

## Future Nillumbik Committee

to be held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough  
on Tuesday 16 October 2018 commencing at 7.30pm.

## Agenda

**Carl Cowie**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Friday 12 October 2018

Distribution: Public

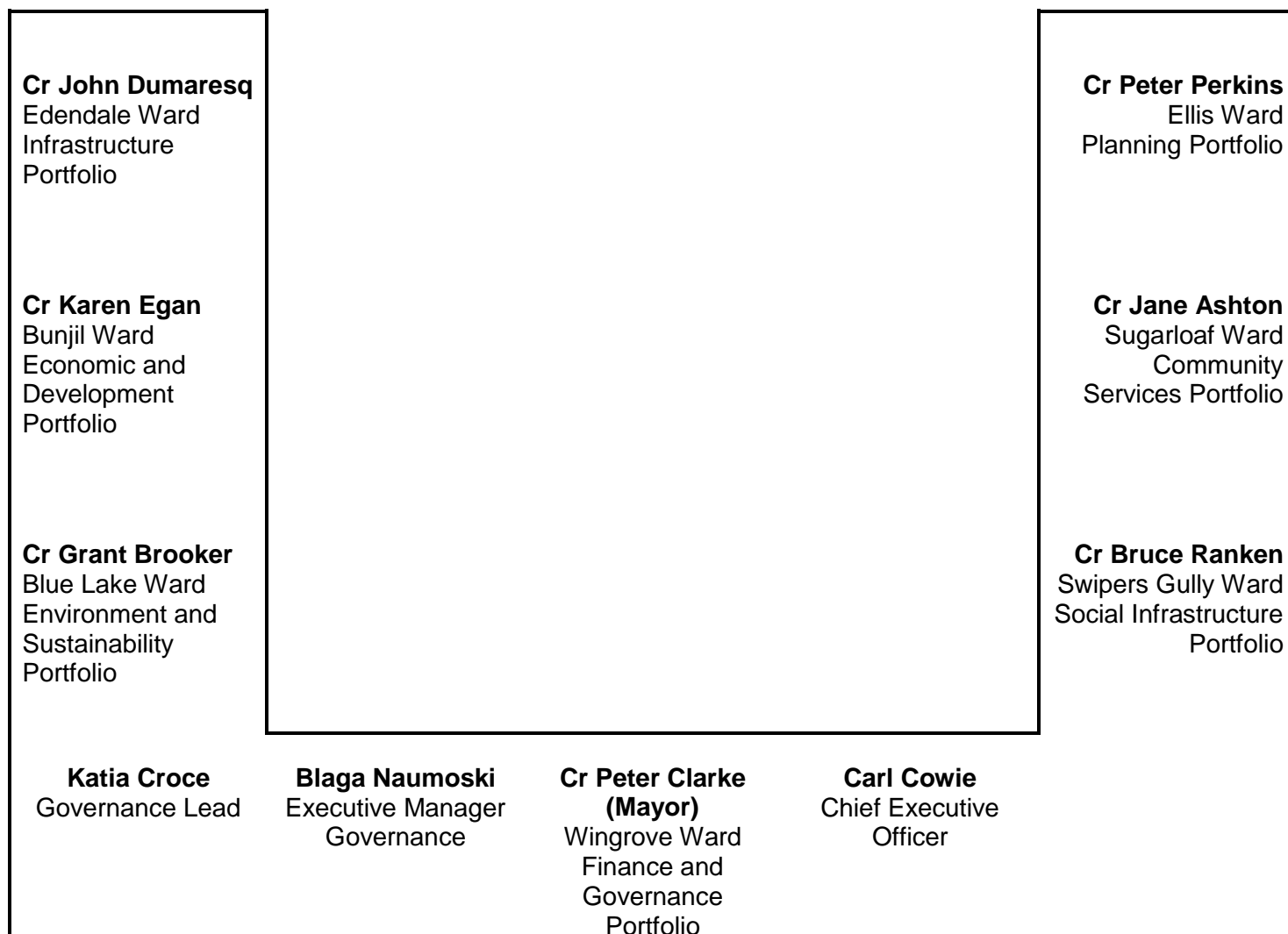
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*Wominje ka*

## Future Nillumbik Committee seating plan



Visitors in the gallery at Committee meetings are:

- Welcome to copies of the various reports which will be considered by this Committee at the meeting. These are on the table in the foyer.
- Welcome to tea, coffee and water. These are on the table in the foyer near the Council Chamber entry.
- Requested to observe deliberations quietly in order for Committee meetings to run smoothly.
- Advised that the meeting will be recorded and an audio recording of the meeting will be made publicly available on Council's website.

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**Nillumbik Shire Council**

**Agenda of the Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting to be held Tuesday  
16 October 2018 commencing at 7.30pm.**

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**1. Welcome and apologies**

**Welcome by the Chair**

Members of the public are advised the meeting will be recorded and an audio recording of the meeting will be made publicly available on Council's website.

**Apologies**

**Recommendation**

**That** the apologies be accepted.

**2. Reconciliation statement**

**The reconciliation statement to be read by the Chairperson**

Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the traditional custodians of the land now known as the Shire of Nillumbik and values the significance of the Wurundjeri people's history as essential to the unique character of the Shire.

**3. Disclosure of conflicts of interest**

Committee members should note that any disclosure of conflict of interest must be disclosed immediately before the item in which they have an interest.

**4. Confirmation of minutes**

Confirmation of minutes of the Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11 September 2018.

**Recommendation**

**That** the minutes of the Future Nillumbik Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11 September 2018 be confirmed.

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**5. Officers' report****FN.034/18 Bushfire Mitigation Strategy**

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**Portfolio: Finance and Governance****Distribution: Public****Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Executive Manager Governance****Author: Blaga Naumoski, Executive Manager Governance****Summary**

A priority action of the Council Plan 2017-2021 is to develop a comprehensive Fire Mitigation Strategy.

The strategy is being designed with the overall objective to achieve the most efficient and effective means to reduce bushfire risk to the community with an emphasis on building community resilience, participation and shared responsibility. Greater understanding of fire management planning by Council and the community provides a primary mechanism to protect life and property during fire events.

The draft strategy was developed in consultation with key internal stakeholders and targeted groups including the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee and brigade Captains.

Council was briefed on the draft strategy on the 21 August 2018. A three week public consultation period followed with fifteen submissions received.

The Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning (DEWLP) is leading a state wide strategic bushfire management planning process to develop a common understanding of bushfire risk, and determine appropriate management strategies and actions to reduce that risk. This critical work will help inform the work of the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy and enable Council in consultation with the community to set targets and devise strategies to achieve them.

This report recommends that the Committee having heard submissions and considered the emerging work lead by State Government and how it may impact Council, refers a decision regarding the finalisation of the strategy to a future Ordinary Council Meeting. This will enable officers to further develop and progress the strategy.

**Recommendation**

**That** the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Notes the 15 submissions received in relation to the draft Bushfire Mitigation Strategy.
2. Requests officers to consult further with emergency services, agencies and community representatives to further inform the work of the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy.
3. Following completion of recommendation 2, requests officers to bring a report back to an Ordinary Council Meeting for the adoption of the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy.
4. Requests that officers thank submitters and provide a written response to their submissions.

**5. Officers' Report**

**FN.034/18 Bushfire Mitigation Strategy**

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**Attachments**

Nil

**Background**

1. The responsibility of bushfire preparation and mitigation is both a public authority responsibility, and a private landowner responsibility. Private land makes up 65 percent of the Shire, and more than 85 percent of the rural Nillumbik Green Wedge.
2. The State Government's bushfire planning provisions used to assess new development in areas of high risk of bushfire have been revised. Whilst setting these planning provisions remains the responsibility of State Government, it is beneficial to consider them in the context of the future direction of the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy
3. The state government is currently leading a Metropolitan Strategic Bushfire Management planning process. The outcomes from the Metropolitan SBMP strategies could feed into and support Councils' planning.

**Policy context**

This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:

- Meet Council's responsibilities for emergency management.
- 3.2.1 Develop a comprehensive Fire Mitigation Strategy.

**Budget implications**

4. Actions and programs to be developed in more detail at the next phase will be funded primarily through the operational budgets of Emergency Management, Environment and Connected Communities.

**Consultation/communication**

5. The draft strategy was available for community comment on 'Participate Nillumbik' for three weeks. Community feedback was sought through social media outlets and emailed to targeted groups including the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee and brigade Captains.
6. A communication plan was developed to accompany the release of the draft for public consultation.
7. The draft was viewed by 154 individuals with 15 submissions received. A copy of the submissions have been circulated separately to all Councillors.

**Issues/options**

8. The main objective of the development of this strategy is:
  - a) to set the foundations of how Council working with the community will mitigate the risk of bushfire to our community; and
  - b) to determine a joint strategy and supporting suite of implementation actions based upon a common understanding of risk.
9. Council is committed to working alongside our community and partner agencies to build safer communities more resilient to bushfire risk. We are committed to ensuring



**5. Officers' Report**

**FN.034/18 Bushfire Mitigation Strategy**

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that as an organisation we have the adaptive capacity to meet our community's needs when we are impacted by bushfire.

10. Participation in these activities enriches the liveability of our municipality regardless of whether or not bushfires occur.
11. Following the community consultation phase, Council received fifteen submissions in response to the draft strategy. The themes of these submissions were based on:
  - a) Better localised community based bushfire planning.
  - b) Reducing fuel loads including through increased planned burns.
  - c) Environmental concerns such as impact of climate change.
  - d) Improved information to residents.
  - e) Regulations make it too hard for residents to manage risk on their properties.
  - f) Aligning Council strategy with the Metropolitan Strategic Fire Management Plan (currently under development.)
12. As a result of the comments received during the feedback process, officers have identified further work is needed to develop and progress the strategy's development. Several key objectives have been identified, these are defined as:
  - a) Council will produce a revised Bushfire Mitigation Strategy as part of its overall project objective that aligns with the work lead by the state around the strategic bushfire management planning process. In doing so, Council proposes to re-engage with the community in the best way to develop a common understanding of bushfire risk across the landscape and determine appropriate management strategies and actions to reduce that risk.
  - b) Through consultation with the community and work with key agencies, assemble key information to help shape the development of the strategy.
  - c) Develop a costed implementation plan to better inform Council on the priority goals, defined actions required to meet those goals, and determine the costs associated with the interventions and activities.

**Conclusion**

13. It is recommended that:
  - a) Council consult with key stakeholders to help inform the work of the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy and enable Council to set objectives and devise strategies to achieve them.
  - b) Council refers the decision to adopt the strategy to a future Ordinary Council Meeting concluding the work undertaken by officers.

- 6. Supplementary and urgent business**
- 7. Confidential reports**