



GANNAWARRA

Shire Council

Wednesday, 12 October 2016

7.00 pm

Kerang Council Chambers

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I would like to take this time to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, and pay my respect to elders both past and present

2 OPENING PRAYER

“Almighty God we humbly ask you to bless this Council.
May we be worthy servants of yours and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of your glory and the true
welfare of the people we serve.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN”

3 APOLOGIES

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the minutes from Ordinary Meeting held 14 September 2016.

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The *Local Government Amendment (Councillor Conduct and Other Matters) Act 2008*.

A Councillor, member of a special committee, or member of Council staff has a conflict of interest in a matter if he or she has a *direct interest* or an *indirect interest* in that matter.

A person has a *direct interest* in a matter if there is a likelihood that the benefits, obligations, opportunities or circumstances of the person would be directly altered if the matter is decided in a particular way. This includes where there is a likelihood that the person will receive a direct benefit or loss that can be measured in financial terms or that the residential amenity of the person will be directly affected if the matter is decided in a particular way.

A person has an *indirect interest* in a matter if the person has:

- a close association in the matter because a family member, a relative or a member of their household has a direct or indirect interest in the matter
- an indirect financial interest in the matter
- a conflicting duty – although there are circumstances where a person does not have a indirect interest because of a conflicting duty
- received an ‘applicable gift’
- become an interested party in the matter by initiating civil proceedings or becoming a party to civil proceedings in relation to the matter.

Disclosure of conflict of interest

If a Councillor or member of a special committee has a conflict of interest in a matter which is to be or is likely to be considered at a meeting of the Council or special committee, the Councillor or member must:

- if he or she will be present at the meeting, make a full disclosure of that interest by advising of the class and nature of the interest to either –
- the Council or special committee immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting, *or*
- in writing to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Where the disclosure is made to the CEO in writing, the Councillor or member need only disclose the class of interest to the meeting, immediately before the matter is considered.
- if he or she will not be present at the meeting, make a full disclosure to the CEO or Chairperson of the meeting, in writing, of the class and nature of the interest. If a Chairperson is given a written disclosure, he or she must give the written disclosure to the CEO.
- The CEO must keep written disclosures in a secure place for 3 years after the date the Councillor or member of the special committee who made the disclosure ceases to be a Councillor or member, and destroy the written disclosure when the 3 year period expires.
- While the matter is being considered or any vote taken, the Councillor or member of a special committee with the conflict of interest must leave the room and notify the Mayor or Chairperson of the special committee he or she is doing so. The Mayor or Chairperson must notify the Councillor or member that he or she may return to the room after consideration of the matter and all votes have been cast.
- A CEO or Chairperson of a special committee must record in the minutes of the meeting the declaration of the conflict of interest, the class of the interest and, if the Councillor or member has disclosed the nature of the interest to the meeting, the nature of the interest.
- A failure by a Councillor or member to comply with section 79 of the Act may result in a penalty of up to 100 penalty units and disqualification under section 29(2) of the Act.

6 QUESTION TIME

Question Time at Council meetings enables an opportunity for members of the public in the gallery to address questions to the Council of the Shire of Gannawarra.

QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY

- All questions are to be directed to the Chair.
- Members of the public may ask questions from the gallery and should provide their name (and organisation if relevant) at the beginning of their questions.
- There is a maximum number of 3 questions of up to 2 minutes each.
- Chair will respond or refer to Councillor or CEO.
- Sometimes a Councillor/officer may indicate that they require further time to research an answer. In this case, the answer will be provided in writing generally within 10 days.
- Where a question cannot be answered on the spot, the person is asked to write out their questions on a form provided to enable an accurate response to be prepared.
- Questions will be answered at the meeting, or later in writing, unless the Chairperson has determined that the relevant question relates to:
 - Personal matters

- The personal hardship of any resident or ratepayers
 - Industrial matters
 - Contractual matters
 - Proposed developments
 - Legal advice
 - Matters affecting the security of council property
 - An issue outside the Gannawarra Shire Council core business
 - Or any other matter which the Council considers would prejudice it or any person
 - A matter which may disadvantage the Council or any other person
 - Is defamatory, indecent, abusive or objectionable in language or substance
 - Is repetitive of a question already answered (whether at the same or an earlier meeting)
 - Is asked to embarrass an officer or another Councillor
-
- No debate or discussion of questions or answers shall be permitted and all questions and answers shall be as brief as possible.

7 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

7.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS AUGUST 13 TO SEPTEMBER 9

Author: Eric Braslis, CEO

Authoriser: Geoff Rollinson, Director of Infrastructure & Planning

Attachments: 1 Assembly of Councillors September 10 to October 7

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the records of Assembly of Councillors during September 10 to October 7.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To present to Council the Assembly of Councillors Record Form - Wednesday 5 October 2016 – Kerang Council Chambers.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with Section 80B of the Local Government Act 1989, the Officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

COUNCIL PLAN

Council Plan 2013-2017 – Leadership and Governance – Compliance with legislative requirements.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with Section 76A of the Local Government Act 1989 the definition of an Assembly of Councillors is:

A meeting at which matters are considered that are intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision or the following exercise of a delegated authority and which is either of the following:

1. A meeting at which matters are considered that are intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision or the following exercise of a delegated authority and which is either of the following:
2. A meeting of an advisory committee where at least one Councillor is present.
3. If a meeting fits either of these types the procedures applying to an Assembly of Councillors must be complied with, irrespective of any name or description given to the committee or meeting. Not all gatherings or meetings at which Councillors are present will constitute Assembly of Councillors.

If a meeting fits either of these types the procedures applying to an Assembly of Councillors must be complied with, irrespective of any name or description given to the committee or meeting. Not all gatherings or meetings at which Councillors are present will constitute Assembly of Councillors.

CONSULTATION


Consultation with Councillors and staff has occurred to ensure the accuracy of the Assemblies of Councillors records.

CONCLUSION

To ensure compliance with Section 76A of the Local Government Act 1989 it is recommended that Council note the Assemblies of Councillors records as outlined in this report.



Assembly of Councillors Record Form

Date:	Wednesday, 5 October 2016
Time:	9am - 10:30am
Location:	Council Chambers, Kerang
In Attendance: (Councillors)	Cr Lorraine Learmonth, Cr Oscar Aertssen, Cr Keith den Houting, Cr Mark Arians, Cr Neil Gannon,
Apologies	Cr Neville Goulding, Cr Brian Gibson
In Attendance: (Officers)	Sid Hutchinson, Geoff Rollinson, Mandy Hutchinson, Katrina Thorne, Stevie Pearce & Brent Heitbaum
Matters Discussed:	Mayoral Correspondence EBA Update Property Leases Support package for dry farmers affected by flooding Flood update Councillor Quarterly Expenditure P16.039 Planning Permit (Piggery) 2016 Annual Report Victoria Street Redevelopment End of Councillor Term and Mayoral Address
Conflict of Interest Disclosures (Councillors)	Nil
Conflict of Interest Disclosures (Officers)	Nil
Completed By:	Eric Braslis – Chief Executive Officer 

This form MUST be completed by the attending Council Officer and returned immediately to Manager Governance for filing (See over for Explanation/Notes).

8 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

8.1 P16.039 USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTENSIVE ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (PIGGERY)

Author:	David Pietsch, Manager Planning
Authoriser:	Eric Braslis, CEO
Proposal:	Use and development of land for Intensive Animal Husbandry (piggery)
Location:	8224 Murray Valley Highway, Kerang East
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Proposed piggery layout2 Proposed site plan3 Separation distances to sensitive land uses

(The recommended decision is not a 'Major Policy Decision', as defined in section 93A of the *Local Government Act 1989*, or a 'Significant Decision' within the meaning of Council's Election Period Procedure).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve Planning Application P16.039 for the use and development of land for Intensive Animal Husbandry (piggery) and issue a Notice of Decision subject to the following conditions:

1. Amended Plans

Before the use and development starts, amended plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions and three copies must be provided. The plans must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted with the application but modified to show:

- a) A detailed, fully dimensioned plan of the site.
- b) Fully dimensioned elevation plans of the proposed buildings and infrastructure.
- c) Landscaping plans as required by condition 9.
- d) A plan showing the proposed earthen bund around the perimeter of the development site to a maximum height of no more or less than 500mm.
- e) Location of town water storage facility.
- f) Solid waste reuse area to be located outside of the area designated as a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) and Floodway Overlay (RFO).

2. Layout not to be Altered

Use and layout of the site and the size of the proposed development and works detailed in the specifications and as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered or modified without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority except where specifically varied by conditions of this permit.

3. Size of Establishment

The classification of the piggery must not be altered and the maximum number of pigs permitted on the land at any time must not exceed an "R" value of 5000 under the Code of Practice – Piggeries 1992.

4. Environmental Health Officer

- a) The effluent treatment ponds must be constructed with a clay liner (or similar impervious material) to prevent seepage from the structure.
- b) Irrigation, wastewater reuse and compost facility must be managed in accordance with the Guidelines for Wastewater Reuse (EPA Publication 464) and the Guidelines for Composting and Other Organic Recycling Facilities (EPA Publication 508).
- c) Solids removed from the feed pad must not be spread within 60m of any natural drain lines or the Rural Floodway Overlay.
- d) All wastewater and stormwater must be contained onsite.
- e) Odour must be controlled to ensure that it does not cause a nuisance.

5. Amenity

The use of the piggery hereby permitted shall not cause injury to or prejudicially effect the amenity of the locality by the transportation of materials, goods or commodities to and from the premises or by the appearance of any building, works or materials or by emission of noise, smell, fumes, dust, wastewater or lighting on the site. Noise, dust and odour from the piggery and general area shall be maintained within acceptable limits on this site so as not to create a nuisance, as defined in the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

6. Stormwater

All stormwater runoff from the proposed development hereby permitted must be disposed of onsite to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

7. Gateway and Fence Alignment

The gateway and fence alignment must be recessed to accommodate a full length B-Double clear of the carriageway to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

8. Surfacing

All driveways and vehicle movement areas associated with the piggery shall be constructed, drained and surfaced with an all weather material and treated to prevent dust causing loss of amenity to the neighbourhood to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

9. Control of Light Spill

External lighting must be designed, baffled and located so as to prevent any adverse effect on adjoining land to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

10. Landscape Plan Required

Prior to the plans being endorsed, a landscape plan to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plan will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plan must be drawn to scale with dimensions and three copies must be provided. The plan must include plantings around the perimeter of the site that will provide screening for all surrounding neighbours. The landscaping plan must consist of indigenous trees and shrubs and ensure an effective visual screen to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

11. Completion of Landscaping

Before the use/occupation of the development starts or by such later date as approved by the Responsible Authority in writing, the landscaping works shown on the endorsed plans must be carried out and completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

12. Landscaping Maintenance

The landscaping shown on the endorsed plans must be maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. Any dead, diseased or damaged plants are to be replaced within twelve months.

13. Signage

Details of any proposed signage must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority prior to the use coming into operation.

14. Water

Town water use on the site must be restricted to the amount previously used as determined by Coliban Water and to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

15. Electricity

The approved facility must be powered by an onsite generator or by a 3 phase power grid connection to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

16. Goulburn Murray Water

- a) The use and development shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.
- b) All wastewater from the proposed amenities building must be treated and disposed of using an EPA approved system, installed, operated and maintained in compliance with the relevant EPA Code of Practice and Certificate of Approval.
- c) No buildings or works may be erected or carried out within 30 metres of any Goulburn-Murray Water surface infrastructure (including open irrigation channels and drains), or 5 metres from any below surface infrastructure (including pipelines), located on any G-MW freehold, easements or reserves.
- d) The stormwater drainage system for the development must incorporate measures to enhance stormwater discharge quality (particularly sediment) from the site and protect downstream waterways and drainage lines.
- e) The effluent treatment ponds must be constructed with a clay liner (or similar impervious material) to achieve a hydraulic conductivity less than 1×10^{-9} m/s to prevent seepage from the structure.
- f) Effluent dam capacity needs to include 600mm freeboard for wave action and increases in water level due to rainfall.
- g) Irrigation and Wastewater reuse must be managed in accordance with the principles and requirements outlined in the 'Guidelines for Wastewater Reuse' (EPA Publication #464, 1996) and the 'EPA Guidelines for Wastewater Irrigation' (EPA Publication #168, April 1991).
- h) Effluent, manure or mortalities compost must not be spread within 60 metres of any natural drainage lines, the Rural Flood Overlay or any active flow paths.
- i) The compost facility must comply with the Environmental Guidelines for Composting and Other Organic Recycling Facilities (EPA Publication 508, 1996).
- j) No contaminated run-off is permitted to discharge off-site therefore all stormwater captured from the works area must be retained on site.
- k) Any storage/composting areas for separated solids and mortalities must have an impermeable base and bunding to ensure contaminated run-off does not discharge from the temporary storage area.

- l) **Construction must follow sediment control principles outlined in 'Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control' (EPA, 1991). Specifically, the applicant must ensure:**
- **Grading, excavation and construction must not proceed during periods of heavy rainfall.**
 - **Sediment traps must be designed, installed and maintained to maximise the volume of sediment trapped from the site during development and construction.**
 - **Disturbed areas must be stabilised and revegetated following the completion of works**
- m) **Within 3 months of the issue of this permit an Environmental Management Plan must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority and generally in accordance with the LEAP Report (May 2016) and detail:**
- **How nutrients will be managed on the land including documentation of a nutrient management plan that details the operation of the piggery**
 - **Record keeping shall detail regular soil testing**
 - **Management of the mortalities composting and solids waste storage area**
 - **Any corrective actions required to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for Piggeries (1992).**

17. Coliban Water

The owner is required to enter into water supply by agreement and provide a backflow prevention device. The water supply agreement will limit supply to no more than 30 kl per day.

18. EPA Victoria

- a) **The applicant must install bunds and/or cut-off drains around the boundary of operational area to prevent contaminated run-off entering into a waterway.**
- b) **Storage areas/pads for manure, spent litter and/or dead animals must be bunded and appropriately drained to onsite storages to prevent potentially contaminated water entering any surface water resources/channel infrastructure.**
- c) **Storage areas/pads for manure, spent litter and/or dead animals must be appropriately compacted with a permeability of 1×10^{-9} m/s and bunded to prevent stormwater access.**
- d) **Deposit of animal or organic wastes to land must not adversely affect the land.**
- e) **Management of waste at the premises should be in accordance with EPA Publication IWRG641 Farm Waste Management June 2009 or as amended.**
- f) **All industrial waste generated during construction must be managed in accordance with EPA's Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines 2009.**

19. North Central Catchment Management Authority

All works are to be sited outside the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) and the Floodway Overlay (RFO).

Note - Flood levels for the 1% AEP probability (100 year ARI) have not been determined for this area under the Water Act 1989. However information available at North Central CMA indicates that in the event of a 1% AEP flood event it is possible that the property may be subject inundation.

Information available at North Central CMA indicates that the only areas of the site to have been inundated during the January 2011 flood were with the existing Land

Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) and Floodway Overlay (RFO).**20. Time for Starting and Completion**

This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:

- **The development and use is/are not started within two years of the date of this permit.**
- **The development is not completed within four years of the date of this permit.**

The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires or within three months afterwards.

NOTE 1: A BUILDING PERMIT MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO COMMENCING ANY BUILDING WORKS

NOTE 2: ALL BUILDING WORKS MUST COMPLY WITH THE VICTORIAN BUILDING REGULATIONS.

NOTE 3: COMPLIANCE WITH CODE OF PRACTICE

THE PIGGERY SHALL AT ALL TIMES OPERATE TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE – PIGGERIES 1992 OR AS AMENDED.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A planning application was lodged with Council for the use and development of land for Intensive Animal Husbandry (piggery) at 8224 Murray Valley Highway, Kerang East. Public notice was given of the application and one written objection was received on behalf of eleven individual parties who live in proximity of the site. A mediation meeting was held between the objectors and the applicant to discuss concerns surrounding the proposal. The objection was not withdrawn, however, the information from this session was used to help inform the officer recommendation. The proposal is considered to appropriate for the site and consistent with the provisions of the Gannawarra Planning Scheme. The application has therefore been recommended for approval by Council officers.

PURPOSE

To seek Council's decision on Planning Application P16.039 for the use and development of land for Intensive Animal Husbandry (piggery) at 8224 Murray Valley Highway, Kerang East.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with Section 80B of the Local Government Act, the Officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

COUNCIL PLAN

Council Plan 2013-2017 - Sustainable Environments - Adopt appropriate planning mechanisms to support sustainable land use and development.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The subject land is situated approximately 8 km to the east-south-east of Kerang at 8224 Murray Valley Highway, Kerang East. The land is more formally described as Crown Allotment 20A Parish of Gannawarra. The site has an area of approximately 53 hectares and is currently used for animal grazing.

The planning application for Intensive Animal Husbandry was lodged with Council in May 2016. The proposed farrow-to-finish piggery will accommodate up to 5000 pigs. The development will consist of twelve pig sheds and associated infrastructure, a two-pond effluent treatment and evaporation system, a manure storage and mortalities composting pad and associated runoff collection dam and a small office, workshop and staff amenities (lunch room, toilets, showers) building. The existing dwelling on-site will be renovated and used for staff accommodation. Landscaping is proposed around the site to screen the development from surrounding properties and the Murray Valley Highway frontage. No trees will be removed to facilitate the development.

The piggery is described as being a 530 sow farrow-to-finish piggery with finished pigs exiting at about 19 weeks of age. The piggery will require three full-time staff during normal operations. Manure, waste feed, wasted drinking water and cleaning water will pass through slatted flooring and into effluent collection pits and then into two treatment ponds that will cater for both dry and wet conditions. The ponds will be clay lined to protect groundwater quality. Manure solids and sludge will be spread on-farm for growing irrigated cereal crops. Vehicles will access the site from the Murray Valley Highway via an existing driveway. The entrance gate to the property will be setback to allow trucks to get completely off the road when turning into the site. It is intended that all feed will be brought from a mill in Cohuna and sale pigs will be transported to Melbourne for slaughter. The usual hours of operation will be 7am to 6pm weekdays and 7am to 1pm on weekends. During hot weather, however, it will be necessary to load pigs at night outside of these hours for animal welfare reasons.

CONSULTATION

The application was advertised within the Gannawarra Times and also by mail to surrounding property owners and occupiers within a one kilometre of the site. One written objection was received on behalf of eleven objecting parties. A mediation meeting was held at the Gannawarra Shire Council offices on Tuesday 20 September 2016. The applicant outlined the proposal in more detail and objectors were able to articulate their concerns. Additional issues were raised in relation to access to town water supply, flooding of the site, the visual impact of the development and the need for further strategic work to identify more suitable locations for such proposals. Following the mediation meeting, further advice was sought from the North Central Catchment Management Authority regarding flooding and Coliban Water in relation to providing town water to the site and the impact this may have on water delivery further along the line. Recommended conditions reflect the additional advice received.

The issues raised by objectors to the application include:

- **Surface and Drainage Water.** Is it argued that the property was inundated with water from the Piccaninny Creek during the 2011 flood event and this is not accurately reflected by the planning overlay maps affecting the property. The Goulburn Murray Water Irrigation Modernisation Project will impact future flooding patterns due to the reduction of the channel system upstream from this property.
- **Town Water Supply.** The North West Rural Water Supply Scheme was designed and built to only cater for 57 domestic connections, not to have a commercial piggery attached to it.

- Devalue of land and odour. Piggeries have odour issues, especially during the winter months. There is concern that surrounding property values will decrease due to being in close proximity to the piggery.
- Mortality rate. In today's age and environment, it is unacceptable to have a projected mortality rate of 1,786 pigs in a year.
- Power. Currently the single wire earth return to the property is at its full carrying capacity.

ASSESSMENT

The subject land is situated within a Farming Zone under the Gannawarra Planning Scheme. The use of land for Intensive Animal Husbandry can be considered within this zone pursuant to clause 35.07-1. The development of land for this use also triggers a planning permit pursuant to clause 35.07-4. The purpose of the Farming Zone is *'to provide for the use of land for agriculture' and 'to ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.'*

The zone gives priority to agricultural uses over non-agricultural uses such as dwellings. The zone seeks to protect and encourage agricultural development whilst being considerate of existing sensitive uses.

The land is also partly affected by an Environmental Significance Overlay (Schedule 4). (ESO4) The purpose of the schedule to this overlay is *'to identify land in urban and non-urban areas which is potentially liable to inundation by overland flow or sheet flooding and is likely to suffer from poor drainage which could inhibit development.'*

The eastern portion of the site adjacent to the Pyramid Creek is also covered by a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO). The purpose of this overlay is *'to identify land in flood storage or fringe flood area affected by the 1 in 100 flood or any other area determined by the floodplain management authority.'*

The northern portion of the site is covered by a Floodway Overlay (RFO). The purpose of this overlay is *'to identify waterways, major flood paths, drainage depressions and high hazard areas which have the greatest risk and frequency of being affected by flooding.'*

It is noted that the proposed development site is located outside of the RFO and LSIO and within the ESO4. Information has been received from local residents and additional information sought from the North Central Catchment Management Authority regarding flooding. It is considered appropriate given the information available that an earthen bund be provided around the development site should the development be approved.

The State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF)

Clause 11.05-3 of the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) seeks to manage land use change and development in rural areas to promote agriculture and rural production. At clause 11.11 (Loddon Mallee North Regional Growth) an objective is *'to realise opportunities to strengthen and diversify the economy by supporting the growth and adaption of agriculture and support emerging agribusinesses and location clusters, including intensive animal industries.'* The proposed development is considered to be consistent with both state and regional planning policy.

Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF)

The Local Planning Policy Framework and Council's Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) identifies the importance of farm production within the municipality. Objectives include *'to encourage and support commercial farming and farm production as a vital component of the economic base of*

the municipality. A strategy to achieve this is to *'encourage high quality design and appropriate siting of intensive animal industry development and dairy farms based on the capability of land for the management of nutrients and the disposal of effluent; the adequacy of infrastructure services; and the location of sensitive use and development'* The proposal is again consistent with local planning policy and Council's MSS.

The application was referred to Coliban Water, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Goulburn Murray Water and the Environmental Protection Authority who offered no objection to the proposal subject to conditions should Council resolve to approve the application. The application was also referred internally to Council's Health, Building and Engineering Departments who offered no objection to the proposal subject to conditions.

OPTION ANALYSIS

Council has two options in relation to this report:

1. To approve Planning Application P16.039 in accordance with the officer recommendation and imposed appropriate conditions. The objector's have the opportunity to appeal this decision at VCAT.
2. To refuse Planning Application P16.039 and issue a Notice of Refusal stating the grounds of refusal. The applicant has the opportunity to appeal this decision at VCAT.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications to Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONCLUSION

The proposed use is considered to be appropriate for this site. The application was advertised to surrounding property owners and occupiers and one written objection was received on behalf of eleven individual parties.

A mediation meeting was held to further understand the issues raised by objectors and consequently additional information was sought from Coliban Water and the North Central Catchment Management Authority who offered no objection to the proposal.

Information gathered from local residents and referral authorities/departments informed the officer recommendation including suggested permit conditions.

It is considered that the proposal is consistent with the Gannawarra Planning Scheme, in particular Council's Municipal Strategic Statement and the purpose of the Farming Zone.

Given the above, it is recommended that the application be approved subject to conditions as outlined earlier in this report (see recommendation).



Figure 10 – Proposed Farm Layout

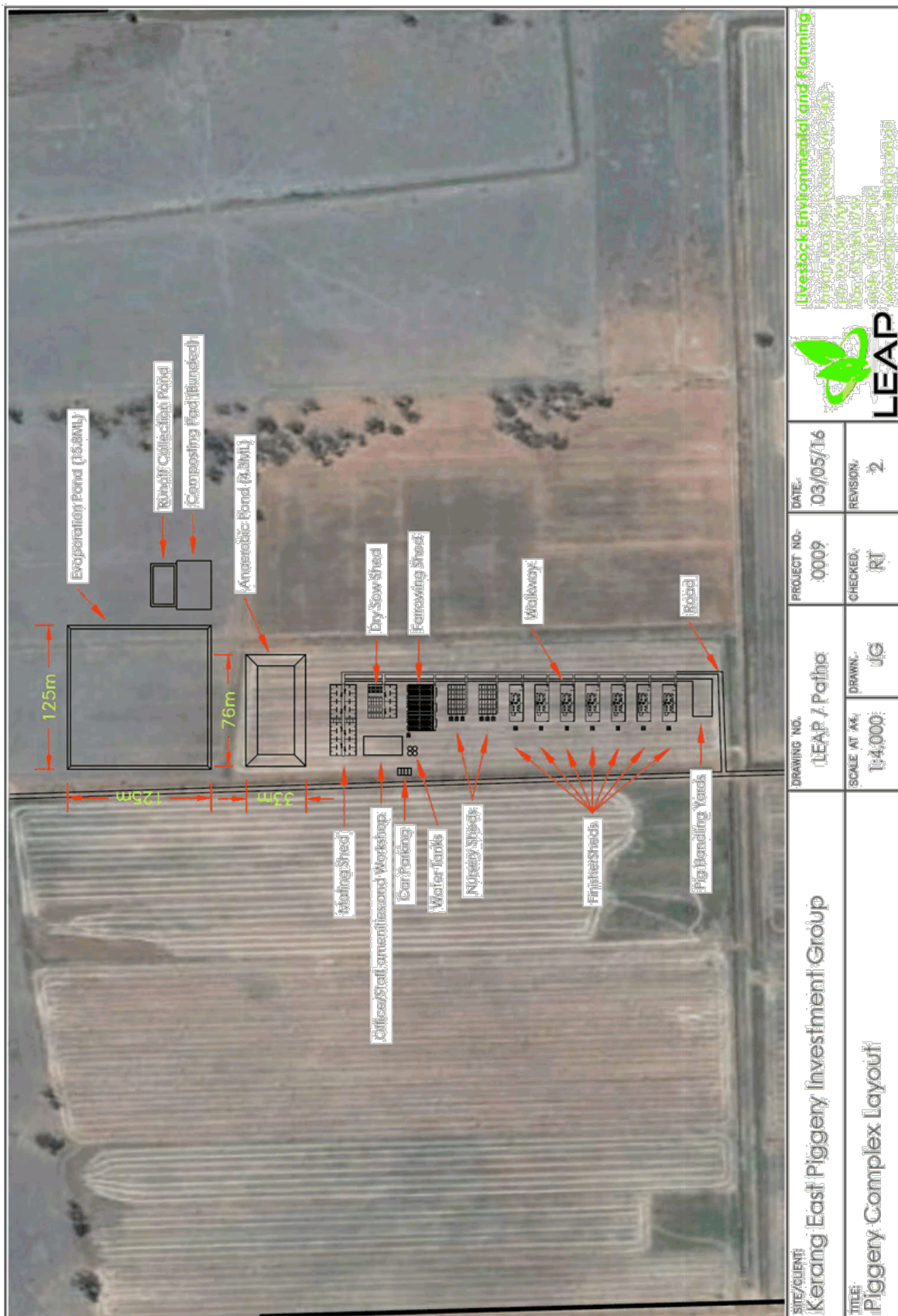


Figure 11 - Piggery Complex



Figure 15 – Separation Distances to Sensitive Land Uses

8.2 UPDATE ON VICTORIA STREET UPGRADE - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS**Author:** Stevie Pearce, Administration Support Officer**Authoriser:** Geoff Rollinson, Director Infrastructure Services**Attachments:** 1 Kerang CBD Upgrade Public Comments**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the update on the Victoria Street upgrade - community consultation process.

(The recommended decision is not a 'Major Policy Decision', as defined in section 93A of the *Local Government Act 1989*, or a 'Significant Decision' within the meaning of Council's Election Period Procedure).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with an update on the feedback received to date by community members in response to the draft Victoria Street Upgrade project.

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 August 2016 Council resolved to endorse for exhibition the Draft Concept Plans for the refurbishment and improvement of Victoria Street/Victoria Square.

It was initially envisaged that the formal public exhibition period would occur from 17 August 2016 to 31 August 2016. However, due to an overwhelming response from the public, Council extended the consultation period until 25 September 2016.

At the close of the consultation period, Council received 60 feedback forms. The feedback received from the community varied considerably. Whilst some responses from the community focused solely around the retention of the memorial seating, other responses concentrated on the proposed new seating, the proposed shared zone, the potential landscaping options, possible ground surface finishes and the opportunities to provide more shade and shelter.

POLICY CONTEXT

Council Plan 2013-2017 - Healthy Liveable Communities - Our community has access to a range of facilities and opportunities that promote active lifestyles.

DISCUSSION

The comments received from the community are attached, and have been summarised below:

Comment Category	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Total
Memorial Seat	36	1		37
Other Comments	23	21	6	50
Car parking	13	3	2	18
Seating	13	6	4	23
Vegetation	9	7	5	21
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	9	6	6	21
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	8	6	1	15
Overall Concept	8		8	16
Pavement	6	4	4	14
Shelter	5	1		6
Heritage Buildings	4	3		7
Town Character	3	2	3	8
Sculpture	1	9		10
Grand Total	138	69	39	246

The main concerns expressed by the community, in regards to the Draft Concept Plans centred around what will happen to the memorial seat located outside the Kerang Post Office and also the future of the memorial seat located outside the front of Target.

It is clear from reviewing the community feedback forms that the memorial seats are highly valued by the community and that the final iteration of the Plans will need to address the retention of the memorial seats.

Car parking was also identified as a concern. Improvement works for the carpark at the rear of Patchell Plaza will commence in early November and incorporate new line marking and tree planting for shelter providing offsets to any spaces removed in Victoria Street. Of further concern is the number of accessible parking bays in Victoria Street. Opportunity will be taken to increase the number from 2 to 6 accessible spaces.

Another key issue raised by members of the community regards their concerns that the current Draft Concept Plans do not show enough areas of shade or shelter within Victoria Square and Victoria Street. It is noted on a number of feedback forms that more shaded areas are desirable and that there should be areas provided in the streetscape which provide protection from the elements. This will be addressed in the planting of extra trees to provide protection from the summer sun.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with Section 80B of the Local Government Act, the Officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

CONCLUSION

Council Officers will continue to work with Hansen Partnership to make revisions to the plans including but not limited to;

- Options for the memorial seat in the current location or nearby location such that the integrity of the design is maintained and the seat retains its purpose.
- Include more tree planting within the design to increase the amount of shade from what is currently in the street.
- Introduce more disability parking spaces
- Determine if the large eucalyptus should remain or be removed.
- Provide detail of the locations for street furniture (seats, planter boxes, light poles), ensuring the seats are accessible for the elderly.

Once the revisions have been made to the Draft Concept Plans, Council Officers will place the revised Plans on display to show the community how their feedback has been incorporated into the revised plan.

The final version of the Victoria Square/Victoria Street Landscape and Public Realm Works Plan is then expected to be presented to Council for adoption in December.

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

Comment Type	Type	Victoria Square/Victoria Street Draft Concept Plans Community Feedback	Person
Memorial Seat	Negative	Leave the seat outside the Post Office where it is	1
Memorial Seat	Negative	Will the seat outside the Post Office remain	21
Memorial Seat	Negative	Leave the seat outside the Post Office where it is	27
Memorial Seat	Negative	Leave the seat outside the Post Office where it is	29
Memorial Seat	Negative	Leave the seat outside the Post Office where it is	39
Memorial Seat	Negative	Leave the seat outside the Post Office where it is	57
Memorial Seat	Negative	Leave the seat outside the Post Office where it is	52
Memorial Seat	Negative	Retain the memorial outside the Post Office	19
Memorial Seat	Negative	Need to keep the memorial seat outside the Post Office - it is important part of Kerang's history	2
Memorial Seat	Negative	Need to keep the memorial seat outside the Post Office - it is important part of Kerang's history	3
Memorial Seat	Negative	Need to keep the memorial seat outside the Post Office - it is important part of Kerang's history	18
Memorial Seat	Negative	Need to keep the memorial seat outside the Post Office - it is important part of Kerang's history	24
Memorial Seat	Negative	The removal of the memorial seat outside the Post Office would be contradictory to the Brave Hearts Project	25
Memorial Seat	Negative	The removal of the memorial seat outside the Post Office would be contradictory to the Brave Hearts Project	9
Memorial Seat	Negative	Concerned about the proposed removal of the memorial seats outside the Post Office and Target. They are frequently used and are important part of Kerang's History	31
Memorial Seat	Negative	Concerned about the proposed removal of the memorial seats outside the Post Office and Target. They are frequently used and are important part of Kerang's History	30
Memorial Seat	Negative	Concerned about the proposed removal of the memorial seats outside the Post Office and Target. They are frequently used and are important part of Kerang's History	22
Memorial Seat	Negative	Do not want the memorial seats to be removed	33
Memorial Seat	Negative	Do not want the memorial seats to be removed	36
Memorial Seat	Negative	Do not want the memorial seats to be removed	35
Memorial Seat	Negative	Memorial chair do not remove - including Target seat	45
Memorial Seat	Negative	Object to the removal of the memorial seats	12
Memorial Seat	Negative	Please keep the memorial seats outside the Post Office and Target	17
Memorial Seat	Negative	Keep the memorial seats - they simply need to be restored	37
Memorial Seat	Negative	Keep the memorial seats - they simply need to be restored	38
Memorial Seat	Negative	Keep the memorial seats - they simply need to be restored	43
Memorial Seat	Negative	Need to keep the memorial seats - perhaps they could be relocated	23
Memorial Seat	Negative	Need to keep the memorial seats - perhaps they could be relocated	60
Memorial Seat	Negative	Need to keep the memorial seats - perhaps they could be relocated	15
Memorial Seat	Negative	The shelter outside the Post Office is a very important memorial to two local servicemen. If the shelter needs to be moved as part of the Victoria Street improvement plan it should be carefully moved to a prominent position within town, possibly Atkinson Park	10
Memorial Seat	Negative	Plans need to recognise the memorials as memorials not just significant structures	22
Memorial Seat	Negative	Need to carefully consider what to do with the memorial seating outside the Post Office and Target. We do value historic reminders of our past.	8
Memorial Seat	Negative	Please give more consideration before you move the memorial seats	34
Memorial Seat	Negative	Concerned what will happen with the seats in front of the Post Office and Target will they be left or replaced?	32
Memorial Seat	Negative	Need to keep the memorial seats they are an important part of Kerang's history	51
Memorial Seat	Negative	Leave the plaque near the clock tower	29
Memorial Seat	Neutral	Lest We Forget should be an important part of the concept	21
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Positive	More accommodating of pedestrians	60
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Positive	Will give more confidence to older people and adults with small children when crossing Victoria Street.	8
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Positive	Like that there will be a new pedestrian crossing	40
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Positive	It may also help reduce the speed with which drivers travel.	8
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Positive	Shared space is good	8
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Positive	The concept of safety at Victoria Street and Scoresby Street is an improvement.	13
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Neutral	Need a better crossing	12

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

Comment Type	Type	Victoria Square/Victoria Street Draft Concept Plans Community Feedback	Person
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Neutral	Make sure the pedestrian crossing is suitable for the elderly	33
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Negative	Shared zone will create confusion amongst all road users. It should be left as is (pedestrians give way to vehicles) or a zebra crossing with flashing lights should be installed.	44
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Negative	Pedestrian Crossing should be installed instead of the shared zone	11
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Negative	Pedestrian Crossing should be installed instead of the shared zone	27
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Negative	Pedestrian Crossing should be installed instead of the shared zone	47
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Neutral	Only want one pedestrian crossing	58
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Neutral	Only want one pedestrian crossing	56
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Neutral	Only want one pedestrian crossing	13
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Negative	Agree that pedestrian safety and access is a priority, but do not believe that a large shared zone is the best way to manage it. Such an unusual zone would confuse motorists and pedestrians. Also concerned about children using the shared zone. Would like to see a pedestrian crossing installed instead.	46
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Negative	Make the "shared zone" a "give way to pedestrians"	6
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Negative	Requesting a formal crossing where cars give way to pedestrians	49
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Negative	The proposed 'traffic calming measures' will deter motorists from travelling down Victoria Street	25
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Negative	The proposed 'traffic calming measures' will deter motorists from travelling down Victoria Street	47
Shared Zone/Traffic Calming	Neutral	Give pedestrians right of way	54
Seating	Positive	Added seating is a positive	44
Seating	Positive	Added seating is a positive	28
Seating	Positive	Like that the seats are placed to facilitate conversation areas	46
Seating	Positive	Like that the seats are placed to facilitate conversation areas	47
Seating	Negative	Make sure the new seating and planting clusters are not too close to the parking bay	20
Seating	Negative	Ensure the seats are positioned a safe distance from the road	47
Seating	Negative	Seating should be faced away from the road for the safety of pedestrians	55
Seating	Neutral	The bench seating appears uncomfortable - current seats are ok	58
Seating	Negative	Replace some of the custom seating with comfortable seats	55
Seating	Negative	The existing seating is fine as is - just needs a coat of paint	13
Seating	Negative	Don't want bar like seating	56
Seating	Negative	Don't want bar like seating	13
Seating	Negative	The seating needs to be suitable for older persons e.g. the seating should be a little higher than usual and armrests need to be provided at the end so they can lever themselves upwards.	8
Seating	Neutral	Seating needs to be constructed of quality material	20
Seating	Negative	What is the use of seating with no shade	14
Seating	Negative	Seats need to be dry, clean and covered.	44
Seating	Negative	Shade is an important factor when considering seating - seating in 44 degree temperature will not be used unless good planning with shade cloth triangles, which can be removed in Autumn, is considered	8
Seating	Neutral	More seating is required or are the concrete edges to be used as seating?	25
Seating	Neutral	More seating needed when Court is in operation	42
Seating	Neutral	More seating needed in Victoria Square for when Court is in operation	25
Seating	Neutral	There needs to be more seating - it is nice to have the option to sit outside	54
Seating	Negative	Concern regarding use of area when Court is in operation	50
Seating	Negative	Concern regarding use of area when Court is in operation	1
Vegetation	Positive	The greenery that will be in place is a good idea	40
Vegetation	Positive	lawn areas will be good	55
Vegetation	Neutral	The greenery that will be in place is a good idea but need to ensure that the plantings and seats do not block the view of drivers or pedestrians	46
Vegetation	Positive	The grassed areas will be good for cooling effects in summer	44
Vegetation	Positive	Like the inclusion of the lawn areas - the public will be able to sit/lounge around	47

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

Comment Type	Type	Victoria Square/Victoria Street Draft Concept Plans Community Feedback	Person
Vegetation	Positive	Like Pods 3,4 and 8	63
Vegetation	Negative	Don't like grass plantings in public areas - locals spend a lot of time dealing with problem grasses	47
Vegetation	Negative	Don't plant grasses if plants have to be put in they are dirty and untidy	39
Vegetation	Negative	Do not want to see lawn planted like it has been in Fitzroy Street	13
Vegetation	Neutral	Plant garden beds in U shapes to create garden rooms and seating in them	55
Vegetation	Neutral	Could there be pots that have colourful plants in them	40
Vegetation	Neutral	Include flower beds	33
Vegetation	Negative	The raised grass and garden pods limit the access to the walkway for the pedestrians.	42
Vegetation	Negative	Pods will collect rubbish in them	42
Vegetation	Negative	What is the benefit of lawn?	14
Vegetation	Neutral	Would like to see roundabouts with gardens	14
Vegetation	Negative	The existing roses are beautiful - why change	13
Vegetation	Negative	Would like to see more flowers and shrubs rather than a lot of paving	13
Vegetation	Negative	Raised grass pods - would not like to encourage children playing in the areas so close to traffic	44
Vegetation	Neutral	Would like if roses are not planted in the roundabouts	11
Vegetation	Neutral	Like the grassed areas but do not think they should be raised	55
Vegetation	Neutral	Like the grassed areas but do not think they should be raised	59
Car parking	Positive	If we have 5 less car parks is that such a bad thing if the main street looks good	15
Car parking	Positive	More disabled car-parking will be a benefit	1
Car parking	Negative	Don't want to see a loss of parking spaces	5
Car parking	Negative	Don't want to see a loss of parking spaces	13
Car parking	Negative	Don't want to see a loss of parking spaces	25
Car parking	Negative	Don't want to see a loss of parking spaces	29
Car parking	Negative	Don't want to see a loss of parking spaces	35
Car parking	Negative	Don't want to see a loss of parking spaces	46
Car parking	Negative	Don't want to see a loss of parking spaces	58
Car parking	Negative	Don't want to see a loss of parking spaces	56
Car parking	Negative	Don't want to see a loss of parking spaces	47
Car parking	Negative	Do not want to see the loss of car parking in front of the Post Office	20
Car parking	Negative	Do not want to see the loss of car parking in front of the Post Office	54
Car parking	Neutral	Plan appears to show some loss of carpark spaces in front of Post Office area how many do we lose in total both sides of the street?	44
Car parking	Neutral	Will parking be affected very much	40
Car parking	Neutral	Do we currently have enough short term parking near the Chemist's, Doctors and Post Office?	44
Car parking	Negative	Offered other areas up for parking such as the old Kindergarten	48
Pavement	Positive	The level pavement area will be good. Currently tree roots and paving leave the area unsuitable for the elderly	44
Pavement	Positive	Like the unification of the pavers	28
Pavement	Neutral	Would be good if the paving in the main street was all the same	54
Pavement	Positive	Like the additional open paved areas for pedestrians	55
Pavement	Positive	Paved area will hopefully create more walking traffic through the main street.	15
Pavement	Negative	Use concrete instead of pavers	27
Pavement	Negative	Use concrete instead of pavers	26
Pavement	Negative	Use concrete instead of pavers / the concrete could be coloured	35
Pavement	Neutral	Brick paving is very difficult for elderly people	12
Pavement	Negative	The area of varied grey pavers should be limited to the shared zone.	55
Pavement	Neutral	Pavers and cobblestones need to be kept in good condition as they could become a tripping hazard for the elderly	43
Pavement	Negative	Interlocking pavers are unpopular with elderly people	11
Pavement	Negative	Do not want to see so much paving	56
Pavement	Neutral	Need pavers that are level and easy to walk on	5
Sculpture	Neutral	Retain or develop a sculpture that is incumbent of Kerang the township	40

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

Comment Type	Type	Victoria Square/Victoria Street Draft Concept Plans Community Feedback	Person
Sculpture	Neutral	Need to have more status from our local metal art work	37
Sculpture	Neutral	Need something that will draw people off the highway and into Victoria Street	37
Sculpture	Neutral	Need something that will draw people off the highway and into Victoria Street	38
Sculpture	Neutral	The centre of Kerang should display sculpture unique to the area - perhaps shearers sculpture	28
Sculpture	Neutral	Would like to see local input from artistic talent in regards to the design of the new sculpture.	44
Sculpture	Neutral	Could John Piccoli (The Spanner Man) create a sculpture	4
Sculpture	Neutral	Could John Piccoli (The Spanner Man) create a sculpture	28
Sculpture	Neutral	The sculpture, which as stated is to be decided on later - seems unattractive and out of character with the site	60
Sculpture	Negative	Replace the sculpture with a large deciduous tree.	55
Sculpture	Neutral	It is difficult to tell from the plans if visually it enhances the heritage buildings - it must	60
Heritage Buildings	Neutral	We have a wonderful structure with the Council Municipal Chambers. This should be left clear and a walkway and path leading up to it. It should be fully visual from the road and the area in front of the Council Chambers should be flood light	16
Heritage Buildings	Negative	The redevelopment focuses around some of the most interesting and historical buildings in the main street – the new plan seems to ignore this and does nothing to enhance this historical, culturally important aspect.	41
Heritage Buildings	Negative	Many people stand in “Victoria Square” for photos etc. lets capitalise on this and make “Victoria Square” original, interesting and vital	41
Heritage Buildings	Negative	It is taking away from the heritage of our town. Over the past years Kerang’s heritage has been lost by removing verandah posts from old shops and removing memorials.	25
Heritage Buildings	Negative	There is a lot of history embedded in the Shire Offices original front entrance.	22
Heritage Buildings	Negative	Leave as it is in front of the Council Offices with flower beds but not at the cost of parking	14
Shelter	Negative	There is no solid shelter from harsh summer heat or winter wind/rain over seating. With no dense cover from the elements there is no point having seating custom built	44
Shelter	Negative	Need shade – keep trees and plant more of them.	28
Shelter	Negative	Include additional large deciduous shade trees particularly on the east side of the street – could 3 deciduous trees be planted on the east side and 4 deciduous trees be planted on the west side.	55
Shelter	Negative	Great need for weather protection	53
Shelter	Negative	Rain covered areas are necessary	5
Shelter	Neutral	Could we have man made covered structures like in Swan Hill?	5
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Positive	Love the established trees in Victoria Square	53
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Negative	Victoria Square - favourite place in the main street as the trees provide much needed shade, and a natural calming environment. Lots of clients from out of town comment on what a charming old country town feel Kerang has, and how much they enjoy it, particularly the established trees	46
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Negative	Don't remove any trees	13
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Negative	Don't want to see a loss of trees	56
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Negative	Don't remove any trees	14
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Neutral	Would like to see the large existing tree incorporated into the Plan	11
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Neutral	Hope to see more small trees planted in the CBD	47
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Neutral	All that needs doing is remove the gums and paperbarks in front of the Council Chambers so we can see the beautiful building.	39
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Neutral	Large deciduous shade trees are ideal street trees for Kerang’s climate.	55
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Neutral	Put the deciduous tree on opposite of the street to allow a view of court house and Council Chambers.	6
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Negative	There are some good examples of good shade trees in Kerang such as outside the old bank at the south end of Fitzroy Street and parts of Scoresby Street. Manchurian Pear trees are good shade but need to be the spreading variety. Ash trees as suggested in the report will create environmental problems if they go to seed.	55
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Neutral	The idea of planting trees in Victoria Street is good. However the trees need to provide shade otherwise it's not worth the loss of parking spaces.	8
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Negative	Manchurian pear trees shouldn't be the tree species selected for planting.	5
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Negative	Shaded areas are necessary as this is a very hot area	29
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Negative	Remove the big tree	29

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

Comment Type	Type	Victoria Square/Victoria Street Draft Concept Plans Community Feedback	Person
Tree Removal/Vegetation Issues	Negative	Remove the big tree	48
Town Character	Positive	Will be good to modernize while keeping some of the towns older charm	15
Town Character	Negative	Please give thought to not losing what we cherish in Kerang. There is a danger that the new works destroy the character of the area	8
Town Character	Neutral	The roses are cherished	8
Town Character	Positive	Appreciate colourful attractive garden bed plantings at the roundabouts, and often receive favourable comments from visitors to the area.	47
Town Character	Positive	Appreciate colourful attractive garden bed plantings at the roundabouts	46
Town Character	Negative	Need works which retains the towns character, not a universal blandness.	8
Town Character	Neutral	Good to be progressive but need to ensure we don't lose the character that makes Kerang and individual town. Kerang is a quaint country town with a friendly atmosphere. Believe that people come and visit because of that. Although it could do with a makeover, we really just want	21
Town Character	Negative	a nice clean and tidy space, we don't want to lose that country feel by becoming to modern.	46
Overall Concept	Positive	Overall looks good	34
Overall Concept	Positive	It seems to be appropriate for the site	60
Overall Concept	Positive	The plan looks good	19
Overall Concept	Positive	Like the draft plan	31
Overall Concept	Positive	Will be nice to beautify the street	31
Overall Concept	Positive	An upgrade is beneficial to the visual aspect and may impact on passing traffic stopping to shop.	6
Overall Concept	Positive	Like the enthusiasm that believes it will bring people to the town.	20
Overall Concept	Positive	Very pleased with the draft concept plans – CBD is a bit tired and is in need of a modern facelift.	15
Overall Concept	Negative	Overview lacks detail that is needed for the public to contribute especially regarding items of historical significance.	21
Overall Concept	Negative	Very difficult to visualise looking at the plan – clearer explanation of plants used and shade canopies. Why raised lawn areas?	28
Overall Concept	Negative	It only needs a few safety improvements	13
Overall Concept	Negative	Leaving everything as is	7
Overall Concept	Negative	Don't like much about the Draft Concept Plans	58
Overall Concept	Negative	Like very little about the Draft Concept Plans	56
Overall Concept	Negative	What is wrong with it as it is now	14
Overall Concept	Negative	Hope its only a draft concept	22
Overall Comments	Positive	Like that the ramp outside the Courthouse will be removed	55
Other Comments	Positive	Like the cobblestone pavers, lawn and areas.	43
Other Comments	Positive	Added colour is a positive (preferably blend with Post Office and Courthouse colour scheme)	44
Other Comments	Positive	Like that the concrete planters will be removed	44
Other Comments	Negative	Children may have to walk on the road to obtain access to the footpath.	20
Other Comments	Negative	Ease of access is better than any aesthetics.	20
Other Comments	Negative	Will give certain members of the public another spot to hang about	18
Other Comments	Neutral	Service entries with bricks	27
Other Comments	Neutral	Wall for wall art – ask school to take turns.	28
Other Comments	Neutral	A general uplift of the street would be an advantage to all traders	41
Other Comments	Neutral	Eliminate steps as much as practical at the Post Office and Court House and Shire Office by ramping paving.	55
Other Comments	Negative	Eliminate trip hazards e.g. Edges of the pods	55
Other Comments	Neutral	Replace damaged pergola	33
Other Comments	Negative	Why two walkways- leave the one that is there.	14
Other Comments	Negative	What is wrong with the existing ramp to the Court House	5
Other Comments	Neutral	Include a covered walk way to the Post Office	5
Other Comments	Neutral	Will there be enough room for Fiesta Day, Market/Street Stall atmosphere i.e. place where there can be singers/buskers.	40
Other Comments	Neutral	A later step should be to connect Victoria Street and Fitzroy Street via a walkway	60
Other Comments	Neutral	Could there be a thoroughfare through to Fitzroy Street.	40
Other Comments	Neutral	Hope the outdoor area will be sufficient for all residents	40
Other Comments	Negative	Extra outdoor seating for eateries in the second phase of plan may assist those outlets but no one else.	44

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

Comment Type	Type	Victoria Square/Victoria Street Draft Concept Plans Community Feedback	Person
Other Comments	Negative	The requirement for Police Station carpark drive through from Victoria Street. Plenty of options from Albert Street via land beside Police Station (create gateway).	44
Other Comments	Neutral	Could some additional shrubs be planted near the shops situated close to the clock tower	44
Other Comments	Neutral	Could the blank windows in Wellington Street be painted with birdlife	28
Other Comments	Neutral	Would like extend the area of the long narrow pavers shown on page 14	55
Other Comments	Negative	Prefer alternative 2 for Pod 1	55
Other Comments	Neutral	Good quality pavers make such an improvement to a street scape.	55
Other Comments	Negative	If you consider the use of modwood please look at the modwood next to Atkinson Park lake – it is deteriorating quickly.	55
		Keep in mind people with mobility issues such as peoples with prams, walkers and wheelchairs and ensure there is plenty of room for movement around the raised areas	
Other Comments	Negative	and that there is parking nearby	46
Other Comments	Negative	Is the custom seat noted on the plan the existing seat that has been there for as long as I have been here – would like the chair to be left as is.	42
Other Comments	Negative	Spend some money and trim or remove the large gum trees as it creates a cleaning problem when it loses it foliage and is also a OHS Issue.	42
Other Comments	Neutral	Spend money on medical	7
Other Comments	Negative	Given the tired nature of a lot of Victoria Street suggest that as a first stage of the redevelopment things such as replacement of broken chairs and tables, replacement of broken flower boxes with colourful boxes, replacement of torn and dirty awnings, some good signposting to focus on the attractions of the street might be a better use of funds until grants are obtained to do major works.	41
Other Comments	Negative	Design more in sympathy to larger American cities than us	51
Other Comments	Negative	Maybe do not have lunch seating for the café's as exits there now	22
Other Comments	Neutral	"What street are they going to drive down"?	48
Other Comments	Neutral	"The semi trailers from IGA"?	48
Other Comments	Neutral	Like that it has been funded	44
Other Comments	Positive	We must take up these funding opportunities.	60
Other Comments	Positive	Like that it has been funded	20
Other Comments	Neutral	Need to incorporate the whole street in the plan not just Victoria Square	34
Other Comments	Negative	Don't think Council should be contributing so much money to beautify the streetscape	44
Other Comments	Negative	Don't think Council should be contributing so much money to beautify the streetscape	54
Other Comments	Negative	Don't think Council should be contributing so much money to beautify the streetscape	13
Other Comments	Negative	Don't think Council should be contributing so much money to beautify the streetscape	14
Other Comments	Negative	Don't think Council should be contributing so much money to beautify the streetscape	42
Other Comments	Negative	Don't think Council should be contributing so much money to beautify the streetscape	56
Other Comments	Negative	We had a garden pod fountain in the past and this was removed	16
Other Comments	Neutral	I like the idea of a separate area for people attending Court on Court Days	5
Other Comments	Neutral	Raised areas need to be accessible for everyone	58

8.3 2015/2016 ANNUAL REPORT - ADOPTION**Author:** Katrina Thorne, Community Development Officer**Authoriser:** Eric Braslis, CEO**Attachments:** 1 2015/16 Annual Report (under separate cover)**RECOMMENDATION****That Council;**

- 1. Adopt the 2015/2016 Annual Report and note that it was submitted to the Local Government Minister prior to 30 September 2016.**
- 2. Make the 2015/2016 Annual Report available for public inspection and provide copies to the relevant Minister and State Library of Victoria.**

(The recommended decision is not a 'Major Policy Decision', as defined in section 93A of the *Local Government Act 1989*, or a 'Significant Decision' within the meaning of Council's Election Period Procedure).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To receive the Gannawarra Shire Council 2015/2016 Annual Report.

BACKGROUND

Council is required under Section 131 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to prepare an Annual Report and provide it to the Local Government Minister within three months of the end of each financial year or such longer period as the Minister may permit in a particular case. It must contain:

1. A report of its operations during the financial year
2. Audited standard statements for the financial year
3. Audited financial statements of the financial year
4. A copy of the performance statement prepared under Section 132
5. A copy of the report on the performance statement prepared under Section 133

As per Section 134 of the *Local Government Act* 14 days public notice has been given advising that the annual report will be discussed at this meeting and that copies of the Annual Report can be obtained either at Council's customer service centres or on Council's website.

In 2012 the Victorian Auditor General recommended that Councils critically review the performance information in their annual reports. In response the Victorian Government introduced a mandatory system of performance reporting which included major changes to the

Local Government Act 1989 and the rewriting of subordinate financial regulations. The mandatory reporting framework came into operation on 1 July 2014 (with a one year transitional period).

The report of operations must now include:

1. A statement of progress in relation to major initiatives identified in the Budget
2. The results of Council's assessment against a governance and management checklist
3. Service performance indicator results
4. Any other information required by the regulations. (This includes a description of Council services and their recipients, a statement of performance against the Council plan including outcomes, economic factors which have impacted Council, major changes in the financial year, a description of operations and a summary of the number, gender and employment classification of Council staff including any details of an equal opportunity program.)

While we previously provided some of this information, this year's report will provide a more detailed report of our operations and our performance. In addition, being the final year of the current Council Plan, this year's Annual Report details a comprehensive outline of Council's Outcomes and Achievements against the four Key Priority Areas within the Council Plan.

POLICY CONTEXT

Council is required under Section 131 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to prepare an Annual Report and provide it to the Local Government Minister within three months of the end of each financial year or such longer period as the Minister may permit in a particular case.

The preparation and submission of an Annual Report also aligns with the Council Plan Key Priority 4: Effective Leadership and Management – *Completion of all statutory financial reports in line with regulatory requirements.*

DISCUSSION

The preparation of the Annual Report is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

CONSULTATION

The Department of Environment Land Water and Planning has produced a Local Government Better Practice Guide for both the Report of Operations and the Performance Reporting, which has been closely followed in the production of this draft.

A range of resources have been used to gather the information in the Annual Report including the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2011, Council Minutes, media releases and other reporting documents for the past financial year.

Council executive and staff have been consulted as to the accuracy of the information relating to their areas of expertise.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with Section 80B of the Local Government Act, the Officer preparing this report declares no conflict of interest in regards to this matter.

CONCLUSION

The 2015/2016 Annual Report was submitted to the Minister for Local Government as per Section 131 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The document will be publicly available at Council's customer service centres and on our website at www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au.

8.4 END OF COUNCIL TERM - MAYORAL ADDRESS

Author: Eric Braslis, CEO

Authoriser: Lorraine Learmonth, Mayor Gannawarra Shire Council

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Mayoral address, reflection on the past 4 years of this Council's term and Acknowledgement of the retiring Councillors.

(The recommended decision is not a 'Major Policy Decision', as defined in section 93A of the *Local Government Act 1989*, or a 'Significant Decision' within the meaning of Council's Election Period Procedure).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mayor will reflect on the past 12 months, reflect upon the 4 year term of this Council and thank those Councillors that will be retiring this year.

MAYORAL ADDRESS

It has been an honour to serve our community over the past twelve months as Mayor, and I thank my fellow Councillors, CEO Eric Braslis and council staff for their dedication to the Gannawarra Shire. It has been a year of significant achievements which enhance the vibrancy, wellbeing and prosperity of the shire for all members of the Gannawarra community.

A significant highlight during the past 12 months has been the commencement of the Koondrook Wharf project. Supported by both Federal and State funding, this project will help showcase the beautiful natural environment of Gannawarra Shire and will become the cornerstone of future tourism development. The commencement of the Koondrook Wharf project is a result of many years of advocacy and continual hard work by Council staff and both past and present Councillors and it will be so rewarding to see it complete and opened in the coming months.

In addition, Council was also awarded funding for a number of significant projects across the Shire, including \$131,000 for the refurbishment of the Kerang Library and \$190,000 for the Sir John Gorton Precinct to build a new Splash Park at the Kerang Swimming Pool. This was an exciting announcement and will see the new Splash Park completed and ready to use in time for the 2016/17 summer period, and complements the work that has already been completed in improving Atkinson Park. This precinct is looking fantastic and a great way to encourage families and tourists to spend more time in the area and utilise the facilities that we have.

Our roads and infrastructure will be getting some important updates following news this year that Council was successful in being awarded Government funding of \$240,900 to update Cobden Street in Quambatook and \$838,000 for the Wells Bridge Replacement project in Benjeroop.

It is pleasing to see that Gannawarra's tourism numbers are improving, both with visitation to the area and website connections. Establishment of free camping at Cohuna, Murrabit and Reedy Lake with Kerang in the pipeline to be announced in the near future is a positive addition to our existing tourism and visitor opportunities.

To demonstrate Council's commitment and encourage the development of respect and understanding of Aboriginal people, their history and culture, Council moved a motion to perform

an Acknowledgement of Country prior to all Council meetings and perform Welcome to Country at special events. This, together with an increased participation in NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week celebrations, ensures that positive relationships are being fostered and that Council will continue to build on our philosophy of existing trust and respect.

Council continued to advocate for further access to the NBN and for extension of natural gas to other towns in the Shire. These two services support business expansion and development, as well as provide better services to residents, which are critical to the economic development of the Shire.

Following the success of the inaugural Essential Theatre production in 2014/2015, Council welcomed the group back in January 2016 to perform a production of Romeo and Juliet in Koondrook's Apex Park. Once again, the performance attracted locals and visitors from neighbouring Shires, with approximately 250 people attending and able to experience the beautiful natural surrounds of the Murray River in Koondrook.

Youth Council have had a very productive year, and with support from Council has been able to help participants develop leadership skills, public speaking ability and confidence. The group attended Halogen & GRIP Leadership conferences in Melbourne and members have presented to Council and a number of other community groups including Kerang Progress Association, Kerang Rotary Club and Schools. They participated in the consultation process and strategic plan for Kerang Hospital and in a number of youth related projects for Northern District Community Health Services. They worked with Council to develop the Children & Youth Strategy 2016-2020, which included developing a survey for young people, facilitating focus groups in secondary schools and participating in a Think Tank. Youth Council also reviewed its structure and established community positions for young people not engaged in mainstream education. In addition, Youth Councillors attended monthly meetings with the CEO of Council, developed a brochure as a resource and researched the feasibility of establishing a Youth Centre in Gannawarra. During the past year, Youth Council have helped to organise and deliver some key events within the Shire, including the opening of the Quambatook Skate Park, a Scribble Party in Cohuna, events for National Youth Week 2015/2016 and a heat of the 2015 Loddon Mallee Hume Series Skate competition in Kerang. Council once again sponsored a team to attend the 2016 Youth Parliament Program, where they debated a Bill in Parliament House and attended a week long camp with other young people from across the state.

As part of its commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles, Gannawarra Shire Council again coordinated Walk to School activities in schools across the Shire and was pleased that all 11 schools participated in the program by hosting events. A significant achievement in the last 12 months was five preschools receiving accreditation under the Dental Health Service Victoria Smiles4Miles program. As part of this program, Council was able to distribute Smiles4Miles packs to 4-year old pre-schoolers and playgroups. Council was pleased to partner in the Royal Engaging Communities in Oral Health project which included advocating to the Minister for Health for fluoridation of Cohuna township water supply.

The 2015/16 Australia Day awards were again very successful, with a strong field of nominees and a great turnout at the civic reception to see the recipients awarded. Congratulations to all award winners and the nominees, whose dedication and passion for our community is something very special. Other important celebrations and events throughout the year included the 2016 Reconciliation Week ceremony, various citizenship ceremonies to officially welcome residents to the Shire, Harmony Day where events were held in Kerang and Cohuna, ANZAC Day services across the Shire and 'Cohuna Unity' where Council partnered with local radio to show support to local dairy farmers following the news of price cuts across the industry.

To advance its strategic and long term priorities, Council developed a number of key plans and strategies this year, including the Cohuna Future Vision Plan, a Strategic Tourism Plan, an Acknowledgement of Country statement, an Aerodromes Development Plan, and a Communications and Community Engagement Strategy. Council has continued to utilise its Advocacy Plan to advocate and lobby to politicians, government departments and agencies on key development priorities.

Our focus remains firmly on strengthening Council's long-term financial position, providing a high standard of services to residents and improving community infrastructure through delivery of a large Capital Works program. This year we were able to present a budget within the 2.5% rate cap while still maintaining services and staffing levels to continue to assist our community.

As we reach the end of the current four-year term of Council, I would like to extend thanks to all Councillors and staff for their dedication to the future of Gannawarra Shire and it is with excitement that we look forward to the opportunities and challenges of 2016/2017.

Reflection on the 4 year term of this Council

The month brings an end to the 4 year term of this Council, and the beginning for a new Council that is to be elected on the 21 of this month. It is noted that over the term of the Council a number of significant events have occurred, challenges fronted and achievements made, some of the highlights being;

2012/13

- Rosanne Kava the CEO resigned after 6 years in the role and Jason Russell was appointed
- Works at the Kerang Children's Centre and the Fitzroy Street upgrades began
- The new Council Plan and the Koondrook Wharf Vision were adopted
- Funding was secured for Kerang Skate Park
- Council continued to advocate in relation to the Murray Darling Basin Plan
- Along with 16 other Victorian Council we joined the Lighting the Regions program to replace street light to LED saving Gannawarra \$60k in energy
- Proposed solar farms began investigating options in and around Kerang and planning permits were issued
- A 10year capital works plan was prepared to manage our roads, drains, bridges and buildings
- The Cohuna Aerodrome received a \$330k upgrade

2013/14

- The Old Echuca Road Bridge was replaced at a cost of \$1.1m
- Improvements were made to the Kerang flood protection levee
- Council decided to take over the management of the kindergartens
- The Cohuna Aerodrome works won a National Award and the Quambatook Weir an IPWEA award
- Alex Chernov, the Governor of Victoria was a guest of the Shire

- A Green Waste collection trial was introduced in Kerang and Cohuna

2014/15

- The Tour of the Murray Bike race passed through the Shire
- A significant upgrade was made to the Kerang Aerodrome (\$750k)
- The Koondrook Wharf received \$1.5M in State and Federal funding and the project was awarded to Terroir
- Natural Gas was announced for Kerang
- A new and exciting Arts & Culture Program was introduced with MacBeth hosted in Koondrook
- The Benjeroop-Tresco Road was renewed at a cost of \$2m
- Jason Russel, CEO resigned to take on the role at Campaspe Shire and Eric Braslis was appointed
- Council took back on, the management of the Kerang and Cohuna Pools
- NBN announced it would start delivering services across the Shire, with fibre being installed in Kerang in Cohuna

2015/16

- Council introduced a Welcome to Country statement
- Councils commitment to Tourism was extended to RV Friendly Camping, with the introduction of site in Cohuna, Leitchville, Murrabit, Reedy Lake and Kerang
- The Council undertook Take A Stand Training – Violence Against Women
- The Quambatook Skate Park was officially opened
- The Kerang Library received funding for an upgrade and refresh
- Public Toilets were installed or upgraded in Cohuna and Lake Charm
- Western Victoria was caught in yet another drought
- \$1m of funding was received for Wells Bridge replacement
- Kerang Splash Park received \$200K in State funding and tenders awarded
- Councils across the State were confronted by State Government Rate Capping
- A Dairy Crisis was created by a price reduction imposed by Murray Goulburn
- A new Council Logo was introduced

Acknowledgement of Retiring Councillors – Cr Keith DenHouting and Cr Neil Gannon

With the upcoming election, two existing Councillors, Cr Keith DenHouting and Cr Neil Gannon are not re-standing and should be recognized for the many years of service they have both provided to the Council and the Community.

Cr Keith DenHouting 2003 - 2016 including 4 terms Mayor from 2006 to 2010

Cr Neil Gannon 2008 - 2016

9 INFORMATION REPORTS

Nil

10 URGENT ITEMS

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12 DELEGATES REPORTS**12.1 DELEGATES REPORT - THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER TO WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER****Author: Kate Callow, Administration Assistant - Chief Executive Office****Authoriser: Eric Braslis, CEO****Attachments: Nil****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Delegate Reports for Thursday 15 September to Wednesday 12 October.

Cr Lorraine Learmonth

15 Sep	Murray Explored Live Stream – Cohuna
19 Sep	Cohuna Progress Association Meeting
27 Sep	CEO meeting – Kerang
28 Sep	Cohuna Carers speaker
29 Sep	125 year's anniversary Women's Suffrage Petition forum – Melbourne
30 Sep	Quambatook Photography and Art Show
2 Oct	Murrabit Men's Shed Club rooms opening
3 Oct	Loddon Campaspe Councils meeting – Kyneton MAV Rural North Central meeting – Kyneton Kerang and District Show
4 Oct	Seniors Festival – Cohuna Cohuna Seniors 50 th Birthday
5 Oct	Leitchville Progress Association meeting Council Briefing – Kerang
7 Oct	Kerang Flood meeting Quambatook Flood meeting
12 Oct	Murray Explored – Kerang Elders meeting – Kerang Ordinary Council meeting - Kerang

Cr Neville Goulding

3 Oct	Walk to School – Cohuna Consolidated & St Mary's
5 Oct	LMWRRG Board Meeting
12 Oct	Ordinary Council meeting - Kerang

Cr Neil Gannon

26 Sep	Quambatook Community Development Association
5 Oct	Council Briefing – Kerang
12 Oct	Ordinary Council meeting – Kerang

Cr Oscar Aertssen

5 Oct	Council Briefing – Kerang
11 Oct	Koondrook Development Committee meeting
12 Oct	Ordinary Council meeting- Kerang

Cr Keith den Houting

20 Sep	Mediation meeting re permit application – Kerang
24 Sep	Kerang market birthday celebration – Kerang
3 Oct	St Joseph’s Primary – Walk to School event – Kerang
5 Oct	Council Briefing – Kerang
11 Oct	Audit Committee meeting – Kerang
12 Oct	Ordinary Council meeting - Kerang

Cr Mark Arians

20 Sep	Kerang Car Club
22 Sep	Kerang Lions Club meeting re Toy Run
27 Sep	Historical Society meeting re Street scape
28 Sep	Kerang Progress Association
5 Oct	Council Briefing – Kerang
7 Oct	Kerang Flood meeting
8 Oct	Toy Run Committee meeting
12 Oct	Ordinary Council meeting – Kerang

Cr Brian Gibson

3 Oct	MAV Rural North Central meeting – Kyneton
7 Oct	Kerang Flood meeting
12 Oct	Ordinary Council meeting - Kerang

13 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil