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OUTER SUBURBAN INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - INQUIRY INTO GROWING THE SUBURBS

I am pleased to have the opportunity for input into your inquiry.

My submission will relate to Nillumbik Shire.

I believe there is ample opportunity for Nillumbik to increase population growth despite the Council actively discouraging any development. If Nillumbik is to be sustainable into the future then common sense dictates growth must occur.

Water, electricity and telecommunications are all easily accessible and could easily be upgraded if required.

Major infrastructure in Nillumbik is currently under-utilised. The railway line to Hurstbridge has little development along the railway corridor between Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge and should be developed according to best practice principles. The same goes for the Eltham Main Sewer which was put through to Hurstbridge in about 1986, obviously anticipating development.

Nillumbik is well served with schools, public and private, and easy access to tertiary educational facilities. There are plenty of retail facilities but always room for expansion. Medical facilities and associated services are well catered for with easy access to major hospitals, the Austin in Heidelberg and the Northern in Epping.

The Metropolitan Ring Road provides easy access to other major freeways but the ‘missing link’ does need to be completed for smooth traffic flow. I do not support the tunnel option through Banyule favoured by the previous Government. It is far too expensive when a direct route from Greensborough to Ringwood would be more cost effective. In fact, if this road had been completed back in the 1960’s when it was first on the agenda billions of dollars would have been saved.

Jim Stoneman,