



Acknowledgement of Country

Nillumbik Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which Nillumbik is located, and we value the significance of the Wurundjeri people's history as essential to the unique character of the Shire. We pay tribute to all First Nations People living in Nillumbik, give respect to Elders past, present and future, and extend that respect to all First Nations People.

We respect the enduring strength of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and acknowledge the ongoing impacts of past trauma and injustices from European invasion, massacres and genocide committed against First Nations People. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people hold a deep and ongoing connection to this place. We value the distinctive place of our First Nations People in both Nillumbik and Australia's identity; from their cultural heritage and care of the land and waterways, to their ongoing contributions in many fields including academia, agriculture, art, economics, law, sport and politics.

Bushland near Cottles Bridge



Preserving the past for
the benefit of the future

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COVER

Artwork by local artist
Dean Wittmann-Lamb, originally
developed and used for the Our
People, Our Place, Our Future
community engagement program

Our vision statement

Community is at the heart of the Shire of Nillumbik. We work to keep our community engaged, connected, active and supported in a healthy, safe and sustainable environment.

Nillumbik's places and spaces make an important contribution to health, wellbeing, culture, the environment, biodiversity and economic success. We continue to strengthen the Shire's identity through reinforcing existing natural and built form, improving accessibility and connectivity, protecting the environment, and enhancing both the Green Wedge and tree canopy in urban areas.

We acknowledge the pressures on liveability that in the future will likely challenge the way we live. We continue to strengthen Nillumbik's ability to manage and adapt to changing circumstances, to ensure the Shire and our community remain sustainable and resilient.

With the trust and support within our community, Council goes further to deliver fundamental services and innovative programs to facilitate the best possible community outcomes.





Our elected Councillors for the 2020-2024 term, from left to right, Cr Richard Stockman, Cr Natalie Duffy, Cr Ben Ramcharan, Cr Karen Egan, Cr Peter Perkins, Cr Frances Eyre, Cr Geoff Paine

Message from the Council

The Community Vision – Nillumbik 2040 is a document that captures the essence of what is most valued about our community and our Shire. It reflects the collective aspirations of our community, and helps ensure we are planning and contributing to a positive future for all.

This document features our community's aspirations. These aspirations are not intended to just sustain Nillumbik through the next 20 years, but seek to enhance it. We will only be successful in achieving these aspirations through working together as a community.

The document will also be used to inform future Council strategic planning, budgeting, service delivery and advocacy to ensure Council is acting in the best interests of our community, and is advocating to all levels of government and agencies.

Community is at the heart of Nillumbik. At Council, we are committed to creating environments for better health and wellbeing.

We want to create a community that is inclusive and equitable, where all people are valued, supported and socially connected, and diversity is embraced and celebrated. A focus on health and wellbeing will ensure a safe, healthy, connected and active community, where all people have the opportunity to experience enhanced levels of social, mental and physical wellbeing.

As the Green Wedge Shire, it is important that we continue to protect our natural and cultural assets. Nillumbik's Green Wedge provides a clear focus for:

- Better protection and enhancement of our environment and biodiversity
- Sustainable land management
- Enjoyment of our open spaces and unique places.

We have a responsibility to ensure that these focus areas are supported now and into the future. Council is aware that there are multiple threats facing all communities and ecosystems as a result of climate change. We acknowledge these threats and are committed to a climate emergency response, meaning that we will proactively integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation into all areas of our operations. Specifically, we are committed to:

- Reducing Council's direct contribution to climate change with a target of net zero emissions by 2030
- Supporting our community to reduce their contributions to climate change with a target of net zero emissions by 2035.

Council will continue to review these targets as we adapt to the changing circumstances up to and beyond 2040.

In endorsing this document, our community has told us that the following elements are particularly important in Nillumbik as we move towards 2040:

- Our Green Wedge is valued, admired and protected
- Inclusion, participation and reconciliation, including equitable access to services and opportunities, is championed in all areas of community life
- We facilitate education and action on climate change

- Protection of the environment and biodiversity is an important focus
- The mental and physical wellbeing of our residents is supported through targeted, evidence-based initiatives
- Housing diversity promotes quality lifestyles and protects the local character and environment
- Connected transport systems, including public and active transport, as well as appropriate infrastructure, are accessible to all residents
- There is a greater emphasis on a reduce, refuse, reuse, repurpose, recycle approach to waste management
- An increased focus on minimising energy use, as well as local, renewable energy production
- Environmental and health emergencies are managed effectively.

The aspirations contained within this document have been reflected in the Council Plan 2021-2025. The Council Plan 2021-2025 reflects the community's needs in the shorter term, supporting the achievement of our community vision over a four-year period.

As your elected representatives, we will continue to engage with you and ensure transparency and accountability in implementing this vision.

A rural road heading towards Diamond Creek





A rural landscape
in our Green Wedge



Our themes

The framework for the community vision has been designed using the following four themes:

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Each theme is a key focus area for Council and our community both now and into the future. The four themes contain a number of aspirations which were informed by the participant feedback received during the Our People, Our Place, Our Future engagement program. The direct quotes from participants included in this document illustrate context and sentiment to what was broadly received from this community engagement program.



Being creative in a local art class at Living & Learning Nillumbik

Our People

Community is at the heart of the Shire of Nillumbik. We work to keep our community engaged, connected, active and supported in a healthy, safe and sustainable environment.

Aspirations:

In 2040, Nillumbik is a community where:

- Equity, diversity and inclusion underpin all aspects of community life
- The culture and heritage of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and all First Nations people are understood and celebrated as a proud part of our shared identity
- Our connection to the Green Wedge is celebrated by all who live, work and enjoy their time in it
- Equal access to programs and initiatives encourage physical and mental wellbeing
- People of all ages and stages are supported through accessible services that are responsive to their individual needs
- Education and lifelong learning are valued as key contributors to social connection, personal development and wellbeing
- Participation and engagement in community life are encouraged, volunteering is encouraged, supported and recognised, and opportunities to build social connections and resilience are many and varied.

Participant responses from the Our People, Our Place, Our Future engagement program:

“Let’s focus on access, equity and inclusion across all areas of service delivery.”

“Connection to Country by bringing in Aboriginal education and working with Elders to achieve this.”

“Promoting social connections to prevent social isolation and improved mental health for our community.”

“Programs that provide youth with meaningful interactions that promote healthy and productive activities and life choices.”

“Lifelong learning opportunities; increased Neighbourhood House activity to enhance social connection.”

“Community engagement must be inclusive”.



Enjoying a ride along one
of our many shared trails

Our Place

Nillumbik's places and spaces make an important contribution to health, wellbeing, culture, the environment, biodiversity and economic success. We continue to strengthen the Shire's identity through reinforcing existing natural and built form, improving accessibility and connectivity, protecting the environment, and enhancing both the Green Wedge and tree canopy in urban areas.

Aspirations:

In 2040, Nillumbik is a place where:

- The promotion of our shared heritage, history, arts and artistic culture strengthens our community
- The rural character, values, landscapes, townships, natural environments and lifestyles that make up our Green Wedge Shire are appreciated, preserved and enhanced; we recognise the important contribution that residents make in managing this important resource
- Our Green Wedge and its environmental integrity are protected to ensure a safe haven for native wildlife, thriving biodiversity and native vegetation
- Knowledge of, and respect for biodiversity is evident throughout the Shire through a shared stewardship of the environment
- A considered approach to planning and development ensures that Nillumbik's unique environment and neighbourhood character are retained and enhanced
- The planning, maintenance and enhancement of public open spaces enables and encourages safe, healthy and active lifestyles
- The accessibility and vibrancy of local townships, neighbourhoods and activity centres are enhanced through connectivity with a focus on improving active and public transport options
- The application of sustainable design principles creates a built environment that strengthens the inclusiveness and accessibility of our neighbourhoods, activity centres, facilities and services, while respecting our natural environment
- Planning and preparedness for bushfire and other emergencies protects life, critical infrastructure, property and the environment.

Participant responses from the Our People, Our Place, Our Future engagement program:

"Access to local open green natural spaces. People should be encouraged to value and protect their natural environment."

"Council is encouraged to implement effective neighbourhood character controls and community engagement activities to help support improved community wellbeing and sense of place."

"Conservation and reinvigoration of natural spaces and systems, maintenance and protection of biodiversity and stewardship of the natural environment for the long term."

"Residents enjoy a wide variety of recreational and cultural pursuits and have a strong sense of feeling part of their local community and townships."

"Embrace the many enriching experiences and lifestyles that comes from living within the Nillumbik Green Wedge and the opportunity to enjoy our natural environment."

"Creative public transport or active transport options - bringing life into Nillumbik townships."

"I would love to see safer roads, pedestrian paths and public transport."



Connecting at Edendale
Community and
Environment Farm

Our Future

We acknowledge the pressures on liveability that in the future will likely challenge the way we live. We continue to strengthen Nillumbik's ability to manage and adapt to changing circumstances, to ensure the Shire and our community remain sustainable and resilient.

Aspirations:

In 2040, Nillumbik is a place where:

- A commitment to sustainable living, enhanced environmental practices and action on climate change is evident in all that we do and reflected in our carbon negative Shire status
- Strong strategies, goals and targets are in place to mitigate, and adapt to the effects of an accelerating climate emergency
- Our community is resilient and able to cope with the inevitable impacts of changes to the climate, takes time to repair the damage, contributes to regenerative actions and works hard to mitigate future risks
- Council assets and facilities play a significant role in a future where renewable energy is standard
- The impact of waste is considered, and waste reduction is a priority
- Emergency management information and capabilities are shared in the pursuit of preparedness, prevention, response and recovery
- Anticipating and adapting to changing situations allows Council and our community to respond to threats and vulnerabilities in a timely and organised manner
- The strong character and offerings of the Shire are actively promoted, supporting a vibrant and sustainable economy and an actively involved community.

Participant responses from the Our People, Our Place, Our Future engagement program:

"Plan now for the bigger issues like recycling, climate change and loss of biodiversity."

"Look nationally and internationally for the best ideas."

"Protect the Green Wedge and the bushy ambience and local style as much as possible as it will pay off in spades in future, financially in particular. Develop initiatives to strengthen community resilience, in its broadest sense."

"Ensuring the strategy includes plans for the upgrade of infrastructure and services to keep pace with the projected population growth."

"Maintaining services in an evolving environment."

"Base initiatives on best science and expertise Council can find, put community resilience, sustainability and preparedness at centre of decision making processes, involve and inform community in solutions and future vision."

"Get involved, create events where we can all get together and collectively create the future that we want for all future generations; planting trees, growing food, maintaining community gardens, cleaning up rubbish."

"I would love to live in a carbon neutral Shire where natural environments are protected and biodiversity is nurtured."



Djirri Djirri Dance Group performing at a Council event

Our Council

With the trust and support within our community, Council goes further to deliver fundamental services and innovative programs to facilitate the best possible community outcomes.

Aspirations:

In 2040, Nillumbik Shire Council:

- Provides greater insight into our communities through transparent consultation and engagement processes
- Empowers our community to make decisions through greater access to information
- Supports and encourages social connections and interaction by facilitating community spirit and participation in our community
- Delivers programs and services in line with its commitment to a great customer experience
- Advocates for the needs of our Shire, promotes local and regional issues, driving change at local, state and federal level
- Has the courage to embrace future challenges, to take informed risks and adopt new ways of working to bring about necessary change.

Participant responses from the Our People, Our Place, Our Future engagement program:

“Have a strong team dedicated to community consultation and feedback. Discuss and consult on difficult issues.”

“Council responsive to community concerns.”

“Better breakdown of what rates are spent on, rates are extremely high and that’s fine if we know exactly what it is spent on, not enough transparency.”

“Be smarter in attracting and using funds.”

“Community engagement to establish affordability and service priorities, maximise funding capability from federal and state sources, clear prioritisation of programs to meet community need.”

“Plan, engage, fund.”

“Community and Council are in tune with each other’s needs.”

“A Council for the people, one that listens and respects - not just people, but the environment too. A Council that values public contributions and always strives to improve.”

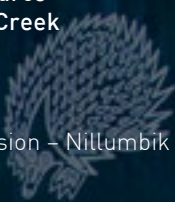
“Engagement, education, inspiration, implementation, celebration.”

Wominyjeka

GAWWA RESERVE



Meeting at Gawa
Wurundjeri Resource
Trail in Watsons Creek





View from Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park

Nillumbik community profile

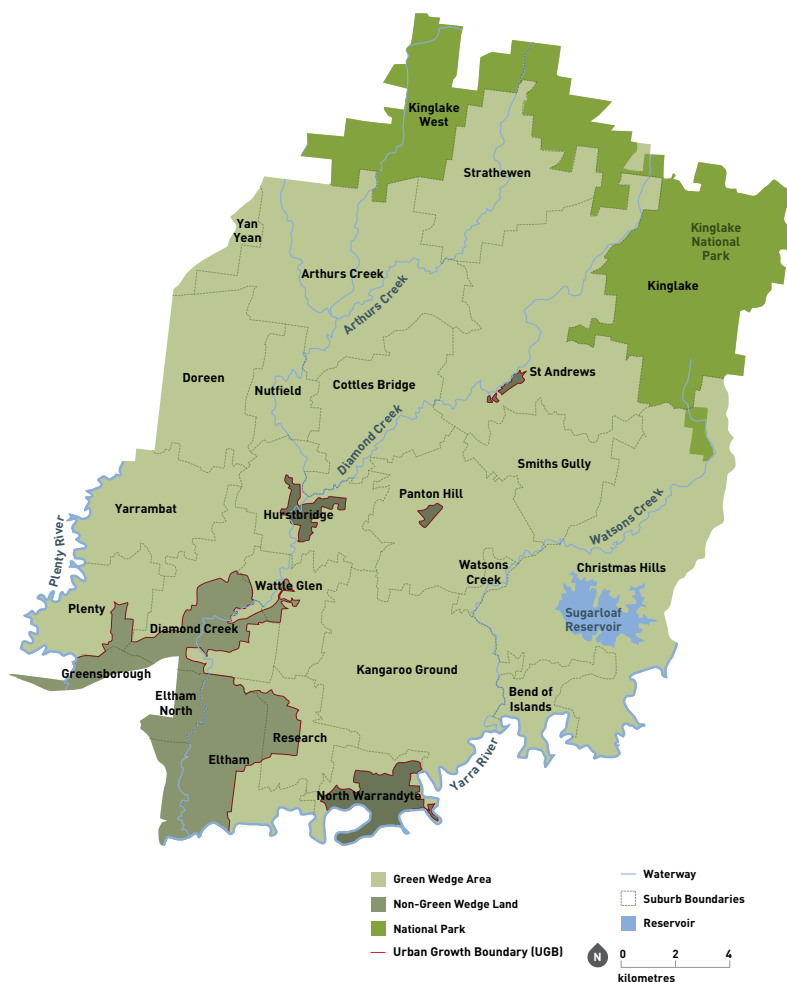
The area now comprising the Shire of Nillumbik has been inhabited for over 60,000 years by the Wurundjeri-willam clan of the Woi-wurrung speaking people.

Nillumbik is located in Melbourne's north-east. The Shire has a population of approximately 65,000 people who enjoy a healthy, safe and family-friendly lifestyle.

Nillumbik is a collection of townships and villages, each with its own unique identity and heritage. Renowned as "the Green Wedge Shire", or "the lungs of Melbourne", the area offers residents and visitors a unique rural environment of bushland, small farms and waterways.

The Nillumbik Green Wedge covers 91 per cent of the total area of the Shire and is host to a number of state and national parks. Nillumbik's Green Wedge is highly valued locally and regionally due to its biodiversity, natural beauty, visitor experiences, agriculture, grazing land, rural living and open space.

Participation in artistic and cultural activities, volunteering, and life-long education help create a vibrant community. Additionally, the role of leisure and recreation facilities, shared trails, community festivals, events and activities, schools and community groups promote strong and lasting connections between residents as well as visitors to the Shire.



Nillumbik now and into the future

Population demographics

| Nillumbik – Now | Nillumbik – Future |
|---|--|
| <p>Population</p> <p>Nillumbik’s estimated residential population is 65,369, with the majority of our residents (52%) aged between 25 and 64 years.</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 0.4% of our population.</p> <p>16% of Nillumbik’s residents were born overseas.</p> <p>English is a second language for 5,636 people living in Nillumbik.</p> <p>3.3% of people living in Nillumbik have the need for assistance due to a severe or profound disability.</p> | <p>Population</p> <p>Nillumbik is a low-growth community. The population is forecasted to grow by approximately 7.5% to 70,314 by 2036.</p> <p>By 2036, 24% of Nillumbik residents will be aged 65 years and older.</p> <p>The life expectancy at birth for males and females born in Nillumbik, in the year 2007, is 82.3 years and 85.2 years respectively.</p> |
| <p>Population age demographics (2021)</p> <p>0 to 4 years – 3,268 (5%)</p> <p>5 to 11 years – 5,951 (9%)</p> <p>12 to 24 years – 11,885 (18%)</p> <p>25 to 64 years – 33,680 (52%)</p> <p>65+ years – 10,585 (16%)</p> | <p>Forecasted age demographics (2036)</p> <p>0 to 4 years – 3,379 (5%)</p> <p>5 to 11 years – 5,675 (8%)</p> <p>12 to 24 years – 11,364 (16%)</p> <p>25 to 64 years – 33,156 (47%)</p> <p>65+ years – 16,741 (24%)</p> |
| <p>Total households</p> <p>23,024</p> | <p>Forecasted total households (2036)</p> <p>26,056 (representing an increase of 13%)</p> |
| <p>Average household size (2021)</p> <p>2.82</p> | <p>Forecasted household size (2036)</p> <p>2.66 (representing a decrease of 6%)</p> |
| <p>Household types (2021)</p> <p>Couple family with children – 10,349 (45%)</p> <p>Couple family without children – 6,527 (28%)</p> <p>One-parent family – 2,015 (9%)</p> <p>Other family – 134 (0.6%)</p> <p>Group household – 293 (1.4%)</p> <p>One person – 3,706 (16%)</p> | <p>Household types (2036)</p> <p>Couple family with children – 10,649 (41%)</p> <p>Couple family without children – 7,898 (30%)</p> <p>One-parent family – 2,170 (8.4%)</p> <p>Other family – 138 (0.6%)</p> <p>Group household – 292 (1%)</p> <p>One person – 4,909 (19%)</p> |
| <p>Total dwellings (2021)</p> <p>23,475</p> | <p>Total dwellings (2036)</p> <p>26,564 (representing an increase of 13%)</p> |

Reference: .id Consulting (2021) Nillumbik Shire Community Profile; Nillumbik Shire Council (2016) Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Profile; Victoria in Future (2019) Population Household Projections; Victoria in Future (2019) Estimated Residential Population by Service Age Groups

Land area

| Nillumbik – Now | Nillumbik – Future |
|---|--|
| Land area by square kilometres - 432 km ² | |
| Urban land area – 39 km ² Non-urban land area – 393 km ² | Urban versus non-urban land area will remain the same – our Green Wedge Management Plan does not propose to change the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), and similarly, State Government policy does not suggest any changes to the UGB in Nillumbik. |

Domains of liveability

| Nillumbik – Now | Nillumbik – Future |
|--|--|
| <p>Food security</p> <p>2.1% of people in Nillumbik have reported that they do not have regular access to enough food.</p> | <p>Food security</p> <p>Food production is likely to be impacted by urban sprawl and climate pressures. Supporting a thriving food system will be fundamental to supporting a healthy and thriving community.</p> |
| <p>Employment</p> <p>77% of Nillumbik’s 38,730 residents travel outside the Shire for work.</p> <p>Nillumbik Shire Council is the largest employer in the Shire.</p> | <p>Employment</p> <p>While work is likely to become more flexible, the future distribution of jobs will most likely result in residents still needing to travel outside the Shire for work, requiring improved transport options.</p> |
| <p>Transport</p> <p>9.7% of employed residents use public transport to travel to work.</p> <p>2% of employed people use active transport (cycle or walk) to travel to work.</p> | <p>Transport</p> <p>Changing population demographics, living and working conditions will mean that there are more people moving around the Shire accessing services, jobs, and facilities.</p> |
| <p>Public Open Space</p> <p>74% of residential properties are within 400m of public open space.</p> | <p>Public Open Space</p> <p>The value and demand for public open space is likely to increase for both residents of and visitors to Nillumbik as growth in other parts of Melbourne continues to put increased pressure on urban environments.</p> |
| <p>Housing</p> <p>94% of existing dwellings in Nillumbik are detached homes.</p> | <p>Housing</p> <p>An increase in the diversity of housing in Nillumbik will be required to meet future needs. Almost all of the additional housing required will be for couples without children or one-person households.</p> |
| <p>Walkability</p> <p>A 2012 assessment of Nillumbik’s walkability for transport was ranked among the lowest in metropolitan Melbourne with only 24% of residents walking for transport, compared with 37% for greater Melbourne.</p> | <p>Walkability</p> <p>Safe, accessible and interesting walking routes for people of all abilities will enable increased active transport and is an indicator of a liveable community.</p> |
| <p>Social Infrastructure</p> <p>Changing demographic profiles, consumer preferences, technologies and service delivery models will need to be taken into consideration in the planning and provision of social infrastructure.</p> | <p>Social Infrastructure</p> <p>Partnerships, co-location and innovative delivery solutions for the provision of social infrastructure will be more important in the future.</p> |

References: Centre for Urban Research (2017) *Developing a Pilot Victorian Urban Liveability Index*; Giles-Corti et.al (2014) *How walkable is Melbourne? The development of a walkability index for Melbourne*; id Consulting (2019) *Snapshot of the Shire*; Sheridan, J. et.al (2015) *Melbourne’s Foodbowl*; Nillumbik Shire Council (2021) *Nillumbik Shire Community Profile*.

Environment

Nillumbik – Now

Nillumbik is a semi-rural environment and home to a beautiful range of indigenous flora, fauna and habitats. The Shire is host to well over 1,300 indigenous flora species, of which 83 are listed as threatened, including some plants (particularly orchids) that are not found anywhere else in the world. A large proportion of Nillumbik is covered with remnant indigenous vegetation in a range of types, condition and varying conservation status, that are somewhat representative of those prior to European settlement.

The main types of vegetation found include:

- Grassy dry forest
- Valley grassy forest
- Heathy dry forest
- Herb-rich foothill forest.

Supporting and relying on these habitats are more than 370 indigenous animal species, making up a highly diverse fauna community. Nillumbik's fauna ranges from the more common species that may be seen around residential areas such as the Brush-tailed Possum and Rainbow Lorikeet to the rarely seen inhabitants of the forest such as the Common Dunnart and Lace Monitor. Approximately 72 species that inhabit Nillumbik are listed as threatened in Victoria, and seven listed as threatened in Australia. This includes an important population of Brush-tailed Phascogale as well as some of the only populations of Eltham Copper Butterfly.

Additional information about Nillumbik's native plants can be found at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/native-plants

Additional information about Nillumbik's native animals can be found at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/native-animals



Eltham Copper Butterfly



Having fun in our
vast open spaces

Nillumbik Shire Council

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