

Federal Government pre-budget Submission

November 2018

Nillumbik Shire Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission ahead to the 2019-2020 Federal Budget.

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.

This submission outlines a number of key priorities identified that with Federal Government intervention has the ability to enhance the liveability of our Shire and develop a cross government relationship for local, state and federal.

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

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: \$4 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

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

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