



**NILLUMBIK SHIRE COUNCIL
STATE ELECTION
ADVOCACY STATEMENT**



NILLUMBIK
THE GREEN WEDGE SHIRE

ABOUT NILLUMBIK

The Shire of Nillumbik is located less than 25 kilometres north-east of Melbourne, and has the Yarra River as its southern boundary. It extends 29 kilometres to Kinglake National Park in the north. The Shire stretches approximately 20 kilometres from the Plenty River and Yan Yean Road in the west to Christmas Hills and the Yarra escarpment in the east

The Shire covers an area of 431 square kilometres and has an estimated population of 64,280 who live in close-knit communities which range from typical urban settings to remote and tranquil bush properties.

Nillumbik is represented in the Legislative Assembly by the seats of Eltham and Yan Yean and in the Legislative Council it is represented by members from Eastern Metropolitan and the Northern Victoria Region.

The seat of Eltham contains Eltham and parts of Greensborough and Kangaroo Ground. The seat of Yan Yean takes in the towns of Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek, Yarrambat and Plenty within Nillumbik.



ENVIRONMENT

SOLAR FEASIBILITY STUDY

Council is currently in the early stages of investigating the feasibility of renewable energy generation on Council-owned land. Specific site/s of interest include former Council managed landfills within the Shire, which represent excellent candidate sites for innovative and high value regeneration projects.

Council anticipate moving into detailed feasibility and business case in the second half of 2018. Upfront investment in the planning stages has proven to be critical in similar projects elsewhere in Australia to ensure a high quality project. Council is therefore seeking \$250,000 from the Victorian Government to support a robust business case and concept plan.

Assuming a successful business case (early modelling suggests a commercially viable project) Council will then seek Federal support with additional funding to ensure our Shire supports Australia's transition to affordable, reliable and renewable energy.



Seeking...

\$250,000 now, with additional funding in 2020



FUNDING FOR INVASIVE WEED AND PEST CONTROL

The Shire's unique environment is under significant threat through development pressure from surrounding areas and emerging pest species and animal threats.

Along with protecting the area's environmental assets, control programs are required to protect the area's agricultural industries. Deer in particular have become a significant pest species in peri-urban areas, threatening the environment, agriculture and road user safety.

As a green wedge Shire that provides a unique environmental and agricultural asset on Melbourne's doorstep, urgent action is required to stem these emerging threats from encroaching into more urban and heavily populated areas of Melbourne, where control will be even more complex and costly.



Seeking...

State led coordination of control methods and implementation






REGIONAL WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY

Following recent changes in the global recycling industry an opportunity exists for the Federal Government to support domestic solutions to the current market gap in recycling capacity.

Nillumbik Shire Council currently operates a Recycling and Resource Recovery Centre on Council owned land in Plenty and is undertaking a review of this facility and service.


There is an opportunity to leverage this review for an outcome that fills the market gap and services the Northern Region of Melbourne. Council is seeking \$250,000 from the State Government to progress this study in conjunction with regional partners.

 Seeking...
\$250,000



IMPROVED ROADSIDE MAINTENANCE

The recent introduction of roadside barriers has introduced new challenges around fire mitigation and maintenance. The barriers now mean many areas are no longer accessible to carry out the appropriate works. Council seeks policies that recognise the importance of this conflict and seek increased service levels from VicRoads to reflect community expectations.

 Seeking...
Change in VicRoads' policies and service levels with increased funding

MELBOURNE WATER SUPPORT FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Extension of leisure and recreational facilities in flood prone areas is currently compromised by Melbourne Water's policy position.

 Seeking...
Practical policies that do not prevent the safe delivery of community infrastructure and services in areas subject to Melbourne Water planning approval

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE


ELTHAM LOWER PARK RENEWAL

Eltham Lower Park is a large recreation precinct supported by the Diamond Valley Miniature Railway, which provides a major regional destination point. Other recreational facilities include Eltham Lacrosse Club, Eltham Lower Park Playground, Eltham Horse and Pony Club and recreation trails. An opportunity exists to capitalise on the park's unique regional tourism and recreation role through improving its facilities to enable increased visitation, accessibility (disabled, female friendly sports participation and all ages). A masterplan along with facility upgrading funds are required to enable broader community use of facilities and to improve the park's amenity.

 Seeking...
\$4 million

TOUCH POINTS ON THE YARRA

The State Government is looking to activate and improve the Yarra River and its tributaries. In Nillumbik, public access to and along the Yarra is restricted by limited land ownership, topography and environmental considerations. There is however, an opportunity to enhance areas within Council ownership or influence. Council is keen to activate the Yarra River frontage at Bourchiers Road, Sweeney's Lane and Lenister Farm through access improvements (car parking, trails, DDA compliant ramps), landscaping and revegetation, site safety enhancements, seating, picnic tables and shelters / viewing platforms. There is also a need for wayfinding signage that celebrates the area's rich environmental and cultural significance.


 Seeking...
\$300,000



BICYCLE PATH INFILL IN EXISTING NETWORK

Nillumbik's trail and bike path network suffers from a significant lack of connectivity, with numerous paths requiring infill sections.

Connecting these pathways and trail is a key community priority and will provide increased usage (including tourists), safer passage, decrease vehicle dependency, improved community connectivity and health and wellbeing outcomes.

 Seeking...
\$500,000



COMMUNITY SERVICES

EXPAND PUBLIC BUS NETWORK TO OUR RURAL TOWNSHIPS

In 2012 it was identified that locational disadvantage is a major issue for Nillumbik, with at least 30 per cent of all properties in the Shire having no direct access to public transport.

The south-western part of the Shire is serviced by one single-track train line with four stations (Eltham, Diamond Creek, Wattle Glen, and Hurstbridge) and 13 public bus routes, while the north-eastern section of the Shire remain completely unserved.

Our more remote townships such as Arthurs Creek, Christmas Hills, Kangaroo Ground, Panton Hill, Smiths Gully, St Andrews and Strathewen have no bus services. This results in higher levels of car dependency and creates additional parking demands at surrounding train stations.

Nillumbik continues to advocate for improved public transport options to service the Shire, particularly the north-eastern region.



Seeking...

State Government commitment to increased services



GRAFFITI TASKFORCE

Council is seeking a commitment from all parties to establish a designated graffiti prosecution taskforce within Victoria Police to ensure councils across the state can achieve similar results to our own.

The 2017 Graffiti tagging audit recorded the Shire's best-ever result, with a 50 to 76 per cent reduction in graffiti across all townships. Council, together with a third party contractor, has installed roving graffiti detection devices which assist in the identification of offenders as well as engaging specialist graffiti tagging analysts and trackers who have been instrumental in helping Victoria Police identify and apprehend offenders in the act.

Graffiti tagging is detrimental to our Shire's appeal and impacts on the wellbeing and quality of life for Nillumbik residents. The current lack of resources within Victoria Police makes prosecution difficult, despite the best efforts of current police officers stationed within the Shire.



Seeking...

Introduction of Graffiti Taskforce within Victoria Police

\$100,000 for annual removal



ARTISTS IN RESIDENCY LAUGHING WATERS

The Laughing Waters locale holds cultural and environmental significance to the Shire of Nillumbik, and is renowned for its rich colonial and indigenous history.

The Laughing Waters properties of Birrarung and River Bend (both owned by the State Government of Victoria) have served as a unique artist residency (managed by Nillumbik Shire Council) for more than a decade.

Not only are the properties integral to the artistic and architectural heritage of Nillumbik, both have contributed greatly to the wider creative sector across Melbourne and the country more widely.

Both properties are in urgent need of structural repair. Upon investment of capital works, the properties may be serviceable again with the prospect of commencing a fresh artist residency program.



Seeking...

Appropriate remediation works



DIAMOND CREEK YOUTH SUPPORT

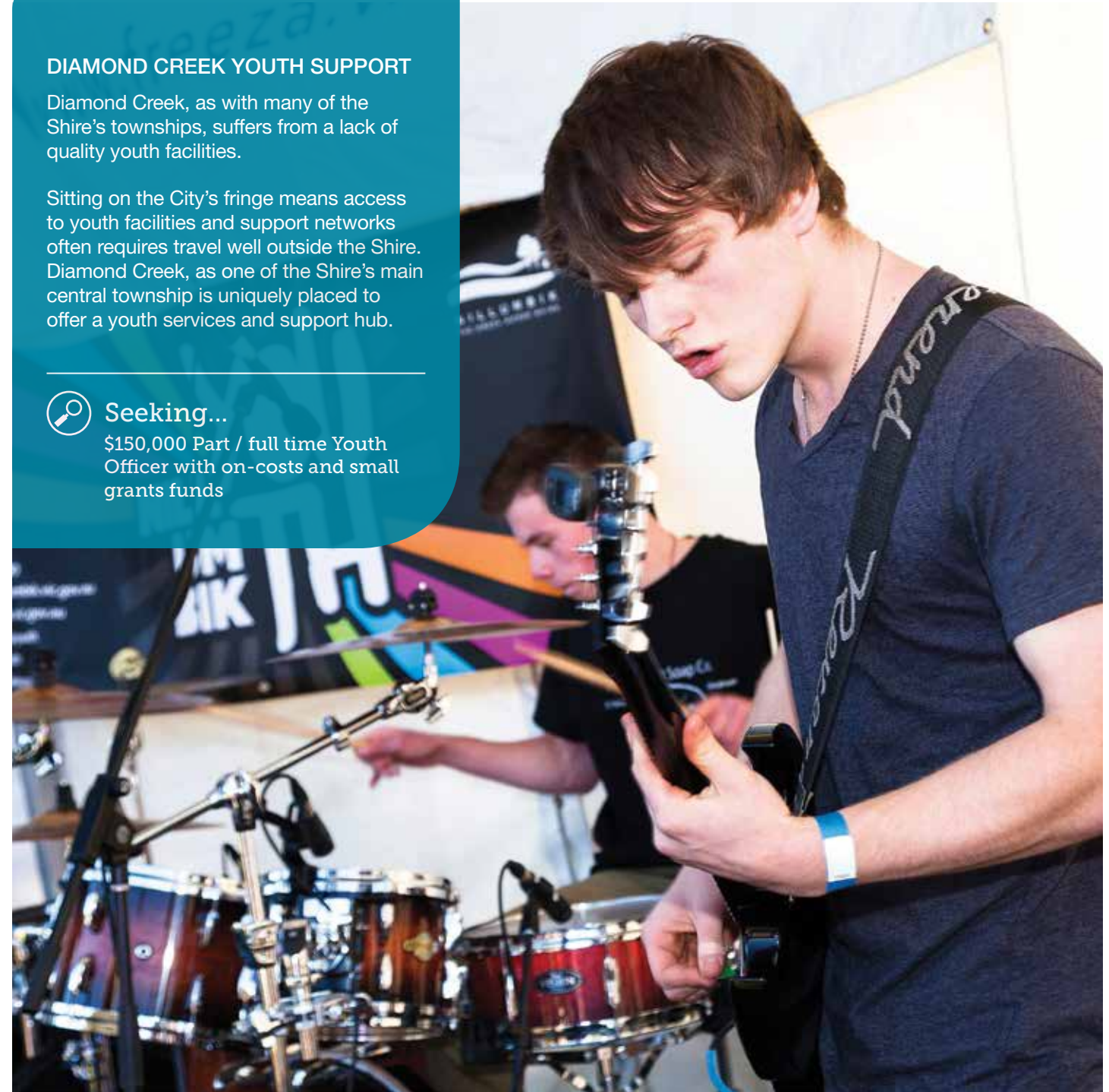
Diamond Creek, as with many of the Shire's townships, suffers from a lack of quality youth facilities.

Sitting on the City's fringe means access to youth facilities and support networks often requires travel well outside the Shire. Diamond Creek, as one of the Shire's main central township is uniquely placed to offer a youth services and support hub.



Seeking...

\$150,000 Part / full time Youth Officer with on-costs and small grants funds



ELTHAM CHILDCARE COOPERATIVE EXPANSION / KINDER RELOCATION

Council's strategy is to align with the State Government's policy direction for integrated childrens hubs to provide support to families with young children in the early years.

Our long term vision for the Eltham Childcare Cooperative Centre is to further extend the building to incorporate an additional 33-place kindergarten, maternal and child health programs and a multipurpose space that would provide for community playgroups/ specialised early years' programs. Council developed concept plans in 2015 with an estimated cost over \$1 million.

Funding to support such projects is available through the Victorian State Government's Children's Major Capital Program on an annual basis. These funding opportunities are competitive and usually require co-contribution from Council.



Seeking...
\$500,000



HURSTBRIDGE, PLENTY AND ELTHAM MEN'S SHED

Men's sheds provide a highly valuable space for interactions which reduce social isolation among males. Nillumbik has a number of recently formed men's sheds with rapidly expanding membership, which are looking for dedicated meeting places with facilities to serve their programs including equipment, tools and materials.



Seeking...

\$600,000 Hurstbridge includes shed and equipment

\$600,000 Plenty includes shed and equipment

\$150,000 Eltham for equipment, security fencing and landscaping



SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

DIAMOND CREEK TRAIL EXTENSION

This project extends Diamond Creek Trail from Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge. Suitable for horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians, this trail will ultimately reach Hurstbridge and the rural trails beyond, connecting the Shire's Artisan Hills to the Melbourne CBD via the Yarra Main Trail – a regional priority across northern metropolitan Melbourne.

The trail would provide a significant contribution to the lifestyle, health and social wellbeing of the broader community by providing connection to the natural environment and improved, off-road local connections between townships and safer access for families and children to local schools and community facilities.

At present, Nillumbik and the Victorian Government have together committed \$8 million of the total \$11 million necessary to fund the project.



Seeking...

\$3 million



REGIONAL ART GALLERY

Nillumbik has a longstanding history with the arts with many esteemed early Australian impressionists having painted within the shire. The strength of Nillumbik's arts heritage, however, was borne of the mid-20th century avant-garde arising from the arts communes of Montsalvat, Dunmoochin and Potters Cottage. As such, the Nillumbik Shire Art Collection reflects the rich artistic heritage and local culture of Nillumbik, and represents leading contemporary Australian artists of international renown.

Nillumbik's long-term vision is for a regional art gallery that captures and promotes the shire's rich artist heritage. A public gallery of regional significance would enable loan programs with esteemed national institutions to augment the curation of the collection. The gallery space would incorporate studio, workshop and theatre spaces to enable dynamic project spaces, education programs with outreach to schools and school holiday programs, and other public programs. It would also attract peak industry forums and the performing arts and add to Nillumbik's creative arts industry.



Seeking...

\$9 million

HURSTBRIDGE STADIUM EXPANSION

Addition of two outdoor courts, the expansion to two indoor multi-purpose courts, change rooms servicing stadium and adjacent sportsground. The project will directly benefit the thousands of netball and basketball players, primarily junior sports participants, who use the stadium and adjacent Hurstbridge East oval on a weekly basis. It is anticipated that the project will increase usage by more than double the current attendances. The increase will result from an increased capacity of the centre to accommodate additional training activities (basketball and netball), and new competition programs, and encourage greater usage of the oval for football and cricket. In terms of immediate catchment, this project will benefit the community of Hurstbridge with a population of more than over 3000 and the broader Nillumbik population of 62,602.



Seeking...

\$10 million

DIAMOND VALLEY SPORTS AND FITNESS CENTRE EXPANSION

For more than 40 years, the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre has provided our community with stadium courts for basketball, squash, table tennis and badminton. Since its opening, additional courts and a health club have been added. The facility attracts more than over 450,000 visits annually and is home to the Diamond Valley Basketball association's 6000-plus members and elite level South East Australia Basketball League Teams. The Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre redevelopment would deliver a contemporary, fully accessible fit-for-purpose regional indoor sports stadium servicing Nillumbik, Banyule and Whittlesea local government areas. It would cater for the sports of basketball, netball, squash, badminton and table tennis from grassroots to elite, and a 24/7 fitness facility and community rooms.



Seeking...

\$33 million for Stage 2



GREENSBOROUGH HOCKEY PAVILION

The Greensborough Hockey Pavilion is in urgent need of redevelopment to meet current standards, female participation and general growing levels of community use. Located within Plenty War Memorial Park precinct, the facility is home to the Greensborough Hockey Club. The facility is used by many other groups including soccer clubs, Hockey Victoria and Plenty Gorge Mountain biking group. The pavilion redevelopment will deliver fit-for-purpose player, umpire and spectator amenities that embrace inclusive outcomes and accessibility. Two existing change rooms will complement the two new change rooms and they will all have the capacity to be allocated to male and female teams simultaneously. The pavilion is to provide a comfortable and welcoming experience for females and further support the venue's strong and growing female user base, including club players, officials, visitors and spectators.



Seeking...

\$4 million

DIAMOND CREEK REGIONAL RECREATION PRECINCT PLAY SPACE

There is no category one regional level place space available in Nillumbik. Council is seeking to construct a play space in the Diamond Creek Linear Reserve which is a Category 1 Regional Open Space and Recreation asset. It is identified in the Nillumbik Open Space Strategy, as one of the five main recreation nodes in the Shire. This project would address a critical gap in an area that has a rapidly diversifying community and demographic structure.




Seeking...

\$2.5 million


DIAMOND CREEK LIBRARY

In 2016-17, Nillumbik reported library last membership in Nillumbik at 44.7 per cent of the population (about 50 per cent higher than many surrounding municipalities), with more than 275,000 visitations last year. Visits to the libraries, including Diamond Creek's mobile library and attendance at programs, continues to show steady growth. In order to meet this growth a permanent home for Diamond Creek Library would enable it to offer a wider range of programs to continue to increase its visitation, services provision and community activation.

 Seeking...
\$5 million

DIAMOND CREEK OUTDOOR POOL/LEISURE FACILITY


The Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool and Leisure Facility is a well-loved but aged community facility that requires investment to ensure it can meet community needs, safety requirements and improved economic and environmental sustainability objectives, now and into the future.

 Seeking...
\$3 million




DIAMOND CREEK SENIOR CITIZENS HALL

The Diamond Creek Senior Citizen Hall requires significant work to bring it up to modern standards and to meet aging in place objectives of an increasingly aging local demographic. Improving and multi-purposing of local community facilities improves local place activation, fosters broader community programs and assists in delivering services that drive community health and well-being.

 Seeking...
\$1.5 million


DIAMOND CREEK COMMUNITY HUB

Diamond Creek is the fastest growing area within the Shire and its second largest activity centre. Whilst a number of areas within the Shire are well serviced with Community facilities, Diamond Creek has limited small and/or ageing community meeting spaces. Council is looking to undertake a significant redevelopment of the Diamond Creek Community Centre to address the local communities service provision gaps identified through extensive community engagement. Funding is sought for a new purpose-built facility including community lounge and meeting space, theatre / performance function space, dedicated youth space, adult learning and registered training facilities and library.

 Seeking...
\$15 million


HURSTBRIDGE AND KANGAROO GROUND STREETScape

The Hurstbridge and Kangaroo Ground streetscape works are a continuation of recent streetscape improvements undertaken in key townships aimed at improving their safety, accessibility, functionality and role as tourist destinations. Streetscape designs have been led by the local communities. There are many locations in each township where the existing pavements are unsafe and consequently do not meet current access for all standards or community expectations.

 Seeking...
\$300,000

HURSTBRIDGE OPEN SPACE PRECINCT PLAN


The Hurstbridge Open Space Precinct services Hurstbridge, the Shire's north and increasingly areas of neighbouring Whittlesea's growth corridor open space and sporting requirements. A masterplan is currently being finalised to guide development of the precincts facilities to meet these growing needs. This masterplan has highlighted the need for significant external (state and federal) funding for key sporting facility upgrades and expansion to meet increased female participation and the growth of both basketball and netball.

 Seeking...
\$10 million




REVIEW OF VICROADS ROADSIDE BARRIERS AT KANGAROO GROUND

Recent installation of roadside barriers around Kangaroo Ground has impacted informal roadside recreational bicycle and horse riders. While Council understands the importance of these barriers for improved driver safety, the barriers pose an increased safety risk to these other road users as they limit the off-road trail width.

 Seeking...
Review by VicRoads to reinstate an appropriate easement for informal trail users

UNDERPASS BELOW HURSTBRIDGE LINE NEAR GEORGE ST, DIAMOND CREEK

An underpass is required to improve pedestrian access from Diamond Creek (north of the rail line) to Diamond Creek College, Diamond Creek East Primary and the Community Bank Stadium. This will reduce the current divide that the Hurstbridge Line creates across the Diamond Creek community.

 Seeking...
The State Government to deliver an appropriate rail crossing

EXTENSION OF RETICULATED SEWER NETWORK

Council is seeking for the Victorian Government and retail water business Yarra Valley Water to bring forward the investigation of reticulated sewer provision to the townships of Eltham South, Research, St Andrews, Panton Hill and parts of Yarrambat, Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge, Plenty and Wattle Glen. Action to address the lack of a reticulated sewer network in these locations has been given a planning horizon for around 2030/2032, as specified in Yarra Valley Water's Price Plan 6.

 Seeking...
Commitment to bringing forward planned works within the Shire

PUBLIC TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS

NEW ELTHAM RAIL STATION

The current station at Eltham requires a rebuild to improve access and amenity to reflect the duplication works and increased patronage to the station and throughout the precinct. This would be done as part of a duplication of the rail line and removal of the level crossing at Diamond Street.

Seeking...

New station complete with disability compliance

REMOVAL OF TRAIN STABLING

Removal of the train stabling and relocation to a new station in Eltham North would allow for better use of the available land to improve the Eltham activity centre. In conjunction with an upgrade to Eltham Station this would significantly improve the Eltham station precinct and result in positive outcomes for the community.

Seeking...

Removal and relocation of train stabling



DIAMOND STREET, ELTHAM RAILWAY AND ROAD GRADE SEPARATION

Removal of the level crossing would reduce congestion and allow for more frequent train services. This work would be undertaken in conjunction with duplication of the train line from Greensborough to Eltham and a new Eltham Station.

Seeking...

Removal of level crossing and road grade separation at Diamond Street, Eltham

MAIN HURSTBRIDGE ROAD, DIAMOND CREEK

LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL AND GRADE SEPARATION

Removal of the level crossing would reduce congestion and allow for more frequent train services. It would also assist in providing better connections across Diamond Creek for the community. Finally, removal of the level crossing would increase safety.

Seeking...

Level crossing removal at Main Hurstbridge Road, Diamond Creek

DUPLICATION OF THE TRAIN LINE FROM GREENSBOROUGH TO HURSTBRIDGE

Duplication of the train line from Greensborough to Hurstbridge would significantly increase rail services to Nillumbik residents, allowing for 10 minute services to Eltham and a 20 minute service to Diamond Creek. This would increase the usage of public transport and therefore reduce congestion on arterial roads.



Seeking...

Duplication of Hurstbridge line from Greensborough to Hurstbridge

Increase in rail services to 10mins to Eltham and 20mins from Diamond Creek

BICYCLE CAGES

AT DIAMOND CREEK, WATTLE GLEN AND HURSTBRIDGE RAILWAY STATIONS

This installation of bicycle cages at train stations would encourage people to ride to the station, decreasing the demand on parking, and also providing positive health benefits to the community.



Seeking...

Bike cages at Diamond Creek, Wattle Glen and Hurstbridge railway stations



INCREASED PARKING AT WATTLE GLEN STATION

The current car park at Wattle Glen Station is at capacity. Increasing the available car parking will encourage greater use of public transport and also reduce the amount of commuter parking currently occurring on local streets.



Seeking...

Increase to parking capacity

ELTHAM NORTH RAIL STATION WITH PARK AND RIDE

Construction of a new station in Eltham North would ease the pressure on Eltham and Diamond Creek station, and also increase the accessibility to public transport for residents in Eltham North and Diamond Creek. This would encourage the use of public transport, allow residents to walk to the station, and reduce demand for parking at existing stations.



Seeking...

New station with park and ride facilities

ROAD SAFETY AND CONGESTION

NORTH EAST LINK

The North East Link will complete the missing link in Melbourne's ring road and help reduce traffic congestion within the Shire.



Seeking...

Construction of North East Link

EAST WEST LINK

To ensure reduced congestion, it's vital that through traffic has a continuous flow at the City end of the North East Link through to the western suburbs. The construction of the East West Link would ensure no bottlenecks at the end of the North East Link particularly moving in an east – west direction. Residents in north east Melbourne experience significant delays, particularly accessing the CBD and Eastern Suburbs.



Seeking...

Construction of East West Link



UPGRADE OF DIAMOND CREEK ROAD

BETWEEN GREENSBOROUGH BYPASS AND YAN YEAN ROAD

Diamond Creek Road is a key route between Yan Yean Road and Greensborough Bypass. The road is over capacity and traffic on the road is likely to increase, particularly with the completion of North East Link. The road needs to be upgraded to six lanes, in conjunction with the removal of the roundabout at Civic Drive.



Seeking...

Upgrade to six lanes on Diamond Creek Road

DIAMOND CREEK ROAD/CIVIC DRIVE ROUNDABOUT REMOVAL

Removal of the roundabout at Diamond Creek Road and Civic Drive, and grade separating the intersection, would significantly improve traffic flow on Diamond Creek Road, reduce congestion on local arterials and provide better access to the future North East Link. This intersection is also the site of a significant number of crashes, and grade separation will significantly improve safety.



Seeking...

Removal of Diamond Creek Road, Civic Drive roundabout

PEDESTRIAN OR INTERSECTION SIGNALS ON DIAMOND CREEK ROAD

There is currently no safe location to cross Diamond Creek Road near the Pipe Track. Installation of signals would allow pedestrians, including those accessing public bus services, to safely cross Diamond Creek Road. It would also service local school students, encouraging them to walk to school.



Seeking...

Intersection signals on Diamond Creek Road

UPGRADE AND URBAN DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS FITZSIMONS LANE, ELTHAM

An upgrade of Fitzsimons Lane to six lanes would significantly increase capacity on the road and ease congestion for traffic seeking to cross the Yarra River. It would have flow on effects of easing congestion on Bolton Street and Main Road in Eltham.



Seeking...

Upgrade Fitzsimons Lane, Eltham to six lanes with urban design improvements

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS MAIN ROAD/REYNOLDS ROAD, ELTHAM

There is significant traffic along Main Road, through the intersection with Reynolds Road, during peak periods during the day. Upgrading the intersection would improve traffic flow in the area, and also provide better pedestrian access across Main Road to access Research Park and also public bus services.



Seeking...

Intersection improvements

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT MAIN ROAD/PRYOR STREET, ELTHAM

Currently this intersection consists of a bus terminal, drop-off parking, as well as cars trying to turn out from Pryor Street on to Main Road. Upgrading the intersection would improve the interactions between conflicting traffic movements, improve the operation of the bus terminal, and also provide better pedestrian access to Eltham Station.



Seeking...

MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM CAPACITY AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Main Road, Eltham, between Bridge Street and Fitzsimons Lane is currently over capacity and requires an upgrade to reduce congestion on the road. Increase pedestrian crossing locations and intersection and urban design improvements will also significantly benefit the community and improve both pedestrian and cyclist access and public transport usage along Main Road.



Seeking...

Capacity and safety improvements to Main Road, Eltham

UPGRADE AND URBAN DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS TO AQUEDUCT ROAD, DIAMOND CREEK

Aqueduct Road is a local road that is currently serving as an arterial road. The road needs to be declared an arterial road and be upgraded to the standard of an arterial road, including urban design improvements. This would increase capacity on the road and also improve pedestrian, cyclist and public transport along Aqueduct Road.



Seeking...

Upgrade Aqueduct Road, Diamond Creek with urban design improvements

COMPLETION OF AQUEDUCT TRAIL BETWEEN GREENSBOROUGH AND YARRA GLEN

Completion of the Aqueduct Trail would provide a viable route for bicycle users and pedestrians to cross the shire, encouraging active communities. It would also service as an attraction for trail riders to come to Nillumbik to use the trail.



Seeking...





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