children

These groups may not engage through traditional methods due to barriers like access, trust, time, or language so the approach must be tailored, respectful, and inclusive.

When designing and implementing engagement approaches, we are committed to addressing barriers and ensuring the voices of those who may be harder to reach are included.

How we engage

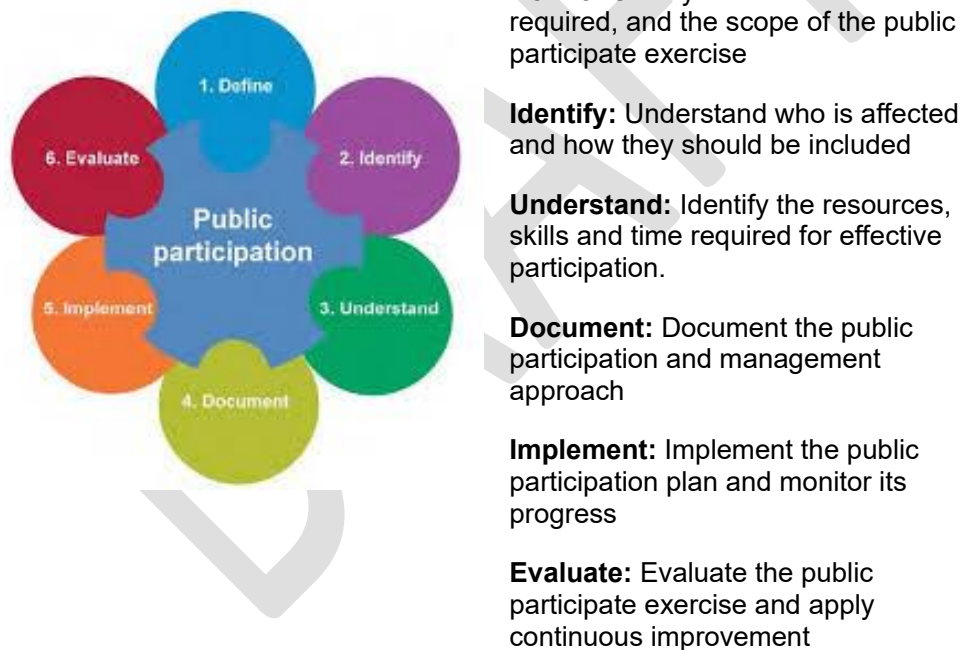
In planning for community engagement, Nillumbik Council will ensure that appropriate tools and methods are applied, taking into account the scope and objectives of the engagement project, the significance and complexity of the matter, the level of resourcing required and the level of impact on the community.

The key drivers of community participation are:

- Having a clear understanding of the scopes and potential impact of a decision
- The level of influence that the community can have on a decision
- An understanding of the outcomes made possible through participation

Council will align with 'engagement elements' specified by the Victoria Auditor General Office, which councils may be audited on.

Fig 1: VAGO elements



Source: www.audit.vic.gov.au

Council will apply deliberative engagement practices where legislation requires it such as the Community Vision, 4 Year Council Plan, Financial Plan, Asset Plan and when it is suitable to the scope, complexity and impact of the project or decision.

Among the key features of deliberative engagement is that it must be:

- **Representative** in the sense that it involves a representative cross-section of the community, usually selected at random – with the aim of maximizing inclusion
- **Deliberative:** allowing for extended consideration of a key question; and
- **Influential:** Participants will be informed of the level of influence the community engagement process will have on Council decision-making.

Council value and recognise the contribution of participants who have given up their time to provide feedback or attend engagement activities, therefore our community will be informed by providing progress updates of engagement processes underway.

Hearing of submissions

Submissions received under section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* until its repeal or received through a community engagement process undertaken by Council are made available for public inspection and may be published in Council business papers.

The Planning and Consultation Committee is a delegated committee, appointed to consider matters under two areas - planning and consultation.

Protection of privacy in community engagement

Council will provide notice on the collection, use and disclosure of personal information provided within a submission. Any data collected during the engagement process will be stored in a way that maintains privacy and meets the requirements of Information Privacy Principle 1 contained within the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.

Evaluation and Review

The evaluation activities will allow Council to meet its commitment to best practice community engagement by responding to evolving needs and expectations.

Evaluating and reviewing our engagement allows us to be both transparent and accountable. Feedback from our community provides clear data and evidence. It is also an important tool used by our Councillors to help inform their decision-making in matters before the Council.

The Community Engagement Guidelines will provide guidance and transparent criteria for Evaluation and Review.

Reporting to the community and Council on the outcomes of community engagement

Reporting back to our community

Council will keep in touch with our community during our engagement processes and report back. We will do this by:

- Reaching out to participants of the engagement process at the end to advise them of the outcome.
- Outlining how their participation influenced decision making.
- Where appropriate, providing participants with a short evaluation of our process so that we can improve our process for next time.
- Using different communication channels depending on who we are engaging, including the Participate Nillumbik website and our print publications.
- Taking into consideration people with a disability and people with no access to social media or the internet.

Reporting back to Council

When reporting to Council on the outcomes of a community engagement process, Council will:

- Provide any key data, evidence, or reports about community engagement, including reports provided by consultants.
- Explain the purpose and scope of the community engagement that has been implemented.
- Outline the engagement methods used, the details of who participated, an overview of findings, and any recommendations.
- Provide reasons and evidence if the Council officer recommendation is contrary to the views of our community and stakeholders. The reasons for this should be explained in the Council report drawing on evidence as appropriate.
- Provide reasons for our decision making in reports to Council if a Council officer has made a decision that impacts the community under delegation.

Relationship to Council Plan

Genuine community engagement is essential to delivering on the aspirations of our residents and is one fundamental way Council gains insight to support informed decision making.

Council will continue to provide updates that show how community engagement has been considered in decision making, to ensure engagement processes remain transparent and meaningful.

Council's key strategic objectives:

1. Inclusive living and participation
2. Liveable and connected communities
3. Sustainable futures and healthy environments
4. Responsible governance and community leadership.

Resources and tools to support our Community Engagement Framework

Independent research

Community satisfaction and preferred methods of engagement are captured in independent research. This is based on a randomly selected sample of citizens and delivers statistically reliable results that can be compared across years and in some years across Councils.

Each year Council engages a consultancy company to undertake the Annual Community Satisfaction Survey as Council wants to know what our community thinks about a range of areas including Council's overall performance, Council's services and facilities, Planning and Housing development, Communication methods and more.

The survey assists in providing insight into how we can provide improved and effective services and facilities to our community.

The survey also assists Council in meeting annual and mandated State Government performance reporting requirements by measuring community satisfaction in a number of areas covered by the survey. We are able to compare our customer satisfaction ratings and benchmark our performance from year to year.

Our communication channels

To encourage and invite our community and stakeholders to participate in community engagement activities, we may promote the opportunities in a range of different ways. All communications will be in line with the Nillumbik brand guide.

Some of the communications channels and tools that can be used to support our engagement activities include:

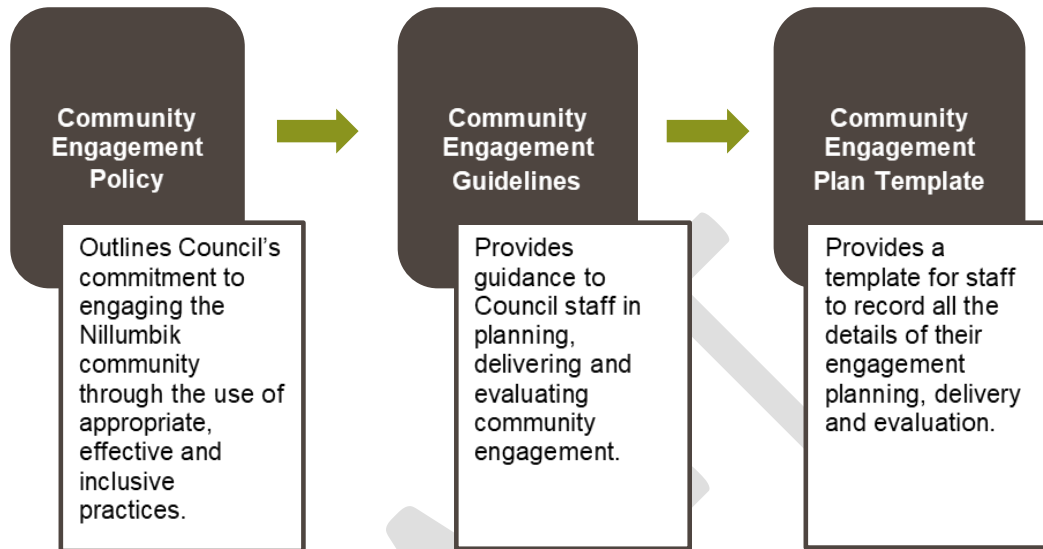
- Participate Nillumbik website, www.participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.
- Nillumbik Shire Council website, www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
- Nillumbik News
- eNewsletters
- Social media including Instagram, Facebook and Twitter
- Print promotions such as letters, posters or flyers
- Drop in sessions, site visits and open days
- Focus groups, workshops and stakeholder briefing sessions
- Media promotion including media releases and/or advertising

Resources and Training

To ensure the effective and consistent application of engagement principles, processes and behaviours, appropriate to the opportunity, a set of Community Engagement Guidelines have been developed. These guidelines describe engagement approaches, provide guidance and set expectations for Council employees on the level of engagement and approaches we will use.

Access to expert staff to give advice on matters relating to project planning, resource allocation, communications and best practice engagement methods are also available.

Training will be provided to staff to increase understanding of our Community Engagement Framework, processes and tools, and to build capacity in order for staff to deliver sound engagement activities across the organisation.



Integrated community engagement

We have several legislative requirements to engage. It can also be managing several large projects across different parts of the organisation at any one time. Council is committed to being respectful of the community's time in our engagement activities. We will coordinate and integrate our large scale community engagement where possible in the interests of efficiency.

Definitions

Advisory Committee	is a group appointed to provide advice and recommendations to Council. They do not have decision-making authority but offer expertise and insights to help the main body make informed decisions.
Accessibility	identifying and eliminating obstacles and barriers to ensure anyone can access or use places, services and information, regardless of their ability, location, culture, time, resources or other differentiating factor.
Council	Can refer to Nillumbik Shire Council as an organisation as well as the Mayor, Councillors, Administrators, Council staff, Executive Council Officers, consultants, and contractors working on behalf of Nillumbik Shire Council.
Community	A group of people, the members of which reside in the same geographical area or have a shared background, interest, affiliation or membership.
Deliberative Engagement	Describes a series of engagement practices that demonstrate all of the following features: • Influence - Promise of influence over policy and decision-making (Involve/Collaborate/Empower using the IAP2 Levels of Engagement) • Inclusion - Participation that is representative of the community and inclusive of diverse viewpoints and values • Deliberation - open dialogue and discussion, access to information and movement towards consensus
Engagement	A genuine process of working with people to build understanding, strengthen relationships and inform decisions.
Guidelines	A resource developed to provide guidance for Nillumbik staff to plan and evaluate community engagement initiatives.
IAP2	The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) is an international organisation dedicated to advancing the practice of public participation
Public	Individuals who may not belong to a specific community relevant to the project, but they still have an interest in the project.
Stakeholder	Individuals or organisations, which affect, or can be affected by project decisions.
VAGO	Victorian Auditor General's Office

Statutory requirements

As a local government, Nillumbik Shire Council is required to meet a wide variety of legislative obligations. Many of these obligations relate to when and how engagement must occur, such as the Local Government Act 2020.

Nillumbik Shire Council will meet all of its legislative engagement requirements and this policy is designed to complement and support these existing requirements. Other relevant legislation includes, but is not limited to the following statutes and their associated regulations and guidelines:

- Local Government Act 2020
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010
- Disability Act 2006
- Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014
 - Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Road Management Act 2004
- Multicultural Victoria Act 2011
- Subordinate Legislation Act 1994
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- Matters subject to s.223 of the Local Government Act 1989.
 - Gender Equality Act 2020
 - Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
 - Public Administration Act 2004
 - Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005

Community Engagement Policy Review 2025

Community Engagement Report



Project Background

Following the adoption of Council's first Community Engagement Policy in 2021, a review was undertaken to ensure the policy continues to reflect community expectations and best practice engagement.

Community feedback was gathered from 1- 30 September 2025 through online surveys, face-to-face conversations and community events to help test the effectiveness of Council's Community Engagement Policy. Participants represented a broad cross-section of the community, including young adults, families, older residents, and people from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds. A total of 103 voices were heard during the engagement period.

How we engaged

Throughout the consultation period, we engaged the community and encouraged participation through a variety of ways.

- the Participate Nillumbik website which provided key information about the project and hosted an online survey
- social media (Facebook/Instagram),
- Council officers roamed the Hurstbridge Wattle Festival, Diamond Creek Rotary Festival, Edendale Community Environment Farm
- Attended the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee
- held two internal staff meetings.

Over 100 people engaged with the project information and resources provided. The following images and table highlight the promotional material and engagement tools that we used to inform the community about the project and promote their participation in the engagement approach.

Example of postcard



Table 1. Promotional materials

Website – Participate Nillumbik
Posters
Postcards
Social Media posts x2
Social media advertisement Reach of 6.5k and 13.4k impressions
Newsletters
Enewsletter
Nillumbik News article
News Release
Website news release

Table 2. Total voices heard

10	Number of submissions on Participate Nillumbik
265	Number of website visits to Participate
41	Voices heard at Wattle Festival, Hurstbridge
42	Voices heard at Diamond Creek Rotary Festival, Diamond Creek
10	Voices heard at Edendale Community Environment Farm

What we heard

We heard residents access Council information through a variety of channels:

- Nillumbik News remains a key and trusted source, particularly among residents aged 40 and over.
- The Council website and e-newsletters are frequently used by residents in their 30s to 50s.
- Social media, especially Facebook groups like *Eltham 3095*, plays an important role in keeping people informed and connected.
- Word of mouth and personal networks are strong information sources for younger residents in their early 20s.
- Many older residents still prefer printed materials and phone contact, valuing the ability to speak directly with Council staff.

Question 1: What are your thoughts on our draft Community Engagement Policy 2025? Are there any areas you would change and why?

From my experience on NSC's advisory committees I suggest more notice should be taken of their advice/recommendations as currently only there as a sounding board for staff. For PAAC, it has taken 13 months before a unanimous recommendation got to a Council meeting, then in confidence and a negative report.

Great that Council is aiming to be more inclusive.

The needs to be clear consultation across all sources for everything. Consultation seems too haphazard. Sometimes it is in a newsletter. Sometimes it is in an email. Sometimes it is via Facebook. When council want to seek the opinion of its rate payers it should approach them across all forms especially as the older demographic are not much online.

We need a true all ages community space such as a proper fully functioning library. A space where students can study, a space where mums can meet, a space with school holidays activities, a space where older people can host meeting groups, a space where we can borrow from an extensive library rather than driving 20-30 mins from the Hurstbridge area to get to Eltham/Greensborough/mill Park. Prior community spaces have been heavily sport focussed for example DC netball courts however this only accounts for a small population, often empty throughout the week. A space that can be accessed by all, any day of the week would be an ideal use of community funds.

Overall I think it is excellent, but there may be need for some improvements in the future when/if problems are identified

Who we heard from

**Data from online survey only.*

***Gender:**

Female	90%
Male	10%
Prefer not to say	0%

***Age Range:**

Age Group	Percentage of Respondents
35–44	40%
45–54	10%
55–64	10%
65–84	40%

***How they heard about the consultation:**

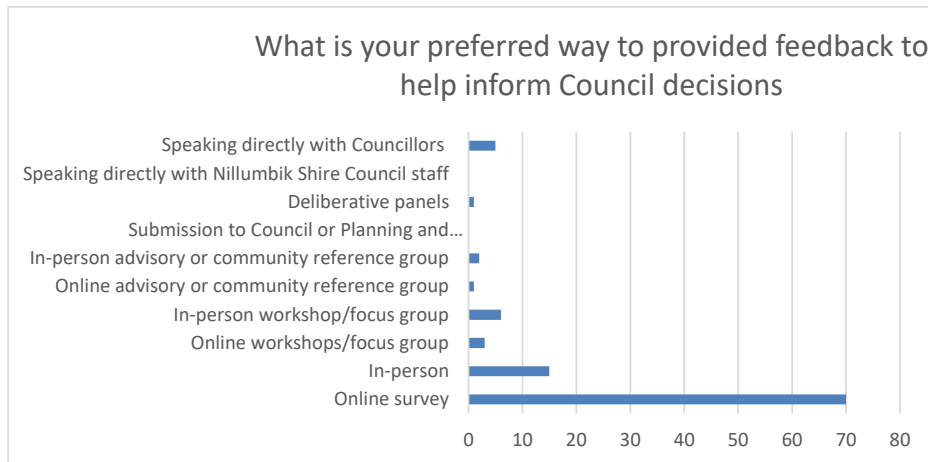
Source	Number of respondents
Facebook	3
Other	2
Email	2
Nill News	1
eNewsletter	1



Image: Council Officers engaging at Hurstbridge Wattle Festival

Question 2: What is your preferred way to provide feedback to help inform Council decisions?

Graph 1

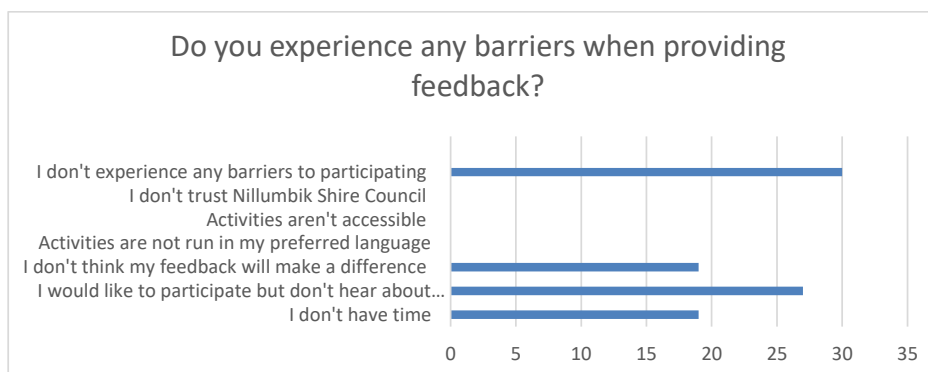


Engagement preferences varied across age groups and life stages:

- Younger residents (20s–30s) are comfortable providing quick feedback online but prefer speaking to someone directly for more complex or personal matters.
- Families and working-age adults (30s–50s) engage online for convenience but appreciate opportunities for in-person discussions on issues that directly affect them, such as roads, traffic and parks.
- Older residents (60+) prefer face-to-face or phone-based engagement and continue to rely on mail and *Nillumbik News* for information.
- In-person engagement remains valued for serious or complex topics where residents want deeper discussion and accountability.

Question 3: Do you experience any barriers when providing feedback?

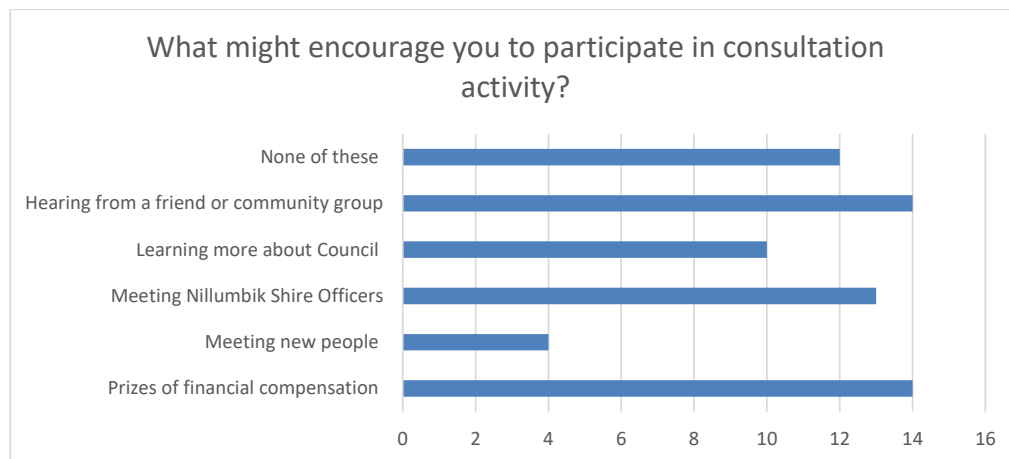
Graph 2



Most respondents reported no barriers to participation. However, some noted they rarely provided feedback to Council, believing it would not influence decisions while others commented that they didn't have enough time to participate.

Question 4: What might encourage you to participate in consultation activity?

Graph 3



Motivators for engagement

Residents are more likely to engage when they can see that their feedback leads to tangible outcomes. Some suggested offering small incentives, such as rate vouchers, to boost survey participation. Positive experiences, such as feeling heard on local issues or seeing improvements in community facilities will help build trust and encourage ongoing involvement.

Question 5: Do you have any thoughts on how we can improve our community consultation practices?

Just make sure you give regular updates of how you have used the feedback
The CEO should reply to his correspondence and so should Councillors. There should be a time frame of 48 hours for staff and Councillors to reply to phone and email communication.
Encourage First Peoples and Wurundjeri People to engage and participate in the consultation and let them know they are encouraged and invited to take part.

Too much time and money in my opinion is wasted on in person talk fests. Ask me a question online or in print and I will have my say.
Listen. Act in accordance to resident requests.stop wasting money.
I have noticed an improvement in Council notifying local community via signage . Reintroduction of Council noticeboards at post-office. The placement of signs where works are to take place and why is great for those not on social media or emails . A regular Ward report via that wards social media sites for those that use them .
Focus could be made in more informal settings. i do feel the relationship i have with the council is quite formal and for people this could be quite overwhelming. i think also approaching already established informal groups and asking them is very important in receiving a diverse range of feedback
No, perhaps communication , e.g. emails, newsletters could be more visible

Internal Staff Sessions – Key insights

Staff emphasised the importance of targeting relevant and harder-to-reach groups, with opportunities to co-design and make engagement more genuine and meaningful. Participants highlighted the need to challenge existing approaches, review budgets and ensure feedback is acknowledged and acted upon.

Timing and planning were identified as critical, including the need to “close the loop” with communities and avoid long gaps between consultations. Staff also raised questions about budget allocation for weekend or after-hours engagement to improve accessibility.

There was strong agreement on the need to evaluate engagement effectiveness, set benchmarks at the outset, and ensure good reach and representation.

Staff noted the importance of capturing children’s voices through age-appropriate methods such as drawing activities, and being transparent with the community about the level of engagement using the IAP2 spectrum.

Constraints such as tight timeframes, funding dependencies and project uncertainty were acknowledged as challenges.

What's working well:

- in-person engagement and direct interaction
- targeted engagement with impacted groups
- cross-collaboration with community groups and consultants
- providing translation services
- being mindful of event timing and community calendars.

Staff highlighted uncertainty around when consultation is required, particularly for smaller-scale projects such as community events or awards. There was a clear need to clarify internal processes and define triggers for community consultation, ensuring a consistent approach across teams.

Questions were raised about the role and influence of Councillors in community consultation, including how their involvement is defined and whether this is outlined in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

Findings

Overall, community sentiment towards the draft *Community Engagement Policy 2025* was positive, with respondents generally supportive of Council's direction and efforts to make engagement more inclusive and accessible.

Several respondents appreciated online participation options, noting that digital tools suit busy lifestyles and allow for flexible, accessible feedback. However, many emphasised the importance of maintaining a mix of engagement methods — including in-person sessions, printed materials and direct contact with Councillors — to ensure all community members can participate.

Some participants expressed frustration about whether community feedback influences Council decisions, suggesting a need for clearer communication on how input is used. Others called for more consistent updates, faster response times from staff and Councillors, and greater visibility of consultation outcomes.

A few respondents highlighted opportunities to strengthen relationships through more informal, approachable engagement, and to better involve underrepresented groups such as First Nations people and younger residents.

These findings suggest that the updates made in the draft Community Engagement Policy 2021 have been reflected accurately and that the need for stronger follow-through, transparency and variety in engagement approaches resonates with our community.

Following the internal staff sessions a recommendation would be to review the Community Engagement Guidelines to have a clearer outline of the triggers for Community Engagement.

Timing and planning were identified as critical, including the need to “close the loop” with communities and avoid long gaps between consultations. Staff also raised questions about budget allocation for weekend or after-hours engagement to improve accessibility.

Next steps

The draft Community Engagement Policy will go to the 9 December 2025 Council Meeting for formal adoption.

Community Engagement Policy consultation findings

1-30 September 2025

Over 100
voices
heard

Background

A review was undertaken on the Community Engagement Policy to ensure it continues to reflect community expectations and best practice engagement. Community feedback was gathered from 1- 30 September 2025

Recommendations

Maintain a mix of engagement methods

While digital tools suit busy lifestyles and allow for flexibility including the in-person sessions, printed materials and direct contact with Councillors to allow all to participate.

Close the loop

Close the loop with communities and avoid long gaps between consultations.

Strengthen relationships

More informal engagements to build approachable engagement, and to better involve underrepresented groups such as First Nations people and younger residents

How we engaged

- Participate Nillumbik website
- Social media (Facebook/Instagram),
- Roaming the Hurstbridge Wattle Festival, Diamond Creek Rotary Festival, Edendale Community Environment Farm
- Attended the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee
- Held two internal staff meetings.

Findings

Top 3 preferences to provide feedback

- Online surveys
- In-person
- In-person focus group/workshop

Did people experience barriers to participation?

Majority did not experience barriers to participation but felt their feedback wouldn't make a difference or they hadn't heard of the opportunity to provide feedback.

What might encourage them to provide feedback?

Positive experiences, such as feeling heard on local issues or seeing improvements in community facilities will help build trust and encourage ongoing involvement.

Staff Feedback

What's working well:

- in-person engagement and direct interaction
- targeted engagement with impacted groups
- cross-collaboration with community groups and consultants
- providing translation services
- being mindful of event timing and community calendars.

Next steps

The draft Community Engagement Policy will go to the 9 December Council Meeting for formal adoption.



*Just make sure you give regular updates of how you used the feedback
~ resident*