



# Friends of Nillumbik Inc.

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Attention Angelina Garces,  
Essential Services Commission,  
Local Government – Rates Capping and Variation Framework  
Consultation Paper.

14<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

## Submission

Friends of Nillumbik Inc. supports the submission from the Nillumbik Shire Council, with the following additional comments:

One of council's key recommendations concerns variations which arise from a council's own decisions, and that in these cases it should be demonstrated that there has been community engagement about the need and cost for the matters that require variation.

Under Part 5 "What are the relevant questions for the review?" point 15 relates to best practice in community engagement.

**We urge the Commission to give serious attention to issuing guidelines about best practice in community engagement, and that councils should be required to show they have followed best practice when consulting with their communities.**

An issue which council identifies as special to Nillumbik Council is stated as follows:

"Nillumbik does not have significant non-rate revenue sources (such as car parking fees and fines) that are available to metropolitan councils."

While broadly accurate as a general observation, we are aware that **Nillumbik could be managing what non-rate revenue sources it does have, more effectively.**

This relates to all-day trader parking in Eltham where an earlier council allowed themselves to be politically pressured into rescinding reasonable parking charges which had been imposed to defray some of the cost of providing the car park on council owned land.

**Council currently receives little or no income at all from this council owned facility.**

This appears to contradict council's own financial management principles. We have raised this matter several times over the previous two years but so far councillors have taken no action.

Yours sincerely,  
Greg Johnson (President)

