SUBMISSION TO OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Inquiry on Growing the Suburbs:
Infrastructure and Business Development
In Outer Suburban Melbourne

Mr Nathan Bunt, Executive Officer
Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee
Parliament of Victoria
Parliament House, Spring Street
East Melbourne Vic 3002

Thankyou for the opportunity to lodge a submission to the above inquiry.

7th December 2011
For over 50 years I have been a resident of Diamond Creek which is situated in the Shire of Nillumbik and am thoroughly aware of the needs and problems in the surrounding areas.

The government must not dispose of the existing old Hurstbridge High School site that closed due to lack of growth in the area and shortage of students. The site is in an ideal location, situated in close proximity to the Hurstbridge railway station which has ample off road parking for buses and cars.

The Hurstbridge Railway Line is under utilised. The land along the Hurstbridge/Eltham railway corridor is ideal for residential and public use development. All infrastructures are available including the Eltham main sewer trunk, Gas, Electricity and Water. The Diamond Creek is also adjacent to the line in many areas and the creek flats and low lying land would be ideal for walking paths, bike tracks and sports grounds, etc....

A new railway station in the Allendale Road area would benefit future development in that area and would also take pressure off both Eltham and Diamond Creek Railway Stations for vehicle parking.

It is essential that the Western Ring Road extension between Greensborough and Ringwood be completed thus diverting through traffic away from the Hurstbridge, Wattle Glen and Diamond Creek townships. At present many logging trucks pass through Diamond Creek over a 24 hour period (day and night). It also has become a shortcut to the ring road from Healesville, Warrandyte and Kangaroo Ground.

Vic Roads acquired land at least 30-40 years ago for road widening from the Diamond Creek railway crossing to Wattle Glen (approx. 2kms) and from Yan Yean Road to Diamond Creek Cemetery (approx. 1km). Widening of both of these road sections would help eliminate traffic congestion during peak hours.

The present Nillumbik Council want ZERO growth which is utterly ridiculous when their budget debt is increasing every year. We need orderly growth to relieve the growing rates burden imposed on rate payers year after year. The Shire relies too much on both the State and Federal Governments for hand outs (grants) to survive.

There are plenty of areas suitable for re-zoning for commercial uses. Hurstbridge does not even have a service station outlet from which to purchase fuel, the nearest is in Diamond Creek.

Ron Stoneman

7th December 2011