

Future Nillumbik Committee

to be held virtually
on Tuesday 9 June 2020 commencing at 7:00pm.

Agenda

Carl Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

Friday 5 June 2020

Distribution: Public

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Future Nillumbik Committee

Councillors

Cr Karen Egan (Mayor) – Bunjil Ward
Economic Development and Marketing Portfolio

Cr Jane Ashton – Sugarloaf Ward
Environment and Sustainability Portfolio

Cr Grant Brooker – Blue Lake Ward
Community Services Portfolio

Cr Peter Clarke – Wingrove Ward
Planning Portfolio

Cr John Dumaresq – Edendale Ward
Infrastructure Portfolio

Cr Peter Perkins – Ellis Ward
Social Infrastructure Portfolio

Cr Bruce Ranken – Swipers Gully Ward
Finance and Governance Portfolio

Officers

Carl Cowie – Chief Executive Officer

Blaga Naumoski – Executive Manager Governance, Communications and Engagement

Nillumbik Shire Council

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Nillumbik Shire Council

**Agenda of the Future Nillumbik Committee meeting to be held
Tuesday 9 June 2020 commencing at 7:00pm.**

1. Welcome by the Chair

Members of the public are advised the meeting will be livestreamed and recorded and the live stream and video recording will be made publicly available on YouTube and Council's website.

2. Reconciliation statement

The reconciliation statement to be read by the Chairperson

Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians present.

3. Apologies

Recommendation

That the apologies be noted.

4. Confirmation of minutes

Confirmation of minutes of the Future Nillumbik Committee meeting held on Tuesday 12 May 2020.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Future Nillumbik Committee meeting held on Tuesday 12 May 2020 be confirmed.

5. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

Committee members should note that any conflicts of interest should also be disclosed immediately before the relevant item.

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6. Officers' reports

FN.014/20 Early Years Infrastructure Plan

Portfolio: Community Services

Distribution: Public

Manager: Corrienne Nichols, Executive Manager Communities

Author: Beth Scott, Early Years Infrastructure Plan Project Officer
Narelle Hart, Coordinator Early Years Programs

Summary

The Early Years Infrastructure Plan will provide a strategic framework for the future provision of Council-owned facilities to accommodate Early Years services across the municipality.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Endorses the Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2020-2026 (**Attachment 1**) which outlines a range of works which include:
 - a) The renewal and improvement of Early Years facilities to support future needs; and
 - b) The identification of possible colocation and Hub opportunities to encourage integrated education and health support for children 0-8 years and their families.

Attachments

1. Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2020-2026

Background

1. This is the final phase of the Early Years infrastructure planning project which commenced in recognition of the age and condition of the current infrastructure that houses Early Years programs and the change in family and Early Years education practices.
2. The Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2020-2026 (the Plan) (**Attachment 1**) follows further community and stakeholder engagement that has taken place between October 2019 and March 2020.
3. Early Years infrastructure planning was considered at a Councillor Briefing on 21 May 2019, where Officers presented the Principles, developed by the Community Reference Group, to be applied when planning new and upgrade works to Council Early Years infrastructure.
4. A significant portion of Early Years infrastructure are ageing and no longer meet contemporary standards to meet high quality education and care for families and children. Investment is required to support the Early Years services and programs within the Shire and into the future.

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FN.014/20 Early Years Infrastructure Plan

5. The Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2020-2026 is a document that has been developed to inform the next six years of infrastructure investment for the Early Years building stock within Nillumbik Shire.
6. Historic and current available data for Nillumbik Shire indicates a decrease in the attendance at sessional kindergarten, decrease in predicted birth rates for the Shire and an increase in the number of parents under taking paid employment which influences the type of Early Years education and care services they access.
7. The introduction of three year old funded kindergarten from 2022 by State Government will change the demand on preschool services and the buildings which they operate in.
8. Township meetings were held in the latter part of 2019 and the start of 2020 to understand the local needs as well as individual service needs in relation to the existing infrastructure provision.
9. Ninety-five per cent of existing providers who operate out of Council's Early Years facilities were engaged and consulted throughout this process. Additional stakeholders including schools and Councillors participated in the township meetings.
10. A broad range of infrastructure considerations were identified through this process of which have been reviewed and prioritised and then formulated into the Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2020-2026.
11. The Plan is intended to guide the focus of new and upgrade works and investment in Early Years in the next six years. The Plan does not include maintenance and renewal works required to maintain the asset at a satisfactory level.

Policy context

12. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
 - Ensure that the provision of community infrastructure responds to community needs.

Budget implications

13. The Plan is intended to guide Council's capital expenditure over the next six years to ensure that the buildings are achieving contemporary standards and can meet the changing needs of families and children in the longer term.
14. Budget allocation is required for both planning and construction phases and the Plan separates the projects into these phases by financial year.
15. The Plan will also ensure that Council has a documented long term strategy to assist in gaining State Government support in relation to infrastructure grants and funding.

Consultation/communication

16. Consultation for Phase 3 of the project included engagement with educators of both Primary School and Early Years services, Committee of Management members and Early Years Managers.
17. Officers met with each township group and, where further information was needed, Officers met with individual services.

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FN.014/20 Early Years Infrastructure Plan

18. Communication to all providers has occurred throughout the consultation process and Council's website has been updated as the project has progressed.

Issues/options

19. Until now, Council has not had a formal strategy that guides expenditure on the 26 facilities that deliver Early Years education and care services including Maternal and Child Health Services, Preschools and Child Care Services.
20. Council expenditure in the past 10 years has been limited to maintenance and renewal works with bulk allocation of \$129,000 annually to undertake new works on the buildings and outdoor educational spaces. The exception to this being in 2015 when Council was successful in obtaining a grant from Department of Education and Training which required a co-contribution to extend a preschool and a child care service in the Shire.
21. Additional new and upgrade works that have been undertaken on Council's Early Years buildings and outdoor spaces have been predominately funded by the service providers themselves or through external funding sources.
22. With the introduction of funded 3 year old kindergarten and the increasing incidence of working families, demand for education and care services is growing and changing so it is imperative that Council takes a planned approach to ensure the existing infrastructure can meet the future needs of the community and can be responsive to future government policy directions.
23. The Plan sets out rationales for the proposed works and prioritises projects based on a variety of drivers:
- Legislative compliance issues and risk (including National Education and Care Law, Occupational Health and Safety, Disability Discrimination Act)
 - Ability to accommodate 15 hours of funded 3 year old kindergarten
 - Demand V Supply
 - Meeting contemporary standards/fit for purpose of high quality education and care

Conclusion

24. The Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2020-2026 has been updated to reflect feedback and discussion at the Councillor Briefing on 19 May 2020.
25. Officers recommend that the Committee endorses the Plan to ensure that Early Years infrastructure owned and/or managed by Council is able to meet the needs of families and children into the future.

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6. Officers' reports

FN.015/20 Equine in Nillumbik

Portfolio: Economic Development and Marketing**Distribution: Public****Manager: Rosa Zouzoulas, Executive Manager Planning and Community Safety****Author: Danielle Phyland, Economic Development and Tourism Lead****Summary**

The 'Equine in Nillumbik' plan (**Attachment 1**) has been prepared in response to the Council Plan 2017-2021 *Objective 4 – A Prosperous Economy*. Specifically, this report responds to *Action 4.1.5 Develop an Equine Industry and Activity Strategy*.

This document was completed with input from various internal and external consultations and supporting documents both internal and external.

This report recommends that the Committee, having heard any verbal submissions, adopts the document and the AECOM reference document and that officers commence implementation of the action plan.

Recommendation

That the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Adopts the 'Equine in Nillumbik' plan (**Attachment 1**) inclusive of the AECOM reference document (**Attachment 2**).
2. Authorises officers to commence implementation of the action plan.
3. Notes the public submissions received.

Attachments

1. Equine in Nillumbik
2. AECOM Assessment of Equine Investment Opportunities Reference Document

Background

1. The Council Plan 2017-2021 states as a priority action; *4.1.5 Develop an Equine Industry and Activity Strategy*.
2. 'Equine in Nillumbik' responds to this action and outlines the Shire's strong history in equine, current status of the sector, opportunities to be explored to increase participation, support equine economic development projects and action challenges of land, pest and emergency management through industry collaboration. This document provides Council with an action plan based on short, medium and long term time frames.
3. This plan is related to other Council plans, policies and strategies in facilitating well-being, recreation, tourism and economic development.
4. The development of this Plan included consultation undertaken with the equine and broader community. Outcomes from this consultation facilitated the development of a

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FN.015/20 Equine in Nillumbik

Strength Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis to determine key focus areas and an equine action plan.

Policy context

5. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
- Encourage investment and development within the Shire to increase economic development and local employment, and broaden the rate base while at the same time preserving the Green Wedge.

Budget implications

6. Some opportunities identified fall within the economic development and tourism, recreation and leisure and environment departments operating budgets e.g. workshops and drop in sessions, communication and promotion of events, mapping of tracks and trails. Planning for some of these activities are already underway.
7. Any significant projects requiring additional resources will be submitted as business cases through the relevant budget processes.

Consultation/communication

8. This plan has been development using inputs from:
- A public workshop attended by approximately 70 participants
 - A trails consultation session with the Nillumbik Horse Action Group (NHAG)
 - Analysis of results stemming from an online survey of 426 respondents
 - Research and analysis conducted by Council
9. This was supplemented by consultation with five local adult riding and pony club managers and the Australian Horse Industry Council. A public workshop was facilitated to provide an opportunity to outline key findings from the survey results, and to better understand the equine sector in Nillumbik.

Issues/options

10. Based on the research, the Plan identifies five key focus areas for the equine sector in Nillumbik:
- Participation and sustainability, including volunteering
 - Maximising existing club infrastructure and planning for identified future needs
 - Supporting equine economic development
 - Providing access to a safe shared trails network
 - Informing and supporting land, pest and emergency management.
11. The document clearly identifies the need for Council to proactively interact with the equine industry and for the industry to strengthen and improve coordination with its participants and members and the broaden community.
12. Opportunities for infrastructure may exist through collaboration with neighbouring Councils who share a strong equine sector. These type of projects will rely on significant public or private funding. Projects will be identified as officers' work through

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FN.015/20 Equine in Nillumbik

the actions in the plan. A positive outcome is that much of the 'Equine in Nillumbik' action plan is able to be delivered in the short to medium term through Council's existing resources.

Conclusion

13. Upon hearing the verbal responses from the submitters at this meeting, the Committee will be asked to resolve to adopt the document.
14. Officers will commence work on implementing the actions stated in the plan.

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