

# Federal Government Election Advocacy

## 2018/2019

The Shire of Nillumbik is located less than 25 kilometres north-east of Melbourne, and has the Yarra River as its southern boundary. It extends 29 kilometres to Kinglake National Park in the north. The Shire stretches approximately 20 kilometres from the Plenty River and Yan Yean Road in the west to Christmas Hills and the Yarra escarpment in the east

The Shire covers an area of 431 square kilometres and has an estimated population of 64,280 who live in close-knit communities which range from typical urban settings to remote and tranquil bush properties.

At the upcoming election Nillumbik Shire will encompass the seats of McEwan in the north, Jagajaga and Menzies to the south.

### **Solar feasibility study**

Council is currently in the early stages of investigating the feasibility of renewable energy generation on Council-owned land. Specific site/s of interest include former Council managed landfills within the Shire, which represent excellent candidate sites for innovative and high value regeneration projects. Council anticipate moving into detailed feasibility and business case in the second half of 2018. Upfront investment in the planning stages has proven to be critical in similar projects elsewhere in Australia to ensure a high quality project. Council is therefore seeking \$250,000 from the Victorian Government to support a robust business case and concept plan.

Assuming a successful business case (early modelling suggests a commercially viable project) Council will then seek Federal support with additional funding to ensure our Shire supports Australia's transition to affordable, reliable and renewable energy.

**SEEKING:       \$250,000 now, with additional funding in 2020**

### **Diamond Creek Trail extension**

This project extends Diamond Creek Trail from Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge. Suitable for horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians, this trail will ultimately reach Hurstbridge and the rural trails beyond, connecting the Shire's Artisan Hills to the Melbourne CBD via the Yarra Main Trail - a regional priority across northern metropolitan Melbourne.

The trail would provide a significant contribution to the lifestyle, health and social wellbeing of the broader community by providing connection to the natural environment and improved, off-road local connections between townships and safer access for families and children to local schools and community facilities.

At present, Nillumbik and the Victorian Government have together committed \$8 million of the total \$11 million necessary to fund the project.

**SEEKING:       \$4 million**

## **Regional Art Gallery**

Nillumbik has a longstanding history with the arts with many esteemed early Australian impressionists having painted within the shire. The strength of Nillumbik's arts heritage, however, was borne of the mid-20th century avant-garde arising from the arts communes of Montsalvat, Dunmoochin and Potters Cottage. As such, the Nillumbik Shire Art Collection reflects the rich artistic heritage and local culture of Nillumbik, and represents leading contemporary Australian artists of international renown.

Nillumbik's long-term vision is for a regional art gallery that captures and promotes the shire's rich artist heritage. A public gallery of regional significance would enable loan programs with esteemed national institutions to augment the curation of the collection. The gallery space would incorporate studio, workshop and theatre spaces to enable dynamic project spaces, education programs with outreach to schools and school holiday programs, and other public programs. It would also attract peak industry forums and the performing arts and add to Nillumbik's creative arts industry.

**SEEKING:       \$9 million**

## **Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre expansion**

For more than 40 years, the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre has provided our community with stadium courts for basketball, squash, table tennis and badminton. Since its opening, additional courts and a health club have been added. The facility attracts more than over 450,000 visits annually and is home to the Diamond Valley Basketball association's 6000-plus members and elite level South East Australia Basketball League Teams.

The Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre redevelopment would deliver a contemporary, fully accessible fit-for-purpose regional indoor sports stadium servicing Nillumbik, Banyule and Whittlesea local government areas. It would cater for the sports of basketball, netball, squash, badminton and table tennis from grassroots to elite, and a 24/7 fitness facility and community rooms.

**SEEKING:       \$33 million for Stage 2**

## **Diamond Creek Community Hub**

Diamond Creek is the fastest growing area within the Shire and is the second largest activity centre. Whilst a number of areas within the Shire are well serviced with community facilities, Diamond Creek and the broader community have limited small and/or ageing community, meeting spaces. Council is looking to undertake a significant redevelopment of the Diamond Creek Community Centre to address the local communities service provision gaps identified through extensive community engagement. Funding is sought for a new purpose-built facility including community lounge and meeting space, theatre / performance function space, dedicated youth space, adult learning and registered training facilities and library.

**SEEKING:       \$15 million**

## **Hurstbridge Stadium expansion**

The addition of two outdoor courts, the expansion of two indoor multi-purpose courts, change rooms servicing the stadium and adjacent sportsground will directly benefit the thousands of netball and basketball players, primarily junior sports participants, who use the stadium and adjacent Hurstbridge East oval on a weekly basis.

It's projected that this project would increase more than double usage. The increase will stem from an increased capacity of the centre to accommodate additional training activities (basketball and netball), and new competition programs, and encourage greater usage of the oval for football and cricket. In terms of immediate catchment, this project will benefit the community of Hurstbridge with a population of over 3000 and the broader Nillumbik population.

**SEEKING... \$10 million**

### **Artists in residency Laughing Waters**

The Laughing Waters locale holds cultural and environmental significance to the Shire of Nillumbik, and is renowned for its rich colonial and indigenous history. The Laughing Waters properties of Birrarung and River Bend (both owned by the State Government of Victoria) have served as a unique artist residency (managed by Nillumbik Shire Council) for more than a decade. Not only are the properties integral to the artistic and architectural heritage of Nillumbik, both have contributed greatly to the wider creative sector across Melbourne and the country more widely.

Both properties are in urgent need of structural repair. Upon investment of capital works, the properties may be serviceable again with the prospect of commencing a fresh artist residency program.

**SEEKING:        Appropriate remediation works**

### **East West Link**

To ensure reduced congestion, it's vital that through traffic has a continuous flow at the City end of the North East Link through to the western suburbs. The construction of the East West Link would ensure no bottlenecks at the end of the North East Link particularly moving in an east – west direction. Residents in north east Melbourne experience significant delays, particularly accessing the CBD and Eastern Suburbs.

**SEEKING:        Construction of East West Link**

### **Increasing road safety around schools**

Nillumbik Shire Council recently undertook an initiative in which it engaged with the community to identify ways to improve pedestrian safety at drop off areas around schools, kindergartens, pre-schools and child care centres throughout the shire.

The Getting to School Safely initiative identified 17 projects that will now be considered for funding although they will have to be prioritised against other previously identified projects throughout the Shire.

**SEEKING:        Commonwealth funding would greatly assist Council to carry out these important and much-needed projects**

### **Upgrades to Kangaroo Ground Heritage Tower and War Memorial**

The Kangaroo Ground War Memorial and Heritage Tower is one of Nillumbik Shire's leading tourist attractions. The tower offers outstanding views all the way to Melbourne's skyline while the memorial celebrates and honours the area's legacy of involvement in the two World Wars, including that of its traditional Indigenous community.

However, the site, which is of great cultural and heritage significance is in need of extensive works. Among the work required are improvements to the entrance and exit points for visitor vehicles to improve amenity and ensure safety. In addition, an interpretive history centre would allow for more engaging and accessible ways to share this history.

**SEEKING:       \$1.2 million**

### **Tourism Strategy**

Nillumbik Shire Council forms part of the Yarra Ranges & Dandenong tourism region as designated by VisitVictoria.

Having recently reengaged with the state tourism framework, undertaken research and a visitor audit, it is apparent that Nillumbik must boost its visitor numbers through fully realising the potential of the Shire's many attractions.

In order to do this it is essential that a detailed, well researched and planned product development framework be undertaken, leading to the execution of a dedicated tourism strategy. This strategy must deliver confidence to the community, government and investors, with the ultimate outcome being a thriving local economy.

**SEEKING:       \$300,000**

### **Mobile phone black spots**

Council has received a number of anecdotal accounts of unreliable mobile phone reception in parts of the Shire.

This issue is particularly relevant in Nillumbik Shire with a significant part of its area being highly bushfire-prone. Emergency management plans - that of Council's and other state-based agencies have communicating important information via smartphone as a central element.

Ensuring reliable mobile phone reception is therefore critical to these emergency plans and importantly, to community confidence.

**SEEKING:       Federal Government to engage and work with the relevant telecommunications carrier to identify and ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place to remove black spots**

### **Greensborough Hockey Club pavilion upgrade**

Greensborough Hockey Club is the largest in Melbourne's north east and fields a number of women, men, junior and masters teams. The club has been recognised for its active community engagement, and has produced a number of players who have gone on to represent Australia at the highest levels.

A redevelopment of the club's pavilion is needed in order to provide universally accessible change facilities to service its two synthetic playing fields. The upgrades would include umpires' rooms and accessible change rooms. In addition, a new second storey will serve as a multi-purpose space available for use by the broader community. The works will significantly improve overall facility access with the installation of disability parking bays, ramps and accessible doorways.

The facility would also directly benefit a number of other local sporting and community groups.

**SEEKING:       \$2.1million**