

Nillumbik Election Candidate Biodiversity Questionnaire 2024

We thank you for standing for council. We appreciate your commitment to Nillumbik's future.

Everyone who completes the survey will have their profile and short Motivation statement shared on our community platform and to our email list.

As the election approaches, our survey hopes to serve as a bridge between your environmental commitment and the community's understanding. Please give Nillumbik voters a window into your preferences and promises for safeguarding the unique biodiversity of this beautiful Country we live on. Your contribution is not just appreciated, it's crucial, as **environmental issues significantly influence voter perspectives in Nillumbik.**

We're asking 7 questions (approx 10-15 mins) and there's space to elaborate on your responses if you wish.

Nillumbik community has a strong and active culture of volunteer stewardship of the land, its soils, waterways, indigenous plants, fungi and creatures. We love the diverse plant and animal life who share this space with us. Our peri-urban environment, characterised by a patchwork of urban and rural features, national parks, reserves, and bush blocks is truly unique.

We consider that Nillumbik Shire Council must prioritise biodiversity through conservation, protection and reinvigoration of the natural environment, careful attention to soil and waterways, and encouraging growth and flourishing of indigenous flora and fauna.

Here are Nillumbik Council's two goal sets in its 2024-2034 Biodiversity Strategy which utilises 14 indicators to assist in tracking successful progress towards achieving those goals. For the next 4 years Council will endorse an annual implementation plan that lists the action that will be prioritised that year. The Year 1 Biodiversity Implementation Plan (2024-25) will be considered at one of the

first Council Meetings of the new Council (we've shared some helpful reading at the end of this page, and at the end of the survey, please direct queries to nillumbio@email.org.au for any other info)

4.2 Our overarching goals, targets and indicators

We have two overarching goals and ambitious associated targets guiding Council's investment and focus:

Goal 1 – Biodiversity in Nillumbik is healthy

i.e. Nillumbik has functioning plant and animal populations, improved habitats and resilient ecosystems.

Target: Achieve a net gain in the overall extent, connectivity and condition of habitat by 2034

Indicators include:

1. Extent of native vegetation (based on Ecological Vegetation Classes). Measured by Victorian Government approximately every 10 years. Target: net gain.
2. Extent of tree canopy cover (2 metres+ in height). Measured every 4 years. Target: No net loss.
3. Number of new local extinctions. Target: zero (i.e. safeguard the persistence of species).
Source: VBA and ALA.
4. Proportion of rural and urban Forest Health monitoring sites that three or more of the following native fauna Forest Health indicator species are detected at: *Brush-tailed Phascogale, Eastern Whipbird, Powerful Owl, Sacred Kingfisher, Scarlet Robin, Southern Boobook, White-throated Nightjar, White-throated Treecreeper, Gang-Gang Cockatoo and Superb Lyrebird.* Measured annually. Target: increase.
5. Proportion of rural and urban Forest Health monitoring sites that rabbits and/or foxes are detected at. Measured annually. Target: decrease.
6. Proportion of Council bushland reserves ranked as being of national, state, regional, local or basic conservation significance. Target: Maintain or improve ranking of each reserve.
7. Scored condition of habitat in Council bushland reserves, based on an adapted habitat hectares assessment at point locations (with each reserve assessed every three years on a rolling rotation). Target: Improved condition.
8. Number of indigenous plants planted on Council land (in streets, parks and reserves). Target: increase.
9. Number of partners working collaboratively to support biodiversity gain. Target: 20+

Image courtesy of Deb Oliver





Goal 2 – Nillumbik’s community values and cares for nature

i.e. Nillumbik’s community understand the importance of biodiversity and value nature, and as a result are more likely to help care for it. Caring (and acting to protect) refers to activities that directly protect or enhance biodiversity such as environmental volunteering, planting native gardens, protecting local waterways, placing a conservation covenant on land, controlling pest species, revegetating, purchasing green products, responsible pet ownership, and/or getting involved in citizen science monitoring.

Target: That 70 per cent of Nillumbik residents care for nature by 2034

Indicators include:

1. Percentage of people acting to care for/protect Nillumbik’s natural environment. (Source: Annual community survey) Target: increase
2. Number of nature/environment/land management community-focused programs/events delivered and number of attendees. Target: increased number of attendees
3. Number of properties supported by Council to undertake biodiversity actions. Target: increase
4. Number and total area of permanently protected areas of private land (Trust for Nature covenants). Target: increase
5. Number of indigenous plants sold by Edendale Indigenous Plant Nursery. Target: 80,000 per year, including 50 per cent for local revegetation projects.

Indicators

We’ve included indicators to help track our progress towards achieving our overarching goals and targets.

Over the life of the Strategy we may review and update our indicators, if more effective options emerge.

What we will do | 33

Thank you for being a voice for Nillumbik's biodiversity.

Helpful resources

1. Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy 2024-2034

<https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Explore/Environment/Nillumbik-Biodiversity-Strategy-2024-2034>

2. UN Convention of Biological Diversity *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*, Dec 2022

<https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-final-text-kunming-montreal-gbf-221222>

3. 2021 Australian State of the Environment report. Read the report. Make an impact. Heal Country.

soe.dcceew.gov.au/biodiversity/introduction

PRESS NEXT TO LAUNCH THE SURVEY

There are 13 questions in this survey.

Group 1

1. Understanding the concept of biodiversity is foundational for any discussion about conservation and environmental management at a local government, state, national and global level as biodiversity is fundamental to the health of our planet.

Do you agree or disagree that the following are contributors to biodiversity

*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| The variety and variability of life on Earth | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The number of different species of animals | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The number of visitors to conservation reserves | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The number of different species of microorganisms | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The number of plants from around Australia that enhance the beauty of reserves | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

This is a question help text.

Feel free to elaborate on your response here (100 words max)

Please write your answer here:

This is a question help text.

2. Identifying local threats to biodiversity is critical for implementing effective conservation and biodiversity enhancement strategies.

Local threats to biodiversity in the Shire of Nillumbik include:

*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Habitat loss due to urban development and infrastructure expansion | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Habitat loss due to disruption of ecosystems and reduced space for indigenous flora and fauna | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Invasive species, such as non-native plants and animals | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lack of access to amenities (e.g., toilets, BBQs, and parking spaces) in conservation reserves so community can better engage with biodiversity | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Increased fire intensity and frequency | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Feel free to elaborate on your response here (100 words max)

Please write your answer here:

This is a question help text.

Group 2

3. Local governments have specific powers that can be leveraged to promote biodiversity in areas like Nillumbik.

Local government powers that could be further applied to enhance biodiversity in the Shire include:

*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Application of the local planning scheme (e.g. enhanced use of Environmental Significance Overlays - ESOs) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increase access to biodiversity near waterways by building and upgrading pathways | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Council programs to control invasive species (e.g., deer, rabbits, and weeds) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Enable younger members of the community to connect with biodiversity by installing bird feeding stations throughout the Shire | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**Strongly
Agree**

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

**Strongly
Disagree**

**Support of community
engagement through
local revegetation and
citizen science projects**



This is a question help text.

Feel free to elaborate on your response here (100 words max)

Please write your answer here:

This is a question help text.

4. The peri-urban setting of the Shire of Nillumbik presents opportunities for local biodiversity management which include:

*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Creating links between fragmented habitat areas | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increase community land available for dog parks | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Community engagement to foster local habitat stewardship programs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Integrating green infrastructure, such as water-sensitive urban design, into urban planning | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ensure public reserves accommodate a range of community interests, including the needs of horse riders | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

This is a question help text.

Feel free to elaborate on your response here (100 words max)

Please write your answer here:

This is a question help text.

Group 3

5. How will you, as a Councillor, ensure biodiversity in the Shire is enhanced?

I will engage with activities to enhance biodiversity including:

*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Listening to constituent concerns about biodiversity decline and advocate on their behalf | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Make decisions reflecting the community's needs and aspirations for biodiversity enhancement | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Increase dog and horse owner access to water facilities for their animals in public reserves | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Apply an understanding of biodiversity enhancement needs when overseeing local policy, strategies and planning scheme implementation | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Strongly Agree **Agree** **Neutral** **Disagree** **Strongly Disagree**

Work with community groups to advocate for biodiversity enhancement and secure funding and support for local projects

This is a question help text.

Feel free to elaborate on your response here (100 words max)

Please write your answer here:

This is a question help text.

6. Nillumbik Council has a total recurrent budget of around \$106 m per annum. Strategic Objective Area activity categories are specified in the 2024-25 Council Budget – see <https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/budget-2024>, pp 12-19.

Imagine you had an extra \$100,000 for NEW initiatives. Number the ideas below in order of your spending preference.

* 1 = The idea you'd fund the most

* 6 = The idea you'd fund the least

*

Please write your answer(s) here:

Community and connection initiatives:

Community support services, community development, disability, early services, library and community education, maternal and child health, and school crossings

Place and space initiatives:

Arts and culture, building safety and regulation, leisure facilities and services, and local laws and parking, parks and reserves maintenance, property and assets management, road maintenance, statutory planning, strategic planning)

Sustainable & resilient initiatives:

Biodiversity protection

Sustainable & resilient initiatives:

Other environment & conservation (e.g., environmental planning and policy, education & events, water quality & conservation, land management advice, energy efficiency programs)

Other sustainable and resilient activities:

Recycling and waste services, tourism and business support

Responsible and accountable initiatives:

Animal management, business transformation and performance, communications, customer service, emergency management

This is a question help text.

Feel free to elaborate on your response here (100 words max)

Please write your answer here:

This is a question help text.

7. What motivates you personally to protect and enhance biodiversity in the Shire of Nillumbik?
(200 words max)

*

Please write your answer here:

This answer will be used for your Statement upon completion of the questionnaire

**Thank you for completing this survey and
supporting Nillumbik's biodiversity**

Reading

1. Nillumbik Biodiversity Strategy 2024-2034
<https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Explore/Environment/Nillumbik-Biodiversity-Strategy-2024-2034>
2. UN Convention of Biological Diversity *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*, Dec 2022
<https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-final-text-kunming-montreal-gbf-221222>
3. 2021 Australian State of the Environment report. [Read the report](#). Make an impact. Heal Country.

Please email queries to nillumbio@email.org.au

2024-10-04 – 15:47

Submit your survey.

Thank you for completing this survey.