

# For your consideration when responding to Draft Council Vision - Nillumbik 2040

FINAL DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: AUGUST 26, 2021

We recommend you write your comments in a word doc or similar, then copy and paste into the submission box 'Your thoughts on the draft Community Vision- Nillumbik 2040' [which you'll find at the following link] as some people have lost work when typing directly into the website. You can choose to upload a document. Go to <https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/our-future/draft-community-vision-2021> and scroll down

**The Draft Council Vision – Nillumbik 2040 describes**

- A Message from Council

- Developing a Community Vision for Nillumbik

- Nillumbik Community Profile

- Nillumbik now and into the future

and presents **aspirations** categorised into the following four themes:

- Our People
- Our Place
- Our Future
- Our Council

*Please use the following as you wish, in your own words is best.*

## FRAMING THE OVERALL DOCUMENT

In 1994 the Local Government Review Board declared that the new Shire of Nillumbik was to be a **conservation Shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus**.

This must be stated at the start of the document to ensure environmental protection is a key guiding principle.

### Re: A Message from Council

To more accurately reflect what the community has told Council, the first dot point must include the wildlife and flora of Nillumbik, and the natural systems on which they rely and are a part of.

### Re: Developing a Community Vision for Nillumbik

- Currently, there is no **overarching summary vision statement**. This must concisely lay down foundations for the future.

The Council Vision must describe the community's aspirations for 2040. These must be ambitious and written in the present tense - with intention and achievement, as well as aspiration.

An overarching statement could be:

In 2040 Nillumbik is a world leader in

- biodiversity protection and reinvigoration
- community stewardship of the environment;
- climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- sustainable urban design and living;
- community inclusiveness, equity and connection;
- community participation in the arts and celebration of its cultural heritage;
- economic systems that are responsive to, and protective of, the environment, in keeping with the Community's statements of priority

- Surveys conducted by Council for the development of the draft Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040 showed that the Top Three Things valued in Nillumbik are:

- Preservation of the Green Wedge
- Protection of environment and biodiversity
- Action on climate

These must be clearly stated as **top priorities** in the Community Vision for Nillumbik.

### Re: Nillumbik Community Profile

This section gives various statistics about aspects of our community, but currently does not include important details for flora and fauna. These are integral parts of our community and must be included, therefore also reflecting the Top Three Values in Nillumbik [as stated above].

Useful examples are described in the *Nillumbik State of the Environment Report 2014*, “Approximately 30,000 ha of remnant native vegetation still remains within the Shire, with the largest portion of intact vegetation on private land (67%)” and “The Shire of Nillumbik contains **1031 indigenous flora** species, 64 of which are listed as significant species. ....**350 indigenous fauna** species, 70 of which are listed as significant species.’

### Re: Nillumbik now and into the future

This section of the Draft gives brief human-centred analysis of the Shire’s current and future trends in population, urban growth boundary, food security, transport, public open space, social infrastructure etc. The **analysis must also include fauna, flora, waterways, soils, and landscape**. This is vital if Nillumbik honours its origins as a conservation Council with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus - ensuring better environmental outcomes into the future while providing a high-quality environment for all residents & visitors.

Additional analysis could include:

- Current annual loss of vegetation; and projected reversal of decline if appropriate policies are developed and applied
- Current prevalence of wildlife through diverse areas of the Shire; and projections of healthier and more widespread populations if actions are taken to improve connectivity and extent of native vegetation
- Current impacts of roadkill on wildlife; and likely outcomes if innovative steps are taken to reduce impacts
- Current health of soils, creeks, rivers, billabongs, and ephemeral waterways; and projections of their greater vitality and flow-on effects on biodiversity if appropriate policies are developed and applied

### Theme: Our People

In 2040, the Nillumbik community:

- Is knowledgeable, respectful, and responsive to the Wurundjeri-Woiwurrung people & cultural heritage
- Is an active leader in protecting and reinvigorating the natural environment; minimises all waste and enables effective recycling; takes greatest action to reverse biodiversity decline; exceeds carbon neutral status; consistently and dramatically reduces or eliminates polluting activities [eg chemical inputs from herbicides, litter, toxic materials from infrastructure development] and achieves this through innovation and best practice – with policy and education to achieve outcomes.

### Theme: Our Place

In 2040, Nillumbik is a place:

- Renowned for its thriving biodiversity, where native wildlife and vegetation communities [from tall canopy trees to grasses, herbs and fungi] are more widespread, healthier, and better connected than they were in 2021. This also ensures greater resilience, especially with climate change impacts.
- The community’s love for Nillumbik’s biodiversity is evident throughout the Shire, including townships.

### Theme: Our Future

The introductory paragraph of ‘Our Future’ is supported for acknowledging our need to respond to changing circumstances on an ongoing basis, while remaining sustainable and resilient. Greater clarity must be given to ensure sustainability and resilience is broadly applied – not just to the human community.

### Theme: Our Council

In 2040, Nillumbik Council is an organisation

- That provides bold leadership in the reversal of biodiversity decline. Council achieves this by prioritising knowledge of, and respect for, Nillumbik’s biodiversity, and this is evident throughout Council management, staff and the broader community; clear application of planning laws; a shared culture of Council and community stewardship of the environment.
- That is carbon-positive, exceeding its Climate Active carbon neutral certification
- That leads in traffic management through the promotion of active transport (eg walking and cycling), community connectivity, public transport, and clever road design
- That consistently fosters equality, diversity, compassion and non-violence.