



# Nillumbik Ratepayers Association

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Presentation to Future Nillumbik Committee

Diamond Creek Trail extension – proposed next steps

Today I sit before you again and ask that you uphold my right to enjoy my land against The Bureaucracy and the Mob.

We live in a very affluent society yet for some that is not enough, they want what I have to fulfil their recreational pleasures and pursuits.

Is this fair, - we say 'it is not.'

Some of our members have decided not to attend tonight, stating “They haven't listened to us in the past why would we expect to be listened to now”?

In your summary it states that 'Government funding, along with land sales is required to deliver the project *“without additional financial burden on ratepayers.”*

Recommendation 3 is *“commence the public acquisition process of land in private ownership.”*

Then later in budget implications '2017 ...external funding has been

*unsuccessful.'*

So we must assume that if external funding is not successful council will fund the trail by putting the financial burden on we the rate payers.

This trail is still said to be “- *shared by horses, cyclists and pedestrians.*”

Having over 40 years experience with horses, I believe that for a trail to mix horses cyclists and pedestrians, (and children) then Council would be leaving itself open to litigation for any 'mishaps' on this trail.

I will certainly discourage my children and grandchildren from making use of this remote trail that promotes the mix of horses, cyclists and pedestrians.

We note that council is offering individual information sessions regarding the compensation and acquisition process. Why?

What is council afraid of as these are only 'information sessions' which would/should be the same for all landowners, why have individual sessions?

I ask will council be asking landowners to sign confidentiality agreements for these sessions? As is being done in another shire for a different project.

Councillors ask yourselves why the affected landowners were not part of

the process from the beginning.

Other so called 'stakeholders' such as Trailblazers, NHAG and green groups all with 'no skin in the game' were and are the drivers of this land grab.

Councillors you were right reject C81,C101 which only sought to introduce an overlay onto private land.

We say you were wrong to approve C108 which seeks to 'compulsorily acquire land' / forcibly take private land from these owners for a non – essential purpose, and you said C81 C101 were unjust.

Sadly, this process reminds us of the bullying behaviour of previous councils.

Since becoming President of the NRA some 14 or so years ago I get constantly reminded

'be careful not to become that which you have opposed'.

Brian Murray

President