



Nillumbik Council

Candidate, Sugarloaf Ward – Ben Ramcharan

1. If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Nillumbik?

The hilly terrain in Nillumbik is a hindrance for many riders but is also a drawcard for numerous riders across Melbourne, who come to our Green Wedge to get some training on the local hills. We need to take into account riders of all abilities in Nillumbik.

For the more serious riders, we need to have wider shoulders on local roads and install bike paths where necessary. We also need to identify hazardous bike paths such as the vanishing bike path on the main road in Diamond Creek, which suddenly, without warning, diverts itself onto a gravel path and the 30m long bike paths on Bridge Street in Eltham, which riders are forced to jump in and out of between the traffic lights and the roundabout.

Nillumbik has a trails strategy which has led to numerous trails being created throughout the shire. I will strengthen the strategy so in the long term, we can see a fully integrated network of trails, connecting us to Greensborough and the city and also to the Yarra Valley. We should try to create trails in where the gradient is less severe to make it easier for riders and walkers of all abilities to use them.

Council is currently threatening to flatten a number of BMX tracks in the area. I will push for a plan that will protect existing BMX tracks and ensure all kids across the shire have somewhere local they can go to do jumps.

2. When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride?

I love riding right here in Nillumbik. The Green Wedge is such a special place, where I can hit the hills and spend hours at one with nature. I love travelling from my home in North Warrandyte through Research, Kangaroo Ground and St Andrews and right up to Kinglake.

3. Are you satisfied with the progress being made with your council's bike strategy?

I love riding here in Nillumbik but I acknowledge that it's not easy for everyone. As it is, Council is not providing enough bike paths and plans to fully integrate local trails are lacking. We need a review of Nillumbik's trail strategy to further improve our shire's vision for the future of local trails. We don't currently have a dedicated bike strategy. I am pushing for a stronger strategy for Nillumbik to support all trail users including cyclists, horse riders, runners and dog walkers.

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Candidate, Wingrove Ward – David Mulholland

Hi all,

I'm a long time bike rider. I regularly commuted to the city on my e-bike, commute to and from the station, and go on a recreational ride when I can. My favourite place to ride in down Mount Pleasant Road and Eltham South. It is a beautiful way to take in nature and our beautiful homes.

I will support a major rethink to our infrastructure locally to support more sustainable modes of transport. This means more funding to footpaths, roads and trails. I will be supporting a trails strategy which looks at how we connect across the many river points in Eltham and create a bike trail through our scenic streets.

After lobbying the state government, recently a major investment has been made to the Diamond Creek Trail which is now to a combined total of \$9.1million. I will be seeking to rename this trail the Hurstbridge Trail as I push for this trail to be extended all the way to Hurstbridge. This will promote tourism to this region and bring customers to Hurstbridge from Eltham.

As your elected representative for Wingrove, I will get the job done.

Thanks,
David Mulholland
Wingrove Ward



Candidate, Wingrove Ward – Geoff Paine

1. If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Nillumbik?

If elected, I would support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Nillumbik (Eltham and Diamond Creek) by having more traffic slowing and calming infrastructure, as well as upgrades to the bike trails along Diamond Creek. It's a big biking area out here but there are many different types - Peloton types, BMX, mountain bikes, little kids with families, so we've got a range of needs to look after.

When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride?

I ride the hills of Eltham and Research mainly.

Are you satisfied with the progress being made with your council's bike strategy?

We're pretty bike friendly, but there is always some argy-bargy when it comes to skinny roads and cars trying to pass. After Covid, I think we will be looking to clarify signage about watching out for bikes and making riders feel they are welcome.

Looking forward to seeing the Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge trail finished so we can all enjoy the ride. Cheers.