

Neighbourhood Character Strategy – First round of engagement (28 March to 8 May 2022) – Responses to the survey

ID No.	2 nd area selected	Area selected	Street selected	5 words	What do you like about the character of this neighbourhood?								Specific features	Recommended design	Final feedback	First Name	Last Name
					B F	S B	H	V	S L	T	V	S	Other				
															nature of township of St Andrews. □□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□		
20355															Vegetation and gardens are synonymous with Eltham character. Overdevelopment destroys old gardens and replaces it with minimal small shrubs and grasses, if anything. Front and back gardens on blocks are important Eltham without mature trees is just any old suburb, not "leafy Eltham". Eltham's history is diverse, so maintaining the mud brick homes, workers cottages and post-war styles pays respect to this history,		
20354	1	Hurstbridge		Casual, country unique - sitting well in the landscape and trees			1	1		1	1			Organic, unique with lots of trees and a variety of low rise built forms. Good size blocks. remain low rise. Space left for substantial trees. Existing tree preserved. Block retain their size.	What makes this area special and unique - I have lived here most of my life- are the opportunities to interact with nature. These are called "tree change" suburbs because the magnificent canopies are largely intact, especially on the hills. Residents receive huge mental health benefits from the walking trails, the river and the amazing interactions with wildlife. This MUST be protected. The heritage of the First People and the Arts heritage needs to be enhanced and built upon. Planning guidelines need to remain strong to prevent over development and poor quality developments, which have been seen in the area, where you see a bald hillside and extensive reduction in native vegetation. Anywhere can look like an ugly, overbuilt suburb if you let it. The Diamond Valley is a gem. Eltham is still a great place despite some bad outcomes. The State Government needs to change the laws to create better outcomes in VCAT. The council needs to argue for sympathetic, sustainable, environmentally sound development where appropriate. And say nowhere this is not the case.		
20353															With the school on Diamond street the rubbish and traffic this brings, present a poor neighbourhood character.		
20352																	
20351															We need to decide whether we wish to preserve the charm, character and amenability of Diamond creek as it is now or allow the destruction of this in favour of the bland featureless of the new outer suburbs. We must not allow this.		

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20350																Make sure the public bins are emptied regularly. And the grass needs cutting a lot more.		
20349																Like to see more environmentally sustainable design and construction, more light coloured roofs instead of heat absorbing darker coloured roofs that are required by the current Nillumbik planning scheme, that are in turn less sustainable than lighter coloured roofs.		
20348																There are 'new' homes arriving in our neighbourhood. Some of the original homes are being demolished or modernised. Generally, the new homes and architecture has a Georgian influence or standard brick veneer look. This style does not fit in with this area & ultimately the area will lose its character & become a hodge-dodge of buildings that don't relate to each other or the environment. More generally Eltham has some amazing Mudbrick buildings (Allistair Knox). I've always thought how amazing it would be if local government supported & encouraged a revival of this building type so continue the legacy. Sustainable buildings from sustainable materials could be what Nillumbik is renowned for rather than becoming just another outer Melbourne Suburb.		
20347																		
20346																We have to consider wildlife corridors. Maintain the tree coverage we already have. Permit only sustainable living buildings. Join our neighbourhoods with good walking and riding infrastructure. We must find ways to have tiny home structures built in this shire. Providing affordable homes. I could go on but you must get my drift.		
20345																Putting more dwellings on a single block will make more traffic on an already busy street and take away the current street appeal and buildings are not almost on the street		
20344																		
20343																The views from Porter Street hill are across the valley to South Eltham are of trees and green and these should not be obscured by any high buildings on Porter Street! The open, spacious, well		

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																vegetated feel of the area is enhanced by predominantly single level homes which do not have front fences, and neighbours stop and chat when walking by so it is a friendly neighbourhood. Thornton Street Reserve is a haven of trees and green space and a magnet for families, and dog walkers, and the track through it provides a heart pumping steep workout for walkers and cyclists. The residents in Thornton Street fought hard to prevent a recent subdivision, which was finally approved by VCAT with some modifications, but the resulting built form takes up almost the whole block, trees have been removed and as feared, cars regularly block the road. Previous subdivisions were more sympathetic to the open, spacious and vegetated bushy character of the street.		
20341																		
20340	1	North Warrandyte		Rural bushland.				1	1	1	1	1		Large blocks lots of natural bush	Encouraging native gardens, less concrete speed humps to slow traffic as many wallabies are being killed.	This is a beautiful natural environment with abundant wildlife we need this type of environment. Please maintain it.		
20339																Research has a new group of 13 to 16yo (6/7) who are out of control at the shops with the toilet block their hangout. The new toilets are about to be completely tagged by this group. They use the new benches to eat takeaway & have never put their rubbish in the bin & choose to throw bottles to smash or throw in the creek. Please double rubbish bins to suit table usage. CFA carpark was always a shared carpark for park playground use, this limits its usage & forces park visitors to use the shops whilst CFA is not in use. CFA sign is offensive		
20338	1	St Andrews		Semi-rural and natural boundary	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		Native/indigenous tree/vegetation	No developments can	In areas of lower population density it is important to keep all housing consistent with the environment within which it sits. Multi storey developments are		

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				between urban and rural lifestyle. Any development would impact wildlife and would also put more people at risk during bushfire events.										on unique to this area. Abundant wildlife.	improve this area, in fact large tracts need to be kept pristine and preserved for wildlife and future generations.	inappropriate, even higher density style living is inappropriate. There is little infrastructure to support increase in residential population. Roads are narrow and there is NO public transport. The closest retail supplies for food is in Hurstbridge. I believe we need to preserve such areas to allow that corridor and buffer for the wildlife that abounds this area and keep any development north of Diamond Creek to a minimum.		
20335																Give neighbourhood character the priority it deserves in dealing with planning applications		
20334																There have been a number of studies into the character of Hurstbridge starting with the Henshall-Hansen study for the then Shire of Eltham. Unfortunately these tend to be "Feel Good." reports and have no teeth. Hurstbridge character was well defined in the creation of 'Precincts' such as semi-bush, bush garden, and the preparation of DD05 (Schedule 5 to the Design and Development Overlay. Also the Hurstbridge Design Guidelines-Heidelberg-Kinglake Road. While these are all good initiatives they seem to be ignored when planning applications are assessed. All these policies should be referenced in the Planning Scheme and applied to any development. I have attended consultative meetings regarding development proposals and been disgusted at the way the above guidelines have been arbitrarily dismissed. This has led to the gradual destruction of the town's character, especially in the main road along with an increase in the number of dual occupancies in the residential areas. There are signs in place urging people to visit historic Hurstbridge. Maybe the words "Before it Disappears" should be added.		
20333																Maintain green wedge.		

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20332																More people are coming to Plenty with cafe and access the Gorge however there are limited footpaths and bike tracks in and around the area.		
20331																		
20330																I am quite happy to stick with the current Nillumbik Precinct SB3 https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/planning/planning-for-our-shire/housing-amp-character/hn_sb3_eltham.pdf Any development should serve to continue the indigenous tree canopy as part of a flowing bushland landscape. Retain and replant indigenous canopy trees within the street verge in an informal layout.		
20329																Eltham is a popular place to live because of its well-spaced green outlook, parks and beautiful blocks of land with a mix of housing styles. This is changing as old homes are sold and replaced by 2 or 3 townhouses on a block or worse - apartment buildings. They look ugly, cause extra traffic and devalue our suburb.		
20328	1	Hurstbridge	I would like to see some single storey low cost housing available now that you have decided not to do Graysharps road development	quiet country town				1	1					shops all look as if they belong due to the restoration of the older buildings	provide single storey housing near the township for people with disabilities	I think most people live in the Nillumbik area because of its trees, clean air and slower pace. I would like to see this preserved and not have roads widened or more traffic. There must be protection for native animals and retention of green wedge. I think low cost housing one level with a small backyard for people with disabilities is really needed in Hurstbridge. It only has housing of this sort for over 55 year olds.		
20327																We love how Hurstbridge feels like a small village & community. We love being surrounded by trees and nature. Love the big blocks and all the wildlife. We would be devastated if it started to be developed & built up. The Main Street needs to be kept similar with the heritage buildings and kept a county town/ village feel. It's so important to protect the wildlife and their homes & all the farm land. Please don't let it be subdivided. Please keep Hurstbridge beautiful.		

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20326																		
20325																I believe that the neighbourhood character is made by the people who live there not by specific setback requirements or subdivision rules. If no one can afford to remain in the area and locals are progressively priced out of the neighbourhood then the character will fade even if it looks the same		
20324																Do not allow building to have more than a ground and first floor.		
20323	1	Wattle Glen		A village but there is too much disconnection between the station and the hub				1		1				It retains what the Green Wedge is about - the east aspect on the Kangaroo Ground Rd is very pretty.	An attractive way to link the station to the village. The station building could be renovated to be more appealing.	The Diamond Creek Trail is a boon to the area. The access points from towns and stations need to be facilitated for pedestrians and need to be linked beautifully to the relevant towns and villages.		
20322	1	Eltham	The area behind the shopping precinct	Overdeveloped, square concrete, no trees									Nothing, now. It has lost its character.	Not any more - the huge multi-dwelling developments are destroying the neighbourhood feel of central Eltham	Stop the crowding in of high density, multi-storey concrete fortresses from edge to edge of blocks leaving no room for trees	Vital to maintain the unique characteristics of our special town to preserve its architecture, heritage, green space and high liveability. No more huge high density multi-dwelling developments - there are enough already - we will become like Doncaster if allowed to continue apace.		
20321																		
20318																Front fences allowed where appropriate. Should not be brick monoliths that form a fortified encampment look. E.g. some on Broad Gulley road. Picket or similar fences would blend in with older Diamond Creek. There should be a transition of subdivision block		

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																sizes to the UGB. Those on the edges should be larger and should have a homestead character.		
20317	1	Eltham1	Bible Street	Busy, dangerous, bland, eclectic, open							1			Large blocks & proximity to township are being used by developers to progressively change the streetscape with higher density housing on multiple levels. Parking on the road forces Bible it to be single lane but speed/size of cars does not accommodate	Prevent multi-levelled apartments & cutting down of remaining vegetation, increase vegetation especially trees, consider speed humps or contained roadside parking			
20316	1	Diamond Creek		No new developments						1				No	No development	Council needs to make a decision now, on the maximum population size of Nillumbik. I consider that number was passed ten years ago. Enhancing the quality of life for the majority of current residents needs to be the guiding philosophy behind any planning decision.		
20315	1	Eltham	Main Road - North of the Town	I don't like the number of units on Main Road, it feels out of character with Eltham.														
20314																Time and again, local residents, rate payers, the Shire's primary community, are in unison in identifying the natural features of our local environment as top of the list when it comes to neighbourhood character. I truly hope that council is		

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																genuinely listening and will act as the community's nominated representatives in protecting this core priority. If the natural character of our neighbourhood is allowed to be incrementally undermined, removed, cut down, cleared and diminished, eventually that unique character will be lost and Nillumbik will become 'just another shire'.		
20311																		
20309																Apart from town zone, preference should be given to single level dwellings to encourage downsizing, increase privacy and to blend in with the landscape		
20308																Walther Withers reserve- tradies stop to have lunch here, families with small children stop for picnics and a wander, people walk their dogs. I feel the park needs a diagonal pathway with picnic benches. People sit on logs instead. There are many townhouses and apartments in close proximity to this park and it would benefit these residents as well.		
20306																To keep it just the way it is ♥		
20305																Greater emphasis on improving plant biodiversity in the area, and opening up spaces like the verge for native and productive plants, such as fruit trees. Many neighbours are supporting the community with street libraries and pantries. Street plantings should also be opened up to offering food sources for the community in public spaces. Q. 16 only permits one option for identity? Intersectionality needs to be considered, and a person can be LGBTIQ+ and have a disability.		
20304																Council needs to look at the Eltham town centre as Not A Village but an outer metro suburb		
20303																What about the rest of Yarrambat? Very subjective areas chosen		
20302																Loud music is also destroying the family feel of Eltham. We have a neighbour that often plays loud music from their house up until 11:00pm, and have informed the police of their intent and thus it is therefore OK according to the letter of the law. Turning music down at 11:00pm worked many years		

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																ago when people were working 9-5, Monday to Friday. Nowadays however, people are working all sorts of days and shifts, and thus if somebody starts work at 3:00am on a Sunday morning, allowing their neighbour to have a party through until 11:00pm with loud music is disrespectful and rude! The loud music/noise rule should be changed to 10:00pm to reflect the times.		
20301																The path needs to be extended from the pub to Long Gully road. It is a dangerous piece of the main road to walk on. The fence outside the pub needs to be extended to the carpark. The area opposite the pub (where the empty piece of land is) needs to be tidied up, the asphalt is a mess. The piece of nature strip in front of some of the houses from the corner of Bakehouse Rd to Merritt's Rd would look much better if tidied up and landscaped so that it doesn't get overgrown. A gravel path through there would be nice. The path between the football club and tennis club would also benefit from landscaping and connecting somehow with the reserve on bishops road.		
20300	1	Eltham	The whole of Eltham is starting to lose its appeal with the poor development and removal of trees. It's a disgrace that what set us apart as a desirable suburb is gradually being eroded to turn us into an area like any inner suburb in Melbourne.	More like an inner suburb than green wedge		1		1		1	1	1		Trees, native vegetation, limited sub division. Like a country feel in a suburb.	Seriously if residents wanted developmen t they wouldn't choose to live here. However, when developmen t occurs it should be unique and different than the rest of Melbourne. More mudbricks and preserving trees and	Why is council so intent on pushing development now in Eltham and Nillumbik? We used to stand apart as the Green Wedge - yes an including Eltham in that. Now after over 30 years of living here it is just being eroded to remove everything we all loved and came here for. Developments are poorly built. Very few have native gardens. Council is removing way too many trees and doesn't seem to care at all about what was unique about Eltham. Always pushing the boundaries to remove green space and to sub divide blocks. Perhaps if we stood firm with what the residents like and maintained our big blocks and green wedge style of living we would become more desirable as a suburb. Surely lockdown has taught us the value of having space in our own backyards and to appreciate the beautiful surrounds we have without inviting more cheap development and overpopulation in an area that is unique and different. Is it wrong to want to value what we have before it is taken from us??? Trees are needed because of climate change. Studies are showing areas like Mernda etc are way too hot		

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															ensuring developers adhere to rules.	because of no trees. Seriously we don't want to follow suit with other suburbs with development!		