

Parks Revitalisation Grants Program

Application Guidelines



Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



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Message from the Minister



Melbourne is already one of the world's most liveable cities and we want to ensure future generations in our growing suburbs have better access to open, green space. This is why we are providing the \$10 million Park Revitalisation Grants Program.

The Victorian Government has committed \$154 million to deliver the Suburban Parks Program, which will create over 6,500 hectares of new and upgraded parks and trails.

Good-quality and well-maintained suburban parks are important spaces for local communities. They enable connection to nature and to each other. They provide outdoor exploration and play spaces for children. They are cool spaces for local communities as our climate changes, and offer much needed recreational spaces in dense urban areas.

As local councils understand the needs of their local communities best, we will partner with them to deliver park upgrades via the \$10 million Park Revitalisation Grants Program (the Program). The Program is open to all councils in metropolitan Melbourne and will fund upgrades to facilities and infrastructure on existing local parks or reserves. Upgrades such as seating, barbeques, toilets, landscaping and playgrounds will be considered. We want to give tired local parks new life to promote visitor numbers and to welcome a variety of different park users.

I look forward to seeing how the Program will revitalise our local parks across Melbourne and in turn support the wellbeing of our growing urban neighbourhoods.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lily D'Ambrosio'.

The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment
and Climate Change



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Parks Revitalisation Grants Program

Application Guidelines

1. What is the Park Revitalisation Grants Program?

The \$10 million Park Revitalisation Grants Program (the Program) is part of the Victorian Government's commitment to create more than 6,500 hectares of parklands and trails across Melbourne.

This Program is a component of the broader \$154 million Suburban Parks Program investment in new and upgraded parks and trails across greater Melbourne.

The Suburban Parks Program also includes a \$50 million Local Parks Program, which will create 25 new pocket parks and 16 new dog parks and additionally upgrade and improve existing parks in Melbourne's built-up urban areas.

The Victorian Government is funding these grants for existing parks in metropolitan Melbourne to:

- increase recreation and socialising opportunities for local communities;
- increase the amount of usable open space to meet expected urban population growth over the next 30 years;
- support delivery of Plan Melbourne's key planning principle to create 20-minute neighbourhoods;
- promote the number of park visitors for recreational and social purposes by providing park amenities such as shelters, seating, barbecues, playgrounds, shading;
- help increase safety;
- enhance accessibility for diverse user groups;
- optimise use of underutilised public lands and assets to maximise their public benefit and value.

2. Who can apply?

The Program is open to all councils in metropolitan Melbourne.

The 32 councils are: Banyule, Bayside, Boroondara, Brimbank, Cardinia, Casey, Darebin, Frankston, Glen Eira, Greater Dandenong, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Kingston, Knox, Manningham, Maribyrnong, Maroondah, Melbourne, Melton, Mitchell (the area within the Urban Growth Boundary), Monash, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Whitehorse, Whittlesea, Wyndham, Yarra and Yarra Ranges.

While only councils can apply for funding and enter into a funding agreement with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), other public land managers are encouraged to partner with councils in their applications.

3. What might be funded?

The Program will fund upgrades to existing local parks and reserves in metropolitan Melbourne.

The project site must be publicly owned land (by local government or another public land manager). If council does not own the land, evidence of a legally binding land use, community access agreement or lease is required.

As examples, the following types of upgrades will be considered: seating, barbecues, toilets, facility upgrades, fencing, demolition of old assets, landscaping, lighting, shading, permeable surfaces, paths, and/or other park infrastructure. Applications to improve, install and/or upgrade clusters of trees and other vegetation, water bodies and treatments, playgrounds/playscapes will also be considered.



Image courtesy of Maribyrnong City Council.

Each project application can involve multiple park revitalisation activities provided they occur in the one park.

Construction for all successful projects must commence within 6 months of executing the grant funding agreement and **must be completed by 30 June 2022**.

4. What will not be funded?

The Program will not fund:

- the purchase of land;
- the remediation of contaminated land (if found to be required, council contributions must be used for remediation);
- upgrades or works spread over multiple parks;
- routine or ongoing maintenance activities;
- works that have already commenced (i.e. upgrades currently underway);
- recurrent operating costs (e.g. rent and utility costs and/or activities that would establish expectations of ongoing funding);
- construction of facilities or infrastructure that do not have a direct community benefit or address an identified community need;
- service connections (while these works may be a part of the project, council contributions should be used for these purposes).

5. What are the funding details?

The total Program funding available is \$10 million in one funding round, with all projects to be completed by 30 June 2022.

Grants of a **maximum value of \$300,000** per project are available to successful applicants.

Applicants are required to contribute towards the cost of the project at a funding ratio of at least 1:1.

Applicants' contributions can be financial and/or in-kind and can be from other project partners.

Councils can submit up to two project applications under the Program. If two applications are submitted, council must clearly indicate its preferred project on the application form.





Image courtesy of Maribyrnong City Council.

6. What are the assessment criteria?

Eligible applications will be assessed using the criteria below. Each criterion is given a percentage weight to indicate its relative importance in the assessment process. Applications should address all relevant criteria.

Criterion 1: Why is this project required? (25%)

Applications must demonstrate why the project is required; for example by:

- demonstrating that the park needs upgrading and revitalising;
- how upgrading and diversifying facilities will encourage greater user numbers and more user groups;
- how it is providing more recreation and socialising opportunities in a green space;
- how it will meet the needs of a growing and/or changing population in a built-up area;
- how it meets a need identified in an approved open space plan, structure plan or recreation plan that has undergone community engagement.

Criterion 2: Who will this project benefit and how? (25%)

Applications must demonstrate who will benefit from the project and how. For example:

- the project site is located in an area of high community need (e.g. lack of open space, of poor quality or vulnerable to urban heat);
- the project will increase safety for users (e.g. improve visibility across the site and proximity to other users, visitors and activity centres);

- the project supports Plan Melbourne’s 20-minute neighbourhood principle (e.g. the site is easily accessible via public transport or well linked to cycling/walking trails or will deliver a “missing link”).

Criterion 3: What will this project deliver? (25%)

Applications must detail what the funding will be used for, and must demonstrate how it will:

- employ high-quality and innovative design and construction materials and methods;
- contribute to the cooling and greening of the local area;
- be consistent with environmentally sustainable design principles;
- be consistent with universal design principles;
- ensure the protection of wildlife, existing vegetation and neighbourhood amenity.

Criterion 4: How will this project be delivered? (25%)

Applications must:

- outline how the project can be delivered by 30 June 2022;
- demonstrate the project is financially viable and represents value for money;
- outline the proposed funding contributions for the project, including capacity for councils to manage its delivery;
- confirm the land is not contaminated or potentially contaminated via a Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI).



Image courtesy of Maribyrnong City Council.

Program-wide criteria

A program assessment panel will also consider the following program-wide factors:

- **Leveraged funding:** councils are expected to contribute funding to the projects and a program-wide funding leverage of at least \$1 for every \$1 funding under the Program has been set.
- **Equitable distribution:** subject to the quality of the submitted applications in terms of meeting the assessment criteria, the total available Program funds will be distributed across eligible councils as equitably as possible.

7. What supporting documents are to be provided?

The following documents must be submitted with each project application:

1. site plan;
2. design concept;
3. any supporting strategies or plans (e.g. open space plan, community engagement information);
4. a Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) that demonstrates the land is not contaminated or potentially contaminated (if applicable at this stage);
5. evidence of confirmation of other funding sources (if applicable);
6. copy of a lease or other written consent from the relevant public land manager (if applicable though not required if council owns and manages the land);
7. approval for appropriate works permit/s from councils or other authorities (if applicable).

8. What are the funding conditions?

Funding agreements

Successful applicants must enter into a funding agreement with DELWP. The Victorian Common Funding Agreement (VCFA) is used for funding agreements with not-for-profit organisations and local government authorities. It is recommended that applicants review the terms and conditions of the VCFA before applying. Information about the VCFA is available on <https://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-common-funding-agreement>

Legislative and regulatory requirements

In delivering the funded project, grant recipients are required to comply with all relevant Commonwealth and state/territory legislation and regulations, including but not limited to:

- the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cwlth)
- the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Vic)
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic)
- the *Disability Act 2006* (Vic)
- the *Equal Opportunity Act 1995* (Vic)

Tax implications

Applicants should consult the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) or seek professional advice on taxation implications that may arise from this grant.

Successful applicants without an ABN will need to provide a completed ATO form 'Statement by a Supplier' so that no withholding tax is required from the grant payment.



Acknowledgment of the Victorian Government's support

Successful applicants are expected to acknowledge the Victorian Government's support and DELWP's acknowledgement and publicity guidelines: (<https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/grants>) will form part of the funding agreement. Successful applicants must liaise with DELWP to coordinate any public event or announcement related to the project.

Payments

Payments will be made as long as:

- the funding agreement has been signed by both parties;
- the grant recipient(s) provides reports as required or otherwise demonstrates that the project is progressing as expected;
- other terms and conditions of funding continue to be met.

Monitoring

The grant recipient(s) must comply with project monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the funding agreement. These requirements may include the provision of progress reports, site inspections, completion reports and acquittal documentation.

Privacy

Any personal information about you or a third party in your application will be collected by DELWP for the purposes of administering your grant application and informing Members of the Victorian Parliament of successful applications. Personal information may also be disclosed to external experts, such as members of assessment panels, or other government bodies for assessment, reporting, advice, comment or for discussions regarding alternative or collaborative grant and funding opportunities.

If you intend to include personal information about third parties in your application, please ensure that they are aware of the contents of this privacy statement.

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)* and other applicable laws.

DELWP is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. You can find its Privacy Policy online at www.delwp.vic.gov.au/privacy.

Requests for access to information about you held by the DELWP should be sent to the Manager Privacy, DELWP, PO Box 500 East Melbourne 8002 or contact by phone on (03) 9637 8697.



Image courtesy of Maribyrnong City Council.

9. What is the application process?

Applications are to be submitted online through the Grants Online Portal.

To apply, go to the grant program web page <https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/grants> and click on the 'Start New Application' button. To return to a saved draft application, click on the 'Access Saved Application' button.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Local Parks team at Local.Parks@delwp.vic.gov.au to discuss the project proposal.

Submitting required documents:

Supporting documents must be in an acceptable file format type, such as Word, Excel, PDF, or JPEG. The maximum size for each file is 5MB.

You will receive an application number when you submit an application online. Please quote this number in all communications with DELWP relating to your application.

If you have documents that cannot be submitted with your online application email them to Local.Parks@delwp.vic.gov.au, quoting your application number. Attach all documents to one email and zip the files if required.

Make sure your application is submitted by 5pm, 9 September 2020.

Note: No hard copy applications will be accepted. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

10. Additional information

Additional information on the Program is available at the program web page: <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/suburban-parks/creating-new-parkland-across-victoria/local-parks>

If you require assistance with submitting your application online, contact the Grants Information Line on 1300 366 356 or grantsinfo@delwp.vic.gov.au.

11. What is the notification process?

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing after the assessment process is completed. All decisions are final and not subject to further review. Unsuccessful applicants can request feedback on their application.

12. Key dates

Applications open	1 July 2020
Applications close	9 September 2020
Applications reviewed and applicants notified	July 2020 - January 2021
Project funding agreements established and finalised	January - February 2021
Projects commence	February 2021 onwards
Projects completed and acquittal reports submitted	30 June 2022

13. Checklist

Before applying, complete the checklist below.

Have you:

- read these guidelines carefully?
- discussed your proposed project(s) with the Local Parks team?
- checked if you are, or your organisation is, eligible for this grant?
- checked if your project is eligible for this grant?
- checked that you are able to comply with all relevant laws and regulations in the delivery of your project?
- prepared the appropriate supporting documents?

BMX in Nillumbik

Consultation Findings Report

July 2020



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Executive Summary

Nillumbik has a higher level of participation in sport and recreation activities than the State and National averages with activities such as BMX riding becoming a much loved and rapidly growing area of interest for people across a range of ages in Nillumbik. As such, this consultation and findings report has been developed as a way to better understand the needs and interests for BMX riding and other recreational activities in Nillumbik.

Nillumbik Shire Council's Lifetime Play Strategy identifies that currently almost all play in Nillumbik is for younger children and typical youth spaces such as Skate Parks only cater to a small amount of people who skateboard. In addition, assessment of existing BMX jumps and Skate Parks in Nillumbik have indicated that the existing Eltham BMX track is not fit for purpose and recommends the demolition of this track and reconstruction of a similar facility at Eltham Skate Park, which will also require upgrades to extend its functionality and lifespan.

A number of unauthorised BMX sites have been identified across Nillumbik that have been constructed without Council involvement or monitoring, poses significant risks to community and the environment. While Council will be undertaking further investigation into the removal of unauthorised jumps, Officers are also committed to engaging the community to determine broader need for additional BMX tracks throughout the municipality. Initial investigation shows that both Eltham and Research in particular have been popular hubs for the establishment of unauthorised sites, highlighting a strong need for more recreational spaces for young people in these areas.

The DELWP Parks Revitalisation Grants Program has been identified as an opportunity to upgrade one of Council's existing park areas to incorporate BMX and other outdoor activities and spaces for young people in Nillumbik. The consultation was forward focusing with an aim to identify preferred BMX facility options for the submission of a DELWP Parks Revitalisation Grant using a process of community feedback.

A total of 430 survey responses have been received ranging in age and interest in the project, demonstrating a high level of engagement through this consultation process. In terms of the existing facilities, results identified that 83.76% of respondents were aware of the existing Eltham BMX track. Community liked that this track was a dirt track and felt that it was good for beginners and younger kids. They also like the location of the existing jumps stating that it was central to town, close to home, close to the Skate Park and trails and accessible via train. There were however a number of reasons why community didn't utilise this site including it being located in a poor, hidden away location and not well-known to the broader community, it has been neglected and not maintained by Council for some time and that the track is too small, there aren't enough jumps and the jumps that do exist are very basic and don't accommodate more experienced riders. Importantly, riders noted that the current site doesn't have decent flow or direction and in fact they feel that jumps are not safe and often flood due to poor drainage. These issues pose significant considerations for Officers in their future planning and design of the site.

In understanding the need for future tracks, 58.14% (250) responses indicated a preference to 'upgrade Eltham Skate Park', followed by 23.95% (103) responses to 'upgrade Alan Marshall Reserve' and 17.91% (77) for 'None of the above'. While the preference does

appear to support the upgrade of Eltham Skate Park, it is also important to note that there is still significant support for BMX facilities in other areas within Nillumbik including Research, Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge, indicating a need for additional research to be undertaken to explore future possibilities and opportunities. There was also a strong support within the feedback for Council to upgrade and maintain the existing Eltham BMX track.

Important factors for a BMX facility included size, location, options for a variety of skill levels and flexibility to update/change jumps over time. Other important outdoor recreational facilities and spaces that community would like included top preferences for seating areas, basketball, paths and relaxation zones. Other activities such as parkour, rock climbing, street art and fitness stations have also been noted as favourable for young people in the results.

Future options need to cater to Mountain Bike (MTB) riding as well as BMX riding (including pump tracks) and explore opportunities to be of a competitive standard. Any new facility should include amenities such as toilets, seating, tables, water and parking, and cater to both beginners and younger children through to more advanced and older riders.

Importantly, community had a very strong desire for Council to involve young people and users with designing and building the tracks and do not want to see Council demolishing existing BMX tracks that young people have built across Nillumbik. Comments encouraged Council to work with the young people on the existing sites, rather than just remove them.

Based on these results, it is recommended that Council support an application under the Park Revitalisation Grants to upgrade and fix up the existing Eltham Skate Park to incorporate BMX and other outdoor recreational activities for youth, incorporating elements suggested in the findings, and ensuring new facilities cater to a range of beginner through to advanced riders. Additional investigation is also required to meet the needs and opportunities for BMX in Nillumbik, as has been indicated in this report.

It is important for any future work to include the ongoing engagement and consultation with the users of these facilities and the broader community to ensure young people continue to be engaged in matters that affect them and have a voice in the issues they are passionate about.

Introduction

Nillumbik has been shown to a higher level of participation in sport and recreation activities than the State and National averages. Although walking for recreation is the most popular activity, other activities, such as BMX riding, are much loved and rapidly growing for people across a range of ages in Nillumbik

Nillumbik Shire Council's Lifetime Play Strategy identifies that currently almost all play in Nillumbik is focused for younger children. Therefore there needs a change in both the type of play provided (more than just physical play) and the age range they cater for (more age relevant spaces). It further highlights the skate parks inspected provides only for wheeled sports, it is not a youth space or place for any other activity or attractive to any other people who don't skate. Consideration for other recreational and play activities for older children in these spaces may enable more use by a greater number of young people, both male and female.

Further assessments highlight that the BMX track in its current location is not visually prominent, and has a back of house feel to it, being located off the road and amongst developed trees. It also suffers from weathering and erosion, and is no longer functional as a BMX track. The profile of the dirt jumps, as well as the condition of the track is poor. Overland water flow has rutted out some of the track, and in some locations has pooled across parts of the track. There are no on site amenities, and natural surveillance into the site is limited due to it being located in a back street, away from the road.

In addition Council Officers have identified 17 unauthorised BMX sites across Nillumbik that have been constructed without Council involvement and monitoring. This poses a significant risk to Council and a threat to local wildlife and their habitats. It also means the integrity and safety of the jumps cannot be verified and the jumps pose a risk to users and the community.

Whilst Council will be undertaking further investigation and removal into unauthorised bike jumps over the coming months, Officers were also committed to engage with the community to determine the broader need for additional BMX, mountain bike and pump tracks throughout the municipality, recognising the importance of these types of facilities to allow our community to be active and healthy.

Initial investigation by Officers showed that both Eltham and Research in particular have been popular hubs for the establishment of unauthorised BMX tracks within Nillumbik, highlighting a strong need for more recreational outdoor activities and spaces for youth in Nillumbik. Given the increase demand in BMX riding within Nillumbik, Officers recognised the need to identify funding opportunities that would enable Council to work with community in building a BMX facility within Nillumbik that everyone can enjoy safely.

The DELWP Parks Revitalisation Grants Program has been identified as an opportunity to upgrade one of Council's existing park areas to incorporate BMX and other outdoor activities and spaces for young people in Nillumbik.

The Parks Revitalisation Grants Program is part of the Victorian Government's commitment to create more than 6,500 hectares of parklands and trails across Melbourne. It is part of a broader \$154 million Suburban Parks Program investment in new and upgraded parks and trails.

The BMX in Nillumbik Survey has been developed as a way to better understand the needs and opportunities for BMX in Nillumbik to support and strengthen an application under this grant round. Three options that meet the grant guidelines have been provided through this consultation to help Council understand where this new facility should go.

The three options and rationale for consultation are presented below:

Eltham Skate Park

Assessment of Skate Parks in Nillumbik indicate that the current Eltham Skate facility currently only caters for intermediate to advanced riders, with little to no provision for beginner skill levels. Some features of the existing Skate Park facility in Eltham are outdated in design and need refurbishment to bring them up to modern day practices. Works are also required to improve the safety, condition and function of the facility.

The opportunity to refurbish and expand this existing skate park through the Park Revitalisation Grants will provide an improved facility, and will extend the life span of the facility for a further 15 - 20 years, as well as incorporating BMX and other outdoor recreational spaces and activities, creating a youth precinct of activity for Eltham and surrounding suburbs.

Eltham also has the highest number of young people aged 12-24 yrs. of age (3,133) compared to Research (497), Diamond Creek (2,298) and Hurstbridge (606), with the proposed location being accessible via train, making it also accessible for neighbouring suburbs of Greensborough, Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge.

Alan Marshall Reserve

Although the establishment of a BMX facility at this location has not been identified in any Council strategic documents or audits, this site has been previously highlighted by Councillors as an ideal site for future upgrades and received comments from community members related to Vicki Ward's social media post about the Parks Revitalisation Grants Program (see **Appendix 1**).

Further, Alan Marshall Reserve provides an open flat site with good public surveillance. Additionally, Research has been a popular hub for illegal BMX tracks established and there are currently no available facilities or activities available to youth within Research, depicting a clear gap for this area of Nillumbik. Development of a new BMX track at Alan Marshall reserve would also allow the upgrade of the existing playground at the site, which could also incorporate more play elements aimed at older children.

Other

With need to develop a new BMX Policy informing Council's future strategic direction for the sport, Officers provided an opportunity for an open ended "other" option on the survey. This allowed young people and BMX interested parties to comment directly on alternative location they think would be best and provide some valuable insights for considerations into the future.

Consultation Objective

The consultation was forward focusing with an aim to identify preferred BMX facility options for the submission of a DELWP Parks Revitalisation Grant using a process of community feedback. The consultation also aimed to identify the elements community saw as important to guide initial concept drawings and designs required for the application. In

addition, the consultation provided an opportunity to gain further insight into the usability of the Eltham Skate Park and explore the need for other outdoor recreational activities for young people in Nillumbik.

Consultation Strategy

Young people and the broader community were encourage to complete a short survey on the current state of BMX facilities in Nillumbik and provide feedback to help us identify and create a facility that is fit for purpose and can address a clear service gap in our area.

The BMX Survey was made available online using Council’s engagement platform ‘Participate Nillumbik’. The survey period commenced on Monday 29 June and concluded on Friday 24 July 2020. A copy of the survey is provided in **Appendix 2**.

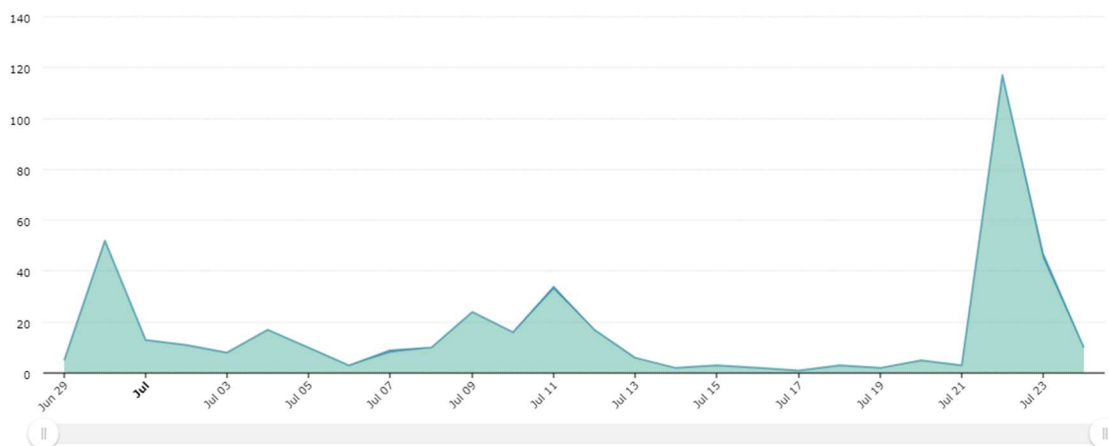
The survey was promoted to young people as well as the broader community including parents, children, community groups and other residents. **Appendix 3** highlights the engagement strategy used to guide the promotion of the survey to the community. Due to stage 3 restrictions for COVID-19, face to face consultation was not possible which may have impacted the response rate. However significant effort was made to ensure the consultation was promoted broadly across through community through a number of platforms.

Consultation Results

Response Rate:

Participate Nillumbik received 430 responses to the BMX in Nillumbik survey.

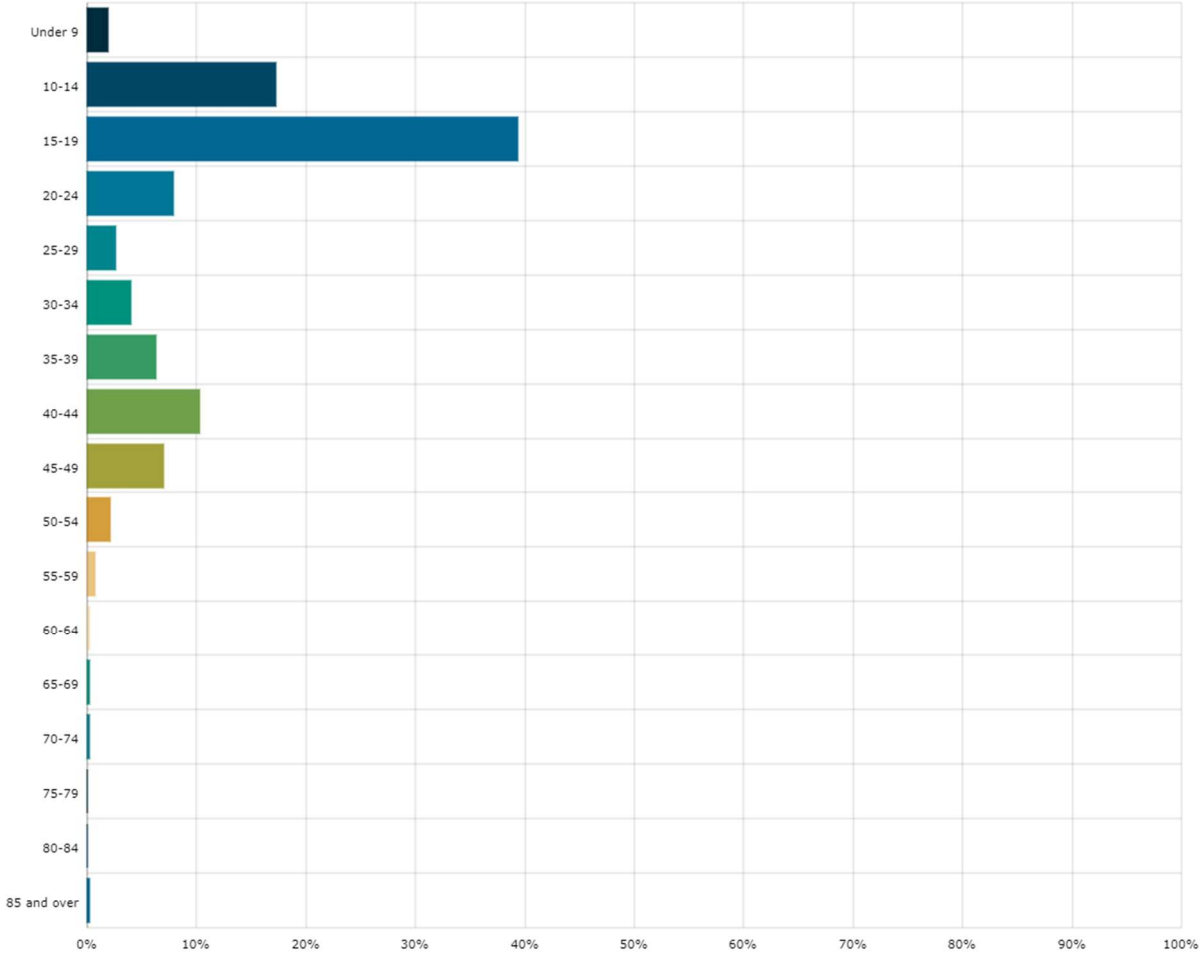
Contributions were received consistently across the four-week period, with key peaks at the start, middle and end of the consultation period, with a large spike in responses in the last two days of the consultation prior to closing.



Demographic Overview of Survey Respondents

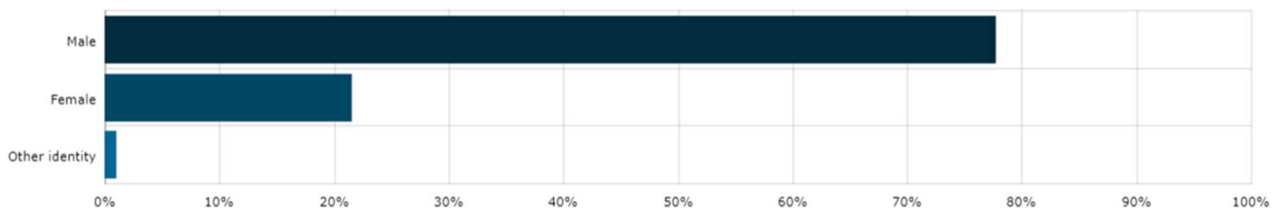
Age group

Respondents ranged from under 9 years old, to over 85 years of age. The highest number of respondents, 169 (39.3%) were aged 15-19, followed by 10-14 years of age (74 responses, 17.21%).



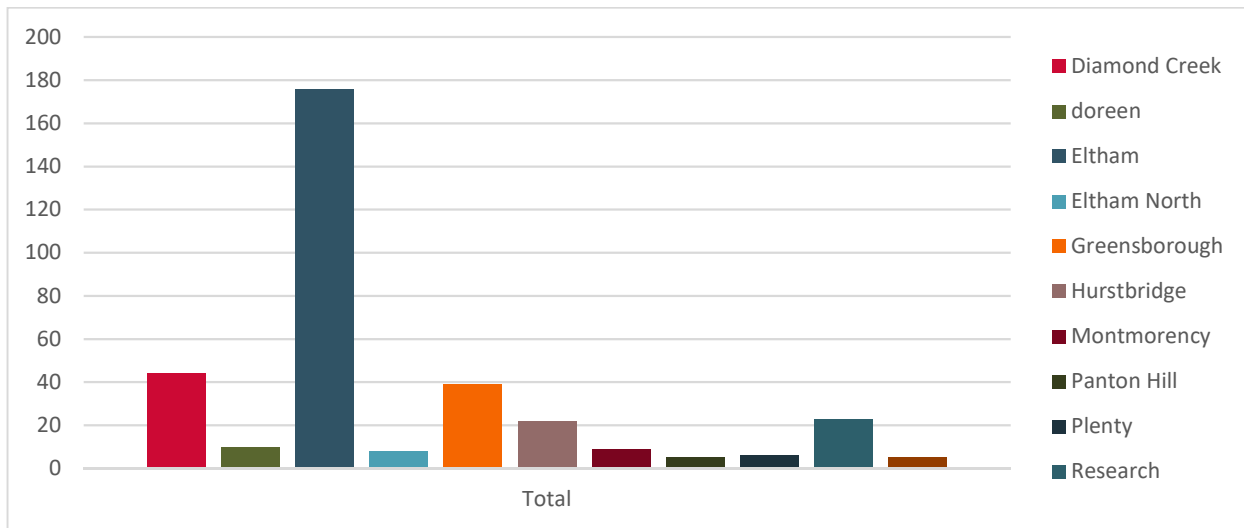
Gender

Of all respondents, 77.67% identified as Male, 21.4% identified as Female and 0.93% identified as 'other identity'.



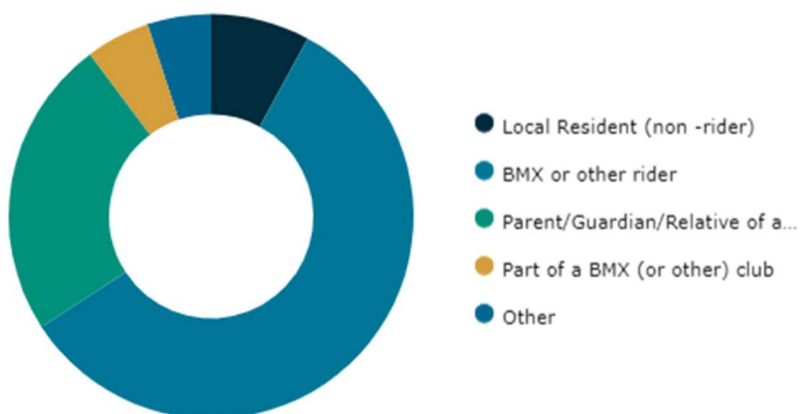
Suburb

Respondents came from a range of suburbs in Nillumbik and surrounding areas. A significant number of respondents were from Eltham (176), followed by Diamond Creek (44), Greensborough (39), Research (23) and Hurstbridge (22). The top 10 suburbs are highlighted in the graph below:



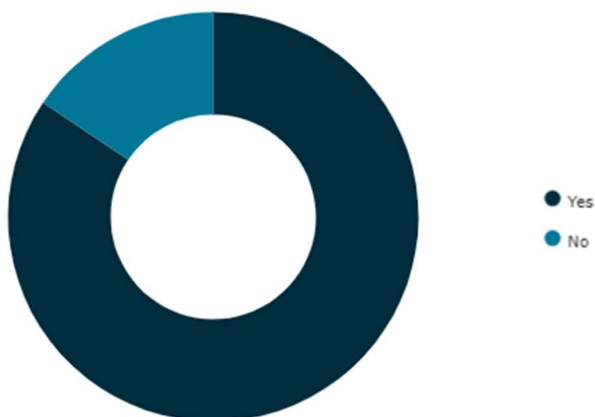
Which describes your interest in the project?

Over 85% of respondents to the survey were either a BMX or other rider themselves (57.91%), a Parent/Guardian/Relative of a BMX or other rider (23.95%) or part of a BMX (or other) club (5.12%). Remaining respondents were local or other community members supportive of the project.



Are you aware of Council's current BMX track in Eltham (behind Eltham Living and Learning Centre)?

Of all respondents, 363 (84.42%) were familiar with the current BMX track in Eltham and 67 (15.58%) were not.



Participants were asked to describe what they liked and didn't like about the existing BMX track in Eltham. The following responses were received:

What do you like about this track?

A total of 339 responses were received for this question. The below table summarises the key themes and related number of responses received. See **Appendix 4** for a full summary of comments received.

	Response themes	Number of responses (%)
1	Nothing	111 (32.74%)
2	Location	53 (15.63%)
3	The jumps	44 (13%)
4	Good for beginners	32 (9.44%)
5	Something for young people to do	32 (9.44%)
6	It's fun	15 (4.42%)
7	Parking	9 (2.65%)
8	Everything	9 (2.65%)
9	Other / unrelated to question	34 (10.03%)

What don't you like about this track?

A total of 338 responses were received for this question. The below table summarises the key themes and related number of responses received. See **Appendix 5** for a full summary of comments received.

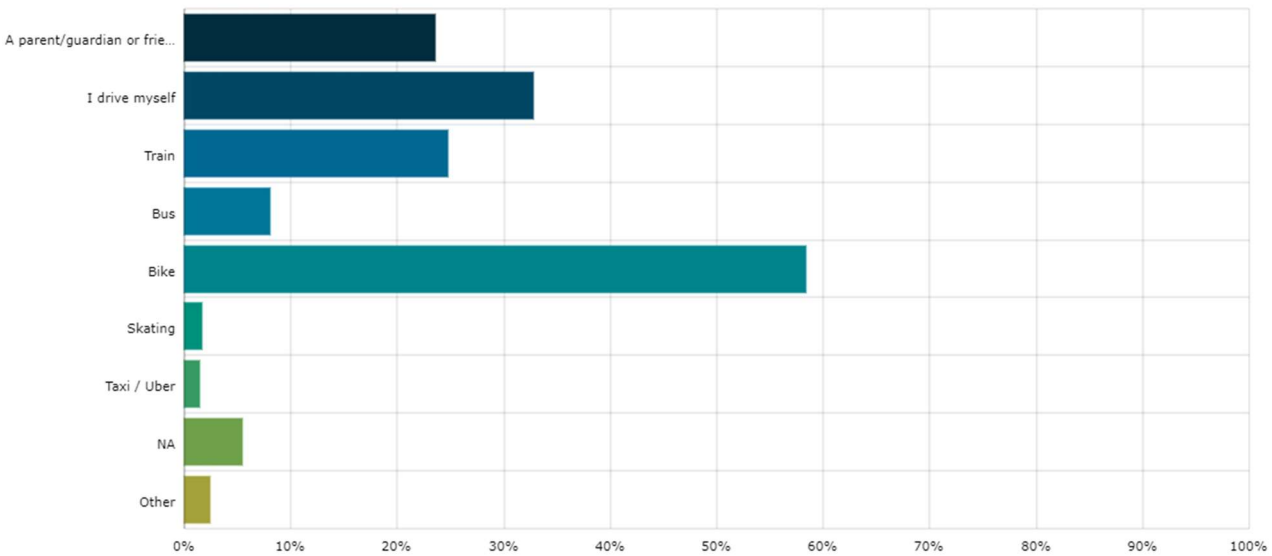
	Response themes	Number of responses (%)
1	Dangerous, too warn down and not maintained	67 (19.82%)
2	Too small, not enough jumps	67 (19.82%)
3	Jumps are made poorly, no flow, not enough jumps, difficult to get speed, not challenging enough	49 (14.50%)
4	Everything	36 (10.65%)
5	Nothing	26 (7.69%)
6	Too basic, doesn't cater to a range of skill levels	22 (6.51%)
7	Old and needs work	9 (2.66%)

8	Smaller kids get in the way of more advanced riders	10 (2.96%)
9	Effected by rain (gets muddy) and floods	8 (2.37%)
10	Location	6 (1.76%)
11	No amenities	4 (1.18%)
12	Other / unrelated to question	34 (10.06%)

Access to BMX sites

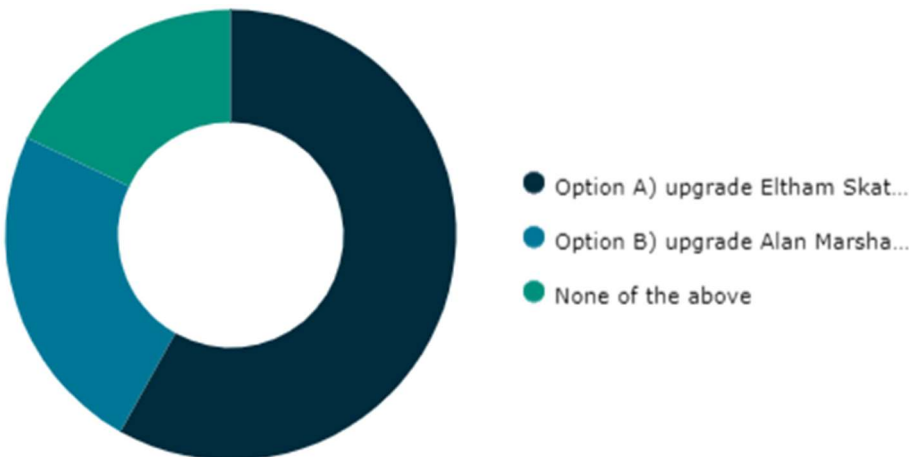
Respondents were asked to respond to ‘How do you travel to access different BMX sites?’ to get a better understanding of where they should be located.

248 people (58.35% of all respondents) said that use a ‘Bike’ to access different BMX sites, 139 (32.71%) drive themselves, 105 utilise train services (24.71%) and 100 have a parent/guardian or friend drive them (23.53%). Responses are summarised in the graph below:



Future tracks

Respondents were informed that Council are exploring the opportunity to expand one of our existing park areas to incorporate BMX and other outdoor recreational activities for youth and prompted to select your preferred option between ‘Eltham Skate Park’, ‘Alan Marshall Reserve’ or ‘None of the above’.



Out of 430 responses, 58.14% (250) responses were for the option to 'upgrade Eltham Skate Park', 23.95% (103) responses for 'upgrade Alan Marshall Reserve' and 17.91% (77) for 'None of the above'.

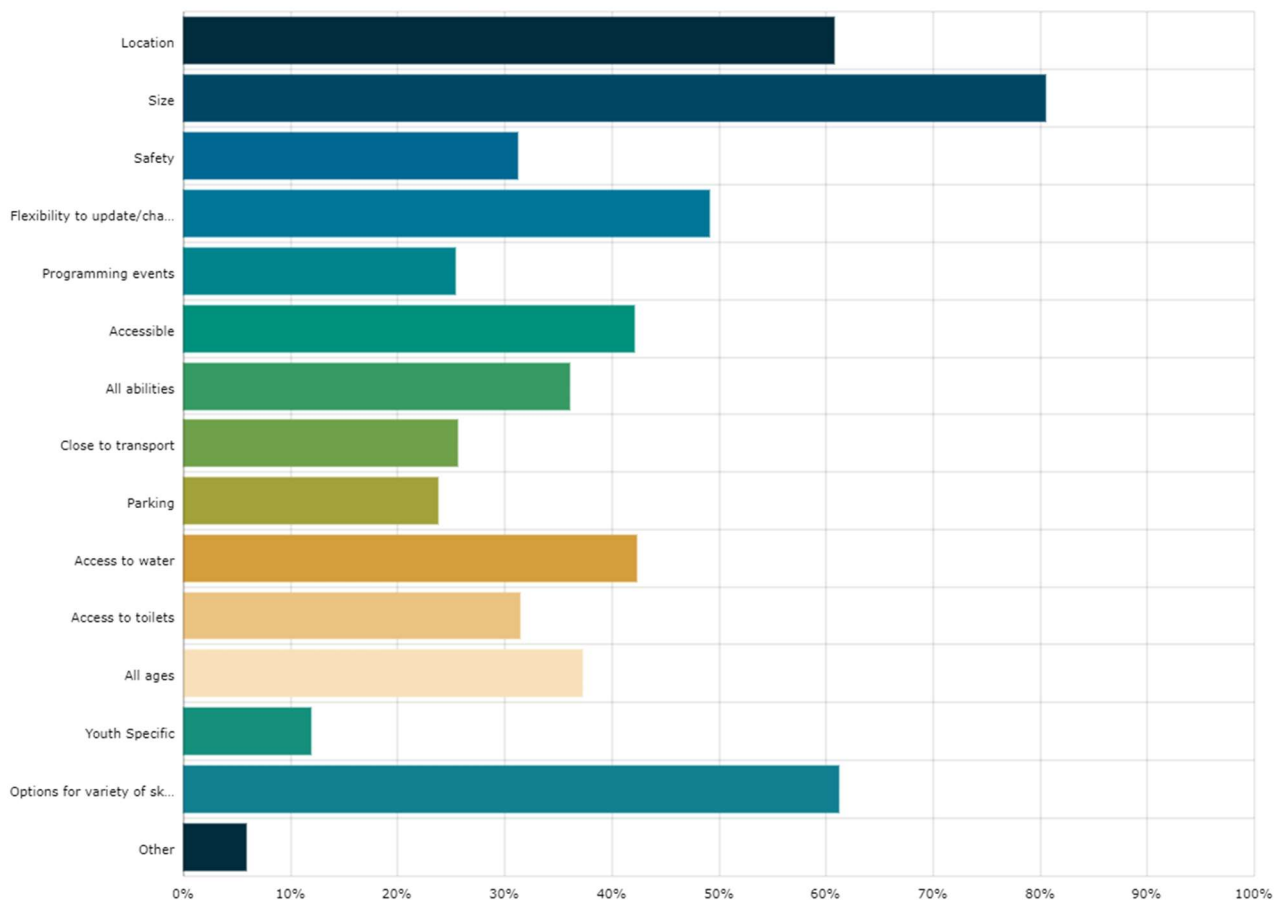
None of the above

Respondents that selected 'None of the above' to the above question were then asked 'If none of the above, what is your preferred location for a BMX track in Nillumbik and why?'. A total of 74 people responded to the question. A summary of these responses are provided below'.

	Key themes from responses	Number of responses (%)
1	Hurstbridge	12 (16.22%)
2	Diamond creek	17 (22.97%)
3	Update existing Eltham BMX Track	10 (13.51%)
4	Research	5 (6.76%)
5	Needs to be in a variety of locations (no "one size fits all")	5 (6.76%)
6	Eltham North jumps	5 (6.76%)
7	Other or not related to the question	20 (27%)

Important factors for a BMX facility

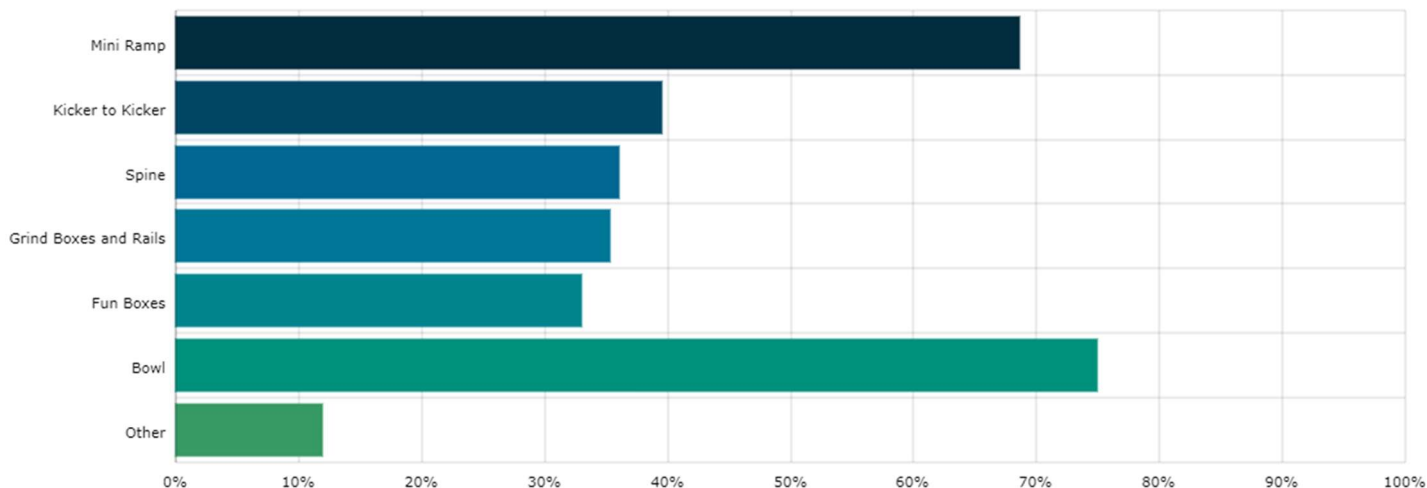
Respondents were asked to select 'What are the most important factors that we need to consider when creating a BMX facility?' from a range of options. A summary of the top responses are provided in the graph below.



A significant number of respondents (80.47%) felt that 'Size' was an important factor, followed closely by 'Location' (60.7% respondents), 'Options for a variety of skill levels' (61.16% respondents) and 'Flexibility to update/change' (49.07% respondents).

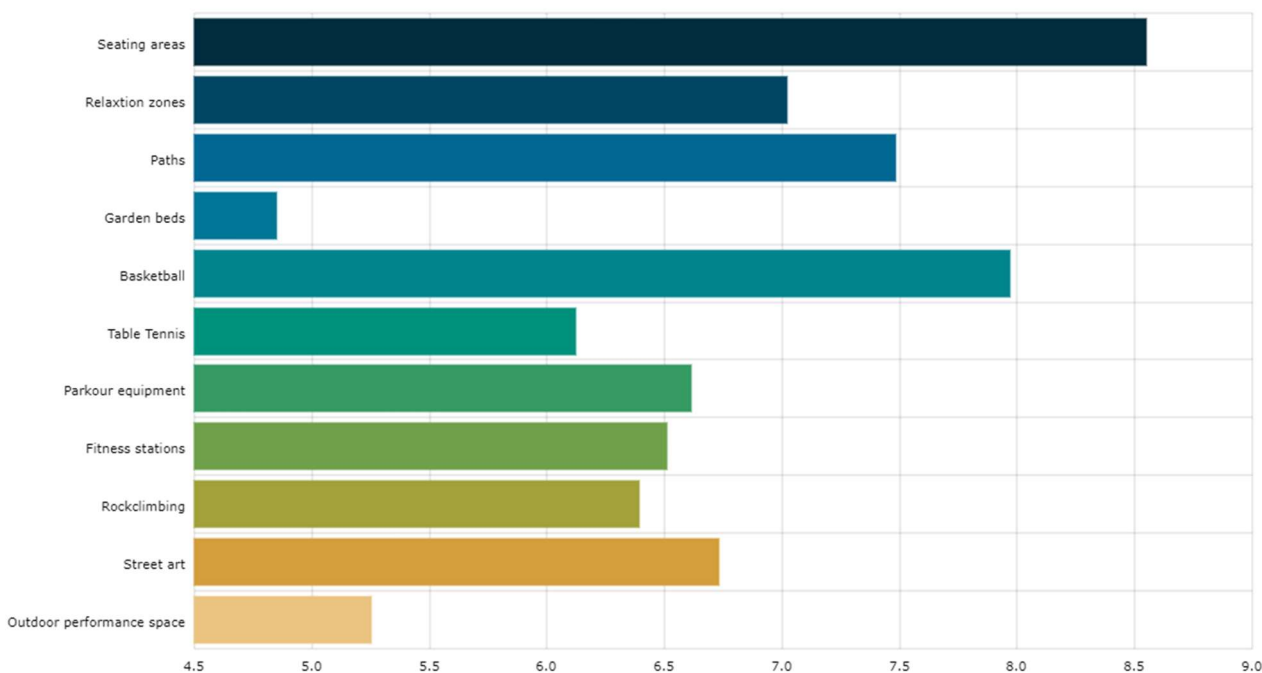
Skate Park elements

Option A presents the opportunity to upgrade the current Eltham Skate Park. Respondents were asked to select their top three preferred elements of a skate park that were important to them. The top three responses were a 'Bowl', 'Mini Ramp' and 'Kicker to Kicker'. These results are displayed below.



Other recreational facilities and spaces for young people

Respondents were asked to rank in order of most important to least important 'What other outdoor recreation facilities and spaces do you want to see for Youth in Nillumbik?'. Top responses included seating areas, basketball, paths and relaxation zones. Other activities such as parkour, rock climbing, street art and fitness stations have also been noted as favourable for young people in the results. These results are summarised in the graph below.



What other ideas do you have for a BMX facility and/or Youth activity precinct in Nillumbik?

Respondents were asked to demonstrate any other ideas they had for a new BMX facility and/or youth activity precinct in Nillumbik by uploading images and links to existing facilities. Submissions provided varied from different dirt jumps to asphalt pump tracks and skate bowls. See **Appendix 6** for to review the submissions.

Additional comments

In response to the survey question ‘is anything else you would like to share?’ 165 responses were received, with the following themes coming through:

1	Involve young people and users with designing and building the tracks
2	Options need to cater to MTB riding as well as BMX riding
3	Build a BMX pump track
4	Nillumbik needs more active outdoor activities for young people
5	New facility should be built as a competitive standard BMX track
6	New facilities need to include amenities – toilets, seating, tables, water and parking
7	Build separate areas for beginners / small kids and more advanced / older riders
8	Upgrade the existing Eltham skate park to cater to beginner to advanced riders (current skate park is too small)
9	Fix up the existing BMX track in Eltham and keep it maintained
10	Don't remove and demolish existing unauthorised BMX tracks that young people have built across Nillumbik

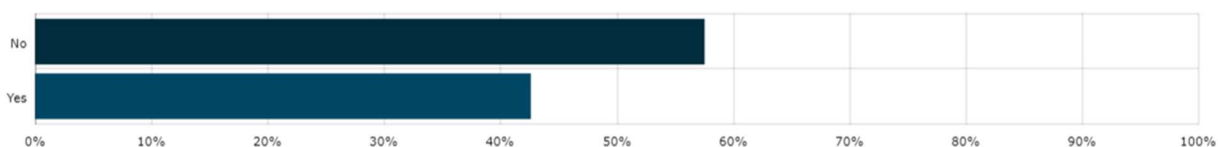
See **Appendix 7** for the complete table of comments.

Secondary consultation

Outside the scope of this consultation process, a secondary community led process was initiated with reference to the removal of unauthorised sites. **Appendix 8** provides information and community comments received from residents on this activity through a change.org petition that was initiated by local community members. Council Officers overseeing the removal of jumps are actively engaging and responding to these concerns. An informal BMX working group has been formed through the leadership of the Recreation and Leisure Department to work directly with the users of the informal BMX sites and better understand their motivations and interests. Working group members have been encouraged to complete the survey on participate Nillumbik and have expressed desire for Council to pursue the upgrade of Eltham Skate Park through the Park Revitalisation Grant opportunity (see **Appendix 9**). Feedback through this process has also highlighting that Nillumbik facilities do not currently cater to advanced riders and they would like the opportunity to build jumps themselves, stating that it creates “ownership” and “pride” and “allows them to express themselves through creativity”.

Future consultation

In total, 125 respondents indicated that they were interested in joining a working group to help Council with the design and construction of a BMX track in Nillumbik.



Discussion and Key Findings

Engagement

Over the four-week consultation period, an overwhelming 430 responses were received. This level of engagement alone, particularly during a challenging time for communities experiencing the impacts of COVID-19, highlights the very strong interest and demand for BMX in Nillumbik.

Respondents ranged from under 9 years old, to over 85 years of age, showing that BMX is supported across all ages within Nillumbik and is not just a youth issue. In saying this, results indicate a high level of engagement from young people in the survey, with the highest number of respondents aged 15-19, followed by 10-14 years of age. In addition, there were a very high number respondents who identified as either a BMX or other rider themselves, a Parent/Guardian/Relative of a BMX or other rider, or a member of a BMX (or other) club.

The level of interest in BMX demonstrated through this consultation by community confirms a recreational passion and need for these facilities in Nillumbik. Further to that, it demonstrates that community who will be most impacted by future decisions on BMX in Nillumbik, would like to be consulted and engaged in future planning and policy development.

Local Facilities

In terms of the existing facilities, in particular the current Eltham BMX Track behind Eltham Living and Learning Centre, the survey identified that 83.76% of respondents were aware of this existing track.

Community liked that this track was a dirt track and felt that it was good for beginners and younger kids. They also like the location of the existing jumps stating that it was central to town, close to home, close to the Skate Park and trails and accessible via train. Other likeable factors highlighted in the results were that parking was available, it was a good place for riders to safely practice on jumps, it is located in a quiet area and it has a variety of entry points and approaches. In saying that, a number of responses (just over 30%) stated that there was 'nothing' they liked about this existing track, so views varied between respondents.

There were also some very clear themes relating to the reasons why community do not like and utilise the existing Eltham BMX track. This included that the site was in a poor, hidden away location and not well-known to the broader community. There were a significant number of comments highlighting that this current site had been neglected and not maintained by Council for some time. Community felt this current track is too small, that there aren't enough jumps and the jumps that do exist are very basic and therefore not accommodating to more experienced riders.

There were also some comments stating that this site doesn't have the capability to hold events and is not suitable for racing or training, indicating a level of interest for this type of facility for Nillumbik. Importantly, riders noted that the current site doesn't have decent flow or direction and in fact they feel that jumps are not safe and often floor due to poor drainage. These issues pose significant considerations for Officers in their future planning and design of the site.

Unsurprisingly, 'bike' is the main way that community members travel to access different BMX sites in Nillumbik, with over 50% of respondents accessing BMX sites this way. It is therefore extremely important that consideration of future sites take into account accessibility for locals and accessible via train to benefit the community more broadly.

Future tracks

To understand the possibilities of a future BMX track in Nillumbik in support of an application under the Park Revitalisation Grants, respondents were asked to select their preferred option to expand one of Council's existing park areas to incorporate BMX and other outdoor recreational activities for youth.

Results indicate a significant preference for the upgrade of Eltham Skate Park, with 250 people (58.14%) responding with this as their preferred option. This was followed by 103 responses for Alan Marshall Reserve (23.95%) and 77 (17.91%) preferring an alternative option 'other', with further comments supporting Council to either upgrade and fix up the existing Eltham BMX track or to build a BMX track in Diamond Creek or Hurstbridge.

While the preference does appear to support the upgrade of Eltham Skate Park, it is also important to note that there is still significant support for BMX facilities in other areas within Nillumbik including Research, Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge, indicating a need for additional research to be undertaken to explore future possibilities and opportunities. There was also a strong support within the feedback for Council to upgrade and maintain the existing Eltham BMX track.

The most important factors that community would like Council to consider when creating a BMX facility included size, location, options for a variety of skill levels and flexibility to update/change jumps over time. Other important outdoor recreational facilities and spaces that community would like to see for Youth in Nillumbik included top preferences for seating areas, basketball, paths and relaxation zones. Other activities such as parkour, rock climbing, street art and fitness stations have also been noted as favourable for young people in the results.

Responses varied in terms of the type of track that community would like to see explored by Council, with feedback highlighting that future options need to cater to Mountain Bike (MTB) riding as well as BMX riding, as well as a BMX pump track. Further, there was some level of interest for a competitive standard BMX track, however this didn't come across as strongly as MTB and pump tracks.

Community highlighted that a new BMX facility needs to include amenities such as toilets, seating, tables, water and parking. It should also have separate areas for beginners and younger children and for more advanced and older riders.

Importantly, community had a very strong desire for Council to involve young people and users with designing and building the tracks and do not want to see Council demolishing existing BMX tracks that young people have built across Nillumbik. Comments encouraged Council to work with the young people on the existing sites, rather than just remove them, which also came across strong in the comments listed under the change.org petition (**Appendix 7**).

Additional comments provided within the survey by community demonstrate a strong interest to fix up and upgrade the existing Eltham skate park to cater to beginner to advanced riders (stating the current skate park is too small). This was further supported by the targeted consultation completed with the working group responsible for the unauthorised jumps at Laurel Hill Drive, Eltham North and subsequent petition calling for Council not to pull them down. These community members have expressed a strong desire for Council to seek funding for the upgrade of Eltham Skate Park, to incorporate BMX and, a willingness to continue working with Council to support this process (see **Appendix 8**).

Responses to the survey also highlight that important factors to incorporate into any future upgrade of Eltham Skate Park should include a Mini ramp, Bowl and Kicker to Kicker. Other features such as a spine, grind boxes and rails, and fun boxes were closely supported.

Recommendations

Result from the consultation show a significant preference for Council to upgrade the existing Eltham Stake Park to incorporate BMX and other outdoor recreational activities for Youth.

As such, it is recommended that Council support an application under the Park Revitalisation Grants to upgrade and fix up the existing Eltham Skate Park to incorporate BMX and other outdoor recreational activities for youth, incorporating elements suggested in the findings, and ensuring new facilities cater to a range of beginner through to advanced riders.

Further, a significant number of community members have indicated an interest in working with Council on the design and construction of a BMX track in Nillumbik. It is recommended that future engagement and consultation is required with young people and the broader community around the establishment of a new BMX facility. This presents a unique and exciting opportunity to co-design with young people in Nillumbik to get the best possible outcome for the community.

The significant level of engagement with young people during this consultation process further indicates that there is a role for Council in supporting BMX, skate and other recreational activities for young people in Nillumbik. Currently there is no overarching strategy or policy supporting the development and maintenance of these facilities in Nillumbik.

There is also additional need for Council to invest in the reestablishment and ongoing maintenance of the existing Eltham BMX track and there is strong support within this consultation process indicating a need for Council to involve local community in this process. The possibilities for a community committee of management and other opportunities should be explored to provide more opportunities for young people to be involved in projects they are passionate about.

Appendix 1 – Vicki Ward Social Media post – Park Revitalisation Grants

Vicki Ward MP for Eltham June 22 · 🌐

Up to \$300,000 is available from the State Government for local councils, including Nillumbik Shire Council and Banyule City Council to revitalise local parks. Applications open 1 July - which local park would you like to see revitalised and what would you like to see?



PARKS REVITALISATION GRANTS

VICKI WARD MP
Member for Eltham

34 48 Comments 10 Shares

██████████ eltham skatepark

Like · Reply · 4w

██████████ Definitely the rather unimpressive park opposite bp.servo.on main rd, Eltham. No toilets.& lack of play equipment in such a huge plot of land.

Like · Reply · 4w · Edited

5

██████████ Upgrade of the BMX track in Eltham.

Like · Reply · 4w

7

██████████ Skatepark and BMX tracks for older kids/teenagers.

Like · Reply · 3w

1

██████████ That terrible park across from bp on main road eltham

Like · Reply · 4w

7

██████████ Upgrade park opposite BP main road

Like · Reply · 4w

6

██████████ I agree we need a safe place for tweens and teens. We already have great parks for little ones, I have 5 not too far from me. But not one that will interest families with older kids.

Like · Reply · 4w · Edited

2

██████████ Young people want more. Need more. Deserve more.
And it needs to be with the community, not tucked away in an industrial zone.
Why do we design our parks for adults or children?
Why do we build skate parks and decide young people are now catered fully for?
Do they want:
BMX jumps?
Half court basketball and netball?
Public four square?
Something more interesting and different, like a drone racing area?
Public wifi?
Public video games?
Let's ask them !!
If we don't actively write young people INTO community then by definition we are writing them OUT of community.
If we decide to write them out, let's not write them off!

Like · Reply · 4w · Edited

14

Appendix 2 - BMX Survey

Open

BMX Facility Feedback

About You

First Name

Age Group Required

Gender Required

Surburb Required

Which describes your interest in the project? Required

- Local Resident (non -rider)
- BMX or other rider
- Parent/Guardian/Relative of a BMX (or other) rider
- Part of a BMX (or other) club
- Other (please speciv)

Local Facilities

Are you aware of Council's current BMX track in Eltham (behind Eltham Living and Learning Centre)? Required

- Yes
- No

What do you like about this track?

What don't you like about this track?

How do you travel to access different BMX sites? Required

- A parent/guardian or friend drives me
- I drive myself
- Train
- Bus
- Bike
- Skating
- Taxi / Uber
- NA
- Other (please specify)

Future tracks

Council are exploring the opportunity to expand one of our existing park areas to incorporate BMX and other outdoor recreational activities for youth. Select your preferred option : Required

- Option A) upgrade Eitham Skate Park
- Option B) upgrade Alan Marshall Reserve, Research
- None of the above

What are the most important factors that we need to consider when creating a BMX facility? (tick all that apply)
Required

- Location
- Size
- Safety
- Flexibility to update/change
- Programming events
- Accessible
- All abilities
- Close to transport
- Parking
- Access to water
- Access to toilets
- All ages
- Youth Specific
- Options for variety of skill levels
- Other (please specify)


Option A presents the opportunity to also upgrade the current Eitham Skate Park. What elements of a skate park are important to you? (select your top 3) Required

- Mini Ramp
- Kicker to Kicker
- Spine
- Grind Boxes and Rails
- Fun Boxes
- Bowl
- Other (please specify)

What other outdoor recreation facilities and spaces do you want to see for Youth in Nillumbik? (rank in order of most important to least important) Required

Seating areas	
Relaxation zones	
Paths	
Garden beds	
Basketball	
Table Tennis	
Parkour equipment	
Fitness stations	
Rockclimbing	
Street art	
Outdoor performance space	

What other ideas do you have for a BMX facility and/or Youth activity precinct in Nillumbik? Upload pictures / drawings / concepts / links to existing facilities you like

 Choose file...

Allowed file types: pdf,doc,docx,txt,xls,xlsx,rtf,png,gif,jpg,jpeg Size limit: 1.00 MB

Next Steps

Would you be interested in joining a working group to help Council with the design and construction of a BMX track in Nillumbik? Yes/No – If yes, provide contact details

Email

Anything else you would like to share?

Submit

Appendix 3 – BMX Engagement Strategy

Tool	How we promoted
Participate Nillumbik	Online survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Link to page provided on all project collateral - Emailed to Participate Nillumbik subscribers
Social media tile	<p>Facebook Nillumbik Youth (boosted) Arts & Culture Living & Learning Hurstbridge Hub Nillumbik Council</p> <p>Instagram Nillumbik Youth (boosted) Arts & Culture</p> <p>Shared to: Diamond Valley & Eltham Libraries Leisure facilities Banyule Nillumbik Tech School Eltham Life and other community pages Vicki Wards office Banyule Youth Services</p>
Postcard with QR code to survey	Printed (250 copies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distributed to 150 households in Research behind Alan Marshall Reserve - Copies provided to staff to hand out to networks - Copies provided to libraries
Signage with QR Code	Displayed at Unauthorised jumps hotspots Displayed at 3 Skate Parks in Nillumbik
Flyer	Information on consultation and link to survey provided to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BNYSN and posted to Yammer - community groups - internal staff - Libraries and Leisure Centres - Living & Learning Nillumbik - L2P Learners and Volunteers - youth group contacts - sporting clubs (Nathan)
Sonic Notice board and Wedgetales	Post about consultation and link to survey
E-newsletters	Information and image provided on project including link to survey to all internal e-news within Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School e-news - Community - Positive Ageing - Living and Learning - Arts & Culture - Environment - Sport & Rec
Website	Information added to Nillumbik Youth Website under BMX Media release added to Nillumbik Shire Council website

Appendix 4 – Responses to question ‘What do you like about this track?’

	Response
1	it's good for beginners
2	Good sized jumps
3	The space
4	Great access to trails, has something for all abilities, great parking, close to other sporting facilities
5	It's dirt and decent sized
6	good jumps for beginners to strong riders
7	Kids love the jumps and central to town
8	Jumps
9	My 3 kids love this track but it needs seats and tables and can get very muddy!
10	It is something
11	Nothing. Its terrible.
12	It's in a good location
13	Everything
14	Plenty of jumps and different paths to do jumps.
15	It's a good beginning track
16	Seems great levels for all abilities
17	Parking
18	Fun for the kids
19	Nothing I don't bmx Easy to get too
20	Not much
21	The jumps and the location
22	Some basic small jumps
23	Great entry level track
24	Good for beginners
25	The location is good.
26	Its the only close track that I can safely take my kids to.
27	Great place for riders to safely practise their jumps
28	The fact that it is there
29	It's local to some kids who can travel to other tracks
30	Its close to home
31	Fun for my 12 year old.
32	That it is close to the skatepark

33	yeh it's good
34	Not much, if I'm honest
35	Kinda close
36	Not much, it needs a complete re build
37	The location
38	It's a simple track for really young kids 6-7 or younger
39	It is fun and has some exciting jumps
40	Didn't know there was a track
41	Accessibility. Good jumps. Bush track area.
42	Freely accessible
43	The variety of entry points and approaches, the mix of MTB-style track through the trees with rollable gap-jumps, making it accessible and fun for a range of ages and abilities
44	It's great for kids under 5
45	It has a good range of jumps
46	Great for younger kids. Available facilities drink tap and toilets
47	it's close
48	Good location, some nice jumps
49	The big hill at the end - that is the only big challenge
50	Parking access
51	Basic for Beginners. Parking available
52	Location and accessibility
53	it was a great idea and concept and accessible from the station
54	Dirt track, open space, back to basics feel - not over developed
55	Great place to get in to the sport it's a great place to learn the skills this is where I found my love for riding
56	Versatile
57	Disgraceful nothing
58	I don't like it
59	Nice setting, good jumps
60	It's good to have one, good access to train line
61	Its existence.
62	Its in an accessible location with good parking
63	It's a good place to hang out
64	Big jump
65	It's heaps of fun
66	The jumps
67	Good sized jumps, good community feel

68	It's there and available to public
69	Local, easy access
70	It's easy to get to and it's close to shops
71	Caters for all ages
72	It's fun
73	It's great to ride
74	Nothing
75	The track
76	It's okay with some good jumps
77	Not much
78	It's close to station
79	It has been built by locals.
80	That they layout has multiple ways of hitting jumps and is in a good spot
81	Nothing
82	Don't knock down Eltham north
83	The community, the jumps, the freedom
84	Nothing they are too small and it's really rocky
85	Don't knock down Eltham north
86	Don't destroy Eltham north trails
87	Good flow and building area
88	it's really fun and a lot of time and effort was out in to it
89	It's amazing how so many people from different ages can all come together as on to create such a loving and chilled out place for all bmx lovers.
90	nothing. The council have no idea how to build dirt jumps
91	Nothing
92	That it exists and I have spent time with my children there outdoors and exercising as a family
93	that There is an area
94	It keeps my children off the street ,with like minded kids. I have enjoyed watching kids interact , and been impressed with the culture and respect level found there
95	Nothing
96	Great place for children to exercise
97	It is not a BMX track. It's a gravel path with mounds to roll over
98	Every one there are really good people and all the jumps are built really well
99	Nothing
100	Nothing really.
101	The fact that the facility exists

102	It gives children and young people a fun and healthy activity that is free and out in nature. The kids are always polite to each other and kind to younger riders. Without facilities like this we will see more social problems with young people.
103	The location close to the bike trails
104	Great for all ages, not near a road so safer for kids
105	Nothing. It's terrible.
106	It has a couple of good jumps
107	Don't knock down the Eltham north tracks
108	I think it is a simple, cheap and fantastic track which the kids can go and play.
109	Fun activity that gets the kids outdoors and active
110	Easy access
111	It is reasonably local to us and easy to get to using bike tracks allowing the children to stay off road. It is relatively quiet and agree free (until COVID)
112	Not much. Poorly located. https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn%3AANd9GcRNZ8sa7IUsv8Qv3jJg0Db-eFvRF2P2uG5Wkg&usqp=CAU
113	Size, location, accessibility
114	nothing
115	it's good, quiet good jumps for beginners
116	Fun to do jumps with mates
117	Openness
118	It is good to go and hangout with my mates and have a good time
119	good spot and not many go there
120	It's a good spot to ride and chill at the same time
121	Nothing
122	It provides hours of fun and exercise. It also allows the kids to get busy using their minds and hands to create. It also helps them build confidence, resilience and mateship. They respect each other and what everyone is working on here.
123	The spot and the jumps
124	Nothing
125	The jumps are good sized
126	It's cool
127	Free and available
128	Nothing
129	It's fun to ride with mates
130	I like that they have something
131	The jumps
132	That it's surrounded by nature, easy access and suitable for all ages groups
133	There are a few jumps that are

134	Close and easy to get to
134	The jumps
135	Type of dirt used
136	It keeps kids outdoors and active
137	The verity of jumps
138	Good range for skill ability.
139	That it can be used by all children of all ages
140	It's a great place for kids to ride
141	good jumps
142	It is accessible for everyone
143	Benefits youth
144	That everyone can have fun on it
145	It's great
146	Way to easy. For little kids
147	great for the kids and adults
148	Quick and easy to access
149	easy to get to
150	People there are always helpful and encouraging
151	It's fun
152	The good thing about this track is that it's easy to access and can be fun to ride.
153	It is in a good location
154	Its great fun for the kids
155	it's in a great spot, next to a car park, the jumps are safe, it's a great track, nicely surrounded by trees, and close to a cafe
156	Accessible as part of a longer ride, open which allows good visibility at all times, parking allows for good access and visibility
157	Nothing

Appendix 5 – Responses to question ‘What don’t you like about this track?’

	Response
1	it doesn't have anything for experienced riders
2	Not enough jumps
3	The size and the proportions of the jumps
4	No seating for parents, need for rubbish bin, has not been updated in 20 years
5	It get very busy for small kids
6	Jumps aren't always maintained, more trails for MTB would be good
7	Too small for the amount of users
8	There is not enough jumps and it gets overcrowded at times
9	Muddy
10	It isn't maintained
11	Everything, no structure and no flow.
12	It doesn't have a ranging of skill levels and it gets to crowded.
13	Too short
14	A lot of smaller kids in the way and RV cars are always there.
15	Some Jumps are too hard
16	It can be a free for all in every direction
17	Most of it. No good for pre teens
18	Lots of pot holes and gets muddy
19	Too small
20	Neglected for 20+ years since I was a boy. No rhythm. Poor location hidden away encourages bad behaviour
21	The turns and the lead in
22	To small, not many, and a small variety with no progression stages
23	Don't have the capability to holding events
24	Only good for beginners
25	The standard of the track is very poor.
26	Very run down and not maintained.
27	Need some more upkeep, not suitable for racing or training
28	It's far from race condition and not really suitable for training.
29	The jumps are not safe
30	Bit difficult for young children who want to have a go.
31	It isn't very good and there isn't much there
32	Poorly laid out and maintained, no flow to the track, jumps not big enough
33	It's not maintained, it doesn't use the land available to its full potential, it isn't challenging

34	It's not in great condition
35	It's very dangerous and not made well It's poorly maintained
36	Young people we work with don't think it is challenging enough
37	It is quite easy and is not that big
38	The track is far too basic. There needs to be a mix of challenging jumps and easy jumps. Without a challenge riders won't hang around in the sport.
39	Too small. Lack of facilities - toilets, bbq, seating.
40	Not maintained or very interesting to ride on
41	Maintenance and skills rating.
42	It's so bad. No big jumps. Just not fun to ride.
43	It's the only one, therefore very popular, sometimes too full.
44	It is not well maintained and young novice riders dick up the track inappropriately to create jumps. The track does not flow well so it does not create opportunity for good technique development
45	This track is too short and not much fun, also in bad condition
46	it hasn't been maintained in years and is basically unrideable
47	The jumps are too big or too small ... no medium sized jumps for me.
48	Under maintained. Lack of progression. Underutilisation of space
49	The jumps are too small and the trail is too small
50	Too far away
51	It has no big jumps and no challenging obstacles
52	Not maintained, damaged. Too small. Prefer different surface. Not designed by professional.
53	poorly maintained, poorly built
54	Distance from Hurstbridge!
55	crowded
56	It's not fun if you are an experience rider and you run out of lines it's all and the location is hard to get to
57	No care is taken for the jumps it has no progression and it has poor planning
58	Small
59	Everything
60	It gets quite badly effected by rain and is slippery, there are no additional services for parents to watch from (shed, seating), It is small and boring
61	No jumps, very small
62	The jumps are in poor condition all of the time. The layout of the track doesnt qork and not very big jumps

63	It doesn't have much variation and is outdated. The jumps are too small and have obviously not been touched professionally in many years. They are not built the best they can be and push away from riding there as you get bored of what's there quickly
64	Small jumps
65	Nothing
66	small jumps and very run down
67	To small, no difference between experienced riders and children learning.
68	i would like it closer so i can ride to the track
69	too small need more jumps and track
70	Too easy
71	Nothing
72	It's not maintained at all
73	Eltham already has plenty it rec facilities
74	It is in a bad way and a lot of work needs to be done to get it running nice
75	nothing
76	There are often small children riding here, which makes it uncomfortable and difficult for older children to use it at a quicker pace without causing an accident.
77	Too small for the amount of people who use it
78	Not well maintained
79	No shack to keep things dry and not very big
80	It is too worn down and there any lines where you can ride for example just 3 jumps in a row
81	To small jumps only for beginners with not many options
82	The jumps are not built very well
83	Not well maintained and sometimes used by people not on bikes
84	The jumps are not the best and all of the little kids get in the way
85	There's not a lot to do
86	It needs an upgrade to something usable and engaging for current bmx riders.
87	When it rains it gets really muddy
88	the jumps 10 years ago used to be really good but now the council has tamed them down and i don't go there because there are better jumps in the area
89	all young kids in the way , they are run down and old
90	Majority of the jumps are ruined by little kids not riding over them properly and need maintenance. They are also way to easy for us riders at a higher level
91	Has fallen into disrepair. Needs work to make it useable. Is a series of jumps rather than a useable track.
92	To many kids
93	Little kids ride around the track and snake everyone and they just roll the jumps

94	The jumps are really bad because they don't get maintained
95	How many people are there
96	That council want to destroy not just the jumps or track but way more that it brings to so many people
97	Tame and boring, no challenge
98	The jumps are to small
99	not as much for youths and up and coming riders
100	It sometimes gets a bit crowded
101	Track opportunity's
102	muddy a lot
103	Unsure if maintained?
104	Would be amazing to have a full pump track where you can get around the whole track without peddling. If there was something like this one in Diamond Creek, imagine the visitors to the region to use it? See image before. Better track for me and my kids.
105	It is poorly maintained, it is used by parents with little cycling sense with very young children who are not safe on the track. There are no rules, it's content and layout could be significantly improved. It should have a separate inner track for <5s
106	Quality
107	Don't knock down the Eltham north tracks
108	The jumps are not made very well
109	Too small. Not enough jumps. Space is too small. Need a space for beginners , intermediate, advanced.
110	It has been basically abandoned and has eroded and worn out and overgrown. It offers no avenue for skill development. For such a large area it has surprisingly few features.
111	Nothing, it's a great space and it's places like this that attract new families like ours to the area
112	Fairly boring and lacking facilities
113	I wouldn't consider it to be a bmx track. It's an open lot with a couple mounds of dirt. In reality there are no legal bmx/pump track/ mountain bike facilities in or around Eltham.
114	Track is unmaintained, small jumps, dirt is unsuitable for making jumps with shovels.
115	The way to get there can be a bit slippery
116	The contour of the mounds
117	It is not a BMX track.
118	Pretty much everything it is very neglected
119	It needs upgrades and maintenance to make it user friendly

120	Everything. They very poorly made. no lip to even get air. Then the council think its a smart idea to put the bmx racing type sandy gravel down which is super slippery and absolutely horrible to build with. I can keep going. The list goes on.
121	Nothing because it's the best thing in this area
122	Jumps aren't fixed
123	Don't destroy Eltham north trails
124	Don't knock down Eltham north
125	Too small and don't have good take-offs
126	The council not liking them
127	Don't knock down Eltham north
128	The jumps aren't something to really get air and speed off of and there is no real way to get speed especially with the dirt and gravel
129	It could be designed and built much better. The medium has rough content and as such is dangerous, it needs smooth dirt applied to the entire area.
130	there need to be a set of smaller jumps
131	Not creative
132	It's not maintained at all. Jumps are too small and there are lots of ruts in the track. Very rocky and not smooth. There are not many options or lines. It's quite small.
133	Poorly maintained, not clearly marked, doesn't cater to multiple skill levels, very small park, not suited to the use of all ages or types of bikes being ridden.
134	It's all gravel and it's just overall bad
135	I don't like how you can't keep your speed
136	Poorly maintained, not big enough and not enough cattier
137	The jumps are small and either sketchy or not do able
138	Kids can't create their own tracks/jumps and it's too far from home
139	Drainage isn't good so it floods, it has gravel and dirt/clay would be better
140	Some of the jumps are wrecked due to people not riding over them right
141	Too many little kids no momentum
142	The track is not well maintained, it is hard to ride meaning that it's hard to get speed for the last jumps.
143	The features are poorly designed. The drainage doesn't work and make the track unrideable in the wet.
144	Upkeep of the site and integration of sustainable site management to prevent loss of vegetation.
145	Not many people know about it.
146	They are not maintained. The space could be utilized better
147	Needs some maintenance
148	Jumps don't flow and are losing shape and flow

149	It is on a hill and not so well maintained
150	Overdue for maintenance. Looks like it's been abandoned
151	The track is very basic track and at times can be dangerous. It can be very congested with tiny children to nearing adults. There's no decent flow or direction which can be very dangerous, especially with young children on the track. The best jumps su
152	It is too far from Doreen, where we live, so our kids can't safely get there by themselves.
153	The ground is very rough and the jumps have no pop and don't flow well, council should have just let the riders build it back when it was good in the early 2000s, for example it's like a chef trying to build a house
154	It's all over the place. Their could be more jumps with sections for people who are better at bike jumps and a section for people who may be learning.
155	Basic, needs to be updated. Would be great to have a toilet nearby too.
156	Very basic needs more for experienced riders
157	Nothing its awful
158	Not built on a hill, not well maintained or well built
159	It's in need of regular care
160	It's poorly designed and built
161	All the jumps are run down and wrecked and it gets boring
162	Not big enough/nothing has been done to it in 30 years
163	There is no actual jumps for more experienced riders like myself and we would rather build our own then go there
164	it doesn't have anything for experienced riders
165	No seating for parents, need for rubbish bin, has not been updated in 20 years
166	It get very busy for small kids
167	Jumps aren't always maintained, more trails for MTB would be good
168	It get very busy for small kids
169	No seating for parents, need for rubbish bin, has not been updated in 20 years
170	Not enough jumps
171	it doesn't have anything for experienced riders
172	There is no actual jumps for more experienced riders like myself and we would rather build our own then go there
173	Not big enough/nothing has been done to it in 30 years
174	All the jumps are run down and wrecked and it gets boring
175	It's crap
176	It's poorly designed and built
177	It's in need of regular care
178	Not built on a hill, not well maintained or well built
179	Nothing its awful

180	Too short
181	Very basic needs more for experienced riders
182	Basic, needs to be updated. Would be great to have a toilet nearby too.
183	It's all over the place. There could be more jumps with sections for people who are better at bike jumps and a section for people who may be learning.
184	The ground is very rough and the jumps have no pop and don't flow well, council should have just let the riders build it back when it was good in the early 2000s, for example it's like a chef trying to build a house
185	It is too far from Doreen, where we live, so our kids can't safely get there by themselves.
186	The track is very basic track and at times can be dangerous. It can be very congested with tiny children to nearing adults. There's no decent flow or direction which can be very dangerous, especially with young children on the track. The best jumps su
187	Overdue for maintenance. Looks like it's been abandoned
188	It is on a hill and not so well maintained Jumps don't flow and are losing shape and flow
189	Needs some maintenance
190	The set up
191	They are not maintained. The space could be utilized better
192	Not many people know about it.
193	Upkeep of the site and integration of sustainable site management to prevent loss of vegetation.
194	The features are poorly designed. The drainage doesn't work and make the track unrideable in the wet.
195	The track is not well maintained, it is hard to ride meaning that it's hard to get speed for the last jumps.
196	Too many little kids no momentum
197	Some of the jumps are wrecked due to people not riding over them right
198	Drainage isn't good so it floods, it has gravel and dirt/clay would be better
199	Kids can't create their own tracks/jumps and it's too far from home
200	The jumps are small and either sketchy or not do able
201	Poorly maintained, not big enough and not enough cattier
202	I don't like how you can't keep your speed
203	It's all gravel and it's just overall bad
204	poorly maintained, not clearly marked, doesn't cater to multiple skill levels, very small park, not suited to the use of all ages or types of bikes being ridden.
205	It's not maintained at all. Jumps are too small and there are lots of ruts in the track. Very rocky and not smooth. There are not many options or lines. It's quite small.
206	there need to be a set of smaller jumps
207	It could be designed and built much better. The medium has rough content and as such is dangerous, it needs smooth dirt applied to the entire area.

208	The jumps aren't something to really get air and speed off of and there is no real way to get speed especially with the dirt and gravel
209	Dont knock down Eltham north
210	The council not liking them
211	Too small and don't have good take-offs
212	Don't knock down Eltham north
213	Don't destroy Eltham north trails
214	Jumps aren't fixed
215	Everything. They very poorly made. no lip to even get air. Then the council think its a smart idea to put the bmx racing type sandy gravel down which is super slippery and absolutely horrible to build with. I can keep going. The list goes on.
216	It needs upgrades and maintenance to make it user friendly
217	Pretty much everything it is very neglected
218	The contour of the mounds
219	The way to get there can be a bit slippery
220	Track is unmaintained, small jumps, dirt is unsuitable for making jumps with shovels.
221	I wouldn't consider it to be a bmx track. It's an open lot with a couple mounds of dirt. In reality there are no legal bmx/pump track/ mountain bike facilities in or around Eltham.
222	Fairly boring and lacking facilities
223	Nothing, it's a great space and it's places like this that attract new families like ours to the area
224	It has been basically abandoned and has eroded and worn out and overgrown. It offers no avenue for skill development. For such a large area it has surprisingly few features.
225	Too small. Not enough jumps. Space is too small. Need a space for beginners, intermediate, advanced.
226	The jumps are not made very well
227	Don't knock down the Eltham north tracks
228	There is nothing I don't like about it in its current form.
229	It is poorly maintained, it is used by parents with little cycling sense with very young children who are not safe on the track. There are no rules, it's content and layout could be significantly improved. It should have a separate inner track for <5s
230	Would be amazing to have a full pump track where you can get around the whole track without peddling. If there was something like this one in Diamond Creek, imagine the visitors to the region to use it? See image before. Better track for me and my kids.
231	Unsure if maintained?
232	not as much for youths and up and coming riders
233	The jumps are to small
234	Tame and boring, no challenge
235	That council want to destroy not just the jumps or track but way more that it brings to so many people

236	The jumps are really bad because they don't get maintained
237	Little kids ride around the track and snake everyone and they just roll the jumps
238	Has fallen into disrepair. Needs work to make it useable. Is a series of jumps rather than a useable track.
239	Majority of the jumps are ruined by little kids not riding over them properly and need maintenance. They are also way to easy for us riders at a higher level
240	all young kids in the way , they are run down and old
241	the jumps 10 years ago used to be really good but now the council has tamed them down and i don't go there because there are better jumps in the area
242	When it rains it gets really muddy
243	It needs an upgrade to something usable and engaging for current bmx riders.
244	There's not alot to do
245	The jumps are not the best and all of the little kids get in the way
246	Not well maintained and sometimes used by people not on bikes
247	The jumps are not built very well
248	To small jumps only for beginners with not many options
249	It is too worn down and there any lines where you can ride for example just 3 jumps in a row
250	No shack to keep things dry and not very big
251	Not well maintained
252	Too small for the amount of people who use it
253	There are often small children riding here, which makes it uncomfortable and difficult for older children to use it at a quicker pace without causing an accident.
254	It is in a bad way and a lot of work needs to be done to get it running nice
255	Eltham already has plenty it rec facilities
256	Its not maintained at all
257	too small need more jumps and track
258	i would like it closer so i can ride to the track
259	To small, no difference between experienced riders and children learning.
260	small jumps and very run down
261	It doesn't have much variation and is outdated. The jumps are too small and have obviously not been touched professionally in many years. They are not built the best they can be and push away from riding there as you get bored of what's there quickly
262	The jumps are in poor condition all of the time. The layout of the track doesn't work and not very big jumps
263	It gets quite badly effected by rain and is slippery, there are no additional services for parents to watch from (shed, seating),
264	It basically looks like a track children have made. Get a reputable trail builder to complete the project!
265	Not maintained or managed at all, and is a pretty simple layout

266	Worn out and not maintained. 90% of the jumps are useless.
267	The lack of variety in jumps
268	There not cared for or maintained in anyway, they haven't been in years there poorly built and the wrong sort of dirt so there never going to last or work
269	Dangerous and not maintained due to hard dirt which can't be worked with normal shovels
270	It needs some love! Lots of love. Perhaps two versions too.. one that is good for my little kids (5&6) and another good for the teens and adults.
271	Quite far away from my house and I don't know of any others closer
272	Lay out and maintenance of track
273	Poor layout, no maintenance, not user friendly for riders of all abilities.
274	It has been greatly neglected and way made out of dangerous loose rocks
275	everything it's not the right soil type to be dug with shovels and council don't keep it maintained so is currently not rideable
276	Small
277	The jumps have been wrecked from when they were first built and they are always full of people who aren't even riding like children's birthday parties and it is hard to ride with children who don't have the awareness to see others coming
278	That it is rubbish. To small. Shocking on the gravel.
279	That its getting destroyed
280	Too small everything is washed away and too many little kids and it's too small for everyone that is good
281	The lay out and configuration
282	To old & needs work
283	The fact it's being pulled down because I've watched these boys out so much effort into them.
284	would like more local and next to a train track, more jumps
285	It's to small, the dirt is no good, the track is ok for little kids but not teenagers
286	It's never been maintained or looked after and all the jumps are tiny and boring compared To the ones in Eltham north that the council are ripping down
287	It's a poor excuse of a bmx track needs a lot of revamping.
288	No good jumps, poor layout, badly maintained
289	the little kids in the way , the jumps are worn down
290	not maintained, unrideable
291	bad location, badly built
292	jumps are badly designed. track is impossible to ride due to having no "fall"
293	That most people don't know it exists
294	The jumps are on a flat area, meaning it is difficult to maintain speed
295	Not well designed for riders at an intermediate or advanced level of riding. Badly maintained. I believe this has what encouraged these riders to build their own tracks.

Appendix 6 – Responses to question ‘What other ideas do you have for a BMX facility and/or Youth activity precinct in Nillumbik?’







Other links provided

<http://www.angleseabikepark.com.au/>

<https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/parks/item/thehill.aspx>

<https://www.whistlerblackcomb.com/Explore-The-Resort/Activities-and-Events/Whistler-Mountain-Bike-Park/Whistler-Mountain-Bike-Park>

<https://www.youyangsmtbinc.com.au/trails/>

<https://ride.io/videos/is-this-the-best-pump-track-ever/>

<http://www.parkitect.ch/blog/five-of-the-best-pumptracks-on-the-globe>

<http://www.trailsapes.com.au/projects/wodonga-pump-track/>

<https://www.world-trail.com/pump-tracks/>

<https://www.dirtart.com.au/projects/the-hill-mountain-bike-park-design-consultancy-and-construction/>

<https://m.facebook.com/TheHillMTBPark/>

<http://www.alpinecommunityplantation.com.au/tag/pump-track/>

Appendix 7 – Additional Comments

	Response
1	I love the community vibe of the BMX jumps some of the locals have re vitalised here in St Andrews.
2	Please add outdoor basketball facilities because they would be really popular and useful and don't make all the jumps have gaps in the middle it's better when it's a block for people to start on
3	St. Andrews needs child friendly spaces ! There are heaps of kids out here thAt need a place to play , ride, skate, scooter ! The dirt roads are no good for any of these activities
4	<p>Blue Lake in Plenty would be a great bush environment for BMX and off road biking. It could be developed much further and have more potential for expansion and a variety of biking competitions.</p> <p>It has a history of this already. Cadel Evans entered one of his first competitions held there as a teenager.</p> <p>My brother and my nephew ride in the area, I used to ride my horse around there. My nephew competes in off road comps and has represented Australia internationally. There's no reason why BMX and cyclocross riders couldn't share a facility there, horses too.</p> <p>Thanks for your time.</p>
5	My three kids range from 10-5 and we would love a park in research to ride to week nights and weekends. Toilets, seats, tables, bmx or pump track or even a skate park and some play equipment would be amazing!
6	<p>I see this as a vital project. When i was a youth living in Balwyn, i used to travel by train a few times a week to Lilydale just to ride the track there. It was still a ride from the train station but not far.</p> <p>There was nothing else accessible for kids without cars.</p>
7	I think since people have been building dirt jump tracks and things like that I reckon a skate park wouldn't be the best idea. I think a pump track with jumps with a ranging of skill levels would be far better because there is already lots of skate parks in Nillumbik.
8	Mtb skills park for Plenty Gorge. The in thing at the moment and lots of people travel an hour to go to a good mtb park
9	Would be nice to have an outdoor basketball area and skate park and parklands like the one in Yarra Glen. Great use of land and fun for all
10	Upgrade the skate park! Please, so overdue for an update, the council has been saying that they're gonna update it for years and we haven't gotten anything (appart from the quarter but it's kinda poo cause it's so skinny)
11	BMX is important to our youth but Mountain biking has almost become more popular amongst my friends. We'd love to see more tracks within Nillumbik like in Tasmania... also tracks developed and maintained around St Andrews, Smiths Gully, Hurstbridge and Sugarloaf. But instead we are finding council is flattening jumps around these areas. We need to be able to get out and enjoy where we live, let's work together to encourage kids to get out and about.

12	The concept of a “pump track” in conjunction with a BMX track would provide skills progression and accessibility to learning riders. Banyule has built one recently on Oriel Road. There is also a massively popular pump track in Smith Crescent, Footscray.
13	Consider input on track design from riders at Park Orchards BMX Club. It is a well-liked track amongst established riders. Consider also, a separate standalone smaller track for young kids on balance bikes, etc. They can often not be seen over jumps by older riders and will cause a possible safety issue. Tracks must be designed with the purpose of being one way only.
14	I grew up in Heidelberg and would frequently go to the Eltham bmx track. I’m now a professional Bmx Racer but have unfortunately not been to the track in years as the track is more for beginners. I would love to see a pump built in this area, it allows pros and beginners to all ride the same track. It can be used on bikes, skate boards, scooter and roller blades. I attended the red bull pump track world qualifiers in my gambier last year and think that it’s a sport that is really growing. Would be more than happy to have a discussion and share some ideas, please feel free to contact. Thanks
15	I would be keen to see a competitive standard BMX track in the area as it is a great sport for all ages and sees quite a lot of participation around the state. I would also suggest a pump track as it is suitable for both BMX and mountain bike alike.
16	I suggest you have a look at Park Orchards BMX track on a non-race day weekend (in decent weather) to see how many recreational people use it. And also on a race day to see the competitors; especially during an open race meeting (Multiple clubs). It's a good sport for girls and boys, men and woman. I'm a bit old now, but I loved it years ago and I still do a few laps every few weeks.
17	I would like to see a pump track for all ages
18	The skate park at Malahang reserve is great for all ages and i believe Nillumbik should have something similar, likewise the BMX track in Lalor/mill park is amazing and suitable all ages.
19	It would be good if there were a jump section and a pump track area and a skate park in the same area making it good for everyone.
20	Bmx is growing rapidly I think we all need this to happen ASAP
21	I have previous experience in helping design BMX facilities in conjunction with the LaTrobe council, and while I'm not the most skilled rider anymore, I have 20+ years of riding and trail-building experience in both BMX and MTB. Something else to add - no matter which facility gets upgraded or built, there needs to be both an area for small kids to ride, and also some sort of signage discouraging parents allowing their kids to ride with "the big boys". In my experience, small children both make it dangerous to ride jumps and skateparks properly, but in the case of dirt jumps they also cause damage to the jumps by rolling over them, causing the tops of the jumps to be rounded off.
22	A pump track would be awesome
23	Please have big jumps and table tops
24	I think a mixed pump track/bmx track would provide the most use for the community. I also believe there is a lot more space available to be used than the current track. I think employing a professional company to build the track is essential and also having a maintenance budget to maintain the track is just as important as building it.

25	<p>Hi there, I am a racer in Bmx, I'm a member at Park Orchards Bmx club and ranked 5th in Victoria for under 13's.</p> <p>I would like to see a pump track built in Nillumbik, we have 130 members across Nillumbik and Manningham who race at Park Orchards Bmx club and would love to see a pump track close by to our homes.</p> <p>I'm currently been coached by Bodi Turner who represented Australia in the 2016 Olympic and Wade Turner who won the Red-bull pump track titles in SA.</p> <p>I would love to be involved and work with the council to help out with my knowledge of jumps and or pump tracks.</p> <p>Sorry I can't attach my photos of pump tracks</p> <p>I hope to here from you [REDACTED]</p>
26	Get the kids involved with building it. Plenty of unused space around to build a proper trail and skills park.
27	We live in Research near Yarramie Reserve which is constantly being vandalised by kids building jumps etc. Hopefully a nearby facility would stop this.
28	Happy to help and our input in as I am a member of park orchards bmx club and also a rider
29	Eltham has plenty of recreational options for youth yet Hurstbridge gets overlooked! We are at the end of the train line, why can't people catch the train to our area instead of Hurstbridge residents constantly travelling to use decent facilities elsewhere in the shire. The land at the end of Graysharps Rd is a perfect spot to develop a youth-friendly zone. I can provide land surveying services to aid the design and set out of the new construction
30	Build a velosolutions pump track.
31	<p>Instead of knocking down all of the jumps look at where they are being built. Look for some area with elevation and start Planning there.</p> <p>The kids enjoy building as much as they do jumping so get them involved either though the building or maintenance.</p>
32	<p>If the area is large enough, then of course have some beginner jumps off to the side, but mainly bigger jumps as there are already lots of places for little kids and beginners to ride.</p> <p>Big jumps.</p> <p>Doesn't need to have a toilet in the area as long as it's close to train station. If you were to knock down the Diamo trail jumps, can you pay some of the kids who built it to help with the rebuild? They have put so much work into it.</p>
33	2 of my kids race BMX and the skills, friendships and enjoyment they have gained is amazing to watch. It is a fabulous sport that caters for all ages and abilities.
34	My Two children [REDACTED] both race BMX at an expert level and are both in the top 5 for the state of Vic. We are members of Park Orchards BMX club and I'm on the

	track Maintenance crew. The Park orchards track is one of the Best and well designed tracks in the state. Well worth the council having a look at the track, and even watching a training session. It's also extremely popular with people of all skill levels.
35	Adding a sizable pump track would be a really fun addition to the area.
36	http://www.trailsapes.com.au/projects/wodonga-pump-track/ https://www.world-trail.com/pump-tracks/ https://www.dirtart.com.au/projects/the-hill-mountain-bike-park-design-consultancy-and-construction/
37	<p>There is currently a make shift mountain bike/bmx bike jumps in the Yarramie Reserve Park, Research. I believe locating a new facility specifically for this use in Research will hopefully discourage people from making there own jumps and subsequently effecting the local environment. The Yarramie Reserve Park is home to many indigenous plants, orchids and wildlife. It is also an area tended to by a highly motivated Friends Group. Nillumbik Council has invested lots of time and resources in removing these jumps over the last 18 months.</p> <p>I feel an alternative BMX option in Research At Allan Marshall Reserve, is the most sensible decision which will keep the peace protect the local environment.</p> <p>VeloSolutions/Dirt Art/ Trail Scapes are experts in building pump tracks for the future. I highly recommend exploring that option. When built properly they are easier to maintain and incredibly safe. Please consider this</p>
38	I would love to be apart of this as i have a great understanding in pump and mtb tracks
39	I believe that MTB is the real sport that is growing in the area and the jumps should be built accordingly
40	The cancel will get a lotta loved from the younger generations if they do go forward with this build
41	Upgrade itttttt! Please
42	With the growing interest in the sport of BMX and growing youth population, it's important for them to have a facility to use. Pump tracks are becoming very popular because of the appeal to all ages and abilities. This combined with a BMX track and park facility, there will be unlimited entertainment available.
43	<p>To focus on BMX is a really dated idea. All ages are riding bikes these days and mtb is by far the most popular.</p> <p>https://m.facebook.com/TheHillMTBPark/</p> <p>https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Building-planning/Current-and-future-planning/Public-space-projects/Quarry-Park-Footscray</p> <p>https://www.outsideonline.com/2405323/bentonville-arkansas-mountain-biking</p> <p>https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/lysterfield-park/things-to-do/mountain-bike-trails-in-lysterfield-park</p>
44	Make small medium tabletops medium gap jumps and a huge gap line

45	I believe that an upgrade or new area for bike riding would be amazing. It would bring the community together and keep the youth outdoors rather than playing video games or causing trouble. It's a great source of exercise and I would love to see something happen!
46	Could you please build more dirt jumps in the outer suburbs because lots of be housing estates are getting built and dirt jumps are a good facility to provide fun for kids of all ages who like to ride bikes because everybody has a bike at some stage!
47	I am a mother of a 11 yo boy who loves to ride at the current Eltham BMX track. This track can be very dangerous when you have a broad age group of children riding, in fact I wont allow him to ride if young children are also riding. The track needs to be flowing similar to the pic attached, to ensure all children are riding in the same direction, no matter what age or ability. Due to the current pandemic, walking our beautiful bush surrounds, you can see all the construction of these fantastic tracks and jumps. Its is very clear that this is a popular sport within our community and the money being well invested in our children keeping them active and social.
48	Thank you for looking into helping the kids get off screens rather than bulldozing jumps!
49	Needs jumps and flow please
50	I would like to combine MTB and BMX activities in a single area. The nearby MTB track in Plenty Gorge is very popular and a skills track combined with the BMX track would be very popular and cater for both groups and a larger age range.
51	I think too stop people graffititiing on the skateparks council could get young street
52	Hand ball court, downball space
53	We need to have facilities for the young people across the whole shire and not just in Eltham
54	I fully support the notion of actively supporting youth engagement in the Nillumbik Shire. I wish to encourage the Council, however, to look beyond sports facilities as a means to achieving this. Cultural engagement ie music and art activities are arguably more inclusive and less likely to be gender or age specific.
55	The council should look at installing a pumptrack instead of a point to point bmx track. They are far more flexible and used by a greater number of riding groups. Check out https://velosolutions.com/en/
56	Pls don't destroy jumps
57	Please make a bigger better bmx track
58	I would love some downhill mountain riding tracks too!
59	We live in Smiths Gully and recently had some small jumps up the road from us bulldozed, not really happy about it, not sure why they were removed as they had been there for 30 odd years and didn't obstruct the walking track. Would love a track in Research but still would like the little local tracks left alone as research is a long way from Smiths Gully
60	Thank you for giving me the chance to do this stuff
61	BMX jumps and a pump track for MTB would be awesome
62	I would love you have a local pump track/dirt jumps at hurstbridge skatepark. There is heaps of room to build. I would also love to help build. I will try spread the word to help build them.
63	It would be really appreciated if you could build the pump track/ dirt jumps in Hurstbridge next to the skatepark

64	<p>Local Clubs https://www.warrantytemtb.com.au/home/ https://plentygorgemtb.org.au/</p> <p>The Hill Geelong (perfect example of small facility) https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/parks/item/thehill.aspx</p>
65	I'm very keen for these new upgrades.
66	please do this ASAP there are so many ppl that would happily help
67	<p>Thank you for finally doing this. We desperately need these facilities for our youth in the area.</p> <p>It is very impotent that the youth as a collective are involved with this project on all levels and stages of construction for a number of reasons. The respect for these facilities will be greater and the sense of ownership as a result, will ensure that they will be looked after. The choice of location will obviously be important as a more centralised location will ensure not only ease of access via public transport but also any potential vandalism will be minimised, such as what usually occurs at the Greensborough location. A decent BMX track (Preferably) dirt, doesn't need to be as professional as Park Orchards, but something that is smooth and has solid well constructed jumps. The main upgrade is for the skate park. There is ample room to have a bowl that could even have a spine as part of it. A mini ramp would also be a great addition to the park.</p> <p>The location suggestion of Research in my opinion is not an option. Way too many kids would need to ride from Eltham as the only public transport is by bus. This would open up potential for accidents during commuting as there is no crossing along that part of Main rd. Particularly kids constantly going over to the convenience store across the road. The space where the skate park is located is perfect for expansion. Even where the BMX track is now could be an option. There is enough space between Brougham st and the Community centre to do the lot.</p>
68	You need to take in consideration in how riders can get what they need to ride e.g. speed but in doing that marking somewhere for little kids to ride as being someone who is bigger then them it get tough when they jump out at you and you end up hurting your self because you don't want to hurt them
69	I'm currently studying Arts Therapy and really appreciate the need for people of all ages, but especially kids to have outlets to express themselves, be it through physical/sporting pursuits or artistic or both. Eltham is generally seen as an artistic hub, but a little more can probably be done. However, more progress can be made regarding outside activity venues across Eltham.
70	Don't knock down eltham north jumps
71	DONT F███G KNOCK DOWN ELTHAM NORTH TRAILS HARD WORK AND EFFORT HAS BEEN PUT INTO THEM CAUSING NO HARM!!!!
72	These jumps have taken a long time to build. countless hours, days, nights have been spent here in order for our bmx community to enjoy. These are no harm to anyone
73	Please don't knock down eltham north jumps
74	Keep eltham north trails
75	Don't destroy Eltham North trails please
76	please don't destroy them

77	DO NOT nick down the eltham north bike jumps please it's a space where I can express myself with new people and have fun for once. This place is also known as my second home!!
78	<p>you will harm the environment more bring a machine into the Eltham North jumps. Ive seen the council try and destroy jumps before. Its a real laugh for us at the end of the day watching you either bog your machines or break them in the process. I hope you all feel proud about wrecking jumps that over the last 10 years have brought alot of age groups together. How many groups of sport do you see where the 30 year old guys and friends with 15 year olds. And can help them out from time to time. I myself have dug at Eltham trails for the pass 6 years. And at Diamo trails for 8 before that.</p> <p>Is the land even council owned land? Diamo trails is partly victrac and Melbourne waters. So the council have no say in what happens there. Why should it be any different for eltham North. Its all flood prone anyway.</p> <p>Id like to know personally as to what the real reasons are for these to be taken down. And why the council can't come down and talk to the locals face to face about it.</p>
79	Leave eltham north trails alone..as you will be destroying years of hard work and dedication from a positive group of people who work hard to make the trails how they should be made.other than your council approved crap that put up..riders unit.together we fight!!
80	Please let's continue to make outdoor recreation important. The existing trail is incredibly well utilised and we live in an area dense with families and a very active cohort. Anything we can do to encourage activity, exercise and social interaction is valuable and possibly not measurable in financial terms.
81	Good quality outdoor facilities are very important for the mental health and physical well being of everyone, especially the younger generation who spend too much time on electronic devices. Having these facilities means my children can safely hang out with their friends and stay local so I am still able to keep an eye on them from a distance
82	Please let a youth council be involved in the development of mountain bike jumps.
83	Leave the BMX track at Eltham North alone unless you want the majority of local kids and adults completely against you. You may not really be aware or understand the back lash you are going to get.
84	I believe you shouldn't destroy Eltham North jumps because they are all ready there and it would be cheaper for the government to not change anything
85	Building bicycle specific facilities is a key to bringing money into the local economy, blossoming the cycling community and raising, healthy, happy and successful youth and adults. A little research into the cycling facilities in blue derby, Tasmania and quarry park, Footscray can show how either big or small bike riding facilities make a town/council more appealing/prosperous.
86	I recently went to Bright and rode on the pump track there. I can't tell you how much me, my family and everyone else who was using the facilities enjoyed it. I would strongly recommend using the pump track at Bright as a blueprint and replicating it in the local area.
87	Look at Norris Bank park. Great mixed age park. Little kids on the scooter track, skate bowl, great playground, basketball area, BMX area in the trees, plenty of seating,toilets, water play, good walking/running track and good for pram walking. Always a big mix of ages, family friendly vibe but good for teens too.
88	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-feGyAtDRg
89	Please don't remove current bmx track in Eltham

90	We often visit Whittlesea Skatepark & bmx track as this is great for all level of skills and has plenty of jumps, space and carparking. St Andrews jumps are ok but small and Diamond Creek trail jumps are awesome fun too and are for all levels and have great space options. We need bmx trails so we get our kids n families outside exercising.
91	More jumps and more smooth tracks please
92	Don't knock down the eltham north jumps, save the money that track is amazing. And safe
93	<p>The current bmx track works wonderfully. It costs nothing to upgrade. It is dirt. Leave it as it is. The kids love it! They are happy. Don't spend thousands of dollars covering it with rebound ace or any other rubber/plastic, making it completely void of life for animals and insects. If concerned about safety, maybe the consider the huge steel see saw at Alistair Knox which is an accident waiting to happen.</p> <p>I strongly support facilities that encourage healthy active outdoor activities. Rock climbing is a most excellent idea as there are very few options in the area and it is a sport loved and enjoyed by many and possibly a low cost and low maintenance option that may be coupled with street art.</p>
94	<p>URGENT - Please take a look at Change.Org and search bmx eltham.</p> <p>As of right now there is almost 3,000 online signatures with fantastic reasons why Nillumbik shouldn't take away the jumps in Eltham North.</p> <p>You need to read through these to see why these jumps are so important to so many people, for so many different reasons. This is your community of all ages talking to you!</p> <p>I am a parent of one of the youths that started the petition with friends who ride there almost daily, and want to get involved with the council so they can be heard.</p> <p>If you take these jumps away they will be devastated, and I guarantee you they will be re-built if not there in another location.</p> <p>I have left a phone message for Katie, please contact me ASAP on [REDACTED].</p>
95	<p>These are the main builders of bmx tracks in the U.K. review their images and get in contact to discuss any best practice would be a fantastic idea, I'm sure they would have a lot of useful information to share</p> <p>https://www.clarkkentcontractors.com/tracks/regional/bournemouth-bmx.html</p>
96	<p>A venue like I have shared with you can bring a community together and bring more jobs to the region.</p> <p>Happy to input to help it become a reality.</p> <p>We need this in the area, we are struggling and something for more than just the kids during this time of isolation and struggle.</p>
97	I know of a local guy who could help design and make the runs for the bmx tracks. He has experience in making mountain bike tracks in Whistler Canada.
98	i would really like to help design these new trails or jumps because i think it can be very helpful from a kids perspective who rides all the time and builds trails and jumps and i think i am a good member to have on board feel free to contact or call me at +614 [REDACTED]
99	<p>i dont believe getting rid of the other eltham jumps that kids have worked hard on building instead of staying inside myself included there isnt a point in destroying them when you can just incorage/help them to improve safety risks.</p> <p>this is just my perspective but if you take the jumps down dont you think there just going to build more and more</p> <p>thanks</p> <p>Ronin</p>

100	It's better if these's changes where made by concrete. Thanks
101	Just please don't take away what little there is for kids to be kids in Eltham. They are outside, exercising their bodies and minds. Not just kids. Teenagers included. They are the most important. Especially without any team sport this year they desparatley need this space
102	I'm not going to lie the bmx track would be ok if it was maintained but it isn't and the jumps just turn into nothing over time because little kids just roll over them all day and they turn flat it's just not ideal I think that u could make a kids track and a older kids track to prevent that from happeneing
103	Please don't knock down out jumps in barrak bushlands we have put thousands of hours, blood, sweat, tears and our soul into them for them to be knocked down. We get so many visitors of many different and they all say how we have done such a good job and how they are so good. Please just listen to the community and leave the jumps.
104	Just don't knock down BMX jumps
105	make sure that they aren't tamed down for little kids but sure make little rollers and stuff for them but make big jumps for highly skilled riders and jumps for in between
106	Facilities like these are so important for children's development, social interactions and general fostering of healthy lifestyles, please make this happen. Thanks
107	the council is taking down our jumps and we don't want that, also no one wants a public bmx park that is never maintained and little kids ride it and ruin them and the jumps are always small and boring and turn into lumps of dirt over time due to no maintenance and we don't want our jumps to be taken down in the barak bushlands because they are good jumps and we have spent a lot of time on them
108	Please build anything for bmx around Watsonia, we don't have a skatepark or dirt jumps or anything like that and to a lot of locals, the closest thing we have is Greensborough skatepark but from there there really isn't much so please just consider this. thank you
109	Please consider helping us with the diamond creek dirt jumps, it is more used but is not well taken care of due to the fact that it is now funded by those who ride them.
110	Please do not destroy the existing jumps which were built by the local children near Eltham High. This is a display of the children in our community who are making a positive change. Destroying their hard work will only lead to destructive behaviour and contempt towards authority.
111	<p>Yes. My children are reluctant to use the current facilities as they are often (and rightly so) being used by young children. The children are often accompanied by watchful parents who get annoyed at the older kids for going 'too fast'.</p> <p>During this time in lockdown, my children have been a part of the growing number that are starting to build their own jumps. If you look at the change.org petition, you will note how many people feel strongly about their children having space to 'create' their own jumps. Council putting money into whiz bang jumps is great, but children having a go at creating such a thing themselves is giving them a wonderful opportunity. Soft skills such as</p>

	<p>collaboration, negotiation, self-direction, grit and an opportunity to design something special is really where the learning is at. Not to mention the design, physics and mathematics involved in this. The kids come home dirty and exhausted but full of tales of what a wonderful day they had and what plans they have for the next day's work. During this time when sporting clubs are unable to operate, children need to be outdoors, exercising and have a project. The fact that council are demolishing the 'work' these kids have done during this difficult time is disappointing. Surely council can find some way of working with the kids so that they are free to attempt their own builds, with all the learning that comes with that. Handing them a brand new shiny skate park, that they had only a small amount of input into is not what they want. I understand council are trying to do the right thing by the kids, but are they listening, really listening to what the children and their parents are telling them?</p>
112	<p>Unfortunately I'm not an active participant in bmx and have no idea about design of a facility. Though I do want to advocate for the children of Hurstbridge and surrounds that more general recreation areas are required.</p>
113	<p>It would be great to fix the bmx track up. There's already alot of families there during a Saturday or Sunday and just imagine how many more there would be</p>
114	<p>A kid on a bike with a shovel does not pose a significant threat to local wildlife and their habitats. Seriously. This is a complete overgeneralisation!!! Clearly there is a need for these tracks or the kids wouldn't be building them. Just let them go, they are using so many great skills and team work, it should be encouraged.</p>
115	<p>My dad take me all over the state and you should copy the hill near Geelong and lister fields because there is nothing around here</p>
116	<p>Would also be cool to see more moutianbike/dirtjump orientated facilities such as: dirt jumps, pump tracks, skills park, trails ect</p>
117	<p>Make sure its done correctly with professional mountain bikers and bmx riders helping out with dirt jumps. Have them built by a professional company with the options for riders to help dial the lips in so the jumps ride properly</p>
118	<p>Like that ur listening to those who will use the facility</p>
119	<p>They should make Mountain bike trails</p>
120	<p>Mtb jumps as kids are spending hours building them and then they are getting taken down</p>
121	<p>While I acknowledge it would be inappropriate to have bmx tracks everywhere damaging the enironment, it is also vital young people have agency of their own go to places. Whatever is done needs to be in REAL consultation with users of the space. Maybe youth workers could offer mentoring and support to young people who are leading the running of these resources to support good management and growth. To demolish the great work these kids have done would be an absolute sin.</p>
122	<p>Mystic Mountain recently built an excellent skills park extension, and their Pump Track for the kids is of local legend. http://www.alpinecommunityplantation.com.au/tag/pump-track/</p>
123	<p>Needs a hill, jumps and some wooden features. Mountain biking not BMX</p>
124	<p>Maybe include a MTB skills area as well</p>
125	<p>Stop destroying kids hard work that they have spent countless hours of forming some type of entertainment for themselves</p>

126	<p>I think the Nillumbik area would really benefit from a asphalt pump track. These have the ability to use with skateboards, scooters and bikes.</p> <p>I myself have used the Footscray pump track which is a great facility this is an hour long drive so these type of facilities have the ability to bring economic benefits as well.</p> <p>A cheaper concrete or dirt pump track should not be considered for the following reasons.</p> <p>Dirt requires upkeep and is easily damaged in the rain or from regular use.</p> <p>Concrete is better from a maintenance perspective however it is not as grippy and makes use less safe.</p>
127	<p>Please make it better... please look after it when you do... and please consider making something that little kids can enjoy and something else that the bigger kids and adults can enjoy.</p>
128	<p>It would be great to complement the BMX tracks in the local area (Park Orchards and Northern BMX) with a purpose built pump track to be utilised by Bmx and mountain bikers alike rather than a specific Bmx track</p>
129	<p>It needs jumps and berms. Not kiddy ones.</p>
130	<p>I live in Melbourne and I am a professional trail builder with experience at all levels of MTB and BMX facilities development, from Children's balance bikes to Olympic race tracks. My company, Velosolutions has experience of building over 250 pump tracks to date globally. I would love to help out by sharing my knowledge and experience. Thanks. [REDACTED]</p>
131	<p>A pump track or something like Anglesea bike park or The Hill bike park in Geelong would be great and would cater for riders of all ages and abilities. Please redo the eltham skate park</p>
132	<p>I think eltham should be upgraded</p>
133	<p>Please get this skatepark done as soon as possible!!</p>
134	<p>I would like to share to you that I believe it is an absolute joke that you are trying to do this just so you can remove the ones in diamond creek.</p> <p>The 'diamo trails' have been harmless fun there for boys and girls for years and it's only now you want to do something about it.</p> <p>These trails have been maintained by local kids off their own backs for years and they are in better condition than ever single council maintained BMX track in the nillumbik shire. But nah I agree with you get rid of the trails so Everyone who goes down there to get out of the house and do something they enjoy doing with there mates now have to stay at home and sit behind their computer screens.</p> <p>Good onya guys super happy that you feel so big by getting rid of something so harmless and fun for people of many ages!</p> <p>Would love to hear back from you.</p> <p>Cheers</p>
135	<p>I thick that of you want to have good bmx track you have to get some to have a look at it and design it and don't make it so little kids can come make it so there is a minimum skill level.</p>
136	<p>Make the spine like the skatepark in box hill as it flows well and is fun.</p>
137	<p>Make this development the envy of not only district but also metro melbourne</p>

138	Eltham skatepark needs to be expanded and have better flow/returns. Needs to be bigger for more experienced riders. Please start ASAP!
139	Eltham needs a big bowl and better transitions.
140	There needs to be a bowl in Eltham. Current facility is just too small. No flow, as in you can't go in a continuous run. It's just up and back, but nothing up the top near the roundabout to come back on or transition!
141	Eltham needs to be much bigger to cater for amount of people who use it! Way too small, needs a big & deep bowl.
142	I am really happy to see my petition caused a change. I suggest the BMX track be built on a hill so more opportunity for roll ins and air time.
143	Put in a massive bowl at Eltham!
145	Make Eltham skate park bigger & run youth events.
146	Massive bowl at Eltham.
147	That it would be great to see Alan Marshall Reserve developed into a multi age precinct, that includes a path following the creek line - so that the traditional footpath isn't used for bikes. Thanks [REDACTED]
148	<p>You can see that there is an incredible level of interest in youth and jump building at the moment. There are any number of unsanctioned jump sites appearing in our shire area.</p> <p>It is important to understand that the level of interest in BMXs with a traditional skate park environment (concrete infra) is equal to or probably eclipsed by MTB/jump bikes (with Dirt infra).</p> <p>With this project there is a great opportunity to involve the youth in the project from the beginning, getting them involved and giving them some level of ownership.</p> <p>One big challenge is ensuring that any infrastructure is suitable for a wide age range and skill levels. As one option and a suggestion, well built pump tracks can address this.... and do it relatively safely (https://velosolutions.com/en/). Poorly built pump tracks will simply not be used.</p> <p>I am keen to be involved and happy to see some of my rates contribution going to this type of activity.</p>
149	I think its important for a variety of different places be available for kids of different ages and skills to go. I much prefer the small tracks that kids create themselves out of mounds of earth and they become experts at what works rather than a big concrete construction of Council. I would prefer Council support kids to create their own spaces for BMX rather than Council destroying those spaces (which they are saying happens due to liability concerns) then investing in a large concrete facility

Appendix 8 – Change.org petition

At the commencement of the consultation period, Council officers erected signage at three informal BMX jump sites on Council land that were identified as high priority. The signs identify safety risks, indicate requirement to remove and point people to the Participate Nillumbik site to provide feedback.

As a response to the notification of removal of the unauthorised sites, a local community member started change.org petition called “Don’t let the Nillumbik shire shut down our trails!!”

Almost 5,000 signatures have been received requesting Council not to remove existing unauthorised jumps with comments highlighting need to support young people to get outside and exercise, developing skills and coordination, building strong social bonds and staying off the street and that young people need a place to ride (see below image).



BMX Petition started this petition to Nillumbik shire

Today a notice was left at the local Eltham North dirt jumps. “Due to significant safety risks, council is required to remove the bike jumps and track work at this site in the following weeks.”

The Nillumbik Shire council wants to knock down all the hard work that these boys do at the eltham north trails.

The BMX riders have spent countless hours building their jumps up from the ground just to ride them.

As we spend countless days at these trails we have so many families with children come through and comment on how incredible these jumps are and how excited their kids are to see them.

No one is being harmed by these jumps. If anything they are bringing people together.

4,544 have signed. Let's get to 5,000!



signed this petition

signed this petition

signed this petition

First name

Last name

Email

Greensborough, 3088
Australia

Display my name and comment on this petition

Sign this petition

By signing, you accept Change.org's [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), and agree to receive occasional emails about campaigns on Change.org. You can unsubscribe at any time.

An informal working group has been established with the young people who have started the petition and who are responsible for the unauthorised sites at Laurel Hill Drive, Eltham North. A summary of the discussion with this working group is provided below:

Removal of Dirt Jump

- That there was minimal to no chance of keeping the tracks
- Explained and educated them on the reasons, e.g. environmental, risk
- Empathised with them

Understanding the “Why”

- Nillumbik’s facilities don’t cater to advanced riders
- Current facilities are clogged with junior riders
- Facilities they build themselves creates ownership and pride
- Allow them to express themselves through creativity

Provided them with Options on how they can help Council

- Encouraged them to fill out survey
- Raised the potential of grant and asked for their feedback on designs
- Asked them to remove the partition
- Advised them to participate in any future strategy update

Other Learnings

- Improving BMX options doesn’t necessarily mean it helps skaters or scooter riders
- Current strategy is no longer meeting community expectation
- This group of cohorts are super passionate to help us moving forward.

Appendix 8 – Email from community member linked to petition

Good Afternoon Cr Egan,

My name is [REDACTED], a member of the Nillumbik community of which I have lived in Eltham for the last 20 years.

The past couple of weeks have been extremely stressful for me managing the fallout from the impending decision to remove the dirt BMX tracks.

It has impacted my four boys significant, and also a large part of the Nillumbik community.

This has been evident from the almost 5,000 participants who've signed the protest on [Change.org](https://www.change.org) and also provided feedback through the council consultation survey.

While Heath Gillett has made it clear he is unable to envisage the tracks so many of the local community use on a daily basis can stay long term, any delay particularly during COVID-19 lockdowns would certainly be appreciated. Currently this is one of the only forms of sport, exercise & outdoor activity suitable for our youths.

However, I want to acknowledge the progressive nature of your council to directly engage with those who are being impacted. These young men have expressed their anger and are completely disheartened, but over the past week and your directive to speak with the impact group they now understand (without agreeing) why the decision is being made.

The opportunity to submit a grant has given the boys hope and provided some much needed positivity that they can pass on to fellow riders in the Nillumbik community.

They want to work with Heath and Council, and are undertaking research and providing relevant and important information to help, so I implore you to support this grant to assist them in getting new and improved facilities.

With the situation changing so much over the past week, I'm encouraging the boys to remove the petition as a sign of goodwill, as i believe it has served its purpose.

Please share this with the other councillors and CEO's to seek their support for the Skate Park grant, and ensure staff keep working with these young men who have formed a focus group on upgrading the out of date policy.

Thank you for taking the time to listen and hopefully the council will continue to support the youth of Nillumbik who are willing to work with your staff to get a satisfactory outcome for all who have been so passionate about this cause.

We need to keep this positive momentum going!

If you require any additional information please contact me directly on [REDACTED] or via this email address.

Kind regards,