

This is a **critical opportunity** as Council can only review local laws *once every TEN YEARS*.

Local laws can **help protect our local environment and community amenity**.

- *Are you concerned about wildlife in Nillumbik being injured by certain types of fencing?*
- *Are you concerned about harmful chemicals entering the food system, waterways, sporting fields, affecting humans, particularly young children, honey-bees and wildlife?*
- *Do you think there should be limitations on where helicopters can land in the Green Wedge?*
- *Should drones be banned from flying over private property?*

Here is a brief guide for making your submission - at the end of this guide you'll find further detail should you want to know more.

**CLICKETY CLACK SAVE A DUCK... HERE'S HOW, its remarkably simple:**

Visit <https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/local-laws> to fill out the form.

Take advantage of the fact that you can comment on issues raised within the form AND introduce your own ideas...

**THE FORM:**

You can give a simple 'tick a box' answer, BUT we urge you to **elaborate in the Survey's text box**. **Please consider the following details** - where **blue font** below indicates a question from Council's survey [sorry if you are colour blind?!]:



***Re: Prohibit the use of fencing that could be harmful to wildlife:***

**NOTE: Council's Local Law Discussion Paper only mentions barbed wire, however we urge you to add detail:**

- Suggest new fences have a large enough gap at the bottom for wildlife to pass & require a permit to be above 1.2m in height.
- Make suggestions to ban new barbed wire AND ring lock fencing.
- Suggest that new electric fences be at least 40cm above the ground.

***Re: Prohibit single use plastics at Council and Council-endorsed events, markets and festivals:***

- Suggest the banning of thicker plastic bags [often excluded from 'single-use plastics']
- Suggest use of reusable bags from *repurposed fabrics* rather than thicker plastic bags or faster degrading plastics. [see [Boomerang bags](#)].



- Suggest Council bans single-use-plastics on all Council land, including parkland. [This would also inform and help transition the community towards the State Government's upcoming single-use plastics ban]



***Re: Restrict the use of Glyphosates and other harmful chemicals and or prohibiting the sale of Glyphosates in Nillumbik***

- Ensure that Glyphosates are not simply being replaced by equally harmful chemicals.
- Ensure that restrictions or bans on certain chemicals are coupled with extensive education campaigns and active support for alternative methods to control weeds.
- Suggest alternative methods of weed control such as steaming, physical control/removal, organic herbicides, targeted grazing, burning etc as appropriate.
- Take the opportunity to comment on rodenticide use and its poisonous effect on wildlife including owls and other birds of prey. *See links below for what other Shires have achieved.*
- Make suggestions for broad community education [including within Council] to encourage alternatives to harmful chemicals.

**HERE'S SOMETHING FOR THE SURVEY'S TEXT BOX 'Any additional comments on the local laws?'**

- Regulating lighting on private property to avoid disrupting the circadian rhythms of wildlife, and also allowing for greater visibility of the night sky.  
*See links on the following page for interesting details.*
- Please emphasise the need to improve the enforcement of local laws and escalating consequences for repeat offenders.

**CLICK HERE TO HAVE YOUR SAY, BEFORE 11.59pm Friday 16 July**



**WELL DONE!**

**DID YOU KNOW**, results from the recent Nillumbik Council survey, *'Our People, Our Place, Our Future'* indicate that the top three things valued in Nillumbik are:

- 1. Preservation of the Green Wedge**
- 2. Protection of environment and biodiversity**
- 3. Action on climate change**

One of many ways people care for wildlife around the world.  
What can we consider for our wildlife, here, in Nillumbik?

We need to keep speaking up!  
Take every opportunity...

And, sorry to say it fellas, but it seems twice as many women are speaking up for the place they love.  
C'mon... Get yer skates on!

**Please share this guide with anyone in the community that would be interested in making a submission.**

The 'new' Councillors need to know the community cares.

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### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

#### **SOME LINKS THAT PROVIDE USEFUL/RELEVANT DETAILS:**

*Re A Shire declaring Owl-friendly practices:*

<https://www.amrshire.wa.gov.au/news/media-releases/1293/shire-declared-owl-friendly/>

*Re The use of chemicals including pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides:*

<https://www.wires.org.au/wildlife-info/wildlife-factsheets/wildlife-and-pesticides-keeping-native-animals-safe>

<https://www.healthywildlife.com.au/parasites-and-viruses/rodenticides-and-wildlife/#/>

<https://www.beyondpesticides.org/programs/wildlife>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/22/war-of-the-weedkiller-why-environmentalists-are-concerned-about-moves-to-ban-roundup>

*Re Wildlife and fencing:*

<https://www.wires.org.au/wildlife-info/wildlife-factsheets/making-friendly-fencing>

<https://www.wildlife-rescue.org.au/uploads/1/8/3/0/18305629/fencing.pdf>

*Re Declaration in defence of the Night Sky and the right to Starlight (La Palma Declaration):*

<https://issuu.com/pubcipriano/docs/starlightdeclarationen>

[https://cds.cern.ch/record/1481596/files/978-1-4614-3822-9\\_BookBackMatter.pdf](https://cds.cern.ch/record/1481596/files/978-1-4614-3822-9_BookBackMatter.pdf)

*Re Impact of lighting on wildlife:*

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2020-06-20/light-pollution-is-bad-for-us-and-for-wildlife/12373776>

**Plenty more available with a quick search.**

### **WHAT ARE LOCAL LAWS AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?**

As explained by the [Know Your Council](#) website:

*'Councils use local laws to respond to issues and community needs within a municipality. These local laws complement their responsibilities and powers under both state and federal laws.*

*Any local laws passed by council are designed to ensure that the actions of an individual or group do not have an adverse impact on the rest of the community...'*

Our local laws cover issues such as:

- How many pets someone can have
- Consumption of liquor in public places
- Protecting vegetation in local parks and reserves
- Open air burning

Local laws are limited to what Council can reasonably regulate within its existing powers. For example, Council cannot regulate behaviour on local social media pages.

Council cannot override or replace the laws and powers of federal and state jurisdictions.

## **WHAT ARE NILLUMBIK'S LOCAL LAWS?**

There are four current local laws in Nillumbik:

- *Amenity Local Law*: part of the current review. This local law covers a wide range of activities and issues, including the fair use of public and private land, regulation of street activities and control of animals.
- *Infrastructure Assets Local Law*: part of the current review. This local law focuses on building works, including protecting assets from damage and managing rubbish from work sites.
- *Fireworks Local Law*: not subject to review as it was created in 2019.
- *Meeting Procedure Local Law*: not subject to review as it was largely superseded by the Governance Rule – Meeting Procedure in 2020.

### **Further reading:**

Council's [Discussion Paper](#) (11 pages)

The existing [Amenity Local Law](#)

The existing [Infrastructure Assets Local Law](#)

## **WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE REVIEW PROCESS?**

Council is undertaking the review in two stages:

- 1) (Now) Council releases the Local Laws [Discussion Paper](#) for consultation to encourage residents to submit ideas to update the local laws.
- 2) (August) Council develops the draft new local laws and releases them for final public consultation.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS. THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO.