

Candidate Biodiversity Survey Nillumbik Council Elections 2024

This survey was conducted by Nillumbio to give Nillumbik voters a window into Candidates' preferences and promises for safeguarding the unique biodiversity of this beautiful Country we live on.

The survey was sent to all Candidates with publicly available contact details.

Responses were received from Grant Brooker, John Dumaresq, John Graves, Alex Grimes, Henry Haszler, Sarah Hunter, Naomi Joiner, Kate McKay, Rosalie Morgan, Roma O'Callaghan, Murray Paternoster and Bill Penrose.

As a member of Nillumbio Wayne Kinrade did not participate.

We thank Zenith Psychology for providing the survey platform and support.

We understand and honour the fact that we are living within a system successfully cared for over millennia by the Indigenous people of Australia.

We live with respect for Elders across this land, and across time, and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung as Traditional Custodians of this area. Sovereignty was never ceded.

We also acknowledge the plants, animals, fungi, soils, waterways, star-filled sky... and learn from their intricate connections. We are motivated to reinvigorating their vitality.



Grant Brooker

Comments - summary

Understanding of biodiversity

		<i>Diversity is a byproduct of a thriving natural environment.</i>
		<i>The use of ESOs needs to be carefully communicated, & managed with end goals transparently specified.</i>
Question not answered		

Identifying local threats to biodiversity

Knowledge of powers of local government

Opportunities for biodiversity management

Commitment to ensuring biodiversity in Nillumbik is enhanced

Ranking of biodiversity in respect of funding priorities (out of six items) = No response

Candidate personal motivation to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik:

No statement provided

Grant Brooker – full comments

Understanding of the concept of biodiversity – score 4/5

Diversity is a byproduct of a thriving natural environment.

Identification of local threats to biodiversity – score 4/5

No comments

Power of local government to promote biodiversity – score 3.8/5

The use of ESOs needs to be carefully communicated , & managed with end goals transparently specified.

The backlash from the failed introduction of ESOs C101, & C81 in 2016 possibly led to the election of a Council wanting to advocate for greater "flexibility" in the application of the Rural Conservation Zone, an expansion of uses in the Green Wedge Zone , and a Green Wedge Management Plan that removed several protective conditions.

Opportunities to promote biodiversity in Nillumbik – score 3/5

No comments

How I will, as a Councillor, ensure biodiversity in the Shire is embraced - score

No response to this question

Grant's priorities for funding for **NEW** initiatives.

Should opportunities present in addition to the existing commitments to Strategic Objectives funded in the recurrent budget.

Grant did not respond to this question

John Dumaresq

Comments - summary

Understanding of biodiversity

Identifying local threats to biodiversity

Knowledge of powers of local government

Opportunities for biodiversity management

Commitment to ensuring biodiversity in Nillumbik is enhanced

Ranking of biodiversity in respect of funding priorities (out of six items) = Third

Candidate personal motivation to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik:

I am committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity, as highlighted by the Shires Biodiversity Strategy 2024-2034. This strategy aims to preserve the natural environment, reduce environmental degradation, and support indigenous species¹. The community values the natural environment, including trees, wildlife, and open spaces, and supports actions to protect these assets¹. Additionally, efforts like the Sugarloaf Link project focus on controlling invasive species such as deer to protect key habitats². The Council manages over 100 bushland and wetland reserves, emphasizing the importance of maintaining these areas for biodiversity conservation

John Dumaresq – full comments

Understanding of the concept of biodiversity – score 4/5

No comments

Identification of local threats to biodiversity – score 4/5

No comments

Power of local government to promote biodiversity – score 4/5

No comments

Opportunities to promote biodiversity in Nillumbik – score 4/5

No comments

How I will, as a Councillor, ensure biodiversity in the Shire is embraced – score 4/5

No comments

John's priorities for funding for **NEW** initiatives.

Should opportunities present in addition to the existing commitments to Strategic Objectives funded in the recurrent budget.

Community and connection initiatives

Place and space initiatives

Biodiversity protection

Other environment and conservation

Recycling and waste services, tourism and business support

Animal management, business performance, communications and customer service

John Graves

Comments - summary

Understanding of biodiversity

		There is a real need to educate the public on what constitutes biodiversity and how it is necessary for the survival of the human species - bees/food etc.
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Identifying local threats to biodiversity

		Education and information is crucial but how is the balancing act!
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Knowledge of powers of local government

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Opportunities for biodiversity management

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Commitment to ensuring biodiversity in Nillumbik is enhanced

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Ranking of biodiversity in respect of funding priorities (out of six items) = No rankings

Candidate personal motivation to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik:

This LGA has a quality of life and health outcomes that many others do not have. The broad natural environment characteristics of Nillumbik, including biodiversity underpins this quality of life and health. We, now, are responsible to do what we can do and with the knowledge we now, have to pass onto future generation what we benefit from living in Nillumbik. we are part of an invisible network where change in once area be it increased population or housing or hard surfaces housing or a new weedkiller produce unintended consequences.

Together these unintended consequences like climate change are becoming well known, others are not, and knowledge is being developed and needs to be highlighted. Trees matter put so do the small microbiological networks that supports tree health but we do not generally know they exist. Bees and pollinators matter - from purely self-interest point of food production.

John Graves – full comments

Understanding of the concept of biodiversity – score 4.5/5

There is a real need to educate the public on what constitutes biodiversity and how it is necessary for the survival of the human species - bees/food etc. Sometime this education needs to be carried on the ground rather than electronically in whatever form. That is why I disagreed rather than strongly disagreed. Obviously, the general public cohort might become avid environmentalists if they understood the real issues and the urgency. Survival of the human species has not gained traction although we are told that self-interest is how people vote.

Identification of local threats to biodiversity – score 4/5

The 2 neutral responses are because of the reasons given above - education and information is crucial but how is the balancing act!

Power of local government to promote biodiversity – score 4.8/5

No comments

Opportunities to promote biodiversity in Nillumbik – score 4.8/5

No comments

How I will, as a Councillor, ensure biodiversity in the Shire is embraced – score 4.8/5

No comments

John's priorities for funding for **NEW** initiatives.

Should opportunities present in addition to the existing commitments to Strategic Objectives funded in the recurrent budget.

John did not respond to this question

Alex Grimes

Comments - summary

Understanding of biodiversity

		<i>It's complicated, but animals and plants, it matters more whether they're native or indigenous than how many species there are.</i>
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Identifying local threats to biodiversity

		<i>Lack of access is a threat in the sense that if people don't see it, it doesn't exist, and therefore they won't vote to keep it around.</i>
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Knowledge of powers of local government

		<i>Paths and fenced off areas are a good way for people to see it and keep it protected.</i>
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Opportunities for biodiversity management

		<i>Any animal that causes pugging should be kept away from anywhere remotely ecologically sensitive. Dog parks need not compete with reserves</i>
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Commitment to ensuring biodiversity in Nillumbik is enhanced

		<i>Having taps and troughs along pathways are fine, especially if they keep horses away from waterways.</i>
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Ranking of biodiversity in respect of funding priorities (out of six items) = Second

Candidate personal motivation to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik:

I've lived here for over 30 years, and I've seen what happens when the controls over the Shire are weak. Massive houses going from fence to fence, trees being cleared with abandon, cats wiping out populations of local possums. The Biodiversity & Urban Tree Canopy strategies from the outgoing council are two things I'd love to see funded and implemented, if I am elected to council. They will give council the tools needed to protect and enhance the shire's biodiversity.

Alex Grimes – full comments

Understanding of the concept of biodiversity – score 4/5

It's complicated, but animals and plants, it matters more whether they're native or indigenous than how many species there are.

Identification of local threats to biodiversity – score 4.5/5

Lack of access is a threat in the sense that if people don't see it, it doesn't exist, and therefore they won't vote to keep it around.

Power of local government to promote biodiversity – score 3.5/5

Paths and fenced off areas are a good way for people to see it and keep it protected.

Opportunities to promote biodiversity in Nillumbik – score 4/5

Any animal that causes pugging should be kept away from anywhere remotely ecologically sensitive. Dog parks need not compete with reserves

How I will, as a Councillor, ensure biodiversity in the Shire is embraced – score 4.5/5

Having taps and troughs along pathways are fine, especially if they keep horses away from waterways.

Alex's priorities for funding for **NEW** initiatives.

Should opportunities present in addition to the existing commitments to Strategic Objectives funded in the recurrent budget.

Other environment and conservation

Biodiversity protection

Place and space initiatives

Community and connection initiatives

Recycling and waste services, tourism and business support

Animal management, business performance, communications and customer service

Henry Haszler

Comments - summary

Understanding of biodiversity

Identifying local threats to biodiversity

Knowledge of powers of local government

Opportunities for biodiversity management

Commitment to ensuring biodiversity in Nillumbik is enhanced

Ranking of biodiversity in respect of funding priorities (out of six items) = First

Candidate personal motivation to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik:

Unless we preserve our biodiversity the Planet is eventually doomed.

Henry Haszler– full comments

Understanding of the concept of biodiversity – score 4.5/5

No comments

Identification of local threats to biodiversity – score 4.5/5

No comments

Power of local government to promote biodiversity – score 4/5

No comments

Opportunities to promote biodiversity in Nillumbik – score 4/5

No comments

How I will, as a Councillor, ensure biodiversity in the Shire is embraced – score 4.5/5

No comments

Henry's priorities for funding for **NEW** initiatives.

Should opportunities present in addition to the existing commitments to Strategic Objectives funded in the recurrent budget.

Biodiversity protection

Community and connection initiatives

Place and space initiatives

Other environment and conservation

Recycling and waste services, tourism and business support

Animal management, business performance, communications and customer service

Sarah Hunter

Comments - summary

Understanding of biodiversity

Biodiversity relates to both flora and fauna. A very important part of this is habitat for indigenous species of animals including microorganisms, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

Identifying local threats to biodiversity

The council has a role to play in terms of education and planning decision making, to minimise the loss of biodiversity through vegetation removal and displacement by invasive species

Knowledge of powers of local government

Council should support the landowner and volunteer efforts to support biodiversity.

Opportunities for biodiversity management

Genuine efforts to increase and improve biodiversity are essential.

Commitment to ensuring biodiversity in Nillumbik is enhanced

Ranking of biodiversity in respect of funding priorities (out of six items) = First

Candidate personal motivation to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik:

In Nillumbik we have a largely intact green wedge. Our shire is the home to many incredible indigenous birds and animals. Contact with these animals brings wonder and meaning to my life. Seasonal moments like the flowering of the first wattle, wood ducks possessing tree hollows before nesting, the late spring arrival of the Jewel spider, (with its tiny polychromatic spikes), and the emergence of dragonflies after enough warmth and light add rhythm to my year. Once, a soaring eagle lifted me up in a moment of despair; I spotted gang gangs feeding in a roadside verge I look after; I came upon a mother and baby wombat foraging safely by our creek; I stood by a roadside echidna as it buried its head to disappear. Fleeting moments I will remember forever, and which make me part of a bigger whole.

We are at a time when biodiversity is under immense pressure worldwide. The greatest threat is apathy. I am committed to the protection of biodiversity to give other species a chance to survive. More than that, I am passionate about the improvement of biodiversity to help our flora and fauna, and us, thrive.

Sarah Hunter – full comments

Understanding of the concept of biodiversity – score 4.9/5

Biodiversity relates to both flora and fauna. A very important part of this is habit for indigenous species of animals including microorganisms, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. To provide good habitat we need to recognise environmental complexity including geology, water quality and decaying matter as well as as the more commonly considered fauna. We also need to take account of a greater range of organisms when revegetating or protecting the environment.

Identification of local threats to biodiversity – score 5/5

All of the above issues are significant concerns. The council has a role to play in terms of education and planning decision making, to minimise the loss of biodiversity through vegetation removal and displacement by invasive species. The council can support biodiversity through the ongoing support and increase in funds for the LMIP and support for community volunteer groups such as 'friends of' and Landcare groups. The council needs to provide leadership and demonstrate win-win biodiversity outcomes by implementing best practice management regimes. It needs to not only stop the decline in biodiversity but pro-actively build the biodiversity resource through revegetation programs in public open space, on rural roadsides, and in urban areas. This can be nuanced, fire responsive, and beautiful as well as providing utilitarian benefits include wind attenuation and shelter during extreme weather conditions.

Power of local government to promote biodiversity – score 4.9/5

Council should support the landowner and volunteer efforts to support biodiversity. As noted in the survey they should also take direct action as a body of government to control invasive species, and in my opinion should be directly funding revegetation programs that take account of relevant location specific details (EVC's, fire risk, spatial context etc) to enhance biodiversity but also aim to deliver other benefits to residents and ratepayers including wind attenuation, shade and shelter and beautification

Opportunities to promote biodiversity in Nillumbik – score 4.9/5

Genuine efforts to increase and improve biodiversity are essential. These include habitat links, efforts to protect water quality and reduce flood risk through WSUD and the engagement of the community in biodiversity based activities that build understanding and stewardship of nature and biodiversity.

How I will, as a Councillor, ensure biodiversity in the Shire is embraced

Water facilities for dogs and horses are not related to biodiversity management.

Sarah's priorities for funding for **NEW** initiatives.

Should opportunities present in addition to the existing commitments to Strategic Objectives funded in the recurrent budget.

Biodiversity protection

Other environment and conservation

Community and connection initiatives

Place and space initiatives

Animal management, business performance, communications and customer service

Recycling and waste services, tourism and business support



Naomi Joiner

Comments - summary

Understanding of biodiversity

Identifying local threats to biodiversity

Knowledge of powers of local government

Opportunities for biodiversity management

Commitment to ensuring biodiversity in Nillumbik is enhanced

Ranking of biodiversity in respect of funding priorities (out of six items) = Fourth

Candidate personal motivation to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik:

Biodiversity in our local government area should be thriving as we're blessed not to be surrounded by concrete. We could be doing better by supporting local farmers and promoting eating local, in season foods. Bees are so integral to biodiversity, seeing the decline in bee populations and the challenges that face them is highly concerning and an area that should be focussed on more. Better education in the products we buy to make sure their production is not contributing to the destruction of habitat elsewhere. These issues are key motivators to help us do better to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Naomi Joiner – full comments

Understanding of the concept of biodiversity – score 3.5/5

No comments

Identification of local threats to biodiversity – score 4/5

No comments

Power of local government to promote biodiversity - score 4/5

No comments

Opportunities to promote biodiversity in Nillumbik – score 4/5

No comments

How I will, as a Councillor, ensure biodiversity in the Shire is embraced – score 4/5

No comments

Naomi's priorities for funding for **NEW** initiatives.

Should opportunities present in addition to the existing commitments to Strategic Objectives funded in the recurrent budget.

Community and connection initiatives

Recycling and waste services, tourism and business support

Other environment and conservation

Biodiversity protection

Animal management, business performance, communications and customer service

Place and space initiatives



Kate McKay

Comments - summary

Understanding of biodiversity

Identifying local threats to biodiversity

Knowledge of powers of local government

Opportunities for biodiversity management

Commitment to ensuring biodiversity in Nillumbik is enhanced

		<i>I don't support feeding birds due to reliance and spreading of disease.</i>
		<i>I don't believe that all public reserves need to necessarily accommodate multiple interests if not appropriate to the area/ public reserve. Dog parks. Pro's and cons.</i>

Ranking of biodiversity in respect of funding priorities (out of six items) = Second

Candidate personal motivation to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik:

I love living in this area with the green spaces, trees and wildlife. We are lucky to have our beautiful surround and it needs to be protected. A healthy environment and biodiversity increases quality of life and helps us enjoy where we live. As a community we need to ensure we protect our green spaces, waterways and trees into the future. It is precious and once green space is removed it is near impossible to get back. I used to live in Moorabbin and the only birds I saw for 8 years were pigeons and myna's so I have seen and understand what this looks like. I have been motivated by frustration at all levels of successive governments letting down the residents in regards to protecting our environment and climate change and feel motivated to put myself forward to advocate for the precious environment and biodiversity of Nillumbik.

Kate McKay – full comments

Understanding of the concept of biodiversity – score 4.5/5

No comments

Identification of local threats to biodiversity – score 4/5

No comments

Power of local government to promote biodiversity – score 4.9/5

I don't support feeding birds due to reliance and spreading of disease. In regards to building/ upgrading pathways near waterways. I would need to investigate into the benefit/risk of this. Access is good but building/ disrupting the environment can have a negative impact.

Opportunities to promote biodiversity in Nillumbik – score 4.8/5

I don't believe that all public reserves need to necessarily accommodate multiple interests if not appropriate to the area/ public reserve. Dog parks. Pro's and cons. I don't think most dog owners patronise them and I'm not sure is dissuades dog owners from going to other open spaces with their dog. They're good to have but I think we probably have enough.

How I will, as a Councillor, ensure biodiversity in the Shire is embraced – score 4.8/5

So long as those facilities are troughs or bowls (for dog and horse access to water), not waterways, it should be okay.

Comment on funding question:

This was very difficult to answer. These are my answers prior to speaking to experts and stakeholders or being briefed regarding the current state of the activity categories

Kate's priorities for funding for **NEW** initiatives.

Should opportunities present in addition to the existing commitments to Strategic Objectives funded in the recurrent budget.

Community and connection initiatives

Biodiversity protection

Place and space initiatives

Other environment and conservation

Recycling and waste services, tourism and business support

Animal management, business performance, communications and customer service

Rosalie Morgan

Comments - summary

Understanding of biodiversity

		<i>I support a broadening on the focus on Council's goal for tree canopy cover</i>
<i>Identifying local threats to biodiversity</i>		<i>The housing targets set by state government for Nillumbik will place more pressure on our local biodiversity and will require careful planning to prioritise urban infill in areas away from those high value green wedge locations.</i>
<i>Knowledge of powers of local government</i>		<i>Our community is more likely to care about places that they have a relationship with</i>
<i>Opportunities for biodiversity management</i>		
<i>Commitment to ensuring biodiversity in Nillumbik is enhanced</i>		

Ranking of biodiversity in respect of funding priorities (out of six items) = Second

Candidate personal motivation to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik:

I am motivated to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik because the plants and animals, and the systems they live in, have no voice – they rely on people who care about them to be their voice and advocate for their protection. As a parent and teacher of young people., I want to be able to say that I am a proactive guardian of the natural environment in my areas. We are lucky in Nillumbik to have a unique LGA thanks to high biodiversity, but it's under immense pressure and I want to fight back- to improve rather than degrade, to see a boost over a decline, and see people's mental and physical health flourish through connection to Country.

Rosalie Morgan – full comments

Understanding of the concept of biodiversity – score 4/5

I support a broadening on the focus on Council's goal for tree canopy cover, to include indigenous vegetation at all levels (ground, mid-storey and canopy) as having equal importance

Identification of local threats to biodiversity – score 4.5/5

The housing targets set by state government for Nillumbik will place more pressure on our local biodiversity and will require careful planning to prioritise urban infill in areas away from those high value green wedge locations.

I believe that not all conservation reserves need to be accessible to people for recreation purposes.

Power of local government to promote biodiversity – score 4.5/5

Our community is more likely to care about places that they have a relationship with. Promoting access to places with high value biodiversity need to be balanced with the impact that increased infrastructure and visitation has on these environments.

I am particularly concerned about residents on lifestyle properties accessing water from local creeks for garden irrigation purposes.

Opportunities to promote biodiversity in Nillumbik – score 4.5/5

No comments

How I will, as a Councillor, ensure biodiversity in the Shire is embraced – score 5/5

No comments

Comment on funding question

The protection and enhancement of our biodiversity in the face of climate change requires a contribution from our whole community – not just passionate environmental groups. As such I strongly support community development and connectedness initiatives. This will build the capacity for environmental groups to engage and educate a wider cross-section of community to value and boost biodiversity in our public reserves, private gardens, urban streetscapes and roadside verges.

Rosalie's priorities for funding for **NEW** initiatives.

Should opportunities present in addition to the existing commitments to Strategic Objectives funded in the recurrent budget.

Community and connection initiatives

Biodiversity protection

Place and space initiatives

Other environment and conservation

Recycling and waste services, tourism and business support

Animal management, business performance, communications and customer service



Roma O'Callaghan

Comments - summary

Understanding of biodiversity

Identifying local threats to biodiversity

Knowledge of powers of local government

Opportunities for biodiversity management

Commitment to ensuring biodiversity in Nillumbik is enhanced

		<i>I'm not sufficiently expert to know whether bird feeding stations might not just encourage non indigenous birds.</i>
		<i>Once again I don't feel sufficiently expert to know whether improving facilities for dogs and horses actually attracts more to our municipality and might be detrimental in the overall scheme.</i>

Ranking of biodiversity in respect of funding priorities (out of six items) = No ranking

Candidate personal motivation to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik:

To retain Nillumbik as the vital Green Wedge that it is, to enable, protect and demonstrate the value of indigenous biodiversity in the broader metropolitan area.

Roma O'Callaghan – full comments

Understanding of the concept of biodiversity – score 4/5

No comments

Identification of local threats to biodiversity – score 4/5

No comments

Power of local government to promote biodiversity – score 4/5

I'm not sufficiently expert to know whether bird feeding stations might not just encourage non indigenous birds.

Opportunities to promote biodiversity in Nillumbik – score 4/5

No comments

How I will, as a Councillor, ensure biodiversity in the Shire is embraced – score 4.5/5

Once again I don't feel sufficiently expert to know whether improving facilities for dogs and horses actually attracts more to our municipality and might be detrimental in the overall scheme.

Comment on funding question

Overall I don't feel I have sufficient knowledge yet to be able to make such choices. I would need to read more and listen to more experts in the field. Of course all of the above are items Council should be supporting - it's the balance that is needed. I would need to know what the impact on more or less funding in any area has on the overall environment. To be honest my primary reason for standing is to highlight the challenge of finding more housing in Nillumbik but not at the expense of too much impact on the Green Wedge. Organisations such as yours are vital to the community discussion and education to help in this challenge.

Roma's priorities for funding for
NEW initiatives.

Should opportunities present in addition to the existing commitments to Strategic Objectives funded in the recurrent budget.

Roma did not rank these items.

Murray Paternoster

Comments - summary

Understanding of biodiversity

Identifying local threats to biodiversity

Knowledge of powers of local government

Opportunities for biodiversity management

Commitment to ensuring biodiversity in Nillumbik is enhanced

Ranking of biodiversity in respect of funding priorities (out of six items) = No response

Candidate personal motivation to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik:

No statement provided

Murray Paternoster – full comments

Understanding of the concept of biodiversity – score 3/5

No comments

Identification of local threats to biodiversity – score 4/5

No comments

Power of local government to promote biodiversity – score 4/5

No comments

Opportunities to promote biodiversity in Nillumbik – score 3/5

No comments

How I will, as a Councillor, ensure biodiversity in the Shire is embraced – score 4/5

No comments

Murray's priorities for funding for **NEW** initiatives.

Should opportunities present in addition to the existing commitments to Strategic Objectives funded in the recurrent budget.

Murray did not respond to this question

Bill Penrose

Comments - summary

Understanding of biodiversity

		<i>Question 3 is hard to interpret. The number of visitors does affect the environment, but too many damages it, not protect it</i>
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Identifying local threats to biodiversity

		<i>Question 4 indicates a double edged sword, too many facilities, damages the areas and may attract more visitors than the area can sustain.</i>
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Knowledge of powers of local government

		<i>Question 4 is not supported as birds require the skills to find their own food and hand feeding is not recommended.</i>
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Opportunities for biodiversity management

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Commitment to ensuring biodiversity in Nillumbik is enhanced

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Ranking of biodiversity in respect of funding priorities (out of six items) = Second

Candidate personal motivation to protect and enhance biodiversity in Nillumbik:

I have lived here for 40 years and would like to see the area become a better GREEN WEDGE. For the past 35 years I have been involved with many groups and campaigns. As a former Mayor and councillor for 10 years, I am disappointed by the lack of progress recent councils have made in supporting our GREEN WEDGE. I believe in asking the councillors to work as a team and actively engaging with our community by listening to all groups. Many of you chose to live here because of our beautiful environment, fresh air, open green spaces, trees, indigenous fauna, farm animals, and a better quality of life for your pets and family. In the past, dedicated councillors and interested ratepayers have made us the premier GREEN WEDGE around Melbourne, but more is to be done. Despite being close to Melbourne, we enjoy an exceptional living area that we need to preserve for us and all visitors to enjoy. Unfortunately, roadside and private land weeds are worsening, illegal vegetation removal persists, and developers and state pressures push for unwanted subdivisions.

Bill Penrose– full comments

Understanding of the concept of biodiversity – score 3.5/5

Question 3 is hard to interpret. The number of visitors does affect the environment, but too many damages it, not protect it

Identification of local threats to biodiversity – score 4.5/5

Question 4 indicates a double edged sword, too many facilities, damages the areas and may attract more visitors than the area can sustain.

Power of local government to promote biodiversity – score 4/5

Question 4 is not supported as birds require the skills to find their own food and hand feeding is not recommended.

Opportunities to promote biodiversity in Nillumbik – score 4.5/5

No comments

How I will, as a Councillor, ensure biodiversity in the Shire is embraced – score 4.9/5

No comments

Comment on funding:

\$100K will not make much difference to a \$106M budget, bigger ideas are required.

Bill's priorities for funding for **NEW** initiatives.

Should opportunities present in addition to the existing commitments to Strategic Objectives funded in the recurrent budget.

Other environment and conservation

Biodiversity protection

Community and connection initiatives

Place and space initiatives

Recycling and waste services, tourism and business support

Animal management, business performance, communications and customer service